

# Sidelights



Historical Society  
of Pennsylvania

Celebrating 100 Years!



**The Historical Society of Pennsylvania** is located in a stately four-story brick building at the corner of 13th and Locust streets in Philadelphia, but that wasn't always our home. The society purchased the property—once the mansion of venerable Civil War general Robert Patterson—in 1883. The building, although attractive, was not fireproof. So architect Addison Hutton designed a new structure, which was formally opened to the public in 1910 with great fanfare and two full days of celebration. The society's Reading Room was transformed into a banquet hall, where guests feasted on duck with currant jelly, little neck clams, and fancy cakes.



One hundred years have passed since that grand opening, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is still proud to call 1300 Locust Street home. This year, HSP will celebrate its anniversary with an exhibit and a behind-the-scenes architectural tour. The building's anniversary will also be the theme for the society's annual Founder's Award dinner April 29. We hope that you enjoy this opportunity to learn about one of HSP's most valued treasures—our building.

—Kim Sajet, President and CEO

Above: Photograph of 1910 celebration in HSP's Reading Room  
Left: Image of HSP before the construction of the new building



## A New Interpretation

### CONTEMPORARY ARTIST WORKS WITH HSP COLLECTION

In the 1850s, an Irish immigrant named Ralston Laird settled on Petty's Island in the Delaware River and declared himself king. Over the years, the island changed hands several times and was eventually sold to its current owner—Venezuelan oil company CITGO. The Laird descendants are now scattered around the Philadelphia area and the world.



**This little-known story will be illuminated** at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania this year through the work of contemporary artist Duke Riley. HSP invited Riley to use its old maps, documents, and manuscripts as inspiration for a unique art project that explores the history of Petty's Island and “reclaims” the land on behalf of the Laird family.

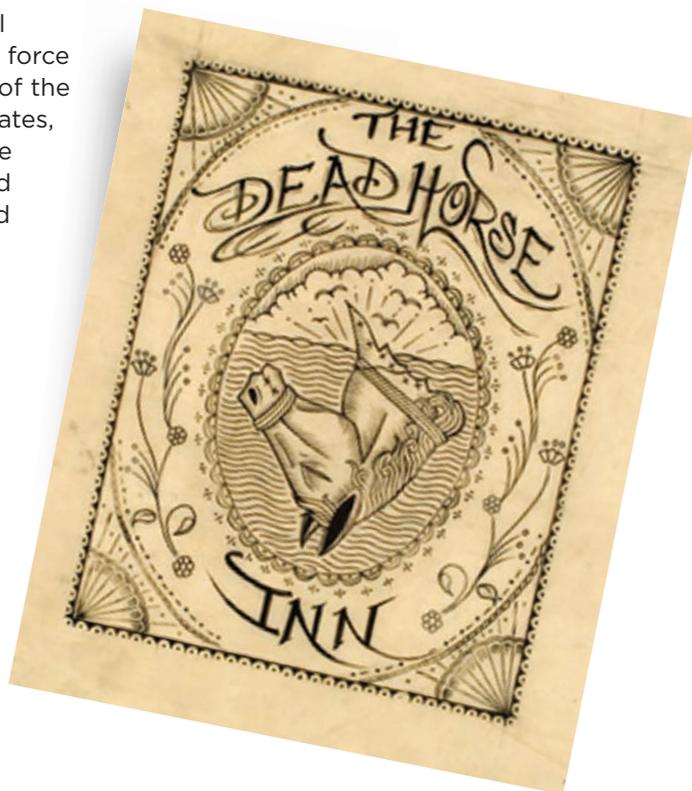
This partnership is part of Philagrafika 2010, a collaborative, citywide festival that will take place between January 29

and April 11. This international festival celebrates the role of print as a vital force in contemporary art. Set to be one of the largest arts events in the United States, Philagrafika 2010 will showcase the work of more than 300 artists and will unite 88 Philadelphia arts and culture institutions. Riley will

display his artwork at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania for the duration of

the Philagrafika festival. An artist reception and related programming is planned for February. To learn more about the festival, visit [www.philagrafika2010.org](http://www.philagrafika2010.org).

Riley, a Boston native, lives and works in New York City and received his MFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in 2006. Recent projects include *Those Who Are About to Die Salute You*, a mock Roman naval battle performance, and the *First St. Patrick's Day Parade* in Havana, Cuba. Working in the tradition of field naturalists, Riley creates projects that profile the space where water meets the land, traditionally marking the periphery of urban society. Riley uses a multitude of media to realize his projects, including drawing, printmaking, mosaic, sculpture, performative interventions, and video.



