Students of early American history and particularly of the Province and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have tended to concentrate their primary source research in the published archives of Pennsylvania, not because they fail to appreciate the need to examine the originals, but because many of them have concluded that most of the pertinent source materials in the custody of the State Archives had been included in the 138-volume Colonial Records and Pennsylvania Archives (Series I–IX), which appeared intermittently between 1838 and 1935. For a long time this archival publication has constituted an important segment of the total body of research material available for Pennsylvania history, and perhaps is as good as any that was created as part of the “Great Historical Enterprise” of the nineteenth century. For archivists and historians, however, it has been a mixed blessing.

Laying aside the peculiarities of titles, series terminology, and editions, the published archives of Pennsylvania are generally still
not considered that useable even for an experienced researcher. While they are used by scholars and genealogists alike, they are known to them in a very singular manner. Colonialists can usually find their way through the Colonial Records and the Pennsylvania Archives known as the First Series, and genealogists are totally familiar with the Fifth Series. The multiseries documentary, arranged and roughly fashioned within a chronological framework, is still looked upon as a way to circumvent making a visit to Harrisburg for the purpose of personal research in the original materials. Because of this prevailing attitude, as well as a lack of overall knowledge of the publication, researchers have either missed much valuable information or misunderstood the reliability of the published archives.

More than fifteen years ago Frank B. Evans warned researchers against accepting the contents of the printed archives at face value and encouraged readers to place them in historical perspective. Researchers unfortunately have not always heeded Evans' advice, which is attested by recent scholarship. In short, the printed archives are still being uncritically accepted. Researchers need to appreciate how the published archives of Pennsylvania were prepared and they need to have a better grasp of the overall holdings in the State Archives. Samuel Hazard and his successors, who arranged and edited the Colonial Records and the Pennsylvania Archives (Series I–IX), did not have access to all of the archival sources available in the various departmental offices of their day; they also produced volumes containing numerous typographical errors, omissions, and selectivity. To quote Frank B. Evans, the "first face" of the Pennsylvania Archives was "a product of their times." Furthermore, certain original sources available then are

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5 Evans, "Many Faces of the Pennsylvania Archives," 270. Although applauding Samuel Hazard's editorial work, Lyman H. Butterfield has written that "The Colonial Records were issued without benefit of editorial attention, being a mere clerical and printing job that was sneaked through the assembly in bills relating to the promotion of silk culture and the like." Quoted from "Archival and Editorial Enterprise in 1850 and in 1950: Some Comparisons and Contrasts," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, XC VIII (June 1954), 161.
now only available in printed form, and certain early sources have become available only since 1935. During the late 1940s and 1950s the archives staff located and listed a considerable volume of pre-Civil War materials which were received into the Pennsylvania State Archives. These public records were subsequently inventoried, arranged, and made available for users. The establishment of a records management program for the executive agencies provided additional impetus to the flow of records to the State Archives. All of these sources, many of which had been stored in the attics and basements of state agencies, were just never published. Therefore, I offer this note on a missing series of the published Pennsylvania Archives to draw attention to the need for scholars to compare the original documents with the printed and re-establish the need for researchers to visit the Archives Search Room in Harrisburg if they intend to exploit fully its resources.

In their quest to come to grips with the voluminous printed sources, during the past thirty years researchers have made use of Henry Howard Eddy’s and Martha L. Simonetti’s Guide to the Published Archives of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, 1949). Eddy, who served as State Archivist between 1948 and 1962, remembered for being innovative but abrasive, considered that in the published archives “certain of the series possess features in common, and series thus related can with logic be combined into half as many units.” Directly and indirectly he suggested that the Colonial Records and the nine series of the Pennsylvania Archives had been carefully and somewhat logically developed and that the publishing enterprise could be neatly divided into five periods as follows:

