

THE MANUSCRIPT AND MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

A PRELIMINARY GUIDE PART ONE

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THIS Society and its nineteenth-century predecessors were logical, grateful, and occasionally embarrassed, recipients of a variety of historical materials donated by members and friends. Until the Society got its own building in 1914 the vexatious problem of safeguarding donations, even less bulky documents and manuscripts, was solved by storing such materials in the home or office of the secretary or in the temporary quarters in which meetings were held. Apart from some of its own records few early materials remain; the collections of the societies of 1838 and 1843, for example, were destroyed in Pittsburgh's great fire of 1845, and about the end of the century, as was discovered in 1908, the books and papers of the present Society begun in 1879 had been absorbed by the institution in which the Society's meetings were held.¹

Most of the Society's collections, archival as well as museum, were received after this Historical Building was opened, and especially after an addition was completed in 1931. However much the accession of books, newspapers, and museum objects contributed to the need for this addition, acquisition of archival material was less than phenomenal. Although many items in the present manuscript and miscellaneous collections bear the bold identification of the office secretary and librarian, prior to 1931 the archives could be described as "a handful of documents, consisting chiefly of none-too-informative

Mr. Harpster was Research Fellow of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, 1933-1935, and curator of the Society's museum, 1936-1938. Prior to undertaking a revision of the Society's archives, 1963-1965, he prepared an extensive calendar of the Craig papers for the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. It is hoped that the Guide will be continued in later issues of the *WPHM*—Ed.

1 Franklin F. Holbrook, "Our Historical Society," *WPHM* 21: 7, 21 (1938).

deeds, commissions, and other papers rightly treasured for their antiquity or associations, . . ."²

Establishment of The Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey at the time the addition to the building was constructed in 1931, with the nucleus of a trained staff working actually if not technically for both the Society and the Survey, made it possible to establish a separate archives section in anticipation of additional manuscript and miscellaneous materials which would be acquired. The modest storage facilities — shelving, manuscript boxes, etc. — were never outgrown by the time the Survey ended in 1936 and the classification and cataloging procedures instituted remained entirely adequate. The inventory of archives issued in 1933 listed the following classification for manuscripts:

- [A] personal papers, or any body of materials, for the most part original documents, that have been produced or accumulated by a given individual incidental to the transaction of his own affairs, public or private;
- [B] organization records, or original minutes, reports, accounts, and other papers of societies, business firms, churches, and other corporate bodies;
- [C] miscellaneous manuscripts, or originals or copies of documents singly acquired by the Society;
- [D] collections, or any body of materials, usually transcripts or reproductions, that have been assembled by an outside collector in connection with the study of a particular subject or the pursuit of some special interest;
- [E] secondary materials, such speeches, articles, compilations, and books in manuscript dealing with historical subjects;
- [F] and inventories, calendars, and other guides to materials of western Pennsylvania interest in other depositories.

In addition to manuscripts the inventory covered maps, printed miscellany, unframed pictures, and cuts.³

During the quarter of a century following the end of the Survey the Society continued to acquire archival material in such quantity that it could no longer be contained within the security storage area reserved for it. Although a new members' room and the Siebeneck

² Franklin F. Holbrook, "The Survey in Retrospect," *WPHM* 19: 299 (1936).

³ *Inventory of the Manuscript and Miscellaneous Collections of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania* (Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey Bibliographical Contributions, No. 2), Pittsburgh, printed but not published, 1933; p. [1].

room had been installed on the ground floor in 1959 and the second-floor lounge and library had been redesigned and redecorated in 1961, no physical changes were made to the archives until 1963. Moreover, it had become impossible because of lack of personnel to process archival material as it was obtained during the war and postwar periods.

An important factor in the decision to bring the facilities of the Society's archives up to date was receipt of a cash bequest granted pursuant to the will of Mrs. Roy Arthur Hunt, a good friend of the Society who had presented manuscript materials to it. With the approval of Mr. Hunt this sum, later increased by action of the Trustees, was authorized for purchase of additional storage equipment and employment of a part-time staff member to survey the archives, plan its expansion, supervise installation of equipment, and literally perform the housekeeping duties attendant upon such expansion. The work was begun in June 1963 but terminated in less than two years because of lack of funds; it has, however, been continued on a voluntary basis.

In that time the security storage area has been increased almost threefold by the installation of new steel shelving and map drawers, and strong manuscript boxes have been provided for all unbound archival material of legal size or less. Oversize bound volumes — consisting principally of business records, scrapbooks, and albums — have been wrapped in heavy paper and shelved together to conserve space. More important, virtually all previously unprocessed materials have been arranged, classified, cataloged in draft or final form, and stored in orderly fashion; gone are the trunks, suit- and shoeboxes, and jappanned "strongboxes" that had accumulated in even leaner days.

