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## Front Matter

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## Front Matter



# ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY

2005

Volume 11

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## Editorial Board

Michael J. Birkner, editor  
 Charles H. Glatfelter  
 Walter L. Powell  
 Timothy H. Smith

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## **Statement of Purpose**

The Adams County Historical Society is committed to the preservation of the social, political, and religious history of the county and to the promotion of the study of history. Expressing its commitment, the society maintains museum displays, a valuable library of publications, 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, a 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. Submission should be typed double spaced and available in a pc compatible word processing format. Contributors should include a hardcopy and electronic copy of their work on a CD-ROM. Generally, style should conform to the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. Contributors should retain copies of the typescript submitted. If return is desired, a self-addressed envelope with postage should be included.

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Submissions and inquires should be addressed to:

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Adams County Historical Society  
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## Editor's Introduction

This issue of *Adams County History* entails a changing of the guard. For a decade Gettysburg College English Professor James P. Myers edited *Adams County History* as its founding editor. He handled the job with diligence, skill, and good sense. Assisted by Society staff members and a stable of creative researchers on pertinent topics, James developed this journal into a significant vehicle for sharing knowledge about Adams County in a local, state, and even national context. The publication of primary sources has made it ever easier for researchers to pursue their special interests in county history. We were fortunate to have James in this seat at a critical time in the Society's history. We wish him well in his ongoing work on Pennsylvania history.

As your new editor, I am delighted to introduce volume eleven of *Adams County History*. Our lead article, by Gettysburg College alumnus Peter Vermilyea, is the first serious study of an important strand of African American history in Adams County. Focused on John Hopkins, affectionately known by generations of college students as "Jack the Janitor," Vermilyea's article sheds light on the early history of the college, on Gettysburg's African-American community, and on the subtle ways in which a talented black man could exert influence. The article also sheds light on some of the ways in which the great Confederate invasion of 1863 affected local residents like Jack Hopkins.

The second article, by Society volunteer Larry Bolin, explores the question of whether there was an active church in Mt. Pleasant, Conewago Township a century or more ago. While the information that Bolin has developed does not definitively answer every question he poses, the article is full of useful insights about the subject, and it serves as a model of historical detective work. Its methodology is as invigorating as its specific findings.

The final piece we present is an edited document. Derived from a New Hampshire newspaper, this account of Joseph Foster's visit to the Gettysburg battlefield in late July 1863 offers poignant first hand testimony about the situation in Gettysburg only weeks after General Lee and his forces departed southern Pennsylvania. By focusing on one individual who fought and died here, it makes personal and poignant the cost of preserving the Union and infusing a "new birth of freedom" into the American republican experiment.

We are also pleased in this number to publish Sheryl Hollis Snyder's index to volumes 6-10 of *Adams County History*. For the convenience of our readers, in the future we hope to provide an index with each number of *Adams County History*. Meanwhile, enjoy this volume!

Michael J. Birkner  
*Editor*