

Understand the past.
Engage in the present.
Create a better tomorrow.

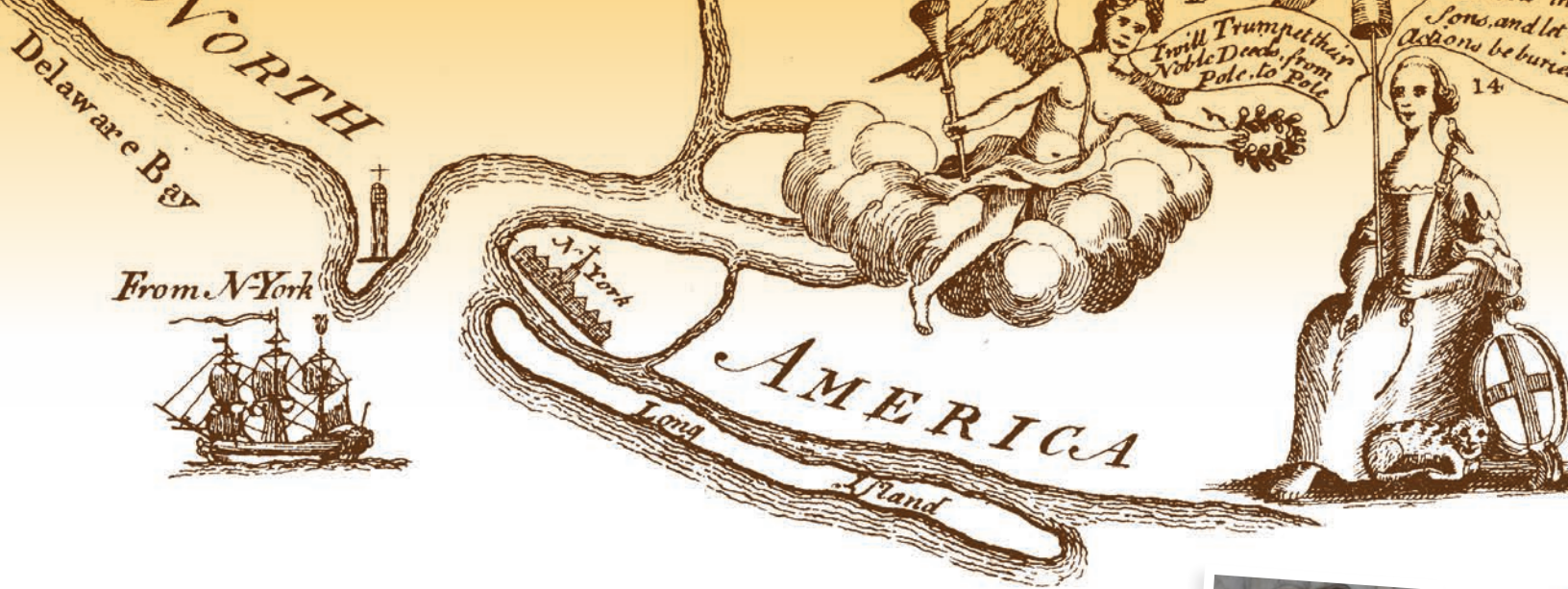
Historical Society of Pennsylvania's 2013 Annual

Report



Historical Society
of Pennsylvania





Dear Friends:

When you walk through the doors at 1300 Locust Street, it's obvious—big changes are happening at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania! After a \$5.7 million renovation project, HSP looks very different than it did at the start of this fiscal year. The renovations allow HSP to better share our original documents with the public and provide improved service for our library researchers. The renovations also ensure the safety and protection of our archive and the integrity of our historic building.



