

Sidelights



Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

Finding Your Family Tree



Did you know that the Historical Society of Pennsylvania holds one of the largest archives of family records in the United States? Given the important role Philadelphia played as a destination for immigrants and a launching pad for westward migration, it is perhaps not surprising to know that we have genealogical material from every state east of the Mississippi River. In order to make our collection more accessible to family historians, HSP has partnered with Ancestry.com, the world's largest genealogical website.

An estimated 7 million vital records, including church, cemetery, and undertaker records, will be posted to Ancestry.com, along with almost 100,000 individual index cards, which contain information from county ledgers, genealogical scrapbooks, Pennsylvania Revolutionary War battalions and militias, and the records of the Oliver H. Bair Funeral Home. All members of the Historical Society will be able to access HSP's exclusive records for free through a password-protected portal on our new website that launches in February 2012.

To learn more about Ancestry.com and HSP's genealogical holdings, join us on March 3 for HSP Ancestry Day at the Pennsylvania Convention Center for a full day of workshops designed to help you research your family tree. With informative classes, expert advice, and millions of new records at your disposal, this exciting event will help you reach the next level of family research.

—Kim Sajet, President and CEO

Above (clockwise from center photograph): Group portrait of the Bascom Hester family from the Warley Bascom Business Records; Franklin W. Morton family photograph from the Nellie Rathbone Bright Papers; Lloyd-Hayward wedding party from the Lloyd-Hayward Family Papers; Hoge Family Tree. Left: Sonoko Iwata with parents from the Iwata Family Photographs Collection.



HSP Launches New Website

This February, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania will launch a new website featuring a members-only section with exclusive content, a high-powered search engine, and a bold new look.



The redesigned website, accessible at www.hsp.org, will have information tailored specifically for scholars, family and community historians, teachers, and history and heritage organizations. “More than half a million people visit our website every year,” said Kim Sajet, president and CEO of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. “Now those visitors will be greeted with a more vibrant, well organized site. The redesign will make it easier for everyone to find the information they are looking for.”

One of the new features of the website is the members-only section, a password-protected area where HSP members can access thousands of HSP records that are posted on Ancestry.com—for free. The members-only section will be updated several times each year with additional records and resources from HSP’s collection. Through the members-only section, visitors can automatically request research-by-mail and advanced paging services and research strategy interviews. Members can also easily renew their membership, change e-mail newsletter preferences, and update their membership profile.

In addition, the website will feature a powerful search engine that will allow visitors to search across all of HSP’s databases, including our manuscripts, published material, digitized graphic items, publications, and website. The site also has a redesigned calendar of events, online store, and e-mail newsletter as well as several staff-generated blogs. The site features a bold new look and highlights the images from HSP’s extensive graphics collection.

Components of the new website are supported by Collin F. McNeil, The Barra Foundation, the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation, and the Bank of America. HSP worked with media studio Message Agency and design firm Tabula Communications to create the new site. Please visit www.hsp.org in February!

Above: Shown is a draft version of the new HSP website.

Supporting Historical Organizations



In this era of increasing demands and shrinking funding, it is more crucial than ever that history and heritage organizations communicate and coordinate efforts. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania recently received a grant from the Barra Foundation to support its History Affiliates program, which offers services to support small and mid-sized history organizations in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

When the full History Affiliates program is rolled out in 2012, it will include a website with online resources, an expanded monthly e-newsletter, professional development workshops, a tiered membership program that offers a discounted menu of services, and an annual awards luncheon that recognizes the accomplishments of the region's history organizations.

HSP is pleased to announce that it has hired Prudence Haines as History Affiliates Director. Ms. Haines has many years of experience working at and consulting for various regional history organizations in the greater Philadelphia region, serving most recently as executive director at Historic Yellow Springs.

For more information about the History Affiliates program or to subscribe to the free History Affiliates e-newsletter, contact the program's director, Prudence Haines, at phaines@hsp.org or 215-732-6200 ext. 243.



