



The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

*Collecting & Sharing
The Stories of Pennsylvania*

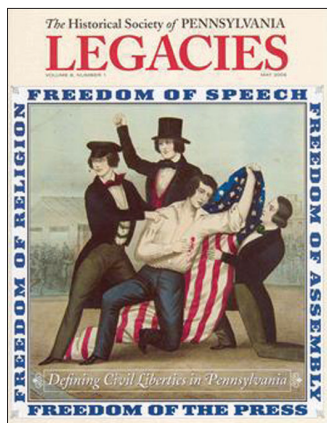


The Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1906.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Historical Society
of Pennsylvania



The Spring 2008 issue of *Pennsylvania Legacies* focused on the Five Freedoms of the First Amendment.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities has supported processing the Chew Family Papers Project.

At the close of the 2007/08 fiscal year, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania reflects on a year of transition and progress. Completing the first twelve months under the leadership of President & CEO Kim Sajet, HSP adopted a new strategic direction with the goal of becoming a Center of History and Learning that serves four distinct audiences:

- K-12 EDUCATORS,
- SCHOLARS UNDERTAKING RESEARCH,
- FAMILY HISTORIANS AND GENEALOGISTS, &
- OTHER HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES.

Two board retreats, which focused strictly upon strategic planning, fostered intense cooperation between staff and board members. Below is a short report on how HSP has served each of the four audiences over the past year.

K-12 EDUCATORS

This year, in anticipation of a number of significant events and historical anniversaries such as the 2008 presidential elections, the 2009 Lincoln bicentennial, and the 2011/15 Civil War sesquicentennial, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Education & Interpretation Department focused upon the history of politics

and civic engagement and how previous events and people's actions have impacted contemporary times.

HSP strengthened its relationship with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (DOE), for whom HSP is a contract provider on ethnic and immigrant history, by providing Act 48 credit toward the professional development of K-12 educators and working together to develop history curricula. In 2007/8 HSP staff held a total of six teacher workshops, and published two issues of *Legacies*, an illustrated history magazine, which focused on South Philadelphia and the Five Freedoms of the First Amendment, respectively. In 2007 *Legacies* doubled its number of teacher pages with lesson plans and content support that tied into the Pennsylvania education standards, and was expanded and made even more accessible online.

Online curricular support at www.hsp.org is the most effective way for the society to reach educators, and in 2007/8 HSP saw a 35 percent increase in individual users to its Web site. In 2007/8 HSP added three additional lesson plans on Abolition and the Underground Railroad, Pennsylvania's New Immigrants, and Japanese American Internment during WWII to the existing 30, building upon the interpretation of primary source documents.

An official partner for National History Day (NHD): Philly, a regional precursor to the national competition, HSP supported teachers and students who sought inspiration from original source documents around the 2008 theme of Conflict and Compromise. This year, HSP's staff



assisted six participating projects and was proud to have influenced two that advanced to their respective state competitions with one exhibit progressing to the national competition that is held every June in College Park, Maryland. In 2009 the theme for NHD will be the Individual in History and, given the depth and versatility of its collections, HSP will be an ideal destination for student participants.

SCHOLARS

HSP's core constituency during its 183 years of existence has been researchers and scholars sifting through an archival collection that currently consists of over 21 million documents. In 2007/8 HSP welcomed a 6.5 percent increase in the number of researchers visiting its reading room, and nearly 2,700 researchers took advantage of HSP's research/reference-by-mail services. The Library & Collections staff introduced a new advance paging service for members, and added 71 online finding aids while improving online access to 100 more. The conservation laboratory treated over 600 items (cleaning, mending, housing, etc.) and worked directly with 14 interns who received graduate credit for their real-world experience. Similarly, HSP staff worked with graduate and post-graduate students, professors, and independent researchers undertaking a fellowship in a shared program with the Library Company of Philadelphia, and one fellow associated with the Pennsylvania Area Center for the History of Science (PACHS).

In the past fiscal year, HSP's former director of research services Jack Gumbrecht produced the popular History Questions of the Week, and expanded the idea to monthly History Hits e-newsletters that reached over 1,800 free subscribers, entertaining and informing people about such subjects as George Washington's experience at Valley Forge, the Centennial Exposition of 1879, and the history of political cartoons in the United States. Similarly, in an effort to tell more stories from the collection, as per HSP's mission, HSP's historian and head of reference services, Daniel Rolph, began Hidden Histories, a monthly online account of little-known documents found at HSP (www.frontierhistory.blogspot.com). This year we were treated to a story of "buying the baby," reminded of Pennsylvania's close ties with the Armenian community, and intrigued of the mystery of a hidden pirate's treasure in . . . Society Hill!

