

A Finding Aid to the Chester County News Clipping File in the Chester County History Center

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Collection Overview

Repository: Chester County History Center

Title: Chester County News Clipping File

Date: circa 1804 – present

Extent: 356.8 linear feet

Creator: Chester County History Center

Language: The collection is in English.

Summary: The Chester County News Clipping File measures 334.8 linear feet and dates from circa 1804 to the present. Found within the collection are articles on the county's residents and 78 townships, boroughs, and municipalities. Articles are arranged alphabetically by family name and by township/county topics. Township articles are sorted into 17 topics, and County articles are sorted into over 30 topics.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Chester County News Clipping File was first organized in 1929 by Ethel M. Sauer, a curator for the Chester County Historical Society (now Chester County History Center). In the beginning, articles were clipped from local newspapers, pasted to letter size typing paper, and filed chronologically among the manuscript collections.

In 1937, CCHS curatorial staff, headed by Bart Anderson and Dorothy Lapp, reorganized the filing system to create topical access to the articles. During this period, articles were remounted and pasted onto legal size sheets of paper using an archival paste formula from the Library of Congress. Volunteers and staff members, including Emily Campbell and Marwood Darlington, adhered to an organized workflow for sorting and pasting the articles, which filled two four-drawer filing cabinets.

By 1940, articles from 11 local papers and duplicate copies of older papers were regularly sorted and added to the Clippings File. During this decade, Lapp's assistant, Sara Baldwin, clipped, dated, and reviewed articles, and by 1950, approximately 10,000 additional sheets were added to the collection.

In 1958, due to the effort involved with clipping 3 daily and 9 weekly papers, staff focused on preserving copies of older papers for the File. The *Daily Local News* continued to be clipped, but duplicates from the *American Republican*, *Village Record*, and *Chester Valley Union* became the primary focus of staff and volunteer efforts.

At this time, source material for clippings included duplicate copies of the *Morning Republican* (1893–1899), *Oxford Press* (1880–1900, 1925–1935), *Daily Local News*

(1900–1930), *Honeybrook Herald* (1920–1935) and other assorted clippings from 1960–1975.

By 1976, work on the File had slowed, though volunteer Betty Tomlinson was still regularly clipping the *Daily Local News* and Bart Anderson continued to fill in gaps from older publications. During the 1977–1979 renovation of CCHS’s Memorial Hall, the project was intermittently placed on hold, but was renewed with the addition of staff and volunteers in the 1980s.

At this time, the Clippings File moved to the Library’s Reading Room where, for the first time, researchers were able to browse the files themselves. During the 1980s, Annabelle Light and Louise McLimans became lead volunteers on the project, and continued to repair, clip, sort, and paste articles under the supervision of CCHS Library staff. A group of dedicated volunteers continued to assist in pasting, labeling, and dating articles, adding an estimated 7,000 articles during this period.

In 1995, Carol Grigson was asked to lead the volunteer efforts, and a new group of regulars was recruited. By 2012, the project had moved to a system of pre-sorting articles that volunteers would then paste once a month as a group.

Related Material

The Chester County History Center also holds the following materials related to the Chester County News Clipping File (see Appendix for full listing):

- Microfilms for over 14 Chester County newspapers dating from 1719 to 2007, including runs of the *Coatesville Record* (1908–1993), *Daily Local News* (1872–2007), *Jeffersonian* (1843–1910), and *Village Record* (1818–1916).
- Newspapers for over 85 Chester County newspapers dating from 1809 to 1998, including the *Downingtown Archive*, *Kennett News and Advertiser*, *Oxford News*, *Parkesburg Post*, *Phoenixville Messenger*, and *Suburban Advertiser*.

Processing Note

Chester County History Center staff and volunteers continue to update the collection by adding clippings on individuals, townships, and county topics that fill in existing coverage gaps and bring the File up to date. A finding aid to the collection was prepared by Carol Grigson in 2023 with contributions from Jonathan Hoppe (Black History, Roads, and Transportation), Scott Moll (Valley Forge), and Aldon Spencer (Weather).

Preferred Citation

Chester County News Clipping File. Chester County History Center, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Chester County History Center Library.

Terms of Use

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Institutional History Note

The Chester County History Center (previously known as the Chester County Historical Society) was founded in 1893 by ten prominent members of the Chester County community. This group of local historians, educators, naturalists, doctors, and business owners included Gilbert Cope, a genealogist and co-author of *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (1881), and Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, the first president of the Society and Pennsylvania's 'Father of Forestry.'

As a membership organization, the Society was open to men and women who were interested in learning, sharing, and preserving the history of Chester County's boroughs, townships, and residents. From its inception, the Society began to receive gifts in the form of books, printed materials, manuscripts, photographs, and objects, which were then stored in various West Chester locations, including the West Chester Public Library.

In 1902, CCHC partnered with West Chester University (then known as the West Chester Normal School) to acquire a permanent space to hold meetings and display the Society's collection. In 1937, CCHC moved its growing collection of objects and archival materials into West Chester's historic Horticultural Hall, the last commission of architect Thomas U. Walter before he became the 4th Architect of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Horticultural Hall was modernized in 1979 to improve collections management and increase exhibition space. In the early 1980s, CCHC initiated a joint project with Chester County government to administer the Chester County Archives, adding 300 years of public records to its care.

In 1992, the adjacent YMCA building was renovated to add 56,000 square-foot, ensuring that the History Center became a vital complex for exhibition, collection storage, and research. With an expanded library and research area, a 250-seat auditorium, and seven exhibition galleries, the new facility also allowed for an increased emphasis on educational programming. *Becoming Chester County*, a multi-media interactive exhibit highlighting migration, social reform, and

innovation over the past 300 years in Chester County, debuted in 2020 with visible storage areas introduced in 2021.

Over the course of its history, CCHC has continued to expand its mission to preserve Chester County's history. Museum exhibits and educational programming serve the community by connecting its diverse residents with a collection of approximately 950,000 objects, books, manuscripts, and photographs that document how the region was shaped and influenced by local and national events.

Today, CCHC is a nonprofit historical institution that works to promote the county's rich history through community engagement, educational programming, and stewardship of materials in its Museum, Library, and Photo Archives collection.

Scope and Content Note

The Chester County News Clipping File measures 334.8 linear feet and dates from circa 1804 to the present. Found within the collection are articles on Chester Countians and 78 townships, boroughs, and municipalities. The collection is arranged into three sections: **Family Name**, **Township**, and **County**. Articles for families, businesses, organizations, and topics have been pasted onto sheets of 11 x 17-inch card stock, whereby each sheet contains articles for a single name, organization, or topic.

Series 1: Family File is an alphabetical arrangement of family names for individuals with Chester County connections. These are individuals who were born or resided in Chester County, or who contributed significantly to the history of Chester County. While the majority of articles are birth/marriage announcements and obituaries, topical articles featuring individuals can also be found.

Series 2: Township is an alphabetical arrangement of the townships, boroughs, and municipalities of Chester County. Within each of the 78 geographical areas, articles have been further categorized into 17 topics. The most commonly used topics are: Business Houses, Cemeteries, Churches, History, Institutions, and Organizations. Additional topics include: Lands, Maps, Military, Natural History, Organizations, Politics, Post Offices, Public Schools, Public Works, Streets, Transportation, and Views.

Series 3: County consists of articles on the county-wide level which have been alphabetically filed into over 30 general subjects. While some of the topics are similar to those found in **Township** (i.e. Business Houses, Churches, Organizations, Politics, Transportation), the majority of subject headings are unique to the series.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series:

- Series 1: Family File Clippings (166 linear feet; 83 filing cabinet drawers)
- Series 2: Township Clippings (130 linear feet; 65 filing cabinet drawers)
- Series 3: County Clippings (60.8 linear feet; 152 boxes)

Names and Subject Terms

Chester County (Pa.)
Chester County (Pa.)—Biography
Chester County (Pa.)—Description and travel
Chester County (Pa.)—Genealogy
Chester County (Pa.)—History
Chester County (Pa.)—Newspapers
Chester County (Pa.)—Politics and government

SERIES 1: FAMILY FILE CLIPPINGS (166 linear feet; 83 filing cabinet drawers)

This series is an alphabetical arrangement for individuals with Chester County connections. These are individuals who were born or resided in Chester County, or who contributed significantly to the history of Chester County.

The most heavily used research tool in the library, this section has information listed by last name and first initial. Example: Jones, A., will have articles referencing Alice Jones, Albert Jones, etc. Often, information is found here on people who did not own property, and therefore includes a large cross-section of the County's population as a whole. Information includes:

1. Birth/death announcements and obituaries
2. Engagements: if both parties are from Chester County, the engagement notice is put under the woman's name. If one of the parties is from outside the county, the article is put under the name of the Chester County resident
3. Marriages: under the man's name unless he is not from the county. Then it is put under the maiden name of the woman
4. Note: Married women were usually referenced by their husband's first name. In some obituaries, it is impossible to find the first name of the woman in the obituary
5. Military involvement. Often contains pictures and station information
6. Retirements
7. Wedding anniversaries
8. Famous Chester County residents, found under full name on the card. Examples are Bayard Taylor, John Darlington, Isabel Darlington, Smedley Butler, etc.
9. Achievements in school, employment, community, etc.
10. Articles mentioning more than one family member are put on a card listing only the family name with no initials. Family reunions are also put on these cards
11. Details about those who were the victims or perpetrators of crimes will frequently also be found in the Courts and Prisons sections of the County Public Office clippings
12. An individual's business activities, such as cards or newspaper notices, though these may also be found under the township business houses
13. The occasional pasted photograph, letter, and other ephemera. Most all photographs were copied into the Photograph Collection and given a unique identifier for reproduction purposes

These clippings frequently overlap with the family files on the Reading Room shelves and those in the closed stacks.

SERIES 2: TOWNSHIP CLIPPINGS (130 linear feet; 65 filing cabinet drawers)

This series contains articles on the 78 townships, boroughs, and municipalities of Chester County. Within each of the geographical areas, articles have been further categorized into 17 topics.

The format used in the township clipping files was established in the 1940s and reflects the filing practices of that era. The clipping files were originally compiled by pasting the newspaper clippings as they became available. Only duplicate papers were used for the project, so no year is complete. Since they were pasted as they became available, most of the clippings are not in chronological order.

The articles pasted during the 1940s and 1950s were mainly supplied by staff and volunteer pasters. It is useful to know that most of these articles came from the *Daily Local News*, the *Downingtown Archive*, and Phoenixville's *Daily Republican*, all of which are now on microfilm in the CCHC Library. As the makeup of the pasting committee changed, some additional papers were added, such as the *Coatesville Record*, *Oxford Press*, *Honey Brook Herald*, *Chester Valley Union*, and others.

The original pasters were sticklers for accuracy and they made headings using the proper or legal titles of businesses and organizations—titles often not used today. Headings were placed under the appropriate township, city, or borough on the basis of the physical location of the subject. For example, the Valley Forge Military Hospital is often said to be in Phoenixville. However, since the actual buildings were situated within Charlestown Township, the files are located there.

Note that the present-day boundaries of many municipalities have shifted over the years. For example, Phoenixville has incorporated portions of Schuylkill Township into itself as it expanded, and the boundary between London Grove and West Marlborough Townships was moved westward after 1883, so information about businesses, farms, etc. in the area around London Grove village may appear in both townships, depending on the individual paster or time period represented.

Many municipalities were formed out of portions of others. For example, there are clippings for Goshen Township before it was divided into East and West Goshen in 1817. Likewise, the Borough of Modena was incorporated out of a portion of East Fallowfield Township in 1921, similar to how Franklin Township was formed out of a portion of New London Township in 1852. Depending on the time periods being researched, clippings could appear in multiple municipalities. The clippings also contain information on the now unincorporated Borough of Hopewell, near Oxford.

Note also that clippings for unincorporated communities that span multiple townships, such as the village of Northbrook, can appear in multiple townships; as an example, clippings could appear in Pocopson, West Bradford, and/or Newlin townships.

The use of the 1933–1934 Franklin Maps of Chester County are very useful in determining the physical location of items in the clippings, as these were the frequent reference points of the early pasters.

Since there is not a complete date run for any year, it is useful to know that microfilm is available for most of the years represented in the files. If you are following a story and want to confirm the eventual outcome, it is relatively easy to use the last date known when starting a microfilm search.

Some topics, such as **Black History**, the **Battle of Paoli**, etc., have been broken out from the individual townships, boroughs or cities, and can be found in the **County** clippings, described later in this guide. Schools (K–12), once an integral part of townships and boroughs, now comprise their own collection with their own guide. Although arrangement of school clippings was originally based on township, the clippings are now arranged alphabetically by school name.

With a few exceptions, all the townships, boroughs, and cities follow the following topical arrangement:

- **Business Houses**
- **Cemeteries**
- **Churches**
- **Directories**
- **History**
- **Institutions**
- **Lands (Streets in boroughs/cities)**
- **Maps**
- **Military**
- **Natural History**
- **Organizations**
- **Politics**
- **Post Offices**
- **Private Schools**
- **Public Offices**
- **Public Schools**
- **Public Works**
- **Roads**
- **Streets**
- **Transportation**
- **Views**

BUSINESS HOUSES

1. Dated cards (usually 10-year increments):

When the name of a business is not known, or if multiple businesses are mentioned in an article, the clipping is pasted in the dated section. Items which pertain to all business, such as hours for Christmas shopping, or economic trends, are also in the dated section.

