



The Historical  
Society of  
Pennsylvania

Collection 1014

Philadelphia County (Pa.)  
Records

1671-1855

4 boxes, 3 volumes, 1 lin. feet

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**Restrictions:** None

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## **Philadelphia County (Pa.)**

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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 Mifflim, 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  
Clarkee, 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**

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Philadelphia County (Pa.) records (Collection 1014), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

### **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.

Current volumes in the collection had been cataloged under the following call numbers:

- Volume 1: formerly Am .3841, Vol. 4
- Volume 2: formerly Am .3841, Vol. 6
- Volume 3: formerly Am .3841, Vol. 7

## Box and folder listing

<b>Box or volume title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Extent</b>
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
Volumes 1-3: Sale of city lots	1781-1782	n/a