

THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Archives



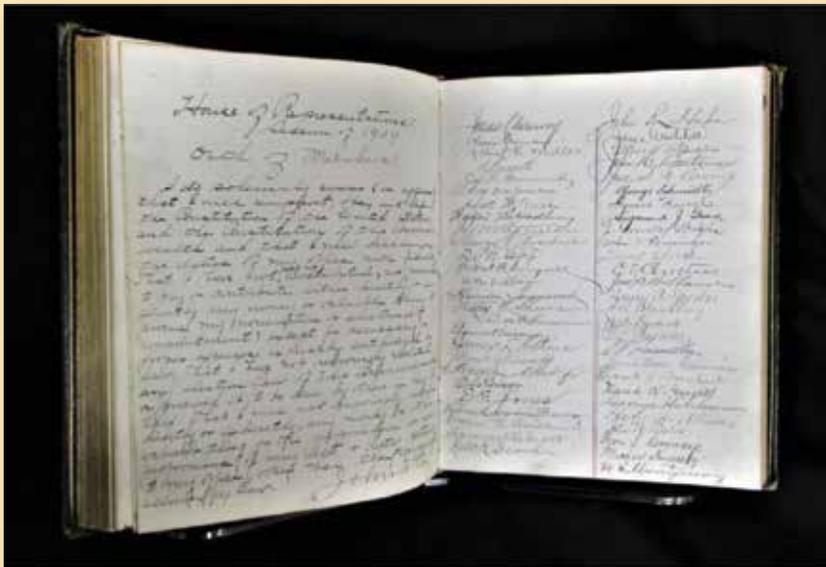
REPRESENTING THE PAST

Fall 2019/Winter 2020

Grand Opening: House Archives Exhibit Area

The House Archives is pleased to present our new exhibit area! This space will allow us to share some of the unique and interesting items from our collection with the public.

In our premier exhibit we are showcasing *Historical Highlights of the House*. Visitors can explore objects, photographs, and papers related to the history of Speakers of the Pennsylvania House, as well as the work Members do in Harrisburg and their districts. Also featured are some of the oldest materials in our collection dating back to the mid-1800s.



Above: Pennsylvania House of Representatives Oath Book containing Members' signatures from 1853 to 2000.

Visitors can learn more about the Pennsylvania House's most famous Members, as well as discover some of the unsung Representatives whose hard work and contributions have served the Commonwealth for centuries.

The House Archives will rotate exhibits on a regular basis, and will continue to emphasize the best of the diverse and dedicated men and women who have served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

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Highlights of House History Exhibit Continued

Speakers of the House...



Above: K. Leroy Irvis at the rostrum. Photo from the House Archives photograph collection.

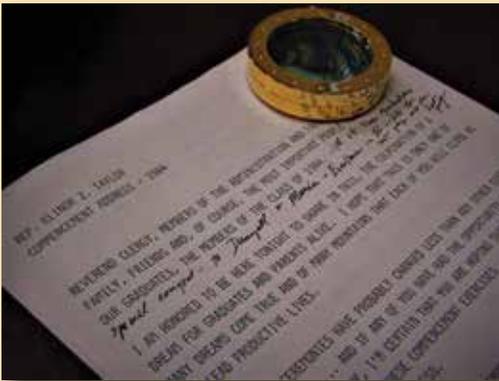
Speakers featured in the premier exhibit include K. Leroy Irvis, Herbert Fineman, Robert W. O'Donnell, and Samuel H. Smith. The House Archives collection includes the personal papers of several of the Speakers, which were utilized for the exhibit.



Above: Samuel H. Smith photograph and bobblehead. Photo from the Samuel H. Smith Collection and bobblehead courtesy of David Reddecliff.

Left: Birthday card and photograph from the Herbert Fineman Collection.

Members at Work...



Above: Speech with notes from the Elinor Z. Taylor Collection.

The exhibit examines the various duties and functions Members of the House partake in, including district events, committee work, tours, and constituent service.

Right: Hard hat from the Robert E. Belfanti Collection.



Faces From Long Ago...



Finally, the exhibit explores some Members and materials from the 19th century, as well as some of the historic firsts such as the inaugural group of women to serve in the House.

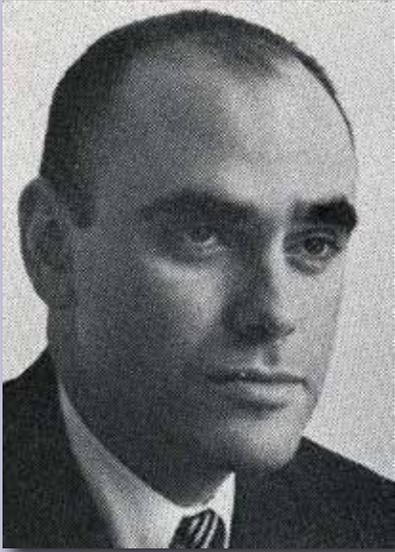
Left: Cabinet card portraits of Caleb C. Thompson and Dr. Henry N. Hess.

