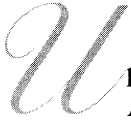


## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Upcoming Annual Meetings of the Pennsylvania Historical Association

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: Jeffery A. Davis, [jdavis@bloomu.edu](mailto:jdavis@bloomu.edu)

2012 Annual Meeting

### Call for Proposals

*“New Perspectives on Pennsylvania’s Past”*

Pennsylvania Historical Association

2010 Annual Meeting

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October 14–16, 2010  
Selinsgrove, PA

The Program Committee invites proposals for the 2010 PHA Annual Meeting hosted by Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA, October 14–16. Full session proposals are encouraged relating to the conference theme “New Perspectives on Pennsylvania’s Past.” Individual paper proposals are also welcome. Program Committee members will solicit session proposals from affiliated organizations. The Program Committee is particularly interested in panel discussions that examine previously under-represented themes and topics that challenge traditional boundaries of Pennsylvania historical scholarship. Proposals should identify session chairs and participants and provide brief professional biographical information. Note: all participants must be members of the association at the time of the meeting. The committee requests all submissions as Word documents. Inquiries and proposals may be sent by February 1, 2010 to the address below:

Dennis B. Downey, Ph.D.  
2010 PHA Program Chair  
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Millersville University  
Millersville, PA 17551  
Dennis.Downey@millersville.edu

### ExplorePAhistory.com New Story: Science and Invention in Pennsylvania

History of Science and Invention in Pennsylvania Released on the Web WITF, Inc. announces the publication of *Science and Invention in Pennsylvania*, the 30<sup>th</sup> story to be posted on the award-winning website, ExplorePAhistory.com.

*Science and Invention in Pennsylvania* provides a sweeping history of inventions, scientific breakthroughs, and technological innovations in the Commonwealth, from colonial times to the present, through four chapter overviews and essays on seventy-five state historical markers, supplemented by more than 250 images and illustrations, thirty-seven documents, a timeline, and an annotated bibliography. It tells the story of the first iron bridge and steel rails, oil tank cars and commercial radio, the steamboat and the

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jeep, commercial nuclear reactors and the digital computer—all of which were born in Pennsylvania, as were the roller coaster, Ferris wheel, Flexible Flyer sled, and Slinky, invented by curious Pennsylvanians who put their skills to work in the development of new forms of play. It explains how the Commonwealth emerged as an international center of scientific and technological innovation, and the professionalization of science and technological innovation, as amateur inventors and scientists like Benjamin Franklin, astronomer William Rittenhouse, and lawyer Joshua Pusey—the inventor of the safety match—gave way to university, corporation, and museum-based professionals. It charts, for example, how the Westinghouse research laboratories in Pittsburgh made critical innovations in the development of radio, television, and nuclear energy, and how scientists and doctors at Philadelphia's Wistar Institute, the nation's first independent medical-research facility, contributed to the development of vaccines for rabies and German measles, and developed the first standardized laboratory animal, the Wistar rat. The new story also includes three lesson plans: on "Becoming Pennsylvania's Next Great Inventor" for elementary schools classes; the early days of paleontology for middle school teachers; and the history of TIROS 1, the first successful weather satellite launched into space, for high school classrooms.

Eight writers contributed to *Science and Invention*, led by Charles Hardy III, a Professor of History at West Chester University. Marie Brown Wilson led the search for the images, many of them published here for the first time, from more than 80 archives and repositories.

### The Delaware County Institute of Science: A 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration

During the early nineteenth century, the United States was filled with people with a passion for learning. Many had attended colleges or, in the case of women, female academies where the curriculum was just as good. They then returned to their communities, where they sought to preserve the life of the mind to which they had been exposed. The popularity of lyceums where visiting lecturers could be heard and discussions of intellectual topics attests to that.

The contributions of several Delaware County, Pennsylvanians and the Delaware County Institute of Science they founded belonged to this trend, and ought to be better known than they are today. The Institute's

175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration offers a suitable occasion call attention to their accomplishments. In 1833, several of the county's residents who were attracted to natural science, Dr. George Smith, George Miller, John Miller, John Cassin, and Minshall Painter—who later donated the land for the permanent building—formed the Institute. In 1867 it moved to the well-preserved, impressive two-story building at 11 Veterans Square in Media, a half-block south of the courthouse.