The classification scheme instituted for manuscripts in 1931 and quoted from the 1933 inventory above has been retained; a survey of several state historical societies bears out the wisdom of this decision. The nature of archival material other than manuscripts which the Society has acquired, and the desire to record and preserve it, has led to some revision of the classification proposed for miscellaneous collections. This revision need not be considered here inasmuch as the preliminary guide given below consists not only of one class of manuscript, personal papers, designated "A," but with one subgroup of that class, "AA," larger groups of personal papers contained in one or more manuscript boxes. A guide for classification "AB," smaller groups of personal papers, is in preparation.

AA PERSONAL PAPERS, LARGE GROUPS

ADAMS, CALVIN, and S. JARVIS ADAMS.

Papers, 1858-1879.

1 ms. box

Mostly receipted bills from Pittsburgh merchants for clothing and jewelry, household goods, photographic equipment, etc., 1863-1869; includes petition for widening Highland Ave. Printed miscellany relating to local affairs — Library Loan Exhibition, Pittsburgh Gymnastic Association, etc. — is separately cataloged.

Gift of Mrs. Marcellin Adams.

ALBREE, JOSEPH.

Papers, 1836-1870's.

1 ms. box

Personal letters from his father, George; his brother, John; and from E. D. Cleaver, N. B. Riddle, and others. Includes receipted bills for groceries, fuel, taxes, etc., of the 1870's. A scrapbook of miscellaneous newspaper clippings is separately cataloged and filed under HA.

Gift of Mrs. Stephen S. Kieley, 1947.

AYRES, REV. ROBERT.

Papers, 1785-1845.

1 ms. box

Journals, diaries, and memoranda of an itinerant Methodist minister, kept in several bound and unbound pocket-sized notebooks; includes a church register of births and baptisms, 1789-1790. Photocopies of most of the papers are in the loaned Smeltzer collection, DA.

Gift of William A. Galbraith, 1937, with addition by Rev. C. S. Butcher, 1953. Acc. no. 602.

BARR, ALBERT J., and JAMES P. BARR.

Papers, 1853-1909.

1 ms. box

Minor correspondence of father and son, both editors of the *Pittsburgh Post*, of which some items are separately cataloged. Mostly miscellany including invitations, souvenir dinner and luncheon programs, and a few broadsides. Includes a scrapbook relating to politics, 1873-1890.

Gift of Miss Margaret J. Barr, 1960, with additions by the Misses Barr, New Canaan, Conn., 1964.

BOUQUET, COL. HENRY (1719-1766).

Papers, 1754-1766.

7 ms. boxes

Transcripts of items of western Pennsylvania interest from Library of Congress photocopies of mss. in the British Museum.

The material is included in S. K. Stevens and Donald H. Kent, eds., *The Papers of Colonel Henry Bouquet* (Harrisburg, Pa., 1940-1943. 19 vols.); also in part in S. K. Stevens, Donald H. Kent, and Autumn L. Leonard, eds., *The Papers of Henry Bouquet. Vol. II, The Forbes Expedition* (Harrisburg, 1951). Vol. I of the series is scheduled for publication in 1966.

BRACKENRIDGE, HENRY MARIE (1786-1871).

Papers, 1822-1845. 1 ms. box

Photocopies of material once loaned to the Society consisting mostly of personal family correspondence, but including letters to Andrew Jackson on political affairs 1832 and 1843, especially Florida and territorial courts; also some speeches and an account of a journey to Florida.

BRADDOCK, GEN. EDWARD (1699-1755).

Papers, 1753-1755. 2 ms. boxes

Transcripts of approximately 275 of 350 documents known to have been captured by the French at his defeat in 1755, including official correspondence and instructions; also orders issued at various camps. Includes notes, microfilm, and correspondence of Dr. Alfred P. James while collecting this material, ca. 1948, from printed sources and mss. depositories in Europe and America.

Gift of Dr. James, 1965.

CAMPBELL, HENRY, and ROBERT CAMPBELL.

Papers, 1807-1876. 1 ms. box

Deeds and other legal papers concerning their real estate holdings in Pittsburgh and Allegheny, and of their heirs.

COFFIN, WILLIAM A.