8 The introductory material was prepared by Eddy and Miss Martha L. Simonetti prepared the three alphabetical finding lists. The Guide is in its second printing (1976), and it is still a very popular research tool on the book list of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.
9 Eddy and Simonetti, Guide to the Published Archives, 12. On Eddy, see his “In Memoriam,” which appeared in The American Archivist, XXVIII (1965), 447. Miss Simonetti is an associate archivist on the staff of the Division of Archives and Manuscripts.
10 Eddy and Simonetti, Guide to the Published Archives, 2–4.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number of Volumes</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. The Dr. William Henry Egle Period, 1874-1899 (includes Series II and III).</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The Dr. George Edward Reed Period, 1899-1902 (includes index to Series III and Series IV).</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. The Dr. Thomas Lynch Montgomery Period, 1906-1914 (includes Series V through VII).</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. The Period of the 1930s, 1931-1936 (includes Series VIII and IX).</td>
<td>18</td>
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This summary reveals the existence of two key breaks during the period of archival publication.\(^\text{11}\) The first occurred between 1860 and 1874. It corresponds with the end of Samuel Hazard’s production of the so-named First Series and 1860 index, the disruptions caused by the Civil War and the discovery in 1873 of more papers relating to the American Revolution.\(^\text{12}\) This break in publishing is understandable. The second break occurred between 1914 and 1931,\(^\text{13}\) a seventeen-year gap during the “Prosperous Twenties” which is less understandable and not easily explained.

In offering an explanation for the lapse of time in the production of the next series, Henry Howard Eddy reasoned that a combination of obvious and less than obvious reasons had existed which made it impossible for Dr. Hiram Herr Shenk to make much progress in producing what would have been the Eighth Series of the published archives.\(^\text{14}\) Succeeding Luther Reily Kelker, who was the first paid State Archivist of Pennsylvania, Shenk served as Custodian of Public Records from 1916 to 1933.

This was the period of the first World War, Dr. Shenk served on a local draft board, and from November, 1917, through February, 1918, he was on leave and with the Y.M.C.A. at Camp Travis, San Antonio,

\(^{11}\) The short break occurring between 1902 and 1906 was occasioned by Dr. George Edward Reed’s unexpected resignation in the fall of 1902. Thomas Lynch Montgomery was selected to succeed Reed in 1903. *Ibid.*, 73-76.


\(^{13}\) *Ibid.*, 81-82.

Texas. All this was disruptive. Furthermore, after his return Dr. Shenk spent part of his time investigating the condition of the records in local offices. . . . In addition to all this, during the 1920's the Archivist also became the Executive Secretary for the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.  

Moreover, the fortunes of the Archives and History Section—a unit within the highly politicized State Library and later the Department of Public Instruction—had become linked with the disruptive influences of Pennsylvania's politics and the presence of no fewer than five State Librarians or Directors during the period 1914 to 1935. "Such marked uncertainty of tenure," concluded Eddy, "could scarcely be expected to induce publication, yet somehow amidst the shouting and the tumult two substantial series of Pennsylvania Archives, eighteen volumes of prime source materials, were prepared for the printer and issued."  

Granted that this was so, there seems to be a bit more to the successes and failures of the 1920s than even Eddy realized in the 1940s. The author's examination of the records of the historical agency reveal several noteworthy aspects to this topic. First, the less obvious reasons were initially more significant in the prolonged suspension of the publication of the Pennsylvania Archives than were the obvious. Second, Hiram H. Shenk, Custodian of Public Records, had all of his predecessor's enthusiasm for the publication and kept in sight the original emphasis to print the sources of the pre-1790 period. While political disruptions, organizational changes at the State Library, as well as Shenk's role as Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission are combined reasons for the lapse in production after 1914, important work was completed as early as 1921 which has never been acknowledged by historians or archivists.

