



The Historical  
Society of  
Pennsylvania

Collection 425

**Historical Society of Pennsylvania miscellaneous  
collection**

**1676-1937**

**42 boxes, 14.1 lin. feet**

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**Restrictions:** None

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**Abstract**

The Society Miscellaneous Collection includes a wide variety of materials relating to Pennsylvania and spanning several centuries. The majority of the collection is comprised of documents from and relate to governing bodies, civil organizations and societies in and around Pennsylvania. Examples range from official documents, such as petitions and surveys, to ephemera like tokens and tickets. Other items include watermarks, passports, sheet music, and poetry. While the collections spans from the 1670s to the 1930s, a significant portion of the papers date from the time of the Revolutionary War.

Although the variety of the collection is immense, the material has been loosely divided according to the subjects such as: deeds, petitions, wars, schools and colleges, churches, bills and receipts, certificates, commissions, stocks, bonds, surveys, and leases. All documents are housed in boxes, and many of the files are arranged chronologically.

The materials included in this collection are varied, and cover many significant events in the history of Pennsylvania and the country. Several documents relating to William Penn are in this collection, including his treaty with Tamanend, a Lenni-Lenape chief, and the charter of Philadelphia. There is a facsimile of the "Olive Branch" petition, a document written by Thomas Jefferson and John Dickinson in 1775 as a means of reconciliation between the American colonies and King George III of Great Britain, as well as a list of books ordered by Benjamin Franklin for the creation of the Library Company. Several documents relate to major wars, including the American Revolution, the War of 1812 (including the Act of War confirmed by James Madison and Congress), the Mexican-American War, Civil War and World War I. The collection also contains pieces of cultural interest such as trolley tokens; transportation tickets; business cards; invitations to prominent parties and social gatherings; propaganda from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including pieces promoting hygiene; and various forms of obsolete currency, including Revolutionary and Confederate money. There is also material pertaining to race relations, such as a petition to allow Blacks the use of trolleys, Owen Brown's "A Declaration of Liberty," records concerning relations with Indians and a petition for better treatment of the insane in city institutions.

**Restrictions**

The collection is open for research.

**Acquisition information**

This is an artificial collection created over time by HSP staff mostly through donations and purchases of individual documents.

**Preferred citation**

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], HSP miscellaneous collection (Collection 425), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

## Box and folder listing

Box or volume number	Brief description	Approximate date range	Notes
Box 1A Parts 1&2 Files 1-32	Part 1: Bills, 1690-1895 Part 2: Bills of Exchange German Bills House Furnishing Bills Hotel and Tavern Bills	1690-1895	Note: Box 1A, File 33 Transferred to File 44A
Box 1A (-2) (?) Files 34-45	Samuel Mickel Bills Bills of Lading Scholl Bills	1777-1860	
Box 1B	Bills and Receipts, 1687-1890 Bills and Receipts, E. Armitt, Doctor's Bills and Funeral Expenses 1796-1802 Charles Baker, Receipt Book 1812 William Fisher, Receipts, 1753-61 Jacob Groff, Receipts, 1750-1808 Ezekiel Needham, Will with Accounts James and Thomas Penrose, Receipts, 1770-76 C.C. Short, Bills and Receipts, 1869 R.H. Trip and Co., 1860-68 Roberts and Richard Vaux, 1808-35 (2 Folders) Zebediah Wills, 1850-64 Virginia Payrolls and Accounts, 1792-98 (Four Folders)	1687-1890	Lists more specific receipts from individuals, but has a note to see Box 1B -2
Box 1B-2	Bills and Receipts, Armitt Baker Fisher Groff Needham Penrose Short Trip Vaux Wills Virginia	1687-1890	This box contains the receipts of the individuals listed here and in more detail on Box 1B - 1
Box 2A	State of British Plantations in America Ca. 1732 Estimates, Invoices, Inventories 1690-	1688-1865	

