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Front Matter

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Statement of Purpose

The Adams County Historical Society is committed to the presentation of the social, economic, political, and religious history of the county and to the promotion of the study of that history. Expressing its commitment, the society maintains museum displays and a valuable library of publications, and archival and manuscript material which includes estate papers, deed books, land surveys, and newspapers. In addition, it publishes important historical studies and reprints of earlier studies on Adams county history, a monthly newsletter, and a journal.

The editorial board of *Adams County History* encourages and invites the submission of essays and notices reflecting the rich history of Adams county. Submissions should be typed double spaced. Contributors should retain copies of the typescript submitted. If they desire return of their submissions, they should enclose a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.

Submissions and inquiries should be addressed to:

James P Myers, Jr., Editor  
*Adams County History*  
The Adams County Historical Society  
Box 4325  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325
Notes from the Editor

Society member and resident of New Florence, Pennsylvania, David A. Culp introduces volume 4 of *Adams County History* with an essay shedding interesting light on several Adams county Culps who participated, on both sides, in the Civil War. Descended from David Culp of the 87th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment, Culp combines known historical records with his intimate knowledge of family traditions to present an intriguing exemplar of one of those commonplaces of Civil War history, of which, in the end, most of us know few actual examples: namely, of how the war often divided families, sometimes literally confronting brother against brother, cousin against cousin, over the lines of battle.

The year 1998 marks the centennial of the Spanish-American War. One of the lesser known, indeed obscure, conflicts in our history, the motivation for that war with one of western Europe’s weakest states is usually associated with the United States’s burgeoning sense of becoming an international power and with strong currents of imperialistic energies fanned in turn by the journalistic media of the day, particularly William Randolph Hearst’s newspaper empire. In his second essay to appear in this journal, Timothy H. Smith examines something of the impact the Spanish-American War had upon Adams county and, using eyewitness accounts, details the war experiences of several of the many countians who enlisted and fought in that conflict.

Assistant Director Elwood W. Christ has become a perennial contributor to *Adams County History*, the piece included here being his fourth. A short essay, Christ’s article is noteworthy for the new direction its suggests for future contributions to the journal. Rather than exploring a person or persons, or an event significant in the county’s history, it details something of the inner workings of the research carried on at the society. Those who believe that historical investigation is a cut-and-dry affair, the dull business of recalling dates and thumbing through dusty archives, are advised to read Woody’s account of how acute historical ability and knowledge combined with intuition, serendipity, and synchronicity to solve a photographic puzzle. More often than not, the interplay of sound research, knowledge, inspiration, and simple “good luck” is what best describes fruitful historical inquiry.

Volume 4, then, offers a rich view of diverse aspects of Adams county history. Even before publication, volume 5 is taking shape, with one article focused on cartographic history and another dealing with the Civil
War. Although we are looking to round off historical coverage with pieces on aspects of eighteenth- and twentieth-century history, we continue to invite proposals and actual submissions on all facets of the area's past. This journal is intended as a forum for those, both members of the society as well as nonmembers, who have something significant to say about the county's rich heritage: if we do not have the chance to look it over, we cannot publish it. Contrary to the adage, silence is not always golden.