

Adams County History
Table of Contents & Summary of Articles
Volume 1 (1995) – Volume 17/18 (2011-2012)

Volume 1 (1995)

“Preparations for the Forbes Expedition, 1758, in Adams County, with Particular Focus on the Reverend Thomas Barton”

By James P. Myers, Jr.

Thomas Barton (1728-1780) was an itinerant missionary for the Church of England. He served as a chaplain with military forces during the Forbes Expedition.

“Anatomy of a Log House in Adams County, Pennsylvania and Its Unspoken Language”

By Elwood W. Christ

Christ examines several structures in what is now Adams County utilizing the 1798 US Direct Tax.

“Catherine Mary White Foster’s Eyewitness Account of the Battle of Gettysburg, with Background on the Foster Family Union Soldiers”

Edited By David A. Murdoch

Foster lived at 155 South Washington Street during the Battle of Gettysburg. This reprinted memoir is an outstanding eyewitness account of the battle by a civilian with biographic information of her family members.

“Funeral Practices in Upper Adams County”

By Nancy DeLong

Delong examines practices in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the northeast section of the county.

Volume 2 (1996)

“The Jameson Raid (1758) as a Focus for Historical Inquiry”

By Charles H. Glatfelter

Glatfelter details the abduction of white settler Mary Jameson by Shawnee Indians in current western Adams County during the French and Indian War.

“A Tour of Gettysburg’s Visual Battle Damage”

By Timothy H. Smith

Licensed Battlefield Guide and the Society’s research assistant, Tim Smith writes a detailed article on the artillery shells lodged in buildings in Gettysburg as a result of the Battle of Gettysburg. Smith separates fact from fiction.

“William and Isabel: Parallels between the Life and Times of the William Bliss Family, Transplanted New Englanders at Gettysburg, and a Nineteenth- Century Novel, Isabel Carollton: A Personal Retrospect, by Kneller Glen”

By Elwood W. Christ
The Bliss family resided in what became the fields of Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863.

“World War II: On the Home Front - M. Francis Coulson”

Interviewed By Jenny Sonnenberg
This oral interview with Coulson focuses on home front activities in Adams County during the Second World War.

Volume 3 (1997)

“The Bermudian Creek Tories”

By James P. Myers, Jr.
Myers chronicles the lives of four loyalists to the British Crown living in modern Adams County during the Revolutionary War.

“Building a Battle Site: Roads to and Through Gettysburg 1747 – 1863”

By Elwood W. Christ
Christ tells the story of how the roads in Gettysburg and Adams County were formed and how that led to the concentration of Union and Confederate forces July 1, 1863.

“Lavinia Dock: Adams County Suffragette”

By Mary Lou Schwartz
Schwartz writes about Lavinia Dock (1858 – 1956) a native of Adams County as well as an early champion of women's rights.

Volume 4 (1998)

“Some Culp Family Members in the Civil War”

By David A. Culp
This short essay details the lives of Adams County natives Wesley Culp, William Culp, and David Culp during the war.

“Adams County in the “Splendid Little War” April through August 1898”

By Timothy H. Smith
Smith looks at Adams County servicemen in the Spanish-American War. This article includes a list of known Adams County soldiers and sailors who served in the conflict.

““Raising Kane Takes Its Toll on the Old Chambersburg Turnpike”: A Tale of Photographic Detection”

By Elwood W. Christ
Christ examines images given to the Society which turned out to be photographs of the Chambersburg Pike.

Volume 5 (1999)

“Some Early Adams County Communities, Their Churches, and Church Lands”

By Charles H. Glatfelter

Glatfelter examines several local communities in the eighteenth century and focuses on the Episcopal residents of Huntington Township, Adams County.

“On the Trail of Sidney O’Brien: An Inquiry into her Family and Status: Was she Slave or Servant of the Gettys Family of Gettysburg? Was Her Daughter, Getty Ann, a Descendant of James Gettys?”

By Elwood W. Christ

Christ attempts to unravel the mystery of African American Sidney O’Brien of Adams County.

“The Civil War Letters of Chaplain Jeremiah Mickly of Franklin Township, Adams County”

By Eric Ledell Smith

Mickly was a German Reformed pastor from Adams County who served in the 177th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment and as chaplain of the 43rd United States Colored Troops during the Civil War.

Volume 6 (2000)

“The Gettysburg Battlefield, One Century Ago”

By Benjamin Y. Dixon

An extensive article, Dixon examines the Gettysburg Battlefield in 1899.

Volume 7 (2001)

“Adams County Gravestone-Cutters, 1770 -1918”

By Nancy DeLong

This article contains biographical information on early county stone cutters.

““Not only for...Material Progress...but for the General Good and Uplift”: a History of Guernsey and Its Humpback Bridge”

By Elwood W. Christ

Christ analyzes the Guernsey wooden bridge in Butler Township, Adams County and the community surrounding it.

Volume 8 (2002)

“Two Documents by the Rev. Thomas Barton: Introduction”

James P. Myers, Jr.

Barton’s Report of 8 November 1756

Barton’s Forbes Expedition Journal, 1758

Myers edits this fascinating eyewitness account of the French and Indian War.

“The Benjamin Loan Mills”

By Barbara and John Senier

This article focuses on a mill in present day Butler Township, Adams County.

