



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2014: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Suggested topics compiled by the library and archive staff at PACSCSCL member institutions and other museums, archives, and historic sites in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Some suggested topics on this theme from the NHD workbook

http://www.nhd.org/images/uploads/2014_Sample_Topics.pdf

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has put together an extensive list of topics relating to this year's theme with information on primary sources in its collections. View it here:

<http://hsp.org/hsp-resources-for-the-theme>

More resources from area collections:

Civil War History Consortium of Greater Philadelphia

The American Civil War brought life-or-death immediacy to issues of personal and social rights and responsibilities. Many collections in the Philadelphia area offer dramatic evidence of the entwined issues of the war, slavery, and abolition. For information on these collections and research resources, see

<http://civilwarphilly.net/research.html>

College of Physicians of Philadelphia Historical Medical Library

In the latter half of the 19th century, medical schools in general and anatomy schools in particular flourished in Philadelphia. Anatomy demonstrators started arguing with the city coroner for increased access to unclaimed bodies that arrived in his office as the need for cadavers became greater. This need led to the arrest on grave-robbing charges of Jefferson Medical College professor William S. Forbes. Dr. Forbes was eventually vindicated, and in 1883 the Pennsylvania legislature passed the anatomy act, regulating the distribution of corpses for use in anatomical demonstrations. to read more about the debates and controversy see:

- Forbes, William Smith. History of the anatomy act in Pennsylvania. 1898
- Hewson, A. Facts leading up to the legislative act legalizing the dissection of the human body. 1935

Vaccination and public health responsibilities vs. privacy rights

- www.historyofvaccines.org

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia

<http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/>

Although this is not a source of primary documents itself, it includes hundreds of topical essays that will offer a starting point for exploring issues related to Rights and Responsibilities. Each essay provides an introduction to the top and three useful pointers for further research: a bibliography for secondary sources; collections in libraries, archives, and museums that offer primary sources; and physical sites to visit (with opportunities for students to add original visual material to their presentations.

--Rights and responsibilities: see especially activism, children, education, government and politics; religion

Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories

Our region contains hundreds of small, primarily volunteer-run historical organizations with archival collections. To make these collections better known and more accessible, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania sponsors the *Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories* (HCI-PSAR). The project is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. More information is available here: <http://hsp.org/hcipsar>.

The project has uncovered many important but largely unknown collections. These are ripe for research and may inspire students who have an interest in local history or are looking for more accessible primary-source resources. Often, collections held at small repositories

go beyond local history, documenting topics of national and even international significance.

(In addition to these collections, you may want to search our *Subject Guide: Archival Collections at Area Small Repositories* (<http://hsp.org/hcipsar/subject-guide>), or our database of all collections included in the HCI-PSAR project.)

(<http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/pacscl/ancillary.html?id=collections/pacscl/repositories2>).

Keep in mind that small repositories are often volunteer run, so staffing and hours vary and you may not get the same level of service you would at a larger institution. However, some small repositories do have professional staff members, or are "staffed" by very knowledgeable volunteers (some of whom are retired teachers). Several small repositories are even hosting pre-service teachers to create lesson plans with primary-source documents as part of the National Archives' Cultural Collaboration Fieldwork Initiative.

Topics relating to the "Rights and Responsibilities" theme at participating HCI-PSAR Repositories

American Swedish Historical Museum. Fredrika Bremer collection.

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_ASHM02

Fredrika Bremer (1801-1865) was a Swedish author and feminist of international renown. The American Swedish Historical Museum Fredrika Bremer collection, 1847-1960, contains correspondence and photographs. The highlight of the collection is an original manuscript for Bremer's *Hertha*.

