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# George Arnold (1799-1879) and a Town Immortalized

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Adams County Historical Society, ACHS, Adams County, Pennsylvania History, George Arnold, David McConaughy, Thaddeus Stevens, Gettysburg, Civil War, Battle of Gettysburg

Glatfelter: George Arnold (1799-1879) and a Town Immortalized

# George Arnold (1799-1879) and a Town Immortalized

By Charles H. Glatfelter

## INTRODUCTION

*Several society staff members and volunteers participated in preparing this biography of George Arnold. We were searching for information to be used in an introduction to Arnold's August 1863 letter to William T. King, which we hoped to publish eventually in some form. We assumed that the biography, which lacked the full documentation customarily used in this journal, would take its place in the society's files, perhaps never again to be used. On second thought, we decided that the biography, including the letter, if slightly revised, would be of sufficient interest to warrant publication.*

In its issue of March 13, 1879, the Gettysburg Compiler recorded the death on the preceding day, in town, of George Arnold, aged 80 years, 1 month, and 20 days. For almost sixty years, the editor wrote, Arnold's name had been "identified with every public enterprise, and . . . he was known as one of our most active business men." This obituary, although relatively brief, was still longer than most that appeared in either of the weekly Gettysburg newspapers of the time. It remained for the *Star and Sentinel*, in its issue of April 3, to publish an obituary of Arnold which occupied more than fifty inches of type. Its author began by observing that "a community is a family on a larger scale," bound together by many ties, and that when a member identified with it "for nearly two-thirds of a century . . . is called away by the irrevocable summons from its midst," his "life-work should not be left unchronicled."

The author of this obituary identified himself as D. Mc. Obviously this was David McConaughy (1823-1902), a prominent Gettysburg attorney who from 1848 until her death in 1853 was married to a daughter of George Arnold. Although he remarried three years later, McConaughy maintained a close association with Arnold and was in an excellent position to write an accurate account of his long career. Arnold first arrived in Gettysburg about eight years before McConaughy was born. What he wrote about the early years was thus not based on personal knowledge, but it coincides with most of what can be learned from contemporary newspaper and tax records. Unless otherwise indicated, the quotations used in what immediately follows have been taken from the McConaughy obituary.



David McConaughy

Born on January 20, 1799 on his father's mill property in Baltimore county, Maryland, George Arnold came to Gettysburg in 1815, when he was sixteen years old. According to McConaughy, he was responding to an invitation extended by William McClellan (1788-1845), member of an old Adams county family. On August 1, 1815 McClellan announced in the Gettysburg *Centinel* (its name was changed to *Sentinel* in 1826) that he had just opened a general store, with "an extensive and general assortment of merchandize," (spelled as written) in Bernhard Gilbert's new tavern on the northwest corner of Baltimore and Middle streets: the later Fahnestock property. While replenishing his inventory in Baltimore and Georgetown a short time later, McClellan met Arnold for the first time. "Attracted by his bright active look," he offered the young man a position as his store clerk. Arnold accepted the invitation, came to Gettysburg, and for the next several years worked for McClellan, then for McClellan and Hersh, and finally for George Hersh (1791-1871).

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In 1815 Gettysburg had about 100 houses and 900 inhabitants. It had become the seat of Adams County in 1800 and a borough six years later. Most of the residents lived on or south of the two streets running east and west through the diamond or square. Such later well-known buildings as the Wills house and the Bender house had not yet been built. The latter was constructed about three years later by John McConaughy (died 1824, aged 45), the leading attorney and father of David. Roads and turnpikes linked the town with places in all directions. There were five licensed taverns and several general stores. The Bank of Gettysburg, one of the first chartered banks west of the Susquehanna River, opened for business in May 1814. James Gettys (1759-1815), the founder and proprietor of the town, died early in 1815, a few months before Arnold's arrival.

In August 1816 Thaddeus Stevens came to town and announced through the columns of the newspaper that he had begun the practice of law. He soon met George Arnold. The two formed a lasting personal friendship, which ended only with the death of Stevens in 1868. They shared the same quarters, both before and after Stevens purchased his first real estate, on Chambersburg Street, in 1818. This arrangement ended when Arnold married Ann Maria Jenkins on November 3, 1825.

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Having begun his business career as a general store clerk, George Arnold decided to remain in that field. This did not prevent him from pursuing other ventures from time to time. As David McConaughy put it, he "continued merchandizing with short intervals, engrossed with other pursuits, up almost to his death." Unlike some other merchants, past and present, he did not find a location for his business early in his career and remain in it for decades.

At the time of the 1821 septennial census, which was taken in mid-November of that year, George Arnold was still listed as a clerk. Then in May 1822 he announced in the *Sentinel* that he was "now opening, in the new brick house, situate on the south-



east corner of the diamond," a cash store with "an extensive and general assortment of merchandize." He explained that "every rational person must know that goods can and ought to be sold on better terms for cash, than when a general credit is given." The spirit, and much of the exact wording of this advertisement, (afterwards written as ad) followed that used by William McClellan when he opened his store seven years earlier.

David McConaughy wrote that Thaddeus Stevens provided the money with which Arnold's new building was built, on what he said had been a vacant lot. Incorrectly, he gave the date of the new store as 1820; it was 1822. The town lot in question (lot 7) had passed through several hands since James Gettys sold it in 1790. The first purchaser was Henry Arnold of Littlestown, a millwright and almost certainly George Arnold's father. Thaddeus Stevens and William McClellan obtained a 99-year lease on the lot in 1822. Arnold acquired Stevens's share five years later.

Because George Arnold regularly advertised in one or all of the three weekly newspapers in Gettysburg, and because microfilm of these papers is available in the collections of the Adams County Historical Society, it is possible to follow him closely as he moved from one location to the next, and to learn how the nature of his business changed significantly over time.

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This section traces Arnold's mercantile career from 1822 to 1877, some fifty-five years. With but few exceptions, the spelling used in the newspaper quotations which follow is all lower case. In the original, there were many capital letters used. We do not need to repeat them here to entice the public into George Arnold's store, wherever it might happen to be. See the map on page 27 for store locations.

Even in the 1820s there were occupational hazards for a Gettysburg merchant conducting his business. On November 1, 1824 George Arnold prepared a lengthy statement, which he titled the "most daring robbery," and submitted it to the *Sentinel* for publication. On the morning of three days before, he wrote, he was attacked

## CASH STORE.

**T**HE Subscriber begs leave to inform his Friends, that he is now opening, in the new Brick House, situate on the south-east corner of the Diamond in the borough of Gettysburg, near the Court-house and Mr. John Murphy's Tavern, and adjoining M. C. Clarkson's Hard-Ware Store,

**AN EXTENSIVE AND GENERAL  
ASSORTMENT OF  
MERCHANDIZE,**

which has been selected with the greatest care, and purchased for CASH. Every rational person must know, that goods can and ought to be sold on better terms for cash, than when a general credit is given.

The subscriber being determined to sell for CASH, and being also determined to sell for moderate profits, he flatters himself, that he will be able to make it the interest of those, who do not wish to purchase on credit to give him a call, and he respectfully invites them to do so, examine his goods and judge for themselves.

*George Arnold.*

Gettysburg, May 28. tf

while traveling west on the Philadelphia-Baltimore Road by a man who had spent the previous night in the tavern at which he had stopped. Leaving early the next morning, the robber “waited in the road until I came up.” He then asked for, and was granted, a ride. Instead of getting into what Arnold called his gig (a two-wheel, one-horse carriage), he seized the reins, “presented a pistol to my breast, and demanded all the money I had or he would shoot me instantly.” During the following few minutes, Arnold gave the robber a few dollars from his pocket, a silver watch, and saddlebags containing bank notes (some counterfeit), and items of clothing. “He then felt my pockets.” Arnold wrote, “but did not discover one in which I had a considerable amount of money.” At intervals during this encounter the robber threatened Arnold “with instant death.” Eventually, in a way he did not explain, he escaped. Returning to Gettysburg, he described his assailant in great detail, down to the color of his pantaloons (“near mouse”) and his “much turned down” ears (from the way he wore his hat). “It is easily discovered from his dialect,” Arnold wrote, “that he is from the East, and what is generally called a Yankee.” He offered a reward of \$25 for his capture, either in Maryland or Pennsylvania.