Dr. Smith was the moving spirit of the institute. A native of Upper Darby township, he was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania who had returned to his home county to manage his wife's farm and serve as state senator. Smith entered the legislature with a mission: he threw himself into the fight for free public education in Pennsylvania, and served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education in 1835 and 1836. Although the free school law was passed in 1834, provisions making it operational did not follow until 1836. Smith pushed through the latter law, which James Pyle Wickersham, author of *A History of Education in Pennsylvania*, calls the "real foundation of our common school system. Smith remained president of the Institute from its founding until his death in 1882.

The interaction of the scientific, public, and private realms appeared in the first work Smith published through the Institute. In 1837 Smith chaired a committee that wrote the scientific report *An Essay Demonstrating the Fitness of the Stone Quarried at Lieper's Quarry, in Delaware County, for Use in Erecting the Delaware Breakwater*. Lieper's stone had at first been rejected by the superintendant in charge of constructing the breakwater as inferior to stone from the state of Delaware. The local quarrymen thought otherwise, and asked the Institute to investigate. The report confirmed the worthiness of the local stone, which was henceforth used. One member of the committee was Institute member Edward Darlington, the district's anti-Masonic member of Congress from 1833–1839, served as Chairman of the House of Representatives' Committee on Buildings and Grounds from 1835 to 1837. Six years later, the Institute published *An Account of the Great Rainstorm and Flood of August 5, 1843*. Publications continued when in 1862, George Smith wrote the first *History of Delaware County*, which he took over from the late Joseph Edwards. This still valuable work proved a model of the extremely comprehensive county and town histories published throughout the country in the late nineteenth century.

The learned people of the county joined with Smith in using natural science and the Institute to further both learning and the economic development

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of the county. Dr. Joshua Ash produced the first of over 150 maps of counties throughout Pennsylvania and other states that was commissioned by Robert Pearsall Smith. Son of John J. Smith, the librarian of the Library Company of Philadelphia, Smith used his maps to demonstrate the new technique of lithography. Ash's and subsequent maps showed in detail the streets of towns and the owners of property as well as roads, railroads, and topographical features. The Delaware County Institute of Science supported the production of Ash's map and still houses the original.

Perhaps the best-known member of the Institute to scientists today was John Cassin (1814–1869), renowned as the nation's foremost ornithologist. His principal affiliation was with the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science. Among his many works were *Birds of California and Texas, a Synopsis of the Birds of North America*, *Ornithology of the United States Exploring Expedition*, and volumes on birds found in Chile and Japan that were sent to him for cataloging. He compiled the catalogues of birds and quadrupeds found in George Smith's history.

Another distinguished member of the Institute was Graceanna Lewis, who lived from 1821 until 1912, and who labeled and catalogued the Institute's ethnological, marine, and botanical specimens. Like her father, whose house was a station on the Underground Railroad, she was an abolitionist. She also was a life member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, suffragist, and one of the foremost women scientists in the United States. Lewis believed in evolution: she produced posters illustrating it and gave lectures on the topic that are still preserved at the Institute in volumes whose covers she hand-stitched. She executed a "Chart of the Animal Kingdom" displayed at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, and her fifty paintings of the leaves of forest trees appeared at the Columbia Exposition in 1893. She won a gold medal at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904 for her drawings of the leaves and trees contributed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A visit to the Institute is a trip back in time, to the days when people did not travel and a local museum, library, or institute was their window to the outside world. The Institute's collection is one of the finest in Pennsylvania that includes stuffed birds and animals; shells, fossils, and corals; an herbarium of Delaware County plants; a microscope collection, and other fascinating items such as the original plate blocks used to print Dr. Samuel Gordon's 1922 *Mineralogy Of Pennsylvania*.

