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ork begins on *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*

Members of Philadelphia's historical and cultural community gathered in April to start work on *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, a new print and online resource that will provide a comprehensive look at the history, identity, interests, and impact of Philadelphia.

More than 150 organizations and individuals were invited to a Civic Partnership and Planning workshop April 16–17 at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The attendees discussed the encyclopedia project and offered advice about its form and content. The workshop was hosted by the University of Pennsylvania Press in partnership with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Funding for the workshop was provided by the Barra Foundation, with additional support from Southwest Airlines and the Union League of Philadelphia.

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia will be the first comprehensive investigation of its kind into the city's history in more than 25 years, and the first Philadelphia encyclopedia in more than 70 years. The editors of the *Encyclopedia* will collaborate with area cultural institutions, civic organizations, schools, scholars, and the general public to provide a fresh look at the key issues, places, events, and people that define the city and its influence. The project will include an interactive online resource as well as a print volume that will serve as a durable reference for generations to come.

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Although it will be several years until the *Encyclopedia* is complete, the public is invited to become involved now by visiting the project's Web site at <http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org>. The Web site will provide updates on the project's progress and will allow the public to submit ideas for possible encyclopedia entries.

The project will be edited by three area scholars: Charlene Mires at Villanova University, Randall Miller at Saint Joseph's University, and Howard Gillette at Rutgers University-Camden. Gary Nash will serve as consulting editor. PHA members who wish to participate in this project are encouraged to contact the editors, whose email addresses are listed on the project web site.

Visit Old Economy Village on weekends from mid-June to early September for special activities.

Trades performed in Economy 180 years ago will be demonstrated by traditional craftspeople. Activities will change throughout the summer and early fall.

July 25

A Summer Day in 19th century

"Oekonomie"

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Participate in many nineteenth century games and activities. Pull taffy, help make hand-cranked ice cream and enjoy amusements of the day.

August 3-7

Summer Day Camp:

Saplings, Lumberjacks and Furniture:

The Case of the Missing Tree

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Children ages 6-8 and 9-12 discover a tree gone missing and the investigation is on. Junior deputies study the tree's origin from seed to sapling, soft wood vs. hardwood and discover clues from the stump left behind. Campers will follow the progression of the tree to harvest and will participate in lumberjack contests and activities. They will explore how the tree's wood becomes furniture and will apprentice as woodworkers with a Master craftsman. The investigation will turn up woodworking done by Harmony

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Society craftsmen in the 1800s. Pre-registration and prepayment is required. An early registration discount is available. Call (724) 266-4500, ext. 101.

Birthday of Gertrude Rapp

On August 31, 1808 Gertrude Rapp was born in Harmony, Butler County. She was the daughter of Johannes Rapp, and the granddaughter of Harmony Society founder, George Rapp. Although not widely known, Gertrude was arguably the first female manager of a textile factory in western Pennsylvania. She was responsible for the management of the Society's silk factory, the care and feeding of the silkworms, the selection of colors and fabric dyes and the factory's output. She won several national gold medals for the fabrics, which today visitors can see in the Visitor Center.

September 26

Erntefest: Harmonist Harvest Festival

10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Learn how the Harmonists celebrated the harvest and prepared for the long Pennsylvania winter. Churn butter, make apple schnitz, or press apples for cider and more. Craftsmen will demonstrate their crafts or trade. Enjoy site tours, Harmonist music, and dozens of family-friendly activities and games. Homemade German food and baked goods will be available.

PHMC Announces Availability of Grant Funding for Black History

In preparation for its 2010 history theme—*African American History in Pennsylvania: Communities in Common*—the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) announces the availability of grants to assist communities to research, document, and preserve Black history. Grants are available to historical societies, museums, community organizations, institutions, and local governments. The application deadline is December 1, 2009 and all applications must be prepared and submitted electronically through PHMC's E-Grant system at <http://phmc.egrant.org>. Grant seekers may request up to \$15,000 in funding with a dollar-for-dollar match. Grant applications of \$5,000 or less do not require matching funds. Funding is provided, in part, from a grant awarded to the PHMC from the federal Preserve America program.

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Grant applications can request support for a variety of projects. Examples include museum exhibits and collections care; historic preservation including community-based resource surveys and preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; educational and public programs such as walking and driving tours and K-12 curriculum development; conservation of archival documents; research and publication of books and articles; interpretive signage, and; oral histories.

