

Deatrick Family Collection
Adams County Historical Society

ACCESSION #: 2972, 7921

LOCATION: Room 203, Rack 3, Shelf C

PREFACE

The Adams County Historical Society was established to “foster interest in the history of Adams County and vicinity, conduct research, preserve records and objects, mark sites, and pursue such activities as may be related to the history of the community.” The Society’s collections are privately held, maintained, and made available to the public for research purposes at the discretion of the governing authority of the institution and its staff.

INTRODUCTION

The Deatrick Family Collection was acquired by the Adams County Historical Society in two parts in 1962 and 1993 as generous gifts from Florence Gentzler (2972) and Grace Pfeffer (7921) respectively. The collection was processed by Julian N. Weiss in 2013.

This collection contains a great deal of information on Harry G. Deatrick, but also his brothers and close family. He writes at length about his father after his death and funeral. Harry mostly writes about daily life, the weather, how his occupation is going, who is getting married, being born or dying. He writes about horse races and elections. He keeps newspaper articles that are humorous or uplifting. His diaries and signature book provide a face to life at the turn of the 20th century.

ACCESS

This collection is open for research, and viewing access to the materials is unrestricted. However, restrictions apply concerning the use, duplication, or publication of items. Please consult research room staff for specific information regarding the Society’s policies.

PREFERRED CITATION

Deatrick Family Collection, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Harry G. Deatrick (March 1, 1866 – February 10, 1959), who signs his diaries “H. G. Deatrick,” was a long time Adams County resident and involved in many varying activities. He was born to Boreas and Eliza Deatrick and was raised with three brothers: Frank, William, and Charles, whom he wrote about frequently in his diaries. A Gettysburg Times article displayed a photo of

octogenarian Frank and Harry standing in front of their store. Harry was also a long time member of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows, a Director of the Adams County Historical Society, a schoolteacher, postmaster, regular churchgoer, and gravedigger. He is buried at the Greater Conewago Presbyterian Church Cemetery, of which he was a member since 1920, and his gravestone is shared by his three brothers and Charles' wife Minnie.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is made up of books: six diaries and one autograph album. The diaries are daily from 1889 through 1919. The diaries also contain news and ad clippings. The autograph album contains notes to Harry from friends, family, and students between 1890 and 1899.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1 – Diaries of Harry G. Deatruck

This series consists of six diaries from H. G. Deatruck, dated January 1, 1889, through the year 1919. They record weather and daily activities. News clippings in their covers and spread throughout the pages contain information on election results from Adams County, horse races, and humor.

Series 2 – Other items of Harry G. Deatruck

This series consists of one autograph album, with notes ranging from 1890 to 1899 from students, friends, and family to Harry G. Deatruck.

CONTAINER LISTING

Box #1

1-1 Autograph Album belonging to Harry G. Deatruck, 1890-1899. Includes short poems, notes, playful flirting from female students and admirers, and notes from friends and family. The people who wrote in the album include Spangler, Butts, Lady, Fleming, Boyer, Frank and Charles Deatruck, Herring, Wood, Kime, Ferguson, Owenhalter, Bell, Moore, and others.

1-2 Diary of Harry G. Deatruck, January 1, 1889 to March 25, 1893. Includes daily notes on weather, church going, parties, and people including his brothers, friends, and storeowners. In the front inside and back cover are newspaper clippings and song lyrics.

1-3 Diary of Harry G. Deatruck, March 26, 1893 to November 15, 1895. The diary does not begin until about halfway through the book. The first half is pasted over with seemingly random news articles. It goes to reason that the articles are pasted over grades and class notes to prevent snooping students or others from finding the marks, or they could be over account records. Clippings include songs, lists, questions and answers, and government stories, amongst other things. The notes in the diary are more significant than they were in that previous.

1-4 Diary of Harry G. Deatrick, November 16, 1895 to October 15, 1899. Includes clippings and three certificates for redemption from the Wilson McCallay Tobacco Company.

Box #2

2-1 Diary of Harry G. Deatrick, October 16, 1899 to November 14, 1903. In addition to the normal diary, describes a trip in 1901 west from Gettysburg through Pittsburgh and Indianapolis to St. Louis. In the back is a small note describing a trip to Philadelphia.

2-2 Diary of Harry G. Deatrick, November 15, 1903 to May 7, 1908. Includes news clippings from 1961 about the sale of the Deatrick estate and other stories.

2-3 Diary of Harry G. Deatrick May 7, 1908 to 1919. Includes news and ad clippings.