

## NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

### *Newly Available and Processed Collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*

**W**HAT FOLLOWS ARE DESCRIPTIONS of some of the collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania that have either been acquired within the past year or more fully processed and are therefore more available and accessible to researchers. Full finding aids for these processed collections, and many others, can be found online at <http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=35>.

#### *Recently Processed Collections*

##### **Chew Family Papers, 1659–1986**

848 boxes, 311 flat files, 36 rolls

Collection 2050

This extensive collection details seven generations of the Chew family in Pennsylvania and Maryland, as well as the Chews' connections with the Philadelphia elite. The papers touch on almost every aspect of American history. They provide a unique insight into women's history, family relationships, health, religion, legal history, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, politics, trade, land management and settlement, industrialization, and the growth and development of Philadelphia. They also discuss the Chew family's slaves and servants.<sup>1</sup> The collection focuses primarily on Benjamin Chew (1722–1810) and his son, Benjamin Jr. (1758–1844). Both men were lawyers with large landholdings in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Benjamin Sr. was chief justice of the

<sup>1</sup> A note on terminology: In documents that comprise this collection, the word "negro" is often used to describe individuals; similarly, the word "slave" is used to denote individuals bought and sold by the Chew family. We have retained this wording for the sake of simplicity, and because favored terminology changes rapidly, but we firmly acknowledge the problematic nature of these terms.

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania under the colonial government. Many of the materials also highlight family disputes regarding Benjamin Chew Jr.'s estate following his death in 1844. The collection is divided into twenty-nine series, most of which concern individual family members or family groups. Other series are about landholdings, Cliveden (the Chew family estate in Germantown), and the family's map collection. Some of the best items are related to nineteenth-century life in the mid-Atlantic region, and these sources include business and financial records, correspondence, and legal and personal papers.

**The Historical Society of Pennsylvania Collection of Benjamin Franklin Papers, 1682–1985, undated (bulk 1760–1783)**

16 boxes, 8 volumes, 1 flat file

Collection 215

Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790) was a “renaissance man”—he was a printer, writer, politician, and inventor, and he helped establish the University of Pennsylvania, the American Philosophical Society, and the Pennsylvania Hospital. The papers in this collection focus on his later life, particularly when he served as a representative of Pennsylvania in England (1757–1775) and as U.S. ambassador to France (1776–1785). These materials include correspondence (the majority of it is his incoming correspondence, though there are some copies of outgoing letters and personal writings), copies of congressional orders and resolutions, French manuscripts and memoirs, certificates, notes, clippings, and ephemera. There is also a copy of Franklin's will, government documents, and writings concerning the Revolutionary War and establishing government in the thirteen colonies.

**Hopkinson Family Papers, 1736–1941 (bulk 1800–1841)**

43 volumes

Collection 1978

The Hopkinsons were a prominent political family in Philadelphia and Bordentown, New Jersey. Thomas Hopkinson (1709–1751) was a merchant, lawyer, diplomat, and lifelong friend of Benjamin Franklin. His

son, Francis Hopkinson (1737–1791), was a jurist, author, musician, and signer of the Declaration of Independence; he was also a member of the first graduating class of the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania) in 1757. Francis represented New Jersey in the Continental Congress, served as chairman of the Navy Board and treasurer of the Continental Loan Office during the Revolutionary War, and was a member of the 1790 Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention. George Washington also appointed him United States judge for the district of Pennsylvania. His son, Joseph (1770–1842), was a Pennsylvania congressman from 1815 to 1819, a federal judge from 1828 to 1842, and author of the anthem “Hail, Columbia.” Earlier, in 1795, he had defended those charged with treason in the Whiskey Rebellion. In 1804–05, he defended Justice Samuel Chase during his impeachment trial, and John Quincy Adams later appointed him federal judge for the eastern district of Pennsylvania. He became very good friends with Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon’s brother, who left France for New Jersey in 1815. Joseph Hopkinson’s son, Oliver (1812–1905), served with the First Regiment, Delaware Volunteers and with the Fifty-first Regiment, Pennsylvania militia during the Civil War and was wounded at the Battle of Antietam. The Hopkinson Family Papers consist mostly of incoming correspondence—though the collection also has some outgoing letters—documents, manuscripts, and printed materials. All of the papers are organized in twenty-one bound volumes. Additional materials include diplomas, certificates, newspapers, personal and business letters, and correspondence with George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, and Joseph Bonaparte. Oliver’s Civil War letters can also be found in the collection.

### **William Duane Notebooks, ca. 1822–1835**

5 volumes

Collection 3114

Jeffersonian era journalist William Duane (1760–1835) was born in New York, educated in Ireland, and spent time in Calcutta, India, for business purposes. He returned to the United States in 1790, and he partnered with Benjamin Franklin Bache in Philadelphia to publish the newspaper *Aurora*. When Bache died, Duane took over as editor and made the

*Aurora* a pro-Democratic-Republican Party newspaper. Thomas Jefferson even credited the paper with helping him defeat Federalist John Adams in the election of 1800. A harsh critic of the Federalists, Duane was arrested twice under the 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts, but Jefferson acquitted him. Duane also published several works of his own. He retired from the newspaper in 1822 and died in 1835. The collection consists of five handwritten volumes of notebooks that Duane had bound together for his son. They date from 1822 to 1835 and discuss topics such as banking, politics, religion, philosophy, book reviews and proposals, letters to the editor, and original essays. Duane wrote about the histories and religions of Greece, India, and Egypt, took notes on sixteenth-century Italian authors and economists, and discussed history and mythology.