Esther Ann McFarland

In Memoriam

Esther Ann McFarland, a longtime friend and supporter of HSP, passed away on September 20, 2011. Mrs. McFarland became involved with HSP in the 1960s, was a member of the Treasures Society since its inception, and annually supported the Founder's Award Dinner.

In 2008, Mrs. McFarland provided matching funds to process the Chew Family Papers. Then in 2010, she endowed a fellowship for scholars studying either early Swedish history

or African American history.

Mrs. McFarland, a descendant of early Swedish settlers, endowed the fellowship in memory of her great, great, great grandfather Judge William Lewis. Judge Lewis was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Pennsylvania by George Washington and built the historic Strawberry Mansion in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park in 1789. Over the past year, she worked with HSP library staff to perform research in our collection for a book she was writing on Strawberry Mansion. We will all miss her very much.

HSP NEWS



Free Admission for Students

Students in grades 6-12 may now research for free at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. They simply need to show their student ID to get this benefit. The Historical Society particularly welcomes students who are researching for National History Day. For more information about this research-based history competition, visit www.hsp.org.

New Member Benefit

HSP has joined the Time Travelers reciprocal membership network, which means all HSP members can use their membership card to get exclusive benefits and privileges at more than 200 museums and historical sites nationwide. These benefits may include free or reduced admission, gift shop discounts, free parking, and much more. To learn more about the benefits at participating institutions, visit <http://timetravelers.mohistory.org>.

Welcome New Councilors

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania welcomes three new members to its Board of Councilors, who were appointed at the Society's annual general meeting in November. They are: **Matthew Claeys**, managing principal of the Philadelphia office of LarsonAllen, LLP; **Frank Giordano**, president of Atlantic Trailer Leasing Corporation; and **Gregory Montanaro**, associate vice president and executive director of Federal Affairs in the Office of Government and Community Relations at Drexel University. HSP would also like to thank the two members who will be leaving the Board—**Carol Clark Lawrence** and **Dr. Thomas J. Sugrue**—for their years of service.

Executive Committee Appointed

At the annual general meeting in November, the Society appointed the Board of Councilors' Executive Committee. The members are: **Bruce K. Fenton**, chair; **Thomas Moran**, executive vice chair; **Majid Alsayegh**, treasurer and vice chair of the Planning & Finance Committee; **Nathan K. Raab**, secretary; **Robert G. Souaid**, vice chair of the Audit Committee; **Howard H. Lewis**, vice chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee; **Page Talbott**, vice chair of the Collections & Programs Committee; and **Robert J. Rittenhouse** and **Alice L. George**, at-large members.

Calendar

2012

January

Preservation Best Practices for Optimal Collections Care

Wednesday, January 11 / 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

HISTORY AFFILIATES EVENT / This program will provide an overview of the preservation standards for collections care. \$25 for Pennsylvania institutions, \$75 for out-of-state institutions.

City of Firsts

Thursday, January 19 / 6:30–8 p.m.

ENCYCLOPEDIA EVENT / Philadelphians have claimed the title “City of Firsts”. This discussion focuses on innovation, especially in science and technology. Hosted at the Franklin Institute. **FREE**

February

Constructing Basic Storage Enclosures for Paper Collections

Wednesday, February 15 / 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

HISTORY AFFILIATES EVENT / In this hands-on workshop, learn how to make simple enclosures for paper artifacts including folders, boxes, and options for rolled storage. \$60



Philadelphia, the Place That Loves You Back

Wednesday, February 22 / 6:30–8 p.m.

ENCYCLOPEDIA EVENT / Take a look behind the tourism campaigns that promote Philadelphia. Hosted at the Independence Visitor Center. **FREE**

Political Reform in the Gilded Age

Wednesday, February 29 / 4:30–6:30 p.m.

