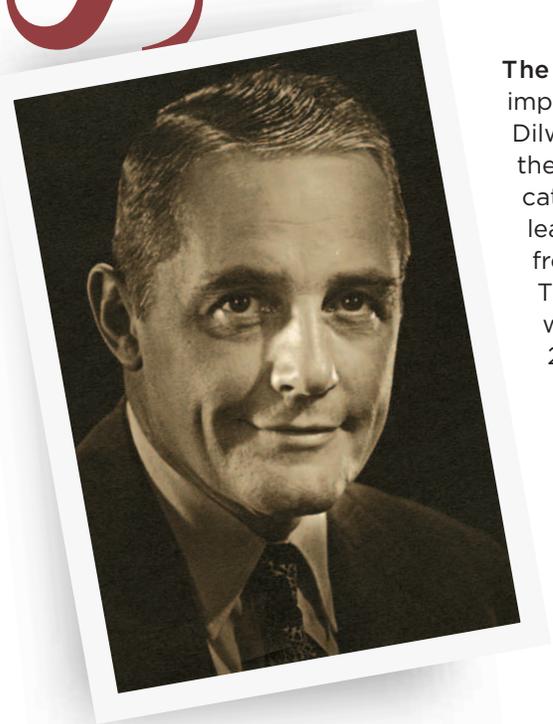
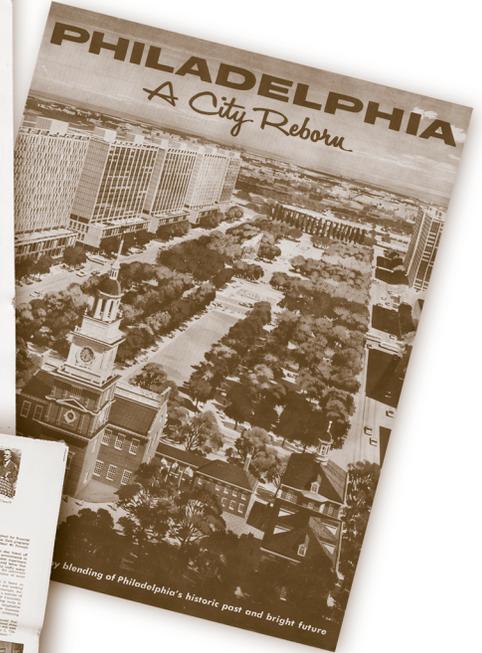


Sidelights



Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

Preserving a City Legend



The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is the caretaker for thousands of important collections, among them the papers of Richardson Dilworth. Dilworth was a charismatic politician, lawyer, and reformer who served as the mayor of Philadelphia from 1956 to 1962. His papers are in need of cataloguing and conservation, and that work can now begin, thanks to a leading donation from the law firm of Dilworth Paxson LLP and support from the Annenberg Foundation and other individuals and organizations. The collection, and several others relating to Dilworth's contemporaries, will be processed this fall. Plans are in the works for an exhibit in early 2011 together with supporting educational opportunities and activities and an edition of *Pennsylvania Legacies* on political reform.

There are many other collections—large and small—in need of similar assistance and promotion. Anyone can get involved with this important work by adopting a collection. A few available collections are highlighted on the back page of this newsletter and many more are listed on our website. We would like to thank Dilworth Paxson and all our donors for their continued support and valuable contribution to preserving our state and national history.

—Kim Sajet, President and CEO

Above: Documents from the Richardson Dilworth papers
Left: Photograph of Richardson Dilworth, former mayor of Philadelphia



HSP Launches Online Store

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has hundreds of thousands of graphic items in its collection, from delicate, watercolor landscapes to bold, graphic theater posters. Now high-quality prints of these historic documents are available for sale for the first time. The Historical Society has launched an online shop, which is accessible through www.hsp.org.



The store offers a selection of historic maps, including one of the earliest maps of the City of Philadelphia, drawn by Thomas Holme in 1683. Other prints for sale include a 1783 map by John Wallis depicting the United States after the signing of the Treaty of Paris and a colorful 1850 map showing the wards of the city. The store also features a collection of 45 watercolors painted by David Johnson Kennedy, a Scottish native who settled in Philadelphia. Kennedy was a self-taught artist who painted scenes of Philadelphia and views of the Jersey Shore in the mid-1800s. Also for sale are prints of colorful theater posters from the Historical Society's collection, most dating from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century. The posters advertise plays, musicals, and other variety acts. All works are printed on acid-free German etching paper by Brilliant Studio in Exton, Pennsylvania. Every nuance of the original work is captured by state-of-the-art photography, and each print is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

In addition to high-quality prints, the store sells other related merchandise, including globes, model ships, and decorative items that would be a perfect gift or addition to your home. The shop also features a selection of books, which are recommended by Historical Society staff or reviewed in our history magazine *Pennsylvania Legacies*. On the shop website, visitors can make a donation to the Historical Society's Annual Fund, renew their membership, or adopt a collection.

