

Sidelights



Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

Finding New Ways to Share History



Nearly 5,000 researchers visit the Historical Society's library each year to look firsthand at our collections. In addition to serving the visitors who come through our library doors, we can reach even more people all over the state, the country, and the world through our website. HSP recently launched a new online search tool called Discover, which allows visitors to easily search our processed collections. Earlier this year, we unveiled our Digital Library, a searchable online database with more than 25,000 digitized images. Over the next year, the Digital Library will almost double in size as our staff digitize sections of our ethnic and immigrant collections. All of HSP's digitized documents are at your fingertips 24 hours a day—you can even search our collections using your iPhone or BlackBerry.

We are also improving the ways visitors can find and access HSP's collections onsite. We have purchased new computers for the reference room and simplified the registration process. Effective this September, all digital camera fees will be waived in the library, and high school and middle school students will be granted free library admission with a school ID card. A series of genealogy workshops in the fall will guide family historians through their research and our collections. We invite you to come by 1300 Locust Street or visit us online at www.hsp.org and let us help you with your research.

—Kim Sajet, President and CEO

Above: Students work with original documents on a research visit to HSP.
Left: A researcher uses HSP's online catalog in the reference room.

WWW.HSP.ORG / 215-732-6200



More than 25,000 Digital Images Now Available Online

Thousands of images from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's collections are now available online through HSP's recently launched Digital Library—and the image collection is expected to almost double in the next year.

The Digital Library is accessible as a part of the Society's website at digitallibrary.hsp.org. Using the database, visitors can search and browse through the Society's ever-growing collection of digitized documents, including photographs, maps, artwork, letters, diaries, and ephemera, as well as archived video and audio records. Visitors can also magnify digital images and learn more about each one, such as when and by whom it was created and how to access the material at HSP.

This initial phase of the Digital Library focused in large part on HSP's Civil War-related collections, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the war.

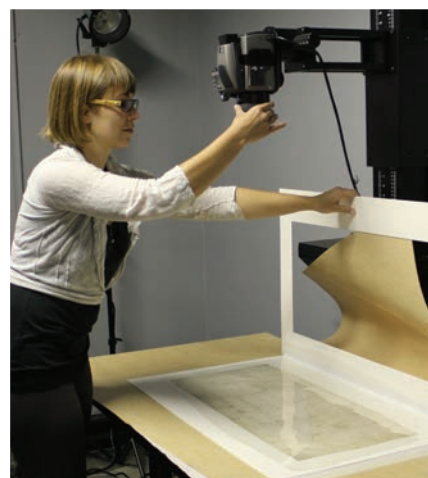
Among the items featured were about 5,000 Civil War-related graphics and manuscripts including selected papers of President James Buchanan, Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, General George Meade, General A. A. Humphreys, financier Jay Cooke, and 2,000 watercolors and related works by the self-taught Philadelphia artist David Kennedy. This phase of the project was made possible by generous support from The Barra Foundation, Robert L. McNeil Jr., Collin Farquhar McNeil, The McLean Contributionship, and The Raab Collection.

Earlier this year, HSP received funds to expand the Digital Library. Thanks to support from the National Endowment for the Humanities,* the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, Collin Farquhar McNeil, and John and Carol Asher, HSP archivists are working to preserve, organize, and digitize selected items from 21 collections pertaining to immigration and ethnic history in the Philadelphia region. This one-year project, which began in July 2011, will add an estimated 18,000 images to the Digital Library.

The collections selected for this project have high research value and document diverse ethnic groups across more than 300 years, from German settlers and enslaved Africans during the colonial period to African, Arab, Greek, Latino, and South Asian immigrants of recent decades. Collections include beautifully illustrated early German American hymnbooks, orderly books from German battalions during the Revolutionary War, photographs of Japanese immigrants detained in internment camps during World War II, and genealogical records from Italian families who immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s.

**Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

Above: Materials from the Chew family papers, one of the collections to be digitized this year.
Left: Director of Digital Collections & Systems Matthew Shoemaker prepares a document for digitization.
Right: Digital Imaging Technician Ashley Harper adjusts the overhead camera in HSP's digital lab.



