

RESOURCES IN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY

DIGITAL AND MICROFILM RESOURCES FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCHING PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY

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A college campus teems with buzz words such as online and searchable. And it is here that we begin. *Pennsylvania History* is online and searchable (issues for the most recent four years are not available) at www.libraries.psu.edu. Current issues are available in many libraries or at www.pa-history.org. At you will also find a continuing and searchable bibliography of books, articles, and dissertations on Pennsylvania history, a reference work that resumes publication under the direction of Susan Klepp (sklepp@temple.edu) after a hiatus of fifteen years. We hope that this project, which began with Norman Wilkinson's *Bibliography of Pennsylvania History*, published in 1957 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, will be put on line or made available on a compact disc in its entirety.

The *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* will soon be online and searchable (issues for the most recent five years are not available) at www.libraries.psu.edu. Current issues of this journal are available at www.historycooperative.org.

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Journals of the Continental Congress and *Letters of Delegates* are part of an array of documents that are online and searchable at the Library of Congress at www.memory.loc.gov.

The *Pennsylvania Archives* is available on searchable cds from www.genealogycd.com. The same publisher also offers cds of a growing list of Pennsylvania county histories, as well as important reference books applicable to other states. *Pennsylvania Archives*, grouped by subject, is also available from www.retrospectpublishing.com. This publisher also offers a selection of Pennsylvania county histories. *Pennsylvania Archives* also appears online at www.iarchives.com. This is a fee-based site but there is no charge for visiting the *Pennsylvania Archives*.

The *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Vols. 1 and 2 are available from www.genealogycds.com, a publisher with a large list that includes most New Jersey county histories.

The *Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania 1682–1801* are online and searchable at www.lola.law.upenn.edu/

Not yet online or on cds but of immense importance to scholars of Pennsylvania history is *Lawmaking and Legislators in Pennsylvania*, a biographical dictionary of Pennsylvania legislators from 1682 to 1775. The front matter alone is worth a separate volume. Volume four, in preparation, includes the much-anticipated biographies of legislators elected after the Revolution. The biographical dictionary is edited by Craig Horle, Joseph Foster, and Laurie Wolfe whose offices are located at Temple University, 917 Gladfelter Hall (02524) 1115 W. Berk Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122, or bdopl@temple.edu, and published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Available since 1978 on microfilm from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission are the *Records of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Governments*, or Record Group 27. RG27 includes the papers of the Supreme Executive Council, military and civilian appointments, files or bankruptcy, clemency, forfeited estates, and so on, for which a frame by frame guide and an every name index is available. Also published in the 1978–1980 period are *A Guide to Record Groups in the Pennsylvania State Archives* and *A Guide to the Microfilm Collections in the Pennsylvania State Archives*. Because Record Group 27 and the guides were published after the bi-centennial they have not received the attention they deserve. To obtain this microfilm and the guides consult the PHMC web site: www.phmc.state.pa.us. You may also navigate this site to survey the immense holdings of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, including

the indispensable *Records of the Comptroller General*, Record Group 4. Visitors to this site will want to read or download the premier edition of "Access Archives: The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania State Archives." For additional information about the holdings of the Pennsylvania State Archives call (717) 783-3281, or write to Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 350 North Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17120-0090.

In 1867 Congress purchased Peter Force's collection of maps, painting, books, and 150,000 manuscripts which became the cornerstone of the Library of Congress. If a trip to the Madison Building of the Library of Congress is not in your future you may browse the "Register of the Peter Force Collection in the Library of Congress." This 170 page volume is not online but a librarian in the manuscript division of the library will, upon request, make it available for downloading. The register describes the manuscripts in the Peter Force Collection which have been cataloged as Series 1-9. However, a description of Series 9, which contains valuable odds and ends from Force's collection, is not included in the register. No matter, Series 9 has an excellent index which is found on reel 96, the first of 35 reels in this series which begins with sixteenth-century documents. Be aware that documents in Series 9 are filed in date order, as a result ten items from various persons and colonies may appear under a single date. It is essential to have the index in hand when consulting Series 9. Microfilms for Series 7, 8, and 9 are available ten at a time on inter-library loan, or they may be purchased from Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20540, or www.photoduplication-service@loc.gov. In addition to Van Pelt Library at the University of Pennsylvania, which has Force Series 9 as well as Series 7 and 8, Series 9 may be found at the David Library of the American Revolution. In addition, Peter Force's *American Archives* is available on two searchable cds from www.hopefarm.com. This site offers many cds, including most New York county histories. A searchable version of *American Archives* may also be found online at www.dig.lib.niu.edu/march.

The number of documents available on the inter-net and cds is proliferating at a rapid rate. We look forward to the day when some agency assumes the task of cataloging these resources. Until then each user will want to maintain and share a list of discoveries.

(Adapted from a talk given by Frank Fox, Independent Scholar, at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association at Philadelphia, October 19-21, 2006.)