TEACHER WORKSHOP / High school social studies teacher Benjamin Danson introduces a lesson on reform efforts using the records of the Civil-Service Reform Association of Philadelphia. Attendees will receive a copy of *Pennsylvania Legacies*. **FREE**



March

HSP Ancestry Day

Saturday, March 3 / 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Come to the Pennsylvania Convention Center for a full day of genealogy workshops brought to you by Ancestry.com and HSP. Ancestry Day will help you start or hone your genealogical skills with informative classes, expert advice, and more. \$30 for members, \$40 for nonmembers.

African-American Genealogy: Tearing Down the Brickwalls

Wednesday, March 7 / 6–7 p.m.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP / Using a case study, genealogist Michael Hait will demonstrate techniques for African American research, from evaluating known information to locating the owners of enslaved Africans. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers.

Caring for Paper Collections

Wednesday, March 14 / 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

HISTORY AFFILIATES EVENT / This workshop will give an introduction to best practices in caring for any paper-based collection. \$50

Your Ancestor Was... Occupations of Our Ancestors

Wednesday, March 14 / 6–7 p.m.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP / Occupations can give clues to who our ancestors were and how they lived, and give insights about their individual identity and personality. Nancy Lee Waters Lauer will discuss tools to help identify your ancestor's profession. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers.



The Knitting Revolution

Thursday, March 15 / 6 p.m.

A YOUNG FRIENDS SPONSORED EVENT / What does knitting have to do with women's rights? Join University of Notre Dame professor Pamela Butler as she explores the legacy of knitting and feminism. A knitting demonstration, sponsored by Rosie's Yarn Cellar, will precede the event. **FREE**

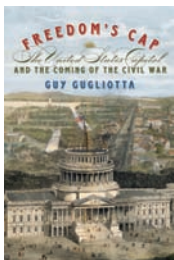
Crossing the Pond

Wednesday, March 21 / 6–7 p.m.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP / A vast number of immigrants came to America from Eastern Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Genealogist and author Lisa Alzo will help you search for these ancestors. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers.



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City Hall from North Broad Street



Freedom's Cap: The United States Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War

Tuesday, March 27 / 6 p.m.

The history of the modern U.S. Capitol is also the history of America's most tumultuous years. Author Guy Gugliotta will speak at

the Library Company of Philadelphia. Cosponsored with LCP. **FREE**

City of Neighborhoods, City of Homes

Wednesday, March 28 / 6:30-8 p.m.

ENCYCLOPEDIA EVENT / How do neighborhood ties unite and sometimes divide us? Across neighborhood boundaries, how do we form the common bonds of civic life? Hosted at the Philadelphia History Museum. **FREE**

Chairman's Reception

Thursday, March 29

TREASURES SOCIETY EVENT / Treasures Society members and their guests are invited to a reception hosted by the Chairman of the Board of Councilors.

April

Digitization Basics

Tuesday, April 3 / 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

HISTORY AFFILIATES EVENT / This program will cover basic issues in digital preservation and other topics. \$25 for Pennsylvania institutions, \$75 for out-of-state institutions.

Picturing History

Wednesday, April 11 / 6-7 p.m.

HSP has a rich collection of photographs, from early daguerreotypes to rare crystoleums and modern digital prints. HSP's Photograph Conservator D'Arcy White will discuss the highlights of HSP's photography archive—and the stories that they tell. **FREE**

HSP members are invited to arrive early for a special tour of the conservation lab. RSVP at klyons@hsp.org.



Titanic Stories

Sunday, April 15 / 2-3 p.m.

On the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic*, we remember Philadelphia passengers, including R. Norris Williams II, who became director of HSP. Cosponsored by and hosted at the Rosenbach Museum and Library. **FREE** for members of HSP and the Rosenbach. Nonmembers pay Rosenbach admission fee.

Philadelphia City of Neighborhoods

Tuesday, April 17 / 4-6 p.m.

TEACHER WORKSHOP / Through artifacts and documents, explore the many neighborhoods of Philadelphia and the diversity of people who have lived and worked in the city. Held at the Philadelphia History Museum. Sponsored by the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia. **FREE**

May

Martin Delany and the Politics of Identity

Wednesday, May 9 / 6-7:30 p.m.

