

2013

Front Matter

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Front Matter

**FAIRFIELD AREA CIVIL WAR
SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**

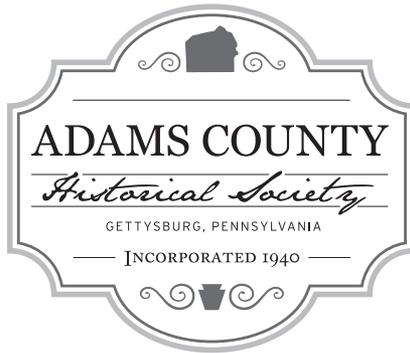
Anticipating the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War and the Battle of Fairfield, in October 2010 the Borough of Fairfield created a well-rounded sesquicentennial committee, consisting of citizens, business leaders, and borough and township officials from southwest Adams County, with strong historical interests. Chaired by Jack Inskip, the committee members were:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Sal & Joan Chandon | Bob Jackson |
| Kirk Davis | Randy Phiel |
| Phyllis & Don Gilbert | Coleen Reamer |
| Ron Harris | Carroll Smith |
| Dave Hazlett | Dean & Sally Thomas |
| Brad Hoch | Nancy Wenschhof |

With financial help from forty businesses, organizations, and individuals, the committee undertook several public events commencing in April 2011: Fairfield Civil War Days in May 2012; the commemoration of J.E.B. Stuart's raid in October 2012; and the Fairfield Battlefield tour and town walking tour in June 2013. Additionally, the committee published the book *Fairfield in the Civil War* by Sarah Thomas, Tim Smith, Gary Kross, and Dean Thomas. It also created the Battle of Fairfield medallion.

In December 2012, the committee commissioned Tim Smith to do a study of the Fairfield town lots and dwellings during the Civil War. You are holding the results of that work in your hands, the culminating achievement of the Fairfield Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee's passion for the rich heritage of the Fairfield area.

Cover Illustration: *Street Scene in Fairfield, J. B. Waddle, c. 1910, ACHS. The view is looking east, not far from the intersection of current McGinley Drive and Main Street.*



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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 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 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. Generally, authors should follow the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. They should submit the typescript in both hard-copy and electronic format, using a commonly employed word-processing system. Copy should be typed double-spaced, including endnotes and block quotations. Use Times Roman font, 12-point (or 12 cpi) type, with one-inch margins. Number pages consecutively, using Arabic numerals in the upper right-hand corner of the page. ALWAYS carefully proofread your text several times before submitting. Pay special attention to quotations.

A small publication with a limited budget, Adams County History must normally limit the number of illustrations to no more than 7 or 8 per article. Please indicate where each the illustration is to go, both within the text and on a note attached to the picture caption. Image caption-lists should be compiled and submitted separately from the article. Please double-space and include both descriptive text and credit lines. Be sure to note where each illustration comes from. Items used without charge can be noted simply as, for example, “Courtesy the Pennsylvania Historical and Manuscript Commission.” Where the owner has charged a fee, employ such a formula as “Collections of the Pennsylvania Historical and Manuscript Commission.” If the source has specified a style or a way of acknowledging source, use that instead.

Submissions and inquiries should be addressed to:

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Adams County Historical Society
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Editor's Note

The year 2013 commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, a fact eloquently dramatized by the elaborate celebrations and moving reenactments that occurred earlier this year, both in and nearby Gettysburg. Not so well-known as the impact of the battle on the county seat of Adams County is the effect the battle and related activities had upon the communities surrounding Gettysburg. The house I live in -- a few miles west of Heidlersburg -- for example, was pillaged before the actual battle by Confederate soldiers, who made off with a horse or two and an "old piece of meat," as the owner's war-damage claim laconically phrased it.

Timothy H. Smith has researched and written extensively on the early history of one such community, Fairfield. He details the eighteenth-century genesis of Fairfield, or Millerstown as it was sometimes called in honor of its founding proprietor, William Miller. Focusing on the history of the town's lot and houses, Smith culls his sources for eye-witness experiences, newspaper accounts, and war-damage claims to create narratives capturing both the courtesies and violence with which Lee's retreating army and the citizens of Fairfield interacted in the aftermath of the battle. In several respects, this is one of his history's most poignant moments, but it just one: for Smith has thoroughly researched the genealogy of the town's properties, offering great detail on the pre-1860 years and sketching the subsequent chronicle down into the twentieth century.

Tim Smith is employed as a licensed battlefield guide, at the Gettysburg National Military Park and as a research historian at the Adams County Historical Society. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on the American Civil War, and on local and regional history. He lives with his family in the hamlet of Table Rock. Commissioned for the project by the Fairfield Bicentennial Committee, Smith was assisted in his research and the production of the individual lot histories by Andrew I. Dalton, whose, in Smith's words, "enthusiasm and energy kept the project moving."