Historical Society members receive a 10 percent discount on purchases of high-quality prints and other select merchandise. Proceeds will support the programs of the Historical Society. New merchandise and collections will be added to the shop regularly, so check back often to see what's new.



Above: David Johnson Kennedy watercolor of the Atlantic City pavilion
Left: Kennedy watercolor of South Third Street in Philadelphia
Right: An 1802 map of early Philadelphia by Charles P. Varle

New History Affiliates Program

There are hundreds of small history organizations in Southeastern Pennsylvania, and they face many similar challenges—a lack of funding, inadequate marketing resources, and a need to attract more visitors, members, and volunteers. To support these organizations, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania recently created the History Affiliates Program. Currently in its planning stage and funded by the Barra Foundation, this new program will initially provide a network for organizations to better communicate with their peers in the region. A formal needs survey will be conducted in the fall, which will guide development of the program. The Historical Society has hired Calista Cleary, who has a background in American history and historic preservation, to lead this effort.

When the full History Affiliates Program is rolled out in early 2011, it will offer services to foster institutional networking, collaboration, and capacity building. We believe that through History Affiliates we can better communicate and work together to strengthen our organizations, as well as the Greater Philadelphia history community.

The History Affiliates Program will host its first event on October 18 (see page 4). If you would like to be involved in the planning of the History Affiliates Program or would like more information, please contact Calista Cleary at 215-732-6200 ext. 243 or ccleary@hsp.org.

Connecting Family to History

In 1800, the U. S. Navy sloop *Ganges* captured two American schooners off the coast of Cuba with 134 Africans on board. The vessels were brought to Philadelphia for adjudication in federal court for violation of the 1794 Slave Trade Act, which prohibited American vessels from participating in the slave trade. Judge Richard Peters placed the Africans under the supervision of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. Each African was given the surname Ganges, and later was freed.

This past August, Kelly Ganges, Yosef Ganges, and Tendaji Ganges visited HSP and looked at original indenture papers of their ancestors, part of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society collection. The men also read pages from the 1800 diary of Elizabeth Drinker, a woman who lived in Philadelphia during the Ganges court trial.



Above: The Ganges Family

HSP is proud to be the caretaker for the papers of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and was grateful to be able to connect the Ganges family members to their family story.



Marking History at HSP

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has awarded HSP a blue-and-gold historical marker, which will be erected in front of the HSP building at 1300 Locust Street in October 2010. We invite all friends and members of HSP to attend the dedication ceremony. For details, see page 5.

Planning Our Future

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania wants to know how it can expand its social and civic role within the community, specifically in regard to the use of its building. This fall, HSP will meet with stakeholders and community leaders to form a vision for the future of 1300 Locust Street. This planning project will be conducted by Penn Praxis, the clinical arm of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design, and funded by the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through the Heritage Philadelphia Program.

National History Day

Students from the Philadelphia area performed well at Pennsylvania National History Day, and several teams advanced to the finals last June. Among the entries was an exhibit from Masterman High School, which focused on the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society and used primary sources from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Students in this group include Numrah Bashir, Nellie Hunter, Deblyn Lawrence, and Amy Louie, under the guidance of teacher Amy Cohen.

Focus on 20th-Century Collections

In September 2010, HSP will begin a 26-month archival project to process 14 collections that relate to civic engagement in post-Civil War Philadelphia. These collections include the papers of Albert M. Greenfield and Richardson Dilworth and the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission Recordings, among others. A portion of the funding for this project is provided through a matching grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

In Memoriam

HSP mourned the passing of longtime friend and supporter Robert Lincoln McNeil Jr. in May 2010. Mr. McNeil served on the Board of HSP during the 1970s and was a founding member of the Treasures Society, a group dedicated to the mission of HSP and the preservation of our greatest treasures. Most recently, Mr. McNeil provided critical support for the Digital Center for Americana pilot project. We are thankful for his years of service to HSP—he will be greatly missed.