The Institute's nineteenth-century orrery may have been donated by John Jackson. Used to instruct female students at the local Sharon Hill Academy,

it became obsolete once Neptune was discovered. Other items of interests are: the vertebra of a whale found in Chesapeake Bay in 1848, four-hundred-million-year-old fossils, the fifteen-million-year-old skull of an oreodont, a creature like a tapir; and an Inca skull. Also of note are two pikes seized from John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry. Brown believed spears could be more readily used than training the slaves he hoped would rebel to use muskets. From the 1920s, the Institute houses a collection of crystal radio sets that illustrate the radio clubs active at the time. Historians would be interested as well in the "oracles": in the late nineteenth-century members would gather to debate questions such as whether human beings would be the most developed species ever. The questions and some of the answers are preserved, along with other documents relating to the Institute and Delaware County history, such as the Minutes of Committee on Public Safety during World War I. An upstairs auditorium is still the venue for musical concerts and lectures, as it has been for 175 years, an anniversary the Institute celebrated this September.

George Smith's interest in public education appears in the fact that the Institute collected objects and specimens that are still used to instruct local school children. But any lover of history, science, or old-time Pennsylvania will be enthralled with a visit to the Institute, especially by the Institute's current President, Al Palmer, a former high school and present college teacher (at Widener University). Along with librarian Shirley Warren and numerous others on the all-volunteer staff, he is a fount of information and is glad to offer tours of the Institute and its collections during operating hours, Mondays, Thursdays and Saturday from 9-1. Phone: 610-566-5126. Announcement submitted by Tom Roy Smith of Mansfield, PA, who served as the Upper Darby township librarian for twenty-five years.

## CONTRIBUTORS

STEVEN B. BURG is Associate Professor of History at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania where he directs the university's graduate program in Applied History. He has published on public history, local history, and the history of American public policy.

THOMAS A. GUILER received his undergraduate degree in history and philosophy from the University of Scranton and is currently a doctoral student in history at Syracuse University. His major research interests include nineteenth-century American cultural, intellectual, and social history.

KATHARINA HERING is currently finishing her dissertation at the Department of History and Art History at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, which is titled: "'We Are All Makers of History': People and Publics in the Practice of Pennsylvania German Family History 1891–1960s." She holds an M.A. equivalent in political science and history from the University of Hamburg, Germany, and hopes to begin library school in the fall.

JOHN THOMAS MCGUIRE is an adjunct associate professor at Tompkins Cortland Community College, State University of New York. He specializes in women and social movements in the United States from the late 1800s through the 1940s, and has published articles and book reviews in the *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Policy History*, *Journal of Southern History* and the *Journal of Urban History*.

DARLENE MILLER-LANNING holds a Ph.D. in art history from the State University of New York, Binghamton. She serves as Director of the Hope Horn Gallery and Adjunct Faculty in the Art and Music Program, History Department, at the University of Scranton. In addition to her appointment as a Scholar-In-Residence for the PA Historical and Museum Commission (2006), she is the recipient of an Arts Commentary: Perspectives on the Arts Fellowship from PA Council on the Arts and PA Humanities Council (2005).

LEE M. PENYAK is associate professor of history and director of Latin American Studies at the University of Scranton. He is co-editor of *Religion in Latin America: A Documentary History* (2006) and editor of *Vida y Muerte de Una*

*Cultura Regional* (2007), which examines haciendas in San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

LINDA A. RIES is Head of History and Archival Programs at the Bureau of Archives and History (Pennsylvania State Archives). She is also editor of *Susquehanna Heritage: A Journal of the Historical Society of Dauphin County*.

PATRICK SPERO was a Scholar-in-Residence at the Pennsylvania State Archives in 2007–2008. He is currently the Historian at the David Library of the American Revolution in Washington Crossing, Pa., and the Pew Charitable Trusts Post-Doctoral Fellow in Early American Studies at the American Philosophical Society. His dissertation, “Creating Pennsylvania: The Politics of the Frontier and the State, 1682–1800,” studies the problems the development of the frontier posed to the expansion of Pennsylvania’s colonial project.





## Heart Language

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