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ANNOUNCEMENTS

pcoming Annual Meetings of the Pennsylvania Historical Association

2009 Annual Meeting Widener University, Chester Pennsylvania October 22–24, 2009 Local Arrangements Chair: Rachel Batch rabatch@mail.widener .edu Program Chair: Janet Lindman lindman@rowan.edu

2010 Annual Meeting Susquehanna University October 2010 Local Arrangements Co-Chairs: Karol Weaver or Edward Slavishak at Susquehanna University Program Chair: Dennis Downey Dennis.Downey@millersville .edu

2011 Annual Meeting University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown October 13–15, 2011 Local Arrangements Chair: Paul Douglas Newman pnewman@ pitt.edu

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"A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals" The State Museum of Pennsylvania

To coincide with the national 75th anniversary celebration of the New Deal, The StateMuseum of Pennsylvania in November 2008 opened a special exhibition highlighting evocative murals and art works commissioned by the U.S. Treasury Department between 1933 and 1942. Widely dispersed throughout Pennsylvania in local post offices, these engaging pieces offer a unique and under appreciated prism into a "lost" Pennsylvania, representing a treasure trove of public art and a vivid portrait of Pennsylvania society and culture during the Great Depression. The exhibition, currently on view in the first floor changing gallery of The State Museum in Harrisburg, will run through May 17, 2009.

The exhibition features original artworks, sculptures, cartoons and color studies, as well as high resolution color reproductions and archival images, of some of the eighty-eight murals and art works commissioned in Pennsylvania. Each piece – whether a mural or sculpture – was created to capture something intrinsically important about the Pennsylvania community where they were to be installed. Given the Commonwealth's legacy as a manufacturing state, industries such as coal and steel are recurring motifs, but the collection also reflects other traditions as well: agriculture, industries such as glass making and lumbering, historical events and individuals, Native Americans, and a variety of town and streetscapes. The exhibition will also provide visitors the often-surprising story behind the artworks, and the artists – many of them of national repute – who created them.

Villanova University Revisions to M.A. Program in History

The Villanova Department of History has revised its Masters program to allow students both the freedom and flexibility to construct a course of study the meets their precise needs and interests. Students devote at least four of their courses to one of sixteen concentrations which they choose or define in close consultation with a faculty member whose area of research is close to the student's own interests. Besides the United States, the five geographical concentrations embrace broad regions or continents. Eight topical concentrations, e.g. "Women and Gender" or "Industrial Societies" require students to draw meaningful comparisons and uncover unsuspected

connections between different regions and epochs. Other concentrations allow students to study significant periods of time, e.g. the nineteenth century, in a global context or to design a course of study that is tailored to the individual student.

A Public History concentration builds on the History Department's longstanding relationships with historic sites, museums, and archives in the Philadelphia area to prepare graduate students for careers or community service in these settings. The concentration combines seminar discussions of public history issues with practical experience and in-depth study of United States history. Meetings with public history professionals give students insight into the realities of doing Public History and have also led to opportunities for employment. Students from any concentration may do Public History Internships at area institutions and engage in substantive projects that meet real needs of those institutions. Students have completed internships at the National Archives, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Cliveden of the National Trust, and the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Archives. One team of students completed research necessary for restoration of the Catholic Chaplain's Office at the Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site. For further information consult the program website: http://www.villanova .edu/artsci/history/graduate/

Penn State Harrisburg Introduces Doctoral Program in American Studies

Penn State Harrisburg's nationally and internationally respected focus on American Studies now includes doctoral study. Approved by the University's Board of Trustees at its July meeting, the Ph.D. in American Studies becomes the only one in Pennsylvania and complements the college's long-established undergraduate and master's programs in the same discipline. Applications are now being accepted for new program which will welcome its first students in the fall of 2009.

Information is at http://www.hbg.psu.edu/Programs/Graduate/ AmericanStudiesPhD.php and an information night will be Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. in the Morrison Gallery of the college library. An RSVP is not necessary and information is available by e-mailing hbgadmit@psu.edu.