Besides the physical changes, the Historical Society has changed in some not-so-obvious ways. HSP's online community has grown this fiscal year, as we now communicate with more than 17,000 people via social media and e-mail newsletters. You will find HSP not only on Facebook and Twitter, but also on YouTube, Vimeo, Pinterest, Tumblr, and Flickr. Staff archivists and librarians are joining the online conversation on HSP's ten blogs. We are aggressively digitizing items from our collection and have more than 70,000 images posted in our online Digital Library. We have become leaders in the field by developing digital history projects that allow users to not only read historic documents, but also search and link to related content to gain a better understanding of the people, issues, and relationships of the time. Through these digital efforts, we are reaching hundreds of thousands of people in more than 100 countries around the world—bringing our collection out of the vault and virtually putting it into the hands of the public.



We had a change in leadership in April with the departure of Kim Sajet, who had served as president and CEO of the Historical Society since 2007. Under Sajet's tenure, HSP drafted and executed an ambitious strategic plan and put many of these initiatives in motion. We wish her well in her new position as director of the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution.

HSP unveiled our newly renovated library to the public in October 2013, but that does not mean our job is done. We look forward to an exciting and busy 2013-2014 fiscal year, when we will launch a prototype of a digital history project about the Underground Railroad; develop software to improve access to graphic material; post tens of thousands of genealogical records online; and introduce HSP to the next generation of supporters through our Young Friends programs. Our past year's accomplishments and our future plans are possible only through the generous support of our donors, members, friends, and hardworking staff and board. I hope you will visit HSP soon to tour our renovated library and celebrate these changes and plans with us.



Page Talbott

Dr. Page Talbott
Interim President and CEO

Above: *Liberty Triumphant or the Downfall of Oppression*, engraving from 1773. Left from top: George F. Parry, circa 1860, from a recently acquired collection; students at the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School performed a traditional Chinese lion dance at an HSP event.





CHANGING

Our Building



What has changed at HSP?

- A redesigned lobby with a new reception desk, a patron lounge with kitchenette, larger lockers, and digital information screens
- A state-of-the-art 10-foot-high digital wall, which displays images from HSP's world-renowned archive
- A digital donor wall to recognize HSP's supporters
- Four large cases to display original documents from HSP's collection
- An upgraded security system with video cameras and turnstiles
- New microfilm readers and comfortable seating
- Compact rolling storage units in three vaults, giving HSP additional space to continue growing its collection
- A bar coding system for collection materials
- A repaired roof and façade and new HVAC and sprinkler systems

The renovations were made possible in part by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the William Penn Foundation, the Lenfest Foundation, Howard and Maxine Lewis, the Hamilton Family Foundation, the City of Philadelphia, and anonymous donors.

The improvements to the building will position HSP to grow in the years ahead. And we are growing—this fiscal year we accessioned 89 collections, including documents related to pioneering medical professionals George F. Parry and Susan Parry and records from the Philadelphia Romanian organization Societatea Banateana-Vasile Alecsandri. HSP's conservation team has mended or repaired almost 1,000 items, including hundreds of volumes from the Bank of North America records, an ongoing project supported by Wells Fargo.

Clockwise from top: HSP's redesigned lobby; digital donor wall; new seating in the renovated lobby; digital wall and document display cases; compact rolling storage.

950

items preserved in the conservation lab

3,811

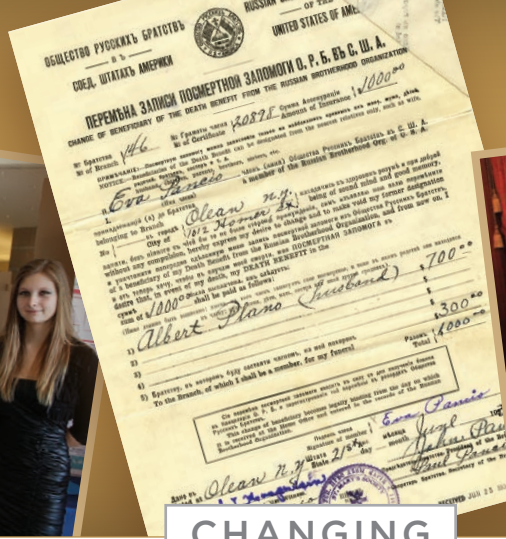
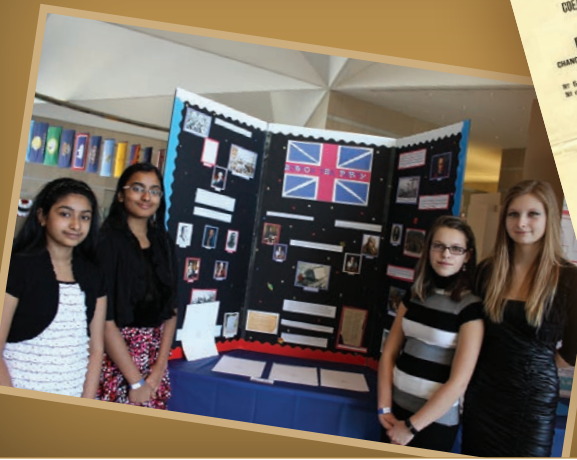
visitors to the research library