15 Ibid.

16 Ibid., 85.

17 The administrative records of the Division of Public Records and of the State Library are by no means complete. Although Dr. Shenk's files are better preserved than those of his predecessor, a large gap exists for the years 1921 to 1926. During the latter years of the 1920s his files as Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission are more complete than those for his role as State Archivist. Neither Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pa., where Shenk taught, nor the Shenk family hold any pertinent materials. The files of the State Librarians serving during the pre-1935 period are almost nonexistent.
Between the time of his appointment as the second State Archivist of Pennsylvania in 1916 and late 1920, Shenk prepared at least one series of *Pennsylvania Archives* for publication purposes. The series, consisting of more than seven volumes, apparently was never approved for publication. Although no manuscript of this series has been located in the files of the Division of Archives and Manuscripts, in the Pennsylvania State Library, or elsewhere, nevertheless documents exist substantiating the former existence of this missing series. A reading of Shenk’s correspondence provides some clues as to the proposed series of sources on the pre-1790 years and of his commitment to prepare their publication. This little man, who looked every bit the liberal arts college professor he was, held big ideas for the archival publication even in the face of unexpected changes. Despite a shrinking archives staff, Shenk directed that the task of type-copying sources be continued well into the mid-1920s.\(^{18}\)

The reorganization of state government during Governor Gifford Pinchot’s first term also posed problems for him.\(^{19}\) Under the 1923 Administrative Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Library and Museum lost its independent status when it was placed in the Department of Public Instruction.\(^{20}\) In fact, the new law not only abolished the office of State Librarian and Director of the Museum but also specifically authorized the Department of Public Instruction to edit the archives. Shenk attempted to work around this obstacle of authorization, even contacting the Legislative Reference Bureau for an opinion,\(^{21}\) but he did not receive the response he wanted. When the code of 1923

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\(^{21}\) Shenk to Montgomery, Mar. 25, Apr. 12, 1927; and Montgomery to Shenk, Mar. 28, 1927, Archives of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP).
was amended on April 13, 1927, reaffirming the Department’s authority in this area, Dr. Thomas Lynch Montgomery, Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, lamented to Shenk that “this [amendment] buries the idea forever.” Precisely what was their plan is not known. Perhaps what they had in mind was to have the Pennsylvania Historical Commission edit the archives with private funds. At any rate as late as October 15, 1928, Shenk, then appealing to Library Director Frederic A. Godcharles, still actively pursued the publication of the series pretty much as outlined in his 1921 letter to Dr. Montgomery which follows these comments.

Unfortunately no document has been found to explain why the State Librarian, and later the Director of the State Library, was either unprepared or unable to budget funds to publish this large body of sources of Pennsylvania history. At the time of his appointment as State Archivist, Dr. Shenk was under the tutelage of the well-connected and talented Dr. Thomas Lynch Montgomery, who was responsible at that time for professionally improving the operation of the State Library. Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker had appointed Dr. Montgomery at the recommendation of a number of prominent Philadelphians who had urged him to select a trained professional. As State Librarian from 1903 to 1921, Montgomery was responsible for the creation of a Division of Public Records, and directed the publication of the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Series