"The doctoral program in American Studies will prepare professionals who will make a difference in the way the United States is understood, shaped,

and presented locally and globally," says Distinguished Professor of American Studies and Folklore Simon J. Bronner, the new program's director.

Pointing to the "high quality of the American Studies program at Penn State Harrisburg," Brent Glass, director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and former executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, says "a doctoral program serves to enhance this well-earned reputation."

Glass says of the new program, "The interdisciplinary perspective of a program in American Studies complements the research needs of museums dedicated to preserving and presenting American history and culture. Doctoral candidates in the American Studies program will be in a strong position to compete for fellowship opportunities and permanent positions at the Smithsonian Institution and other history and cultural museums."

He continues, "Furthermore, there is an extensive network of historical sites, archival repositories, historical societies, and museums in Pennsylvania and neighboring states that could offer a source of employment and consulting opportunities for students in the program."

American Studies represents the study of the United States – past and present – as an academic field with its own developed theories, methods, and applications and seeks to promote understanding of the complex nature of American life and culture. Taking advantage of its location in the capital region with internationally known heritage sites such as Gettysburg, Three Mile Island, Hershey, Steelton, Harrisburg, York, the coal region, and the Amish Country, the program at Penn State Harrisburg emphasizes critical cultural inquiry and the application of American Studies to public heritage, public policy, and cultural resource management. Those areas include government work, museums, cultural agencies, education, archives and records management, public policy, and communications.

Philip J. Deloria, president of the American Studies Association and a faculty member at the University of Michigan, adds, "American Studies programs have been growing over the last several years, particularly in public institutions of higher education. Contemporary students value the interdisciplinary sweep of the field, which pushes them to practice the kind of quick moving, eclectic thinking about culture and society that many see as central to their lives in a rapidly changing world."

Deloria continues, "Penn State Harrisburg has long had a sterling reputation in these areas and we in the field are looking forward to the future faculty members who will be trained in the program and, as important, to the

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work of those who will use their degrees to advance the practice of American Studies in a range of public settings."

"The program will cover America broadly in its national and international contexts, work with local resources and institutions, and develop a focus on cultural expression and identity, including areas of material and visual culture, folk and popular culture, race, ethnicity and gender, and literature, performance, and media," Dr. Bronner points out.

To support the public heritage and material culture interests, the American Studies program maintains close ties with local educational and cultural institutions, including the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, State Museum of Pennsylvania, Landis Valley Museum, National Civil War Museum, Hershey Museum, and other public heritage resources.

Special features of study at Penn State Harrisburg include: internships and field-oriented courses; access to the Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies, a research center on campus devoted to the study of Pennsylvania's cultural heritage; the Archives of Pennsylvania Folklore and Ethnography; and the library's Alice Marshall Collection, considered by many scholars to be one of the largest privately compiled research collections on women's history in America. Dr. Bronner is recognized as one of the leading scholars and researchers in the field. A prolific author of more than 25 books on American cultural history, Dr. Bronner held the Walt Whitman Chair in American Cultural Studies at Leiden University in The Netherlands in 2006, and has been a visiting professor in folklore and American civilization at Harvard University, and a Fulbright Professor of American Studies at Osaka University in Japan. Contact: Steve Hevner

> 717–948–6029 Sdh4@psu.edu

Historical GIS Site Launched by Lehigh University

The S. Murray Rust, Jr. Digital Scholarship Center at Lehigh University recently launched a geographical information system (GIS) project that maps the townscape of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in the early twentieth century (http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/beyondsteel/gis/). This interactive, historical GIS tool enables site visitors to map and to investigate spatially the lives of turn-of-the-century Bethlehem residents and Bethlehem Steel Company employees. Active from 1857–2003, "the Steel," as locals call the company, was the area's major employer at the opening of the twentieth century. The

Steel is a major figure in the story of industrial growth, dominance, and decline both regionally and nationally.

