

# **Historical Society of Montgomery County business records collection**

**08**

**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.**

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Last updated on March 21, 2013.

Historical Society of Montgomery County

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Historical Society of Montgomery County
<b>Creator</b>	Historical Society of Montgomery County.
<b>Title</b>	Historical Society of Montgomery County business records collection
<b>Call number</b>	08
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1766-1985
<b>Extent</b>	13 linear feet
<b>General Physical Description note</b>	Linear footage estimate is very rough.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	Historical Society of Montgomery County business records collection, 1766-1985, consists of miscellaneous records from businesses in the vicinity of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Dozens of different types of businesses are represented in the collection, including general stores, blacksmiths and forges, banks and insurance companies, post offices, and others. Most of the records are financial--account books, daybooks, ledgers, etc.--but there is also some correspondence and other types of records.

## Biography/History

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Montgomery County, situated in southeastern Pennsylvania, was established in 1784 out of the western portion of Philadelphia County. Part of the Welsh Tract, an area of Pennsylvania settled by Quakers from Wales, it is located along the Schuylkill River. Montgomery County has played an important role in U.S. history, including being the site of such Revolutionary War events as the dramatic reshaping of Washington's Army at Valley Forge and the lesser-known engagement of General Lafayette at Barren Hill. Among its significant residents are military figures Winfield S. Hancock, John F. Hartranft (also Governor of Pennsylvania), and Henry "Hap" Arnold; abolitionist Lucretia Mott; inventors David Rittenhouse and Thaddeus Lowe; and artist Thomas Hovenden. Since its founding, Montgomery County has experienced "booming industry and manufacturing, rich farm fields, advanced transportation, artistic endeavors and unique religious beliefs."

The Historical Society of Montgomery County was established in 1881 as the institutional successor to the Federation of Montgomery County Historical Societies. The Society's mission is "to preserve the county's rich heritage and help tell the stories of the many people who have walked and tended its soil."

### **Bibliography:**

Quoted text from: Historical Society of Montgomery County. "Home." Accessed March 2, 2012. <http://www.hsmcpa.org/>

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection consists of miscellaneous records from businesses in the vicinity of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. There is less than one linear foot of material, and sometimes less than an inch, for each of the businesses included in the collection. Businesses whose records span one linear foot or more are described in separate finding aids. Some account books may be stored with family papers in the Historical Society of Montgomery County family papers collection.

Dozens of different types of businesses are represented in the collection, including general stores, blacksmiths and forges, banks and insurance companies, post offices, and others. Most of the records are financial--account books, daybooks, ledgers, etc.--but there is also some correspondence and other types of records.

A very rough inventory of the collection is provided below. It does NOT cover all the business records held by the Historical Society of Montgomery County, but provides a general sense of the types of material in the collection.

"List of retailers of foreign and domestic merchandise in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, 1877," listed by township

Bean Fire Sand Company, treasurer's account

Bechtel, Isaac, blacksmith book 1850

Blueprints for: Riverview Hospital, Friends Meeting, Plymouth Golf Club, and DeKalb Street bridge

Bridgeport National Bank, minute book of directors, 1906-1914

Brooke, Elijah (surveyor), land drafts and calculations (1816-1827)

Elijah Brooke, surveys, land draughts, and calculations of Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties, 1837-1858

Brown, Cloud and Johnson business receipts

Bryn Mawr Baking Company (?) account book

Center Square Post Office, money order cash book

Christman's Iron Works account book, 1854-1884

Cleaver, Ellis account book (1802-1827),

Conshohocken Sewerage System, Permanent Search

Conshohocken Worsted Mills brief of title

Davis and Schrack receipt book (1841-1842),

DeKalb Street roofing company ledger

Enterprise shirt factory records, 1882-1886

Excelsior Savings Fund and Loan Association financial statements 1879-1975

First National Bank of Norristown minute book, 1864-1898

Foulke and Cadwallader, numerous small account books

Freedley, Henry, inventory accounts

Gottschalk & Weaver account book

Green Lane Forge journals and daybook, 1795-1814

Gulph Mill store ledger

Hall, John (English mechanical engineer), account book, 1768

Harley family store ledger, 1793-1798

Hartman store ledger  
Harvey, Edward, day books  
Hauling, Jones account book (1852),  
Hawk, Abraham, account book 1807-1879  
Hellings Lime Business  
Lederach store records  
Lehman, W. H. (general store?) account books, 1861-1865  
McFarland, Dr. Douglas, Mills along the Wissahickon  
Montgomery Hospital: clippings, newsletters, annual reports, 1892-2011  
Montgomery Insurance Trust and Safe Deposit Company, ledger book  
Mt. Pleasant Forge account book, 1797-1801  
Mt. Pleasant Forge and furnace, miscellaneous notes  
Norristown Clean Sweep Committee minutes and newspaper clippings (1978-1985)  
Norristown Hospital and Dispensary minutes, 1889-1892  
Norristown Insurance and Water Company stock certificates  
Penrose, William receipt book (undated)  
Perkiomen Bridge Hotel account book (1864),  
Perkiomen Bridge lottery books, 1797-1798  
Perkiomen Hay Scales receipt book (1854-1858),  
Perkiomen Mills-Samuel Detweiler, 1831-1833  
Post Master account and record book (Weldon PA),  
Post Office book, 1897  
Potts, Robert receipt book (1837-1851),  
Potts, Robert T. receipt book (1849-1867?),  
Sacred Heart Hospital clippings and photographs, circa 1990s  
Sacred Heart Hospital School of Practical Nursing scrapbooks, 1957-1993  
Salfordville store ledger, 1766-1774  
Scheidt, Adam, Brewing, president and general manager's report, 1898-1913

Schlichter, Jacob account books, correspondence, and voters lists (Limerick and Weaver townships), 1795-1895

Schrack, Dr. Jonathan ledger book, 1855-1856

Sellers, Phillip receipt book (1822)

Sprogell Shoe Store accounts, 1895-1955

Stetler store day book, 1824-1827

Stetler store records and Isaac Stetler ciphering books, circa 1824-1831

Summers, William, receipt book, 1862-1866

Sun Earth Construction Company, Inc. records

Wismers, Harry, account book

Washington Grey Artillery account book (1842-1852) and Constitution/Minute book (1842-1845)

West Norriton Road Construction and Election Watchers correspondence

Yerkes (???) store record book

Ziegler, Michael & Sons, account books, 1784-1824

unidentified account book, 1866

unidentified account books (2)

unidentified letter book, 1892-1893

unidentified sales book, Philadelphia, 1877

various utility companies in Norristown area records (circa 1860-1900)

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## **Administrative Information**

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Historical Society of Montgomery County

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.

### **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.

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition Note**

Materials collected at various times by the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials Note**

Historical Society of Montgomery County: Historical Society of Montgomery County family papers collection.

Historical Society of Montgomery County: Historical Society of Montgomery County transportation records collection.

Historical Society of Montgomery County: Historical Society of Montgomery County club and society records collection.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Montgomery County (Pa.)

### **Subject(s)**

- Artisans
- Business enterprises
- Stores, Retail