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23 Montgomery to Shenk, Apr. 13, 1927, HSP.
24 This important memorandum to F. A. Godcharles of Oct. 15, 1928, was found in Shenk’s general correspondence, RG-13, Historical and Museum Commission, Division of Archives & Manuscripts (Pennsylvania State Archives), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).
25 The author has made a thorough search of the scanty files relating to the office of State Librarian in the Pennsylvania State Archives. The personal papers of George P. Donehoo, Miss Anna A. MacDonald, and Frederick A. Godcharles have not been located. Apparently, a great many of Godcharles’ papers and books stored in Milton, Pa., were lost in the flood of 1936. Telephone conversation with Charles F. Snyder, Secretary, Northumberland County Historical Society, on Feb. 27, 1979. There is no adequate history of the Pennsylvania State Library. Robert P. Bliss’s, A History of the Pennsylvania State Library (Harrisburg, 1937) of under forty pages is both dated and under researched.
26 Included among the letters addressed to Gov. Samuel W. Pennypacker are those from Albert H. Smyth, Nov. 13; James G. Barnwell, Nov. 13; and George Wharton Pepper, Dec. 2, 1902, Society Misc. Collection, HSP.
of the *Pennsylvania Archives*, a total of twenty-eight volumes.\(^{27}\) No doubt Shenk had every reason to expect that at the end of the Seventh Series there would be an Eighth. It is revealed in the preface to Volume I of the Seventh Series that the next series would include the Executive Minutes.\(^{28}\) Shenk was also interested in publishing a different group of archival sources. In late 1921, at the time of Dr. Montgomery’s departure to become Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Editor of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Dr. Shenk’s editorial work became lost in the reorganization of the Department of Public Instruction and in the shuffle of library and historical priorities.\(^{29}\) Money for archival and historical publications had become scarce.\(^{30}\) There were no public funds even to publish yearbooks, annual reports, or county bibliographies.\(^{31}\) By late summer 1925, the “pitiful appropriations” given to the State Library and the “general feebleness” of the situation in Harrisburg had driven Dr. Montgomery to lobby directly with the 1,500-member Trustee’s Section of the Pennsylvania Library Association to get the State Library “taken out of the hands of the Superintendent of Education and placed under the administration of a good state historian.”\(^{32}\) This effort to circularize the 215 public libraries in the State in order to place pressure on the legislature failed and the State Library remains a part of the Department of Education.\(^{33}\)

Perhaps it can also be reasoned that the times had changed both

\(^{27}\) Eddy and Simonetti, *Guide to the Published Archives*, 3-4, 77-82. To date no adequate sketch of Thomas Lynch Montgomery’s career exists.

\(^{28}\) The Seventh Series was edited by Thomas Lynch Montgomery, *Pennsylvania Archives* (1914), I, iii.

\(^{29}\) Eddy and Simonetti, *Guide to the Published Archives*, 80; Eddy, “Archival Program in Pennsylvania,” 257.

\(^{30}\) In 1923 the General Assembly passed Act No. 32, in which the State Librarian was directed to translate, transcribe, and publish certain pre-1830 church records of the Commonwealth, but the plan and appropriation of $6,000 was vetoed by Gov. Pinchot as unnecessary since the position of State Librarian had been abolished. [Commonwealth of Pennsylvania] *Vetoes by the Governor . . . Session of 1923* (Harrisburg, 1923), 51-52.

\(^{31}\) Shenk to Montgomery, Feb. 9, 1925; Mar. 18, 25, 1927; Montgomery to Shenk, Feb. 19, 1925; Mar. 28, 1927; Montgomery to Col. H. W. Shoemaker, Feb. 20, 1925, HSP.

\(^{32}\) Montgomery to W. C. Pentz, Aug. 11, 1925, *ibid*. On the average there were seven persons on the Board of Trustees from each of the 215 libraries.

\(^{33}\) W. C. Pentz to Montgomery, n.d., *ibid*. 
professionally and politically. Documentary-archival publications could have become less fashionable for Montgomery’s successors Dr. George P. Donehoo, Miss Anna A. MacDonald, and Frederic A. Godcharles, because of their backgrounds and temperaments. They were of a slightly different breed and faced enlarged professional responsibilities. These three state librarians, along with Dr. Shenk, also lacked the political influence with legislators and bureaucrats such as that enjoyed by John Blair Linn, William H. Egle, George E. Reed and Thomas Lynch Montgomery.34 The latter knew more than just how to get their name on the next series. These patricians of an earlier day possessed verve, skill, and opportunities accessible to them because of their place in society which helped them in persuading legislators of the need to preserve and care for history. Their professional counterparts of the 1920s lacked these attributes.