Papers, 1872-1889. 1 ms. box

Miscellaneous materials of a sculptor born near Pittsburgh, consisting of a Yale scrapbook 1872-1873; a commonplace book relating to family affairs at Leetsdale, Pa., 1874-1877; account books in French while an artist in Paris 1880-1889; and magazine clippings on his work, 1890.

COVODE, JOHN (1808-1871).

Papers, 1850-1870. 3 ms. boxes

Minor correspondence of a Westmoreland County congressman from office seekers and a few political associates, including James G. Blaine and Benjamin F. Wade; also business corres-

pondence from J. Edgar Thomson and Herman F. Haupt concerning the Pennsylvania Railroad, from William Lattimer, Jr., concerning the Platte Valley Railroad, etc. Includes some printed miscellany. Noted in *WPHM* 18: 67 (1935).

Gift of Thomas Mellon II, 1933. Acc. no. 231.

CRAIG, MAJ. ISAAC, and NEVILLE B. CRAIG.

Papers, 1776-1865.

2 vols.

Documents and selected correspondence from important Revolutionary military and political figures prepared by Pittsburgh's first historian, Neville B. Craig, as a memorial to his father; also a collection of valuable American maps, mostly separately cataloged. The latter vol. is filed with the Craig-Neville family papers, below; the former is on permanent display. (Note that the bulk of the Craig papers are at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, where a detailed calendar of them is available; duplicates of some of these calendar cards are kept at the Society with the Craig-Neville family papers.)

Gift of Mrs. Neville B. Craig, Jenkintown, Pa., 1954.

CRAIG-NEVILLE FAMILY.

Papers, 1769-1865.

1 ms. box

Minor correspondence of Maj. Isaac Craig, his sons Henry Knox Craig and Neville B. Craig, and others, on a variety of subjects; an inventory is filed with the papers.

Deposited by Morgan Neville Craig, Argyle, N. Y., 1947.

DENNY-O'HARA FAMILIES.

Papers, 1779-1889.

14 ms. boxes

Mss. of Gen. James O'Hara (1754-1819), his son-in-law, Maj. Ebenezer Denny (1761-1822), and Congressman Harmar Denny (1794-1852). O'Hara papers consist of account books as a Philadelphia and Pittsburgh merchant, 1779-1819, and business records of his Army contract to provision western posts, 1792-1802. Papers of Pittsburgh's first mayor, Maj. Denny, include correspondence on Indian affairs after the Revolution, a record of the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment, 1785-1785, mayoralty papers, 1816, and two account books. Representative Denny's papers contain political correspondence and clippings, 1829-1837, and three diaries of his travels in the midwest, 1840-1850. Miscellaneous papers include a rent book, 1818-1820, personal papers of Miss Matilda Denny, and genealogical data on the Denny-

O'Hara-Wilkins families. Noted in *WPHM* 15: 174 (1932).

Gift of Mrs. Harmar Denny, 1932, with additions by her son, Harmar Denny, 1964. Acc. nos. 84, 85, 618.

DIFFENDERFFER, RACHEL SMITH (Mrs. F. J.).

Papers, 1930-1949. 1 ms. box

Genealogical correspondence and notes concerning Revolutionary ancestors of the following families, mostly from Westmoreland County:

Dorney	Hoffman	Smith
Doverspike	Kepple	Wagle
Guth	Long	Wolf(e)

EWING, MAJ. ROBERT M. (1868-1940).

Papers, 1902-1935. 1 ms. box

Correspondence as an officer of this Society and member of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, Ft. Necessity Memorial Association, Washington Bicentennial Committee, and other historical groups; includes addresses delivered at local historical celebrations.

Gift of Mrs. Robert M. Ewing.

GALLATIN, ALBERT (1761-1849).

Papers, 1785-1806. 1 ms. box

Photocopies of selected items relating to western Pennsylvania from originals in the New-York Historical Society; also photocopy of patent to "Friendship Hill," 1788, and contemporary copies of deeds to lots in New Geneva and Greensburg, 1801 and 1806.

HAILMAN, GEORGE L.

Family papers, 1849-1878. 1 ms. box

Diaries of George W. Hailman, 1849-1852, and of James W. Hailman, 1850-1859, and minutes of the Philomathic Club of Pittsburgh, 1859-1862; includes miscellaneous items, 1853-1878, relating to Coleman, Hailman & Co., consisting of receipts, trade cards, etc.

Gift of Mr. Hailman, 1939. Acc. no. 629.

HARPER, JOHN.

Family papers, 1796-1882. 3 ms. boxes

General correspondence of a Pittsburgh banker and of his sons, John A. Harper and Albert R. Harper; that of the latter

relates to defense of Pittsburgh during the Civil War. Since being noted in *WPHM* 16: 221-22 (1933) other material, notably correspondence with Dorothea Dix, has been withdrawn by the donor.