2. Alphabetical listing of businesses:

When started in the 1940s, everyone knew the owner of every business, and business houses were often listed under the owner's last name. This method was abandoned as Chester County grew and businesses were listed under the business name not the owner. As a result, researchers are advised to check both possibilities.

3. Changes in business names are identified with "see also" notations.
4. Some utilities, such as telephone lines, gas lines, and electricity, may or may not be in the individual townships, boroughs or cities; depending on ownership, they may be found under the **Public Works** section. For example, West Chester's coal-fired power plant, run by the Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO), can be found under **Business Houses**. However, West Chester's municipal water system is found under **Public Works**. In Charlestown Township, the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company, a private business and operator of the Moore Hall Dam in Schuylkill Township, is found under **Business Houses**. There are also references to these utilities under **Business Houses** in the **County** section.
5. Inns and Taverns have their own quirks, depending on when the clippings were pasted. A large collection of clippings and materials about early inns and taverns is found in the Library's L. Carstairs Pierce Collection. All early clippings were added to this collection. Over time, new cards have been made for the file drawers and there are some notes that cross reference the two collections.
6. Resident homes, such as the Sunrise, Freedom Village, etc. have a **Business House** component. However, if one follows the 1940s classification, these would be listed under **Institutions**.

CEMETERIES

Early cemeteries were usually connected with a church or family and the cemetery name is usually that of the church or family last name, e.g. Grove Methodist Cemetery or the Cheyney Family Burial Ground. All cemeteries, regardless of denominational connection, are listed in alphabetical order by denomination and name (for nondenominational cemeteries). Because of a movement in the 1870s, where a belief existed that graves were a factor in the spread of

disease, most boroughs and cities banned further burials within their limits. Thus, cemeteries were moved or placed outside the centers of population. For example, most of West Chester's largest cemeteries are listed under West Goshen Township.

Other information about cemeteries, which may include ephemera and burial listings, can be found in the Library's Cemetery Collection.

Some oversize cemetery plot maps, like that of Whiteland Friends Meeting in East Whiteland Township, can be found in the oversize map drawers.

Information about some family cemeteries, such as the Trego Family Burial Ground in Honey Brook Township, may not have separate cards made in this section and can be found in the **Family** clippings.

CHURCHES

1. General category:

Includes joint church activities, not associated with any one denomination. An example of this might be a general Easter service in which all the churches in an area participate. This may also be true of revivals or tent meetings in which several churches participate.

2. Alphabetical listing by the formal name of denomination

For example, Episcopal churches are listed as Protestant Episcopal, Quakers are listed as Society of Friends, and Catholic are listed as Roman Catholic. Many of these designations are archaic. If there are multiple churches of the same denomination, they are listed by denomination, then alphabetically by name, such as "Methodist Episcopal – Marshallton" and "Methodist Episcopal – Romansville" in West Bradford Township.

Some examples of Church headings are:

- a. Greek Catholic or Greek Orthodox, Russian Catholic
- b. Hebrew
- c. Hungarian Reformed
- d. Jehovah's Witnesses
- e. Rescue missions
- f. Reformed Episcopal—Church of the Sure Foundation
- g. Tabernacles
- h. Society of Friends (Quakers)
 - i. These are broken out into the Hicksite and Orthodox sects

3. If the denomination and church are large enough, there are additional subheadings which include:

- a. General church information, often by dated cards

- b. Congregational meetings and choirs
 - c. Ministers
 - d. Officers
 - e. Organizations
 - f. Sunday Schools
4. Sunday Schools held in one room schools like the Northbrook Union Chapel are listed as “Non-denominational” with the name of the School. They may or may not have a church affiliation.
 5. Camp Meetings (also known as Woods Meetings) are grouped as a general topic in townships, with multiple denominations’ clippings appearing on a card, but they are more frequently seen as regular camp meetings in the **County—Church** section.
 6. The Salvation Army is listed as a Church in this section, and is filed under S, dropping the “The.”
 7. Vacation Bible School, representing all churches, has its own entry.

Other information about churches, such as notes, ephemera, and a list of denominations can be found in the Library’s Church Collection and under **Churches** in the **County** clippings.

DIRECTORIES

1. In more populated areas, such as West Chester, this section contains information on the publication of directories to businesses, people, etc., broken out by year. Many of the directories are included in the Library’s reference book collection.

HISTORY

1. This category may or may not be the history of the township, and some may not be dated. The arrangement was determined by the pastors at the time, and it was often a catch-all for pastors who were not certain under which category to place an article. This can often make for interesting and surprising reading.
2. If a township has named villages and hamlets, there are often cards with the history of these areas. For example, Upper Oxford Township has additional headings for the communities of Hayesville, Russellville, and Somerset.

Sometimes, you will find the history of certain farms, estates or historical areas in this section, though they are typically found by name in the **Lands** section. The exception in recent years is that the larger municipalities have a **Streets** section in place of **Lands**. For example, West Chester has a **Streets** section, but not a **Lands** section.

In the beginning, named properties were placed on the street where found. More recently, named properties are placed in the **History** section. Sometimes they are both,

i.e., Downingtown's Log House will be found in **Streets** (Lancaster Ave.) and in the **History** section.

During the U. S. Bicentennial (1976), an effort was made to write the histories of most of the places in Chester County, and these are usually found in these sections of the **Township** files. Other articles cover major anniversaries — semicentennials, centennials, sesquicentennials, bicentennials, etc.

3. The larger boroughs and cities have additional subheadings, which include:
 - a. Amusements
 - b. Events
 - c. Holidays
 - d. Notable personalities (such as the "Thumbnail Sketches" in West Chester)
 - e. Honey Brook has sections for recurring columns called "Wayne's World" and "Village Gossip" (Some of these articles have found their way into the **County** clippings under **Travels**, which is a collection of articles by writers reporting on Chester County and the people they met.)
4. Some articles are misplaced, but are still located in **History**. Such examples might be the **History** section in Coatesville, which has articles on the Influenza epidemic of 1918 and the 150th anniversary of Lukens Steel

INSTITUTIONS

1. The largest state-, local-, and privately owned institutions are found in this category, including the Pennhurst State School and Hospital (in East Coventry Township) and the Chester County Home (in West Bradford and Newlin Townships)
2. Smaller institutions like the Coatesville Hospital (located in Valley Township), Chester County Hospital (located in West Chester), and Valley Forge Military Hospital (located in Charlestown Township).
3. Some not-so-obvious institutions are also found here, such as convalescent homes (like the Wentworth Home in West Chester), private hospitals (like the Oakbourne Epileptic Hospital and Colony Farm in Westtown Township), and museums (such as the now-defunct Hillendale Museum in Pennsbury Township). This excludes the Chester County History Center, which has its own institutional archival collection.
4. Institutions such as retirement homes may or may not be in this section. They may also have been placed under business houses, depending on the judgment of the paster in charge.

LANDS (called STREETS in boroughs and cities)

1. Sales of properties are listed here, as are real estate advertisements. The latter often contain detailed descriptions of the properties for sale.
2. The building of new residences, barns, and other structures are noted, often with a description of the building design and sometimes the builders.
3. Movement of people in rental housing is noted here.
4. Barn fires (sometimes these have ended up under the owner's name in the **Family** files).
5. References to "Sears Houses" can be found with the details of the delivery to the train depots.
6. Named properties, such as the Ashbridge House, Townsend House, etc., usually have separate cards with information about the property on them.

MAPS

1. Maps of the township, especially from Witmer's 1873 Atlas, Kennedy's 1860 Atlas, and Bowen's 1847 Atlas, are included here.
2. Any other small printed maps would be in this section. Larger township maps, such as Breou's 1883 atlas, are located in oversized drawers.

MILITARY

Though this category seems obvious, one must remember that the people who started these files in the 1940s were Quakers and pacifists. Many of the military organizations were not explicitly labeled as such and were often found under the category **Organizations**. Some sections were changed around 2000 or placed in the **County—Military** boxes in 2020.

1. National Guard and state militia units, drawing from several townships, are often found by the location of the building where troops trained or under the **Organizations** heading
2. Home defense in World War II (Victory Gardens, Plane spotting, etc.) can sometimes be found under **Organizations** or **History**, depending on the township
3. Honor Rolls in World War II (lists of people in service)
4. Recruiting stations are often found here (some of these have been moved to the **County—Military** section)

5. Military installations and buildings are also found here, including the Major John Groff Memorial Armory in West Chester, and the Nike Missile bases in Willistown and Tredyffrin Townships.

NATURAL HISTORY

This category is broken down alphabetically into areas of natural history study in the larger townships and boroughs, such as minerals (mineralogy), trees, flowers, plants (botany), birds (ornithology) etc. Most townships have just one card and anything loosely connected to natural history is found on the card.

ORGANIZATIONS

This category is an alphabetical listing of all the organizations by their proper or legal title. The West Chester Bird Club might be listed under B for Bird Club or W for West Chester Bird Club. Because of the many people who have worked on this, there is no firm rule of where an organization is going to be found. This is true of all the townships, cities, and boroughs.

1. All baseball games, unless played by an athletic club, are grouped under the name of "baseball." School games are placed with the high school playing them (found in a separate Schools Collection). Athletic clubs are found under the name of the club. However, these are general rules and you will find exceptions in each township.
2. The formal name of some of these organizations is not the name commonly used today. Many of the fraternal organizations are known only by letters, and many of these organizations had associated auxiliary organizations. Some of the more common organizations, fraternal and others, include:
 - a. Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (A.A.O.N.M.S.): The Shriners
 - b. Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.): The Elks Club. The segregated Black lodges were known as the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order Elks of the World (I.B.P.O.E.W.)
 - c. Fraternal Order of Eagles (F.O.E.)
 - d. Free and Accepted Masons (F. & A.M.): The Masons. These are always associated with a lodge number or name. Once a segregated organization, they are also separated into black and white lodges. The Masons had an associated women's auxiliary, the Order of the Eastern Star (O.E.S.)
 - e. Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.): An organization for the Union veterans of the Civil War. This was also a segregated organization and are separated into black and white posts.
 - f. Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.): The Odd Fellows. Also associated with the I.O.O.F. is its women's auxiliary, the Daughters of Rebekah, also known as the Rebekahs.
 - g. Improved Order of Red Men: I.O.R.M.

- h. International Organization of Good Templars (I.O.G.T.): The Good Templars
 - i. Knights of Pythias (K. of P.)
 - j. Order United American Merchants (O.U.A.M.): There was also a youth group known as the Junior Order United American Merchants (Jr. O.A.U.M.). Formed as an anti-Catholic nativist organization, they provided insurance policy for burials and originally maintained cemetery plots
 - k. Patriotic Sons of America (P.O.S. of A.): A patriotic, nativist organization with headquarters at Valley Forge.
 - l. Patrons of Husbandry (P. of H.): The Grange, a county-wide agricultural organization with individual branches spread around the county
 - m. Women’s Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.)
3. Some organizations found in these files might be better placed with larger organizations, such as “Knights of Columbus,” an organization found in many Roman Catholic parishes. Other religious organizations, like Mite Societies found in many Methodist churches, are usually located under those church organizations. In another example, the Flower Mission is part of the W.C.T.U. (Women’s Christian Temperance Union). However, along the way, a separate card was made and placed in organizations. This is also true of many subgroups in Churches, which may have been unknown to the sorter or paster.
4. Temperance includes three major organizations—W.C.T.U., C.T.L. (Christian Temperance League), and L.T.L. (Loyal Temperance Legion). In addition, interested citizens often called meetings to talk about temperance, but were not part of one of the three major movements. Cards may be found of the large organizations, along with a general card called “Temperance.” In addition, the topic was also taken up by many clergymen, and these articles tended to be pasted under **Churches**.
5. Women’s suffrage. Usually not listed as a topic. Most of the discussion of women’s rights and suffrage will be found in such organizations as:
- a. Women’s Clubs
 - b. New Century Clubs, often started often after the Centennial in 1876 and mainly represented society women
 - c. League of Women Voters, both in large populated areas and county organizations
6. West Chester

Because many of the county organizations had their headquarters in West Chester, cards for the organization often ended up in West Chester instead of the county organizations. Such examples would be “Chester County Day,” “Women’s International Organization for Peace,” etc., where there are often cards in both **County** and **Township** clippings. One needs to look in both areas.

7. Short of renaming many of the cards and moving them, this category causes much confusion. Always keep in mind that what people called things in the 1940s is not necessarily what they are called today.
8. Libraries—because libraries started out as subscription organizations without any input from governmental agencies, they were put under organizations rather than what would be considered an institution today.

POLITICS

This category discusses elections and political rallies in a township, borough or city. The smaller ones are not divided by date but were pasted as articles became available. The larger ones are almost always date-divided, but often are not office-divided. A little quirk is that if a county political rally was held outside of West Chester, the article describing it often shows up in the township where it was held. Results of local elections will be found here or possibly in the county politics section.