Before examining the series proposed in Shenk’s 1921 letter to Montgomery, we should consider the role played in the lapse of the publication by rivalries in the historical and library community. Certainly, within the Federation of Historical Societies, Pennsylvania Historical Commission, and the Pennsylvania State Library there existed numerous competing interests and cliques. For instance, Dr. Montgomery and Dr. Donehoo, both of whom at one time were Shenk’s immediate supervisors, refused to associate themselves with Miss Anna A. MacDonald’s successor, Frederic A. Godcharles.35 Governor Pinchot’s appointments to the State Library and the Pennsylvania Historical Commission created quite a stir among Montgomery sympathizers. According to Montgomery, the State Library was devastated by the maverick Republican Pinchot, and was “made the seventeenth branch of the Department of Education.”36 Similarly, Donehoo expressed the fear that if former Governor William Cameron Sproul did not “get back into the

34 The older librarians obviously held a special status in society. “I will do all I can to see,” wrote Henry W. Shoemaker, “that this Book will be entirely satisfactory to a man of your taste and experience and all others who feel the same way.” Shoemaker to Montgomery, Feb. 24, 1925, ibid.
35 This impression is based on the reading of letters between Godcharles and Montgomery and Montgomery and Donehoo, ibid.
36 To John S. Fisher, Feb. 4, 1927, Exec. Correspondence, 1927-31, Manuscript Group (MG) 159, John S. Fisher Papers, PHMC.
game,” the State would be “wrecked by this Bolshevistic bunch.”\textsuperscript{37} It seems that these “old line” professionals representing “Clio,” although unhappy with the drive for economy in government as it related to the State Library and Pennsylvania Historical Commission, were largely involved in a struggle between “ins” and “outs.” Such personal and political divisiveness, plus “busy man” Shenk’s wearing of far too many professional hats, are to be included among the less obvious factors for the failure to publish his series.\textsuperscript{38}

Finally in May 1929, some six months after Shenk made his last known plea for the series of his design, money was at long last appropriated by the General Assembly to continue the published Archives. Although the Governor, John S. Fisher, an active member of the Federation of Historical Societies, was forced to cut the amount by $25,000 because of “insufficient revenue,” in him the historical community found a good friend, but Shenk’s plan of publishing a conglomerate of sources on the Revolution was not carried out. Whether this decision was made by Director Godcharles, Superintendent of Public Instruction J. A. H. Keith, or someone else is not known. Act No. 570 required that funds be used solely to reprint and distribute the Minutes of the Provincial Assembly, 1682–1776, and the Executive Minutes, 1790–1838, and reissue the two-volume *Frontier Forts*. In the appropriation of $75,000, no allowance was made for additional staff support in the Division of Public Records.\textsuperscript{39} At any rate the Eighth Series of the *Pennsylvania Archives* constituted a reprint of the eighteenth-century *Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives of the Province of Pennsylvania, 1682–1776* and, therefore, it cannot be

\textsuperscript{37} Donehoo to Montgomery, Jan. 19 and 26, 1924, HSP.

\textsuperscript{38} The words “busy man” were used by Thomas Lynch Montgomery to Shenk, Feb. 1, 1928, \textit{ibid}. It is noteworthy that Dr. Shenk retained his teaching responsibilities at Lebanon Valley College during the entire period he served as State Archivist and Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. There is also reason to believe that his over-committed situation resulted in a loss of credibility among his peers such as Montgomery and Col. Henry W. Shoemaker. See particularly Montgomery to Donehoo, Mar. 18, 1927, and Jan. 8, 1929, \textit{ibid}.

\textsuperscript{39} Act of May 15, 1929, P. L. 1761–1762. With respect to the increased funding, the staff of the State Library was elated. See Godcharles to Montgomery, Apr. 22, 1929, HSP; two letters by Shenk (both on behalf of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission), May 24, 1929, MG-159, John S. Fisher Papers, PHMC.
considered an entirely new effort. Neither can the ten volumes of the Ninth Series, which called for the reproduction of the bound Executive Minutes of Pennsylvania's Governors for the period 1790-1838, be regarded as a heady editorial assignment when compared to the voluminous archival materials prepared and incorporated in Series II through VII. Several editions of the *Frontier Forts* had been printed as well.