Images courtesy of Magnan Projects and Duke Riley

## New Benefits for Our Members

In January 2010, HSP unveiled a new membership program, which streamlines our 14 membership categories into 4 simple options. Under the new structure, members continue to receive all the benefits they have come to expect, along with a few new perks. Members now receive discounts on how-to workshops and lectures, including HSP's popular genealogy workshops. (See page 6 for more information.) Members also receive a larger discount (50 percent) on research-by-mail requests. For upper-level members (those at the Patron Plus level and higher), HSP offers a free subscription to GenealogyBank, an online genealogical resource with modern obituaries, historical newspapers, books, pamphlets, military records, and more. These members also receive a one-on-one research-strategy interview with our knowledgeable library staff.

With the membership structure change, rates increased slightly and basic membership now costs \$75 a year. HSP has worked to keep its rates as low as possible, and this is our first increase in membership dues in seven years. We appreciate the support of our loyal membership. Please call our membership office at 215-732-6200 ext. 235 or visit [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org) to renew today and take advantage of all the new benefits.

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## Thank You to the Karavin Family

"In life, there are always special people who shape who you are, who help to determine the person you become. For us,



■ Sam and Bertha Karavin

these people were our parents Rebecca and David Karavin and now my brother, Samuel D. Karavin." – Miss Bertha Karavin

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania recently received a bequest left by Mr. Samuel D. Karavin, who passed away on April 8, 2008. This bequest was given by Miss Bertha Karavin in

her brother Samuel's name, as well as her name and in memory of their parents.

Sam Karavin grew up in Northeast Philadelphia, graduated from Temple University, and worked in the corrugated container business. Mr. Karavin and his sister donated their parents' immigration papers and other documents to the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. In 2002, the Balch merged with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

"Our parents taught us never to forget where we came from, but above all to remember to share and give," Miss Karavin said. "I hope—as did my brother—that by making this bequest, it will encourage others to include HSP in their own wills." Mr. Karavin also left funds to other charitable causes, including institutions of culture, art, education, and Judaism.

For more information on estate planning, please contact Marygrace Gilmore at 215-732-6200 ext. 217 or [mgilmore@hsp.org](mailto:mgilmore@hsp.org).

## HSP NEWS



### Join Young Friends

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has formed a Young Friends group to make history fun and relevant today and reach out to a younger audience between the ages of 21 and 45. Look for Young Friends events this spring, including "Colonial Brews" on June 10. Young Friends are also invited to attend a reception on April 29, part of the society's annual Founder's Award fundraiser. To learn more about HSP's Young Friends, call Christianne Balsamo at 215-732-6200 ext. 235 or visit [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org).

### PhilaPlace.org Goes Live

Last December, HSP celebrated the launch of PhilaPlace.org, an interactive Web site where visitors can explore the history, cultures, and architecture of Philadelphia's neighborhoods. A new feature will be added to the Web site early this year—enhanced historical maps that reveal in-depth patterns of change over time for specific blocks in South Philadelphia and Northern Liberties neighborhoods. Visit [PhilaPlace.org](http://PhilaPlace.org) to share your own memories and photographs.

### Mural Arts Project

This year, HSP will continue its collaboration with the Mural Arts Program on the development of Journey South, a multidisciplinary public art project exploring the ways in which the legacies of immigration have shaped the character and identity of South Philadelphia. Throughout the year, follow this journey on [PhilaPlace.org](http://PhilaPlace.org), where the documentary material and artwork will be presented.

### Visit Our New Blog

HSP has a new blog, called "Fondly, Pennsylvania," where visitors can learn about the work of our archives and conservation staff. You can access the blog from HSP's Web site. Also, don't forget to sign up for HSP's e-mail newsletters and become a fan on Facebook.

### Digital Center for Americana

Work has begun on the Digital Center for Americana, a new branch of the archives department. HSP purchased a Hasselblad camera and hired four project staff, including project director Matt Shoemaker. The staff is working to digitize thousands of Civil War-related letters, photographs, artwork, and other documents and make them available online.

