

Pennsylvania History

A JOURNAL OF MID-ATLANTIC STUDIES

VOLUME 78, NUMBER 4 • AUTUMN 2011

FROM THE EDITOR

ARTICLES

“The Farmers Didn’t Particularly Care for Us”:
Oral Narrative and the Grass Roots Recovery of African
American Migrant Farm Labor History in Central Pennsylvania

John Bloom 323

Small-Town Mafia:
Organized Crime in New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Jeanine Mazak-Kabne 355

Boundaries of Responsibility:
Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and the Pennsylvania Riot Damage
Law, 1834–1880

Perry K. Blatz 393

RESEARCH NOTE

Monsignor Charles Owen Rice and the FBI

Steve Rosswurm 426

CONTRIBUTORS 431

ANNOUNCEMENTS 432

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS OF THE PHA 434

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Pennsylvania History publishes documents previously unpublished and of interest to scholars of the Middle Atlantic region. The Journal also reviews books, exhibits, and other media dealing primarily with Pennsylvania history or that shed significant light on the state's past.

The editors invite the submission of articles dealing with the history of Pennsylvania and the Middle Atlantic region, regardless of their specialty. Prospective authors should review past issues of *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies*, where they will note articles in social, intellectual, economic, environmental, political, and cultural history, from the distant and recent past. Articles may investigate new areas of research or they may reflect on past scholarship. Material that is primarily of an antiquarian or genealogical nature will not be considered. Please conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style* in preparing your manuscript.

Send article submissions and suggestions for special issues to Editor William Pencak, by email wap1@psu.edu (preferred) or by mail, P.O. Box 132 Coburn PA 16832.

Send books for review and announcements to Patrick Spero, Dept. of Political Science, Schapiro Hall, Williams College, Williamstown MA 01267.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Pennsylvania History (ISSN 0031-4528; E-ISSN 2153-2109) is published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Historical Association and the Pennsylvania State University Press.

Annual member subscription rates: \$30 for students, \$40 for individuals (\$55 if outside U.S.), and \$50 for institutions (\$65 if outside U.S.). Payments should be directed to Business Secretary Karen Guenther, 216 Pinecrest Hall, Mansfield University, Mansfield, PA 16933. Address changes should also be directed to Karen Guenther.

Periodicals postage paid at Mansfield, and additional mailing offices.

Claims for missing or damaged issues should be directed to Karen Guenther.

EDITOR

William Pencak, Coburn, Pa.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Laura Keenan-Spero, Williamstown, Mass.

Patrick Spero, Williams College

EDITORIAL BOARD

Michael Barton, Penn State-Harrisburg

Perry Blatz, Duquesne University

Jerome Bowers, Northern Illinois University

Susan Branson, Syracuse

Ileen DeVault, Cornell University

Aaron Fogelman, Northern Illinois University

Nancy Gentile Ford, Bloomsburg University

Kali Gross, Drexel University

Jane Merritt, Old Dominion University

Richard S. Newman, Rochester Institute of Technology

Liam Riordan, University of Maine

Andrew M. Schocket, Bowling Green State University

Timothy Shannon, Gettysburg College

Thomas G. Smith, Nichols College

Julie Winch, University of Massachusetts, Boston

P

ublication of *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* is made possible by deeply appreciated support from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Robert Morris University.

We thank Karen Guenther for keeping our membership lists in order.

OFFICERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

President, Janet Moore Lindman, Rowan University

lindman@rowan.edu

Immediate Past President, Marion Roydhouse, Philadelphia University

Roydhousem@philau.edu

Vice-President, Kenneth C. Wolensky

kwolensky@comcast.net

Business Secretary, Karen Guenther, Mansfield University

kguenthe@mansfield.edu

Treasurer, Tina Hyduke, Penn State Federal Credit Union

tinahyduke@pennstatefederal.com

Secretary, Rachel Batch, Widener University

rabatch@mail.widener.edu

Editor, William Pencak, Coburn, Pa.

wap1@psu.edu

THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Pennsylvania Historical Association endeavors to stimulate scholarly activity and arouse popular interest in the Commonwealth's history. It sponsors *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies*, a publication series, and annual meetings held successively throughout the state.

www.pa-history.org

On the cover: "Destruction of the Union Depot," engraving by M. B. Leiser,
Harper's Weekly, August 11, 1877.

FROM THE EDITOR

William Pencak

Now that I'm formally retiring from the Penn State History Department (although I plan to teach Jewish Studies and take other positions occasionally, as at Susquehanna University where I'll be in the spring), it was fortuitous that the chance arose to resume my former role as editor of *Pennsylvania History*. My job will be easier than in the past, as Julie Shippee and Diane Pesek at Penn State Press have been doing an excellent job of preparing the issues, publicity, and copyediting. I'd also like to thank Paul Douglas Newman, John Hepp, and Diane Wenger for the fine work they did with earlier issues this year. Further, I am being joined by two recent Ph.D.s from the University of Pennsylvania, Laura Keenan Spero and Patrick Spero, now an assistant professor at Williams College, as associate editors. They are full partners in editing the journal, looking over manuscripts and helping to choose reviewers, and are in charge of book reviews. John Smolenski (another Penn graduate) will be editing a special

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY: A JOURNAL OF MID-ATLANTIC STUDIES, VOL. 78, NO. 4, 2011.
Copyright © 2011 The Pennsylvania Historical Association

issue on Pennsylvania and the aftermath of the Seven Years' War scheduled for Summer 2013, as advertised in the Announcements in this issue.

My editorial policy is the same as it was a decade ago. I select two reviewers for each submission and ask them to respond in two months. If the essay is potentially publishable, I read it myself, as do Pat and Laura in many instances, and I then present authors with comments which I make sure are not contradictory, telling them exactly what they need to do to prepare their work for publication. Except in rare instances where essays go exceptionally well together, articles are slotted to be published in the order in which the final version is received.

I am also looking to publish announcements of conferences, the availability of new research materials (see the note by Steve Rosswurm in this issue), reviews of museums and exhibits, and (of course) book reviews. These will appear in future issues once we are caught up.

Sometimes people ask me why I edit so many books and journal issues. The reason is I can't write all the time, and it is mentally stimulating to learn so much and try to help authors (especially younger scholars) bring out their best work. I've made a lot of friends that way, too, and I hope no (or few) enemies. It also provides me with the opportunity to go to conferences where I can search for possible articles, referees, and book reviewers. Although I love it, I'm not confining myself just yet to my 1890 arts-and-crafts cottage with a large lawn sloping down to Elk Creek.