David McConaughy, who was one year old when the robbery occurred, thought it important enough to discuss this incident as an example of Arnold’s “remarkable coolness, courage, and tireless persistency.” The *Sentinel* reported that the saddlebags were recovered along the road a few days after the robbery and that the perpetrator, whom McConaughy called John Hicks, was arrested and imprisoned in Philadelphia a few days later, with some of the loot still in his possession.

In January 1829 George Arnold announced that he was “determined to settle up his business” and asked all persons indebted to him to pay up promptly. In April he informed the public he was “now about to quit business, having sold out his whole stock of goods to Mr. John Stewart,” who will continue “at the same stand.” This arrangement did not work out as planned and Arnold remained in charge of the store. In January 1830 he announced that “having determined to quit business in the spring, I will now sell my whole stock of dry goods, at cost, for cash” and rent the storeroom and warehouse, as of April 1.

**\$25 REWARD.**

**Most Daring Robbery.**

ON Friday morning, 29th ult, at 10 o'clock, GEORGE ARNOLD, of Gettysburg, Penn. was attacked on the Philadelphia and Baltimore road, five miles south of Bush, Harford county, by a man who lodged in the same house, on the night before, five miles south of Havre-de Grace. The robber started from the house, early in the morning before I did, and waited on the road until I came up, he then asked me if I would not let him ride, I told him I would and stopped my horse and gig, he then walked forward, and instead of getting into the gig, pulled the lines out of my hand, and presented a pistol to my breast, and demanded all the money I had or he would shoot me instantly. I refused giving my money, and asked if he really was in earnest, he told me to ask no questions, that I knew not the danger I was in; and swore by his Maker if I did not give my money that instant, he would take my life, as there was no time to delay. I then gave him the silver change I had in my pocket, to the amount of five or six dollars, told him that was all I had and insisted on being off, he again threatened my life, and demanded my silver repeating watch, which he took, he then asked for my pocket book, I told him I had none, he insisted that I had, and presented his pistol to my ear, and threatened me with instant death if I did not give it up. He then felt my pockets, but did not discover one in which I had a considerable amount of money. He took my saddlebags, containing 4 or 5 ruffled shirts, a number of cravats marked G. A. one pair black cloth pantaloons, and some other articles of clothing, with a red morocco pocket book, containing 5 notes on Harrisburg bank, \$5 each, counterfeit, of the old plate. One 10 dollar note on New Brunswick bank, also counterfeit. And a large number of bills for goods purchased in Philadelphia, with receipts for money paid, and other papers. — Also some letters, one of which had money in, but cannot say how much. The robber is a man about six feet high, stout built, dark complexion, black hair, marked a little on the nose with small pox; had on a blue surtout coat, lined with black silk; a black silk cravat; light grey cloth vest, double breasted; corded Cassimere pantaloons, near mouse color; boots not rights and lefts; appearing a man of about 27 or 28 years of age, and rather of a genteel appearance; his ears are much turned down by wearing his hat on them. Had no bundle with him, and it is easily discovered from his dialect, that he is from the East, and what is generally called a Yankee. He told me, when we took supper, the night previous to the robbery, that he was a native of Connecticut, and was going on to Ohio, by the way of Frederick, to purchase horses. Whoever takes up said villain and lodges him in jail, either in the state of Maryland or Pennsylvania, so that he is brought to trial, shall receive the above reward.

**George Arnold.**

November 1.

## BARGAINS.

**H**AVING determined to quit business in the Spring, I will now sell my whole Stock of DRY GOODS, **AT COST, FOR CASH,** Persons having a little of the ready change to spare, will please call and lay it out to advantage, as I am determined to sell Goods cheaper than I have ever offered them heretofore.

### I WILL RENT MY

**Store-Room & Ware-House,** being one of the best situations in the place for business. Possession will be given on the 1st of April next.

**GEORGE ARNOLD.**

Gettysburg, Jan. 5.

3t

P. S. In addition to former notices to Debtors, I will merely add, that all Note and Book accounts of a long standing, that are not paid off before the *first day of April next*, will then be left in the hands of proper authority for collection.

G. A.

plete assortment of hardware and edge tools of every description." His entire inventory had been purchased "at the lowest cash prices in Philadelphia and Baltimore." This new store was located, not at his previous location, but in what Arnold called "Cobean's three-story house, southeast corner of the diamond." It is the present location of the Wills house.

Clearly the place of business which George Arnold opened in the spring of 1833 either had or would soon acquire a much larger and more varied inventory than was found in his first effort eleven years before. One might have expected that it was the beginning of a long and successful business at this place. Perhaps "his friends and the public generally" were surprised to read in the newspaper in February 1834 that, "having determined to remove from Gettysburg to Mercersburg, in the spring, I will now sell out my stock of goods cheap for cash." During the next several months he also sold his interest in the real estate in which he had conducted his first store. On several occasions he inserted newspaper notices that he had left Gettysburg, after entrusting his books to Attorney Samuel R. Russell (1801-1894), to whom moneys due him should be paid.

Arnold's association with Mifflin Forge in Franklin County during 1830-1833 will be discussed in a later section.

In March 1833 Arnold used the columns of the newspaper "to inform his friends and the public generally that he has again opened store" and offers for sale an "entirely new and handsome assortment of fresh goods." These included dry goods, groceries, china, glass, queensware, cutlery, and a complete assortment of bar and sheet iron," which he described in detail. In "a few days" he expected to receive from Philadelphia "a full and com-

## New Store.

**George Arnold,**

**W**ISHES to inform his Friends & the Public generally, that he has again **OPENED STORE**, in Cobean's three-story House, South-East Corner of the Diamond, Gettysburg, where he offers for sale an

*Entirely New & Handsome Assortment of*

### FRESH GOODS,

AS FOLLOWS:

**DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, China, Glass & Queensware,**

**CUTLERY,**

And a Complete Assortment of

**Bar and Sheet IRON,**

AS FOLLOWS:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 Round Iron,  
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 Square do.  
1 1/2, 1 3/4, 2, 2 1/2, 2 3/4, & 3 Band do.  
Hoop and Strap assorted do.  
Double & treble American Sheet do.  
Wagon Tire, all sizes, do.  
Stage, Dearborn and Gig do.  
Plough Irons, assorted, do.  
Horse-shoe and Scollap do.  
Sledge and Hammer Moulds,  
Crow Bars,  
Shear and Blister Steel,  
Coach Spring do.

—ALSO—

Sheet and Block Tin,  
Lead in Pigs,  
Plated Metal,  
Rolled Brass,  
Crucibles and Files,  
Wire of all sizes, &c. &c.

And in a few days will be received from Philadelphia,

*A Full and Complete Assortment of*

**HARDWARE, &**

**EDGE TOOLS,**

Of every description.

The above Goods have been selected with much care, and purchased at the lowest Cash prices in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Still mindful of the liberal patronage received when last in business, the Subscriber begs leave once more to tender his thanks, and hopes, from attention to business, still to share a part of public favor.

☞ All kinds of Produce, Scrap, and Old Iron, taken in exchange for Goods.

Gettysburg, March 11.

3t

A "last notice" appearing in April stated that "I am much in want of money" and that anyone who had not paid him by June 15 could expect to be sued.

Arnold's "friends and the public generally" must have been surprised again and somewhat perplexed when they read, late in May 1834 and only three months after he was reportedly leaving for Mercersburg, that he had "again returned to his old stand in Gettysburg, with a splendid stock of fresh goods." Several advertisements during the rest of the year featured shoes, boots, hosiery, caps, shawls, many fabrics, and hollowware, by which he meant pots and pans. His stock, he claimed, also embraced "almost every article in the way of building, and housekeeping."

On April 1, 1835 George Arnold moved his store into rented space in the large building in the southwestern quarter of the diamond. Built by John McConaughy; it had been occupied for some time by merchants. Arnold remained here as a renter for seventeen years, during which time he established the Gettysburg Steam Foundry, which will be discussed in a later section. Between 1837 and 1840 he was in partnership with his brother William (died 1852, aged about 40) under the name George Arnold and Company. An 1847 ad announced a partnership with William F. Ruthrauff. This was of short duration.

