

## **Dr. Charles E. Goldsborough Collection**

### **Adams County Historical Society**

**ACCESSION #:** 2008.028

**LOCATION:** Room 203, Rack 3, Shelf F

#### **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 Dr. Charles E. Goldsborough Collection was acquired by the Adams County Historical Society in 2008 by Anna Stahle, his granddaughter. It was processed by Julian Weiss in 2013.

This is an outstanding collection of Civil War era and late 19<sup>th</sup> century letters in pristine condition which cover the topics listed below. This collection is particularly useful for discussing medicine, prisoners of war, physicians in the Civil War, 19<sup>th</sup> century politics, and family life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Dr. Goldsborough was a well-respected man who had many friends all around Pennsylvania and this collection provides links to dozens of influential people in Pennsylvanian history.

#### **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**

Dr. Charles E. Goldsborough Collection, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Dr. Charles E. Goldsborough (12/16/1834-10/18/1913) was born in Graceham, Maryland and began the practice of medicine in Hunterstown in 1855. He entered the war near the end of 1861 and fought for two years until he was captured at the Battle of Winchester by his brother, William. He was released in November and wounded at the Siege of Petersburg in 1864. Sickness then made him unfit for battle, and he served the rest of the war in a hospital. Upon his

return to Hunterstown he worked in a general practice and took up farming. He married Alice E. McCreery in 1866 and had many children. His obituary noted that he was “one of Adams County's most generally known residents.”

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection is made up of one hundred three letters between Charles E. Goldsborough or his close relatives and a wide variety of persons between 1852 and 1896, with one letter from 1929.

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I – Miscellaneous letters.**

This series consists of 103 letters to and from Dr. Goldsborough from family, friends, and the trials and tribulations pertaining to the Civil War and the outcome of the family members between 1852 and 1894.

## **CONTAINER LISTING**

### **Box #1**

1-1 Table of Contents of Goldsborough letters

1-2 Summaries of Goldsborough letters

1-3 103 folders with letters to and from Dr. Goldsborough about his family. Some noteworthy participants in correspondence with Dr. Goldsborough include Governor and Senator William Bigler (1856) and Brigadier General J. Warren Keifer (1863), but are largely between family. The topics in the letter include, but are not limited to:

- Food, famine
- Medical conditions, sickness, disease, cholera
- Medical education, autopsy
- Drinking
- Politics, Whigs, Democrats, Lincoln, McClellan's bid
- The Civil War, fighting, wounds, the generals, army politics
- Prisons of War, conditions, starvation, disease, war crimes, release and exchange politics
- News, Lincoln's assassination, the war ending
- Business
- Post war life, slow return to normal living conditions
- Religion, anti-Catholicism