89

collections accessioned by HSP

516

linear feet of collections arranged and cataloged



CHANGING

How We Serve Others

4,599
people attended programs

392
students in grades 6-12 researched in the library

562
teachers attended trainings

346
history and heritage organizations participated in the History Affiliates program

Students and Educators

This past year HSP assisted more than 600 students in grades 6–12 in the research library and in the classroom, including hundreds of local students as they researched for National History Day projects. During National Thrift Week in January, HSP presented a lecture and teacher workshop on the topic of thrift education and sponsored a curriculum contest to encourage the teaching of thrift in the classroom.

Genealogists

The Historical Society subscribed to two new online databases, which are available to library visitors—Origins Network, which contains British and Irish genealogy records, and Heritage Quest Online, a collection of family histories, indexes of genealogy periodicals, and more.

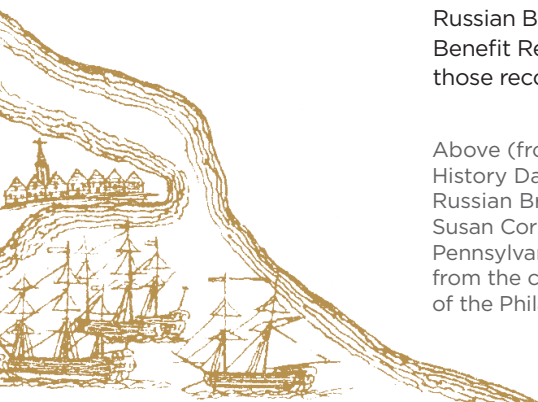
HSP staff has been hard at work compiling indexes of manuscript collections to make the information searchable and accessible to genealogists. This year, with support from the George C. and Esther Ann McFarland Foundation, HSP indexed 44,000 individual records, including those from the Orphan Society of Philadelphia, the Register Book of the Philadelphia Home for Infants, and the Russian Brotherhood Organization Death Benefit Records. This coming fiscal year, those records will be posted online.

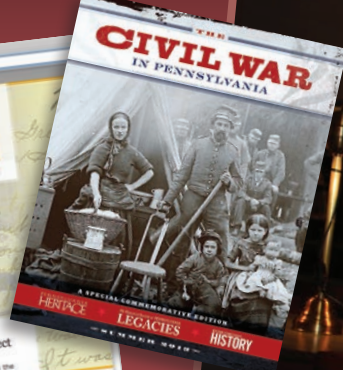
Above (from left): Students at the 2013 National History Day Philly competition; record from the Russian Brotherhood Organization; First Lady Susan Corbett with award winners at the History in Pennsylvania Awards ceremony. Right: Ben Franklin from the cover of *Your School Bank*, a publication of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, 1940.

History and Heritage Organizations

HSP's History Affiliates program, supported by The Barra Foundation, held its first annual History in Pennsylvania Awards ceremony in October 2012. More than 230 people, including Pennsylvania First Lady Susan Corbett, attended to celebrate the achievements of history and heritage organizations in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

As part of the Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, HSP staff surveyed the collections of 47 small historical organizations in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties, making hundreds of previously hidden archival collections better known and more accessible. HSP obtained a follow-up grant from the Mellon Foundation to expand this effort to an additional 100-120 organizations in Bucks, Chester, and Delaware Counties.