**HARDWARE.**

**J**UST received and for sale by the subscriber, a large stock of  
**Hardware, Bar Iron, &c. &c.**  
 which will be sold **CHEAP.** Persons engaged in Building would do well to call.  
**GEORGE ARNOLD.**

March 2. 3t  
 N. B. I will Remove my Store to the Corner now occupied by MILLER & WITHEROW, on the 1st day of April next.  
 G. A.

tried to keep up with them. As early as 1835 he advised that "persons engaged in building would do well to call" on him. Three years later he informed the public that he had "entered largely into the hardware business" and had available "almost every article in the way of building and housekeeping." In 1839 he offered for sale new and superior cookstoves "manufactured at the Gettysburg foundry" and a patented coal stove which was "calculated for heating two rooms at one and the same time, being a

**New Goods.**

**GEORGE ARNOLD**

**W**ISHES to inform his Friends & the Public generally, that he has again returned to his **OLD STAND** in Gettysburg, with a **Splendid Stock of FRESH GOODS**, as follows:

**Dry Goods, Groceries,**  
**HARDWARE, EDGE TOOLS,**  
**QUEENSWARE,**  
*Leghorn, Straw & Tuscan Bonnets,*  
**SHOES, BOOTS, HOSIERY, &c. &c.**  
 with almost every other article in his line of business. He will receive in a few days, and constantly keep on hand, an assortment of

**Hollow-Ware & Castings.**

The Public are invited to call and judge for themselves.

May 26. 3t

very great improvement on stoves.” As early as 1846, under the heading Lumber Yard, he offered for sale “a large quantity of river boards,” both yellow and white pine, as well as shingles, laths, posts, and rails.

Although it could still be found in some Arnold ads, the emphasis on cash only no longer dominated them quite as it did in the early 1820s. It is clear that he was always forced to sell many of his goods on credit and hope that payment would soon follow. When it did not, his usual

method was to thank his patrons for their past business and then state bluntly that he was “in want of money” and might have to sue. This was how business often had to be conducted long before the days of regular paychecks and credit cards. Competition among Gettysburg merchants was probably increasing during these years, which may help explain why Arnold claimed in 1838 that his prices were “the same as those of York and Hanover” and a year later that he was selling “at prices to suit the times, for cash or produce.”

In December 1851 George Arnold informed the public that in the spring he would be moving his store around the corner, to what he called Sell’s corner. Now owned by the Adams County National Bank, this new location was on lot 111 and had been held for many years by members of Jacob Sell’s family. Although he informed the public as early as January 1855 that he had bought the property, Arnold did not secure a deed for lot 111 until October 2, 1858. This was not then an unusual arrangement. Perhaps more unusual is the fact that the bank did not have this deed recorded until 1921.

At his new location, George Arnold continued his well-established practice of advertising in the Gettysburg newspapers. Occasionally he identified his new place of business as the sand stone front (the contemporary Fahnestock store was the red front), but however it was presented to the public it was clear that the inventory of Arnold’s store was continuing to evolve. No longer was it a place to buy groceries, dry goods, hardware, a complete assortment of bar and sheet iron, lumber, or “almost every other article in this line of business.” From time to time there continued to be a few stoves offered for sale, but increasingly the ads identified Arnold’s as a “merchant tailor shop” or a “clothing emporium.” He now employed one or more experienced tailors who familiarized themselves with the latest styles in clothing and busied themselves preparing ready-made clothing. Anyone who desired to have something custom made could easily obtain it. In March 1858 he announced that Mr. Culp (certainly E. Jesse Culp) was “always on hand, bright

## LUMBER YARD.

ON hand and for sale by the subscriber—a large quantity of RIVER BOARDS—  
*Yellow & White Pine Mountain Boards;  
Pine, Chestnut and Oak Shingles;  
Scantling & Shingling Laths;  
Posts, Rails, &c., &c.,*

All of which will be sold as cheap as possible, for the “Cash only.” Persons wanting Lumber, are respectfully invited to call and see.

GEORGE ARNOLD.

Gettysburg, June 11.

tf

## MORE NEW GOODS.

George Arnold

HAS just received from Philadelphia, an additional supply of those cheap Long Shawls, Cloths, Cassinets, Lawns, Poplins, Alpaca Lustres, Flannels, Domestic, Fresh Groceries, &c., &c., all of which will be sold at very reduced prices. Please call.

N. B.—I would inform my customers and the public generally, that I will remove my store to Sell’s Corner in the spring, where I will be pleased to see all who may favor me with a call.

GEORGE ARNOLD.

Dec. 1, 1851. tf.



and accommodating.” He was succeeded in September 1860 by William T. King.

In 1855 Arnold assured the public that “his clothing are all of his own manufacturing, and well made of the very best material, and none of your city made trash, which have been put together in a hurry by crushing the poor seamstresses with a mere pittance for her labor, or done with the loop stitch of a sewing machine, which if one stitch gives way the whole seam is gone. We give fair wages, have our work well done and made of the best materials, and our young ladies come in with the garments with smiling countenances and cheerful hearts.” In January 1860 Arnold announced that he had “disposed of his stock of ladies’ dress and fancy goods generally” and would “now give his whole attention” to mens’ and boys’ clothing.

The 1860s newspapers make abundantly clear that anyone seeking groceries, dry goods, or any of the other commodities which George used to sell could now buy these things from any of the increasing number of local merchants who carried them. George Arnold’s name still appeared among the ads, but less frequently than before. For example, in October 1867 he advertised his “large stock of ready-made clothing, mostly of his own manufacture, consisting of all sizes of coats, pants and vests, shirts, drawers, cravats, hosiery, etc. at prices to suit the times.”

In February 1869 Theodore C. Norris (1837-1890), who for some years had been conducting his business in the first block of Chambersburg street, informed the public that he had “removed his store to the corner of the diamond, long occupied by George Arnold,” where he had in stock “every kind of gentlemen’s wear.”

George Arnold had not yet retired. He now moved his store into one or more rooms in the southeast corner of the diamond, where he continued to offer what as late as January 1877 he described as “ready made clothing of all kinds for men

**GREAT ATTRACTION  
AT THE SAND STONE FRONT!**

**Ready Made Clothing.**

**GEORGE ARNOLD**

**H**AS just now finished making up and has on hand as large a stock of Ready Made Clothing, suitable for the Fall and Winter season, as has ever been offered to the public in this place. His

**CLOTHING**

are all of his own manufacturing, and well made of the very best material, and none of your CITY MADE TRASH, which have been put together in a hurry by crushing the poor seamstress with a mere pittance for her labor, or done with the loop stitch of a sewing machine, which if one stitch gives way the whole seam is gone. We give fair wages, have our work well done and made of the best materials, and our young ladies come in with the garments with smiling countenances and cheerful hearts.

**WE HAVE NOW ON HANDS—**

Coats of all grades and colors from \$1 to \$20  
Pants, “ “ 50cts to \$10  
Vests, “ “ 62½cts to \$7

made of all colors and every variety of style.— We have experienced workmen employed constantly cutting out and making up all kinds of Black, Blue, Olive, Claret, Green, Brown and Drab Cloth Coating, Cassimers, Satinets, Jeans, and Vestings, Drawers, Shirts, &c., &c.

Having just returned from the East we have now on hand, in connection with our Clothing Store, a very large stock of cheap Cloths, Cassimers, Cassinets, Coatings, &c., &c., of every variety of colors. We have just received the Fall and Winter Fashions, and if we cannot please you in a garment made up we can at all times take your measure and make up a garment that will please you on short notice.— We will not make the bold assertion that we will sell at 25 per cent. cheaper than any body else, but that we will sell any article in our line as cheap as the cheapest, and a little cheaper, and a good deal better.

Give us a call and examine and judge for yourself. Come one, come all to the Clothing Emporium at the

Sand Stone Front of  
**GEORGE ARNOLD.**

**George Arnold,**

**H**AVING disposed of his stock of Ladies’ Dress and Fancy Goods generally, will now give his whole attention to the CLOTHING BUSINESS, and will at all times keep on hand a large lot of cheap Cloths, Cassimeres, Cassinets, Vestings, and Men’s wear generally.

