

Elizabeth M. Woods Collection
Adams County Historical Society

ACCESSION #: 2004.118

LOCATION: Room 203 – Rack 7 – 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 Elizabeth M. Woods Collection was acquired by the Adams County Historical Society in 2004 from William and Laurel Woods (volunteer at the time). The collection was processed by Julian N. Weiss in 2013.

The diaries reveal the life of a working woman in a time when most were expected to marry and stay at home. She received a higher education degree and was committed to learning. Later in life, her diaries reveal the daily life of an aging person in Gettysburg and would be useful for an account of life in old age. Her diary records go up until the week she dies. Two booklets on the Presbyterian Church printed in 1876 would be useful for their view of history and that of the church in Gettysburg.

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

Elizabeth M. Woods Collection, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Elizabeth Milliken Woods (April 2, 1907 – May 7, 1983) was born in Gettysburg. Her parents were Reverend David Woods (d. 1938) and Mary Neely (great granddaughter of Simon Samuel Schmucker), and she had an older and younger brother. The family lived on West Broadway and then moved to a farm on Pumping Station Road. Elizabeth matriculated at Wellesley College

and then worked in the Burpee Seed Company Research Department near Philadelphia. She then worked as a departmental assistant for the Science Department at Rutgers University. Never married, she focused on her work and travels around the United States (taking pictures along the way). After retiring, she moved back to Gettysburg and resided in a town house at Hill Place. She was a member of the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church. Elizabeth developed Parkinson's disease and was moved to a nursing home as she became older, eventually being buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is made up of handwritten books (very hard to read) and pamphlets.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1 – The Diaries of Elizabeth M. Woods

This series consists of the diaries of Elizabeth M. Woods from 1926 through 1982, in composition books and journals, plus booklets from the Presbyterian Church of Gettysburg (Upper Marsh Creek), PA, from 1740-1867.

CONTAINER LISTING

Box #1

1-1 Diary starting in 1926. She talks about school, people she meets, discussions she hears (“What is a Christian?”), proms, classes (Chemistry, Psychology, etc.), Christmas, shopping, and daily life. The book is about 2/3 full.

1-2 Diary starting in 1938, ends 1963, completely full, also a letter from Lewis Hotel Training School in envelope (1959), on the back of which she writes “Notes on a talk given by an Army Psychiatrist who had access to case histories of U.S. P.O.W.’s captured during Korean War” (1959). She mentions the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg briefly, talks at length about World War II, worldly affairs, and daily life.

1-3 Diary starting in 1963, ends 1966, mostly full. She talks of church activities and meetings, dialogues, speakers, work, and daily life. In the back is an account of the “Church History” of the Presbyterian Church, in what could be different handwriting. It speaks of John Cobean and has the date 27 October, 1897. The author writes in the first person. The book is from the J.C. Blair Co. ca. 1880s.

1-4 Diary from 1967 to 1978, falling apart, on battlefield restoration, daily life, observations, completely full.

1-5 Diary from 1979 to 1980. Weather becomes very important in her diary, so she daily records temperature and cloud conditions. In the back she records inches of rainfall and daily food expenses (from Kennie's supermarket and later Acme).

1-6 Diary from 1980 to 1982, on weather, daily life, sometimes forgetful, medical problems and treatments; back of book contains expenses and prescription drug intake.

1-7 Diary from May 11, 1982 to passing, details daily life, weather, and pain near end. Three pages, expenses in back.

1-8 Two (2) Presbyterian Church booklets, written by Reverend J. K. Demarest, 1876, on The Presbyterian Church of Gettysburg, PA, discusses from beginning of Presbyterian Church in U.S. in 1684 to the creation and history of the one in Gettysburg.