

Charles R. Barker papers

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**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Michael Gubicza through the
Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small
Archival Repositories.**

Last updated on March 21, 2013.

Historical Society of Montgomery County

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Summary Information

Repository	Historical Society of Montgomery County
Creator	Barker, Charles R.
Title	Charles R. Barker papers
Call number	10
Date [inclusive]	1876-1961
Extent	17.4 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Charles Reed Barker (1875-1961) was a very active genealogist and historian in the Philadelphia area. The Charles R. Barker papers, 1876-1961, consist of diaries, scrapbooks, historic document abstracts/transcriptions, and a small amount of loose documents and ephemera. At the heart of the collection are Barker's diaries, which provide a comprehensive and intimate view of his daily activities over nearly three-quarters of a century, 1889-1961.</p>

Biography/History

Charles Reed Barker (1875-1961) was a very active genealogist and historian in the Philadelphia area.

Scope and Contents

The Charles R. Barker papers consist of diaries, scrapbooks, historic document abstracts/transcriptions, and a small amount of loose documents and ephemera.

Barker's diaries form the heart of this collection. Incredibly detailed, faithfully entered on a daily basis, and indexed by the diarist himself, Barker's diaries provide a comprehensive and intimate view of his daily activities over nearly three-quarters of a century, 1889-1961. Barker was engaged with Philadelphia culture, attending the Mummer's Parade, visiting the Free Library, and attending meetings of many clubs and societies. Barker also responds to world events, having lived through two World Wars.

In addition to his diaries, Barker kept scrapbooks with newspaper clippings on various topics that interested him. There are scrapbooks about Philadelphia, the Main Line and vicinity, and Lower Merion marriage announcements (1910-1928) and obituaries (1909-1926). Of special interest is a scrapbook on genealogy, genealogists, and genealogy research methods.

As part of his research, Barker transcribed abstracts of deeds, wills, orphan's court records, church records, *Public Ledger* articles, etc. He also recorded gravestone inscriptions from burial grounds in Delaware and Montgomery counties, Pennsylvania. Some of these were published.

In addition to the diaries, scrapbooks, and abstracts which make up the bulk the collection, there is a small amount of documents, ephemera, and clippings, etc. collected by Barker. These pertain to Philadelphia or Montgomery County townships, and subjects like the Civil War and the Centennial Exposition. There is also some correspondence and miscellaneous documents. There is one box of letters from Charles Barker to Ira Hoover, 1943-1961.

Administrative Information

Historical Society of Montgomery County

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Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact Historical Society of Montgomery County for information about accessing this collection.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.
- Historical Society of Montgomery County.
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Delaware County (Pa.)
- Lower Merion (Pa. : Township)
- Main Line (Pa.)
- Montgomery County (Pa.)
- Philadelphia (Pa.)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Barker, Charles R.

SUBJECT(S)

- Abstracting
- Genealogy
- History--Societies, etc
- Local history