Dr. Shenk not only witnessed the demise of his own proposed series of archives, but also was asked to prepare the copy of the Eighth and Ninth Series, as we know them today, for state Librarians Godcharles and later Gertrude MacKinney. However, he was no longer in the Archives and History Section when the Ninth Series was begun and released. Shenk retired on September 1, 1933, leaving the employ of the State under something of a political cloud. He probably realized that his plan to publish the additional volumes of sources on the American Revolutionary Era was lost forever.

Hiram H. Shenk's letter to Thomas L. Montgomery, full of information about the state of archival practices and activities in Pennsylvania, is preserved in the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg. This writer inadvertently discovered it in the administrative files of the Division of Public Records in Record Group 13, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, while doing research on another topic. The first six pages of the eight-page document are here printed for two reasons. First, this letter is considered to be of much value and its publication might conceivably stir the memories of readers who might know something about this era at the State Library as well as the whereabouts of Shenk's missing manuscript. Second, the letter provides the best and simplest way to educate the public on the preparation of the published archives, the contents of the proposed volumes, the amount of archival material yet unpublished and on the general...

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40 Shenk to Godcharles, May 25, 1931, General Correspondence File, RG 13, PHMC.
41 Eddy and Simonetti, *Guide to the Published Archives*, 86. According to Curtis W. Garrison, Shenk's successor as State Archivist, Shenk was "forced out" by Gov. Pinchot's people. Telephone interview, December 1978.
42 Pages seven and eight of the letter focus entirely on the emerging County and Local Records program.
administration of the Division of Public Records as a unit in the State Library through the period 1903–1945. This single letter has been transcribed exactly as to paragraphing, spelling and capitalization, and is clearly a file copy.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

ROLAND M. BAUMANN

* * *

Feb. 17, 1921.

Hon. Thomas Lynch Montgomery,
State Librarian,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to submit the report of the activities of the Division of Public Records for two years ending December 31, 1920.43

INDEXING

The work of indexing the reorganized Provincial papers has been continued. One of the Assistants is preparing an index of the names of persons and of subjects in Egle's Notes and Queries.44 The task of indexing the list of marriages, taxables, and tombstone records in the Zeamer collection45 is in process. The completion of these

43 Montgomery's response to the report is not recorded.
44 Reference is made here to Dr. William Henry Egle's four-volume Notes and Queries: Historical, Biographical and Genealogical: Chiefly Relating to Interior Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, 1881–1896). For more information on Dr. Egle and his work, see A. Monroe Aurand, Notes and Queries... A Bibliography (Harrisburg, 1934).
45 The Zeamer Collection (1680–1911) is named after Jeremiah Zeamer (1842–1911), whose avocation was genealogy. Biographical Annals of Cumberland County Pennsylvania (Chicago, 1905), 103. The indexing of these genealogical records began in the late teens and was completed after 1930. At the urging of State Archivist Eddy the State Archives reduced the extent of its services to genealogical researchers. In a sense the Archives and the State and Local History Section, State Library, had been competing to serve the same patrons. Consequently the Zeamer Collection, along with a number of other genealogical materials, were officially transferred to the State Library in 1956. Part of Zeamer's work is deposited at the Cumberland County Historical Society and Hamilton Library Association, Carlisle, Pa.
indexes will enable the department to locate information in a few minutes which hitherto required almost endless and frequently fruitless search. The work of making a general chronological index of all manuscripts in the Division has been continued.

REPAIRING MANUSCRIPTS

The work of repairing and mounting manuscripts has been confined largely to the Revolutionary papers which were badly in need of repair. The muster rolls and rolls of absentees for the years 1777, 1778, 1779 and 1780 have been mended and many of them mounted. Included among these are many rolls of the Armed Boats of the Pennsylvania Navy.