There is also a heading called **Politics** in the **County** section. One would think that the county only deals with county-wide elections, but this is not true. Everything between local and national elections are found in the **County** section, which is organized by date.

POST OFFICES

These have all been pulled and placed in the **County** section. The first part is by date, the second part is alphabetical by post office name.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

This category deals with all schools which are not necessarily considered academic. Private schools such as the Friends Schools, Upland County Day School, Villa Maria Academy, etc., are found in the School Collection. Private universities are also found here, such as Immaculata. Schools such as the following are found here.

1. Singing schools
2. Dancing Schools
3. Elocution Classes
4. Business Colleges
5. Sewing Machine Operation Schools
6. Technical Institutes
7. University Extension Classes
8. Private music teachers
9. Adult Night School, first only in West Chester and now many places, are NOT found here. They are in the County Public Schools
10. West Chester University found its way here because it started as West Chester Academy, a private school. As it grew, becoming first the West Chester State Normal

School, then the West Chester State Teachers College, then West Chester State College, and finally West Chester University, it stayed in this category until the 21st century when it got moved into Public Schools.

PUBLIC OFFICES

Every township, borough, and city has this category, but the breakdown is different in each. Some offices are the same in each. Larger ones have more specific breakdowns. Some examples are:

1. Assessor and/or Auditor
2. Building/Codes Inspection
3. Constables
4. Commissioners or Councils (also known as supervisors, depending on the structure of the township)
5. Controllers
6. Historical Commission
7. Justices of the Peace
8. Ordinances
9. Planning Commissions
10. Supervisors
 - a. Can be a catch-all category in townships
 - b. If Supervisors discuss a road, it may be found under supervisors as it was discussed there, but may also be found under roads
 - c. The same is true for discussion of water works, etc.
11. State Employment Service (what is sometimes found here but shouldn't be)
12. Tax Collector
13. Trash (can also be under the heading of garbage or sanitation)
14. Zoning

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most K–12 schools now comprise their own collection of public and private schools located in boxes on the shelves. These are filed alphabetically by the name of the school, not necessarily the townships, boroughs, or cities.

What remains in this category:

1. Colleges and universities in the physical location where the school is found
2. Playgrounds connected to schools and often the source of recreation during the summer months

PUBLIC WORKS

Found primarily in larger townships, boroughs, and cities:

1. Water—sources, treatment, and distribution. In smaller townships, this will be found under **Public Offices**. Information about some public works projects, like the Milltown Dam in East Goshen Township, may be located under the **Public Works** of the commissioning authority, in this example, the Borough of West Chester.
2. Trash (garbage) pickup and disposal
3. Sewage in populated areas
4. Other privately operated utilities such as steam, gas, telephones, and electricity are usually found under **Business Houses**

ROADS

The laying out, building and maintenance of roads. The section also includes accidents on roads. Railroad crossing accidents may appear in the transportation section.

Longer roads such as turnpikes and state routes are found in the **County** clippings, as are county-owned bridges.

STREETS

This category is found only in boroughs and cities:

1. The first section is dated and includes streets in general, as well as those properties that cannot be identified by a street name or are on the corner of two streets
2. The second section are individual streets organized by name

What is often found on these cards are:

1. Information on the laying out and maintenance of streets themselves
2. Information on properties located along those streets
3. Movement of people from one house to another, with address given, will be found on the individual street
4. Historic properties are often listed on the street name rather than the name of the building. For example, Downingtown's log house is listed on Lancaster Ave.
5. The date order on these is often jumbled, as they were pasted as the papers became available

TRANSPORTATION

This category has an overlap with the **County—Transportation** section, so one often has to look in both areas. In general, the breakdown is as follows:

1. Buses
2. Jitneys
3. Railroads
4. Taxis
5. Trolleys or Street Railways

These clippings contain information about individual railroad and trolley stations located within each township, organized alphabetically. For example, New Garden Township contains information on the Pomeroy and Newark Railroad station at Landenberg and also the Pennsylvania Railroad station at Toughkenamon. Note that in cases where a post office was located inside the railroad station (e.g., Westtown Post Office in Thornbury Township), there may be overlap with **Post Offices** in the **County** clippings.

VIEWS

Often a collection of post cards and photographs of the area

SERIES 3: COUNTY CLIPPINGS (60.8 linear feet; 152 boxes)

This section consists of articles on a county-wide level which have been alphabetically filed into over 30 general subjects. While some of the topics are similar to those found in the Township Files (i.e. Business Houses, Churches, Organizations, Politics, Transportation), the majority of subject headings are unique to this series.

All topics which are more general in nature than would be found in individual township files, or that involved more than one township, city or borough, are found in the **County** section of clippings. Though a small collection at first, it grew rapidly during the 1970s when consolidation and merging of subjects became frequent. An Appendix listing County **Organizations** is available on the Library Reading Room's Digital Workstation. Subjects in this series include:

- **Antiques**
- **Architects/Architecture**
- **Battle of the Brandywine**
- **Black History**
- **Boundaries**
- **Bridges, A-Z by body of water**
- **Business Houses**
- **Cemeteries**
- **Churches**
- **Costumes**
- **Creeks**
- **Customs**
- **Divisions (See also Boundaries)**
- **History, A-E**
- **History, Fox Hunting**
- **History, F-Z**
- **Indians**
- **Industries**
- **Institutions**
- **Lands**
- **Maps**
- **Military**
- **Natural History**
- **Organizations**
- **Paoli (Battle of Paoli)**
- **Place Names**
- **Politics**
- **Post Offices**
- **Public Offices**
 - **County**
 - **State**
 - **Federal**
- **Roads**
- **Transportation**
- **Travels**
- **Valley Forge**
- **Weather**

ANTIQUES

All clippings are pre-1930s and coincide with a growing interest in antiques which began around 1900, around the same time the Chester County History Center was established. Clippings are organized alphabetically by subject (i.e. clocks, furniture making, etc.).

ARCHITECTS/ARCHITECTURE

Architects and their firms are listed alphabetically. If one is researching the history of a certain building, it is worth going through these files, as the architect or architectural firm involved in the construction, restoration, or rebuilding is listed and discussion of the building itself is under the name of the firm. For example, Rapp and Rapp, the architects for West Chester's Warner Theater (found under West Chester Business Houses)—is found under **Architects/Architecture—R**.

These files are incomplete as to buildings. If the location of a particular building is known, there is probably more information on the building in either **History** or **Lands (Streets)** in the municipality/township of the physical location of the building.

The last part of this file are general entries listed in chronological order. Most of these are before 1930 and today would be placed with **Lands** or **Streets**. Many do not encompass architectural designs but are rather topics such as new buildings being constructed on a street.

BATTLE OF THE BRANDYWINE

Fought in September 1777, nostalgia and scholarship about the battle continues to this day. The collection is divided into two parts: dated and named. The dated section is filed yearly by the date the article was written. An exception is found for articles about the 50th anniversary of the battle and the return visit of the Marquis de Lafayette, who was wounded in that battle, to join in the celebration in 1824–25. The other major celebration was the 150th celebration in 1927. Other dated materials are reminiscences, information on monument building, etc. Often these clippings contain maps and show troop movements during the battle.

The named section of this collection is an alphabetical listing of either a specific battle or the buildings occupied by such people as Lafayette or Washington (e.g. Lafayette's Headquarters, Washington's Headquarters, etc.).

BLACK HISTORY

The first part of this collection is by date, but not necessarily the date on which it was written. The 1780 card was written in 1893, for example, but lists those holding slaves in Chester County in 1780 (when *An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery* was passed; slavery persisted in Chester County until the 1830s). There is not a simple way to use these dated cards other than going through them unless you know the year some event happened. The subject headings and arrangement were mostly created in the mid-20th century, and many of the subject headings are no longer considered appropriate today. As an example, clippings related to black Civil War soldiers, who served in the United States Colored Troops (USCT), will be filed under 'colored.'

The second part is alphabetical and contains many topics which were part of the larger grouping of **Organizations**. These have been pulled together as a collection.

Some of the topic headings include:

1. Abolitionists/Anti-Slavery Society. For a more complete understanding, one also needs to check Quaker meetings, as much of this movement was led by Quakers
2. Chester County Colonization Society, active during the 1820s with the formation of Liberia as a destination to send freed slaves back to Africa
3. Christiana Riots, which occurred in 1851 in Christiana, Lancaster County, with some violence spilling into West Sadsbury Township, Chester County
4. "Polecat Tom," a.k.a. Henry Thomson, a vagabond of local notoriety.
5. Passmore Williamson, noted abolitionist jailed for helping Jane Johnson and her two sons gain freedom from slavery in 1855
6. Underground Railroad
7. Parker Sisters, two sisters famously kidnapped into slavery from East Nottingham Township in 1851
8. Slavery, section of articles from *The American Republic* dating from 1851-1834
9. Found in **Organizations**: Chester County Mutual Beneficial Association—a beneficial society formed by Black Americans to pay death benefits for people of color, as all other such associations were restricted to White persons.

There is a scattering of articles of incidents under the topic of **History** in the Township clippings files.

An example of the problems one encounters in this research would be the lynching of Zachariah Walker. You will find information in the **Family File** clippings, but not in **Township—Coatesville—History**. (This will soon change.) You could also check under **Courts** in 1911 and 1912, or in the manuscript card catalog, as books and pamphlets have been written on the subject. There is also a topic index available of the holdings on African-American History at CCHC.

Anything connected with education is not found in this section. Education of black students, K–12, is found in the School Collection under the name of the school. College education, such as Lincoln University, is found in the physical location of the school—in Lincoln's case, Lower Oxford Township.

A summary index of Historically Black churches and cemeteries is below:

- Avondale
 - Galilee Union American Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Ruley Church)
 - Mount Tabor African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Coatesville
 - Genesis African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
 - Hutchinson Memorial Union American Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Union American Methodist Episcopal Church of Coatesville)
 - First Apostle Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas
 - Holy Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
 - Saint Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church
 - Second Baptist Church
 - Tabernacle Baptist Church
 - Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ
- Downingtown
 - Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
 - Downingtown African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church Mission
 - Mount Raymond Union American Methodist Episcopal Church
- East Caln
 - Lindley Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Zion)
- East Fallowfield
 - Church of Christ at Ercildoun
 - Ercildoun African Methodist Episcopal Church Mission
 - Derry Union American Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Fallowfield or Old Derry)
- East Marlborough
 - Anvil Union American Methodist Episcopal Church Mission
 - Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Unionville Brick Meeting)
 - Red Lion Union American Methodist Episcopal Church Mission
- East Whiteland
 - Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Bacton Hill, Chester Valley or Valley Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church)
- Franklin
 - Church Hill Union American Methodist Episcopal Church
- Highland
 - Adams Family Cemetery (includes unidentified slave burials)
- Kennett Square
 - Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
 - Friendship First Colored Methodist Protestant Church
 - New Garden Memorial Union American Methodist Episcopal Church
- Kennett
 - Bucktoe Union American Methodist Episcopal Church
- London Grove
 - Solomon's Temple Union American Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Chatham)

- Londonderry
 - African Friends Society
- Lower Oxford
 - Lincoln African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
 - Mount Calvary African Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Calvary)
- Malvern
 - Saint Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church
- New London
 - Inzion African Union Church (a.k.a. Flatfoot)
- Oxford
 - Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church
 - Second Presbyterian Church
- Parkesburg
 - Bethany African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Phoenixville
 - Bethel Baptist Church
 - Grimes African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Pocopson
 - Pennsbury Union American Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Pennsborough or Pennsboro Mission)
 - Northbrook Union American Methodist Episcopal Church Mission
- South Coatesville
 - Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
 - Union Baptist Church
- South Coventry
 - Chestnut Hill Union American Methodist Episcopal Church
- Tredyffrin
 - Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Centreville or New Centreville African Methodist Episcopal Church; a.k.a. Berwyn or Devon)
 - Theodore Ricks Memorial Cemetery (a.k.a. Devon Cemetery Association)
- Upper Oxford
 - Hosanna African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church
 - Somerset Union American Methodist Episcopal Church
- Valley
 - First Calvary Church of God in Christ
 - New Evergreen Cemetery
 - Saint Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Evergreen Cemetery or Passtown or Hayti)
 - Saint Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church (on Lincoln Highway, a.k.a. Buzzard's Glory)
- Warwick
 - Sankanac Baptist Church
- West Bradford

- Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church Mission (a.k.a. Marshallton Mission)
- West Caln
 - Mount Zion African Union Church
 - Sandy Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church
- West Chester
 - Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
 - Mount Carmel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
 - Mount Carmel Church of God in Christ
 - Rice's Temple African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church
 - Saint Luke's Union American Methodist Episcopal Church
 - Saint Paul's Baptist Church (a.k.a. Second Baptist Church)
 - Second Presbyterian Church
 - Union Community Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Rice's Temple)
 - United Holiness Church of America
 - Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Old Zion)
- West Goshen
 - Chester County Memorial Park (managed by Rolling Green Memorial Park)
 - Chestnut Grove Cemetery
 - Chestnut Grove Cemetery Annex
 - Rolling Green Memorial Park
- West Grove
 - Star of Bethlehem Union American Methodist Episcopal Church
- West Marlborough
 - Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Club Hill)
- West Nottingham
 - Sylmar African Methodist Episcopal Church
- West Sadsbury
 - Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Zion Hill)
- Westtown
 - Shiloh African Methodist Episcopal Church

BOUNDARIES

To the people establishing this topic, a boundary usually referred to a line between two states. A division referred to a township division or division of land within the county.