Calendar

2010

September

The Search for Nature's Design

Wednesday, September 15 / 4:30 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE AND BOOK SIGNING / Hear the thoughts and voice of early naturalist William Bartram through the newly published book *William Bartram, The Search for Nature's Design*. Contributors to the book will discuss the special role of manuscripts as tools for historical understanding and writing. Followed by a display of original Bartram drawings and manuscripts. **FREE**

Constitution: On Display

Friday, September 17

EXHIBIT / The Historical Society has several versions of the United States Constitution, including the earliest surviving draft handwritten by Constitutional Convention delegate James Wilson and the first newspaper printing by *The Pennsylvania Packet*. On Constitution Day, HSP will display six original versions in its library, so visitors can see the evolution of this national treasure. **PAY WHAT YOU WISH**

From Puerto Rico to Philadelphia

Thursday, September 30 / 5:30 p.m.

LECTURE AND DANCE PERFORMANCE / Join us as we celebrate the culture of one of Philadelphia's largest immigrant communities. The speaker will be Dr. Victor Vazquez Hernandez, co-editor of *The Puerto Rican Diaspora: Historical Perspectives*. Followed by a reception and a display of original documents. Cosponsored by Al Día, Raíces Culturales Latinoamericanas, and El Caféito. **FREE**

October

Betsy Ross: The Life Behind the Legend

October 2-January 2

EXHIBITION AT WINTERTHUR / Both iconic and controversial, Betsy Ross is one of the best known figures of the American Revolutionary era—and also the least understood. Discover the “real” Betsy Ross at this exhibit at the Winterthur Museum in Delaware, which features the diary of Betsy's great-nephew and a portrait of Betsy's daughter from HSP's collection. Visit www.winterthur.org for more information about the exhibit and related programming.



Tasting Freedom

Wednesday, October 6 / 6 p.m.

LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING / Octavius Valentine Catto was a teacher, activist, and orator, as well as second baseman on Philadelphia's best black baseball team. Daniel Biddle and Murray Dubin, authors of the recently published book *Tasting Freedom*, will discuss the life of this charismatic black leader. **FREE**



A Discussion with James McBride

Wednesday, October 13 / 6 p.m.

MEET THE AUTHOR / Bestselling author James McBride sits down with HSP president Kim Sajet for a discussion about historical fiction. Learn how McBride uses historical events to inspire his

novels, and why he considers himself a “storyteller” rather than a “historian.” McBride is the celebrated author of *Song Yet Sung* and *Miracle at St. Anna*. **FREE**

President's Reception

Sunday, October 17 / 4-6 p.m.

A TREASURES SOCIETY EVENT / Treasures Society members and their guests are invited to a cocktail reception at the Chestnut Hill home of HSP president Kim Sajet. Members of the Treasures Society annually contribute \$1,000 or more to help ensure the care and conservation of HSP's collection. Invitation will follow.

Creating Connections

Monday, October 18 / 9 a.m.

A HISTORY AFFILIATES EVENT / History organizations in Southeastern Pennsylvania are invited to learn more about nonprofit resources and network with their peers (see page 3). **FREE**

Ghosts in the Library

Wednesday, October 20 / Noon and 6 p.m.

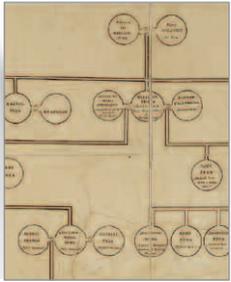
TOURS OF HSP / Learn about HSP's resident ghost, Albert, and the spirits in historic garb that have been spotted wandering the stacks of our 100-year-old building. Then come into the vaults yourself for a special tour of these haunted spots...if you dare! \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.



Historical Marker Dedication

Monday, October 25 / 10 a.m.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of HSP's building, a blue-and-gold historical marker will be installed in front of the Society's entrance on Locust Street. The marker will be presented by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The brief ceremony will be followed by a display of original documents. **FREE**



Getting Started in Genealogy

Wednesday,
October 27 / 6 p.m.

GENEALOGY EVENT / This beginner workshop will provide novice genealogists with the tools and knowledge they need to begin their family history search. Learn

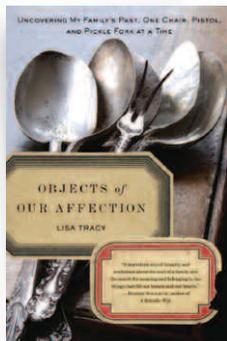
the proper way to conduct family interviews and review family records. Find out what resources are available and how best to use them. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers.

November

Objects of Our Affection

Wednesday, November 3 / 6 p.m.

GENEALOGY EVENT / After their mother's death, Lisa Tracy and her sister embarked on a search for family stories that led them from New Jersey to the Philippines to HSP's archives. Tracy will talk about her journey and read excerpts of her newly released memoir, *Objects of Our Affection: Uncovering My Family's Past, One Chair, Pistol, and Pickle Fork at a Time*. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers.



