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Front Matter

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Front Matter



ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY

2004

Volume 10

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Editorial Board

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Statement of Purpose

The Adams County Historical Society is committed to the presentation of the social, political, and religious history of the county and to the promotion of the study of that history. Expressing its commitment, the society maintains museum displays and 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 history, a monthly 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. Submissions should be typed double spaced. Generally, style should conform to that of either the *Modern Language Style Sheet* or the *University of 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 inquiries should be addressed to:

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Editor's Note

Almost every aphorism may be turned on its head, made to stand upside down in order to force an opposite truth to drop from its pocket, as it were. "The devil is in the details" may be true, but where we find devils we also discover angels. So it is indeed with the lists, the compilations, and the day-to-day records which are the subjects of this, the tenth volume of *Adams County History*. For these details provide the foundation, the basic data out of which the greater narratives which become "history" are created. It is significant that one of our words for these narratives, *story*, derives from the Greek/Latin root, *historia*, that is, "learning or knowing by inquiry." These data are, then, the prime matter which we evolve into the stories which become our histories.

This volume of *ACH* presents several different compilations. One, Kevin L. Greenholt assembles from widely dispersed archival records and newspaper notices and an interview to produce a narrative of the life of Dr. Robert B. Elderdice, a country physician who served his community in and around McKnightstown for well over half a century. In turn, Dr. Elderdice's carefully maintained patient record from 1867 to 1926 preserves 1027 records of uncommon interest and value. These data, Adams County Historical Society Administrative Assistant Sheryl Hollis Snyder discusses, analyzes, and uses to identify significant and noteworthy patterns.

In yet another undertaking of considerable value, Kevin Greenholt presents the results of his meticulous culling of census records, putting conveniently at our fingertips the identities of military veterans who resided in Adams county from 1840 to 1930, a record embracing conflicts from the Revolutionary War down to World War I. The utility of Kevin's research published here should inspire other readers to pursue related projects—for example, more complete lists of Adams countians who served in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 than were enumerated in the 1840 census, and a compilation of residents who fought in that most unpopular of all our conflicts, the Mexican War of 1846-8, information which apparently fell outside of the census-takers' categories.

Angels in the details, then? Well, perhaps not *angels*, but no one will dispute that the data published in this volume will greatly benefit all who choose to avail themselves of the windows they open into Adams county's history.