The cards in this section deal primarily with two topics:

1. Delaware Curve: Also contains information on "The Wedge," the area formed by the disputed borders of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware until 1921 when it became part of Cecil County, Maryland
2. Mason-Dixon Line: this section also includes information on local sites relevant to the survey of the line such as the Star-Gazer's Stone in Newlin Township

BRIDGES (A–Z by body of water)

Bridges concern bridges of all types, and are arranged in three sections:

1. Cards organized by date deal with the topic of bridges in general, general designs, or building applications for multiple bridges. Articles that refer to multiple bridges are found in this category.
2. Covered Bridges deals with the topic of covered bridges in general and articles that contain information on multiple covered bridges.
3. The last series is organized alphabetically by body of water. Some of the more prominent bodies of water have multiple cards for bridges (arranged alphabetically by bridge name) such as:
 - a. Brandywine Creek
 - i. Seeds' Bridge
 - ii. Shaw's Bridge
 - iii. Sugar's Bridge
 - iv. Etc.
 - b. Octorara Creek
 - c. Schuylkill River
 - d. Valley Creek
 - e. White Clay Creek

For additional information on bridges in Chester County, see materials at the Chester County Archives (i.e. Administrative & Road Records, Bridge Records, 1705–1958, and Administrative & Road Records, Commissioner's Minutes and Pay Orders, 1740–1803).

BUSINESS HOUSES

County business houses are defined in the same way as found in the townships, boroughs, and cities. They were establishments where business was conducted. This county section is divided into two parts: dated files and businesses in alphabetical order.

Dated business houses are shown by year and refer to trends of business activity in the entire county. When the list of topics was compiled, Chester County was primarily a rural county. What are considered utilities today such as gas, electricity and phone lines didn't exist in the same format as in the 21st century. Electricity did not come to most of the farms until the New Deal legislation (via the Rural Electrification Administration), which provided limited power for select applications and was often controlled by a small, independent company. The availability of utilities as we know them did not become the norm until the 1970s when consolidation took place. Some of the items found in the earlier cards (1813–1880) discuss the following:

1. Tavern and inn petitions for licenses and rules passed by the legislature to regulate them. Information about individual tavern petitions can be found in

CCHC's L. Carstairs Pierce Collection and in the Chester County Archives (see Licensing & Civil Lists, Tavern Petitions, 1700–1923)

2. New inventions and their patents, cautioning others in business that patents protect production of certain items
3. Banking activities within entire county (includes state money in county banks)
4. Laying of telegraph lines and later phone lines
5. Laying of gas pipes (includes information on fracking and pipelines)
6. Market trends of mills, produce, ice cutting, etc.
7. Growth of industries
8. Growth of restaurant industry
9. Growth of consolidated supermarkets

The alphabetical organization of business houses refers to county wide operations or businesses which involved more than one township or borough. Some of these headings include:

1. Banking
2. Farmer In the Dell Enterprises, Inc.
3. Charles Heathcote's articles on Iron Works
4. Kodak (was planning to set up plant over several townships; failed)
5. Newspapers
6. Octoraro-Chester Water Works
7. Philadelphia Electric Co. (PECO)
8. Philadelphia Suburban Water Co.
9. Pipe Lines
10. Telephone Lines

CEMETERIES

This category was established in the 1940s to discuss old and often disused cemeteries in the county. It appears that its use was stopped within the first ten years of its existence, as all information about cemeteries was put onto the cards of each township, borough, and city.

If one is doing research on cemeteries, one must also consult the Library's Cemetery Collection. Some cemeteries also have plot maps featured in the oversized map drawers.

CHURCHES

This category includes information on churches in general and reflect the trends in the United States. The first section lists all the churches in the county at certain dates and often refers to the role of religion in the lives of Chester Countians.

A section with cards arranged chronologically contains articles with general information and includes items such as Revivals, Lent, Easter, and Ecumenical meetings.

The bulk of information under this topic is arranged by the formal names of denominations and are dated within each denomination. Many of the denominations have governing bodies over the individual churches and information on these bodies is found here.

Denominations listed in Churches:

1. African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.)
 - a. Conference appointments of ministers to individual churches
 - b. Often contains transcripts of discourses on topics or the names from the conference meeting
 - c. Due to some confusion on the part of the pastors, there is some overlap with the African Union Methodist Protestant (A.U.M.P.) and A.M.E. Zion churches in this section
2. African Union Methodist Protestant Church (A.U.M.P.) — Cards mainly reflect appointments made during annual and quarterly conferences
3. Amish – Though this category started out as a discussion of the religious beliefs of this sect, it now includes most aspects of Amish life and customs.
4. Baptist
 - a. Items about the Baptists in general
 - b. Central Union Baptist Association (earliest article dated 1840)
 - c. Pennsylvania Baptist Convention
 - d. North Philadelphia Baptist Association
 - e. Salem Baptist Association
 - f. Welsh Tract (Old School) Baptist
5. Bible Presbyterian
6. Church of the Brethren
7. Camp Meetings
 - a. Some were established and met annually
 - b. Others sprang up as needed
 - c. Multiple denominations are included among these clippings
8. Church of Christ — Also known as Christ's Disciples or the Disciples of Christ
9. Christian Science (formal name is First Church of Christ, Scientist)
10. Church of Latter-Day Saints (also called Mormons)
11. Evangelical and Reformed Church — in 1957 this denomination merged with others to form the United Church of Christ
12. German Baptist Brethren (also called Dunkers)
13. Jehovah's Witnesses
14. Lutheran
 - a. Various synods represented
 - b. Division for foreign missions
15. Mennonite
16. Methodist, also listed as Methodist Episcopal (prior to its merger with other Methodist denominations in 1939 and 1968)
 - a. Pastoral appointments

- b. Discusses current issues
- 17. Nazarene (Church of the Nazarene)
- 18. Orthodox Greek Catholic
- 19. Presbyterian
 - a. Chester Presbytery
 - b. Presbytery of Donegal
 - c. Second Presbyterian
- 20. United Presbyterian
- 21. Protestant Episcopal (Anglican)
 - a. Churches in Chester County are part of a diocese administered by a bishop
 - b. Conventions and convocations met yearly
- 22. Reformed Church in America (A.K.A. the Dutch Reformed Church)
- 23. Roman Catholic
 - a. Churches in Chester County are part of a diocese administered by a bishop
 - b. Appointments to churches made by the diocese
 - c. Outreach to poor through diocese is run through Catholic Charities
- 24. Salvation Army
- 25. Seventh Day Baptist (all articles from 1888) — Also known as Keithian Baptists
- 26. Society of Friends (General)
 - a. Birmingham Monthly Meeting
 - b. Caln Quarterly Meeting
 - c. Concord First Day School Union (1880s–)
 - d. Concord Quarterly Meeting
 - e. First Day Schools
 - f. Goshen Monthly Meeting
 - g. Kennett Monthly Meeting
 - h. London Grove Monthly Meeting
 - i. London Grove Quarterly Meeting
 - j. Media Quarterly Meeting (Orthodox)
 - k. New Garden Monthly Meeting
 - l. Nottingham Monthly Meeting
 - m. Nottingham Quarterly Meeting
 - n. Sadsbury Monthly Meeting
 - o. Valley Quarterly Meeting
 - p. Western Quarterly Meeting
 - q. Western First Day School Union
- 27. Seventh Day Adventists
- 28. Southern Chester County Evangelistic Crusade
- 29. Spiritualism
- 30. Synagogues (originally labeled Hebrew)
- 31. Union American Methodist Episcopal Church
- 32. United Church of Christ (formed from the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and Congregational Christian Church)

33. United Brethren (known as the Evangelical United Brethren Church from 1946 to 1968, and now part of the United Methodist Church)
34. Sunday Schools (also known as Sabbath Schools. Their association is found in Organizations)
35. Vacation Church School (also known as Vacation Bible School, more information can be found in the individual townships, boroughs and city under this topic)

If doing research on churches, one needs to consult the Library's large Church Collection, which is on the shelves. These contain ephemera from the various denominations as well as many detailed histories of individual churches. They are organized by denominations. There is also an index listing all the churches in Chester County by township, borough and city, as well as an alphabetical listing.

COSTUMES

This refers to the wearing apparel of men, women and children, and are separated by dates. There are many pictures and sketches on the cards, and several of the drawings are taken from early newspapers advertising clothing for sale.

CREEKS

Organized the same way as **Bridges**, this category is an alphabetical listing of the major creeks in Chester County. Long and large creeks, such as the Brandywine, are divided by date. Because creeks were the source of power, especially for mills, and were the sources of drinking water, much was written about them. After a discussion of creeks in general, the category is broken down into headings such as:

1. Beaver Creek
2. Big Elk Creek
3. Buck Run (formally Little Buck Run)
4. Crabby Creek (tributary of Valley Creek)
5. Fish – Though not a creek, they live in creeks and life depended on whether the waters were clean or polluted. Since early industrialism often spewed waste into the water, the first sign of trouble was dead fish floating in the creek. Because others were dependent on the creeks for a water supply, this became a major topic of conversation as well as the basis for many lawsuits.
6. Marsh Creek (does not include the formation of Marsh Creek State Park)
7. Rock Run (South Coventry Township)
8. Rock Run (Valley Township)
9. Taylor's Run (West Chester)
10. Valley Creek—Cedar Hollow

CUSTOMS

Depending on when the articles were sorted and put into a category, there is a great deal of overlap in this category with **County—History**. One often needs to look both places to find

desired information. Also, the same topics exist in the larger boroughs and cities, meaning that it was not clear where a particular article was pasted. It was a subjective decision and reflected the time period in which the article was pasted. After a general discussion of customs, the following topics are included:

1. Apple Paring or Apple Butter Stirrings
2. April First (April Fool's Day)
3. Arbor Day
4. Ash Wednesday
5. Auctions
6. Birthstones
7. Candlemas Day (Ground Hog Day)
8. Christmas/Christmas cards
9. Cookbooks
10. County Fairs
11. Divining
12. Easter
13. Flag Day
14. Folklore
15. Fourth of July
16. Funerals
17. Games
18. Halloween
19. Harvest Homes
20. Haunted Sites
21. Hayrides
22. Leap Year
23. Loyalty Day (Law Day)
24. Memorial Day (a.k.a. Decoration Day)—More than half of the time found in townships. Additional clippings can be found in the clippings for the G.A.R. Posts and in individual cemeteries
25. Money
26. Mischief Night
27. Music
28. New Year's Day
29. Parties and Picnics in the 19th Century
30. Remedies
31. Scents—Sachets
32. Shrove Tuesday (Fastnacht Day/Mardi Gras)
33. Skating
34. St. Patrick's Day
35. Superstitions
36. Thanksgiving
37. Valentine's Day

38. Vendues (Public Sales)
39. Veterans Day (Armistice Day)
40. Weddings
41. Wills and Testaments

DIVISIONS (See also **BOUNDARIES**)

These are distinct from **Boundaries** as they refer to divisions within Chester County itself. When started in the 1940s, they were listed by date and not township, borough, or city. This makes it somewhat difficult to trace some of the divisions within the county.

The most common divisions are the breaking apart of townships into east and west, north and south. In the last part of the 20th century, annexations from one municipality to another were common.

Most of the divisions since 1960 are discussed in the townships or boroughs about to be divided or annexed.

HISTORY (A–E)

Theoretically, this section should deal with the history of Chester County as a whole. It does, but also includes general trends and topics. The hardest to use is the dated section. The earliest card is marked “– 1799,” meaning that it includes articles prior to 1799. This is not totally accurate. What is really meant is that the subject of the article deals with some facet of history **prior to and including 1799**. An article on this card may have been written in 2000, but it is placed in the earlier date if its subject is an event or facet occurring up to 1799.

In examining the dated section, one can find some definite trends. One can also find many exceptions, which will be noted later. Many of the items found here should probably have been placed elsewhere, but changing all of the cards in this section is impossible, as documents and ephemera in the vault are organized in a similar arrangement to these files. In an attempt to make some sense of this section, the general trends will first be discussed and exceptions listed secondly.

General trends:

1. Cards with no dates include articles on inns and villages, plans of William Penn, and an interesting quiz of facts of Chester County, written in 1938.
2. Early cards have notices and articles about various volunteer militias, more properly put under military, but pasted when the majority of militia entries were put under organizations.
3. Beginning in 1834, trends in population growth.
4. Beginning in 1853, Acts of the Legislature that pertain to the county.