HSP is now on the radio—with a biweekly broadcast produced in partnership with WHYY that looks at current events through the lens of history. The segment is called “That’s History” and features Jonathan Zimmerman, a historian affiliated with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

“That’s History” airs on 90.9 FM in the Delaware Valley every other Tuesday between 6 and 6:30 p.m. as part of the *NewsWorks Tonight* radio show. During each broadcast, Zimmerman and Chris Satullo, WHYY’s executive director of news and civic dialogue, take an event, issue, or person in the news, and look back into history for echoes, parallels, roots, and lessons. A longer version of their conversation is posted online at NewsWorks.org. Visit HSP’s website at www.hsp.org to view documents, images, and articles that relate to each topic.

Zimmerman is a professor of education and history at New York University. He is a former Peace Corps volunteer, high school teacher, and author of four books. He is also a frequent op-ed contributor to the *New York Times*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and other popular newspapers and magazines. Zimmerman, who lives in Narberth, is a distinguished lecturer for the Organization of American Historians and a commonwealth speaker for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

Supporting Students and Teachers

HSP’s deep archives of primary sources and expertise in doing research can provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to do well on tests and also act as critical thinkers in a democratic society.

One way that HSP supports students is through our involvement in National History Day, a research competition for secondary school students. Last year, students from several local schools, including Marple Newtown High School, came to HSP’s library to conduct research for their NHD projects. This season, we again look forward to assisting students with their research, and we are pleased to announce that we will waive the library admission fee for all secondary students with school identification starting September 6. HSP will also host an event for educators on September 27 to share resources for National History Day Philly.

Teachers are encouraged to sign up for HSP’s online educator newsletter, join our newly formed Teachers Advisory Group, or come to HSP for a workshop or tour. Teachers can also visit our website, where we are upgrading lesson plans and resources to fit with new state academic standards. HSP provides Pennsylvania continuing education credits for most of its public programs.

For more information about National History Day and HSP teacher resources, visit our website at www.hsp.org or contact Senior Director of Programs and Services Beth Twiss Houting at btwisshousing@hsp.org.

Above: Students at the National History Day Philly competition in March 2011.



William Penn Foundation Grant

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania recently received a three-year grant from the William Penn Foundation to support capital improvements to its historic building. This support will allow HSP to undergo critical repairs to the building’s envelope, install compact shelving to increase its archival storage capacity, and improve its public spaces through interior renovations. This is the second capital grant received from the William Penn Foundation and HSP conveys its deepest thanks.

HSP Receives Mellon Grant

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania received a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support a pilot project called the Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The goal of this project is to make the largely unknown collections of numerous small, primarily volunteer-run archival and manuscript repositories throughout the state more accessible and better known. The pilot phase will allow the Society to survey the collections of 25 repositories throughout the Philadelphia region, create a directory of these repositories, and refine methodologies that will be applied to a survey with a larger geographic scope.

Preserving the Cope Family Papers

We would like to recognize J. Morris Evans, a longtime member of HSP’s Treasures Society, for his commitment to the preservation of the Cope Family Papers. Mr. Evans, who is a descendant of the Cope family, established the Cope Collection Fund in 1988 to support the processing and conservation of these materials.

Thanks to High School History Club

HSP thanks the students of the Abington Junior High School History Club and their advisor, Shaun Little, who recently raised money to adopt the Abraham Barker Collection. This collection documents the Free Military School for Command of Colored Regiments, which opened in Philadelphia in 1863 (see image above). The club’s donation will allow HSP to preserve, organize, and catalog the collection. This is the fourth year in a row that the History Club has donated to HSP. For more information about HSP’s Adopt a Collection program, see page 8.

Calendar

2011

September



A Baseball Scavenger Hunt

Thursday,
September 15 /
6-8 p.m.

A YOUNG FRIENDS EVENT / It's this season's best double-header! We're bringing

out our finest baseball documents for a Young Friends scavenger hunt. Compete for fabulous prizes, then enjoy the reception as we show the short film *Base Ball: The Philadelphia Game* from History Making Productions. Wine, cheese, beer, and snacks provided by Tria. \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers

Athens of America

Friday, September 16 / 6:30 p.m.