PHMC's 2010 history theme will feature public educational programs; a comprehensive new website dedicated to Black history; feature articles in *Pennsylvania Heritage* magazine; a Black History Trail featuring State Historical Markers and National Register listed resources; a new exhibit in partnership with the African American Museum of Philadelphia, and; other programs and events. A major feature of the theme and its new website will be the availability of a comprehensive historic resource survey and context study of eight Black communities in Pennsylvania. This study will serve as a model for other communities to identify, document, and preserve their related heritage. Pennsylvania is the first state in the nation to undertake a statewide comprehensive study of its historically rich Black communities.

For more information on PHMC's Black history grants contact Carol Lee at 717-783-9918 or calee@state.pa.us or Kenneth C. Wolensky at 717-772-0921 or kwolensky@state.pa.us.

The National Archives' Philadelphia based Regional Archives announces the publication of new commissioned work by Lincoln scholars Harold Holzer and Edward Steers, Jr.

The Lincoln Assassination Conspirators: Their Confinement and Execution, as recorded in the Letterbook of John Frederick Hartranft, just published by Louisiana State University Press, is an edited version of Hartranft's handwritten, eye-witness diary. Hartanft was the Special Provost Marshall in charge of the Washington, D. C arsenal, which held the eight civilians charged with complicity in the Lincoln assassination. He describes in meticulous detail the day-to-day activities and decisions involving the prisoners.

"This book project is a unique opportunity for the National Archives to bring national attention to an important Pennsylvanian and, at the same time, reveal new details about the Lincoln assassination," says V. Chapman-Smith,

Mid Atlantic Regional Administrator, who was appointed to the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission by Governor Edward Rendell. Two leading Lincoln scholars came together for this project. Harold Holzer is co-chair of the National Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and one of the nation's leading authorities on Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. Edward Steers, Jr., a recognized authority on the Lincoln assassination, is well-known for his 2001 book, *Blood on the Moon*. Their combined expertise enlightens the details in this official federal record for the general reader.

The Foundation for the National Archives is helping to launch the book with a special public event featuring the two scholars and moderated by Presidential historian and Foundation board member Michael Beschloss at the National Archives' McGowen Theatre at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. on April 17th. The program is part of the National Archives' continuing commemoration of the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth. This year also marks the National Archives 75th Anniversary. A book signing will follow the program.

The publication project is also a collaboration with the Abraham Lincoln Foundation of the Union League of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania State Archives.

"We are so pleased that the National Archives decided to include the legacy of a great Pennsylvanian and native of the Philadelphia region in its Lincoln 200 commemoration," says John Meko, Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Foundation of the Union League of Philadelphia. "This project has uncovered important history about a man, who was a national figure, was a supporter of African American civil rights during the time of Octavius V. Catto, became governor of the Commonwealth, and was a candidate within the Republican Party for President and early Union League member. His portrait hangs in League's Club House." Founded in 1862 as a patriotic society to support the Union and the policies of President Abraham Lincoln, the Union League of Philadelphia laid the philosophical foundation of other Union Leagues across a nation torn by Civil War. The Philadelphia League also organized ten regiments of Union troops for the War effort. In addition, the League was a leading advocate of the establishment of Federal Colored troops and its members successfully petitioned Secretary of War Stanton to establish the first federal regiments of U.S. Colored Troops, trained at Camp William Penn just outside of Philadelphia, Pa.

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The Pennsylvania State Archives will host a book event with Edward Steers Jr. in Harrisburg during Memorial Day weekend. "There are so many areas where Pennsylvanians were important to the national experience and this new publication helps to bring to light another important Civil War contribution, as well as attention to the other John Hartranft material in the State's collections," says David Haury, Pennsylvania State Archivist. A program of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania State Archives collects, preserves and makes available for study the permanently-valuable public records of the Commonwealth, with particular attention given to the records of state government. The State Archives also collects papers of private citizens and organizations relevant to Pennsylvania history. John Hartranft's personal papers and family photographs (Manuscript Groups 44 and 461) are among the State Archives private collections.

Background

On May 1, 1865, two weeks after Abraham Lincoln's assassination, President Andrew Johnson appointed General John Frederick Hartranft as Special Provost Marshall to command the Washington Arsenal military prison, which held eight civilians accused of complicity in the assassination and would also be the site for their trial. Hartranft was responsible for the most notorious prisoners in American history and kept a meticulously official detailed account of his duties. This fascinating National Archives record provides a remarkable glimpse behind the scenes of the assassination's aftermath and of the nation's history using military tribunals for civilians.