-Women's rights

Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Inc. Oral history project. (See also prison records)

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_ESP02

When it opened in 1829, the State Penitentiary for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania ("Eastern State Penitentiary") was the world's first true "penitentiary" in the sense that it was designed to inspire true feelings of penitence in the hearts of inmates. Initially characterized by its system of strict isolation and grand architecture, more than 300 prisons on five continents were modeled after Eastern State Penitentiary. Over 142 years of operation, the system of isolation was gradually abandoned and the penitentiary became a traditional modern prison; in 1971, the facility was closed. The Eastern State Penitentiary oral history project, 1993-2012, consists of about 130 oral history interviews with former inmates, employees of the State Penitentiary for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania ("Eastern State

Penitentiary"), family members of employees, and volunteers such as Chaplains.

-Prisoner's rights

-Municipal responsibilities: citizens' safety

Fairmount Park Historic Resource Archives.

Reference collection. (See also photo and newspaper clipping collections)

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_FP2010001FP2010001

In the early part of the nineteenth century, Philadelphia City Council took action to protect the purity of public water. This involved the acquisition of property on the banks of the Schuylkill River in order to eliminate polluting waste that had previously been generated by various industrial sites along the river. The City's newly acquired property was dedicated to the health and enjoyment of the citizens of Philadelphia, and became known as Fairmount Park. The Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) was established by Act of the Assembly, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, March 26, 1867. Over the course of this organization's history (1867 to 2010) the FPC continued to acquire land for the people of Philadelphia, and operated with a single continuous mission: to preserve and protect its open space; provide opportunities for recreation; maintain the landscapes and structures, streams and woodlands that exist within the Fairmount Park System. This collection contains various materials that document the history of the Fairmount Park, and subsequently the history of the activities of the Fairmount Park Commission. The collection also includes a good deal of contextual information, such as information on the early history of Philadelphia and its surrounding area. This collection demonstrates at once the autonomy of the Fairmount Park Commission and its integral role in the evolution of Philadelphia's urban landscape. This collection is relevant to researchers interested in the history of park property in Philadelphia; the history of water sanitation; the development of ecological studies; urban land management; organizational history in general, or specific to the FPC; art history; public art in Philadelphia; and juried public art design competitions.

-Municipal responsibilities: providing clean water to citizens

-Municipal responsibilities: environmental protection

German Society of Pennsylvania. Agentur and other charitable aid records.

http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/pacscl/search.html?fq=top_repository_facet%3A%22German%20Society%20of%20Pennsylvania%22&rows=50

When the German Society of Pennsylvania was founded in 1764, the "Relief of Distressed Germans" was its main

stated purpose. Initially, this support of the less fortunate members of the German community did not seem to require a separate organizational structure – mostly because the German Society interpreted its role as limited to recent immigrants who had been in the country for less than a year. As the 19th century progressed, more immigrants arrived who had spent all their resources on their passage, but had no work waiting for them once they were in the United States. At the same time, a greater number of those already in the country experienced difficulties and forced the German Society to re-evaluate its original mission of concentrating help on recent arrivals. Thus, by the middle of the century it had become apparent that it was no longer sufficient to handle the relief aspect of the Society's work on an informal, volunteer basis. In 1847, the German Society decided to establish the *Agentur* – literally an agency devoted to coordinating its welfare efforts.

Over the years, the GSP archives have come into possession of records relating to a number of other charitable organizations and relief efforts. These records pertain to local and international initiatives, and many sought to assist soldiers' families, prisoners of war, and others affected by the World Wars.

-Responsibility: charity, humanitarian aid

Germantown Historical Society. Foulke and Long Institute for Orphan Girls records.

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_GHS14

The Foulke and Long Institute for Orphan Girls was established in Philadelphia in 1882 for orphaned daughters of soldiers, firemen, and others sacrificed for the public benefit. In 1888, Foulke and Long merged with the Industrial Home for the Training of Girls in the Arts of Housewifery and Sewing. Foulke and Long moved to the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia in 1913, where it remained until the institute merged with the Youth Study Center of Philadelphia in 1960. The Foulke and Long Institute for Orphan Girls records, 1857-1948, are primarily comprised of administrative, financial, and pupil records for the Foulke and Long Institute, with some materials from the Industrial Home for Girls. There are Admission and Dismissal Committee records, meeting minutes, account books and ledgers, and many other document types.