This May marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Martin Delany, an African American abolitionist, Harvard-educated physician, and Civil War officer. Join us for a panel discussion. **FREE**

Understanding Archives

Thursday, May 10 / 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

HISTORY AFFILIATES EVENT / This program offers an introduction to best practices in the field. \$25 for Pennsylvania institutions, \$75 for out-of-state institutions.

Founder's Award 2012

Thursday, May 17 / 6 p.m.

HSP will honor Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian David McCullough and long-serving HSP board member and past chairman Collin F. McNeil at the National Museum of American Jewish History. If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Emilie Kretschmar at 215-732-6200 ext. 300 or ekretschmar@hsp.org.



June

Documents and Drinks

Thursday, June 14 / 6 p.m.

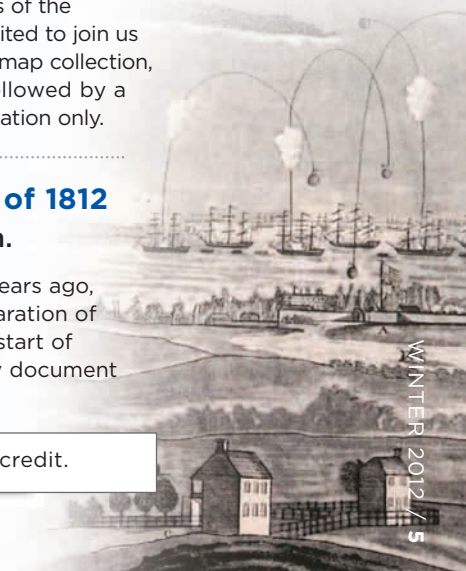
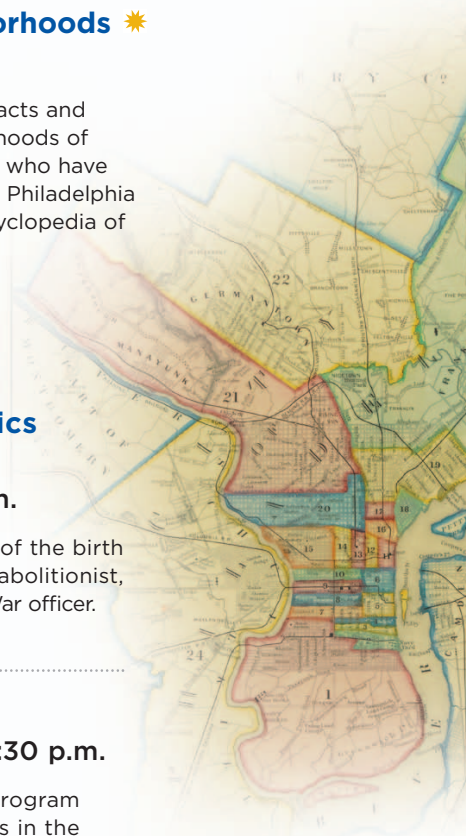
TREASURES SOCIETY EVENT / Members of the Treasures Society and their guests are invited to join us for a conversation about HSP's extensive map collection, including the first map of Philadelphia. Followed by a reception and document viewing. By invitation only.

Forming a Nation: The War of 1812

Monday, June 18 / 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

DOCUMENT DISPLAY / Two hundred years ago, President James Madison signed a declaration of war against Great Britain, signaling the start of the War of 1812. HSP will host a one-day document display of "Mr. Madison's War".

☀ Attendance qualifies for Act 48 credit.