Hidden Histories Scavenger Hunt

Thursday, November 4 / 6-8 p.m.

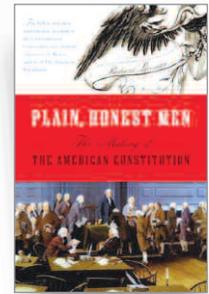
A YOUNG FRIENDS EVENT / Join the Young Friends of HSP as we bring out strange and fascinating "Hidden Histories" from our collection. Compete in a Young Friends scavenger hunt with a chance to win fabulous prizes. Wine and hors d'oeuvres provided by Tria. \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers.



Documents and Drinks: The Founding Fathers of 1787

Monday, November 8 / 6 p.m.

A TREASURES SOCIETY EVENT / How was it that 55 men gathered in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787 and accomplished so much while so many of our current political leaders are able to accomplish so little? Explore this question with Dr. Richard R. Beeman, author of *Plain Honest Men: The Making of the American Constitution*. Followed by a reception and a document show-and-tell. By invitation only. (Not a Treasures Society member? Call 215-732-6200 ext. 217.)



Writing Your Family History Step-by-Step

Wednesday, November 10 / 6 p.m.

GENEALOGY EVENT / Learn how to bring your family tree to life by placing your own family stories in an historical context, how to organize your material and divide your writing tasks into small manageable pieces, and effective ways to illustrate where your family fits in with local, national, and world history. This workshop will be taught by Lisa Ann Alzo, author of *Writing Your Family History Book*. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers.

Annual General Meeting

Monday, November 15 / 3 p.m.

The annual business meeting is open to HSP members only. **FREE**

DNA Testing: The Very, Very Basics

Wednesday, November 17 / 6 p.m.

GENEALOGY EVENT / This talk explains the principles behind Y chromosome and Mitochondrial DNA tests, how to interpret the results, and how they can be used for genealogy. The lecture will be presented by Thomas H. Shawker, M.D., chairman of the National Genealogical Society's Committee on Genetic Genealogy and author of *Unlocking Your Genetic History*. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers.

December

Civil Rights Movement

Wednesday, December 8 / 4:30-6:30 p.m.

TEACHER WORKSHOP / Amy Cohen, social studies teacher at Masterman High School, will lead a teacher workshop based upon HSP's primary source materials on the civil rights movement in its local and wider context. Attendance qualifies for two hours of Act 48 credit. Teachers must register in advance. **FREE**

RSVP online at www.hsp.org or call 215-732-6200 ext. 214 for more information.



Genealogy

Slavery and Abolition Database Now Available

Genealogists now have a new online tool to help locate their African American ancestors—*Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice: 1490-2007*. This data-



base, which is available on site to HSP members and visitors, provides access to digital copies of primary documents from more than 20 libraries and archives across the world, including the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Through this site, researchers can view high-quality images of original manuscripts, pamphlets, books, paintings, and maps.

The resource is useful not just for genealogists but for all scholars and researchers. It is designed to be an important portal for slavery and abolition studies, bringing together documents and collections covering a variety of topics and an extensive time period. The website includes electronic and searchable versions of portions of several collections housed at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, including the Benjamin Chew Papers; the George Washington Household Account Book from 1793-1797; and the Slavery, Abolition, and Freedom Pamphlet Collection. Records from the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, which include minute books, committee papers, correspondence, reports, and legal papers, are also posted on the site.

The website, designed by Adam Matthew Digital, is constantly adding new material. It is just one of several free online resources that are available on site at HSP. Links to this database and others are posted at each computer terminal in the Historical Society's library.



Donate Your Family History

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania holds one of the largest collections of family histories in the country under one roof—almost 10,000 titles. These volumes are arranged alphabetically in the Family History Room in HSP's library and are accessible on the shelves to all members and library patrons.

The easiest way to find out if your family history is located at HSP is to search the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), available at www.hsp.org. Many of the families represented in the collection are of German, Scots-Irish, or Welsh descent, since members of those ethnic groups were some of the most common early immigrants to Pennsylvania.



HSP's collection of family histories continues to grow, with many new volumes arriving each year. Lee Arnold, senior director of the library and collections, encourages genealogists to donate copies of their family histories to HSP, where the records can be preserved and more easily shared with other researchers. To donate your family history, mail a bound copy to Lee Arnold at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19107. If you have an unbound copy, please consider including an \$18 donation to cover the cost of binding.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

A look at recent events and happenings at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania



Rudy Lewis (right) and Howard Lewis Jr. (second from right) were among the Treasures Society group that visited the Library of Congress.