### **Fahnestock Family Papers, 1849–1873**

10 volumes

Collection 1269

George Wolff Fahnestock (1823–1868) was born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, to Benjamin A. Fahnestock, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, and Anna Maria Wolff. George was one of four children, though only he and his sister Mary Elizabeth survived to adulthood. In 1829, the Fahnestock family relocated to the Pittsburgh area. In 1846, George, who was then living in Baltimore, married Grace Sarah Ensey, with whom he had a daughter, Grace Ensey Fahnestock. The family moved to Philadelphia in 1849, and George began focusing on his literary and scientific pursuits. He was a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, he published several books, and he collected thousands of rare books and pamphlets. Sadly, George and his daughter were killed in 1868 when their steamboat, the *United States*, struck the steamboat *America* on the Ohio River and burst into flames. The Fahnestock Papers include George's diaries from 1862 to 1867, Anna's diaries from 1869 to 1873, a business account book from George's estate, and a scrapbook of clippings about the steamboat accident. George's diaries are very detailed. Topics discussed include weather, overseas travels, attending an 1862 reading by Charles Dickens in London, personal business, and Civil War battles. Anna's diaries mention her son's and granddaughter's deaths and personal and family matters.

**John H. Redfield, meteorological observations, 1862–1894**

8 volumes, 1 box, 1 flat file

Collection 3116

John H. Redfield (1815–1895) was one of the scientists who established the New York Lyceum of Natural History, and he served as corresponding secretary for that institution. His father, William, was a well-known scholar who studied hurricanes, and John moved to New York City in 1827 to work alongside him. John relocated to Philadelphia in 1861 and was a conservator for the Herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences. The collection includes thirty-two-years' worth of meteorological recordings in Philadelphia (temperature, barometric pressure, wind direction and force, weather, and daily events), notes on the Civil War, discussion of governmental affairs, including elections and presidential deaths, personal and family matters, and newspaper clippings. Redfield made special mention of meteors, cyclonic movements, and even an earthquake in Philadelphia.

**J. Hampton Moore Peace Jubilee Celebration Collection,  
1898–1899 (bulk 1898)**

8 boxes

Collection 941

Many images come to mind when one thinks of the Spanish-American War, such as the explosion of the USS *Maine* in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898, or Commodore George Dewey's annihilation of the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay on May 1, 1898. After the quick American victory over the Spanish between April and August 1898, the once isolationist United States emerged as an imperial power on the world stage. It acquired Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines from a vanquished Spain. This unique collection documents how Philadelphia celebrated the "splendid little war." Joseph Hampton Moore (1864–1950), a congressional representative and later mayor of Philadelphia, served as secretary of the finance committee for the Peace Jubilee in 1898. The Jubilee, which occurred October 25–28, 1898, commemorated the end of the war and included military, civic, and naval parades. Philadelphia received national attention because it was the first city to hold such an event. The collec-

tion contains photographs, circulars, correspondence, and documents associated with Moore's involvement in the celebration, as well as photographs of President William McKinley, who attended the ceremonies. Other materials include order forms, tickets, and a list of people who contributed to the Jubilee.

**Sarah Cresson transcriptions of James Parker letters and documents,  
ca. 1916**

1 box, 2 volumes

Am .0683 / Collection 467

This collection consists of records between or pertaining to James Parker and Benjamin Franklin between the years 1739 and 1775. The transcriptions came from the Franklin letter books of the American Philosophical Society. James Parker (1714–1770), born in Woodbridge, New Jersey, was one of the nation's most well-known printers, and Franklin employed him in the 1730s in Philadelphia. Parker moved to New York City in 1742, and Franklin helped him establish the *New York Gazette Revived in the Weekly Post Boy*. Parker opened New Jersey's first printing house in Woodbridge in 1751. He was also controller and secretary of the General Post Office of the British Colonies in 1756, and he became government printer of New Jersey in 1758. The materials in this collection include published newspapers, books, almanacs, and magazines. It also contains agreements, bonds, bills, and other legal and business papers.

**The Plastic Club Records, 1888–2007**

52 boxes, 47 volumes, 11 flat files

Collection 3106

The Plastic Club, founded in 1897 by Emily Sartain of the Philadelphia School of Design (later the Moore College of Art) and other female artists, is one of America's oldest art organizations for women. The term "plastic" refers to the state of any unfinished piece of artwork. The club encouraged collaboration and promoted women's artwork, held exhibits, offered art classes, and hosted social events, such as its annual masquerade party. Numerous prominent and nationally known women artists

were club members. The club's original location was 10 South Eighteenth Street, but it moved to 247 South Camac Street in the early 1900s; it is still located there today. During the world wars, the club participated in bond drives, supplied food and clothing to wounded soldiers, and held art classes for wounded servicemen at USO installations in Philadelphia. The collection includes administrative and member records, correspondence, annual reports, exhibition catalogs, scrapbooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, original artwork, and catalogs from New York and Philadelphia art galleries.

**Thelma McDaniel Collection, 1935–1989**

6 boxes (237 folders), 1 flat file

Collection 3063

Thelma McDaniel was a Philadelphia resident who collected radical literature on the civil rights, black power, and Communist movements in the United States, as well as African solidarity movements abroad. In the post–World War II era, the Communist Party supported racial equality and became more involved in African American community-based groups in Philadelphia. This collection offers little information about McDaniel herself or her involvement with these movements and organizations. She gathered a diverse array of pamphlets and flyers from local organizations, journals, newsletters, magazines, newspaper clippings, posters, broadsides, brochures, and photographs. She assembled materials related to Malcolm X, the Vietnam War, and the March on Washington, publications of local and national civil rights organizations, such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Congress for Racial Equality (CORE), and documents from the Black Liberation Army and the Philadelphia Black Panther Party. The McDaniel papers focus on the political and sociocultural aspects of civil rights and black power movements and demonstrate how African Americans and whites became involved in radical movements for equality.

*Historical Society of Pennsylvania*

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