

1608 - 2014



HSP's extensive business-related holdings document three centuries of business activity, primarily in Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia region. In addition to the manuscript collections outlined below, the Society also has many business-related publications, including company and government reports, circulars, catalogs, guides, timetables, and legal records. (For a more detailed discussion of manuscript holdings, see Cynthia J. Little, "Business History Holdings at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania," *Business History Review* 70 (Spring 1996): 91-107. [Click here](#) ^[1] to view this article on JSTOR.org.)

Resources

Cole, Arthur H. and Thomas C. Cochran. "Business Manuscripts: A Pressing Problem." *Journal of Economic History* 5 (1945): 43-64. (call number Ta* .109 vol.1)

Wilson, Robert J. "Early American account books: interpretation, cataloging, and use." Technical leaflet 140, American Association for State and Local History, 1981. (call number Ta 2801 no. 140 1981)

William Dickson's student notebook ^[2], kept for a course in bookkeeping in 1850-1851, are also particularly instructive and include "Daybook and Journal A, 1850" and "Index to Ledger A, Ledger B and Sales Book B." These exercises show exactly how each type of account book was maintained, and offer helpful practical examples. (call number Am .9161)

Manuscript Collections

Notable banking-related collections include the records of the Bank of North America [3] and the Philadelphia National Bank [4], and the papers of Thomas Biddle (various collections) [5], Clement Biddle (letterbooks) [6], Jay Cooke [7], and Albert M.Greenfield [8].

Fire insurance is well documented through the records of the Franklin Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia [9], Mutual Assurance Company (Greentree) [10], Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fires [11], and the Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company [12]. (In-house indexes are available for all four companies. The Franklin Fire Insurance Company and Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company records may also be searched via Bryn Mawr's "Places in Time" [13] website.) A related collection, the Hazlett and Moss records [14], contain the records of a real estate company active in residential development in the city and its suburbs from 1902 to 1927.

The Frankford Mutual Fire Insurance Company [15] records focus primarily on the Frankford, Bridesburg, and Kensington sections of Philadelphia, and the records of the Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania [16] and the Philadelphia Insurance Company [17] concern marine insurance.

The history of merchants and trade can be traced through two large collections – papers of the Cope family [18] and Hollingsworth family [19] – and numerous smaller ones, among them the papers of Jeremiah Boone [20], Jones and Clarke [21], Paschall and Hollingsworth [22], William Redwood [23], Reed and Forde [24], John Reynell (in the Coates and Reynell family papers) [25], Shippen family [26], and Claude Unger [27], and the records of the Port of Philadelphia [28] and the United States Customs House [29] in Philadelphia. Documentation is strongest for the colonial and early republic periods.

Collections related to printing, publishing, and other media include the Bradford family [30] and George Horace Lorimer [31] papers and the records of Lea and Febiger [32], Curtis Publishing Company [33], Atlantis newspaper [34], Polish Star Publishing Company [35], Fiorani Radio Productions [36], and Voice of the Lithuanian Community [37] radio program.

Transportation-related collections include the records of the Union Canal Company [38], Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike Company [39], and Baltimore and Philadelphia Steamboat Company [40], and the papers of lumber dealer Lewis S. Coryell [41] and railroad executives Jay Cooke [7] and Samuel Morse Felton, Sr. and Samuel Morse Felton, Jr. (in the Felton family papers [42]).

The manufacture of transportation vehicles is documented through the papers of shipbuilder Joshua Humphreys [43] and the records of Franklin and Company [44] (which made wagons and carts), J. G. Brill Company [45] (streetcars and buses), Autocar Company [46] (automobiles), and Baldwin Locomotive Works [47] (see also the Samuel Matthews Vauclain Papers, Collection 1900A [48]). The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company photographs [49] document the construction of Philadelphia's mass transit system. The Harold E. Cox transportation collection [50] documents the Philadelphia Transportation Company (PTC), its predecessor the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company (PRT), and that company's subsidiary and predecessor rail lines. The Society also holds many published works related to transportation, especially railroads.

Other manufacturing-related collections include the extensive HSP forges and furnaces collection [51] and the records of William H. Horstmann and Sons [52] (uniforms, insignias, and flags), Fletcher Works [53] (textile machinery), L.H. Alden and Company [54] (tanning), Jonathan Meredith Tannery (in the Meredith family papers [55]), and C. Schrack and Company [56] (paint and varnish). On the soap manufacturer Fels and Co., see the Samuel Simeon Fels papers

[57].

The large John Wanamaker collection [58] documents a leading Philadelphia retailer. Collections representing dry goods and grocery businesses include the HSP collection of Hamilton & Hood records [59], West family business records [60], and Wister family papers (collection #1625B) [61]. The Wister family papers [61] also cover the family's earlier wine merchant business. The Wood and Bacon account books [62] represent a general merchandise firm, and the Penington family papers [63] and McCarty and Davis records [64] document booksellers.