Using demographic, housing, and employment data, this GIS tool provides information about those who lived in Bethlehem, especially Bethlehem Steel workers. The data, gleaned from the *Sholes' Directory of the Bethlehems* from 1900–1901, Bethlehem Steel employee lists from 1900–1902, and select 1900 census data for Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Visitors can visualize this data geographically, as the site plots the information on a composite of early twentieth-century Sanborn fire insurance maps. Site visitors can also search the data sets textually.

The local *Sholes' Directory* provides Bethlehem residents' names, addresses, occupations and employers, marital status, and whether they owned or rented. Finer-grained data and spatial information is available for Bethlehem Steel Company employees. The company's employee lists provide employee names, salaries, and where they worked within Bethlehem Steel. By searching the 1900 Census for these 1,200 steel workers, the site supplements the employee list information with details about the workers' age, race, place of birth, education, paternal and maternal country of origin, and other census information. By cross-referencing the employee lists, the *Sholes' Directory*, and the census data, the site allows visitors to see where these workers lived, their proximity to work, and how their job status, pay, ethnicity, and education affected housing patterns. The site is being expanded and enhanced so visitors will be able to see the location of other businesses and industries (and the residences' of their workers) in addition to the Steel.

This GIS component is the most recent addition to Lehigh University's digital library project dedicated to illustrating the region's industrial history, *Beyond Steel: An Archive of Lehigh Valley Industry and Culture* (http://digital .lib.lehigh.edu/beyondsteel/). This project chronicles the nineteenth-century industrial boom and twentieth-century industrial decline in the Lehigh Valley through a large set of digitized materials including letters, books, newspaper articles, maps, photographs, pamphlets, and oral histories. The site continues to grow as materials are added that tell the story of how coal, canals, railroads, iron and steel converged in the making of an industrial community. *Beyond Steel*, especially with the addition of the GIS component, enables researchers and students to study not only the lives of railroad barons and steel titans, but also the everyday experiences of people who worked and lived in the community.

This project was partially funded with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds administered by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more information about the GIS project of *Beyond Steel*, contact digitlib@lehigh.edu.

Opportunities for Research, Teaching, and Public History with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council: American Civil War

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council invites PHA members to join in the exciting new research, teaching, and public history on the Civil War in Pennsylvania now being generated in advance of the national observance of the 150th anniversary in 2011–15. Anniversary planning in the Commonwealth is being led by the Pennsylvania Heritage Society, working with and on behalf of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and with other partner organizations.

The PHC is looking for advisers to develop interpretive themes for commemoration; to identify national experts to invite to Pennsylvania; and to explore ways for colleges and universities to engage faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates in special research, courses, and projects linking campuses to surrounding communities.

Statewide working groups are now developing such activities as an interactive website to be a resource for scholars and their students as well as the general public; digitization projects to unearth letters, documents, and images from collecting institutions and individuals and make them accessible online; publications; a mobile traveling museum; education resources to assist K-12 teachers; and a large-scale "blockbuster" exhibition for presentation in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia.

The PHC also is recruiting Civil War experts for the *Commonwealth Speakers* program period of 2010–11. Applications will be due in early 2009. Please go to www.pahumanities.org for details.

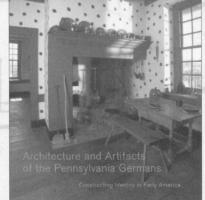
<u>Contact</u>

Joseph J. Kelly, Ph.D., Executive Director Pennsylvania Humanities Council 325 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106–2607 (800) 462–0442 jkelly@pahumanities.org

CONTRIBUTORS

JOSEPH TIEDEMANN is Professor of History at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and the author of *Reluctant Revolutionaries: New York City* and the Road to Independence, 1763-1776 (1997). He is also the co-editor of The Other New York: The American Revolution beyond New York City, 1763-1787(2005) and the forthcoming The Other Loyalists: Ordinary People, Royalism, and the Revolution in the Middle Colonies, 1763-1787. His articles on the Middle Colonies have appeared in Church History, Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Journal of American History, Journal of Social History, New York History, and the William and Mary Quarterly.