Philadelphie à Paris: Une Fête Historique

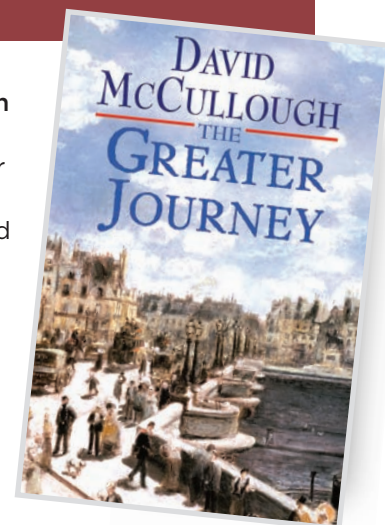


Collin F. McNeil



David McCullough

At this year's Founder's Award Dinner on May 17, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania will honor two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough and long-serving HSP board member and past chairman Collin F. McNeil. Mr. McCullough will be recognized for his distinguished career as an American biographer and historian, as well as for his work as a lecturer and a narrator of important historic documentaries, including the Emmy Award-winning



series *The Civil War*. HSP will honor Collin F. McNeil with the Heritage Award for his decades of support and for his leadership as former HSP Chairman of the Board.

This year's theme, "Philadelphie à Paris: Une fête historique," is inspired by Mr. McCullough's new book *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*, which tells the story of America's longstanding love affair with Paris. The book describes dozens of historical figures who traveled east to study and live in Paris, such as James Fenimore Cooper and his friend Samuel Morse—an accomplished portrait artist. Many Philadelphians such as Mary Cassatt, Emily Sartain, Dr. Thomas Evans, and Thomas Eakins also made the long journey across the Atlantic. The Founder's Award Dinner will be a celebration of the French influence in America and especially our Philadelphia ties to Paris.

The funds raised at this annual event go directly toward supporting HSP's mission of *inspiring individuals and organizations to create a better future through historical understanding*. The event will take place at the National Museum of American Jewish History beginning at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception followed by dinner and an award ceremony. If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Emilie Kretschmar at 215-732-6200 ext. 300 or ekretschmar@hsp.org.

Q&A with Phyllis Boyer

Phyllis Boyer has been a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania for more than 20 years and has volunteered at the reception desk since 2000. A retired software development manager from New Jersey and native of Pennsylvania, Boyer has traced her family history back to the mid-1700s and has used HSP collections to find information about her German, French, and Swiss ancestors.



What do you enjoy about working at the front desk?

I enjoy meeting people from all over the country and from other countries and hearing what they are looking for. I can tell them what information we have that will help them, especially if they're doing genealogy.

How has the Historical Society changed in the past 20 years?

I think the library has become more formal and the information more organized. Sometimes I miss the early days when you could browse through books in a back room that now are only available by call slips. But, we are able to take better care of our books and collections now and the procedures provide more safety for the information the Society holds.

Why is it important to preserve and share our nation's history?

It's important to understand how our nation evolved and what problems were faced and solved along the way. Preserving our nation's history is also important to credit individuals who helped build our nation.

What is something that you wish more people knew about the Historical Society?

A lot of people in Philadelphia and the suburbs don't know the extent of all the information we have on our nation's and state's history. I wish more people knew how much information was really available here and also knew that we are one of the best resources for genealogical information.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania appreciates Phyllis's longtime membership and volunteer work. Thank you Phyllis!

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Ellen Emlen Cookbook:

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has printed facsimile copies of an 1865 cookbook, compiled by Philadelphia housewife Ellen M. Emlen. At an event on November 16, guests sampled Emlen's gingerbread and meatball recipes and learned about Civil War-era cooking. Copies of the book are available for purchase at www.hsp.org.

Photos below by Sharon Gershoni



Food historian Jennifer Lindner McGlinn and HSP's Director of Preservation and Conservation Services Tara O'Brien with the Ellen M. Emlen cookbook.



The event featured a display of HSP's historic cookbooks, including ones owned by Martha Washington and Hannah Penn.

Treasures Society:

This fall, Treasures Society members, a special group of HSP supporters, enjoyed a lecture by Laura E. Beardsley, author of *The Philadelphia Citizen's Almanac*, and a reception at the home of HSP President and CEO Kim Sajet.



Frank Giordano, member of HSP's Board of Councilors, and Kenneth D. Dunn, retired Marine colonel, at the Historical Society for a Treasures Society lecture.