ENCYCLOPEDIA EVENT / "Athens of America" emerged in the early 1800s as a reference to Philadelphia's dominance in arts and culture. This discussion focuses on the city as a cultural center, especially in the visual arts. Teachers may receive Act 48 credit. Hosted at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and moderated by HSP president Kim Sajet. This event is part of the Greater Philadelphia Roundtable series "Phrasing Philadelphia" presented by the *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*. For more information about this series, visit philadelphiaencyclopedia.org. **FREE**

Caring for Your Collections: Pest and Mold Control

Wednesday, September 21 /
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

A HISTORY AFFILIATES EVENT / Mold and pests can devastate historical collections. This workshop provides an understanding of how and why they occur and gives strategies for prevention. The guest speaker will be Dr. Thomas A. Parker, president and entomologist of Pest Control Services, Inc. Cosponsored with the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. \$50

President's Reception

Sunday, September 25 / 4-6 p.m.

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION EVENT / Treasures Society and 1824 Legacy Society members and their guests are invited to a cocktail reception at the Chestnut Hill home of HSP president Kim Sajet. Treasures Society members annually contribute \$1,000 or more to help ensure the care of HSP's collections. Members of the 1824 Legacy Society have included HSP in their estate plans. Invitation to follow.

National History Day Philly Kick-Off

Tuesday, September 27 / 4:30-6:30 p.m.

TEACHER WORKSHOP / National History Day is a middle and high school program that develops knowledge and critical thinking skills through history. Learn about the program, how to introduce it into your classroom, and NHD resources available in Philadelphia. Refreshments will be served. Teachers may receive Act 48 credit. **FREE**



October

Coffin Maker, Undertaker, and Funeral Director

Wednesday, October 5 / 6-7 p.m.

GENEALOGY EVENT / Death records may be the only documents for an ancestor. What will these records tell you and how can you use them in your own family history? This workshop will be taught by Charles S. Mason Jr., certified genealogist and past president of the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers

Searching for a Pennsylvania German Ancestor

Wednesday,
October 12 / 6-7 p.m.

GENEALOGY EVENT / Learn how to apply the basics of genealogical research to Pennsylvania German records, which trace millions of descendants throughout the nation. The workshop will be taught by James M. Beidler, author of the "Roots & Branches" column and editor of *Der Kurier*, the quarterly journal of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers



Philadelphia Responds: The Civil War Home Front

Thursday, October 13 /
Noon-5 p.m.

DOCUMENT DISPLAY / Behind battle lines, the everyday experiences of civilian men and women during the Civil War reveal fascinating accounts of bravery, perseverance, devotion, and passion.

On this day, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania will display highlights from its collections to share stories of the Philadelphia Civil War home front. **FREE**



Blogging Your Family History

Wednesday, October 19 / 6-7 p.m.

GENEALOGY EVENT / Genealogy blogs have become a great way to share your family history with others. In this presentation, learn how to start your own blog, see examples of great genealogy blogs, and explore how blogging can even help your research. The workshop will be taught by Donna Pointkouski, author of "What's Past is Prologue," a genealogy blog. **FREE** for members, \$15 for nonmembers

Haunted HSP

Wednesday, October 26 /
5:30 and 7 p.m.

GHOST TOURS / Take a tour behind the scenes of HSP to hear about the ghosts that haunt our 100-year-old building... if you dare! \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers



November

Emancipation and the Struggle for Racial Justice

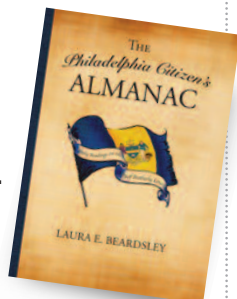
Wednesday, November 2 / 6 p.m.