STEPHEN LONGENECKER is Professor of History at Bridgewater College (Va.). He is the author of *Shenandoah Religion: Outsiders and the Mainstream*, 1716-1865 (2002) and *Brethren in the Age of World War: The Church of the Brethren Encounter with Modernization*, 1914-1950 (2006).



ARCHITECTURE AND ARTIFACTS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS CONSTRUCTING IDENTITY IN EARLY AMERICA

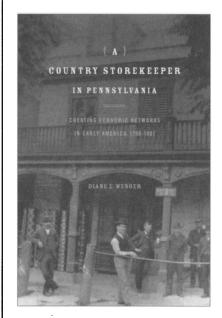
Cynthia G. Falk

How did a mid-eighteenth-century group, the so-called Pennsylvania Germans, build their cultural identity in the face of ethnic stereotyping, nostalgic ideals, and the views imposed by outside contemporaries? Numerous forces create a group's identity, including the views of outsiders, insiders, and the shaping pressure of religious beliefs, but to understand the process better, we must look to clues from material culture.

Cynthia Falk explores the relationship between ethnicity and the buildings, personal belongings, and other cultural artifacts of early Pennsylvania German immigrants and descendants. Such material culture has been the basis of stereotyping Pennsylvania Germans almost since their arrival. Falk warns us against the typical scholarly overemphasis on Pennsylvania Germans' assimilation to an English way of life. Rather, she demonstrates that more than anything, socioeconomic status and religious affiliation influenced the character of the material culture of Pennsylvania Germans. Her work also shows how early Pennsylvania Germans defined their own identities.

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"This book rests heavily on the best and most complete collection of business documents I have ever seen. They not only cover every aspect of Samuel Rex's store but relate it to the people of Schaefferstown, the Rex family of Germantown, the iron forges of Pennsylvania, and the business world of Philadelphia. It provides a picture unavailable elsewhere."

-Stephanie Grauman Wolf, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania

A COUNTRY STOREKEEPER IN PENNSYLVANIA

CREATING ECONOMIC NETWORKS IN EARLY AMERICA, 1790–1807

Diane E. Wenger

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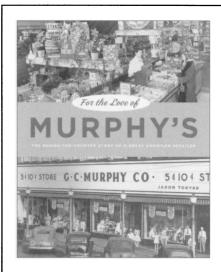
—A. Gregg Roeber, Penn State University

In early America, traditional commercial interaction revolved around an entity known as the "general store." Unfortunately, most of these elusive small-town shops disappeared from our society without leaving business-related documents behind for scholars to analyze. This gap in the historical knowledge of America has made it difficult to understand the nature of the networks and trade relationships that existed between cities and the surrounding countryside at the time.

Samuel Rex, however, left behind a vastly different legacy. A country storekeeper who operated out of Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania, during the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Rex left behind a surprising array of documents exposing just how he ran his business. In this book, Diane Wenger analyzes the part Rex and others like him played in the overall commercial structure of the Atlantic region.

While Wenger's book has a strong foundation as a work of local history, it draws conclusions with much broader historical implications. The rich set of documents that Samuel Rex left behind provides a means for contesting the established model of how early American commerce functioned, replacing it with a more fine-grained picture of a society in which market forces and community interests could peacefully coexist. 280 pages | 21 illustrations | \$55.00 cloth

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"For the Love of Murphy's is an excellent account of the history of a great five-and-ten. Jason Togyer has truly captured the 'behind-the-counter' view of an innovative retail organization.... I highly recommend For the Love of Murphy's to anyone who has had the experience of working in a five-and-ten retail store. Students of marketing management and merchandising, young entrepreneurs, and small-business owners will also gain immensely from the wealth of information in this book."

