

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Newly Available and Processed Collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

WHAT 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 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

Charles Jared Ingersoll Papers, 1801–1891 (bulk 1812–1848)

6 boxes

Collection 1812

Charles Jared Ingersoll (1782–1862) served twice as a U.S. representative from Pennsylvania, first from 1813 to 1815 and again from 1841 to 1847. In between these congressional terms, he was the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, a Pennsylvania state representative, and a delegate to the Pennsylvania state constitutional convention. In addition to his political career, Ingersoll worked as a lawyer in Philadelphia and was an accomplished writer. Beyond his early works, he published the two-volume *History of the War of 1812–15* (1845, 1852). The papers mostly span his career from the 1810s to the 1840s. The bulk of the materials are incoming letters, many from well-known nineteenth-century individuals, including several U.S. presidents; however, there are also drafts of his writings, clippings, a copy of his 1837 nomination to Congress, and other miscellaneous papers. While indirectly highlighting Ingersoll's work, most of the correspondence contains political, legal, or personal discussions.

Jay Cooke Papers, 1831–1906, undated (bulk 1858–1874)

102 boxes, 30 volumes, 12 flat files

Collection 148

Called the “financier of the Civil War,” Jay Cooke (1821–1905) was cofounder of Jay Cooke & Company, which became Philadelphia’s most powerful financial house and a major national company. Cooke’s investments and efforts as a subscription agent for the national loan helped to raise around \$700 million for Union war efforts over the course of the Civil War. Containing correspondence that documents the work of Jay Cooke & Co. and communications with many of the era’s most powerful politicians and businessmen, the papers are a rich source of information about the finances of the Union, Union politics during and after the Civil War, westward expansion and the construction of railroads across the country, and banking and finance during the mid to late nineteenth century. Cooke’s connection with the Department of the Treasury provides a unique inside view of political decisions, and his papers illustrate his influence with many leaders in positions of great authority. The collection also contains a small group of personal papers, offering a perspective on Jay Cooke’s philanthropic, religious, and family orientation.

Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker Diaries, 1758–1807, 1975, undated

4 boxes, 40 volumes

Collection 1760

The diaries of Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker (1734–1807) highlight the life of a Quaker woman living in Philadelphia in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Between 1758 and 1807, Drinker fastidiously wrote in her journals, usually about her family members and their health and well-being. Occasionally, she also detailed medical practices and her own moral standards. She discussed major events insofar as they affected her family, such as the Revolutionary War and the 1793 yellow fever outbreak. As a member of the famous merchant family, the Drinkers, she also came in contact with many other well-known families, including the Shippens, Whartons, and Rawleses, and such encounters are often noted. The collection includes her original diaries, as well as typescripts of excerpts from them and photocopies of the diaries from the years 1797 to 1807.

**Andrew Atkinson Humphreys Papers, 1708–1930, undated
(bulk 1850–1879)**

120 boxes, 76 volumes, 15 flat files
Collection 304

Andrew Atkinson Humphreys (1810–1883) was the son of Samuel Humphreys, chief constructor for the U.S. Navy, and the grandson of Joshua Humphreys, who is often called the “Father of the American Navy.” A West Point graduate, Andrew was trained as an engineer and employed his skills as a surveyor to map the courses of battle and plan strategy for the Union Army in the Civil War. The papers span Humphreys’s career, including his service in the Second Seminole War and his work as chief of staff for General George Meade and as head of the U.S. Corps of Topographical Engineers and the Army Corps of Engineers. The collection consists of correspondence, orders, reports, payment vouchers, ephemera, maps, survey data, drafts, and published works. The most significant groups of materials in this collection are documents from the Civil War, which may have been collected when Humphreys served in the Army of the Potomac, and papers related to the survey of the Mississippi River in the 1850s and 1860s. Also of interest are Humphreys’s later reflections on the Civil War in his notes and manuscripts for *Gettysburg to the Rapidan* (1883) and *The Virginia Campaign* (1883).

Pisano and Siciliano Families Papers, 1910–2009, undated

2 boxes
Collection 3135

Salavatore Siciliano (1867–1958) and his wife, Maria (1867–1958), arrived in Philadelphia from Italy in the first decade of the twentieth century. They ran a boarding house in South Philadelphia whose tenants included Anthony Pisano (1894–1979), a poet, playwright, member of the theatrical group the Philadelphia Filodramatic Circle Gasperinese, and later son-in-law of the Sicilianos. This collection highlights the families’ genealogies through vital records, passports, family trees, and images. There are also original photographs and Italian magazines, as well as a sampling of plays and operas handwritten or transcribed in Italian by Pisano.