5. Beginning in 1866, the first of many articles about gypsies and tramps appear. Reading these articles suggests that gypsies referred to family groups traveling together and who were involved in the sale of horses. Tramps are individual men roaming the countryside. Both groups come in for much criticism and condemnation, as their presence was blamed on increased rates of crime. In the articles about gypsies, it appears it was just a term applied to a group of people and is not necessarily connected with the cultural and ethnic groups of gypsies in Eastern Europe.
6. Interspersed among the many years are remembrances of elderly citizens about how life “used to be.” Many of these would be better placed in **Travels**, and some are. There seems to be a confusion among generations of sorters and pasters as to whether a discussion of the past was history or was part of tales of past events (**Travels**). Many are first-hand accounts, such as 83-year-old S. R. Downing describing Downingtown in the 1840s and 1850s, its growth of railroads and trolleys, etc. One needs to look in both places.
7. Starting in 1929, newspapers generally published lists and descriptions of the most notable events for the year.

Some of the interesting items found in the dated section, and which give an insight to the thinking of Chester Countians, are found in the following list, along with the year in which the articles were found:

1. 1818 — Explosion of DuPont powder mills
2. 1820 — Massive fire in Savannah, Georgia, and attempts of county citizens to provide relief
3. 1824 — Smallpox spread and the urging of government for all people to get vaccinated
4. 1827 — Problems with unpatented lands; support for Greek Independence
5. 1828 — Removal of the Cherokee people and ways citizens could support the Cherokee
6. 1834 — Care and schooling of the blind
7. 1845 — Establishment of an asylum for “insane poor”
8. 1847 — Relief for Ireland because of potato famine
9. 1850 — Letters from California goldfields
10. 1852 — Support for Hungarian Independence
11. 1857 — Rural cemeteries; finances of Chester County
12. 1861 — Starvation in Kansas; Civil War related items
13. 1865 — Death of Lincoln
14. 1871 — Organization of relief fund for victims of Chicago fire
15. 1880–1881 — Pennsylvania’s Bicentennial
16. 1885 — West Point cadetship
17. 1886–1887 — Celebration of Emancipation Proclamation; history and changes in Chester County
18. 1893 — List of births and deaths in the county; list of 8 people executed by hanging
19. 1900 — How Spain ruled her colonies; establishment of boroughs and railroads

20. 1907 — Atlantic City excursions
21. 1916 — Downing's article on organization of Downingtown Industrial and Agricultural School
22. 1921 — Victory medals
23. 1922 — Fox hunts; importance of farms; auto camps
24. 1923 — Navy dirigible (U.S.S. Shenandoah) in East Goshen; good roads; auto trips
25. 1925 — 100th anniversary of birth of Bayard Taylor celebration; hunting season
26. 1926 — Pennsylvania's Sesquicentennial celebration
27. 1927 — William Dantz's series of articles called "Turn of Century" which discusses changes from the past century
28. 1937 — "Chester County, 255 Years Old," a series of articles by Lloyd Renshaw about fox hunting in county
29. 1940–1945 (Cards all marked 1940) — History of the Main Line; list of Chester County slaveholders in 1780; need for a landing field for aircraft; registration of aliens; Penn land grants in western Chester County; historical tours in county; change in funeral customs; descendants from the Mayflower. In order to conserve on the use of paper cards during World War II, many 1940–45 articles were pasted on other cards of earlier dates
30. 1945 — Gasoline's influence on County; Victory and Peace
31. 1947 — Sixty-eight airplanes registered in county; death by autos; food prices 100 years ago; umbrella mender fades; County as center of culture and education; how Dutch and Swedes lost out to English in county; biggest news event was shotgun bank robbery and ensuing gun battle; the Brandywine Valley along the Wilmington and Northern branch of Reading railroad
32. 1948 — Laying of cable for television; unsolved murders
33. 1950 — *Holiday Magazine* salute to Main Line, written by James Michener; post war building boom; history of townships
34. 1955 — Holiday article on Pennsylvania; jet plane blast; sanitary landfill site near Coatesville
35. 1960 — Harness racing and betting; greater population leads to major improvements in infrastructure;; fallout shelters
36. 1962 — Tabas brothers speculative purchases
37. 1963 — King Ranch (see also West Vincent Township)
38. 1965 — Water growing in importance to county
39. 1966 — Clean Streams Act
40. 1969 — Film about Chester County made for tourist promotion
41. 1970 — Cannabis; movie theatres
42. 1989 — "Riding the Rails," Chester County's trolley lines (Should be in **Transportation**)
43. 1990 — Lincoln's connections to Chester County, "Washington Slept Here"

Some of the topics which occur in the A–E section are:

1. Bicentennial (1976)
2. Census

3. Chester Valley
4. COVID-19 Pandemic
5. Defense (cards start with year 1950)

HISTORY (Fox Hunting)

Fox Hunting was a large part of the social fabric in Chester County. Some hunts were very organized, had membership lists, and were conducted each year. Others were small and were comprised of a few interested people. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania received a grant to preserve the history of fox hunting and maintains artifacts from various hunts. The largest collection of articles about fox hunting is found at CCHC.

Though there is this entire section on fox hunting in the County division, one can also find articles on hunts within that township, borough, or city under the category of **Township—Organizations**.

There has not been a major attempt to divide the hunts into large or small. The first part discusses hunts in general and also includes information on hunts that occurred that were not named. It also includes hunts where more than one group participated. These are found in the dated section. Following the dated section, all specifically named hunts are filed in alphabetical order. This collection is large and occupies 3 boxes of articles.

HISTORY (F–Z)

The topical alphabetical listing of historical topics continues after fox hunting. Some of the topics found, starting with “Fu”:

1. Futhey and Cope — refers to the writing and publishing of J. Smith Futhey’s and Gilbert Cope’s 1881 book *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania, with Genealogical and Biographical Sketches*
2. Great Valley
3. Gilpin – series of Articles written by Vincent Gilpin in 1935 and published in the *Daily Local News* as “Changing Chester County During Two Long Centuries”
4. Inns of Chester County
5. Insanity
6. Johnstown Flood 1889
7. Latin American History — discusses primarily the influx of Mexican citizens, their life and culture
8. Lotteries
9. Music
10. Population
11. Russian Fund — the reaction of the county to famine in Russia in 1892 and the attempts to raise money to alleviate the famine.
12. Schuylkill District/Valley
13. Seal — the county seal
14. Steam Plants

15. Welsh Mountains
16. West Point Graduates
17. World's Fair — 1939 in New York

INDIANS

When Chester County was established, Native Americans were living on the land and used it for hunting and fishing, and established encampments like that of Katamoonchink in West Whiteland Township throughout the county. Native artifacts abound and when great interest occurred at the end of the 19th century, articles on all facets of Native American life began to appear. (Note: these articles use the LC Subject Term at the time of clipping.)

The second section in this category lists topics alphabetically:

1. Burial Grounds
2. Lydia Elbert (One of the last Lenni-Lenape)
3. "Indian Hannah" Hannah Freeman — was considered the last of the Lenni-Lenape in Chester County
4. Lenni-Lenape
5. Princess Blue Feather, a popular entertainer of the early 20th century, also known as Bluefeather Singing Bird

INDUSTRIES

The largest part of this category deals with agriculture, as Chester County was very much a rural county until the late 20th century. Of interest to the reading public would be seminars, conferences, and articles dealing with the condition of agriculture and the introduction of new methods to be tried on fields. The first part is dated and is difficult to use unless one has a general idea about the time period being researched. Despite its difficulty to use, the dated cards contain vast amounts of information about farming in Chester County. A thorough reading of these cards illustrates the changes in agriculture over the centuries.

Vast changes in agriculture occurred during the 19th century and the articles reflect it. There was a flurry of activity to produce hardy fruit tree stock. Nurseries proliferated and Chester County was a center of mail order tree business. Another area of emphasis was the development of tools and machines to be used in agriculture, which resulted in many patents. Replenishing soil using manure became widespread, and lime and the burning of lime for fertilizer (lime kilns) were some of the topics discussed in detail.

Easier to use are the subject headed cards under agriculture. Some of the topics discussed are:

1. Alfalfa
2. Apples
3. Asparagus
4. Barley
5. Beans

6. Bees
7. Beets — Sugar Beets
8. Belladonna
9. Cabbage
10. Cattle Drives
11. Cherries
12. Chestnuts
13. Corn — Broom
14. Corn
15. Cows
16. Farm Ponds
17. Fences
18. Flax
19. Grain fans
20. Grapes, wine making
21. Harvesting
22. Hay
23. Horses (dated cards)
24. Kohlrabi
25. Master Farmers
26. Millet
27. Mowers (i.e. mowing machines)
28. Mushrooms (also found under industries)
29. Oats
30. Onions
31. Orchards
32. Oxen
33. Peaches
34. Peanuts
35. Pears
36. Peas
37. Pigs
38. Plows
39. Plums
40. Poke
41. Polecats
42. Popcorn
43. Potatoes
44. Poultry
45. Rye/Rye grass
46. Sauerkraut
47. Sheep
48. Silk
49. Silos

50. Sorghum
51. Sorgo
52. Soy Beans
53. Strawberries
54. Sweet Peppers
55. Sweet Potatoes
56. Threshing Machines
57. Tobacco
58. Tomatoes
59. Turnips
60. Water Cress
61. Wheat
62. Willow Trees

The industries part of this division references many of the hand crafts and small industries in the county. Often businesses had no employees other than the family, a practice persisting into the middle 20th century. These are listed alphabetically. Some duplication with topics under **Agriculture** exists.

1. Apple Butter
2. Bellows Making
3. Blacksmithing
4. Breweries
5. Brick Making
6. Broom Making
7. Buttons
8. Cabinet Making
9. Candle Making
10. Carnation Growing
11. Carpenters
12. Chair Making/Rushing
13. Cider Making
14. Clocks/clock making
15. Coach Making
16. Cotton Factories
17. Cutlery
18. Distilleries
19. Dyeing
20. Flax Making
21. Fulling
22. Glass Making
23. Hat Making
24. Hod Carrier
25. Horse Shoeing

26. Ice Cutting/Harvest
27. Iron
28. Jewelry Making
29. Joiners
30. Lantern Making
31. Lime
32. Locksmithing
33. Metalsmith
34. Mills
35. Milling
36. Moving Pictures
37. Mushrooms
38. Nurseries
39. Paper Making
40. Paper Mills
41. Penicillin
42. Pewterers
43. Pharmacies
44. Pisciculture (Fish propagation) – see also **County –Creeks—Fish**
45. Plastering
46. Pottery
47. Powder Mills
48. Printing
49. Pumps
50. Quill Making
51. Quilts
52. Saddlery (is really saddle making)
53. Saw Mills
54. Scrapple Making
55. Shingle Making
56. Shoe Making
57. Silversmithing
58. Soap
59. Spinning
60. Streptomycin
61. Sun Dials
62. Tailors
63. Tanneries
64. Tinsmithing
65. Turners
66. Umbrella Mending
67. Wagon Making (see also section on wagons in transportation. Individual wagon makers can be found under **Township—Business Houses.**)
68. Watch Making

69. Water Wheels
70. Weaving
71. Windmills
72. Wood Carving
73. Wool Carding/Woolen Manufacturers

INSTITUTIONS

Most of the institutions are found in individual townships, boroughs, and cities. They are museums, hospitals, convalescent homes, etc. The County category includes the same entities but are filed here when more than one hospital or one museum is mentioned in the article. It also includes institutions which are used by Chester Countians but are usually over a county border line.

The first part of this category is dated and cover all aspects of the category. The alphabetical listings include:

1. Brandywine River Museum of Art (now the Brandywine Museum of Art)
2. Cheyney University
3. Christian Sanderson Museum
4. Devereaux Schools
5. Lan-Chester Medical Center
6. New Bolton Center
7. West Chester Area Day Care

LANDS

Following the example of **Lands** in townships and **Streets** in boroughs/cities, these articles talk about land development, either for homes or industry. However, if a development crossed township lines, the articles are found here.

MAPS

This category is divided into two sections: general and dated. The general classification is a hodgepodge of maps and includes some of the following (mostly undated):

1. Early Newspapers of Chester County with date of first publication
2. Philadelphia Suburban Water Company (PSW)
3. Early auto roads
4. County maps, which often includes Montgomery and Delaware Counties
5. Horseshoe Trail
6. New Sweden
7. Settlement map (1683) with names of settlers

The dated section, which is quite large, is filed by the date of the map, the earliest being 1759. Most have references to the publisher of such maps. Almost all are copies, not originals. They

include geographical maps, postal maps, transportation maps, highway maps, and historic structures maps.

MILITARY

Once a very small category, this was revamped in 2020 in an attempt to bring more elements of the military together. This was not a complete revamping, as the military category was left intact in the townships, boroughs, and cities. Most of what is in this section was pulled from other sections of the County Clippings.