More than thirty volumes of letters, positions, etc., of the years 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778 and 1779 have been repaired, mounted and arranged chronologically in perfection cases. Other papers repaired and mounted are seven volumes of Northumberland County papers, eight volumes of Chester County papers and two volumes each of Bucks and Philadelphia Counties, and a large number of Governors’ papers of the Administration of Mifflin, McKean, Snyder, Heister, Schulze, Wolfe and Ritner. One set of the recently purchased Burd-Shippen-Yeatts letters has been repaired and mounted.

No less than sixty maps and charts have been repaired and backed with muslin and one hundred and fifty posters illustrative of War activities have been put through the same process for permanent preservation.

46 The process of repairing and mounting manuscripts, which began with Luther Reily Kelker in 1903, did not end until around 1950. The history of this activity can be gleaned from a reading of the files of the Division of Public Records, especially the monthly reports, and in the annual reports of the State Librarian. For its origins, see Luther Reiley Kelker to Thomas L. Montgomery, July 6, 1903, Minutes of the Advisory Committee to the Division of Public Records, RG 13, PHMC. See also Henry Howard Eddy, "The Archival Program in Pennsylvania," 261.

47 The Burd-Shippen-Yeates Papers, consisting of approximately one cubic foot, are presently constituted as Manuscript Group 30. These papers were probably given to the Archives by Edward Shippen Thompson of Thompsontown, Pa., during the late World War I years. See Shenk’s “General Statement of Work Done During the Past Year,” dated June 8, 1918, Administrative File (under Thomas L. Montgomery), RG 13, PHMC.
MATERIAL FOR ARCHIVES

The Custodian has given the greater part of his time beyond that required for the research incident to the numerous inquiries, many of which are of genuine historic importance, to the organization of material for the publication of the forthcoming volumes of Pennsylvania Archives. To this end the reorganized Provincial Papers have been studied and the fact disclosed that many of the manuscripts therein contained have not been published by the State. Among these are fifty-one letters of Geo. Dakeyne to James Logan, covering the period from October 25th, 1701, to December 28th, 1722. Furthermore, manuscripts have been found in which approximately half the names of those signing have not been published, either through carelessness or because the names of the then unmended papers were illegible.

But it is the papers pertaining to the American Revolution that have demanded most careful attention. The original muster rolls which were published in the Fifth and Sixth Series had never been mended and although tied in bundles, arranged by battalions and companies, frequent handling resulted in their misplacement to such an extent that search for any particular roll was almost futile. To obviate a recurrence of this difficulty it is the policy of the Custodian to publish no manuscript that has not been mended, mounted and given its permanent place in a book or portfolio.

The most important discoveries in the Division are two manuscript books. One of those is the "Appeal Docket for Lancaster County, Commencing the 28th Day of July, 1777." This book contains 179 pages and concludes with the date April 12, 1779.

48 During the 1950s these letters were filed under the series General Correspondence, 1700-72, n.d. (Inc.: James Logan Papers), Record Group 21, Records of the Proprietary Government, 1664-1776. The fifty-one letters were not included in the twenty-six-roll micro-publication Records of the Provincial Council 1682-1776, compiled by William A. Hunter and Martha L. Simonetti in 1966. James Logan, who served as secretary of the Province and clerk of the Provincial Council from 1701 to 1717, was also commissioner of property and receiver general. It was in this latter capacity, which involved issuing land titles and so forth, that he corresponded with fellow agent George Dakeyne.

49 The process of mending and mounting manuscripts in books or portfolios was very time consuming. Since the Archives staff had suffered from some attrition by 1921 this activity had become a considerable burden.