PANEL DISCUSSION / Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation was neither the beginning nor the end of the emancipation process. Join us for a panel discussion to explore ideas of emancipation in the United States in the 19th century, before and after Lincoln. Teachers may receive Act 48 credit. Cosponsored with the Moonstone Arts Center. **FREE**

Documents and Drinks: The Philadelphia Citizen's Almanac

Monday, November 7 / 6 p.m.

A TREASURES SOCIETY EVENT / Did you know that the Slinky was invented by an engineer at the Philadelphia Navy Yard? Members of the Treasures Society and their guests are invited to join Laura E. Beardsley, author of *The Philadelphia Citizen's Almanac*, as she explores some of the pinnacle moments in our city's history along with some lesser known facts and lore. By invitation only.



Philadelphia, Workshop of the World

Wednesday, November 9 / 3:30-6:30 p.m.

TEACHER WORKSHOP / Presented in partnership with the *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, this workshop will look at the rise of industry in Philadelphia in the 1800s and the people who made it happen. This workshop is open to teachers and pre-service students. Attendance qualifies for three hours of Act 48 credit. **FREE**



Annual General Meeting

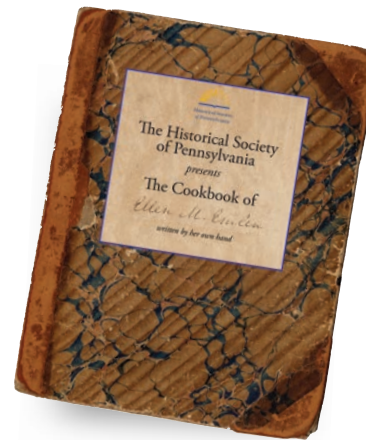
Monday, November 14 / 3 p.m.

The annual business meeting is open to HSP members only. **FREE**

A Taste of a Civil War Supper

Wednesday, November 16 / 6 p.m.

Ever wonder what food was like in Civil War-era Philadelphia? Guests will sample a few treats prepared by local food writer and cookbook author Jennifer Lindner McGlinn from Philadelphian Ellen M. Emlen's 1865 cookbook as well as learn the fascinating story behind the cookbook. Other historic cookbooks from HSP's collection, including ones owned by Martha Washington and Hannah Penn, will be on display. Teachers may receive Act 48 credit. The \$30 admission price includes a free copy of Ellen Emlen's cookbook (a \$20 value!).



Remembering the Night of Terror

Thursday, November 17 / 6 p.m.

The Night of Terror recognizes the 33 suffragists who were arrested for nonviolent protest and were beaten in prison by guards on November 15, 1917. Meet at the New Century Guild building (1307 Locust Street) to learn about this historic event and the women's suffrage movement, and then gather at HSP for a look at some of our materials that document the history of women's rights and a reception. Teachers may receive Act 48 credit. Cosponsored with the New Century Trust and the Alice Paul Institute. **FREE** for members, \$10 for nonmembers



December

An Evening with Jonathan Zimmerman

Thursday, December 8 / 6 p.m.

Join us for a conversation about current events and the connected parallels, roots, and lessons from history. This discussion will be led by Jonathan Zimmerman, a historian affiliated with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and featured guest on "That's History," a biweekly radio segment coproduced by HSP and WHYY. Teachers may receive Act 48 credit. **FREE**



RSVP for all events online at www.hsp.org or call 215-732-6200 ext. 227 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Next year's Founder's Award dinner will be **Thursday, May 17, 2012**, honoring David McCullough and Collin Farquhar McNeil.

Leaving a Legacy



John C. Haas



Robert Lincoln McNeil Jr.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania recently mourned the passing of two of our former Board members, faithful friends, and supporters—John C. Haas and Robert Lincoln McNeil Jr. For decades, these two men were champions of the Historical Society's mission to inspire people to create a better future through historical understanding.

Mr. Haas served on the board of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, an organization that documented ethnic history in Philadelphia and organized educational programs with the city's youth, designed to promote intergroup understanding. The Balch merged with HSP in 2002 and Mr. Haas later served on HSP's National Advisory Council. When Mr. Haas passed away in April 2011, he provided an endowment to HSP to support the care and interpretation of ethnic and immigrant history.