# Calendar

2010

## January



### Introduction to PhilaPlace

Wednesday, January 27 / 6 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP** / Everyone has a story to tell. Learn how to share yours at PhilaPlace.org, an interactive Web site that connects stories to places across time in Philadelphia neighborhoods. At this workshop, learn how to log your own memories, use the interactive map, access audio and video clips, create tours, and view historical records. **FREE**

## February

### Duke Riley Artist Reception

Thursday, February 4 / 6 p.m.

**EXHIBIT OPENING** / Contemporary artist Duke Riley uses old maps and documents about Petty's Island from HSP's collection as inspiration for a unique art installation. The exhibit, which will continue through April 11, is part of the Philagrafika 2010 festival. **FREE**

### Richard Allen: Apostle of Freedom

Wednesday, February 10 / 6 p.m.

**PANEL DISCUSSION AND SHOW-AND-TELL** / This month marks the 250th birthday of Bishop Richard Allen, founder of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, now known as Mother Bethel AME. A panel of ministers and scholars will discuss Allen's life, legacy, and his many contributions to American religion, society, and culture. Followed by a display of original documents. Cosponsored with the Library Company of Philadelphia. **FREE**

### Petty's Island: The Untold Story

Wednesday, February 17 / 6 p.m.

**DOCUMENTARY AND LECTURE** / Petty's Island has a long and storied history, from its beginnings as a Native American settlement to its 17th-century use as a slave depot. Learn the story of Petty's Island and watch the documentary *Petty's Island: A Sacred Part of America's Story*, produced by the Camden City African American Commission and the South Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance as part of the Scribe Video Center's Precious Places Community History Project. **FREE**

### When History and Art Collide

Wednesday, February 24 / 6 p.m.

**PANEL DISCUSSION** / As part of the Philagrafika 2010 festival, five Philadelphia organizations with historical collections were paired with contemporary artists, and this partnership spawned unique and varied works of art. This panel discussion will bring together artists, historians, curators, and community leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities of these innovative collaborations. **FREE**

## March



### A Tribute to a Tree of Peace

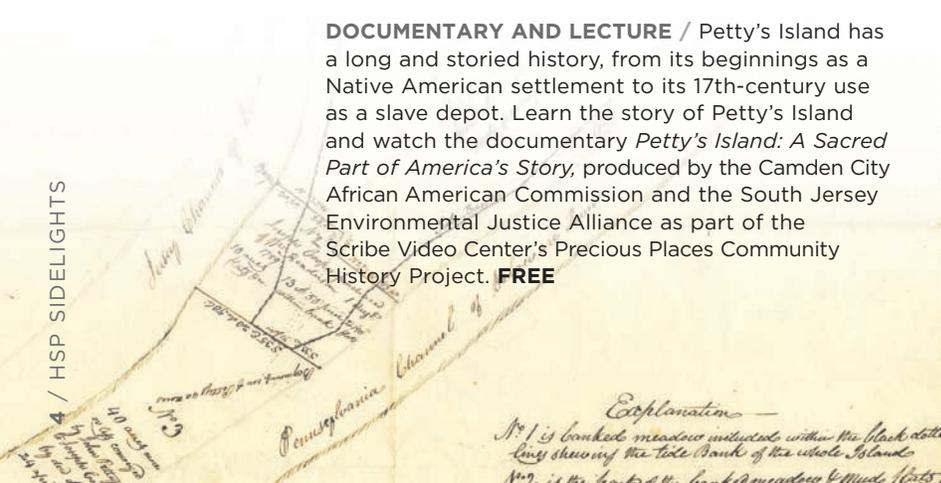
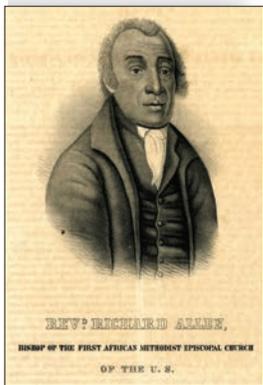
Thursday, March 4 / 6:30 p.m.