-Responsibility: child welfare

Germantown Historical Society. Germantown Relief Society records

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_GHS10

The Germantown Relief Society, founded in Philadelphia in 1873, was the first society in the United States to organize charitable work. It aimed to make sure charity

reached those who needed it most, and avoid wasting effort on those who did not really need it. The Germantown Relief Society records, 1873-1953, consist of minute books, financial records, correspondence, scrapbooks, and other records.

-Responsibility: charity

Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library. Records of Post No. 2, Grand Army of the Republic. (See also records from other posts)

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_GARRG002

The Grand Army of the Republic was a fraternal society for Civil War veterans. Post No. 2 was located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Records of Post No. 2, Grand Army of the Republic, 1870-1950s, consist of administrative, financial, and membership records from Post No. 2 as well as General Orders, scrapbooks, and correspondence. There are also war memorial sketch books which contain detailed histories of member's service in the Civil War.

-Responsibility: duty to defend country. (See especially War Memorial Sketch Books)

John J. Wilcox Jr. GLBT Archives of Philadelphia at the William Way Center. ACT UP Philadelphia records. (See also Kiyoshi Kuromiya collection)

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_JJWSC0027

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) is an activist group working to end the HIV/AIDS crisis through direct action. The ACT UP Philadelphia records, 1995-2000, consist of correspondence, meeting notes, and ephemera.

-Responsibilities: health advocacy and education

John J. Wilcox Jr. GLBT Archives of Philadelphia at the William Way Center. Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen collection. (See also Bill Way collection)

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_JJWSC0003

Barbara Gittings (1932-2007) was an active member of the LGBT rights movement from the 1960s until her death. She worked as editor of *The Ladder: A Lesbian Review*. In the early 1970s, she was instrumental in lobbying the American Psychiatric Association to declassify homosexuality as a disease. Kay Tobin Lahusen (b. 1930) is a photojournalist, editor, author of *The Gay Crusaders*, and an active member of the LGBT rights movement. The Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen collection, 1964-2001, includes printed materials relating to LGBT issues and organizations, and audio/visual materials document attitudes and strategies

prevalent in the Homophile Movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

-LGBT rights

Independence National Historical Park

Abolitionists, women's suffrage advocates, civil rights leaders and others have used the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and Independence Square to focus attention on their efforts to expand the definition of "We the People". The park's archives holds some documents and photos that shed light on the stories of those who gathered in the park and demanded that rights be extended to a larger segment of society. The collection is not available online, but contact information can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/inde/historyculture/library-archives.htm>.

Independence Seaport Museum, J. Welles Henderson Archives & Library

Seamen's Church Institute records

<http://www.phillyseaport.org/images/SCI.pdf>

Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) was founded in Philadelphia in 1919 to care for the moral, spiritual, mental and bodily welfare of seamen, and to generally better the conditions surrounding and affecting "men of the sea." It joined ranks with similar organizations that had established a long tradition assisting the merchant marine, going back to the first decade of the nineteenth century when the Bible Society of Philadelphia singled out seamen as important beneficiaries of their work. Over one hundred years later, and in a considerably more ambitious manner than this earliest precursor, SCI set to work providing clean and affordable housing, affordable food, morally sound entertainment, banking, religious services and employment assistance to seamen while in the Port of Philadelphia.

The Seamen's Church Institute Records document the business activities of the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) in Philadelphia from 1919 to 2000. The collection boasts a wide breadth of textual documentation that includes meeting minutes, publications and ephemera, financial records, correspondence and subject files, seamen's records and study materials for seamen's licensing exams. In addition, there are small numbers of photographs, multimedia and blueprints. Together, the records offer a complete representation of the agency and its affiliates from its founding to the late 1990s. The collection also houses records created by SCI's predecessors, the Churchmen's Missionary Association for Seamen and the Pennsylvania Seamen's Friend Society, from 1843 to 1923. Two additional Philadelphia-based seamen's

organizations represented are Maskline Clark Mariner's Home and the Norwegian Seamen's Church.

