John Fanning Watson

- Author of “Annals of Philadelphia” first published in 1830, the first major history of the city of Philadelphia
- Gathered reminiscences of the elderly and put together the book, though without much fact-checking

Primary Sources

John Fanning Watson collection on the cultural, social, and economic development of Pennsylvania 1693-1855
These papers of a Philadelphia historian contain information on the cultural, social, and economic development of Pennsylvania. Included are autograph letters, sketches, pictures of historic landmarks, drafts, portraits of eminent men, and newspaper clippings.
Collection #0697

(William Penn’s desk, by John Fanning Watson, 1829. John Fanning Watson collection on the cultural, social, and economic development of Pennsylvania, Collection #0697, Box Vol. 1, Page number 105, Digital Archive item #2314)

Secondary Sources

Memorials of country towns and places in Pennsylvania
As drawn up by John F. Watson and presented to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
Frankford, Chester county, Gwynned. Wilmington, Burlington, Bucks county, and Pennsbury.
Call number: Va .62 v.2

Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, in the olden time : Being a collection of memoirs, anecdotes, and incidents of the city and its inhabitants, and of the earliest settlements of the inland part of Pennsylvania, from the days of the founders : intended to preserve the recollections of olden time, and to exhibit society in its changes of manners and customs, and the city and country in their local changes and improvements
Pages 561-585 of appendix in v. 2 contain new, previously unpublished material.
Includes indexes.by John F. Watson, published 1850
Call number: UPA/Ph F 158.3.W75 1850
Philadelphians Boswell: John Fanning Watson
Pennsylvania magazine of history and biography Philadelphia. 25 cm. v. 98 (1974), p. 3-52
by Waters, Deborah Dependahl
Call number: Va .6 v.98

A memoir of John Fanning Watson, the annalist of Philadelphia and New York.
Prepared by request of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and read in their hall ... February 11, 1861.
by Benjamin Dorr
Call number: E 175.5 .W33 1861
Available online: https://archive.org/details/memoirofjohnfann00dorr