HSP's collection includes the records of Kirk & Nice, Inc. [65], recognized as the oldest continuously operating funeral establishment in the U.S. Other collections related to the business of funerals and undertaking include the Oliver H. Bair Company [66], the Andrew J. Bair Company [67], and David H. Bowen and Son [68].

Several collections document Philadelphia businesses owned by people of color, including the papers of the Tayoun family [69] (restaurateurs) and the records of Albert E. Dutrieuille Catering [70], Warley Bascom Sons [71] (upholstering and interior decorating), and the Spanish Merchants Association [72], which promoted Latino business development in Philadelphia.

Other major business-related collections include the Coxe family mining papers [73] and the real estate portion of the Albert M.Greenfield [8] papers. Also of note is the Society's extensive collection of trade cards [74] from the 19th-century Philadelphia region.

20th-Century

Collections Guide:

Business and Industry

[75]

20th-Century

Collections [76]

Bethlehem Steel:

Forging Community,

Spanning the Globe [77]

The Life and Labor of

Coxe Miners

[78]

Closed for Business:
The Story of Bankers
Trust Company during
the Great Depression

[79]

Financial Records

Guide and Glossary [80]

Philadelphia and

Pennsylvania

Resources [81]

Links

[1]

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/3117221?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=holdings&>

[2] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/ead-Am.9161>

[3] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1543>

[4] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1942>

[5]

[http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=thomas+biddle&type=AllFields&filter\[\]=format%3A%22Mar](http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=thomas+biddle&type=AllFields&filter[]=format%3A%22Mar)

[6] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-Am.9180>

[7] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0148>

[8] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1959>

[9] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-3269>

[10] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-2189>

[11] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-V41>

[12] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-D0080>

[13] <http://www.brynmawr.edu/iconog/ffi/ffidefault.htm>

[14] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1726>

[15] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1906>

[16]

<http://discover.hsp.org/Author/Home?author=Insurance%20Company%20of%20the%20State%20of%20Pennsylvania>

[17] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-Am.3585>

[18] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1486>

[19] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0289>

[20] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0066>

[21] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0331>

[22] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0474>

[23] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-Amb.7256>

[24] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0541>

[25] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0140>

[26]

[http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=Shippen+family&type=AllFields&filter\[\]=format%3A%22Ma](http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=Shippen+family&type=AllFields&filter[]=format%3A%22Ma)

[27]

[http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=Claude+Unger&type=AllFields&filter\[\]=authorStr%3A%22L1945%22](http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=Claude+Unger&type=AllFields&filter[]=authorStr%3A%22L1945%22)

[28] <http://discover.hsp.org/Author/Home?author=Port%20of%20Philadelphia%20%28Pa.%29>

[29] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-Am.38409>

[30] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1676>

[31] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1679>

[32] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0227B>

[33] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-3115>

[34] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-MSS043>

[35] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-MSS063>

[36] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-MSS049>

[37]

<http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=Voice+of+the+Lithuanian+Community+&type=AllFields&submit=Find>

[38]

[http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=Union+Canal+Company&type=AllFields&filter\[\]=format%3A](http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=Union+Canal+Company&type=AllFields&filter[]=format%3A)

[39] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-Am.246>

[40] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1337>

[41] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0151>

[42] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1151>

[43] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0306>

[44] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-2114>

[45] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-V70>

[46] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1907>

[47] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1485>

[48] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1900A>

[49] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-V42>

[50] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-3158>

[51] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-0212>

[52] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1700>

[53] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-2064>

[54] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1484>

[55] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1509>

[56] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-2080>

[57] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1776>

[58] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-2188>

[59] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1427>

[60] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1741>

[61] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1625B>

[62] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1589>

[63] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1435>

[64] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-1901>

[65] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-3414>

[66] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-3338>

[67]

<http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=%22%20Andrew%20J.%20Bair%20%26%20Son%20%28Undertake>

[68] <http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=david+bowen&type=AllFields&submit=Find>

[69] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-MSS150>

[70] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-MSS052>

[71]

<http://discover.hsp.org/Search/Results?lookfor=warley+bascom&type=AllFields&submit=Find>

[72] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-MSS114>

[73] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-3005>

[74] <http://discover.hsp.org/Record/hsp.ead.at01-3138>

[75] <https://hsp.org/20th-century-collections-guide-business-and-industry>

[76] <https://hsp.org/collections/catalogs-research-tools/subject-guides/20th-century-collections>

[77] <https://hsp.org/publications/pennsylvania-legacies/bethlehem-steel-forging-community-spanning-the-globe>

[78] <https://hsp.org/publications/pennsylvania-legacies/the-life-and-labor-of-coxe-miners>

[79] <https://hsp.org/history-online/digital-history-projects/closed-for-business-the-story-of-bankers-trust-company-during-the-great-depression>

[80] <https://hsp.org/collections/catalogs-research-tools/subject-guides/financial-records-guide-and-glossary>

[81] <https://hsp.org/collections/catalogs-research-tools/subject-guides/philadelphia-and-pennsylvania-resources>