



Volume 12

Article 2

2006

Front Matter

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach>

Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.

(2006) "Front Matter," *Adams County History*: Vol. 12 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol12/iss1/2>

This open access front matter is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact cupola@gettysburg.edu.

Front Matter

ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY



2006

Volume 12

Contents

Editor’s Note 3

George Arnold and a Town Immortalized 4
Charles H. Glatfelter

March Into Oblivion 29
Larry C. Bolin

Thaddeus Stevens in Gettysburg: The Making of an Abolitionist 65
Peter C. Vermilyea

Index Volumes 11-12 67

Contributors 70

Editorial Board

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

Copyright © 2006 Adams County Historical Society

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.

Submissions and inquires should be addressed to:

Dr. Michael J. Birkner, editor
Adams County History
Adams County Historical Society
P.O. Box 4325
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Editor's Introduction

A county historical society plays many roles in the community it serves. Collecting and preserving original sources--the foundation for research illuminating facets of that county's history surely counts among the most important of these roles. In publishing this journal for the past decade, featuring articles drawn from its rich trove of original sources, the Adams County Historical Society has contributed materially to the better understanding of our local history.

The two major contributions to this number of *Adams County History* represent different facets of a scholar's repertoire. By examining the life and times of Gettysburg businessman George Arnold, Charles H. Glatfelter opens a window into Adams County's 19th century climate for enterprise and its institutional maturation. Working with local newspapers, estate records, real estate deeds, and other original sources, Glatfelter relates the story of a man who by certain markers was not especially significant in the annals of Pennsylvania history. Yet George Arnold's energetic pursuit of business opportunities, including his involvement in retail sales, banking, farming, and mill operations, touched a broad swath of valuable history. At the very least, Arnold's activities remind us that the age of specialization had not yet arrived in Adams County by the middle of the 19th century.

Readers will learn, through the newspaper advertisements that Charles Glatfelter has examined, interesting information about the products a Gettysburg merchant could expect to market as well as the vicissitudes of business in a nascent capitalist economy. Glatfelter reminds readers that lawsuits and threats of suits were commonplace in nineteenth-century Adams County, and that declarations of bankruptcy were also common. The good old days were not so quiet and harmonious as some memories might suggest.

Even gambling (today a preoccupation of many citizens in the community, pro and con) was popular in Adams County. George Arnold's business enterprises were made possible in great degree because he won a substantial sum in a state lottery.

The second piece we publish in this issue (focused on documents relating to this region before it became known as Adams County) explore a different realm of local life. By examining and reprinting documents by an unknown writer relating to the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, to a second trip to Western Pennsylvania, and to family connections in the West, Bolin connects local history to national history in most interesting ways. His meticulous editing provides insight into the places mentioned in the diaries, the connections made, and the possible status of the diarist. He may (or may not) have been an officer in General Washington's army. There is no question, however, that his account of his travels dovetails with the historical record of the government's successful effort to assert its authority against the Whiskey Rebels.

Our final piece is a book review. Peter Vermilyea, author of an excellent account of John Hopkins in the 2005 number of *Adams County History*, here describes and assesses Bradley Hoch's new biography of Thaddeus Stevens. As Vermilyea shows, Hoch's careful scrutiny of previously untapped sources provides a more textured view of the Great Commoner's years living in Adams County.

Michael J. Birkner, *Editor*