



House Archives Has Moved!

The House Archives recently moved to its new location on the Sixth Floor of the Irvis Office Building. The Sixth Floor was previously utilized by the Commonwealth Courts, but has been vacant for several years. After a fresh coat of paint and some new shelving, the House Archives can now better store our collections. As the official repository of the Pennsylvania House, the Archives is home to a number of different collections including: Committee Records, Personal Papers of former Members, and institutional records of select departments of the House. The various collections are made up of all types of media: paper files,

books, photographs, videotapes, DVDs, audio cassettes, maps, campaign materials, and even three-dimensional artifacts.

The new space includes a library and a new reading room for visitors to conduct research in a comfortable

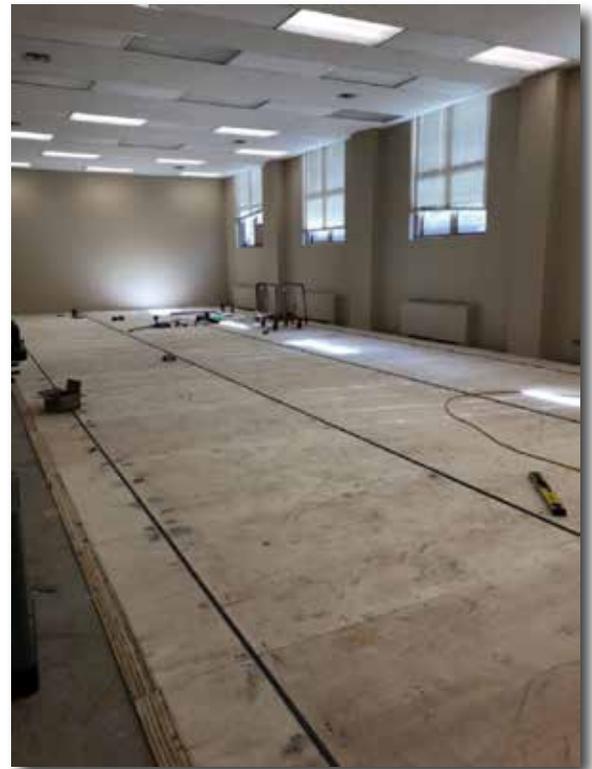
setting. The library collection includes works related to the history of the General Assembly, House and Senate Journals, House and Senate Histories, Pennsylvania Manuals, Laws of Pennsylvania, directories, and books authored by and about Members.

Be sure to stop by and check out the new location if you get a chance. Visit our website for further information on our collections, as well as links to our biographical database and publications:

<http://www.house.state.pa.us/BMC/archives/index.cfm>



Above: Completed shelving for collections.



Above: Construction of movable shelving track.

Move continued...



From left to right: pallets filled with records to be transported from the Forum Building to the Irvis Office Building; the Sixth Floor under renovation; pallets ready to be unloaded on the Sixth Floor.



Left: renovated hallway of the Sixth Floor.



Right: boxes on new movable shelving where records can be stored.



Left: new workspace for Archives staff to process collections and conduct research. Center and right: reading/research space and library.

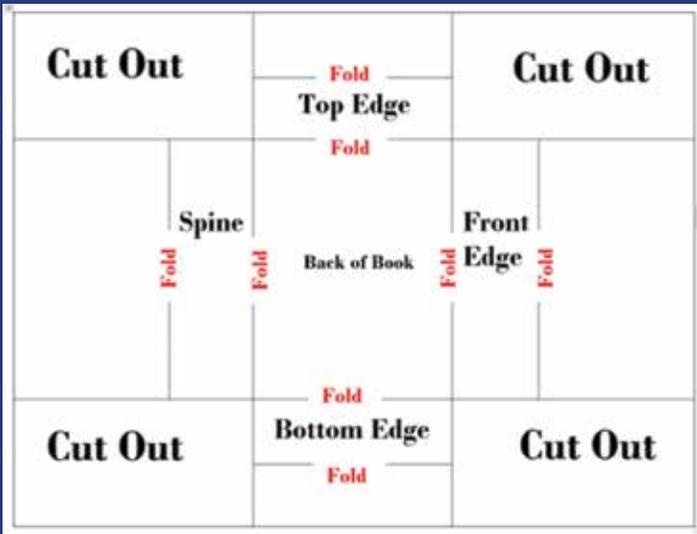
Storing old and fragile books



Above: A Pennsylvania Manual with a detached cover and a broken spine with detached pages.

Caring for old and fragile books can be a challenge for both professional institutions and the average collector. Damaged books can be rebound — but this can often be an expensive solution for a book with a detached cover or cracked spine. Another solution to prevent further damage to a fragile book is to create a custom case.

Book cases for standard size books can be purchased, but can also be easily made. When creating your own case, use acid free cardstock — acid free materials can be purchased from archival suppliers as well as through many craft retailers. Using acid free materials is important because the acids that are naturally in paper and cardboards can cause discolorations to your book and cause pages to become brittle.



Directions: Using a piece of acid free cardstock, create a custom pattern with your damaged book by tracing all sides as well as each edge (see above example and final product below). Cut out the corners and fold along lines that match the sides of the book to create a custom box that securely holds it in shape.



Above: Final product secured with a ribbon to keep case securely on book. Note the tie is on the top edge of the case so the knot is not sandwiched between books when on a shelf.



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Member Feature: Crystal Bird Fauset

Elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1938, Crystal Bird Fauset (D-Philadelphia County, 1939-1940) was the first African-American woman to serve in a State Legislature in the United States of America. Born in Maryland in 1893, Fauset was educated as a teacher at Columbia University in New York City and taught in public schools early in her career. She later worked as a social worker for the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) and as a traveling speaker for the American Friends (Quaker) Service Committee.

Her dedication to public service led her to seek and win election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from the 18th District of Philadelphia County in 1938. Even though she was a freshman member, Representative Fauset wasted no time in getting to work, sponsoring nine House bills during her first year of service; her legislative work aimed to improve housing, education, and public health. Representative Fauset resigned from the House on January 10, 1940, in order to accept a job as the Assistant State Director of the Works Public Administration—a job offered by the Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration. In her resignation letter read across the House Dais on May 6, 1940, Representative Fauset said in part: “I feel that my new work offers a very fine opportunity for public service; nevertheless, it is with a feeling of deep regret that I sever my connection with the House of Representatives, for my brief legislative experience was one of the most pleasant, most stimulating experiences of my entire life.”



Crystal Bird Fauset passed away on March 27, 1965, in Philadelphia, Pa. The House of Representatives honored her memory with House Resolution 74 of 2003. Ms. Fauset’s personal papers are housed at Howard University in Washington, DC.