Also, Ready-made Over Coats, Dress and Business Coats, Pantaloon, Vests, Monkey Jackets, Shirts, Drawers, Comforts, Stocks, Cravats, &c., &c. Give us a call. We will sell every article in our line as cheap as the cheapest.

Jan. 23, 1860.

and boys; best quality and latest styles; selling cheap."

In January 1878 Harriet A. Harper, widow of the veteran editor of the *Star and Sentinel*, reported that her storeroom, "lately occupied by George Arnold as a clothing store" in the southeastern corner of the diamond, was vacant and for rent. George Arnold had retired, after fifty-five years. His last place of business was only a few doors east of his first. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that his long career as a merchant had ended with something of a whimper rather than a bang. But perhaps he wanted it that way.

+++

The *Centinel* for July 13, 1825 was "pleased to state" that John Hersh, Jr. and George Arnold, both of Gettysburg, were the joint owners of one fourth of a ticket which a week before had won what was described as "the Capitol prize of \$50,000 in the Union Canal Lottery, at Philadelphia." They had taken a chance on one of the longest and most successful lotteries in Pennsylvania history, and each man had won \$6,250. John Hersh, Jr. (1801-1850) was not the son of the other John Hersh in Gettysburg; he was the younger of the two residents with that name. Arriving in town in 1822, he opened a drug store and the following year was appointed postmaster. In its account of the winnings, also on July 13, the *Compiler* stated that one-fourth of the prize had gone to a man in Chambersburg.

This particular lottery can be traced back at least to the act of April 2, 1811, by which the state legislature had consolidated two existing canal companies into the Union Canal Company, whose purpose, in the language of the act, was to open "a communication by water for the transportation . . . of goods, wares and merchandizes" between Philadelphia "and the western and north-western counties of the state." At a time when both New York and Baltimore were also becoming interested in establishing transportation links, in addition to public roads and turnpikes, with their interior counties, this act asserted that "there can be no object which is more likely to promote the great interests of the citizens at large than the improvement of our internal navigation by the contemplated canal and lock navigation."

Building and maintaining canals required large sums of money. As private agencies, companies such as the Union Canal Company had to rely on as many

**A. Bitzenberger**, South Washing-  
ton street, BLACKSMITH and FARRIER.  
All work guaranteed. Prices reasonable.

**George Arnold**, South-east Corner  
Centre Square. READY-MADE CLOTH-  
ING of all kinds for men and boys; best quality  
and latest styles; selling cheap. Drop in.

**J. H. Skelly**, South-west Corner of  
Diamond. TAILORING in all its branches.  
All work guaranteed.

FOR RENT.—The Store Room in south-  
east corner of diamond, lately occupied  
by George Arnold, as a Clothing Store.  
Apply to Mrs. H. A. HARPER. tf

*Lucky !—We are pleased to state,  
that Messrs. John Hersh, Jr. & George  
Arnold, of this place, were the joint  
owners of one fourth of the Ticket which  
drew the Capital prize of \$50,000 in  
the Union Canal Lottery, at Philadel-  
phia, on Wednesday last.*

sources as they could find, including stocks, loans, and occasional government grants. Section 28 of the 1811 act extended to the new company a privilege already granted to its two predecessors: the right to raise funds “by way of lottery.” This method had been used in Pennsylvania and elsewhere for many years.

Work on constructing a canal under the act of 1811, delayed in part at least by the War of 1812, did not begin until 1821. By this time, the goal was no longer reaching into the western counties, but rather joining Philadelphia and Reading. What remained for the owners of the Union Canal Company to achieve was a link west from that city to the Susquehanna River at Middletown. The task challenged the engineers. It required much excavation, constructing one of the first canal tunnels in the country, and installing many locks. The canal went into operation in 1827 and continued in use until 1884. Today its course is marked by a series of historical markers placed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

In the study of lotteries in Pennsylvania to 1833, which was published in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* in 1923 and 1924, Asa Earl Martin wrote that “by far the most important single lottery in number of tickets and in the value of prizes in the history of Pennsylvania was the Union Canal Lottery.” Between 1811 and the end of 1833, the company conducted what he called “about fifty different lottery schemes” and paid out in prizes more than \$33,000,000.

When they wanted to buy a Union Canal lottery ticket, neither Arnold nor Hersh had to go very far. Almost all tickets were sold by brokers, who advertised in many newspapers and engaged agents in towns and cities to assist them. An examination of the files of the *Sentinel* and the *Compiler* for January 1823 through July 1825 has not yielded any ads for the Union Canal Lottery, but in July 1817 the McClellan and Hersh store, then George Arnold’s employer, was selling Washington Monument Lottery tickets. In April 1825 John Hersh, Jr. was selling at the post office tickets for what he called the “Grand State Lottery, Fourth Class.” After 1825, Union Canal Lottery tickets were available at several places in Gettysburg.

Responding to appeals from several quarters, the legislature decreed on March 1, 1833 that after December 31 of that year “all and every lottery and lotteries, and device and devices in the nature of lotteries, shall be utterly and entirely abolished, and are hereby declared to be henceforth unauthorized and unlawful.” Citing “the evils arising from lotteries and the sale of lottery tickets,” the legislators concluded that the right granted to the Union Canal Company had “been fully exercised and exhausted.” However, since that company already needed to make “extensive repairs

**\$30,000.**

**O**WING to the great demand and rapid sale of Tickets, the Splendid Union Canal LOTTERY will be drawn on

**Saturday next, the 2d Jan.**  
instead of the 7th, as first intended.

**WHOEVER WANTS**  
**30,000 DOLLARS,**  
Call and buy a Chance at  
**CLARKSON'S,**  
from \$10 down to 31 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cents.  
Dec. 29. **It**

Union Canal Lottery Ad  
December 29, 1829



and improvements” and lacked “the pecuniary means” to make them, they authorized a long-term loan of \$200,000 to the company.

Neither young Hersh nor Arnold was asked to return his prize money.

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As early as 1825, Thaddeus Stevens and several associates, not including George Arnold, began developing iron works in the Fairfield area. The intended market for what they hoped to produce included stoves and what was known as hollowware. They purchased some 1,200 acres of land as the source of raw materials (iron ore and timber) and built Maria Furnace, which soon began producing pig iron.

In 1830, the newly formed partnership of Stevens and George Arnold built Mifflin Forge, located along the Gettysburg-Chambersburg Turnpike about sixteen miles from the furnace. The immediate purpose of the forge was to convert the furnace’s pig iron into wrought iron, but, as Bradley R. Hoch has explained in his biography of Stevens, it was already evident that the quality of Maria Furnace iron was poor, because of the ore from which it was being made. In choosing the site for Mifflin Forge, Stevens may well have intended to find a better nearby source of both iron ore and timber. At an 1831 sheriff sale, he and Arnold purchased 3,000 acres of land in Menallen Township. In May 1831, when Arnold advertised the sale of his large mill property in Germany Township and several houses in Gettysburg, he stated that terms of the sale would be “made known by the subscriber living at Mifflin forge, upon the Chambersburg turnpike, in Franklin County.”

By March 1833, Arnold had returned to the store business on the diamond in Gettysburg. David McConaughy believed that, after Mifflin Forge was burned on the night of November 11/12, 1833, Stevens and Arnold replaced it and also built a furnace at Caledonia. He implied that the Stevens-Arnold partnership lasted until about 1837. Both the *Sentinel* and the *Star*, in reporting the fire, described the forge as the property of Thaddeus Stevens and James D. Paxton. No mention was made of George Arnold.

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On August 28, 1838, George Arnold announced that he had established the Gettysburg Steam Foundry, the first enterprise of its kind in the borough, and that he was prepared to make “castings, of every kind, in the neatest and best manner.” He had already employed a “first rate machinist and pattern maker.” In 1839 he obtained a deed for the two town lots (39 and 40) on which the foundry was built. He was soon offering stoves made in the foundry for sale in his store. By 1841 he had associated Thomas Warren (1801-1866) with him in the foundry. They were now making and selling two-horse and four-horse threshing machines, which they described as “the most useful, labor-saving, and convenient machines of the kind ever offered to the public.”