Gift of Mrs. Franklin C. Irish, 1931. Acc. no. 201.

HAWKINS, WILLIAM G. (b. 1799). 2 ms. boxes

Personal and legal papers of an Allegheny County lawyer, judge, and speaker (1830-1832) of the state Senate, together with newspaper clippings and printed miscellany relating to his political career. A few items have been separately cataloged.

Gift of Miss Beatrice Hawkins, 1932-1937. Acc. nos. 101, 197, 335, and 584.

HAYS, GILBERT A.

Papers, 1870-1930. 7 ms. boxes

Letters, notes, and miscellany relating to his father, Gen. Alexander C. Hays (1819-1864), used in a biography of Gen. Hays, 1919, and a regimental history, *Under the Red Patch*, 1908; also membership data and correspondence as secretary of the 63d Pennsylvania Volunteer Regimental Association. Noted in *WPHM* 18: 64 (1935).

HOLLAND, DR. WILLIAM J. (1848-1932).

Papers, 1730-1932. 76 ms. boxes

Correspondence, sermons and speeches, notes, and miscellany of a Presbyterian minister, scientist and director of Carnegie Museum, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, and prominent civic leader; includes papers of Benezet, Horsfield, and other antecedent families. Contains printed miscellany, also scrapbooks separately classified as HA. Original divisions of the papers have presumably been kept but the whole has never been thoroughly processed. Some letters of commercial autograph value were withdrawn prior to deposit.

Gift of Moorhead Holland, 1936-1937.

KNOX, DR. WILLIAM F.

Papers, 1846-1920. 1 ms. box

Correspondence of a McKeesport physician and his wife, Elizabeth M. Kidoo, with members of the families of each; also their copybooks of the 1840's and an exercise book of Jennie Knox, 1880; miscellaneous bills and receipts; and printed speeches of a half-brother, Philander C. Knox. There are other Knox

papers in the Darlington Memorial Library of the University of Pittsburgh.

LOGAN, GEN. ALBERT J. (1867-1934).

Papers, 1881-1932. 3 ms. boxes

Correspondence, addresses, testimonials, etc., of a Pittsburgh manufacturer, civic leader, and officer of the Pennsylvania National Guard, supplemented by clippings and other printed miscellany, photographs, etc. Scrapbooks are separately classified as HA. Noted in *WPHM* 15: 176 (1932); 16: 64, 153 (1933).

Gift of Gen. and Mrs. Logan, 1932-1935. Acc. nos. 149, 362.

LOW, SIGISMUND (1825-1899), and THEODORE LOW.

Family papers, 1859-1936. 1 ms. box

Mostly printed miscellany concerning careers of father and son, civil engineers for the Pittsburgh & Connellsville and other railroads, with obituaries of Emile Low (1854-1927) and other members of the family. Contains many examples of Theodore's verse printed in Pittsburgh and Virginia newspapers. Materials relating to railroad routes, 1859; Fort Squirrel Hill, 1863; and the Niagara ship canal, 1884, are separately cataloged.

Gift of H. L. Low, 1940.

McNAIR, COL. DUNNING.

Papers, 1790-1858. 2 ms. boxes

Business and personal correspondence of the founder of Wilkinsburg, his brother, David McNair, and his son, Dunning R. McNair; much of the material relates to transportation. A card catalog of items prior to 1812 is filed with the papers. Noted in *WPHM* 17: 146, 208 (1934); 18: 156 (1935); selections published in *WPHM* 18: 237-254.

Acc. nos. 248, 260, 298, 372.

MATHIOT, JACOB D.

Papers, 1818-1875. 23 ms. boxes

Personal and business correspondence and records, collected by Charles L. Armor, relating to land transactions and commercial activities in the Ligonier Valley of a militia colonel, state legislator, and ironmaster. This extensive collection is only roughly arranged; no calendar, guide, or inventory has yet been prepared. Noted in *WPHM* 20: 300 (1937).

Gift of B. I. Matthews, Ligonier, Pa., 1937.

MORGAN, GEORGE (1743-1810).

Papers, 1768-1822.

1 ms. box

Consist of a ledger, 1770-1789, "Manuscript book," 1778-1810, and notebook, 1800-1821; typescript list of Morgan papers in The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture; and copies of a few letters to him once owned by his descendant (including Washington letters unknown to Fitzpatrick). Major items are separately cataloged. Other Morgan papers in Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh have been calendared; some duplicate calendar cards are available at the Society.