Nina Sygnecki and Carolyn Bauer attended author Laura E. Beardsley's lecture and book signing.

National History Day Philly:

On September 27, HSP held a kick-off for National History Day *Philly*, a middle and high school program that develops knowledge and critical thinking skills through history. Teachers attended the event to learn about National History Day resources in Philadelphia.



Representatives from many local organizations attended the kick-off to speak with teachers about National History Day.



Guests enjoyed food and drinks provided by Tria at the Young Friends event.



Scott Alberts was the grand prize winner of the baseball scavenger hunt.

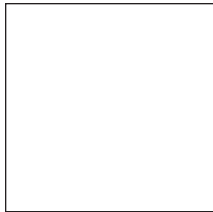
Baseball Scavenger Hunt:

HSP's Young Friends gathered on September 15 for a scavenger hunt through our baseball memorabilia. The crowd enjoyed food and drinks provided by Tria and watched the short film *Base Ball: The Philadelphia Game* from History Making Productions. Funds raised from this event helped support the conservation of the Society's trade card collection.

Sidelights

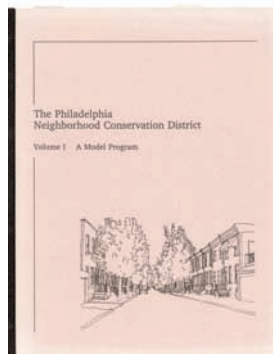
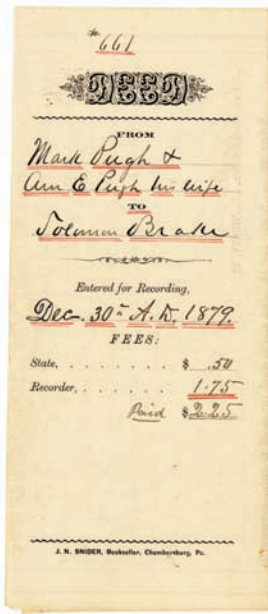
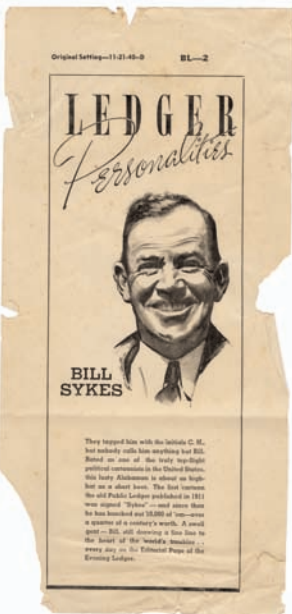


1300 Locust Street / Philadelphia, PA 19107



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 our website at www.hsp.org.



Charles H. Sykes papers

Sykes was a political cartoonist for the *Evening Public Ledger* in Philadelphia. This collection features 68 original cartoons drawn in crayon, pencil, and india ink, depicting the build-up to World War II and the early years of U.S. involvement. You can adopt this collection with a \$175 donation.

F. Furman Betts papers

This collection contains letters, photographs, newsletters, and a diary belonging to Betts, a Germantown resident who served with the American Friends Service Committee of the American Red Cross during World War I. You can adopt this collection with a \$150 donation.

Brake and Wineman families papers

This collection documents several generations of two families from Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and includes vital records, military records, school documents, farm records, photographs, and Civil War letters. You can adopt this collection with a \$250 donation.

Judith Shuman Eden papers

Eden, who died in 2008, devoted much of her life to Philadelphia activism and politics. This collection of publications and printed materials from city and state organizations covers many topics such as homelessness, graffiti, parking, and zoning. You can adopt this collection with a \$375 donation.

Above: (left) Charles H. Sykes papers, (center) Brake and Wineman families papers, (top right) Judith Shuman Eden papers, (bottom right) F. Furman Betts papers

THANK YOU to the following individuals and organizations who adopted a collection between July 1, 2011, and November 30, 2011: **Lori L. Cohen, The Young Friends of HSP, and Elliot Zayon.**