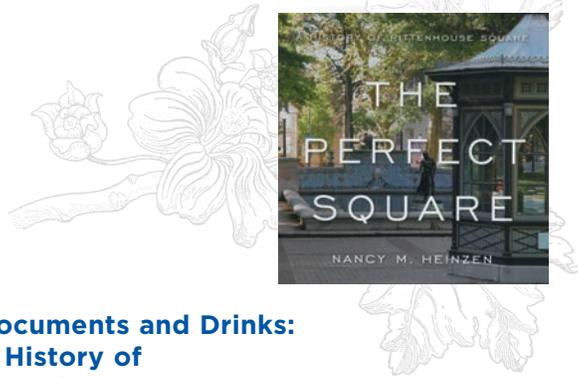
**LECTURE AND DANCE PERFORMANCE** / Legend holds that in 1682 William Penn and Lenape Chief Tamanend made a treaty beneath a large elm tree in what is now Penn Treaty Park. On the 200th anniversary of the felling of the tree, join HSP and the Penn Treaty Museum as we commemorate the signing of the treaty, long a symbol of religious and civil liberty. Guests will enjoy singing, dancing, and drumming from Native Americans from the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation and a lecture by Dr. Gregory Schaaf, director of the Center for Indigenous Arts & Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Followed by a reception and a display of historic documents and artifacts. **FREE**

### Mapping Our History

Wednesday, March 10 / 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**TEACHER WORKSHOP** / Mapping projects allow students to connect with local history as they gather, analyze, and interpret information about their neighborhood. This PhilaPlace workshop will suggest approaches for developing local history mapping lessons and discuss ways to incorporate immigration and oral history into such projects. Attendance qualifies for two hours of Act 48 credit. Teachers must register in advance. **FREE**





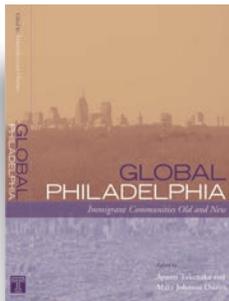
### Documents and Drinks: A History of Rittenhouse Square

Monday, March 15 / 6 p.m.

**A TREASURES SOCIETY EVENT** / Rittenhouse Square, once a marshy plot surrounded by workers' shanties, has transformed through the years into the epicenter of Philadelphia high society. Members of the Treasures Society and their guests are invited to join us for a lecture by Nancy M. Heinzen, author of *The Perfect Square: A History of Rittenhouse Square*. The lecture will be followed by a reception and a document show-and-tell. Invitation will follow.

## April

### Global Philadelphia Wednesday, April 14 6 p.m.



**PANEL DISCUSSION** / A newly published book from Temple University Press, *Global Philadelphia: Immigrant Communities, Old and New*,

provides a comprehensive overview of the processes and consequences of immigration to Philadelphia over time. Editors and contributors to the book will consider why immigrants move to Philadelphia, how these new residents adapt and form communities, and the impact on the city's social and cultural landscape. **FREE**



### Building on History: 100 Years at 13th and Locust

Tuesday, April 20

**EXHIBIT OPENING** / This month marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of HSP's fireproof building at 13th and Locust streets in Philadelphia. HSP will present an on-site and online exhibit documenting the history of the building and its construction. **FREE** for members, \$1 for nonmembers

### Beyond the Bricks

Monday, April 26

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.

**BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS** / In the early 1900s, HSP constructed a new building, designed by Addison Hutton. As part of our 100th anniversary celebration, we invite the public to experience HSP as they never have before with a behind-the-scenes tour focused on the building's architectural history. \$10 for members, \$20 for nonmembers

### A 1910 Celebration

Thursday, April 29 / 6 p.m.

At its annual Founder's Award dinner, HSP will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its building. The Founder's Award will be presented to Cokie Roberts, senior news analyst for NPR News and a political commentator for ABC News. The Founder's Award will also be presented to Jerry Shestack, a prominent lawyer and advocate for human rights, and Marciarose Shestack, a former primetime news anchor and award-winning talk show host. Henry Lafayette Collins III, a former member of HSP's Board of Councilors, will receive the Heritage Award. If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Emilie Kretschmar at 215-732-6200 ext. 300 or [ekretschmar@hsp.org](mailto:ekretschmar@hsp.org).



This month, check out our series of genealogy workshops, which are **FREE** for HSP members. The workshops are listed on page 6. Also this month—a trip to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, for HSP's Treasures Society members. Invitation will follow.

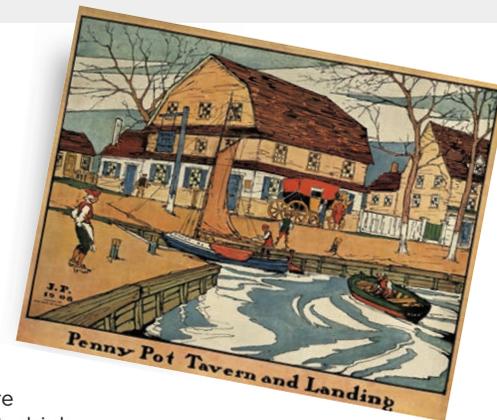
## May

## June

### Colonial Brews: Philadelphia's Early Taverns

Thursday, June 10 / 6 p.m.