Arnold remained owner of the foundry until the spring of 1847, when he sold it to Warren. Under several successive owners, the foundry remained in operation until about 1910.

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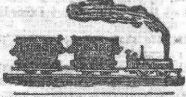
Operating under a recently passed general banking law, a state charter, and with several hundred stockholders, the Bank of Gettysburg began operating in May 1814. For more than forty years, it was the only bank in the county. George Arnold never became a director.

At least by the mid-1850s some persons were thinking about the desirability of having a second financial institution in the county. It should be one which would receive regular, and probably small, deposits from patrons and then invest the amounts received in real estate and other assets believed to have limited risks. Many if not most of the patrons were expected to be farmers, craftsmen, mechanics, and laborers. Advocates of a new institution learned that there were similar ones operating successfully in several neighboring counties.

By the time the *Sentinel* began reporting on the plans (March 20, 1857), the supporters had decided to seek incorporation, and they had decided on a name: The Farmers' and Mechanics' Savings Institution of Adams County. They had chosen the persons to act as incorporators and proposed an initial issue of 600 shares of stock at \$50 each. A week later they informed the public that the charter they were seeking "not only withholds the power of issuing notes, but also banking and discounting privileges."

When a well advertised public meeting was held on May 4, it was known that the state senate had soundly defeated the incorporation bill, by a vote of 2 to 22. Undeterred, those present concluded that, after all, incorporation was not required to achieve their purposes. David McConaughy told them that the society in Chambersburg had been operating successfully without a charter since 1835. They then proceeded "to organize a savings institution for Adams County," adopt a constitution and by-laws, and elect thirteen directors. Later in the day the directors elected George Throne (1810-1901) president and George Arnold secretary and treasurer.

The Farmers' and Merchants' Savings Institution of Adams County opened



**GETTYSBURG  
STEAM FOUNDRY.**

**THE** subscriber has established a **Steam Foundry** in Gettysburg, Adams county, Pa., and is now prepared for making

**CASTINGS,**  
of every kind, in the neatest and best manner.

Having the best gray Foundry Pig in the State, and long experienced Workmen, the castings cannot fail to be smoother and of a superior quality; and in a short time will be prepared to do all kinds of

**Brass Castings and Smith Work.**

— ALSO —

**Turning of every kind in  
IRON and BRASS,**

Persons having any thing to do in the above line of business, would do well to call. All orders and particularly those from a distance, thankfully received and punctually attended to.

**A FIRST RATE  
Machinist and Pattern  
Maker**

is attached to the Establishment. Patterns can therefore be furnished at all times on short notice.

**OLD MEATAL** taken at the Foundry in exchange, and the **HIGHEST PRICE IN CASH** paid for **Old Copper** and **Brass.**

(From a disposition to please, and a determination to make **SUPERIOR** work,— (none other shall leave the Establishment,) the subscriber hopes, therefore, that he may be patronized.

**GEO. ARNOLD.**  
Gettysburg, August 28, 1838. 3m-22



Farmers' and Mechanics' Savings Institution of Adams County and George Arnold's Store on the 1858 map of Adams County

for business in a room next to George Arnold's store on April 11, 1857. There were business hours six days a week.

David McConaughy, who was a proponent and one of the first directors of the new venture, wrote in 1879 that Arnold, "almost alone by his own personal exertions, succeeded in establishing" it. By using the phrase "almost alone" he was recognizing that there were others, including himself. Of the first thirteen directors, Arnold and one or two others were residents of Gettysburg. Most of the rest were farmers. George Throne, who lived in Franklin Township and was president of the institution and its successor until 1897, was described in his obituary as "a well-known financier."

Contrary to a long-held belief, the state did not grant a charter to the savings institution in 1858 or at any other time. A major change in its status came only as a result of federal legislation passed during the Civil War. In February 1863 Congress passed the National Banking Act, which authorized citizens to apply for a charter as a bank. If granted, they could use some of the money they were required to raise to operate the bank and the remainder to buy government bonds, which had to be deposited with the United States Treasury. National banks could then use these bonds

as collateral in issuing paper money in the form of national bank notes, which would have the faith and credit of the United States government behind them. By promoting the sale of government bonds, the 1863 act raised much needed revenue in wartime. By authorizing the issue of paper money with federal backing, it promoted a stable currency.

On December 8, 1863 the *Sentinel* stated that "measures are in train" to convert the savings institution into the First National Bank of Gettysburg. On March 11, 1864 Charter 311 was issued and its officers were authorized to "commence the business of banking." George Throne continued as president and George Arnold became cashier. The capital stock was increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Within sixty days the bank received its first currency in the form of national bank notes. The Bank of Gettysburg became the Gettysburg National Bank under the terms of Charter 611, dated December 1, 1864.

George Arnold remained as cashier of the First National until September 1873. The *Star and Sentinel* for September 10 attributed his resignation to "some differences between himself and the directors as to the internal management of the institution." The editor explained that as cashier Arnold "was distinguished for his uniform courtesy, faithful devotion to business, and obliging disposition." In fact, he wrote, over more than fifty years, "he has sustained a high reputation for integrity and honorable dealing, enjoying the confidence of the community, and approving himself as one of our most energetic and useful citizens." The news of his departure, the editor noted, "produced some sensation on our streets" and a shortlived "run" on the bank. Fortunately, "public confidence was restored, and matters about the bank assumed a wanted quiet."

**THE FARMERS & MECHANICS' SAVINGS INSTITUTION**  
**Of Adams County,**  
 Opens Saturday, 11th of April.

**T**his Institution receives deposits for which it pays interest as follows:—  
 For over 10 months 4 per cent. per annum.  
 For 3 and not over 10 months, 3 percent. per annum.  
 For transient deposits not less than 30 days 2 per cent per annum, payable on demand without notice.

The weekly depositors share the dividends declared and payable semi-annually.

At the first meeting weekly deposits were subscribed by responsible citizens, for the current year, to an amount exceeding \$10,000, which will be paid in as required by the business of the association.

For loans apply on Wednesday.  
 Sums received on deposits as low as a dime.

Interest to be allowed whenever the deposits amount to \$5.00, and on each additional \$5.00 and upwards.

Office in South West Corner of Public Square, next to George Arnold's store. Open daily from 9 A. M., to 3, P. M., and every Saturday for receiving deposits, from 9 A. M., to 9 P. M.

*President,*  
**GEORGE THRONE.**

*Treasurer and Secretary,*  
**GEORGE ARNOLD.**

*Directors,*

John Brough,	John Horner.
Samuel Durboraw,	George Arnold,
A. Heintzelman,	Jacob Muselman,
David McCreary,	D. McConaughy,
William Culp,	John Miekley,
Robert Horner,	John Throne.

April 6.

**DIVIDEND.**

*Farmer's and Mechanics' Savings Institution of Adams County, June 27th, 1859.*

**T**HE President and Directors of this Institution have this day declared a Dividend of **THREE PER CENT.** payable on and after the 1st day of July next.

**GEORGE THRONE, Pres't.**  
**GEO. ARNOLD, Sec'y & Treas'r.**

July 4. 4t

**Farmers' & Mechanics' Savings Institution of Adams County, Gettysburg, Pa.**  
**WEALTH COMES BY SAVING.**

**D**EPOSIT your surplus Funds in this Institution, and receive interest at the rate of from two to five per cent. This institution offers a safe, convenient and profitable depository to all classes of people.

July 4, 1859. tf

In its September 10 issue, the *Compiler* explained Arnold's departure somewhat differently. The editor wrote that, "carrying a large amount of real estate for some time," Arnold "became indebted to the bank in about \$33,000, and after securing the institution to the full amount of indebtedness resigned." At the same time, the directors replaced David McConaughy as the bank's attorney. The editor concluded his story by echoing the *Star and Sentinel*. George Arnold, he wrote, "is one of our oldest citizens" and "has always enjoyed universal respect and confidence."

On October 1, 1873, for \$8,000, George Arnold and wife sold lot 111 to President George Throne in trust for the First National Bank of Gettysburg. This deed was not recorded until 1921.