50 This particular item is presently filed in box 23 of Military Accounts, Militia, 1774-94, Record Group 4, Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, 1762-1810.
of similar books for other counties have been found but none so complete as this. The other manuscript book contains the Minutes of the proceeding of the Court established by the Act of March 31, 1812 to "relieve the distresses of disabled, infirm and poor Revolutionary soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line." The Board consisted of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Auditor General and the State Treasurer. This book contains 159 pages and covers the period from May 9, 1812, to May 8, 1833.\textsuperscript{51} The contents of those books have been carefully type copied and are ready for the printer.\textsuperscript{62} Of the petitions and letters pertaining to the Revolution already mentioned, those of the years 1775, 1776, and part of 1777 have been type copied and are ready for publication.\textsuperscript{63}

**MISCELLANEOUS REVOLUTIONARY MANUSCRIPTS**

A valuable mass of Manuscripts pertaining to the American Revolution consists of miscellaneous papers which had been unassorted and none of which had been mended. Their publication will be a distinct contribution.\textsuperscript{54} Typical examples are as follows:

- Petitions to the Council of Safety for Commissions in the Army.
- Letters of all descriptions including a number by Robert Morris.
- Receipted Bills for supplies furnished the Army.
- Certificates giving age of men called to service.
- Certificates of physical disability.
- Substitute papers of various types.
- Return of Arms delivered.
- Certificates showing attendance at Meetings of Committee of Public Safety.

\textsuperscript{51} This volume is filed in Revolutionary War Pension Accounts, 1807–83, Record Group 2, Records of the Department of Auditor General, 1807–1930.

\textsuperscript{52} These records are described in Robert M. Dructor's forthcoming *Guide to the Genealogical Sources in the Pennsylvania State Archives* (Harrisburg, 1980).

\textsuperscript{53} It is noteworthy that Archivist Shenk's conceptual plan for publication of these records is very similar to the chronological breakdown utilized by the editors of the Second Series of the *Pennsylvania Archives*, volumes I and III.

PENSIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS

A study of Orphans' Court dockets in the Counties of Lancaster, Dauphin, Chester, Philadelphia, Cumberland, York, Franklin and Berks led to the conclusion that all available records pertaining to Revolutionary pensions in the Counties of the State should be copied and published in a volume of Pennsylvania Archives. The worth of these papers consists in the valuable data regarding service, residence and battles in which applicant fought. The Custodian had copied a number of these records when he discovered in the miscellaneous papers of Comptroller General Nicholson in the Division,\(^5\) lists of pensioners together with data exactly similar to that found in the Orphans' Court Dockets. This is accounted for on the ground that by law the Judges of the Orphan's Court of the several counties were required to submit their conclusions to the Comptroller General. In the letters and papers of the Auditors' General the Custodian also discovered original applications to the Board created by the Act of March 31, 1812.

The various papers connected with pensions may be summed up as follows:

- Pay rolls of Invalids disabled in service of United States, Records of Comptroller General.
- Affidavits of Officers certifying to service of applicant.
- Letters to the Board.
- Letters of Attorney authorizing collection of pension dues.
- Certificates of disability signed by superior officer.
- Affidavits of comrades in Arms made long after the event.
- Affidavits of neighbors who testify to the poverty and to the service of the applicant.
- Copies of proposed acts of assembly setting forth the character of the service rendered.
- Certificates from Auditor General showing that person in question received depreciation pay or pension.

\(^5\) The great bulk of the papers of John Nicholson and the records of the office of the Comptroller General came into the official custody of the State Archives during the 1950s. Transfer Files, Division of Archives and Manuscripts, PHMC; Guide to the Microfilm of the John Nicholson Papers (Harrisburg, 1967), 1, 7–8.
Certificates by clerks of Orphans' Courts of the several Counties showing order of the Court regarding pension application and including the evidence upon which the Court acted or a summary of such evidence.

Statement of average of clothing due.

Letters of the Commissioner for Army Accounts, New York City, referring to names of soldiers on his lists.

Certificates of Secretary of War of United States stating that person in question is entitled to a pension.

These manuscripts after the valuable papers shall have been selected for publication will be sufficient to fill a fair sized volume of Archives on pensions alone. They give proof of service all the way from Canada to the South Land.

There is sufficient material on hand for the publication of at least five volumes of Archives on the American Revolution, including such muster rolls as have not been published; and petitions and letters running into the thousands; for one volume on pensions, donation lands, and collateral material written after the Revolution; and one volume on pre-Revolutionary papers.