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ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY



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Note from the Editor

We are gratified to report that the 1995, premier, issue of *Adams County History* (copies of which are still available for purchase at the society) has been well-received. Not only did many of our own members express their pleasure over the journal, but not a few readers whose historical interests range far beyond Adams county's past wrote or spoke of their delighted surprise—surprise that a small historical society such as ours, with limited resources and funds, would be able to publish a professional, informative, and artistically presented gathering of essays exploring the area's significant history. We believe that this, our second issue, continues in the direction promised by last year's publication. As this issue goes to press, moreover, the editor can report that two articles, already developed beyond the "drawing-board" stage, promise a full historical spectrum for the third volume: at the earlier end of the time line, one article will focus on the poignant fates of several individuals, Tories or British Loyalists, who, during the Revolutionary War, refused to commit themselves to the new nation; and at the other, twentieth-century end, the second will examine the career of an important Adams county suffragette. Conceivably, the underlying emphasis of both articles might be used to define a theme for the third volume—Adams countians whose consciences and ideals set them in opposition to the dominating, popular beliefs and feelings of their times. Irrespective of such a common idea, however, we eagerly invite essays and proposals for articles for the 1997 issue of *ACH*.

Although not immediately evident—and certainly not as the consequence of a preconceived design—the four pieces presented here suggest a unity beyond the simple, bald fact that they explore Adams county history. Each one, tacitly or obviously, looks at how Adams county men and women dealt with the upheavals and cataclysms wrought by war—from the dislocations and scalplings of the French and Indian War through the three-day artillery barrages and the attacks and counterattacks of the Battle of Gettysburg itself to the privations, shortages, daily losses of friends and relatives, and the ever-present threat of attack from the skies and from saboteurs on the ground during World War II.

Our executive and associate directors join efforts to understand the earliest settlement patterns in the Buchanan Valley in the South Mountain. Using as a starting point the famous Indian raid on the farm where Mary Jameson and her family lived, Charles H. Glatfelter, reinforced by the research and mapping expertise of Arthur Weaner,

unravels many mysteries surrounding the valley's first homesteaders, even as he discovers additional questions which will perplex the curious for years to come.

Timothy H. Smith draws upon both his deep experience as a licensed battlefield guide and his careful, painstaking research into the impact of the battle on Gettysburg's residents to document the extant visual evidence of battle damage within the borough and to bring vividly into focus the very events and moments that scarred the architecture of the town.

A contributor to the first issue returns with a more exploratory essay. Elwood W. Christ speculates on the apparent significance of an obscure nineteenth-century novel to a family preparing its damage claim after the battle had completely destroyed their farmstead. Woody's literary and historical detective work will confirm for many readers their perceptions of how art astonishingly and unexpectedly parallels and foreshadows life.

Finally, M. Francis Coulson, skillfully interviewed by Jennifer Sonnenberg, recalls his rich experiences in Adams county during the trials of World War II. Although much closer to us than the events of the late 1750s or of 1-3 July 1863, the feelings and details recollected by Francis Coulson set down for today's interested readers and future historians how a community reacted to a crisis that indeed threatened its existence as much as, though in very different ways, the less proximate ones of 200 and of 80 years earlier.