The handwritten letterbook, passed down through the Hartranft family, is held in the Pennsylvania State Archives, under an Affiliated Archives agreement with National Archives Mid Atlantic region in Philadelphia (NARA Record Group 393; ARC Identifier 586119).

About the Authors

Edward Steers, Jr., is the author or editor of numerous books and articles on the life and death of Abraham Lincoln, including *The Escape and Capture of John Wilkes Booth and Lincoln Legends: Myths, Hoaxes, and Confabulations Associated with Our Greatest President*. He lives in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

Harold Holzer is the author or coauthor of thirty-one books and four hundred articles on the political culture of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era. In 2005, he received a Lincoln Prize for his book *Lincoln at Cooper Union* and performed "Lincoln Seen and Heard" with actor Sam Waterston, broadcast live on television from the White House. This past year, he was awarded our nation's highest honor in the humanities, the National Humanities Medal. Holzer lives in New York, where he is senior vice president for external affairs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

About the National Archives in Philadelphia

The National Archives Regional Archives is a nationwide system of public facilities for archival research and public programming, including exhibitions and K-12 education support. The system holds a wealth of original records that provide insight into American Civil War. In Philadelphia, the record series cover five Mid Atlantic States (Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Pennsylvania). Records detailing military recruitment and service; armaments and logistics; enslavement and emancipation of African Americans are among the most heavily used records. Filed among the government's official correspondence and transactional accounts are many hidden treasures that further illuminate major events and extraordinary lives. Among recent discoveries in the Philadelphia regional archives are additional records on the Lincoln assassination. These and the Hartranft letterbook will be featured in national teaching resources the Civil War 150th Anniversary, as well as for the remainder of the Lincoln Bicentennial year.

The Mid Atlantic Regional Administrator was appointed by Governor Edward G. Rendell to the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to assist the state's commemoration of Lincoln and his legacy in Pennsylvania.

The Regional Archives is a certified research facility on the *National Network to Freedom Heritage Trail* and the *Pennsylvania Quest for Freedom*. It is located in the Robert Nix Federal Building, entrance on Chestnut between ninth and tenth in downtown Philadelphia. The Archives is open daily to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact number: 215-606-0112.

On May 1, 2009, the Regional Archives will host the *Quest for Freedom Live and Learn Weekend* featuring Pennsylvania Humanities Scholar Dr. Robert F. Engs leading a public discussion of James McBride's critically acclaimed book,

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Song Yet Sung, a compelling novel about a runaway slave. This program is sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation.

The National Archives is the official archives of the American democracy, preserving the national heritage and documenting the rights and entitlements of the American people and actions of the national government. These archives are held in trust for the American people. National Archives facilities are open free to the public.

**For PRESS information, contact the National Archives Mid Atlantic at:
215-606-0102.**

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ANTOINETTE SUTTO is a lecturer at Princeton University, and teaches for the Princeton Writing Program. She is currently revising her dissertation, *Built Upon Smoke: Politics and Political Culture in Maryland, 1630–1690*, into a book. Her publications include essays in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* and the *Journal of British Studies*.

JOHN CATRON received his PhD in early American history from the University of Florida in August 2008. He is currently an adjunct instructor at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida.

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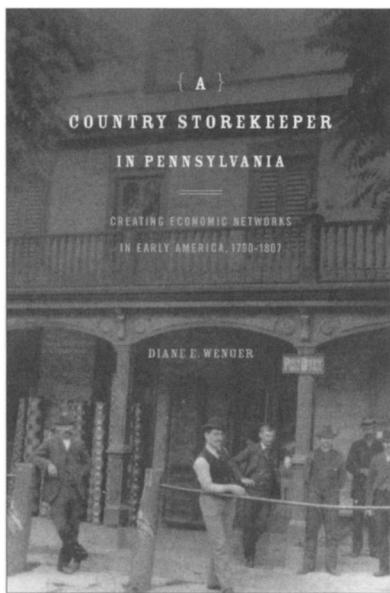
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A Country Storekeeper in Pennsylvania

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.

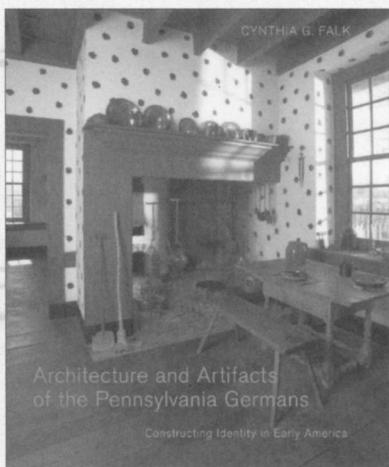
While Wenger's book has a strong foundation as a work of local history, it draws conclusions with much broader historical implications. The rich set of documents that Samuel Rex left behind provides a means for contesting the established model of how early American commerce functioned, replacing it with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

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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.