**A YOUNG FRIENDS EVENT** / In colonial Philadelphia, taverns were more numerous than churches. It was at these "public houses" where our founding fathers gathered to eat, drink, and haggle over the details of the Declaration of Independence. Enjoy a beer tasting and a talk by brewery historian Rich Wagner. \$10 for members, \$20 for nonmembers



**RSVP** online at [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org) or call 215-732-6200 ext. 214 for more information.

## Workshops

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania will offer a series of genealogy workshops this May. Workshops are FREE for members and \$15 for nonmembers. To register for a workshop, visit [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org) or call 215-732-6200 ext. 214 for more information. To become a member of HSP, call 215-732-6200 ext. 235.



### Online Research Tools at HSP

Wednesday, May 5 / 6 p.m.

All members and visitors to HSP can access Ancestry.com Library Edition and Historic Map Works Library Edition. At this workshop, you will see a live demo of both of these research tools, learn about helpful search features, and find out how to print and save your results. Ancestry Library Edition is one of the most important genealogical collections available and includes thousands of databases and billions of names. Historic Map Works is an extensive digital map collection used to track “residential genealogy” and research ancestral lands and locations.



### Folklore and Family History

Wednesday, May 12 / 6 p.m.

Friday, May 14 / Noon

Are you descended from a Cherokee Indian princess? Was your ancestor a Loyalist during the Revolutionary War? At this workshop, learn what types of records and resources can help you verify the folklore in your family tree. The instructor will be Dr. Daniel Rolph, HSP historian and author of *To Shoot, Burn, and Hang: Folk History from a Kentucky Mountain Family and Community*. Attendees are asked to come with a family legend to share with the group, or e-mail their stories in advance to [drolph@hsp.org](mailto:drolph@hsp.org).



### Protecting Your Memories

Wednesday, May 19 / 6 p.m.

If you want to preserve old scrapbooks or make new scrapbooks as family keepsakes, it is important to use the proper tools. This seminar will teach you how to preserve old materials and how to choose the best new materials to protect your family's memories. The seminar will address contemporary papers, adhesives, and conservation tools and materials and tell you where to find them. HSP's Director of Conservation Tara O'Brien will answer all your questions.



### African American Genealogy at HSP

Wednesday, May 26 / 6 p.m.

The vast collections at HSP document the lives of African Americans from the colonial period until the 20th century. Many of these resources may provide genealogical evidence to your ancestor's enslaved or free past. Learn tips on researching African American ancestry in general and at HSP. This workshop is for all levels of researchers. The instructor will be Shamele Jordan, researcher, writer, and former president of the African American Genealogy Group in Philadelphia.

## New Resources for Genealogists

HSP recently preserved and organized several collections that will be useful to genealogists. These include the Robert E. Hoagland papers, which contain information about the



Stilwell/Stillwell family of New Jersey among others, and the Friends of Franklin, Inc. records, which provide information about Benjamin Franklin's descendants and an extensive 200-page copy of Franklin's family tree.

Another new collection of interest is the Hayes Manor

records, which contain information about the residents at this retirement home from the 1880s to the 1940s. Finding aids for these collections and hundreds more are available at [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org).

In addition, HSP holds more than 21 million documents and books, including genealogical and historical material from every state east of the Mississippi. And we are constantly improving and expanding our collection. This past year, the staff acquired many new reference books for the library, including *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe* edited by Gershon David Hundert and *Your Guide to the Federal Census for Genealogists, Researchers, and Family Historians* by Kathleen W. Hinckley.

As always, members of HSP enjoy discounts to our popular genealogy workshops and free access to Ancestry.com Library Edition and Historic Map Works Library Edition on site. This year, HSP will offer a new benefit for our upper-level members—a free subscription to GenealogyBank. This online genealogical resource provides access to modern obituaries, books, pamphlets, military records, and more than 3,800 historical newspapers. Genealogy is detective work, and we hope these new resources provide the clues you need to search out the missing links in your family story.

## Important Announcement

In October 2009, the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania decided to end the Strategic Alliance under which they had operated since 2006. Discussions about the future led to an amicable agreement to part ways, and in November the Genealogical Society moved its office to a new Center City location. GSP donated its collections to the Historical Society in 2006, and the collections will remain at HSP.