Gifts of Miss Julia Morgan Harding, John M. Okie, Earle R. Forrest, and others, 1934.

NEVIN, JOHN IRWIN (1838-1884).

Papers, 1858-1884.

1 ms. box

Minor correspondence of a founder and editor of the Pittsburgh *Leader*; commissions, military forms, etc., as an officer of the 93d Pennsylvania Volunteers; also two diaries kept during the Virginia campaign of 1863 and while in Libby prison, 1862. Memorabilia include chessmen carved while in prison and photographs in uniform. Many obituary notices are also included.

Gift of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Daniel E. Nevin, Sewickley, Pa., 1952.

PATTERSON, BURD SHIPPEN.

Papers, 1902-1916.

5 ms. boxes

Correspondence, addresses, business records, and miscellany of a devoted officer of the HSWP relating to the Pittsburgh Sesqui-Centennial, 125th anniversary of Allegheny County, and other local celebrations, and as secretary of the Lake Erie and Ohio River Ship Canal Company. Includes many newspaper clippings, programs, and other printed ephemera. A few items are separately cataloged.

ROSS, JAMES (1762-1847), and GEORGE WOODS.

Papers, 1769-1837.

1 ms. box

Correspondence, land records, memoranda, etc., of a Pittsburgh attorney and U.S. Senator, and of his brother-in-law, whose order from the Penns to lay out the town of Pittsburgh, 1784, is included. Included also are records of land sales there by the Penns, and of others in Bedford County. The Ross papers contain letters of Hugh Henry Brackenridge, Israel Putnam, and

others, and contemporary copies of letters and documents of George and Martha Washington; one group deals with secret Indian funds, 1796, another with Spanish spoliation claims for goods rafted down the Ohio in 1801, and a third with the troublesome schooling of George Woods Ross. Some items are separately cataloged.

Gift of Mrs. Harvey S. Childs and others, 1930-1934.

SCULL, JOHN IRWIN (1888-1959).

Miscellaneous papers, 1920-1930. 3 ms. boxes

Correspondence, memoranda, and genealogical notes of the Scull-Irwin families, including data on John Scull, founder of the *Pittsburgh Gazette*, 1786. For an article based in part on these papers see Margaret P. Bothwell, "The Sculls and Irwins — Pillars of Pennsylvania," *WPHM* 46: 57-96 (1962).

Gift of his nephew, Dr. Edward Scull, Hartford, Conn., 1962.

STEVENSON, WILLIAM H.

Papers, 1903-1928. 2 ms. boxes

Correspondence, addresses, and collected miscellany of a Pittsburgh merchant, president of the Society and chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, and civic leader; includes material on the Lake Erie and Ohio River Ship Canal, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and especially on the centennial voyage of the *New Orleans*, 1911, including a diary of the trip, photographs, and an account of the celebration on its arrival at New Orleans.

Gift of Mrs. William H. Stevenson, 1932-1933. Acc. nos. 120, 241.

THAW, JOHN (1779-1865), and WILLIAM THAW (1818-1889).

Papers, 1799-1917. 9 ms. boxes

The John Thaw papers, 1799-1840, consist of business correspondence and records, especially concerning the Monongahela Bridge Co., and miscellaneous documents. His son's papers are more extensive and contain a variety of materials on Pittsburgh banking, transportation, and other business enterprises. Some later family papers are included. A card index of the major items, prepared by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Sellers, is filed with the papers. Noted in *WPHM* 16: 63-64 (1933).

Gift of Benjamin Thaw, 1932. Acc. no. 150.

WAY, ABISHAI, JOHN WAY, *et al.*

Papers, 1785-1894.

4 ms. boxes

Correspondence, legal papers, and land records of an agent for the Harmony Society who settled at Sewickley, Pa., and of his son and principal heir, whose papers are more extensive. Includes a few items relating to their descendants, and genealogical notes of one branch of the family. Some later papers have been added from other sources.

Gift of Frederick Way, Jr., 1934. Acc. no. 297.

WOODS, CAPT. MILTON LAWRENCE (*b.* 1828).

Papers, 1848-1897.

1 ms. box

A pocket memoranda book kept by a river pilot, 1848-1852, containing mostly copied verse but including detailed expenses for 1852 and a gazetteer of landmarks on the river run to Gallipolis, Ohio; 26 pocket diaries, 1870-1897, containing almost daily entries except for 1891 and 1895; and a composite photograph of his wife and nine children.

Gift of his son, Harry C. Woods, 1942.