1. Dated Section (begins in 1921) includes the bulk of articles from the late 1940s to the present
 - a. Draft Calls
 - b. Memorials honoring those killed in World War II
 - c. Armed services recruiting
2. Alphabetical Listing includes some, but not all of the following:
 - a. Army and Navy
 - b. Anti-Aircraft Brigade (Nike Missiles): Additional Information about the two specific Nike missile installations in the Philadelphia Defense Area located in Chester County, sites PH-75 and PH-82, can be found in Willistown and Tredyffrin Townships, respectively
 - c. Drafts Boards, from 1948 (Note: In the Library's Township Ephemera Collection, there are materials from draft boards during WWII including list of people interviewed and whether they were accepted or rejected. Most of these are From the Downingtown/Coatesville area. The cards with draft calls from World War I and World War II are found with those respective wars.
 - d. First Chester County Naval Platoon
3. Dated Militia articles
 - a. These articles deal with calls for service as well as the rules that govern the militia group. The unit or regiment might be named, but often are not.
 - b. A quirk in this collection is that many of the call to arms were placed in the dated **History** category instead of **Military**, as the first pasters generally were Quakers and pacifists. For them, the military was more an organization of people brought together for a purpose and didn't have much to do with what we consider military.
4. Militia Identified by Regiment or Unit, filed alphabetically by militia name. Numbered Regiments and units are filed by the letter of the numerical word. (1st... is found under "F"). Reunions of these regiments and units are found in this section also.
5. National Guard Units could be federalized, and often were. They served in the Spanish-American War, Mexican Border War, World War I and World War II. Perhaps the biggest Chester County unit was found in West Chester: Company I, 111th Infantry Regiment,

Pennsylvania National Guard. Many of the cards of this unit remain in the West Chester drawer under **Military**.

6. The 97th Infantry Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers was organized in 1861 and has a long history.
7. Wars—are filed alphabetically. This means that though the Revolutionary War preceded the Civil War, the Civil War is filed first under “C.”
 - a. Civil War, 1861–65
 - i. Includes the Central Aid Society, which helped families of people at home
 - ii. Civil War Draft
 - iii. Dated articles about the Civil War
 - iv. Civil War Letters (CCHC has the Civil War Letters Collection; only those letters published in newspapers are found here)
 - b. Mexican-American War, 1848
 - c. Revolutionary War (in addition to the war, includes the following topics)
 - i. Cemetery Records and burials
 - ii. Loyalists
 - iii. “Revolutionary Scraps” — articles gleaned from newspapers published during the Revolution and reprinted in the *Village Record*
 - d. Spanish American War
 - i. Note: articles about federalized Company I, 111th Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard of West Chester and their service during this war, are detailed in a huge collection of articles from the *Morning Republican* and are found in the West Chester drawer under Military
 - e. War of 1812
 - f. World War I (includes articles on the home front)
 - i. Chester County Women’s Land Army
 - ii. Chester County War Aid
 - iii. Draft
 - iv. Women’s Committee of the Council for National Defense
 - g. World War II
 - i. 50th Anniversary
 - ii. Dogs for Defense
 - iii. Draft (large collection)
 - iv. Home Front (partial listing)
 1. Agricultural Rationing Board
 2. Cattail fluff (used as fill by military)
 3. Chester County Committee for Defense Bonds
 4. Chester County Defense Coordinating Council
 5. Chester County Rationing Board
 6. Civil Air Patrol (C.A.P.)
 7. Home Defense
 8. Milkweed (collected for lifejackets)

9. Price Control (Office of Price Administration—O.P.A.)
10. Post War Plans
11. Victory Gardens
12. Note: Valley Forge Military Hospital is found under **Institutions** in Charlestown Township.

h. Vietnam

NATURAL HISTORY

The interest in natural history started with the very beginning of the colony of Pennsylvania. The “Age of Reason” produced great interest in the things around us and the need to understand them and the science behind it. This was reflected in Chester County with the development of local experts and their writings. Following the pattern found in the **Township Files**, after some introductory cards, this collection is divided into specific topics.

When the collection was started in the 1940s there was not a great deal of interest in the heavens and stars, thus no category was started for the study of astronomy. With the appearance of Sputnik in the 1950s all this changed. Since there was not a specific category, all articles relating to astronomy are found in the dated section:

1. Botany
 - a. Earliest entry is from 1827
 - b. Includes all plants, domestic and commercial
2. Entomology
 - a. Earliest entry is from 1817
 - b. Some interesting observations about locusts, caterpillars, ants, Japanese beetles, etc.
 - c. These are not broken down by dates but all articles are intermingled and not separated by specific insects
3. Mineralogy
 - a. The 1894 card has a listing of all the minerals found in Chester County, as described by Dr. George Groff for students at West Chester State Normal School
 - b. World War I and II produced a need for minerals (e.g. feldspar, chrome, and nickel), mines were reopened.
 - c. An 1986 interview with George Fasic of the Chester County Planning Commission outlines the role native minerals played in the development of Chester County.
4. Oil
5. Ornithology
 - a. The great interest in birds is reflected in the townships and boroughs with organized bird clubs
 - b. Many of the articles describe the size and features of birds shot

- c. Cards are by date, which makes it difficult to follow one particular species of birds
 - d. Some of the articles deal with laws dealing with birds, particularly hunting them
- 6. Trees (Dendrology)—one of the most basic commodities for life in Chester County. Trees provided material for homes, fireplaces (cooking and heating), fruit trees for food, and shade from old trees
 - a. Interest in trees led to a study and identification of the William Penn Oaks in the County (oak trees alive at the time of William Penn)
 - b. Most boroughs and cities paid attention to planting trees for beauty and shade in the 20th century
 - c. Articles also discuss some of the diseases which took down large tracts of trees
- 7. Zoology
 - a. Covers all aspects of animal life, including reptiles
 - b. Predominant animal of interest was and is deer
 - c. There are also discussions of foxes, snakes, and the occasional coyote

ORGANIZATIONS

This category is organized in a similar fashion to **Township—Organizations**. The sorters adhered to exact, proper names of organizations. As previously noted, many of these are not used today. Some of the organizations may not be considered an organization today and are a kind of quasi-public office/organization. To modernize the cards to today's usage would be impossible. One would probably expect to find cards dealing with Sabbath Schools in **Churches** and Associations of Township Supervisors in **Public Offices**. However, any group of people associated for a specific purpose found their way into the original definition of **Organization**.

In examining this category and trying to find common threads for what appears here, some threads do stand out:

1. Any group with "organization" in its title was placed here.
2. Any group with the word "association" was placed here. This placement crosses many lines which are archaic to the 21st century. For example, the Association of Chiefs of Police would suggest placement in **Public Offices** under Police.
3. Any group with "council" in its title, even if a sub-group of a governmental agency, appears here. What seems to be the distinction is that members of a council were not directly elected by the population, and therefore were not put into **Public Offices**.
4. Any group with "federation" in its title was placed here.
5. There is confusion about titles which include the words "mutual" or "benefit." These were often insurance companies, which should go under **Business Houses**. However,

since fraternal organizations often included life insurance and funeral benefits, many of these insurance companies ended up in **Organizations**.

6. There is a great increase in this section after the 1970s when consolidation took place within many organizations, meaning they were no longer part of just one township.
7. Competitions among schools and among counties, prior to 1970, are found in **Organizations**. Up until the 1980s, all school materials were located in the townships, boroughs, and cities where the physical location of the school was located. Once consolidation took place, this division no longer worked, as most people did not know the actual physical location of each school building. Most countywide school activities are now found in the School Collection.
8. Organizations were formed, even with a small group of people. All that was needed was a common interest, such as different types of dairy cows, political affiliation, etc.
9. Multiple entries appear for the detection of horse thieves and recovery of stolen property. They also appear in townships. These appear as much social organizations as any detective work and were very popular until the mid-20th century.
10. Every political breakdown of the county was attached to common terms such as 4-H, political party clubs, baseball leagues, etc. (i.e. Chester Valley Baseball League, Brandywine Baseball League, etc.)

The collection is organized alphabetically. This is not as simple as it sounds. Since proper names were used, which today may seem archaic, and since names of organizations changed over the years, one has to think of all the possible ways something was called to find the right organization. Some are relatively simple, such as Chester County Board of Realtors turning into Chester County Real Estate Board. However, a search for "March of Dimes" is almost impossible, as March of Dimes was never a legal name. The search leads one in many directions:

1. March of Dimes
2. Chester County March of Dimes
3. Chester County March for Infantile Paralysis
4. Infantile Paralysis Organization
5. National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (the filing name used in **Organizations**)

As new generations of pasters came forward over the years since the 1940s, some did not follow the old rubric, but started new cards with a new organization. An attempt is being made to cross reference, usually between **Organizations** and some parts of **Public Offices**, especially when these constituted bodies do or study the same thing.

A separate appendix listing the County Organizations is available in the Library. It is not a complete listing of all the organizations found in this category, as new cards and clippings are still being added. However, it should provide a framework for research.

PAOLI (Battle of Paoli, a.k.a. Paoli Massacre)

Because of the great interest in this battle connected with the American Revolution, the early sorters made it a county topic. This category is organized only by dates and includes articles written in the 1800s through the early 2000s, when an attempt was made to secure all of the land connected with the Battle and make it into a National Monument.

For more information on the Paoli Monument, see the Isaac Dutton Barnard Papers (MS Coll 212) and **Township—Malvern—Organizations—Paoli Memorial Association**.

PLACE NAMES

A very small category which attempted to describe some of the origins of some of the names of places found around Chester County. This topic is supplemented by Edward Pinkowski's 1962 book, *Chester County Place Names*, available for reference in the Library.

POLITICS

This entire collection is sorted by date and discusses elections held in the entire county. This includes local, county, state, and national elections. Campaign rallies, discussion of issues, voting procedures, and election results are all found here. The exception to this, found in individual townships, boroughs, and cities, are strictly local elections.

As consolidation became the trend in the late 1960s, what were previously local elections and located in **Township** clippings became countywide elections placed in **County—Politics** (i.e. consolidated school board elections and regional agencies). The earliest references to elections in Chester County are found in articles from the 19th century but reference election results in 1787 and 1789. From there, election returns start in 1797.

Political parties referencing rallies, campaigns, and choice of candidates, are also found in this section by date. The 19th century newspapers often printed campaign speeches given around the county in their entirety. A perusal of the articles gives the researcher a very good idea of the issues of most concern to Chester Countians, especially on the county/state level.

Starting in the late 1840s, temperance speeches and candidates were reported in detail. The election of 1860, resulting in a win for Lincoln, is well covered.

One must also remember that the results of the election process were changed from the original Constitution. It was amended several times, and votes on these amendments took place in the states. All are topics of interest in this category. Discussion of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, often referred to as the Civil War Amendments, took place in the newspapers, as well as the 20th century Amendments:

1. 16th Amendment – provided for a federal income tax

2. 17th Amendment – the direct election of senators (senators were previously chosen by state legislatures)
3. 18th Amendment – enacted prohibition
4. 19th Amendment – women’s suffrage, etc.

The 1890s provide some interesting reading in the field of politics. Sensationalism becomes the norm and in those years when both the *Morning Republican* and the *Daily Local News* reported on politics, the results were quite different. The *Morning Republican* began publishing to counteract the liberalism of the *Daily Local News*.

POST OFFICES

The dated section of this category discusses general topics related to the postal system, such as distribution routes, price of stamps, and lists of post offices in existence as of a certain date. In the first part of the collection, one finds maps showing the post roads, the earliest dating from 1683.

Post offices and mail delivery were crucial to the early inhabitants. It was their primary means of communication with each other, especially as Americans pulled up stakes and kept moving westward. It also took on a sense of entitlement, that one of the things guaranteed by government was the efficient delivery of mail. Some of this urgency was supplanted by the laying of telegraph lines, but the need for mail delivery was never questioned until the 21st century.

The second part of this category is an alphabetical arrangement of all the post offices in the county. Once part of the **Township** clippings as well as this category, all post office cards have been combined and placed in this alphabetical arrangement. Post offices whose names were changed are listed under the original name and their changed name, e.g. there are cards for both the Street Road post office and the Westtown post office.

PUBLIC OFFICES

When this topic was introduced in the 1940s the world was a very different place. Every township, borough and city had sole taxing authority over itself and the schools within it. There were no regional bodies that taxed as an entity. Each township, borough, and city was required to have its own school board and tax its residents to support it. The concept of school consolidation and taxing as a consolidated district came as a result of legislation in the 1960s. Schools were one of the first entities to consolidate, soon followed by the formation of regional police departments, fire companies, water companies, etc.

People living in the 1940s had comparatively little contact with state or federal governments other than the personal income tax. With the great changes which occurred within governments over the succeeding decades, changes in labeling were a direct result.

Combine the need of the originators of the clipping files to label every office by its proper/legal title with the changes which inevitably came to those offices, more and more difficulties arose in a collection filed alphabetically. It was not too long until the situation arose where the

County Health Department could be found under “Board of Health,” “County Health Department,” “Chester County Health Department,” and “Health Department” all found in different places in the alphabetical listing.

