

John T. Reily Collection

Adams County Historical Society

Accession #: 6969

Location: Room 203 – Rack 6 – Shelves A, B – Five Boxes

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 John T. Reily Collection was initially acquired by the Adams County Historical Society in ca. 1949 from Ray J. Snyder with later accretions going past 1992. It was officially accessioned in 1987. In 2013, the collection was processed by Julian N. Weiss. The collection is held in five boxes.

The collection contains the manuscripts, diaries, newspaper clippings, notes, genealogies, and correspondences of John T. Reily, genealogist and historian. He kept meticulous notes on the genealogy of his family and many other families in Adams County from as early as the 1600s. He also noted marriages, children, and major events in the lives of most of these people. The notes make a great addition to his published works on the history of the area, the Church in Pennsylvania, and his genealogical work.

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

John T. Reily Collection, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Timon Reily (1856-1924) was a genealogist, writer, and informal historian who was born in Mount Rock and lived in the Conewago area. He spent much of his youth travelling between schools in Adams County, but after a hunting accident in 1873 his formal education ended. Most

of his writings and findings are on general history and genealogy of the area and the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania. The John Timon Reily Historical Society (JTRHS – a namesake dedicated long after his death) collects originals and copies of his works, and a longer biography (perhaps lacking historical objectivity) can be found in Box Two in a pamphlet in the Conewago Trivia binder.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains extremely detailed notes relating to his published genealogical and historical works. Additionally it contains notebooks, newspaper clippings on various topics, letters, manuscripts, and paper memorabilia, seemingly all from 1904-1920. There is information in these books about family, friends, his memoirs, and events in general during the time. Despite the time of the record keeping, and the numerous newspaper clippings, there is surprisingly little information on World War I. His handwriting is poor, worse later in life, but legible for context in most cases. The Series are in chronological order, starting around 1900 and ending around 1920.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I – Books/Manuscripts

This series contains the names of the family members, starting in the 1900's, some notes dated people as far back as the 1600's. Newspaper clipping in the books, family member names, who they married, what they did and where they lived.

Series II – Books/Manuscripts 1915-1917

This series contains handwritten notes (manuscripts) containing the names of family members, from 1915 through 1917, where they worked, lived and events. Also a book published in 1992 on Conewago trivia from Reily's notes.

Series III – Books/Diaries 1918

This series contains notes on the names of family members and friends from 1918 with many newspaper clippings.

Series IV – Books/Diaries 1919

This series contains handwritten notes, typewritten notes, and names of family members and friends from 1919, and one notebook with the same.

Series V – Books/Diaries 1920

This series contains books/diaries from 1920 with handwritten notes, newspaper clippings, and large envelopes with newspaper clippings.

CONTAINER LISTING

Box #1

12 handwritten manuscripts and books by John T. Reily recalling local and personal history. Written between 1904-1916.

Box #2

14 handwritten manuscripts and books by John T. Reily for years 1915-1917. Also a brochure from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and a book about Conewago Trivia, Conewago Chapel.

Box #3

17 handwritten manuscripts for year 1918.

Box 4

26 handwritten manuscripts for year 1919. Some notebooks have machines of war on their covers.

Box 5

18 Handwritten manuscripts for year 1920 plus 2 envelopes with newspaper clippings and a collection of short memoirs.