

Cross Keys Hotel Collection
Adams County Historical Society

Accession No(s): #6178

Home Location: Rm 206, Rack 1, Shelf A

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 Cross Keys Hotel Collection is part of an accession that was donated to the Historical Society in 1982 by Marc Shultz (#6178), the grandson of H.W. Shultz, the owner of the hotel. The collection, a history of the Cross Keys Hotel made up primarily of pictures, was compiled by E. Geraldine Shultz Miller in 1972.

The Cross Keys Hotel, located at the junction of Routes 30 and 94, was founded during the height of the Great Depression by Howe William Shultz, who was the father of the woman who compiled the collection. The collection covers a critical period in Adams County’s history. The Cross Keys intersection is still one of the busiest crossroads in the county and has served as a local landmark for many years.

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

Cross Keys Hotel Collection, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Howe William Shultz was born on Nov. 5, 1889. He was a second generation German immigrant. He married Miriam Gerth in 1911 and started out his career selling cars in 1919. He continued selling cars until 1934, when the Depression was in full swing. In 1935, Shultz bought sixteen acres at Cross Keys intersection just outside New Oxford and built a hotel. He ran the business until the United States joined World War II, at which time he converted the hotel into a

dormitory for the Civil Air Patrol. He declared bankruptcy soon after. Six months later, he formed Cross Keys Ind., Inc. and became the manager for the Altland Hotel in Abbottstown. He bought even more acreage on the South side of his original property at Cross Keys. He sold all of this property again in the following years, shortly followed by the hotel and all the surrounding land.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a single album, containing photos of the Cross Keys Hotel, its owner, his family, and the employees from its founding in 1936 to its sale in the 1960s. The photos are all accompanied by explanatory notes, making this collection both highly informative and more visually engaging than flat text. This will be an invaluable resource for anyone researching this property or the Shultz family.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I – Album

This is the only series in the collection, comprised of a single photo album with pictures. All pictures are accompanied by labels and in some cases whole histories of the people and places in the photos. Included in the album are clippings from local papers advertising the hotel and its services. The names and dates of the issue of each newspaper are included. This series is a wonderful primary source for any historian seeking information on the hotel or the family who ran it.

CONTAINER LISTING

Series I – Album

1-1 Photo Album, Cross Keys Hotel