

2014

Front Matter

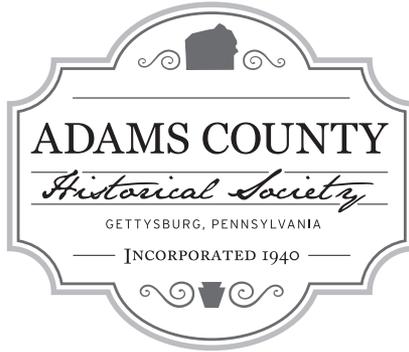
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(2014) "Front Matter," *Adams County History*: Vol. 20, Article 2.
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Volume 20

Contents

Editor’s Introduction 2
Brian Matthew Jordan

**“Remembrance Will Cling to us Through Life”:
Kate Bushman’s Memoir of the Battle of Gettysburg** 4
Brian Matthew Jordan

Dan Sickles, William H. Tipton, and the Birth of Battlefield Preservation 22
John M. Rudy

Growing Up in the Trenches: Fritz Draper Hurd and the Great War 38
S. Marianne Johnson

Editor's Note

War and memory are resonant themes in 2014, as we conclude the Civil War sesquicentennial commemoration and embark on the centennial of the First World War. It is timely, then, that the contributors to this issue of Adams County History probe how war and memory touched Adams County. The first article presents a previously unpublished account of the battle of Gettysburg. Kate Bushman dutifully entered her reminiscences of the battle and its grisly aftermath into a postwar scrapbook – an artifact that has been acquired by ACHS. In the second article, local historian John Rudy traces the origins of the modern battlefield preservation movement. He recalls the raw outrage Union veterans felt when the Gettysburg Electric Railway “desecrated” the Gettysburg battlefield in the 1890s. Led by the colorful Major General Daniel Edgar Sickles, these men demanded to know what obligation the nation had to remember their sacrifices. The final piece, authored by Gettysburg College senior S. Marianne Johnson, explores the life of World War I veteran and Gettysburg College alum Fritz Draper Hurd. While most Americans think about the men who fought the Great War as a “Lost Generation,” Johnson issues a powerful reminder that some soldiers were able to find redemption in the trenches. She follows Hurd from the halls of Pennsylvania College to the trenches of the Western Front, analyzing how he constructed a useable past in his postwar memoirs.

Each of these articles, rooted in local sources and grounded in original research, suggest the range of stories and colorful personalities that await researchers in the stacks of the Adams County Historical Society. Along with Executive Director Benjamin Neely and Collections Assistant Lauren Roedner, I invite you to explore those treasures safely tucked away in our county's attic. You never know what you might find.

Brian Matthew Jordan, Ph.D.
Editor, Adams County History