



The Historical
Society of
Pennsylvania

Collection 425

**Society Miscellaneous
Collection**

1676-1937

42 boxes, 14.1 lin. feet

Contact: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: (215) 732-6200 FAX: (215) 732-2680
<http://www.hsp.org>

Processed by: Scott Ziegler

Processing Completed: December 2008

Restrictions: None

Society Miscellaneous Collection

1676-1937

42 boxes, 14.1 lin. feet

Collection 425

Abstract

The Society Miscellaneous Collection includes a wide variety of materials relating to Pennsylvania and spanning several centuries. The majority of the collection is comprised of documents from and relate to governing bodies, civil organizations and societies in and around Pennsylvania. Examples range from official documents, such as petitions and surveys, to ephemera like tokens and tickets. Other items include watermarks, passports, sheet music, and poetry. While the collections spans from the 1670s to the 1930s, a significant portion of the papers date from the time of the Revolutionary War.

Although the variety of the collection is immense, the material has been loosely divided according to the subjects such as: deeds, petitions, wars, schools and colleges, churches, bills and receipts, certificates, commissions, stocks, bonds, surveys, and leases. All documents are housed in boxes, and many of the files are arranged chronologically.

The materials included in this collection are varied, and cover many significant events in the history of Pennsylvania and the country. Several documents relating to William Penn are in this collection, including his treaty with Tamanend, a Lenni-Lenape chief, and the charter of Philadelphia. There is a facsimile of the "Olive Branch" petition, a document written by Thomas Jefferson and John Dickinson in 1775 as a means of reconciliation between the American colonies and King George III of Great Britain, as well as a list of books ordered by Benjamin Franklin for the creation of the Library Company. Several documents relate to major wars, including the American Revolution, the War of 1812 (including the Act of War confirmed by James Madison and Congress), the Mexican-American War, Civil War and World War I. The collection also contains pieces of cultural interest such as trolley tokens; transportation tickets; business cards; invitations to prominent parties and social gatherings; propaganda from the early 20th century, including pieces promoting hygiene; and various forms of obsolete currency, including Revolutionary and Confederate money. There is also material pertaining to race relations, such as a petition to allow Blacks the use of trolleys, Owen Brown's "A Declaration of Liberty," records concerning relations with Indians and a petition for better treatment of the insane in city institutions.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

This is an artificial collection created over time by HSP staff mostly through donations and purchases of individual documents.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Society Miscellaneous Collection (Collection 425), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Box and folder listing

| Box or volume number | Brief description | Approximate date range | Notes |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Box 1A Parts 1&2 Files 1-32 | Part 1: Bills, 1690-1895 Part 2: Bills of Exchange German Bills House Furnishing Bills Hotel and Tavern Bills | 1690-1895 | Note: Box 1A, File 33 Transferred to File 44A |
| Box 1A (-2) (?) Files 34-45 | Samuel Mickel Bills Bills of Lading Scholl Bills | 1777-1860 | |
| Box 1B | Bills and Receipts, 1687-1890 Bills and Receipts, E. Armitt, Doctor's Bills and Funeral Expenses 1796-1802 Charles Baker, Receipt Book 1812 William Fisher, Receipts, 1753-61 Jacob Groff, Receipts, 1750-1808 Ezekiel Needham, Will with Accounts James and Thomas Penrose, Receipts, 1770-76 C.C. Short, Bills and Receipts, 1869 R.H. Trip and Co., 1860-68 Roberts and Richard Vaux, 1808-35 (2 Folders) Zebediah Wills, 1850-64 Virginia Payrolls and Accounts, 1792-98 (Four Folders) | 1687-1890 | Lists more specific receipts from individuals, but has a note to see Box 1B -2 |
| Box 1B-2 | Bills and Receipts, Armitt Baker Fisher Groff Needham Penrose Short Trip Vaux Wills Virginia | 1687-1890 | This box contains the receipts of the individuals listed here and in more detail on Box 1B -1 |
| Box 2A | State of British Plantations in America Ca. 1732 Estimates, Invoices, Inventories 1690- | 1688-1865 | |

| | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------|---|
| | <p>1890 Depositions 1688-1837 Express and Freight Receipts 1833-1865 New York, Virginia, Georgia 1689-1759 Promissory Notes Qualifications of Commissioners 1791-1792</p> | | |
| Box 2B | <p>Federal Congress 1780-1811 Jamaica, Act of the Assembly 1706 Letters Patent, Land Patents 1691-1891 New Albion New Jersey Assembly Old Congress Bills for Plumbing and Papering, 1905-1912</p> | 1780-1912 | |
| Box 3 A-B | <p>Petitions Individual A-Z, 1701-1927; n.d. Mulberry Street, Phila., 1823 Street Cars Negroes Blockley Alms House (memorials), 1845-1846; n.d.</p> | 1701-1927 | <p>Petition allowing Negroes to ride in street cars is rolled, has note: "see oversize #73 for encapsulated petition25 drawer 14.4 (HSP Collection #22); Petition against overcrowded street cars is rolled; Petition seeking improved treatment for the insane is in smaller folder. The other folders contain individual petitions ranging from reprieves from jail time to orphan's court. This box contains many petitions for tavern licenses, both renewals and first-time petitions.</p> |
| Box 4 A-B | <p>Petitions Philadelphia General, 1692-1891, n.d.</p> | 1692-1891 | <p>File 2 contains a facsimile of the</p> |