Treasures Society:

In May, members of the Treasures Society, a special group of HSP supporters, took to the road for an exclusive trip to the Library of Congress and the Folger Shakespeare Library. Then in June, members mixed and mingled during a Garden Party at the home of Board Chair Sarah Price.



Treasures Society member Krishna Lahiri (center) attended the Garden Party with her guests.

Philagrafika 2010 Festival:

Contemporary artist Duke Riley used old maps and documents from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's collection as inspiration for an art project about the history of Petty's Island in the Delaware River. The work was displayed at HSP from January through April. This partnership was part of Philagrafika 2010, an international festival that celebrated the role of print in contemporary art.



Artist Duke Riley (left) shows his work to José Roca, artistic director of the Philagrafika 2010 festival.



From left: Heritage Award honoree **Henry Lafayette Collins III**; Founder's Award honoree **Cokie Roberts**; Founder's Award honoree **Marciarose Shestack**; and Founder's Award honoree **Jerry Shestack**.



A 1910 Celebration:

On April 29, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania held its annual Founder's Award dinner, honoring Cokie Roberts, Marciarose and Jerry Shestack, and Henry Lafayette Collins III. The celebration also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Society's building at 13th and Locust streets. Guests enjoyed a silent auction and raffle, vintage dancers, and jazz and ragtime music. The event for 220 guests, co-chaired by Alice Lea Tasman and Deborah Dilworth Bishop, raised more than \$150,000 for the Society.

Mixed Pickles Vintage Dance Co. entertained the crowd with dances from the 1910s, including the Grizzly Bear and the Bunny Hug.

Young Friends:

The Young Friends of HSP celebrated Philadelphia Beer Week in June with a nod to our nation's founders. Guests listened to a talk by local beer historian Rich Wagner and then sampled the "Ales of the Revolution" from Yards Brewing Co. Documents from HSP's collection were on display.



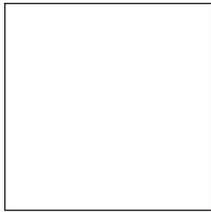
Young Friends get a special first-hand look at the Society's historic documents with Lee Arnold, senior director of the library and collections (far right).

Sidelights



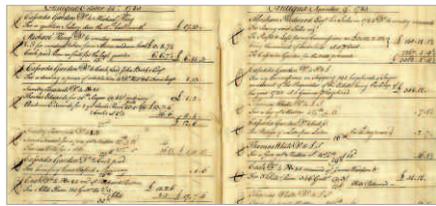
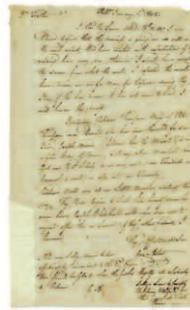
Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

1300 Locust Street / Philadelphia, PA 19107



Adopt a Collection

Many collections at HSP are in need of your help. Your donation will enable us to preserve, organize, and catalog a collection, so it is more easily accessible to researchers. Choose from the collections listed below or visit the "Adopt a Collection" section of the HSP website.



Above: (left) WSPCA records, (top center) Hardie family papers, (top right) Cox-Parrish-Wharton family papers, (bottom right) William Redwood records

WSPCA records

The Women's Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was formed in 1869 by Philadelphian Caroline Earle White. The society is credited with forming the first animal shelter in the nation. You can adopt this collection for a \$3,225 donation.

Hardie family papers

These personal papers, collected by Charles A. Tracy, relate to the Hardie family, who immigrated to Philadelphia from Scotland. The bulk of the papers pertain to David Hardie, who served in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. You can adopt this collection for a \$115 donation.

Cox-Parrish-Wharton family papers

These three families were prominent Quakers with strong personal, political, and mercantile ties. This collection includes the founding documents of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. You can adopt this collection for a \$575 donation.

William Redwood records

Redwood worked as a merchant from the mid 1700s to the early 1800s. This collection contains account books and detailed plantation records that describe workers, crop plantings, and commerce. You can adopt this collection for a \$1,225 donation.

THANK YOU to the following individuals and organizations who adopted a collection between December 15, 2009, and June 30, 2010: **Abington Junior High History Club, Susan Bell, Frank Chew, Henry L. Collins III, Bruce Fenton, Marilyn A. Hill, Holt Chew Family Management Company, Carol Ingald, Charles Ingersoll, Howard H. Lewis, Charles Mather, Donna Meidt, Thomas Moran, and David Othmer.**