

# Adams County's Gold

Adams **Academy** was a good school. Boys lived there and took classes. Tom worked hard all week. On a spring Saturday, he wanted to do something fun!

He asked his friend Jeff to go to the movie **theater**. "Sorry," Jeff answered. "I'm going to a **concert**."

So Tom asked Joe to go to the movies. But Joe's soccer team had a game.

Next, Tom went down the hall to Brad's room. Brad was reading a very large old book. "Hi, Brad," Tom said. "Are you reading a **dictionary**? It looks **ancient**."

"No. This is called *The **Wealth** of Adams **County***. It's about **hidden** gold in Adams County. It's more than a **century** old. It was **published** in 1870! Look, it even has the **original** cover on it."

Tom asked, "Where did you get it?"

"It's from my dad's friend. He is a nice **gentleman**, an **officer** in the army," answered Brad.

"The gold doesn't really **exist**, does it?" Tom asked.

"I don't know, but **maybe**! There are **clues** to it in this book. Let's find it!" Looking for gold sounded like fun.

The first clue was to find a **flat** tree underground. "It must be in the forest," Tom said.

Brad said, "The flat tree could be a **board** under the dirt. It could cover the gold."

Tom and Brad dug in the dirt all morning. The **process** of looking for gold made them hungry. They were ready to stop for lunch. But then Brad hit something hard. It was a board!

Brad **pounded** on the board until it broke. There was a small hole under it. "Look!" He held up a gold coin.

Tom saw a piece of paper in the hole. "Brad, there's more. It's a map to the rest of the gold!"

Brad smiled. "Let's go!" And they hurried to find the wealth of Adams County.