During the last year, a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has supported the Chew Family Papers Project, which is processing 400 linear feet of material from one of early Pennsylvania's most influential families. One exciting outcome of this project is the Chew Family Papers online diary (www.chewpapers.blogspot.com) that is maintained by



by HSP staff and gives the public a glimpse into the treasures they are uncovering every week. In addition to their work on the Chew Family Papers, HSP's archival staff processed 27 collections totaling 608.8 linear feet. Notable collections that received funds and attention this year include the collection of the Philadelphia Plastic Club, the Matthew Carey papers, the Rawlings and Henderson papers, the Morris family papers, Horace Trumbauer's architectural drawings, and the Mary Hallock Greenewalt papers.*

From January to June 2008, HSP undertook a digital audit with consultant Margaret Graham that allowed HSP to review its approach to digitizing documents and create a comprehensive plan to make them available online. As a result, a major focus for the coming year is to secure funding towards a Digital Center for Americana that will begin to scan, organize, and host a larger percentage of HSP's collections online and increase accessibility for all four of its target audiences.

During the last 12 months the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (PMHB) has continued to provide historians with scholarly essays regarding the history of Pennsylvania and its exceptional citizens. For example, the October 2007 issue (Vol. 131, No. 4) was dedicated to honoring and celebrating the 25th anniversary of *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History* (ed. Russel Weigley), arguably the greatest contribution to the scholarly literature of Philadelphia's history. Commemorating this anniversary was a gathering of over 200 members and local historians at HSP to hear Dr. Gary Nash speak about the future of Philadelphia history, an event sponsored by the Barra Foundation (which also sponsored the original scholarly project).

HSP held a book fair as part of its celebration of the 25th anniversary of the publication of *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History*.



Dr. Gary Nash presented a lecture titled "This Much Done, So Much Still to Do: Philadelphia Historical Scholarship in the 21st Century" at a gathering sponsored by the Barra Foundation. Pictured are Dr. Nash (LEFT) and Robert L. McNeil Jr., the founder of the Barra Foundation.



HSP's neighborhood history and culture project, PhilaPlace, focuses on two of Philadelphia's oldest neighborhoods, Northern Liberties/Kensington and Southwark.

Detail of a poster (RIGHT) used by the Welfare Federation, was featured in the November 2007 edition of *Legacies*, in an article that examined social reform.



Guest speaker Tony Burroughs presented a program in February titled "How to Research Your African-American Genealogy." More than 200 people attended.

FAMILY HISTORIANS/ GENEALOGISTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2007 The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania (GSP) formed a strategic alliance whereby GSP established an office on the premises and integrated its collection into that of HSP. The alliance has allowed for a number of joint programs, including a very successful lecture supported by the Penn Towne Chapter of The Links, on "How to Research Your African-American Genealogy" by guest speaker Tony Burroughs. This February 2008 event was attended by over 200 people.

A number of implementation grants have facilitated substantial progress for HSP's neighborhood history and culture project, PhilaPlace**, a multidisciplinary, technologically innovative initiative that views memory, geography, architecture and archival material through the perspective of place. During the past year the PhilaPlace team hosted workshops in the community, which gathered oral histories, digitized documents, and filmed residents in their neighborhoods. Initially focusing on two of Philadelphia's oldest neighborhoods, Northern Liberties/Kensington and Southwark, the final outcome will include an interactive Web site that allows neighborhood residents, businesses, and scholars to add their stories to a central database that will serve as a prototype for urban neighborhood history projects across the country.

In this fiscal year, HSP quadrupled its number of public programs, many held on Wednesday nights when the reading room is open to patrons until 8:30 p.m. Those attending HSP's programs

heard lectures like that from Joseph R. Lex Jr., MD, FAAEM, a professor of medicine from Temple University who explored the four tragic presidential assassinations from a legal-medical perspective. Or they came to "meet an author" like Beth Kephart, who tells the story of Philadelphia through the perspective of the Schuylkill River in her book, *Flow: The Life and Times of Philadelphia's Schuylkill River*.

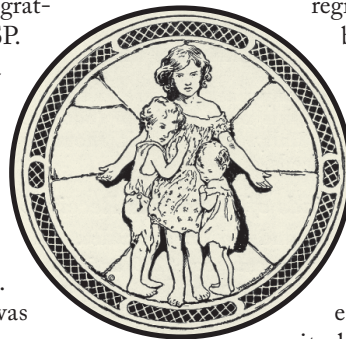
OTHER HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS /INITIATIVES

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, specifically the Governor's Office, has placed a high priority on the celebration of the Civil War sesquicentennial (150th anniversary). The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has been selected as one of the lead institutions for this initiative, receiving government funding to support the Civil War History Consortium (CWHC) regional coordinator, Melissa Clemmer, who took up her position on July 21, 2008. Melissa will coordinate the efforts of cultural institutions throughout the Philadelphia region for the celebration, which will begin in 2011. HSP's primary role among these institutions will be creating K-12 curricular support relating to Pennsylvania's pivotal role in the Civil War.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania also believes in communication and coordination between regional historical entities and to this end involves itself with many organizations

throughout Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia region. HSP has participated in or cooperated with: William Penn Welcome Week, Society for Historians of the Early Republic (SHEAR), Philadelphia Hospitality, and the Library Company of Philadelphia, among others.