Volume 9 (2003)

“Slaveholders and Slaves of Adams County”

By Larry C. Bolin

Bolin writes of slavery in the county and includes lists of slaves and slaveholders from census records.

Volume 10 (2004)

“A “Typical Country Doctor”: Robert B. Elderdice, McKnightstown”

By Kevin L. Greenholt

Greenholt details the life of an Adams County Doctor Robert Breckenridge Elderdice (1846 – 1936).

“Statistical Analysis of Dr. Elderdice’s Ledger”

By Sheryl Hollis Snyder

Snyder examines Elderdice’s list of births he attended from 1867 – 1882.

“Veterans Residing in Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1840 – 1930”

By Kevin L. Greenholt

This article compiles data from the 1840, 1890, 1910, and 1930 Federal Census listing service men from Adams County from the Revolutionary War through World War I. The large list of veterans is from the Civil War.

Volume 11 (2005)

“Jack Hopkins’ Civil War”

By Peter C. Vermilyea

Vermilyea writes of the life of African American John Hopkins (1806 – 1868) a janitor at Gettysburg College during the nineteenth century which included the Battle of Gettysburg.

“Mt. Pleasant Church, Conewago Township”

By Larry C. Bolin

A research article on Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church located in southeast Adams County.

“A Visit to the Battlefield”

Edited By Michael J. Birkner and Richard E. Winslow, III

Birkner and Winslow edit this wonderful eyewitness account of a visit to the Gettysburg Battlefield by Joseph H. Foster (1825 – 1885) of Portsmouth, New Hampshire in late July 1863. Foster traveled to Gettysburg in order to reclaim the body of Henry Richards of Company F, Second United States Sharpshooters mortally wounded in the battle.

Volume 12 (2006)

“George Arnold and a Town Immortalized”

By Charles H. Glatfelter

Glatfelter records the history of one of Gettysburg’s most successful businessmen, George Arnold (1799 – 1879).

“March Into Oblivion”

By Larry C. Bolin

A transcription and editing of two diaries, with one dated 1794 from the Whiskey Rebellion and the other dated 1800.

A Book Review: “Thaddeus Stevens in Gettysburg: The Making of an Abolitionist” By Bradley Hoch

By Peter C. Vermilyea (Pages 65 – 66)

Vermilyea reviews this in-depth biography of Thaddeus Stevens by Dr. Bradley R. Hoch.

Volume 13 (2007)

“A Beautiful Dream Realized: John S. Rice and the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg”

By Brain Matthew Jordan

This article is about the chairman of the 75th Reunion of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1938. This includes images and material from the Society’s John S. Rice Collection donated to the Society by his daughter.

“John Charles Wills: Reminiscences of the Three Days Battle of Gettysburg at the Globe Hotel”

By Benjamin Kerr Neely

This is an outstanding edited account of the Battle of Gettysburg from a civilian point of view from the Society’s collection.

“No Small Influence on the Intellect, Morals, and Temporal Prosperity of Our Town: Gettysburg College and its Community”

By Charles H. Glatfelter

This article is the text of a speech delivered April 3, 2007 by Charles Glatfelter on the history of the Gettysburg College.

“The Eisenhowers at Twilight: A Visit to the Eisenhower Farm, 1967”

Edited By Michael J. Birkner

This article contains a great letter written by Hoarce Busby, a member of the Johnson White House, to President Johnson about his visit with the Eisenhowers.

A Book Review: "The Lincoln Highway: Coast to Coast from Times Square to the Golden Gate"

By Michael Wallis and Michael S. Williamson

By Wayne E. Motts

This book is on the Lincoln Highway (US Route 30).

Volume 14 (2008)

"Will the Real James Duncan Stand Up!"

By Charles H. Glatfelter and Wayne E. Motts

This article untangles the identities of two men by the name of James Duncan one from Adams County and one from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

"Black Labor at Pine Grove & Caledonia Furnaces, 1789-1860"

By Troy D. Harman

This article in about black labor at the iron furnace facilities mentioned.

"Register of Births 1854-1894 of Dr. Isaac Pearson"

Edited by Kevin L. Greenholt

This is excellent listing for genealogists of births recorded by a local doctor.

A Book Review: "Expanding Horizons for American Lutherans: The Story of Abdel Ross Wentz" By Fred Wentz

By Charles Hambrick-Stowe

This work is about a former President of the Lutheran Seminary.

Volume 15 (2009)

"Adams County Votes for President, 1804-2008"

By Charles H. Glatfelter

A Book Review: "Heart Language: Elise Singmaster and Her Pennsylvania German Writings"

By Anna Jane Moyer

Volume 16 (2010)

"The Last Full Measure of Devotion"

By Bradley R. Hoch and Gerald Christianson

"The First Battle of Gettysburg"

By Timothy H. Smith

“Mapping Gettysburg”
By Danielle Hiss and Megan Gray

“March into Oblivion”
By Larry C. Bolin

“Preston Review”
By David L. Preston

Volume 17/18 (2011-2012)

“Shedding New Light on a Pennsylvania Painter: Finding R. Fibich” and His Graveyard”
By Judith S. Pyle

“Girl Abducted by Indians”
By Kevin L. Greenholt

“A Century of Brickmaking at Berlin Junction: A History of the Alwine Brick Company”
By Duane F. Alwin