



Collection 1014

**Philadelphia County (Pa.)
Records**

1671-1855

4 boxes, 1 volume, 1 lin. feet

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Restrictions: None

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Scope & content

Documents included in the Philadelphia County (Pa.) records span 1671-1855. The provenance is unknown for these unrelated items. The documents were acquired and bound together in four volumes which were later disbound. They were arranged chronologically in the volumes and currently maintain that arrangement. While the miscellaneous documents are unrelated in terms of the companies, persons and events they describe all of the items pertain to matters occurring in or relating to Philadelphia County.

A variety of legal documents can be found in the collection such as power of attorney documents, petitions, and ordinances. Many shipping documents are represented including bills of lading and shipping bond certificates. America Fire Insurance Company, Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company and Delaware Insurance Company of Philadelphia policies owned by individuals are also present. A considerable number of financial documents are found in this collection such as Philadelphia County Accounts, Prices Current from Charleston and London, Bank of Pennsylvania Stock Certificates, tax lists, estate inventories and valuations. A plethora of other documents including personal letters, letters to and from the governor, an address from the Quakers in 1764, sacramental certificates and religious documentation and an 1813 Master Roll of the Washington Guards can also be found. Documents and letters pertaining to the General Assembly and Select Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia are represented as well.

In addition to its breadth perhaps a further strength of the collection are the land survey documents. These documents may be of interest to researchers as several rough, hand drawn maps of various areas in Philadelphia County have been compiled in the collection. The maps document land acreages and road layouts. Also found are survey warrants and a plan for Penn Square in Philadelphia. Researchers may be interested in the significant number of indenture certificates found throughout the collection between citizens of Philadelphia County as well as other Pennsylvania counties.

A significant weakness to the Philadelphia County (Pa.) records is the lack of depth with regards to like materials. Rather than focusing on a few aspects of Philadelphia County, the creator(s) of the collection varied the collecting emphasis. The result is a

disjointed record of the times. There are discrete documents from several different companies and organizations in the collection such as the American Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia, Schuylkill & Susquehanna Navigation as well as Delaware & Schuylkill Canal Navigation companies and the United German Benefit Society. Besides one or two documents from these organizations no other information exists about them in this collection.

While there is limited consistency with the personal names represented in the collection the following are some of the people the documents pertain to. William Bezer, Philip Roman, John Austin, James Harrison, Thomas Smith, Robert Turner, John Goodlonn, Peter Taylor, Nath. Philipps, Edward Shippen, Francis Nicholson, Richard Newcombe, Richard Heath, Abraham Roe, Thomas Sison, Thomas Shilley, Charles Gookin, Thomas Penn, Thomas Whitten, Anthony Poole, John Penn, Francis Lovelace, Lawrence Williams, Nicholas Scull, Matthew Jackson, Alex Porter, William Peters, Dan Williams, John Hallowell, Samuel Powell, Johannem Mifflin, James Pearson, Michael Bright, Edward J. Coalee, James Clarke, Daniel Large, Lindsey Nicholson, Joseph Reakirt, Charles Keen and Charles Wharton. Names occurring with some frequency include Governor William Markham, Sheriff John Claypoole, Governor William Penn, Lieutenant Governor John Evans and William Bethel.

Subjects

Churches – Philadelphia County (Pa.)
History – Philadelphia County (Pa.) – Seventeenth century
History – Philadelphia County (Pa.) – Eighteenth century
History – Philadelphia County (Pa.) – Nineteenth century
Land use surveys – Philadelphia County (Pa.) – Seventeenth century
Land use surveys – Philadelphia County (Pa.) – Eighteenth century
Land use surveys – Philadelphia County (Pa.) – Nineteenth century
Legal documents – Seventeenth century
Legal documents – Eighteenth century
Legal documents – Nineteenth century
Maps – Philadelphia County (Pa.) – Seventeenth century
Maps – Philadelphia County (Pa.) – Eighteenth century
Maps – Philadelphia County (Pa.) – Nineteenth century
Petitions – Philadelphia County (Pa.)
Philadelphia County (Pa.)

Austin, John
Bethel, William
Bright, Michael
Clarke, James
Claypoole, John, d. 1817
Coalee, Edward J.
Evans, John, 1678-ca. 1730
Goodlonn, John
Gookin, Charles

Hallowell, John
Hallowell, John, 1768-1839
Harrison, James
Heath, Richard
Jackson, Matthew
Keen, Charles
Large, Daniel
Lovelace, Francis
Markham, William, 1635-1704
Mifflin, Johannem
Newcombe, Richard
Nicholson, Francis
Nicholson, Lindsey
Pearson, James
Penn, John, 1700-1746
Penn, Thomas, 1702-1775
Penn, William, 1644-1718
Peters, William
Philipps, Nath.
Poole, Anthony
Porter, Alex
Powell, Samuel
Reakirt, Joseph
Roe, Abraham
Roman, Philip
Scull, Nicholas, 1686?-1761?
Shilley, Thomas
Shippen, Edward, 1639-1712
Sison, Thomas
Smith, Thomas
Taylor, Peter
Turner, Robert
Wharton, Charles, 1744-1838
Whitten, Thomas
Williams, Dan
Williams, Lawrence

American Philosophical Society
Delaware Insurance Company of Philadelphia
Delaware and Schuylkill Canal Company
Schuylkill and Susquehanna Navigation

Administrative Information

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Provenance unknown.

Preferred citation

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Processing note

Processing made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The documents that are now loose were previously bound into 4 volumes, arranged chronologically. The chronological arrangement was maintained.

Box and folder listing

Box or volume title	Date	Extent
Box 1 (formerly volume 1)	1671-1738, 1854	15 folders
Box 2 (formerly volume 2)	1735-1767	12 folders
Box 3 (formerly volume 3)	1765-1802	14 folders
Box 4 (formerly volume 4)	1803-1855	13 folders
Volume1: Sale of city lots	1781-1782	n/a