**Wister and Butler Families Papers, 1700–2004, undated
(bulk 1848–1907)**

46 boxes, 55 volumes, 17 flat files
Collection 1962

The Wister and Butler families were prominent in Philadelphia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and had ties to numerous other prominent families in the Philadelphia region, Georgia, and Great Britain. Major Pierce Butler (1744–1822), the son of an Irish baronet, was a British Army officer in the French and Indian War and later a slaveholding southern planter and South Carolina politician. His daughters Sarah Butler Wister (circa 1772–1831) and Frances Anne Butler Leigh (1774–1836) are also represented, as are Sarah's son Pierce (Mease) Butler (1810–1867) and his wife, Frances Anne Butler (1809–1893)—an esteemed actor known as Fanny Kemble. Various other family members are also represented, including Owen Wister (1860–1938), author of the celebrated western novel *The Virginian* (1902). The bulk of the collection is correspondence and estate papers; it also includes diaries, newspapers and newspaper clippings, business papers, real estate papers, ledgers and other financial documents, photographs, and other miscellaneous papers. The collection provides insights into a wide variety of topics, including women's history, the Civil War, African American history, family history, politics, culture, and the life of actress Fanny Kemble and her daughters. The materials concerning the Butler plantations both before and after the Civil War are particularly interesting.

Stephen H. Noyes Papers, circa 1916–1925, undated

2 boxes
Collection 1472

Captain Stephen H. Noyes (1881–1932) served as an American aviator in France during World War I. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Distinguished Service Cross. This small collection of material that dates from the World War I era consists of several detailed photograph albums, correspondence, reports, orders, maps, and army publications.

**Arthur Colen Collection of Joseph Boggs Beale Papers, 1856–ca. 1973
(bulk 1856–1882)**

1 box, 7 volumes
Collection 2007

Joseph Boggs Beale (1841–1926) was a preeminent nineteenth-century illustrator from a large Philadelphia family. Over the course of his career, he worked for Frank Leslie's *Weekly*, *Harper's*, and the *Daily Graphic*, among other magazines. He also became well-known for his drawings for lantern-slide (or magic-lantern) scenes. This small collection of his papers, compiled by Arthur Colen of Philadelphia's Modern Galleries, consists of diaries Beale kept between 1856 and 1865 (excerpts from which were published in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* in October 1973), correspondence, genealogical notes, and family photographs.

**The Historical Society of Pennsylvania Collection of Civil War Papers,
1830–1923 (bulk 1861–1865)**

8 boxes, 15 volumes, 4 flat files
Collection 1546

Created from several sources, the Civil War Papers include muster rolls, daily reports, order books, official government documents, personal and official correspondence, and other Civil War ephemera. The collection is arranged alphabetically within four series—military, organizations, correspondence, and miscellaneous—with the bulk contained within series 1, a mixture of documents and records generated by several military regiments (including the Matthew Hastings Independent Keystone Battery, two regiments of Pennsylvania volunteers, and one Confederate regiment). The muster lists, clothing account ledgers, and official orders provide a glimpse into the logistical planning and bookkeeping which the business of war required. Other series highlight what civilians and civilian organizations were doing during the war and contain correspondence between such figures as General Robert Patterson, commander of the Army of the Shenandoah, and Winfield Scott, general-in-chief of the Union Army.

**The Historical Society of Pennsylvania Collection of Academy of Music
Programs, Playbills, and Scrapbooks, 1857–1972, undated**

131 boxes, 17 volumes, 6 flat files

Collection 3150

The Academy of Music materials span from the organization's founding in 1857 as a "grand opera house in Philadelphia" to 1972 and were assembled gradually from materials received from multiple sources. The largest group in the collection contains printed programs and playbills in chronological order. There are no records documenting the operations of the academy itself, but much information can be gleaned about Philadelphia's cultural history from the evidence of the companies that resided at or visited the academy and from the numerous advertisements placed in the programs. Programs dating up to about the 1950s, and especially those from the late nineteenth century, are particularly artistic and show off the fashionable motifs and fonts of the day. There are also scattered programs documenting political rallies, lectures, educational programs, and such national events as the nomination of Ulysses S. Grant for a second presidential term and the Centennial Exhibition of 1876.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

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