> – Larry R. Pollock, Chancellor Emeritus, Penn State-New Kensington

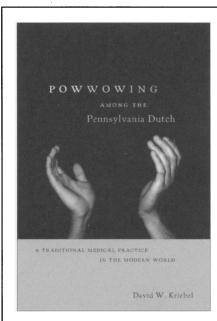
FOR THE LOVE OF MURPHY'S THE BEHIND-THE-COUNTER STORY OF A GREAT AMERICAN RETAILER Jason Togyer

Five-and-ten stores were immensely popular during the middle fifty years of the twentieth century, selling cheap, dependable goods to people from all walks of life. Now the product of a bygone era, these stores were revolutionary in their time, but few today appreciate how important they were in creating our present-day consumer culture. In this caring but honest look at one of the best-known chains of five-and-tens, Jason Togyer traces the history of the G. C. Murphy Company, headquartered in McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

Murphy's is remembered today as a commercial trailblazer, a corporation run with honesty and integrity, and, at its peak, a retailer whose more than 500 stores managed to outsell those of the giant F. W. Woolworth Company by a factor of three to one. Making extensive use of both the company archives and anecdotes from former employees and customers, McKeesport native Togyer recreates with outstanding detail the world in which the G. C. Murphy Company emerged; its survival and growth during the Great Depression; its response to a strained economy during World War II; its fight against rapidly expanding competitors such as K-Mart; its struggle and recovery in the 1970s; and its unsuccessful battle to stave off Wall Street raiders in the 1980s.

Though modern-day shoppers may not know the Murphy name, they know the legacy it left behind. From its adventurous selling tactics to its strict code of corporate ethics, the G. C. Murphy Company should be remembered not as a dusty relic, but as a pioneer in the American business world. 292 pages | 72 illustrations | \$34.95 cloth A Keystone Book®

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"Making the subject even more fascinating is Kriebel's contention that some modern powwow a ctivists have reinvigorated the ancient practice as a 'new age' phenomenon. Altogether, a fascinating exploration of a novel subject." —Sol Puech,

The Bloomsbury Review

POWWOWING AMONG THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH A TRADITIONAL MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE MODERN WORLD

David W. Kriebel

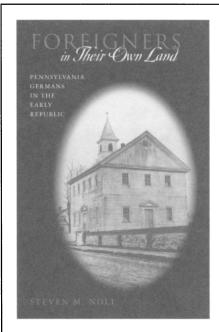
Known in Pennsylvania Dutch as *brauche* or *braucherei*, the folk-healing practice of powwowing was thought to draw upon the power of God to heal all manner of physical and spiritual ills. Yet some people believed, and still believe today, that this power to heal came not from God, but from the devil. Controversy over powwowing came to a climax in 1929 with the York Hex Murder Trial, in which one powwower from York County, Pennsylvania, killed another powwower.

In *Powwowing Among the Pennsylvania Dutch*, David Kriebel examines the practice of powwowing and shows that, contrary to popular belief, the practice of powwowing is still active today. Because powwowing lacks extensive scholarly documentation, David Kriebel's research is both a groundbreaking inquiry and a necessity for the scholar of Pennsylvania German history and culture.

The fact that powwowing is still practiced may come as a surprise to some readers, but included in this book are the interviews Kriebel had with living powwowers during his seven years of fieldwork in southeastern and central Pennsylvania. Along with these interviews, Kriebel includes biographical sketches of seven living powwowers; descriptions of powwowing as it was practiced in years past, compared with the practice today; a discussion of the belief of powwowing as healing; and a discussion of the future, if any, of powwowing, and what it will take for powwowing to continue to survive.

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"The book's scholarly paraphernalia are excellent. The fifty-one pages of citations are to both familiar and little-known materials, often accompanied by explanations. The bibliography also is extensive, including published and unpublished primary sources and secondary works, though standard monographs by Frederic Klees and William T. Parsons are missing. Well-chosen maps, drawings, and photographs are helpful."

> – John B. Frantz, Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography

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