As the **County** clippings were rehoused from large boxes to more manageable document boxes, **Public Offices** was studied for the threads which ran through it. To make more sense of the offices, a rearrangement took place and many cards were relabeled and grouped by their function. An index and description to the new order follows, and include the earliest beginnings of the named office:

County Public Offices

- Board of Relief
- Chester County Development Center
- Chester County Institutional District
- County Administration
- County Health and Welfare
- Court House
- Courts
- Criminal Justice System
- Economic Development
- Educational Council for Law Enforcement
- Pension Examiners
- Public Works and Safety
- Taxation
- Voter Services

State Public Offices

- Collector of Internal Revenue
- Collector of Sales Tax
- County Agent
- County Attorney
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- Department of Environmental Resources
- Department of Health and Welfare
- District Engineer
- District Forester
- Dog Agent
- Factory Inspector
- Game Commission
- Greater Philadelphia Expansion Commission
- Pension Economic Council
- Probation Officer
- Revenue Collectors
- State Highway Department
- State Police
- State Prison System
- Unemployment Services
- Workmen’s Compensation Referee

Federal Public Offices

- Department of Agriculture
- Comprehensive Employment Training Act
- Department of Internal Revenue
- FBI Training School
- Federal Fuel Commission
- Food and Drug Administration
- New Deal
- Office of Economic Development
- Physical Education and Recreation
- Production and Marketing Commission

- Referee in Bankruptcy
- Rent Advisory Board
- Social Security

- U.S. Commissioner
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

County Public Offices

1. **Board of Relief** (Civil War) — county efforts to help families of men serving in War
2. **Chester County Development Center** — precursor to development of the Chester County Intermediate Unit, which is now part of County Schools
3. **Chester County Institutional District** (1938) — see also **Directors of Poor** and **Pocopson Home**
4. **County Administration** — includes an alphabetical listing of those agencies responsible for the running of the county:
 - a. **Auditors** (1830) — checked all Chester County accounts. Replaced by the Office of the Controller in 1913
 - b. **Board of Views** — a board to examine the needs and upkeep of roads and bridges paid for by the County
 - c. **Chester County Archives and Records Services** — joint agency of County Archives and Chester County History Center, charged with preservation of records and making them accessible to the public
 - d. **Chester County Conservation District**
 - e. **Chester County Planning Commission** (1973) — reviews all proposed developments in townships, boroughs, and cities and makes recommendations. Replaces County Planning Commission (1950)
 - f. **Chester County Retirement Board** (1959) — handles retirement funds for County employees
 - g. **Chester County Salary Board** (1971) — this is actually part of Prothonotary Board
 - h. **Chester County Urban Redevelopment Board** (1965) — examines plans for Urban Renewal. Today these are handled by the Department of Community Development.
 - i. **Commissioners** (1819 –) – elected by the people to oversee the needs of the County
 - j. **Controller** — established by a bill passed in 1913 to replace the Auditors
 - k. **Coroner** (1818) – determines causes of death
 - l. **Cost Clerk** (1950s) — collects fines imposed on defendants in Chester County Courts
 - m. **County Administrator** (1972) — administrator of County Offices, appointed by and works for the County Commissioners
 - n. **County Office Building** — includes Dague Building (now replaced by the Justice Center) and Government Services Building in West Goshen Township, built in 1991, which houses County agencies
 - o. **County Salary Board** (1971) — recommends salaries of County employees to the Commissioners for approval
 - p. **County Solicitor** — works with the Commissioners on legal matters
 - q. **Fence Viewers** (now archaic) — an agency in the 19th century, similar to the Board of Viewers, which examined fences placed by property owners on or near roads to see if any encroachments to public rights of way were taking place.

- r. Historic Preservation Officer (1990) – identifies and attempts to preserve historic buildings. Is part of County Planning Commission.
- s. Licenses (1896–) – issues marriage licenses
- t. Mortgage Clerk (1909–) – helps assessors determine tax on money earned from mortgages (interest)
- u. Office of Emergency Coordination (Civil Defense) – includes the Chester County Emergency Medical Services Council
- v. Parks and Recreation Board – includes the Superintendent of Parks. Today these functions are managed by the Chester County Parks Board.
- w. Private Detectives – agency for the licensing of private detectives in the County
- x. Public Safety Commission (1918) – two people from county chosen to serve
- y. Record Clerk (1961) – oversees Court House records
- z. Recorder of Deeds – registers county deeds
- aa. Register of Wills (1823–) – filing of wills for probate
- bb. Sealer of Weights and Measures – checks accuracy of weights and measures of businesses
- cc. Surplus Food Distribution – gives surplus food to unemployed, handicapped, low-income families
- dd. Surplus Property Distribution – disposes of property declared surplus by County. These functions today are managed by the Department of Procurement and General Services.
- ee. Surveyor – mostly used in the past, office would mediate disputed boundaries
- ff. Treasurer (1810–) – maintains County financial accounts

5. **County Health and Welfare**

- a. Chester County C.A.R.E.S – means “Community Aid and Referral Exchange System,” a 24 hour referral for those in need
- b. Chester County Department of Services for Senior Citizens (1971) – help for senior citizens, precursor to Department of Aging
- c. Child Care Services and Agency-Director of Children’s Services (1957) – needs of children
- d. Child Health Clinic
- e. Chester County Emergency Medical Services Council (1971) – marshals resources to meet emergencies
- f. Clinics – health services, especially for children
- g. County Health Department
- h. County Mental Health – Mental Health Relocation Board (1968)
- i. Department of Public Welfare – tries to oversee all services, such as child welfare, hospitals, health, etc.
- j. Directors of the Poor (1814–) – tasked with caring for poor, illegitimate children, and the insane. Includes Pocopson Home.
- k. Employ Physically Handicapped Board Agency (1950+) – eventually becomes “Handicrafters,” which is found under **Organizations**
- l. Medicine (1990) – primarily deals with Medicaid

- m. Welfare Services Committee — oversees child care service, surplus food distribution and Pocopson Home

6. Court House

- a. By date — this category generally includes articles which mention more than one aspect of the Court House. Because they are not divided by subject, they are somewhat difficult to use.
- b. Clock
- c. Fountain
- d. Restroom — information about the establishment of a public restroom at the site
- e. Soldiers and Sailors Monument — sculpted by Harry Lewis Raul and known as “Old Glory”
- f. Ten Commandments Tablet controversy

7. Courts

- a. Arbitration Board Administrator (1810) — part of Court of Common Pleas
- b. Attorney General (1820) — early office equal to the District Attorney
- c. Chester County Legal Aid Services (1971) — services for the poor in civil cases
- d. Clerk of Courts (1839) — part of Orphans Court and deals with guardianship and land transfers
- e. Court Administrator (1970) — expedites the functioning of the court and frees the judges to do what only they can do
- f. Court Crier (Tipstaff) — announces the opening of the court
- g. Court Reporter/Stenographer — records court happenings
- h. Courts (by date) — is a list of cases and description of trials. After 1940s there are separate entries for “naturalizations by court.”
- i. Interpreter — translation services provided for non-English speaking persons in Court
- j. Judges (1800) — are the judges presiding over trials
- k. Jury (1815) — lists of people from the County called to serve on a jury
- l. Justices of the Peace (1820)
- m. Office of Public Defender (1971) — provides legal aid in criminal cases for the indigent
- n. Orphans Court (1930s)

8. Criminal Justice System

- a. Constables — pre-1937, the office of Constable was found in each township; the State changed duties of the office in 1937 to the County level
- b. Criminal Investigation Bureau/Chester County Bureau of Investigation (1950s) – an attempt to centralize records of criminals by photographs, fingerprints, and arrest records. Is a precursor to the County Detectives.
- c. Detective (1878) – prime focus is investigation
- d. District Attorney (1818) — chief prosecutor of the County

- e. District Justices (1960) — part of the County Court system, they deal with lesser crimes
- f. House of Correction (1735–1739) — memo from Orphan’s Court citing lack of prison facilities
- g. Juvenile Home (1904) — home for juvenile offenders, previously called House of Refuge. Part of this system is the Chester County Community Correction Center, 228 W Gay St, where inmates live while on work release.
- h. Juvenile Justice System
- i. Police — county wide police radio system. There is no County-wide police department.
- j. Prison (1816) — articles discuss the administration of the prison
- k. Sheriff (1813) — carries out sales order by the court for foreclosures or non-payment of taxes

9. Economic Development

- a. Chester County Airport Authority — charged with the development and administration of the Airport. The G. O. Carlson Airport is managed under this authority
- b. Council of Governments (1972) — association to explore cost savings measures for the townships
- c. Housing Partnership of Chester County (1991) — provides mortgage money, enabling people to buy a home
- d. Housing Authority
- e. Industries Developer Authority (1984) — a private economic group which works with government
- f. Pennsylvania Economic Council

10. Educational Council for Law Enforcement (1971) — acquaints law enforcement with County resources

11. Pension Examiners (1898)

12. Public Works and Safety

- a. Chester County Fire Board (1971) — coordinates fire-fighting efforts of local fire companies
- b. Chester County Solid Waste Authority (1987) — county seeking to expand its landfill capacity
- c. Chester County Water Resources — plans for future needs for water resource development.
- d. County Sanitation (1966)
- e. Regional Sewage Commission — is comprised of Downingtown, Caln, East Caln
- f. Valley Forge Regional Sewer System

13. Taxation

- a. Appraiser (1917) — determines value of properties (office merged with assessor)
- b. Assessors — determines value of property for tax purposes
- c. Mercantile Appraiser (1831) — visits businesses, assesses and administers the tax on businesses
- d. Personal Property Tax Bureau (1956)
- e. Tax Claim Bureau (1940) — issues tax liens against people. Later taken over by Sheriff's department
- f. Tax Collector
- g. Town Clerk

14. Voter Services

- a. Board of Election — “Computing Board,” which introduced use of computers to count, merged within this category
- b. Bureau of Vital Statistics (1858) — charged with listing births and deaths. Later marriages became a separate entity in this category.
- c. Registrar — office registers people to vote
- d. Voting Services — charged with all elements of an election

State Public Offices

Some are state offices, created by the legislature, with a county presence. Others are state offices, staffed by people hired by the state and reporting directly to the state. Almost all of the money for running state offices comes from the state budget.

1. **Collector of Internal Revenue** (1814) — was the county collector of state tax. After the 16th amendment, this becomes a federal agency.
2. **Collector of Sales Tax** (1933) — responsible for the collection of sales tax and remitting it to the state
3. **County Agent** (1922) — extension of the State Agricultural Board overseeing agricultural matters of the county. Eventually this becomes part of the Extension Service of Penn State.
4. **County Attorney** (1955) — works for the Commonwealth in the State's Attorney General's Office
5. **Delaware River Basin Commission** (1966) — approves water and sewage projects in the basin
6. **Department of Environmental Resources** (D.E.R.)

7. **Department of Health and Welfare**

- a) Emergency Relief Board (1930) — in charge of Depression relief
- b) Food Administrator (1896) — inspects the purity of food stuffs and inspects farms/grocery stores
- c) Mother's Assistance/Mother's Pension Fund — pension fund ran from 1916–1919 and was the precursor to Mother's Assistance, established in the 1930s to support widows and their children
- d) Nurse — is a public health nurse provided by the state
- e) Nutritionist — is appointed to work in Chester County
- f) Physically Handicapped Services — seeks employment opportunities for the physically handicapped
- g) Public Assistance — administered on the county level, but the money comes from the state
- h) Public Health Doctor (1929) — represents the State Health Department
- i) Regional Health Board — screens for mental health services
- j) State Health Physician (1909–1911) — precursor to the Public Health Doctor
- k) State Medical Director (1954)
- l) State Nurse (1937)

8. **District Engineer** (1971) — employed by the State Department of Transportation and oversees the construction of roads

9. **District Forester** (1946) — oversees wooded areas and incorporated the duties of the farm forester

10. **Dog Agent** (1930) — Concerned with licensing and compensation for loss of livestock from dog attack. Various versions of this go back to the early days of the county where loss of livestock occurred from loose dogs. Money from dog licenses funds the compensation fund.

11. **Factory Inspector** (1908) — inspects all public buildings for fire escapes, exits and appliances

12. **Game Commission** — combines former offices of Fish Warden, PA Fish Commission, and Snake Warden (1899). Sets hunting dates, rules, and amounts of game that can be hunted and fish caught.

13. **Greater Philadelphia Expansion Commission** (1956) — analyzes Philadelphia's metropolitan, governmental, economic, and social structure

14. **Pension Economic Council** (1930) — charged with doing a financial analysis of Chester County

15. **Probation Officer** (1914) — overseeing probation offices
16. **Revenue Collectors** (1923) — charged with issuing liquor licenses and collecting gas taxes
17. **State Highway Department** (PennDOT)
18. **State Police** — active in rural areas
19. **State Prison System** (1967) — proposed state prison to be built in northern part of county; never built
20. **Unemployment Services** — runs the office for the unemployed to collect unemployment insurance and help them find jobs
21. **Workmen's Compensation Referee** — arbitrates cases of Workmen's Compensation

Federal Public Offices

1. **Department of Agriculture**
 - a) Chester County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee — involved with food production and marketing, and administration of farm support program. Also deals with surplus food and acreage under production. Part of Federal Farm Program.
 - b) Soil Conservation District — part of a federal program to promote contour farming. This office incorporated the duties of the fire and forestry warden.
2. **Comprehensive Employment and Training Act** — includes Manpower program
3. **Department of Internal Revenue**
4. **FBI Training School** — works with local law enforcement and provides schools teaching current policing techniques and current technology.
5. **Federal Fuel Commission** (1918) — charged with distributing coal during the fuel shortage of 1918
6. **Food and Drug Administration**
7. **New Deal**

- a) Agricultural Adjustment Act (A.A.A.)
 - b) Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.)
 - c) Civil Works Administration — determined which local programs would be funded
 - d) Federal Housing Plan (1930) — funding 90% of low income housing during the Depression
 - e) National Recovery Act (N.R.A.)
 - f) National Youth Administration (N.Y.A.)
 - g) Transient Director — removed floaters (homeless) off the road by providing food and housing
 - h) Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) — Depression era program to provide jobs
8. **Office of Economic Development** — job training under Federal Job Training Act
 9. **Physical Education and Recreation** — Physical Education Pupil Instruction (P.E.P.I.), explains physical education to the public
 10. **Production and Marketing Commission** (1950) — administers the Federal Farm Program
 11. **Referee in Bankruptcy** — is a referee in declaration of bankruptcy cases
 12. **Rent Advisory Board** (1948) – charged with controlling rents due to inflation after World War II
 13. **Social Security** (Previously called Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance) — administers the federal program of social security
 14. **U. S. Commissioner** — Clerk of Courts in U. S. District Court
 15. **U. S. Environmental Protection Agency** (E.P.A.)

