

Stories of Adam Strong

(1769-1834)

Son of James Strong, Jr.

As told by Frances Strong Helman

The directions to Adam's house are available through the kindness of Gerald Haddock

Adam inherited a large farm in Hellam County. His father-in-law was a wealthy landowner. The Adam Strong farm can be reached by going east from York along East Market Street, turning left or north on Mount Zion road, then right or east on Druck Valley Road. As Druck Valley Road crosses the Springetsbury-Hellam township lines turn left or north on Range Road until you reach Deep Run Lane where you turn left or west. This is a dirt road and as it makes a sharp right turn to the north, beyond and to the west of that turn about one hundred yards, is the Adam Strong family cemetery. Proceeding north after the sharp turn the road crosses Deep Run Creek, and the stone house of Adam Strong lies straight ahead. It was a lovely, large home in its time, and Frances Strong Helman thought the setting beautiful and peaceful. This home was on the split level. You could go into the basement on one side of the house and there was a fireplace there that you could roast half an ox in. If you went around the back of the house, you went in on the upstairs or the living room. The Wiseman family who worked to restore the home in the 1940's/50's gave it the name of Strong-Holde, for they wanted to honor the first owner of the home and then added "Holde," for the home felt like a fort to them for the safety it afforded their family.

Frances Strong Helman told of a George Strong (now deceased) who is a descendant of Adam's, who inherited an old chest that belonged to Adam. The family had never really looked inside, but Frances was allowed to, There were some papers included that explained how to hex people who had done certain things. Most of the papers were in German and therefore had never been read by the family. It is unknown if there was anything of value in those papers, and no one now knows where the chest is.

This same George Strong claimed that the Strong Cemetery, located on the hill above Stronghold, is haunted on moonlit nights. He said you can look and see 4 children and 4 or 5 adults. They walk around inside of the fence about two revolutions, and then they leave the cemetery and go down the hill toward a cave that is on the property. People have examined the cave and found no trace of anything unusual. The family that currently owns the home has never seen this phenomenon, nor did Frances Strong Helman, who stayed with the Wiseman family for a few days, and purposely arose on a moonlit night, peered out of the window, but saw no apparitions.