	<p>1890 Depositions 1688-1837 Express and Freight Receipts 1833-1865 New York, Virginia, Georgia 1689-1759 Promissory Notes Qualifications of Commissioners 1791-1792</p>		
Box 2B	<p>Federal Congress 1780-1811 Jamaica, Act of the Assembly 1706 Letters Patent, Land Patents 1691-1891 New Albion New Jersey Assembly Old Congress Bills for Plumbing and Papering, 1905-1912</p>	1780-1912	
Box 3 A-B	<p>Petitions Individual A-Z, 1701-1927; n.d. Mulberry Street, Phila., 1823 Street Cars Negroes Blockley Alms House (memorials), 1845-1846; n.d.</p>	1701-1927	<p>Petition allowing Negroes to ride in street cars is rolled, has note: "see oversize #73 for encapsulated petition25 drawer 14.4 (HSP Collection #22); Petition against overcrowded street cars is rolled; Petition seeking improved treatment for the insane is in smaller folder. The other folders contain individual petitions ranging from reprieves from jail time to orphan's court. This box contains many petitions for tavern licenses, both renewals and first-time petitions.</p>
Box 4 A-B	<p>Petitions Philadelphia General, 1692-1891, n.d.</p>	1692-1891	<p>File 2 contains a facsimile of the</p>

	<p>Petitions for tavern licenses, 1728, 1790-1829  County Petitions, 1736-1848  Petitions Relating to Churches, Gov't, Railroads, Deer Hunting, Coinage, Hounds, etc., 1717-1848  Memorials, etc.  Canals</p>		<p>Olive Branch Petition of July 8, 1775 from the original in the public record office in London.</p>
Box 5 A-B	<p>Surveys 1675-1878, n.d.  Field Books of William Scull, 1764-1765  List of Surveys, 1692  Maryland Boundary, 1632  Warrants, 1684-1896</p>	1632-1896	<p>Contains a map plan of several lots of ground on north side of Green Street in Northern Liberties.</p>
Box 5C	<p>Letter of Administration, 1697-1887  Petitions and Arbitrations, 1700- 1809; n.d.  Subscription Lists, 1744-1862</p>	1697-1887	<p>Note between folders 3d and 3f: "Missing 8/11/01 folder 3e"</p>
Box 6A	<p>Bonds and Obligations, 1676-1888  Germantown  Military Ball, 1818  French Refugees return to Santo Domingo  Currency: Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> century, Confederate, foreign, miscellaneous</p>	1676-1888	<p>File 8 contains a petition to William Penn for a market for Germantown. File 15 contains an article from <i>The Numismatist</i> explaining the need for ferry money.</p>
Box 6B	<p>Penna. Misc.  Iron Industry  Free Society of Traders  William Penn misc.</p>	1682-1863	<p>Note of file 5: "Durham Iron Works was removed to Society Collection" and "From Ino. J. Morris March 8, 1907"  File 10 contains the minutes of meetings pertaining to the boundary dispute between Maryland and Pennsylvania.  File 14: Proclamation by King Charles II of Penn's authority</p>

			(tracing paper). File 15 contains a copy of Penn's charter of liberties and accompanying letter from to HSP from Joseph Chester.
Box 7A	Overseers of the Poor Misc. Lists Union League Phila. Select Council: Survey of Del. River Charge to Grand Jury Misc. Legal Redemptioners and Palatines in Phila. 1768-1803 Profile of the Rocks between Phila. Norristown	1773-1966	Profile of Rocks is a diagram of rocks and topography of the land between Phila. and Norristown, prepared for the Geological Society of PA.
Box 7B	Philadelphia Miscellaneous Societies: For the Manufactory For Relief of Poor City Commissioners	1697-1915	File 3 contains William Penn's charter of Philadelphia copy of 24, 12mo. 1704/5, with margin notes by James Logan.
Box 7C	Philadelphia Miscellaneous City Commissioners Bonds, 1828 Draftees, Phila. 8 <sup>th</sup> Ward, 1863 Municipal League Phila Knights of Labor Philadelphia Cemetery Taylor Republican Association Returns of Constable, 1826-1829 Returns of Phila. Property Stephen Girard Statue Prisons	1826-1863	
Box 8B	Atlantic Deeper Water Ways Conference, 1907 Charles Ewart Letters (Ship Alabama) Islands in the Delaware River Railroads Misc. Transportation Lines James Wilson Memorial Fund Exports Phila., 1841-46 Furnace and Rolling Mill Returns	1841-1907	