Aaron Fullerton papers

This is a small collection of papers of Aaron Fullerton, dating from 1797-1814. Materials include a seamen's protection certificate for Fullerton; and an account book, which records days days worked and wages paid for Fullerton's work as a carpenter on various ships, including the schooner Matchless and the ship Asia. The account book also records payments made to Cornelius [Trimbrul] for construction of a house. Fullerton's certificate of citizenship, dated 1797, is inserted in the volume.

Independence Seaport Museum collection of Philadelphia Naval Shipyard oral histories

The Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Oral History Project consists of a series of fifteen interviews exploring the history of work and community at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard (PNSY) from the World War II era to the present. Most of the interviewees were former PNSY employees who worked as apprentices, journeymen, superintendents, clerks, and labor organizers in the yard's core divisions. The project was conducted by the Philadelphia Maritime Museum (now the Independence Seaport Museum) and directed by Thomas Heinrich.

Labor on the Delaware Project collection

Labor on the Delaware: The Longshoremen Experience was originally a documentary film project in the early 1980s sponsored by the Philadelphia Maritime Museum with the cooperation of the International Longshoremen's Association Local 1291, Southwark House, and Temple University. The project received a grant from the Public Committee for the Humanities in Pennsylvania. The project director was Ed Kirlin. The project's aim was to document the history and experiences of Longshoremen on the Delaware over the previous 80 years. The project staff taped interviews with active and retired Longshoremen, and union and port officials.

Robert Morton diary

Diary of Robert Morton, Philadelphia, 16 September 1777 - 30 December 1778. Morton writes of the British occupation of the city, British and Hessian soldiers ransacking his and other plantations, the Battle of Germantown and the attack on Fort Mifflin, news of Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga, and the difficulties in using paper money.

Captain John Green papers

Materials include: a letterbook of John Green, 1781-1783 and letters from 1782. Most of the letters were

written during Green's imprisonment at Mill Prison in Plymouth, England. There are also several incoming letters; a log book of the Empress of China, 1784-1785 and ledger of the China voyage, 1784. The log book notes daily position, weather, and shipboard activities from the beginning of the voyage until the ship reached the lower end of the Malayan peninsula (last entry is January 12, 1785). The ledger records sales and purchases of merchandise in Canton, listed by merchant. Other items in the collection include: a copy of the manifest of the Empress of China; certificates of permission to depart and of safe conduct for the Empress of China, 1784; a patent granting John Green land in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania; 1801 passport for John Green, signed by Rufus King; a manuscript document of Proceedings and Court Decision of April 1, 1799 in the matter of American ship, Pegou, Captain John Green, Master, with a typescript of this document in French and an English translation. The collection also has typed transcriptions of papers of John Green, including the letterbook and letters from this collection and letters and other documents held by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the American Philosophical Society, and other repositories.

Rosenbach Museum & Library

Only a subset of the Rosenbach's holdings are available online, but general research information and information about how to contact library staff to discuss specific holdings is at <http://rosenbach.org/learn/research>. Some collections areas of possible interest for topics relating to rights and responsibilities are listed below.

African Americans

Slavery, as one of the formative themes in American history, is a significant topic in the historical collections, from eighteenth-century manumission papers and lists of Thomas Jefferson's slaves in his own handwriting, through abolitionist poetry, congressional debates, the Fugitive Slave Act, and eyewitness sketches of the trial of John Brown, to the Emancipation Proclamation and the document proposing the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

Civil War

The Rosenbach's collections are rich in important materials related to the Civil War, including letters and documents by Lincoln, Grant, Lee, and many other political and military leaders. Slavery, as one of the formative themes in American history, is a significant topic in the historical collections (see section on African-Americans for more information). Information on Rosenbach collections relating specifically to

