



Archives

REPRESENTING THE PAST

WINTER 2014

Beyond the documents:

A peek at the House Archives' object collections

In addition to the House Archives' role as a repository for committee documents, legislative manuals, and the written works of Representatives, the collections also contain a number of unexpected three dimensional objects. The nature of these varies widely, from campaign materials to commemorative items and constituent gifts. The collections contain objects that tell the story of a legislator's day-to-day experiences inside and outside of the Capitol—attending small council meetings in districts, posing for

photographs with dignitaries, speaking publicly about legislation, or attending groundbreaking ceremonies.

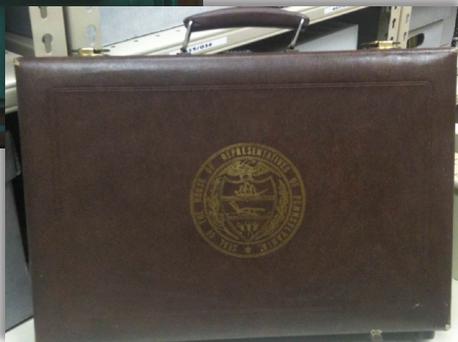
A typical mid-20th century voting machine used at polling places in Pennsylvania.



This microphone was used for decades on the floor of the House after being installed in 1929.



This briefcase bearing the Seal of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives belonged to former Representative John B. McCue, who represented the 60th District from 1963-1964 and the 61st District from 1971-1976.



Lerner
206 MARKET ST.,
HARRISBURG, PA.

Pictured here is a "cabinet card" photograph of former PA House Member and US Congressman Henry Dickinson Green from our Cabinet Card Collection.

Is scheduling an oral history interview with the House Archives one of your New Year's resolutions?

Give us a call or send us an email at the address below with any questions you might have about interviewing, or to set up a time to visit!

**PO Box 202220, 469 Forum Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2220,
717-783-3866, records@pabmc.net, www.house.state.pa.us/bmc/archives**

Archival Preservation at Home

Many people have collections of newspaper clippings in their homes—but much of it is likely in danger of disintegration. Because newspaper is very acidic, over time it will turn yellow and become brittle, especially when exposed to UV light and repeated handling. Also, as the paper turns yellow, that acidic material can migrate to other materials around it (other papers, pages of books, folders, photographs, etc.). What to do? If you are only looking to preserve the information contained in news articles and not the actual newspapers, photocopy the articles. Although it can also be acidic, plain white paper does not deteriorate as quickly as newsprint. If you want to save the actual newspaper,

keep it in an archival sleeve or in an acid-free folder, not touching other sensitive documents, to limit the acid migration. Keeping the newspaper in clear sleeves also prevents the continual handling of the actual paper. If not being shown, the articles should be kept in darker rooms to limit UV exposure.

Another popular collection at home is family photographs. One of the first things you can do is decide what to keep. How many copies of each photo do you need? Do you need to keep unidentified photos? If you are never going to be able to identify them, should they be tossed? Secondly, identify how your photos are currently stored, i.e. photo albums. If you have albums with sticky magnetic pages, it is best

**Preserving family
and personal
documents can be a
daunting task.
Here are a few tips
for basic archiving
at home.**

to remove the photos from these albums. The adhesive on these pages is quite acidic and can be damaging to the photos. However, it can be tough and patience is the key. Carefully remove the photos with a small tool, like a letter opener. Trying to just pull the photos from the pages with your hands can increase the risk of tearing, smudging, and curling.

Once you have identified which photographs you are keeping, you then need to house them appropriately. Placing each photograph in an archival sleeve or an acid-free folder would be the best choice. Photos can fade and/or become brittle with exposure to UV light and continual handling (the natural oils from hands/fingers can leave permanent smears and smudges). Identification is important: names, dates, places. Archival pencils can be used to write on the back. Scanning photos is fine because it's a one-time exposure to light. After the scan, put the photos away.

Tip: Many art supply and craft stores now carry many archival supplies and are reasonably priced. Just look for “archival” or “acid-free” on the materials. Feel free to contact the House Archives for more information.

In Memoriam

James M. Burd

March 31, 1931 - March 18, 2013
R, Butler County, 1977-1990

William J. Coyne

August 24, 1936 - November 4, 2013
D, Allegheny County, 1971-1972

Edward L. Dardanell

September 23, 1923 - April 5, 2013
D, Allegheny County, 1965-1968

Thomas J. Fee

January 6, 1931 - August 7, 2013
D, Lawrence County, 1969-1994

Dick L. Hess

September 12, 1938 - September 6, 2013
R, Bedford County, 1987-2013

Austin M. Lee

June 6, 1919 - June 4, 2013
R, Philadelphia County, 1957-1964

Mitchell W. Melton

April 6, 1943 - March 11, 2013
D, Philadelphia County, 1969-1972

Merle H. Phillips

September 21, 1928 - December 30, 2013
R, Montour/Northumberland/
Snyder, 1980-2010

LaVern Pyles

May 17, 1919 - June 20, 2013
R, Montgomery County, 1975-1980

Gerald J. Spitz

June 23, 1941 - December 5, 2013
R, Delaware County, 1977-1984

Theodore Stuban

July 13, 1928 - November 27, 2013
D, Columbia County, 1977-1992

John Swaim

March 19, 1949 - May 4, 2013
D, Philadelphia County, 1981-1982

*More information on the Representatives listed here can be found
in the House Archives' Biographical Directory at:*

<http://www.house.state.pa.us/bmc/archives/bioDir.cfm>

SNAPSHOT : January 1940

One of Pennsylvania's most nationally renowned Representatives resigned her seat as a legislator on January 8, 1940, in order to direct the state's Works Progress Administration education program. After the November elections of 1938, Crystal Bird Fauset became the first African-American female to be elected to any state legislature in the country.