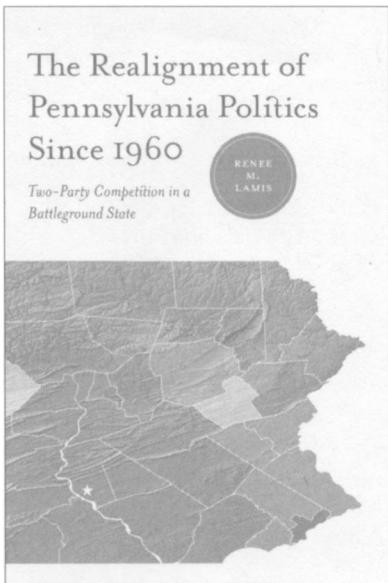
Cynthia Falk explores the relationship between ethnicity and the buildings, personal belongings, and other cultural artifacts of early Pennsylvania German immigrants and descendants. Such material culture has been the basis of stereotyping Pennsylvania Germans almost since their arrival. Falk warns us 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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"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 Northern United States: Electoral Realignment, 1952–1996

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 realignments.' Put another way, the big political fights and policy wars over elements of cultural change have produced a regrouping of the political base of the two major parties."

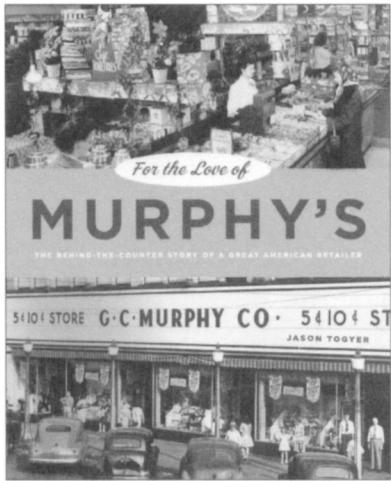
—G. Terry Madonna,
Franklin & Marshall College

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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.

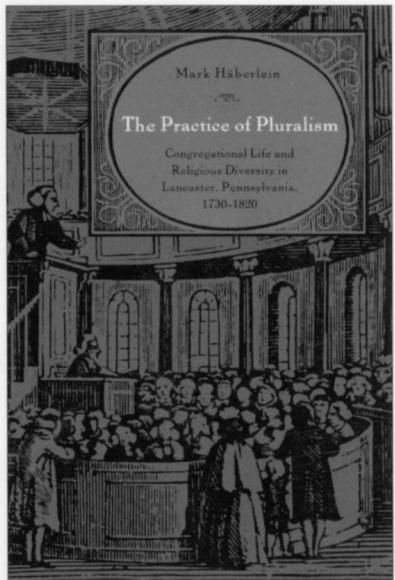
Though modern-day shoppers may not know the Murphy name, they know the legacy it left behind. From its adventurous selling tactics to its strict code of corporate ethics, the G. C. Murphy Company should be remembered not as a dusty relic, but as a pioneer in the American business world.

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The Practice of Pluralism

Congregational Life and Religious Diversity
in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1730–1820

Mark Häberlein

"Thorough and persuasive. The people of Lancaster come across as devoted and essentially conservative, supporting their churches and attached to their ways of worship, even if individuals among them occasionally changed their minds. Häberlein persuasively shows that the laity provided the true continuity of the church.

—Ned Landsmann, Stony Brook University

The clash of modernity and an Amish buggy might be the first image that comes to one's mind when imagining Lancaster, Pennsylvania, today. In the early to mid-eighteenth century, Lancaster stood apart as an active and religiously diverse, ethnically complex, and bustling city. On the eve of the American Revolution, Lancaster's population had risen to nearly 3,000 inhabitants; it stood as a center of commerce, industry, and trade. Of course the German-speaking population—Anabaptists as well as German Lutherans, Moravians, and German Calvinists—made up the majority, but about one-third were English-speaking Anglicans, Catholics, Presbyterians, Quakers, Calvinists, and other Christian groups. A small group of Jewish families also lived in Lancaster, though they had no synagogue. Carefully mining historical records and documents, from tax records to church membership rolls, Mark Häberlein confirms that religion in Lancaster was neither on the decline nor rapidly changing; rather, steady and deliberate growth marked a diverse religious population.

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