Philadelphia in the Civil War can be found with those of other institutions in The Civil War History Consortium Collections Survey

<http://www.civilwarphilly.net/2003survey/index.html> The Rosenbach's Abraham Lincoln documents are digitized and available on MO (Manuscripts Online) at <http://pabweb.philadelphiabuildings.org:8080/> Additional selections from the Civil War holdings can be found on the Rosenbach's blog *Today in the Civil War* www.rosenbach.org/civilwar

Founding Fathers/American Revolution

The founders of this country had a lot to say about the rights and responsibilities of the government and its citizens. The Rosenbach holds collections of manuscript and printed materials by various Founding Fathers, including George Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. Some of the Rosenbach's Washington manuscripts are digitized and available on MO (Manuscripts Online) at <http://pabweb.philadelphiabuildings.org:8080/>.

Native Americans

Among the strengths of the American historical collections are the European exploration and settlement of the New World, and the westward expansion of the United States, which were shaped by encounters with Native Americans. The Rosenbach collections are rich in explorers' descriptions of Native peoples and their cultures; treaties (including a collection of 230 printed treaties made between the United States and various tribes between 1824 and 1869); and scriptures, liturgical, and devotional works produced for the use of Christian missionaries seeking to convert the Natives both to Christianity and to a European way of life. Many of these missional works are in Native American languages. The Rosenbach also holds early copies of works by Bartolomé de las Casas, who was among the first Europeans to protest the inhumane treatment of Native Americans. A useful publication about the Rosenbach's Native American holdings is *Words & Deeds: Natives, Europeans, and Writing in Eastern North America, 1500-1850*, by Karim M. Tiro (Rosenbach Museum & Library, 1997).

Temple University Special Collections Research Center

Friends Neighborhood Guild records

<http://library.temple.edu/collections/scrc/friends-neighborhood-guild-0>
and
<http://library.temple.edu/collections/scrc/friends-neighborhood>

The Friends Neighborhood Guild social settlement was founded by Quakers in the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia in 1879; its mission, "...to serve and respond to the needs of the people in its community, particularly those people who are less able to help themselves," (FNG, p.3). Throughout its more-than-hundred-year history, this mission has guided the Guild's programs, which have evolved to meet its ever-changing constituents' needs. At different times, its work has focused on education, Americanization, recreation, housing, community organization and other areas of social need. The Friends Neighborhood Guild records date from 1903 to 2004, with the bulk of materials dating from the second half of the twentieth-century. The records evidence the social programs and activities of the Guild, as well as its relationships with other agencies, such as the Greater Philadelphia Federation of Settlements, Philadelphia Housing Authority and the United Way. In addition to general administrative records, financial records, meeting minutes and subject files, there is a nice collection of candid snapshots and scrapbooks, documenting Guild activities and its neighborhood from the 1950s to 1960s. Researchers interested in the history of settlement houses and social welfare programs, or in the history of the Northern Liberties/Kensington neighborhoods of Philadelphia during the twentieth century would find this collection useful.

Germantown Settlement records

<http://library.temple.edu/collections/scrc/germantown-settlement>

Germantown Settlement was founded in 1934, when two existing social welfare agencies, Morton Street Day Nursery and Working People's Aid, Inc. and Germantown Community Center merged. Like most settlements, it provided wide-ranging services to its community, including child care, educational and vocational instruction, and classes in art and music. In the 1950s and 1960s, it also worked closely with city agencies to facilitate urban renewal in the Morton neighborhood, while at the same time encouraging community participation and empowerment. The Germantown Settlement collection houses the records of this social welfare organization from 1946 to 1994, with a majority of the material dating from 1970 to the early 1990s. The collection contains business records, correspondence, financial documents and program files. Taken together, the records evidence Germantown Settlement's efforts to assist and generally improve the lives of Germantown residents, particularly the youth and elderly populations, fight crime and eradicate urban blight. While the collection does not offer exhaustive

documentation of the Settlement or any of its program, the records do enable an overall understanding of the organization, its programs and the overarching issues of its community. There is some documentation of the general administration of the Settlement, especially its leadership and finances, as well as its relationship with other social welfare agencies.