She had risen to prominence through her work with the YWCA and the American Friends Service Committee, for whom she traveled widely as a lecturer in the 1920s. Trained as a teacher at Columbia University, she was interested in education and was instrumental in forming the Institute for Race Relations at Swarthmore College in 1933.

Bird Fauset's experience, dynamic reputation, and a group of loyal supporters led her campaign for a seat in the House serving the 18th District of Philadelphia, which she won in advance of the 1939 term. During her service in the House, she sponsored nine bills, primarily concerned with public health, housing safety,



Crystal Bird Fauset is pictured here discussing civilian defense with Edwin Barclay, President of the Republic of Liberia, in Washington, D.C. in 1943. Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress.



Crystal Bird Fauset is pictured here with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt at an African-American Civilian Defense Rally in 1942. During World War II, Bird Fauset served as assistant director and race relations director for the Office of Civil Defense.

and education, but also notably House Bill 773 of 1939, an amendment to the Female Labor Law of 1913. This amendment was aimed at making improvements in the legal treatment and compensation of women employed in domestic service by regulating labor hours and working conditions.

She pioneered legislation calling for developments in public health services, regulation of housing rental codes, and municipal land acquisition. After going on to her civil defense and federal racial relations work in the 1940s, Bird Fauset was a founding member and traveled widely with the United Nations Council of Philadelphia and World Affairs Council as a peace and political independence advocate.

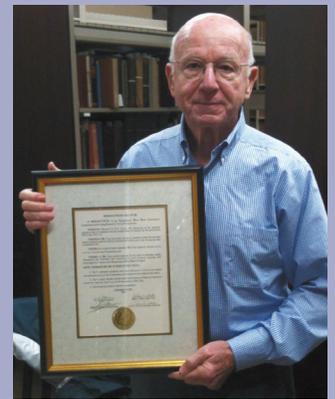
She died in Philadelphia in 1965, and has since been routinely recognized with honorable resolutions in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Recent additions to our collections

- *Making Ideas Matter* by Dwight Evans (2013)
- *From the Farm to the House* by Arthur Hershey (2013)
- *Keystone Corruption: A Pennsylvania Insider's View of a State Gone Wrong* by Brad Bumsted (2013)
- *On the Front Lines of Pennsylvania Politics: Twenty-Five Years of Keystone Reporting* by John Baer (2012)
- Personal Papers of Kenneth Cole (D) 1975-1992 (5 boxes)
- Personal Papers of Dick Hess (R) 1987-2013 (6 boxes)
- Personal Papers of Ralph Kaiser (D) 1989-2002 (6 boxes)

Donation visit from Hon. Kenneth J. Cole

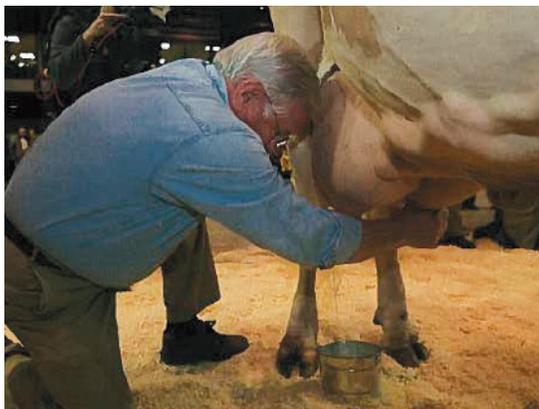
Kenneth J. Cole, former Representative for Adams and York Counties, recently visited the House Archives to donate some items from his personal collections. In the photograph to the right, he is holding a resolution honoring his work with the Chesapeake Bay Commission and Susquehanna River Basin Commission. The Archives collects personal papers of former Members and staff in order to provide preservation for valuable pieces of legislative history, including correspondence, legislative research, books, campaign materials and other ephemera.



2014: 97 years of the Pennsylvania Farm Show

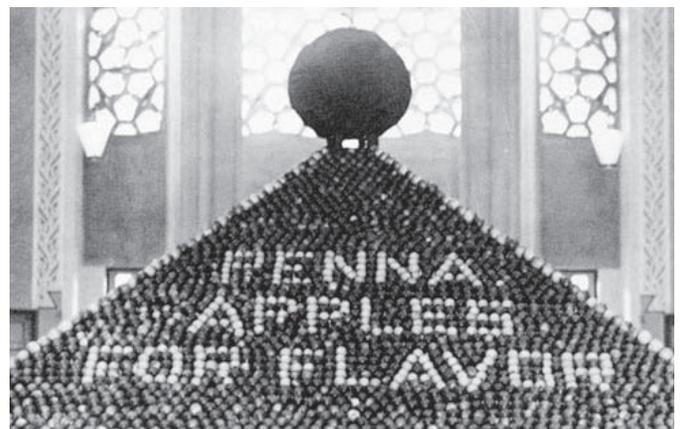
In 1921, the General Assembly passed the State Fair Law, creating the State Fair Commission. In that session, House Bill 452 was introduced by Representative Philip H. Dewey of Tioga County, initiating the preliminary steps for the fair and appropriations. The show's popularity led to discussion of building larger accommodation for the annual event, leading to the construction of the current Farm Show Complex, in which the show was first held in 1931. Pennsylvania's state fair with its agriculture-only theme has been held each January since 1917.

Former Representative Arthur Hershey, pictured here competing in the Celebrity Milking Contest at the 2007 Farm Show, recently visited the House Archives to donate a copy of his new book, From the Farm to the House, published this year by Masthof Press.



90 years ago this January, the number of visitors to the Pennsylvania Farm Show first surpassed 40,000.

DID YOU KNOW?



A display of Pennsylvania apples at the Farm Products Show, circa 1924.