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George Arnold's involvement in real estate began in the early 1820s and continued for more than fifty years.

In the late spring of 1823 John Arnold, who for more than thirty years had owned a farm and mill in Germany Township, died at his residence southwest of Littlestown and near the Maryland line. Apparently he was not married, but he had as his heirs nine or more nephews and nieces, one of whom was George Arnold. The family believed there was a will, but when none could be found, Peter Arnold, who lived in Maryland, and George Arnold appeared before the Adams County Register of Wills on June 23, 1823 and were awarded letters of administration on the estate. Their bondsmen were Thaddeus Stevens and James A. Thompson, both of Gettysburg. The administrators promised that if a will could be found and proved to be genuine, they would return the letters. The inventory of personal property taken a few days later included the expected numerous notes and other debts due the estate. It amounted to \$4,829.

No will was ever found and proved to be genuine. In 1825 Peter Arnold was granted his request to be released from his duties as administrator. This left the task entirely to George Arnold, who presented his account in 1827. This estate had been settled during depressed times. Many of the amounts owed could not be collected. Several expensive suits were required to collect others. Instead of a balance, the account showed a deficit of \$3,300. At this point James A. Thompson, one of the bondsmen, was named administrator, primarily to dispose of the real estate. In May 1827 it was sold to George Arnold for \$2,350.

In his 1879 obituary, David McConaughy, who was born less than a month after letters were granted for the Arnold estate, wrote that the mill property came to George Arnold "by inheritance from an uncle." Clearly, it did not. He also wrote that the estate was "burdened with heavy litigation," which involved Thaddeus Stevens's fee of more than \$1,000. This may be substantially correct, but it may also be an exaggeration.

Whatever may have happened during the four years George Arnold was settling his uncle's estate, he found himself after May 1827 the owner of a well established and substantial mill property, a dozen or more miles from Gettysburg. When he advertised



it for sale in May 1831 he described it in detail: 320 acres of patented land, with two stone houses, three mills (grist, clover, and saw), and "a complete set of wool-carding engines." The mills, he claimed, were "in complete order, having recently undergone a thorough repair." He described the milldam as "rather a curiosity, being one of the best pieces of workmanship of the kind in any private property in the State, being all built of hewn stone, very neatly put together, and most of them very large." Almost half a century later, the dam and its adjoining race so impressed David McConaughy that in his obituary he called the dam breast perhaps the finest in the county, "which for so many years has stood without need of renewal."

George Arnold sold the mill property in March 1832, but bought it back at a sheriff sale in October 1835. He remained its owner for the next thirty years.

As early as 1840 he began calling the property Locust Grove. In September 1855, when he announced an intention "to retire from the milling and farming business," he advertised it for sale as four separate adjoining tracts or parcels, totaling 260 acres. He proudly stated how many bushels of lime he had put on the land (in one case, 10,000 or more) and how many fine orchards there were. "The dam and race" on the first parcel "are not equalled." At this time, in the early 1850s, he was assessed for a grist mill, saw mill, and three tenant houses on Locust Grove.

In April 1852, Arnold announced that he had obtained the patent rights to a milling process, which could produce a barrel of flour from 240 pounds of wheat. He had secured the right to license millers in sixteen Pennsylvania and Maryland counties to use it. Whether anyone took advantage of the offer has not been determined.

Many ads, some only a few lines in length, demonstrated clearly enough George Arnold's desire to sell all or part of Locust Grove. Finding buyers took some time. The assessed acreage dropped from 200 to 158 in 1847, 118 in 1857, and 15 in 1859. Finally, the remaining 15 acres, with a grist mill, were sold about 1865.

When he sought to sell the mill property in 1831, Arnold also offered his half interest in three

**MILLS! MILLS! MILLS!**  
**ALL IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.**

**NEW! NEW! NEW!**  
**AWAKE TO YOUR INTERESTS.**

**BONNELL'S**  
**NEW and improved Patented process of**  
 flouring by which a barrel of super-  
 fine flour is constantly made out of 240  
 pounds of Wheat.

The subscriber having introduced the  
 above process of grinding into his Mill at  
 Locust Grove, in Germany township,  
 Adams county, finds it to work beautifully,  
 and is now realizing all he anticipated  
 from it, by constantly making a barrel of  
 superfine flour from 240 pounds of good  
 wheat, on a straight average grind, without  
 stoppage or interruption for re-grinding  
 purposes. This process can be adapted to  
 country work to the same advantage as  
 Merchant work. The Milling community  
 are respectfully invited to call at my Mill,  
 one and a half miles S. West of Littlestown,  
 where they can see the whole process in  
 full operation, witness the simplicity and  
 perfection, find that it works to admiration,  
 and (no mistake). The undersigned has  
 procured the right, and is now prepared  
 to sell County, township and individual  
 rights in the following Territory:

Adams, Franklin, Cumberland, Dauphin,  
 York, Lebanon, Chester, Berks, and  
 Lancaster County and City, in Pennsylvania,  
 and Allegheny, Washington and  
 Frederick, Carroll, Howard, Anne Arundel,  
 and Baltimore County and City in  
 Maryland.

This process has been introduced, and is  
 now in use in many of the most extensive  
 Fanning Mills in Western New York,  
 Michigan and Ohio, all of which are making  
 a barrel of superfine flour from 240  
 pounds of wheat upon a straight average  
 grind. For further particulars refer to hand-  
 bills, put up in the Hotels in Gettysburg,  
 and most of the houses of note in the County,  
 containing a number of Certificates,  
 &c., from practical operators, men of the  
 first standing. All the necessary information,  
 together with a draft of the bolting arrangements,  
 hopper, plan of grinding, &c., &c., will be given to any individual  
 purchasing a right. Any further information can be obtained by calling on the subscriber,  
 or by letter, (post paid,) to him at Gettysburg.

In a letter from Mr. A. S. Spalding of  
 the State of New York to the undersigned,  
 dated October 10th 1850, he says:—  
 I have Bonnell's process of flouring in my  
 mill, (it is right) and 4 bushels of good  
 wheat weighing 60 pounds to the bushel  
 is enough for a barrel of superfine flour;  
 if you think it an object to gain from 15 to  
 25 pounds of wheat in every barrel of  
 flour, come and see my arrangements. I  
 am making the yield daily. I will never  
 go back to the old method. I have  
 had 23 years experience in the business,  
 and find it worth all other improvements.

**GEO. ARNOLD.**  
 P. S. Mr. Spalding is a large operator,  
 he grinds upwards of 30,000 barrels  
 per year.

April 16, 1852—tf.

Glatfelter: George Arnold (1799-1879) and a Town Immortalized  
large three-story brick houses on Baltimore Street in Gettysburg. During most of his years as a *taxable* in the borough, in addition to the business property he held, he was assessed for one or more lots. Probably he had deeds for these lots, but few were ever recorded. He also bought and sold real estate in other parts of the county. Bradley R. Hoch has found that Thaddeus Stevens often bought real estate together with close friends, one of whom was George Arnold.

During the 1860s Arnold became interested in exchanging county and western lands. An 1861 ad announced that he would exchange “on fair terms, a choice farm in Iowa or Missouri, for real estate in Adams County.” Two years later, he said he wanted “a good farm, in Adams County, for which I will exchange one or more farms of choice land in Iowa and pay the difference.” In 1865, in three short ads, he offered “two choice farms in the immediate neighborhood of Gettysburg”; a valuable mill property, on Marsh Creek, with 46 acres of choice granite meadow bottom, five miles west of Gettysburg; and “a farm in Adams County, for which I will exchange choice western lands, at a fair price.”

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George Arnold was first elected to public office seventeen years after he opened his first store and several years after it appeared that he had found a store location that suited him. He was elected to three one-year terms on the Gettysburg Borough Council and served from 1839 to 1842. This was followed by three one-year terms as burgess of the borough, from 1842 to 1845. He was again elected burgess in 1848 and served for one year. After an unsuccessful attempt to become county treasurer, he was elected to that office in 1853 and served one two-year term, in 1854 and 1855. Arnold was a Whig and must have been aware after he left office that the majority of Adams County voters were transferring their allegiance to the Democrats. With but two exceptions for about fifty years thereafter, every Adams County Treasurer was a Democrat. In 1856 Arnold was elected to a five-year term as justice of the peace for Gettysburg borough. He was not reelected, but for the rest of his life he was often referred to as George Arnold, Esquire.