Helen Oakes papers

<http://library.temple.edu/collections/scrc/helen-oakes-papers-0>

and

<http://library.temple.edu/collections/scrc/helen-oakes-papers>

Helen Oakes was a nationally recognized activist for public education from the 1960s to the 1980s. Oakes was chairman of the West Philadelphia Schools Committee from 1965 to 1970, chairman of the Education Committee of the League of Women Voters in 1965, and in 1968, she wrote *The School District of Philadelphia: A Critical Analysis*. From 1971 to 1980, she was a member of the board of the Citizens Committee on Public Education in Philadelphia. She was a member of the Philadelphia Board of Education from 1982 to 1989. From 1989 to 1998 she served as liaison in the educational partnership between ARCO Chemical Company and James Rhoads Elementary School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She also wrote, published and distributed the "Oakes Newsletter," from 1970 to 1989, which addressed issues affecting the Philadelphia School District. The Helen Oakes papers date from 1958 to 2002, and include correspondence, printed materials, such as newsletters and pamphlets, newspaper clippings, educational and statistical reports, meeting minutes, financial reports and memoranda. The materials relate to Helen Oakes' long-term involvement with a wide-range of educational institutions and initiatives, specifically in Philadelphia. Of particular note, are significant materials related to Oakes' research, writing and publication of the "Oakes Newsletter."

"Civil Rights in a Northern City: Philadelphia" website
<http://northerncity.library.temple.edu/>

Civil Rights in a Northern City: Philadelphia is a collection of digitized archival resources detailing the history of the modern civil rights movement in Philadelphia. Through a compelling range of photographs, newspapers, manuscripts, film footage, and oral histories, *Civil Rights in a Northern City: Philadelphia* seeks to highlight the key people, places, and events that made Philadelphia an important part of the national struggle for racial equality and social change. Temple University Libraries sponsors *Civil*

Rights in a Northern City: Philadelphia and the text and materials presented here are primarily drawn from the holdings of its special collections.

National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH)

List of Primary Source Documents that Support Topics Related to Rights and Responsibilities in History

The Constitution and Bill of Rights

1. Proceedings in the Legislature of Maryland:
Baltimore Joseph Robinson 1819 (Gave Jews citizenship in Maryland)
2. Moses Seixas/ George Washington Letters:
1790 (Asking for Citizenship)
3. Letter from Jonas Philips: Sept 17, 1787 (Asking for equality)
4. Congregation Shearith Israel Constitution: New York, 1790 (Synagogue Constitution)

Civil War Restrictions

1. Grant's General Order # 11 (Expulsion of all Jews in his military district)
2. General Order # 28: New Orleans, 1862.
1986.24.3 (No insulting or showing contempt for Union soldiers by women)

Immigration

1. Handbill, Immigration Restriction League:
Boston, 1896. 1948.30.45.1 (Opposed immigration)
2. Protocol of Peace: Meyer London Et al 1910.
(Outlined Responsibilities of employees and workers)
3. Order of Eva Davidson: New York 1910.
1992.126.8 (Orders of female serving in army)
4. San Francisco Advertisement: 1854
5. Philadelphia Advertisement: 1849
6. Minhag America (American Rite): Isaac Mayer Wise, Cincinnati: Bloch and company (helped establish rights of reform Jews within Jewish Communities)

Modern Rights and Responsibilities

1. Handbill, Jewish Defense League and Young Activist Gathering: 1992.130.11
2. Handbill, "Judaism and the Pill": 1993.20.7
(Women's rights to use birth control)

This document is linked online from PACSCL's National History Day Philly page:

<http://pacscl.org/PhillyResearch.net/nhdphilly>

Visit this page for additional research resources