

## 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](mailto:rabatch@mail.widener.edu)  
Program Chair: Janet Lindman [lindman@rowan.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pnewman@pitt.edu)  
Program Chair: Dan Barr, [barrd@rmu.edu](mailto:barrd@rmu.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 State Museum 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.

## CONTRIBUTORS

WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL is an Assistant Professor in the department of history at California State University, Chico. His current research explores the interplay between colonial and indigenous representatives in the northeastern borderlands during the eighteenth century.

PETER J. DEPUYDT is a Reference Librarian and Archivist for the High Library at Elizabethtown College. He earned an M.S. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and an M.L.S. from the University of Maryland.

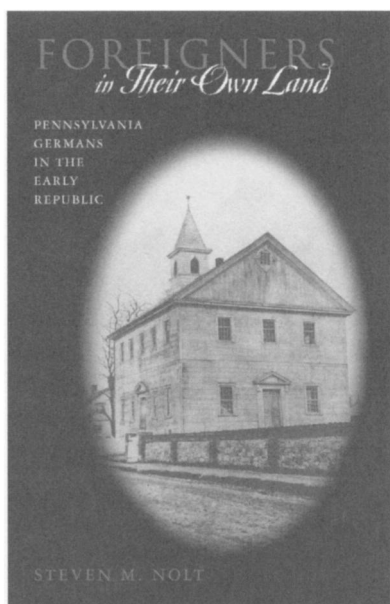
THOMAS JEPSEN is an information technology professional and independent scholar who lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He is the author of *Ma Kiley: The Life of a Railroad Telegrapher*, published by Texas Western Press in 1997, and *My Sisters Telegraphic: Women in the Telegraph Office, 1846–1950*, published by Ohio University Press in 2000. He was the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Scholar in Residence at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg, Pennsylvania, in 2003.

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**"*Foreigners in Their Own Land* is convincing, well-researched, and elegantly written."**

**—Christian Keller,  
*Journal of American Ethnic History***

## **Foreigners in Their Own Land** **Pennsylvania Germans in the Early Republic**

Steven M. Nolt

*New in Paperback*

"[*Foreigners in Their Own Land*] is well written, accessible, tightly organized, and thoroughly rooted in the primary sources as well as the relevant historiography of early modern Germany, colonial America, new republic, and American church and religion. It provides a fascinating, insightful portrait of German Americans during the period of the new republic."

—Beverly Smaby,  
*William and Mary Quarterly*

"This judicious assessment of the transformation of Pennsylvania German culture from 1790 to 1850 fills a major historiographical gap. Steven M. Nolt convincingly integrates sweeping themes of national, religious, and ethnic identity with clear analyses that remain close to his evidence."

—Liam Riordan,  
*Journal of American History*

"Nolt provides the first truly comprehensive study of the largest non-English-speaking white ethnic group in the early United States. He is the first to trace developments among the German Lutherans and Reformed from the 1780s to the 1850s, and he has explored many little-known unpublished and published materials by largely forgotten writers. *Foreigners in Their Own Land* is full of historical detail that should be new even to most specialists in the field."

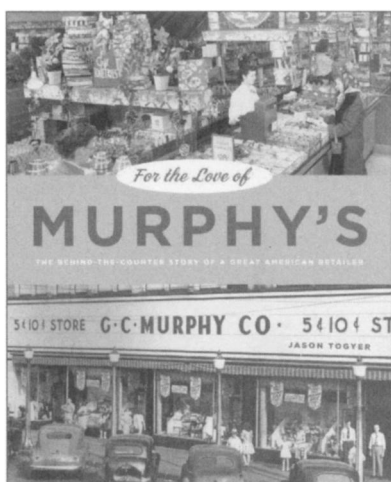
—Mark Häberlein,  
University of Freiburg, Germany

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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.

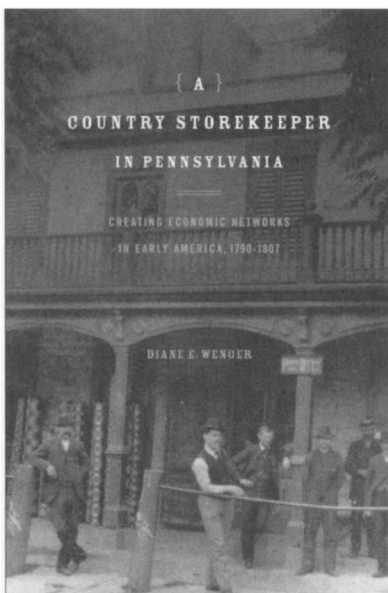
Though modern-day shoppers may not know the Murphy name, they know the legacy it left behind. From its adventurous selling tactics to its strict code of corporate ethics, the G. C. Murphy Company should be remembered not as a dusty relic, but as a pioneer in the American business world.

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## A Country Storekeeper in Pennsylvania

### Creating Economic Networks in Early America, 1790-1807

Diane E. Wenger

"A very fine piece of work on local Pennsylvania history."

—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

**"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**

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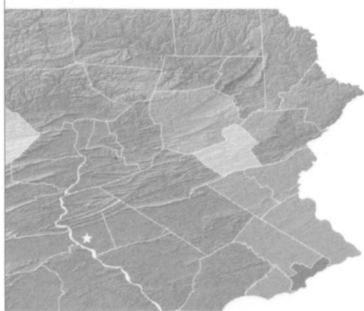


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## The Realignment of Pennsylvania Politics Since 1960

*Two-Party Competition in a  
Battleground State*



## The Realignment of Pennsylvania Politics Since 1960

**Two-Party Competition in a  
Battleground State**

Renee M. Lamis

Foreword by James L. Sundquist

"This book is splendidly written, the thesis cogently argued, and the scholarship superb. The author examines the evolution of voting behavior by demographic groups, by attitudes, and by county, providing information that is generally not readily available elsewhere. Overall, the research into Pennsylvania politics is extensive, and this volume provides the reader with a wealth of data to chart electoral change in the state. Using Pennsylvania as a case study, Professor Lamis has entered the debate over the reasons for voter realignment. In doing so, she has succeeded admirably in framing the fundamental reasons why groups of voters modify their party allegiance and voting habits—essentially because of major changes in the economy and society. Her argument extends the reasons for these significant movements of voters to a series of aftershocks from the Great Depression and the New Deal, which were caused by 'culture-war fights and policy wars over elements of cultural change have produced a regrouping of the political base of the two major parties.'

—G. Terry Madonna,  
Franklin & Marshall College

**"*The Realignment of Pennsylvania Politics Since 1960* is a significant and masterfully researched work explaining the historical evolution of Pennsylvania politics over the past forty-five years. Filled with useful charts, graphs, and maps of Pennsylvania's voting behavior and voting trends, the book is likely to fascinate readers with interest in the Keystone State's politics."**

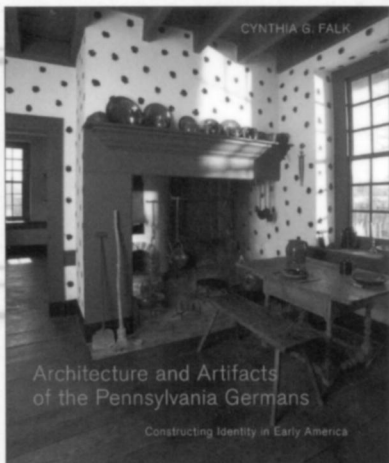
—Robert Speel, author of  
*Changing Patterns of Voting in the  
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## Architecture and Artifacts of the Pennsylvania Germans

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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