Box 9A	Articles of Agreement, 1693-1879 Certificates and Recommendations Certificates of Naturalization, 1724-1880	1693-1880	
Box 9B.1	Leases, Releases, Deed Polls, Assignments, Mortgages, 1689-1885	1689-1885	
Box 9B.2	Stock Certificates	1781-1938	
Box 9C	Admission Tickets Advertisements Business Cards Harrisburg Bridge Company (Stock Certificates) Indentures of Apprentices, 1677-1849 Licenses, 1773-1872 U.S. Loan Office Certificates Indentures of Redemptioners (Capt. Osborne) Memorial Cards Political Propaganda, 1936 Proclamations, 1686-1878 Reports, 1790-1876 Servitude, White	1773-1936	Note: Taylor, Samuel trade card and binders' ticket transferred from this box to Ba 39/T 218 on 12/19/75.
Box 10A	Churches 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Churches Misc. Church Items St. Luke's Lutheran Church Sunday School Lectures Eulogies, Epitaphs, Elegies	1741-1930	Sunday School Lectures are bound pamphlets. Contains eulogies of Helen Bell, president of the Philadelphia Browning Society.
Box 10B	Schools and Colleges, 1794 - 1937; n.d Girls Schools Trappe Washington Hall (Lectures of Abel Rambo, 1851) List of Teachers, Montgomery Co. Library Company Mercantile Library Company Libraries Misc.	1794-1937	File 7 contains list of books the Library Company sent to England for, starting in 1732
Box 10C	Miscellaneous Legal Papers, 1678 - 1931; n.d. Commissioner of Loans	1678-1931	Contains files on the controversy between the board of treasury and the commissioner of loans and a file on charges against the



			commissioner of loans.
Box 11A-B	Negroes, 1739-1864; n.d. Manumissions 1759-1854	1739-1864	Contains "A Declaration of Liberty," from a scroll written by Owen Brown.
Box 11B	Scroll: Owen Brown's "A Declaration of Liberty"		Scroll, Owen Brown's "A Declaration of Liberty," of which Box 11A contains a copy.
Box 11C	Indians, 1682-1900; n.d.	1682-1900	
Box 12A	Checks, 1768-1915 Franks Insurance Pawnbrokers Tickets Bank Notes Pensions Seals Title Pages	1762-1915	
Box 12B	Tickets Passports Naval Passports Doylestown Coach		Contains a pamphlet on the history of the Rittenhouse paper mill and the watermarks the various family members used; a broadside showing watermarks on paper used by the signers of the Declaration of Independence.
Box 12C	Watermarks	1703-1945	Watermarks arranged alphabetically, by company, symbols and miscellaneous. File 13 contains the seal of Napoleon
Box 13A	Boats and Cargoes, 1711-1799	1711-1799	
Box 13A.2 (Section	Boats and Cargoes, 1800-1880; n.d. Invoices -- Vessels, Cargoes Phila. Custom House 1790-1838	1790-1880	This Box is labeled "Section 1" in parentheses; the

2)	Ships Manifests		following box is label 13A.
Box 13B	Music Poetry	1744-1935	File 3 contains verse and prose newspaper clippings pertaining to the Know-Nothing Party.
Box 14A	(Box not labeled with content) Militia Papers 1788-1795 Quebec -- Journal of the Siege, 1759 Surrender of Louisburg, 1745 Colonial Wars, 1749-1763; n.d. Mayors of Phila., 1734-1845	1745-1845	
Box 14B	War of 1812 Civil War Mexican War Marine Corps	1812-1865	File 1A contains Act of War between the U.S. and Great Britain, Approved by James Madison and Congress. 'Mexican War' refers to Mexican-American War of 1846-1848
Box 14C	U.S. Sanitary Commission Sanitary Fair Provincial Council	1691-1872	
Box 15A	Muster Rolls	1756 - 1815	Includes Muster Rolls from Seven Years War, Revolutionary War (Rebels, English and French); Contains Roll of Third Company of Jackson Guards as a scroll.
Box 15B	Revolution British Depredations and Navy Discharges and Certificates Enlistments (Harmar) Invoices of Stores (Fishkill, etc.) Miscellaneous Statistical Lists, etc. Weidman, Capt. John	1774-1817	Contains a scroll describing a soldier's experience fighting in various battles during the American Revolution

Box 15C	<p>Revolution Affidavits and Court Martials Comm. Of Safety Court Summons Letters Oaths of Allegiance Recruiting Papers Pay Rolls Prisoners and Paroles Airmail</p>	1774-1870	
Box 15D	<p>Revolution Return of Troops, 1776-1794 Return of Arms Stores, etc., 1776-1808(?)</p>	1776-1808	
Box 16A	Commissions	1653-1863	Note on Box: Boxed Separately and Placed with the Old Society Miscellaneous Collection
Box 16B	Certificates	1731-1944	Note on Box: Boxed Separately and Placed with the Old Society Miscellaneous Collection
Box 16C	<p>Society Notes Declaration of Independence Schuylkill Fishing Company Penn's Treaty with Tamanend</p>	1926-1933	