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| | <p>Petitions for tavern licenses, 1728, 1790-1829 County Petitions, 1736-1848 Petitions Relating to Churches, Gov't, Railroads, Deer Hunting, Coinage, Hounds, etc., 1717-1848 Memorials, etc. Canals</p> | | <p>Olive Branch Petition of July 8, 1775 from the original in the public record office in London.</p> |
| Box 5 A-B | <p>Surveys 1675-1878, n.d. Field Books of William Scull, 1764-1765 List of Surveys, 1692 Maryland Boundary, 1632 Warrants, 1684-1896</p> | 1632-1896 | <p>Contains a map plan of several lots of ground on north side of Green Street in Northern Liberties.</p> |
| Box 5C | <p>Letter of Administration, 1697-1887 Petitions and Arbitrations, 1700- 1809; n.d. Subscription Lists, 1744-1862</p> | 1697-1887 | <p>Note between folders 3d and 3f: "Missing 8/11/01 folder 3e"</p> |
| Box 6A | <p>Bonds and Obligations, 1676-1888 Germantown Military Ball, 1818 French Refugees return to Santo Domingo Currency: Colonial, 19th century, Confederate, foreign, miscellaneous</p> | 1676-1888 | <p>File 8 contains a petition to William Penn for a market for Germantown. File 15 contains an article from <i>The Numismatist</i> explaining the need for ferry money.</p> |
| Box 6B | <p>Penna. Misc. Iron Industry Free Society of Traders William Penn misc.</p> | 1682-1863 | <p>Note of file 5: "Durham Iron Works was removed to Society Collection" and "From Ino. J. Morris March 8, 1907" File 10 contains the minutes of meetings pertaining to the boundary dispute between Maryland and Pennsylvania. File 14: Proclamation by King Charles II of Penn's authority</p> |

| | | | |
|--------|--|-----------|---|
| | | | (tracing paper). File 15 contains a copy of Penn's charter of liberties and accompanying letter from to HSP from Joseph Chester. |
| Box 7A | Overseers of the Poor Misc. Lists Union League Phila. Select Council: Survey of Del. River Charge to Grand Jury Misc. Legal Redemptioners and Palatines in Phila. 1768-1803 Profile of the Rocks between Phila. Norristown | 1773-1966 | Profile of Rocks is a diagram of rocks and topography of the land between Phila. and Norristown, prepared for the Geological Society of PA. |
| Box 7B | Philadelphia Miscellaneous Societies: For the Manufactory For Relief of Poor City Commissioners | 1697-1915 | File 3 contains William Penn's charter of Philadelphia copy of 24, 12mo. 1704/5, with margin notes by James Logan. |
| Box 7C | Philadelphia Miscellaneous City Commissioners Bonds, 1828 Draftees, Phila. 8 th Ward, 1863 Municipal League Phila Knights of Labor Philadelphia Cemetery Taylor Republican Association Returns of Constable, 1826-1829 Returns of Phila. Property Stephen Girard Statue Prisons | 1826-1863 | |
| Box 8B | Atlantic Deeper Water Ways Conference, 1907 Charles Ewart Letters (Ship Alabama) Islands in the Delaware River Railroads Misc. Transportation Lines James Wilson Memorial Fund Exports Phila., 1841-46 Furnace and Rolling Mill Returns | 1841-1907 | |

| | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|---|
| Box 9A | Articles of Agreement, 1693-1879 Certificates and Recommendations Certificates of Naturalization, 1724-1880 | 1693-1880 | |
| Box 9B.1 | Leases, Releases, Deed Polls, Assignments, Mortgages, 1689-1885 | 1689-1885 | |
| Box 9B.2 | Stock Certificates | 1781-1938 | |
| Box 9C | Admission Tickets Advertisements Business Cards Harrisburg Bridge Company (Stock Certificates) Indentures of Apprentices, 1677-1849 Licenses, 1773-1872 U.S. Loan Office Certificates Indentures of Redemptioners (Capt. Osborne) Memorial Cards Political Propaganda, 1936 Proclamations, 1686-1878 Reports, 1790-1876 Servitude, White | 1773-1936 | Note: Taylor, Samuel trade card and binders' ticket transferred from this box to Ba 39/T 218 on 12/19/75. |
| Box 10A | Churches 1 st and 2 nd Presbyterian Churches Misc. Church Items St. Luke's Lutheran Church Sunday School Lectures Eulogies, Epitaphs, Elegies | 1741-1930 | Sunday School Lectures are bound pamphlets. Contains eulogies of Helen Bell, president of the Philadelphia Browning Society. |
| Box 10B | Schools and Colleges, 1794 - 1937; n.d Girls Schools Trappe Washington Hall (Lectures of Abel Rambo, 1851) List of Teachers, Montgomery Co. Library Company Mercantile Library Company Libraries Misc. | 1794-1937 | File 7 contains list of books the Library Company sent to England for, starting in 1732 |
| Box 10C | Miscellaneous Legal Papers, 1678 - 1931; n.d. Commissioner of Loans | 1678-1931 | Contains files on the controversy between the board of treasury and the commissioner of loans and a file on charges against the |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|--|
| | | | commissioner of loans. |
| Box 11A-B | Negroes, 1739-1864; n.d. Manumissions 1759-1854 | 1739-1864 | Contains "A Declaration of Liberty," from a scroll written by Owen Brown. |
| Box 11B | Scroll: Owen Brown's "A Declaration of Liberty" | | Scroll, Owen Brown's "A Declaration of Liberty," of which Box 11A contains a copy. |
| Box 11C | Indians, 1682-1900; n.d. | 1682-1900 | |
| Box 12A | Checks, 1768-1915 Franks Insurance Pawnbrokers Tickets Bank Notes Pensions Seals Title Pages | 1762-1915 | |
| Box 12B | Tickets Passports Naval Passports Doylestown Coach | | Contains a pamphlet on the history of the Rittenhouse paper mill and the watermarks the various family members used; a broadside showing watermarks on paper used by the signers of the Declaration of Independence. |
| Box 12C | Watermarks | 1703-1945 | Watermarks arranged alphabetically, by company, symbols and miscellaneous. File 13 contains the seal of Napoleon |
| Box 13A | Boats and Cargoes, 1711-1799 | 1711-1799 | |
| Box 13A.2 (Section | Boats and Cargoes, 1800-1880; n.d. Invoices -- Vessels, Cargoes Phila. Custom House 1790-1838 | 1790-1880 | This Box is labeled "Section 1" in parentheses; the |

| | | | |
|---------|---|-------------|---|
| 2) | Ships Manifests | | following box is label 13A. |
| Box 13B | Music Poetry | 1744-1935 | File 3 contains verse and prose newspaper clippings pertaining to the Know-Nothing Party. |
| Box 14A | (Box not labeled with content) Militia Papers 1788-1795 Quebec -- Journal of the Siege, 1759 Surrender of Louisburg, 1745 Colonial Wars, 1749-1763; n.d. Mayors of Phila., 1734-1845 | 1745-1845 | |
| Box 14B | War of 1812 Civil War Mexican War Marine Corps | 1812-1865 | File 1A contains Act of War between the U.S. and Great Britain, Approved by James Madison and Congress. 'Mexican War' refers to Mexican-American War of 1846-1848 |
| Box 14C | U.S. Sanitary Commission Sanitary Fair Provincial Council | 1691-1872 | |
| Box 15A | Muster Rolls | 1756 - 1815 | Includes Muster Rolls from Seven Years War, Revolutionary War (Rebels, English and French); Contains Roll of Third Company of Jackson Guards as a scroll. |
| Box 15B | Revolution British Depredations and Navy Discharges and Certificates Enlistments (Harmar) Invoices of Stores (Fishkill, etc.) Miscellaneous Statistical Lists, etc. Weidman, Capt. John | 1774-1817 | Contains a scroll describing a soldier's experience fighting in various battles during the American Revolution |

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|---|
| Box 15C | <p style="text-align: center;">Revolution</p> Affidavits and Court Martials Comm. Of Safety Court Summons Letters Oaths of Allegiance Recruiting Papers Pay Rolls Prisoners and Paroles Airmail | 1774-1870 | |
| Box 15D | <p style="text-align: center;">Revolution</p> Return of Troops, 1776-1794 Return of Arms Stores, etc., 1776-1808(?) | 1776-1808 | |
| Box 16A | Commissions | 1653-1863 | Note on Box: Boxed Separately and Placed with the Old Society Miscellaneous Collection |
| Box 16B | Certificates | 1731-1944 | Note on Box: Boxed Separately and Placed with the Old Society Miscellaneous Collection |
| Box 16C | Society Notes Declaration of Independence Schuylkill Fishing Company Penn's Treaty with Tamanend | 1926-1933 | |