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Henry J. Stahle, editor of the Democratic newspaper, the *Compiler*, and David McConaughy, ardent Whig and later Republican, agreed on few things, but they were united in 1879 in praise of George Arnold’s years of public service to Gettysburg and Adams County. From the time he entered business in the 1820s, Stahle wrote in his obituary, “his name became identified with every public enterprise.”

McConaughy credited Arnold with a role, supporting rather than primary in most instances, in organizing the Gettysburg Water Company in 1822 and reorganizing it in the 1840s, in bringing the railroad to town in 1858, in organizing the Gettysburg Gas Company in 1859, and in bringing the telegraph to Gettysburg in 1862 (he was elected president of the company which was charged with managing its affairs for one

year). In 1853 he was vice president of a town meeting called to memorialize the recently deceased Henry Clay. Five years later his name was on the list of some thirty community leaders who endorsed the wall map of Adams County they were shown before it was offered for sale.

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David McConaughy identified Arnold as being “long a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church” and at one time an elder and a trustee. Available records of the Gettysburg Presbyterian Church demonstrate the active role he played in the movement of the congregation in the early 1840s from North Washington Street to its present location on Baltimore Street.

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In 1879 David McConaughy wrote that George Arnold’s “patriotic ardor was developed in his early youth.” He probably had learned from Arnold himself that during the shelling of Fort McHenry in September 1814, when he was fifteen and too young to enlist in any unit, “he went voluntarily and was at the battle of Baltimore.” Nearly half a century later, according to McConaughy, “the passion of his youth was the passion of his mature years, and burned as intensely when his head was white as snow.”

In April 1861, only a week or two after the surrender of Fort Sumter, Arnold was chosen a member of the relief committee to support the families of volunteers who were already leaving from all over the county. He was also chosen for a committee of safety charged with organizing a home guard to protect the county from what was believed to be a genuine threat of raids from Maryland. David McConaughy wrote that, after the failure of the Peninsular campaign, Arnold traveled to Virginia in the late summer of 1862 to do what he could to relieve the sufferings of the many sick and wounded soldiers.

On June 20, 1863 Arnold was chosen chairman of a local committee intent on “placing the county in as thorough a state of military organization as possible.” All able-bodied men between the ages of eighteen and sixty were urged to volunteer for service for six months or the duration of the emergency. Those unwilling to volunteer under those terms were urged to enroll as “minute men” and prepare to “assist in repelling or retarding the progress of the enemy” in any way possible. Eleven days were not nearly enough time to perfect these ambitious plans.

During the battle itself, along with many other townspeople, George Arnold remained in his home. According to McConaughy, he was able to save his store inventory by hiding it in a section of the cellar “which he had wisely walled up for the purpose.”

There was something which his father-in-law did immediately after the battle ended that David McConaughy believed “may not be known to all.” He included it in his obituary, and it is worth quoting in full:



Glatfelter: George Arnold (1799-1879) and a Town Immortalized

On the early morn of July 4, 1863, Mr. Arnold was the first person to communicate to General Meade the fact that the Rebel forces had withdrawn from the town. Soon after dawn, mounting a horse and riding over Cemetery Hill, with his white hair contrasting strangely with the roses upon his cheeks, he came suddenly upon the General-in-chief, where he had bivouacked for the night, south of Katy Guinn's barn, beyond the woods near John Thompson's house, and surprised him and his staff with the first Intelligence that Ewell's Corps had just evacuated Gettysburg. The General in turn warmly thanked this strange messenger of victory.

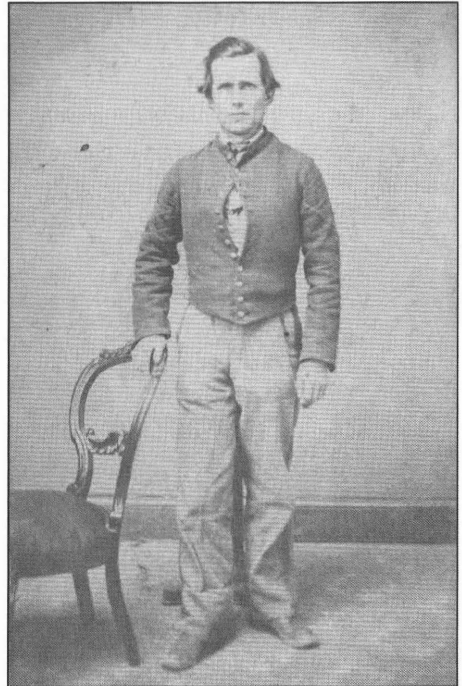
Forty-three days after the battle ended, George Arnold wrote a letter to William T. King (1829-1887), who had been mustered into service in June as a sergeant in Company B of the Twenty-first Cavalry, most of whose members were Adams countians. A native of Champaign County, Ohio, after the death of his father in 1830 he had come to Adams County with his widowed mother, whose family had been one of the earliest to settle in Straban Township. After serving his apprenticeship to a tailor and then traveling for several years, King returned to Gettysburg. In September 1860 George Arnold hired him as a merchant tailor.

The Arnold-King letter is a valuable eyewitness account of events in Gettysburg in July and early August 1863 as they were experienced by a thoroughly knowledgeable civilian, one by his own account not given to writing long letters. He knew about plans already underway to bury the Union dead "upon one sacred spot set aside for that purpose." He was ready to share with his young friend the assessment he had already made of the long-term significance to the town of the battle of Gettysburg.

#### Merchant Tailoring.

GEORGE ARNOLD has procured the services of W. T. KING, and has commenced the above business, and will carry it on in all its various branches, and has connected himself with the store of Mr. George Arnold, where there will be constantly kept on hand a large stock of cheap Cloths, Over-coatings, Cassimeres, Cassinetta, Vestings, and Trimmings of every kind. Work done in the very best manner, and in city style on short notice. Custom work and cutting out solicited when goods are purchased elsewhere. The shop is in connection with Mr. Arnold's store, where Mr. King can always be found during business hours.

Give us a call. [Sept. 17, '60. 2m]



William T. King

The letter follows exactly as written:

Gettysburg Augt 15<sup>th</sup> 1863

Mr. W. T. King

Dr Sir

Yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst is recd and am pleased to hear from you, and learn that you are all, well and doing well we are moving along here much as usual, Our business Continues to be very good. Sales brisk & plenty of work in the Shop. Our town is still lively. Many strangers Continue to go & come, Mrs. Arnold & Myself have been pritty near worn out. Our house as been full all the time. We are now getting thined out a little, almost every body has suffered more or less from the invasion, my losses on the farm are said to be about \$1000 dollars. I have not yet been out to see it, nor do I want to see it, I do not murmur but think that we all have cause to be thankful that it is no worse, I can forget all except the loss of my Flag. the glorious old Stars and Stripes-but I will have another, I sent your letter to your wife with a note that she could have the desired articles, I believe they are all well, I am sorry that Co B were not sent here for provo duty instead of the one that is here, it seams queer, I hope you may escape the draft & be permitted to return home, if you have not been over our Battle field it is worth seeing, I consider it worth a trip across the atlantic – you no doubt have noticed from the papers that the ground has been purchased, & our noble brave dead are all to be collected and interred upon one sacred spot set aside for that purpose, and each state in all probability will erect a suitable monument for its own honored dead. Our Town has now become immortalised & we wish to make the enterprise as attractive as possible by encloseing and beautifying those grounds moistened with the blood of our heroic brave-and I have no doubt that our Town will be much benefited by it for years to come-I long to see this Hellborn rebellion crushed, then I can lay down and depart in peace-I am a poor hand at writing long letters, and as I have nothing to say that would be very interesting, I will draw to a close with my best wishes not only for your well fare and prosperity here, but for your happiness hereafter.

Yours very Respty

Geo Arnold

My respects to the boys generally.