All memberships will be honored through their expiration date; however, the "joint membership" option will be phased out. When a membership expires, each member can choose to join either society or both societies separately. If you have any questions about your membership, please call our membership office at 215-732-6200 ext. 235.

## BOARD NEWS

### Strategic Plan Adopted

Last September, the Board of Councilors adopted a new Strategic Plan that will guide HSP over the next four years and better position our organization to serve the needs of our growing audience. The Strategic Plan includes a new mission—to *inspire people to create a better future through historical understanding*. HSP will streamline its operations, improve accessibility to its collections, and strengthen the history community as a whole. To read the full Strategic Plan, visit [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org).

### Welcome New Members

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania welcomes four new members to its Board of Councilors, who were appointed at the society's annual general meeting last November. They are: **Mark A. Aronchick**, a shareholder and litigator at Hangley, Aronchick, Segal & Pudlin; **Alice L. George**, an author and historian with a distinguished journalistic background; **Thomas Moran**, the vice president and chief tax officer for the Lincoln Financial Group and also a recognized historian on Civil War politics; and **Timothy R. Schantz**, a senior financial executive with broad domestic and international experience.

### Executive Committee Appointed

At the annual general meeting last November, the society appointed the Board of Councilors' Executive Committee. The new members are: **Sarah D. Price**, Chair; **Bruce K. Fenton**, Executive Vice Chair; **Majid Alsayegh**, Treasurer and Vice Chair of the Planning & Finance Committee; **Nathan K. Raab**, Secretary; **Leonard L. Combs**, Vice Chair of the Audit Committee; **Howard Lewis**, Vice Chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee; and **Page Talbott**, Vice Chair of the Collections & Programs Committee.

### Heartfelt Thanks

HSP would like to thank the three councilors who will be rotating off the Board this year—**Krishna Lahiri**, **Tsiwen M. Law**, and **Karen R. Nagel**. Also, a special thank you to **Henry Lafayette Collins III**, who stepped down from the Board last November after eight years of dedicated service to HSP.

### In Memoriam

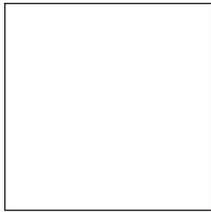
We mourned the passing of HSP Councilor **Barbara Gohn Day** in August 2009. Known to her family and friends as Bobbie, she was a member of the Board of Councilors since 2006. Bobbie was a wonderful friend and supporter of HSP and she is greatly missed.

# Sidelights



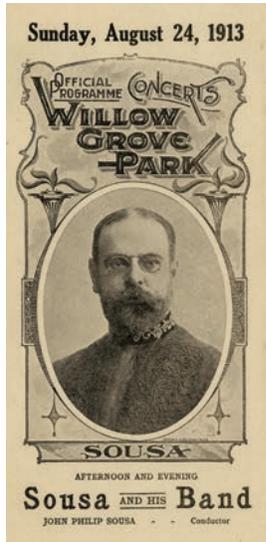
Historical Society  
of Pennsylvania

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 Web site.



Above: (left) Carl P. Berger architectural records, (center) Willow Grove Park concert programs, (top right) Benjamin West drawings, (bottom right) Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker diaries

**THANK YOU** to the following individuals and organizations who adopted a collection between July 1 and December 15, 2009: **Lori Cohen, Dan Dailey, Clarissa F. Dillon, Bruce Fenton, Karen Kashary, Howard H. Lewis, Randall M. Miller, David A. Othmer,** and the **Penn Towne Chapter of The Links, Inc.**

### Carl P. Berger architectural records

Berger studied architecture at the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art and opened his own office in 1899. This collection includes photographs, blueprints, and architectural drawings. You can adopt this collection for a \$345 donation.

### Willow Grove Park concert programs

Willow Grove Park once featured amusements, illuminated fountains, music, and dining. The park closed in the 1970s, making way for the current shopping mall. The concert programs in the collection date from the early 1900s. You can adopt this collection for a \$70 donation.

### Benjamin West drawings

West was the first American-born artist to receive international recognition and remains one of the most important 18th-century painters of historical scenes. This is a small collection of West's ink drawings. You can adopt this collection for a \$95 donation.

### Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker diaries

Drinker composed these memorandum books, which provide a day-by-day account of the life of a well-to-do Quaker woman in Philadelphia in the late 1700s. You can adopt this collection for a \$400 donation.