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Front Matter

ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY



2007

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Editorial Board

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

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 Note

Local history in every community spills over into national themes and issues, and the opposite is equally true. Few counties exemplify this axiom better than Adams County, which like its neighbors has been influenced by significant episodes and trends in American religion, economics, politics and social history. Because the Civil War played such a pivotal role here, it is unsurprising that collections at the historical society have been well represented by documents relating to the great clash of armies in Gettysburg in July 1863, and that there's a continuing interest in researching, writing, and reading about this seminal event.

In Journal Volume 13, two of our articles connect to Civil War themes. Our lead article, by Gettysburg College student Brian Jordan, retails the role of Adams County native John S. Rice in producing a successful commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The logistics entailed in such an event were daunting; but Rice and his cohort accomplished the task to the satisfaction of virtually everyone, from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the politicians participating in the program to the aged veterans themselves and on down to the youngest Boy Scout recruited as an aide to assist them. Rice did it with great precision, and he managed to do it under budget!

Director of Historic Collections Benjamin K. Neely has taken a different piece of the Battle story, editing an extended account by John Charles Wills of what was happening in Gettysburg and specifically at his Globe Inn during the battle. Replete with dialogue vividly recalled despite the passage of nearly half a century from the time of the battle, Wills's reminiscence is one of the most detailed and valuable accounts of the battle's impact on local people and buildings in Gettysburg. It will make absorbing reading for Civil War buffs.

Adams County has been blessed for nearly two hundred years as the site of two notable institutions of higher learning: Gettysburg College and the Gettysburg Theological Seminary. In Charles Glatfelter's paper on the founding and early years of Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, we are reminded of the humble beginnings of what has become a significant player in the world of liberal arts education, not to mention a major economic force in Adams County. Glatfelter highlights the vision of founder Samuel Simon Schmucker and the local boosters who helped him make a dream come true and emphasizes the nonsectarian nature of the new college—one of the nation's 50 oldest liberal arts institutions.

A further example of Adams County's connection to a larger, nationally significant story is the county's connection to General of the Army and 34th president, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dwight Eisenhower chose Gettysburg as his retirement home, determined to leave a piece of land in better condition than he found it. He did just that on the Redding Farm he purchased just off the Millerstown Road a couple of miles south of Gettysburg. The circumstances surrounding Eisenhower's deeding his home and property to the federal government is provided in a poignant letter by a witness to the deed signing event in 1967—Horace Busby, an aide to President Lyndon B. Johnson. Reading this note one can appreciate how much Gettysburg meant to the Eisenhowers—and how Ike was looking ahead, to a time when he would be viewed through the lens of history.

Our final offering, a review by Society Executive Director Wayne Motts of

a new volume on the Lincoln Highway that runs through Adams County, offers the reminder that Adams County's history is replete with interesting tales well removed from the three days of battle in July 1863.

We invite you to sample these wares and also to consider contributing your own work to the pages of this journal.

MJB

Michael J. Birkner
December 4, 2007