CHANGING

How We Share History

Digital History Projects

In February, HSP launched a digital history project titled *Closed for Business* that looks at the early years of the Great Depression and the December 1930 failure of a large Philadelphia bank, Bankers Trust Company. This project, made possible by the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation, features 320 digitized primary source documents. Visit at hsp.org/bankers-trust.

HSP also completed work on *Preserving American Freedom*, which explores how Americans have interpreted and fought for freedom from the 1600s to the present. Funded by Bank of America, the site features 50 historic documents, including William Penn's 1682 deed with the Delaware Indians, letters from women's suffrage activist Dora Kelly Lewis, and an 1862 petition seeking the right of African Americans to ride streetcars in Philadelphia. Visit at hsp.org/freedom.

Above (from left): *Closed for Business* digital history project; commemorative edition of *Pennsylvania Legacies* magazine; cast of *ArkHIVE* perform in the Reading Room.

Publications

A special commemorative edition of *Pennsylvania Legacies*, HSP's illustrated history magazine, was published in June. This double-length issue, which explores the Keystone State's role in the Civil War, was published in partnership with the Senator John Heinz History Center, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.

Public Programming

In September 2012, HSP celebrated the 225th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution by displaying original drafts of the document, including two penned by delegate James Wilson. In November, with support from the Connelly Foundation, HSP presented a panel discussion about the history and redevelopment of Philadelphia's Chinatown. In April 2013, the Historical Society's Reading Room was transformed into a theater for the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts. HSP commissioned artist Sebastienne Mundheim to stage a performance titled *ArkHIVE*, which used the analogy of the library as a beehive with dancers dressed as bees and beekeepers.

73,778

images in the Digital Library

5,316

people follow HSP on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and YouTube

12,430

subscribers to HSP's e-mail newsletter

144,349

online readers of *PMHB* and *Pennsylvania Legacies*

513,030

visits to hsp.org and our online catalogs

Jon Meacham Receives 2013 Founder's Award

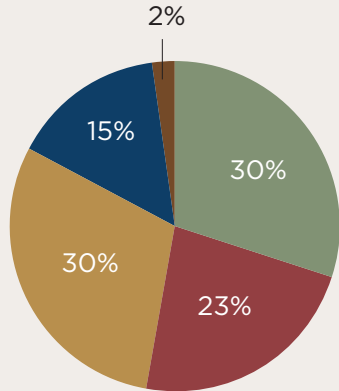
This year's Founder's Award dinner honored Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham and longtime supporters Sarah and Philip Price Jr. The dinner and ceremony, which was held on April 25 at The Ritz-Carlton with lead sponsor Wells Fargo, raised over \$150,000 for the Society. More than 240 guests attended the event, chaired by Rudy Lewis.

From left: J. Rudy Lewis, event chair; Philip Price and Sarah Price, Heritage Award honorees; Jon Meacham, Founder's Award honoree; Page Talbott, HSP interim president and CEO; and Bruce Fenton, chairman of the Board of Councilors.



Annual Operating Revenue & Expenses

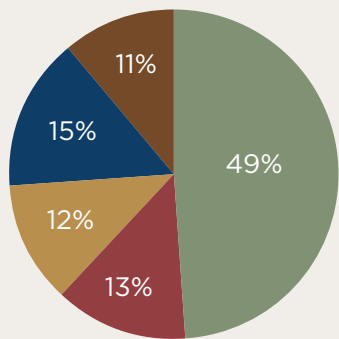
REVENUE



Contributions.....	30%
Income from investments	23%
Net gains on investments	30%
Earned income	15%
Membership.....	2%

TOTAL REVENUE\$4,835,430

EXPENSES



Library	49%
Education and Special Projects	13%
Occupancy.....	12%
Administrative	15%
Development	11%

TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,124,490

For a copy of HSP's audited financial statements, please contact mhairston@hsp.org.

With appreciation

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More than 300 people came to HSP to see original drafts of the U.S. Constitution in September 2012.

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