Since the early nineteenth century, the Pennsylvania General Assembly has printed a variety of publications to assist legislators and staff members in the daily business of government, and act as an informative resource for the public. Most of these have included the full text of the federal and state Constitutions, as well as parliamentary procedures and the Rules of the House and of the Senate. These volumes are the predecessors of The Pennsylvania Manual that sits on the desks of legislators and staff members today, a publication shaped most significantly by a man named John Augustus Smull. His name, forefront in the book’s title, Smull’s Legislative Hand Book and Manual of the State of Pennsylvania, graced the spines of manuals from 1866 until 1922, and even for a few years thereafter, the newly minted Pennsylvania State Manual bore the parenthetical explanation ‘Formerly Smull’s.’

Born in Harrisburg in 1832 and raised in the city, Smull began taking steps toward his eventual career at a young age. His father died when he was barely 10 years old, compelling his mother, Harriet Pauli Smull, to procure work for her sons in support of the family. According to one biographer, "an acquaintance with a number of members of the Legislature emboldened her to secure a position" for John's elder brother, Le Van (Memorial of John Augustus Smull, p. 9). Harriet's case must have been convincing, as the role of page to the Speaker of the House appears to have been created for the 14-year-old Le Van to fulfill. In the meantime, John contributed to the household economy as a newspaper apprentice at the Harrisburg

DID YOU KNOW?

On May 29, 1774, the Colonial Pennsylvania Assembly was visited by Paul Revere, who brought news of the closure of Boston Harbor and requested Pennsylvania’s support against the British.

Recent Acquisitions at the House Archives available for consultation

- Pin – J. Lee Plummer for State Treasurer, 1905 (R-Blair, 1903–1906); Pin – John O. Sheatz for State Treasurer, 1907 (R-Philadelphia, 1903–1908)
- Fred Noye Campaign Memorabilia Collection (approx. 620 pieces)

In March, the House Archives had the privilege of a visit from former Representative Fred Noye, when he generously donated his large collection of campaign memorabilia. He and the House Archives would like to encourage other Members and staff to consider donating any materials to our research collections. What a great way to spring clean your offices and homes!
Sutherland, a legislator who represented Pennsylvania in the United States Congress. His work as a legislator was significant, and he played a key role in drafting various legislative bills. His legacy is celebrated in Pennsylvania, where his contributions are remembered in the Pennsylvania Manual.

The Pennsylvania Manual, a legislative handbook previously published by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, is named after him. The manual is a comprehensive guide to Pennsylvania legislation and provides a detailed history of the state's legislative processes. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in understanding the history and development of Pennsylvania's legislative system.

Martha Glazer Speiser and Maurice J. Speiser, on the other hand, were prominent figures in the world of arts and politics. Their work as writers and activists had a significant impact on their respective fields. Martha Glazer Speiser, a Hollywood writer and socialite, is best known for her work on the screenplay for Paramount Pictures' film A Farewell to Arms. Her contributions to the literary world were recognized through her involvement in the publication of Ernest Hemingway's works.

Hemingway's success was not in vain, and his work continues to influence and inspire new generations of writers. The legacy of both Sutherland and Martha Glazer Speiser is a testament to the power of individuals to shape the course of history. Their contributions to their respective fields serve as a reminder of the importance of activism and dedication in promoting progress and societal change.
A selection of legislative manuals in the House Library.

Martha Glazer Speiser was born in Belfast, the present capital of Northern Ireland, in 1884, and educated in Philadelphia. Her interest in art, literature, theatre, and politics brought her into contact with many prominent Philadelphians, and she was engaged in various community-building efforts in the city. During World War I, she acted as district chair for the Red Cross and Liberty Loan fundraising drives. In 1913, Glazer married Maurice J. Speiser, a prominent Philadelphia lawyer, expanding her already far-reaching connections and influence in Philadelphia cultural life. In 1922, Martha Glazer Speiser (front center) in Paris, France with Ernest Hemingway (rear center) circa 1932. Photograph courtesy of Speiser and Easterling-Hallman Foundation Collection of Ernest Hemingway, University of South Carolina Libraries.

Martha Glazer Speiser was a Hollywood writer who may not have received much acclaim from reviewers or the literary community, but the Speisers played a central role in preserving Hemingway’s reputation through Martha’s legal guidance and Martha’s critical eye.

Martha Glazer Speiser & Maurice J. Speiser: A Pioneer Legislator and a Philadelphia Attorney; Friends of Ernest Hemingway

Hemingway’s success was in some ways a Glazer Speiser family affair. Martha Speiser’s brother, Benjamin Glazer, was a Hollywood writer who aided in producing the screenplay for Paramount Pictures’ film of A Farewell to Arms. Martha passed away at the age of 83 on September 22, 1968, in Philadelphia.

Scholars and archivists affiliated with the University of South Carolina, where a collection of materials from the Speisers with Hemingway is held, detail the relationship between the legislators and the famous author, including Jill M. Jividen’s monograph Power of Attorney: Business and Friendship Between Ernest Hemingway and Maurice J. Speiser (2008).

A personal inscription in a first edition copy of A Farewell to Arms from 1929, signed by the author, Ernest Hemingway, and addressed “To Martha Speiser with much affection and fine memories of Hendaye Plage.” Original book held by the University of South Carolina Libraries.

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