Mr. McNeil served on the Board of HSP during the 1970s and was a founding member of the Treasures Society. Most recently, Mr. McNeil provided critical support for the Digital Center for Americana, which allowed HSP to digitize nearly 9,000 images and post them online. Mr. McNeil passed away in May 2010 and created an endowed fund for HSP publications and summer research fellowships in early American history.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is grateful for the longtime support of Mr. Haas and Mr. McNeil. Their contributions to the Society have helped to preserve and promote our state and national history for generations to come.

The 1824 Legacy Society recognizes those generous individuals who are leaving a future legacy to HSP. By remembering HSP in your estate plans, you will safeguard more than 21 million historical documents. For more information on the 1824 Legacy Society or other planned giving opportunities, please contact Marygrace Gilmore at 215-732-6200 ext. 217.

Q&A with Bruce Fenton

Bruce Fenton was appointed chairman of the Historical Society's Board of Councilors last November. He is a partner in the Commercial Department of Pepper Hamilton LLP, where he has practiced since 1990. Fenton also served as a member of the Board of Directors at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, which merged with HSP in 2002.



Why did you decide to get involved in supporting the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies?

The Balch mission was devoted to telling the stories of the immigrant and ethnic experience in America. When you think about it, that mission encompasses virtually all Americans, whose ancestors at some time were immigrants to America. That universality, coupled with the Balch's focus on education and programming, was very compelling.

The Historical Society has digitized thousands of documents and posted them online. Why is it important for the Society to embrace technology?

Previously, research would need to be done in person, which obviously requires the researcher to come to Philadelphia. This limits the number of people who are able to access HSP's collections. With digitization, we will be able to increase exponentially the constituencies that we can reach.

What would you say to encourage more people to learn about and appreciate the history of our state and nation?

A very famous expression is "those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it." Many of the issues that we face today are similar to those faced by people in the past. While history may not provide all of the answers, it certainly helps frame the questions.

What is something most people don't know about the Historical Society of Pennsylvania?

Unfortunately, that we exist at all! Even those who are aware of us are not aware of the breadth and depth of our collections. HSP's more than 21 million documents constitute one of the foremost resources for all sorts of researchers, and nothing would make me happier than for more people to know what we offer.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

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

PhilaPlace Tours:

HSP organized walking tours of South Philadelphia and Northern Liberties in May. The tours were based on information gathered on PhilaPlace.org, the Historical Society's interactive website where visitors can explore the history, cultures, and architecture of Philadelphia's neighborhoods.



Guide Jack McCarthy talks to a tour group in front of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church in South Philadelphia.

Family History Event:

Dr. William Pickens III traced his ancestry all the way back to Humphrey Morrey, who served as the first mayor of Philadelphia in 1691. Dr. Pickens shared his family story at HSP on June 20. The event was cosponsored with Southwest Airlines and the Urban League of Philadelphia.



Dr. William Pickens III (far right) and guests look at historic documents in HSP's library after the lecture on June 20.



From left: **Joseph H. Jacovini**, chairman of Dilworth Paxson LLP; **Deborah Dilworth Bishop**, HSP Board of Councilors; **Kim Sajet**, president and CEO of HSP; and **Stephen J. Harmelin**, partner at Dilworth Paxson LLP.

The Legacy of Richardson Dilworth:

On March 15, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania celebrated the opening of an exhibit about the life and legacy of former mayor Richardson Dilworth of Philadelphia. The event, sponsored in part by Dilworth Paxson LLP and the Annenberg Foundation, raised more than \$100,000 to preserve the Dilworth Papers and make them accessible to researchers, fund an endowed research fellowship, and support an issue of HSP's history magazine, *Pennsylvania Legacies*, with a coinciding teacher workshop focused on political reform.



From left: Philadelphia city councilman and HSP Board of Councilors member **Bill Green** and his father, former mayor **William J. Green III**.



From left: **Marguerite Lenfest**, member of HSP's Treasures Society; **Gary Steuer**, chief cultural officer for the City of Philadelphia; and **H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest**, member of HSP's Treasures Society.