Right: News clipping of Martha G. Speiser casting her ballot in the 1922 election.

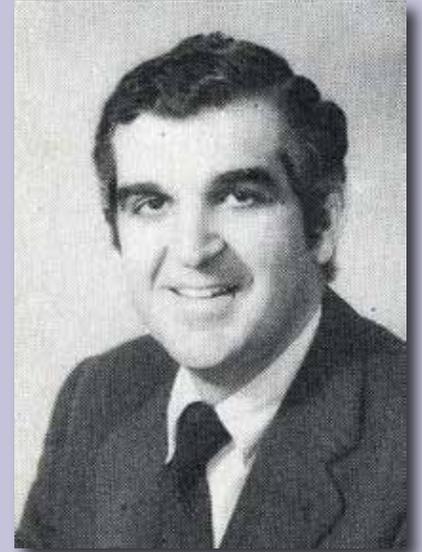


Above Source: The Philadelphia Inquirer, November 8, 1922.

Friendship Across the Aisle: Representatives Gerald Kaufman & Robert J. Butera



Earlier this year, the House Archives had the opportunity to interview former House Member Gerald Kaufman. The interview was orchestrated by his fellow former Member and friend, Robert J. Butera. Butera, who participated in the Oral History project in 2007, contacted and encouraged the Archives to interview Kaufman. He explained that though they were from opposing parties, they had formed a friendship while in office together that they maintain to this day.



During his oral history, Kaufman described himself as “very out front” and “outspoken as hell” regarding the “many issues of our day — environmental, women’s rights, civil rights — I was there.” He noted that while he had mentors from Democratic Leadership such as K. Leroy Irvis and Herbert Fineman, he quickly formed a friendship with Butera. He fondly recalled socializing after hours with Butera and other colleagues.



Butera also spoke with the House Archives about their friendship, explaining that they “hit it off” after session talking over beers and hot dogs. Butera said that while he was a Republican and Kaufman was a “1960s liberal,” he subscribed to Kaufman’s “humanity” and “civil rights issues.”

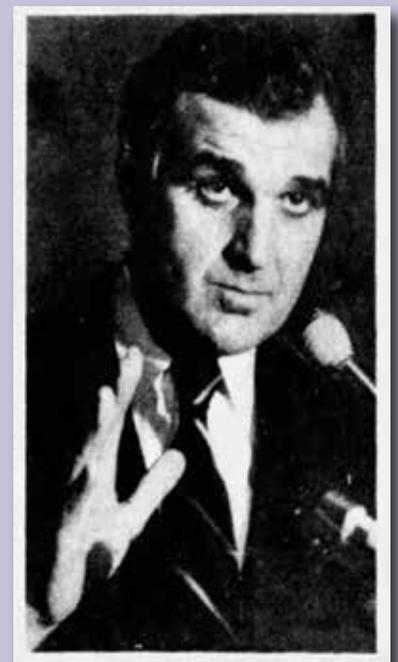
The paths of the two men crossed professionally several more times as they worked on reforming the governance of the Philadelphia Zoo Board in the 1990s, and later at the Awbury Arboretum, where Butera was a board member and Kaufman was executive director.

When reflecting on the importance of comradery with fellow House Members, Butera said, “It is essential to develop trust in the integrity of differing viewpoints. Only then can there be consensus reached and compromise achieved.”

Former Members: If you have not participated in the House Archives Oral History Project, please consider taking part!

Contact us at 717-783-3866 or records@pabmc.net

The Morning Call,
Allentown, Pennsylvania,
June 21, 1972.



The Sentinel, Carlisle, Pennsylvania,
December 15, 1977.

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Consider Donating!



We would like to ask former Members and staff who have materials that would be an asset to our collection or future exhibit to please consider donating to the House Archives. Materials we are always seeking include photographs, campaign memorabilia, research or correspondence regarding important legislation, as well as “one-of-a-kind” items from or associated with the House. We hope to continue to preserve and present the House’s history for generations to come — and want to be able to highlight history and Members from all over the Commonwealth.

If you have materials you would like to donate, contact the House Archives at 717-783-3866.

County Spotlight: Adams County



As part of our new exhibit area, the House Archives is planning displays highlighting each county. Through this we hope to draw attention to the wide range of issues, industries, and people of the Commonwealth, as well as the Members that represent them. The first county selected is Adams County. Adams County was founded in 1800, separating from York County. The county is currently served by two House districts.

Adams County’s top industries are food processing, manufacturing, and distribution. Well-known companies include Utz and Knouse Foods. The county is also home to a robust tourism industry. Ski Liberty, Gettysburg National Military Park, as well as many local wineries and orchards are popular with visitors. Members featured include: Kenneth J. Cole, Stephen R. Maitland, John H. Broujos, William H. Tipton, and more!