Arnold expressed his regret that King's Company B had not been sent to Gettysburg as provost guards. Company B did arrive in town on August 23. King's enlistment expired in February 1864. Later in the year he became a lieutenant in Company G of the 209<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

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In the months after the battle, in spite of a head “white as snow,” George Arnold’s interest and involvement in public affairs continued apace. According to David McConaughy, later in 1863 he assisted actively in the purchase of land for Soldiers’ National Cemetery and in organizing the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, of which he later became a director. In the fall of 1864 he was one of five local vice presidents of the Lincoln-Johnson Club. In June 1865 he was chairman of a meeting of the lotholders of Evergreen Cemetery when they took control of the graveyard from the stockholders and replaced McConaughy as president with Samuel Simon Schmucker. In August he was one of nine members of a local committee to assist in efforts to merge the Christian and Sanitary Commissions in a way intended to advance the tremendous task of relief and renewal in the South. In September he presided at a local meeting of the Union party (this was the name the Republican party was then using), one of whose candidates for the November election was David McConaughy (he ran for and won a seat in the state senate). In May 1866 Arnold supported a proposal to erect a monument in the public square (no longer the diamond) in Gettysburg as a memorial to all Adams countians who died in service during the war. This effort received immediate support, but never succeeded.

What might be regarded as Arnold’s last public service was an observatory tower erected on Cemetery Hill in 1878. The *Star and Sentinel* for March 29 of that year reported that “George Arnold, Esq., has the whole movement in charge and it is to his untiring energy that the public will be indebted for this long needed feature of the battlefield.” The tower, which opened in May, was fifty feet high, with one gallery half way up and another at the top. Arnold issued stock to pay for the tower, but there was still a debt owed when he died in 1879.

It is apparent that this “long needed feature of the battlefield,” although for a time frequently used, never quite lived up to expectations. Within a decade of its completion, assisted by many battle survivors, the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association began placing many monuments and memorial tablets on the field. An 1895 act of Congress transferred the association’s assets to the federal government, which created the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Commission. In that year the government began erecting five steel observation towers at different places on the battlefield and made plans to erect an equestrian statue of General Winfield S. Hancock. In April the *Star and Sentinel* announced that the statue would probably “be placed on East Cemetery Hill, not far from the old Observatory.” In July the same paper reported that the statue would be placed “a short distance from the site of the observatory,” which would be demolished “to remove all obstructions and to give visitors a chance to view the splendid work to the best advantage.” It remained for the August 27 issue of the paper to say the last words: “The old observatory on East Cemetery Hill has been removed to make room for the Elwell statue of General Hancock.” The statue was dedicated on June 2, 1896. The “old observatory” had done its duty for seventeen years.



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George Arnold's family lived on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line, south of Gettysburg. His father Henry died in Maryland. His mother Catherine died in Germany Township in 1829, in her 56<sup>th</sup> year.

On November 3, 1825 George Arnold married Ann Maria Jenkins. Born July 7, 1807, she was the daughter of Moses Jenkins, whose family was one of the early settlers in the Manor of Maske. Moses died in Franklin Township in 1814, leaving five motherless children, all of them minors. Ann Maria was living in Gettysburg at the time of her marriage.

George and Ann Maria Arnold had three children: Clementine, Catherine, and Caroline. Clementine died at the age of six in 1832. If there were other children who died in infancy, no record of them has been found.

Catherine Arnold (1829-1853) married David McConaughy (1823-1902) in 1848. A native of Gettysburg, he attended the local college, but then transferred to Washington College, which awarded him a bachelor's degree in 1840. Admitted to the Adams County bar in 1845, two years later he opened an office in what he described in his ads as the "southwest corner of the public square, one door west of George Arnold's store." Catherine McConaughy died in 1853, aged 24. She was the mother of one child, George Arnold McConaughy (1848-1862). David McConaughy remarried in 1856. He and his second wife had four children.

Caroline Arnold (1830-1909) married Charles Horner (1824-1893) in 1853. A native of Gettysburg, he was a graduate of Gettysburg College and was granted his M. D. degree by the University of Pennsylvania in 1846. He practiced medicine in Gettysburg from then until his death. He served as a surgeon after the battle of Gettysburg. Charles and Caroline had four children, one of whom was George Arnold Horner (1860-1862).

After a brief illness, George Arnold died of pneumonia on March 12, 1879, in the Chambersburg Street home of his son-in-law and daughter, the Horners. He was buried in Evergreen Cemetery two days later. Arnold left no will. No steps were taken to settle the estate for eight months, until November 3, 1879, when his grandson, David A. Horner, took out letters of administration. There is neither inventory nor account in the estate file. Ann Maria Arnold survived her husband for more than ten years, dying of pneumonia in the Horner home in Gettysburg on November 17, 1889. She was buried in Evergreen Cemetery two days later. She left no will, but five days later Dr. Charles Horner took out letters to administer on her estate. There is neither inventory nor account in the estate file.

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No attempt has been made here to determine George Arnold's actual wealth at any time during his more than half a century as an Adams County businessman. There are no federal income tax records to review and no known business records which have survived to analyze. There are annual county tax lists for Gettysburg and a number of townships to study, but they are at best only an inexact measure of wealth. In the absence of an inventory and an account in the estate of both George and Ann Maria Arnold, there is little to determine about their assets at the time of their deaths.

George Arnold's 1825 lottery winnings appear not to have relieved him, at least not for long, of any financial worries at the beginning of his career. In an ad in the *Sentinel* for October 10, 1827 he called upon "those indebted to the subscriber" to pay what they owed him soon, "as he is much in want of money." He then expressed the hope "that his request will not be passed over with inattention." In the decade or so before and after 1850, he was sometimes assessed for a carriage and more often for a gold or silver watch, occasionally for both. For a few years he was assessed in Gettysburg for having an "excess of furniture," whatever that may have meant at the time. Occasionally he was assessed for a money certificate he owned but the amount was never large and the reference soon disappeared.

As already discussed, the tax records for Gettysburg and several townships show that he was often assessed for real estate he owned, but he never accumulated and held a lot of it as, for example, John McConaughy and Thaddeus Stevens did. In 1832, eight years after his death, McConaughy's administrator reported to the court that the estate still owned, in whole or in part, twenty-one parcels of real estate.

When repeatedly Arnold informed the public that he was "in want of money" and asked to be paid what was owed to him, he was reflecting the experience of many of his contemporaries. In the *Sentinel* for January 22, 1855 his appeal took an unusual

form. “Having purchased the property I now occupy,” he said, “I will want money to pay for it in the spring.” He pled for those owing him “either by note or book account of long standing” to pay him on or before March 1. In one important respect, George Arnold differed from many of his contemporaries. He passed with them through prosperity and depression without ever declaring bankruptcy.



## Bibliographical Note

This biographical sketch of George Arnold is based, with but a few exceptions, upon the use of newspaper files, tax records, deed books, estate papers, acts of the legislature, and general files, all found in the Adams County Historical Society. Most of these sources are identified by name and date in the text.

The lengthy obituary by David McConaughy, published in the *Star and Sentinel* on April 3, 1879, was especially useful. While part of it is clearly a secondary source, much of it is primary. McConaughy actually experienced much of what he wrote about. When he did not, it is usually possible to find credible sources to corroborate or correct his account.

Arnold's many associations with Thaddeus Stevens have been discussed in Bradley R. Hoch, *Thaddeus Stevens in Gettysburg: The Making of an Abolitionist* (Gettysburg: Adams County Historical Society, 2005), especially pp. 41-2, 46-7, 195-6, and 204.

Asa Earl Martin, "Lotteries in Pennsylvania Prior to 1833," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 47 (1923): 307-27 and 48 (1924): 66-93 and 159-60, includes a careful study of the Union Canal lottery, which he believed was one of the most famous in American history. The quotations on page 13 are taken from 48:75-6.

This biography began as an effort to annotate George Arnold's letter to William T. King. It was undertaken by Larry Bolin, Elwood W. Christ, Randy Miller, Timothy H. Smith, and myself. We soon concluded that proper annotation required more than a few paragraphs about George Arnold. The actual text of the biography is mine, but in a real sense this has been a joint effort by the five of us.