Preserving Our National Treasures:

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania held its annual Founder's Award dinner on April 28, honoring Susan Eisenhower and Howard H. Lewis. The celebration was held at the historic estate of Ardrossan in Villanova. Guests enjoyed a dinner menu inspired by President Eisenhower's favorite recipes. The event for 235 guests, chaired by Dorothy Mather Ix, raised more than \$165,000 for the Society.



From left: **Howard H. Lewis**, Heritage Award honoree; **Susan Eisenhower**, Founder's Award honoree; **Dorothy Mather Ix**, event chair.



From left: **William Tasman**, **David Eisenhower**, **Charles Clarkson**, and **Alice Lea M. Tasman**, honorary event chair.

Sidelights

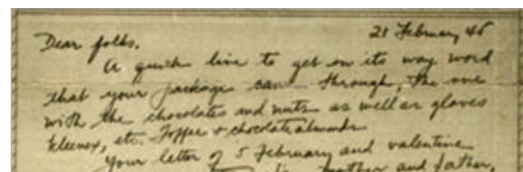
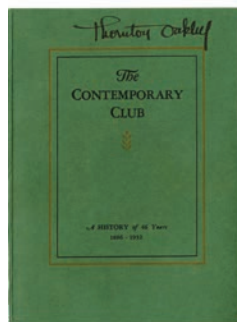
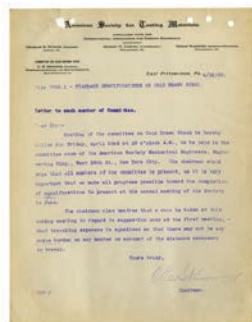
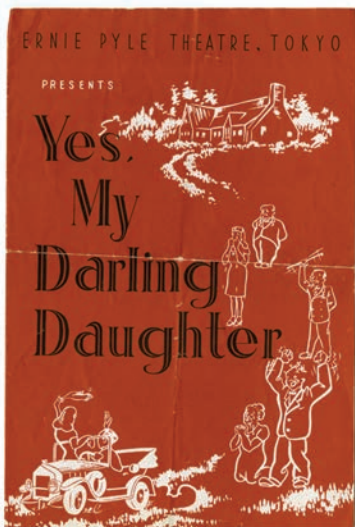


1300 Locust Street / Philadelphia, PA 19107



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 the "Adopt a Collection" section of the HSP website.



Above: (left) Herman Berger papers, (top center) ASTM letter, (top right) The Philadelphia Contemporary Club, (bottom right) Frank Gordon Bradley papers

THANK YOU to the following individuals and organizations who adopted a collection between December 15, 2010, and June 30, 2011: **Abington Junior High History Club**, **Dr. Clarence A. Faulcon II**, **Mrs. Maxine Lewis**, **Dr. Randall M. Miller**, **Kevin Passerini, Esq.**, **Mr. Philip Price Jr.**, **Ms. Donna Rilling**, **The Viri Viginti Club of Philadelphia**, **Mr. Theodore V. Wood Jr.**, **The Woodlands Cemetery**, and **The Young Friends of HSP**.

Herman Berger papers

Born in Philadelphia in 1927, Berger was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1946 and served in Tokyo after WWII. Berger's papers include letters to his mother, as well as souvenirs, programs, and photographs from Japan. You can adopt this collection with a \$200 donation.

American Society for Testing Materials records

Now ASTM International, the organization was founded in 1898 by a group of engineers and scientists to prevent frequent breaks in railroad tracks. From their work grew industry-wide standards for the steel used in rail construction. This collection can be adopted with a \$300 donation.

Philadelphia Contemporary Club records

Organized in 1886, the club held discussions on contemporary philosophy and presented scholarly papers. From the minutes and correspondence, you can glean a list of who's who in America, like Woodrow Wilson and Oscar Hammerstein. You can adopt this collection with a donation of \$900.

Frank Gordon Bradley papers

A Connecticut native, Bradley attended the University of Pennsylvania in the 1930s, served in the U.S. Army during WWII, and later settled in Philadelphia. His letters describe family events and daily life in the army. You can adopt this collection with a \$350 donation.