HSP is a founding member of PACSCL (the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries), a group of 33 regional libraries, archives, and museums in the Philadelphia region that work together to compile data from the member organizations' collections into a shared database. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the three-member project team surveyed 1,167 collections (11,597 linear feet) at 10 institutions. One-hundred and fifty-two collections were surveyed at HSP, including all of the archival collections transferred by the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. More information on the PACSCL Consortium Survey project can be found at www.pacsclsurvey.blogspot.com.



OTHER PROJECTS & NOTES

On May 20th, at the 2008 Founder's Award, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania honored four of Philadelphia's most influential newspapers for their role in promoting civic engagement and reporting history as it happens. HSP presented *Al Día*, the *Jewish Exponent*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the *Philadelphia Tribune* with their honors at the Park Hyatt, Bellevue with over 230 people in attendance. HSP would like to thank all who contributed to produce a successful fundraising event that netted approximately \$100,000.

Recent updates to the society's Web site included online membership, online giving, and links to the "adopt-a-collection" program. By logging on to www.hsp.org visitors can purchase a membership, renew a current membership, or donate to HSP's annual fund. Among other things, your support enables HSP to create K-12 curriculum, offer valuable experience through a versatile internship program, and conserve and increase access to a unique archival collection.

And finally, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania was thrilled to receive two major capital



grants from the William Penn Foundation (\$443,294) and the City of Philadelphia (\$100,000) to support the replacement of HSP's aging air-handling system (HVAC) in the fall of 2008. HSP ended the year debt free, with a balanced budget, and with the means to replace its HVAC. HSP would like to thank its donors for making this past year a success.

Mayor Michael Nutter received a special award from former HSP board member Roger H. Ballou and President Kim Sajet at the 2008 Founder's Award Dinner, an event that honored four of Philadelphia's most influential newspapers.

* Special thanks to all those who funded processing and preservation work on specific collections, including Barbe Ballard Breylinger (for work on the Chambers family papers), the Cotswold Foundation (Morris family papers), Ethel Davis (Foerderer family papers), William

Hyland (Harrison family papers), Nationwide Insurance (Presbyterian Ministers' Fund records), and New Century Trust (New Century Trust records).

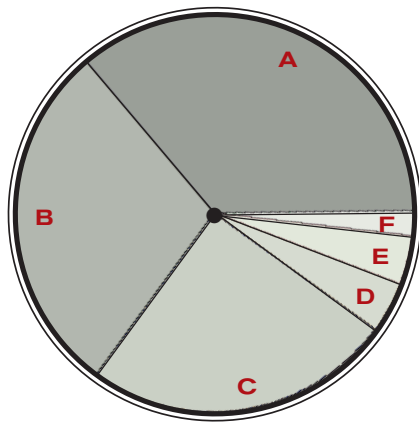
** PhilaPlace has been made possible by generous support from the

Heritage Philadelphia Program, a program of the Philadelphia Center for Arts and Heritage, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by the University of the Arts; jointly by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the

Humanities; the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the Federal-State Partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities; The Pennsylvania Department of Education; Southwest Airlines; the Walter J. Miller Foundation; and the Samuel S. Fels Fund.

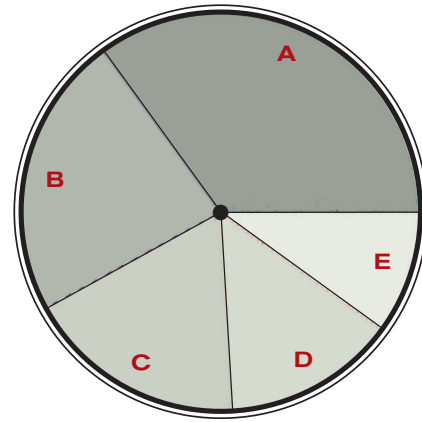
ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007/8*

TOTAL REVENUE \$3,699,700



- A** 36% INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS
- B** 29% CONTRIBUTIONS
- C** 25% GRANTS FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS
- D** 4% FOUNDER'S AWARD DINNER
- E** 4% EARNED INCOME
- F** 2% MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,124,159



- A** 35% LIBRARY
- B** 23% EDUCATION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS
- C** 18% OCCUPANCY
- D** 14% ADMINISTRATIVE
- E** 10% DEVELOPMENT

*For a copy of HSP's audit, please contact mhairston@hsp.org.

HSP BOARD OF COUNCILORS

At its June meeting, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania elected Mrs. Sarah Dolan Price as chair of the Board of Councilors. Also at the meeting, Mr. Collin Farquhar McNeil was appointed as honorary chair of the Capital and Endowment Campaign, and a number of new councilors were elected.

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HSP STAFF

Two valuable HSP staff members have recently resigned from their positions. Kate Wilson has stepped down from her position as the director of education and interpretation, a position she held since the 2002 merger with the Balch Institute. And Jack Gumbrecht resigned as director of research services, having served in this role since 2007. We wish them the best in all their future endeavors!

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The Chew Family Papers Project

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- A rare signed copy by Abraham Lincoln of **THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**, 1863

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