ROADS

The earliest roads in Chester County were those laid out by the Lenape Indians, and included the Great Minquas Path which wound its way to the Susquehanna River. As European colonists settled the land, they laid out roads to various settlements, often along the general routes of the old Indian paths, and along property lines.

The continuing settlement and industrialization of the County after the American Revolution led initiatives for “internal improvements.” Efforts for better roads were made, and private companies for improved toll roads were chartered and promoted. Articles from the latter part of the 19th century document efforts towards increased taxes for public roads and the abolishment of private turnpikes in favor of public roads. Arguments for and against are reflected in these clippings.

The necessity of early roads for which some residents petitioned the county were considered by a jury called a road jury. The reports of some road juries can be found in **Public Offices—County Offices—Courts**.

A number of **Public Offices** also intersected with the laying out and maintenance of roads: see **Public Offices—County Offices—Board of Views**; **Public Offices—County Offices—Fence Viewers**; and **Public Offices—State Offices—District Engineer**.

Reports on accidents and fatalities, although reported in detail in the local papers, are usually filed in the **Township** clippings in which the accident occurred or under the name of the persons involved. See also: **Transportation—Automobile Fatalities**. Information about railroad crossing accidents can usually be found under **Transportation—Railroads** or in the **Family File** clippings under the name of the individuals affected.

By the mid-20th century, the rapid expansion of highways and related infrastructure for automobiles, especially after World War II, can be seen in the clippings. Articles in the 1960s and '70s show the expansion and construction of limited-access highways across the county, such as Route 202.

In addition, the **Transportation** clippings contain information on many longer, cross-county roads, national roads, state roads, and turnpike and plank road companies.

A good deal of information about old roads can also be found in the L. Carstairs Pierce Collection about wayside inns and taverns, whose patronage was dependent upon road traffic. Some information about particular roads can be found under **Transportation—Trolleys**, some of which ran alongside or in some roads. **Bridges** are their own separate category in the County files.

Roads are organized as follows:

1. 1814–
 - Arranged chronologically, these clippings contain maps, general comments on road projects, taxation, legislation, and other topics of general interest about roads.
2. Baltimore Pike (U.S. Route 1; a.k.a. Old Legislative Route 131; Philadelphia and Baltimore Tpk)
3. Boot Road (a.k.a. Old PA Route 29)
4. Brandywine Creek Rd. (PA Route 282 – not Creek Road, a.k.a. Old PA Route 100)
5. Brintons Bridge Road
6. Charlestown Road
7. Coatesville, Mortonville, and Doe Run Plank Road Company
8. Conestoga Pike (PA Route 401)
9. Creek Road (a.k.a. Old PA Route 100)
10. Doe Run Road (PA Route 82)
11. Downingtown, Ephrata, and Harrisburg Turnpike Road (U.S. Route 322)

- See also: Horseshoe Pike; Paxtang Road
12. Downingtown and Kennett Turnpike Road (unbuilt road in the 1810s)
 13. Elkton Andora and Lewisville Plank Road (PA Route 841/Maryland Route 213)
 14. Gap and Newport Turnpike (PA Route 41)
 15. Goshen Road (See also: Rocky Hill Road; Strasburg Road)
 16. Hibernia Turnpike (Hibernia Road)
 17. Horseshoe Pike (U.S. Route 322)
 - See also: Downingtown, Ephrata, and Harrisburg Turnpike Road
 18. Horse-shoe Trail
 19. King’s Highway (PA Route 340)
 20. Lancaster Turnpike (U.S Route 30; a.k.a. Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Road)
 - See also: Lincoln Highway
 21. Lenape Road (PA Route 52, a.k.a. Old Legislative Route 134)
 22. Liberty Trail (1970 five-county heritage excursion route)
 23. Limestone Trail (PA Route 10; a.k.a. Limestone Road, Old Legislative Route 274)
 - See also: Octorara Trail; Route 10
 24. Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30, a.k.a. Lancaster Pike/Lancaster Avenue)
 - See also: Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike
 25. Lincoln Highway—Exton Crossroads
 26. Little Conestoga Turnpike Company
 27. New-Hope to Maryland Line State Road (see also: Paoli Pike)
 28. New London Road (PA Route 896)
 29. Newtown Square and Street Road Plank Road Company (PA Route 3)
 30. Newtown Square and Paoli Plank Road Company (PA Route 252; a.k.a. Darby-Paoli Rd.)
 31. Nutt’s Avenue (PA Route 23; see also: **Streets—Phoenixville**)
 32. Oaklands Road (see also: Pottstown Pike)
 33. Octorara Trail (PA Route 10; a.k.a. Old Legislative Route 122)
 - See also: Limestone Trail
 34. Paoli Pike (a.k.a. Old PA Route 202)
 - See also: West Chester and Paoli Plank Road Company
 35. Paxtang Road
 - See also: Downingtown, Ephrata, and Harrisburg Turnpike Road; Horseshoe Pike
 36. Penningtonville and Oxford Plank Road Company
 37. Pennsylvania Turnpike
 38. Philadelphia and West Chester Pike (West Chester Pike/PA Route 3)
 - See also: Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Co. for info. on the trolley line
 39. Philadelphia and West Chester Turnpike Road Company
 - See also: Philadelphia and West Chester Pike
 - a.k.a.: Philadelphia and West Chester Plank Road Company
 40. Philadelphia, Brandywine and New London Cross Roads Turnpike Road
 41. Phoenixville-Downingtown (PA Route 113)
 42. Phoenixville, Kimberton, and Yellow Springs Turnpike Road

- a.k.a. Jeffersonville, Phoenixville, and Chester Springs Plank Road Company; Phoenixville and Yellow Springs Turnpike
43. Pickering Creek Turnpike Co.
 44. Pottstown Pike (PA Route 100; see also: Oaklands Road)
 45. Ridge Road (PA Route 23; a.k.a. Ridge Pike)
 46. Rocky Hill Road (see also: Goshen Road; Strasburg Road)
 47. Route 10 (a.k.a. Old Legislative Route 42)
 - See also: Octoraro Trail; Limestone Trail
 48. Route 29 (see also: West Chester and Phoenixville State Road)
 49. Route 202 (see also: Paoli Pike; Wilmington Pike)
 50. Ship Road
 51. Schuylkill Road (PA Route 724; a.k.a. Old Legislative Route 83; River Road)
 52. Schuylkill Expressway Extension – Phoenixville Spur
 - a.k.a. U.S. Route 422 Phoenixville Extension
 53. Strasburg Road (PA Route 162; see also: Goshen Road, Rocky Hill Road)
 54. Swedesford Road
 55. Unionville-Wawaset Road (PA Route 842)
 56. Valley Road (PA Route 372)
 57. Valley Creek Road
 58. Valley Forge Road (PA Route 252)
 59. West Chester and Great Valley Plank Road Company
 - a.k.a. Wilmington and Great Valley Turnpike Road Company
 60. West Chester and Paoli Plank Road Company (see also: Paoli Pike)
 61. West Chester and Phoenixville State Road (PA Route 29; see also: Route 29)
 62. West Chester and Unionville Plank Road Company (PA Route 842)
 63. West Chester and Wilmington Plank Road Company (U.S. Route 202)
 - a.k.a. Wilmington and Great Valley Turnpike Road Co.
 - See also: Route 202; West Chester and Great Valley Plank Road Company; Wilmington Pike
 - Note: Due to company charters between state lines, the portion south of the Delaware State Line is known as the Concord Pike
 64. West Chester Bypass (U.S. Routes 202 and 322; see **Roads—West Goshen Township**)
 65. Wilmington and Kennett Pike (PA Route 52)
 66. Yellow Springs Road

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation clippings date from circa 1790 through the 1990s, with the bulk dating from 1870 to 1960. The collection includes information on both broad subjects and the corporate entities that built and/or operated specific lines of transportation.

1. **Transportation—General** includes materials related to transportation history without specific focus on any one topic, and includes maps and other broad topics. Individual automobile dealers and manufacturers can be found in **Township—Business Houses**.

2. **Automobiles** focuses on the development of the automobile and related laws and trends. One subsection, **Automobile Fatalities**, focuses on accidents and statistics related thereto. Reports on accidents and fatalities, although reported in detail in the local papers, are usually filed in the township in which the accident occurred or in **Family Files** under the name of the persons involved. Information about railroad crossing accidents can usually be found under **Transportation—Railroads** or the name of the individuals affected. See also: **Roads**

3. **Aviation** contains clippings on the development of aircraft and related laws, movements, and milestones. It includes airplanes, helicopters, and lighter-than-air craft like balloons and dirigibles. Information about individual airports can be found in the township of their establishment.

4. **Bicycles** features clippings on both railway bicycles and the more familiar kind. Individual bicycle dealers can be found in **Township—Business Houses**.

5. **Buses** contains information on individual bus lines that ran throughout the region, including both local operators like the Oxford Motor Service and national operators like Trailways and Greyhound. Some companies, like the West Chester Transportation Company, operated more than one mode of transportation. Some local bus operators can also be found in **Township—Business Houses**.
 - 1) Buses (General)
 - 2) All-American Bus Company
 - 3) Aronomink Transportation Co.
 - 4) Austin B. Collins Bus Lines
 - 5) Brandywine Transit Company
 - 6) Chester Valley Bus Company (a.k.a. Chester Valley Lines; see also: People’s Transportation Company)
 - 7) Downingtown, Honeybrook, Blue Ball, and Ephrata Auto Bus Line
 - 8) Greyhound Corporation
 - 9) Horseshoe Bus Lines
 - 10) Main Line Transfer Company (see also: Philadelphia and Western Railroad Company)
 - 11) Murphy Bus Lines
 - 12) Oxford Motor Service
 - 13) Pen-Del Coach Lines
 - 14) People’s Transportation Company (see also: Chester Valley Bus Company and West Chester Street Railway Company (parent Company))
 - 15) Pottstown Bus Company
 - 16) Reading Bus Company
 - 17) Reading Transportation Company
 - 18) Reeder’s, Inc. (a.k.a. Reeder’s Tours, Inc.)
 - 19) Sadsbury Transportation Company

- 20) Safeway Trails, Inc.
- 21) School Buses (general)
- 22) Schuylkill Valley Lines
- 23) Short Line
- 24) Trailways
- 25) Tri-County Lines
- 26) Werner Bus Lines
- 27) West Chester Transportation Company (a.k.a. West Chester and Wilmington Bus Company; see also: Chester Valley Bus Company (a.k.a.: Chester Valley Lines))

6. **Canals** focuses on both those that were built and those which only reached the proposal or planning stage. The bulk of the material relates to the Schuylkill Navigation Company, which was chartered in 1815 and operated the canal along the eponymous river from 1825 through 1931.

Materials in this section also include information about unbuilt canals like a proposed canal along the Brandywine Creek, a canal into the Great Valley, and a canal along the Octorara Creek to Lancaster. Clippings on a mid-1840s proposal to sell Pennsylvania's Main Line of Public Works, which included both railroad and canal portions, to the Pennsylvania Canal and Railroad Company, are also included in this section.

Individual township **History** sections through which the canals ran may have more information (e.g., East Coventry Township has information on the village of Fricks Locks).

- 1) Canals (General)
- 2) Brandywine Canal
- 3) Great Valley Canal
- 4) Octorara Navigation Company
- 5) Pennsylvania Canal and Railroad Company
- 6) Schuylkill Canal (Schuylkill Navigation Company)

7. **Carriages, Wagons, Stagecoaches, Sleighs** contains information on those pre-motorized forms of transportation, and is organized by type, including a large section on Conestoga wagons. Notable among these is a description of the Philadelphia and Pittsburg Transportation Company, which ran Conestoga wagons over the Alleghenies.

8. **Railroads** contains clippings, ephemera, and photographs about Chester County railroads and connecting lines in surrounding counties. The bulk of the materials focus on corporations and lines in Chester County that were incorporated into the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroads and their subsidiaries. The Pennsylvania Railroad's lines would come to include the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, the Downingtown and Lancaster Railroad, the Pomeroy and Newark Railroad, and Philadelphia and West Chester Railroad. The Reading's empire would come to include the Pickering Valley Railroad, the Chester Valley Railroad, and the Wilmington and Northern Railroad. Also

included in this section are smaller railroads such as the Lancaster, Oxford, and Southern Railroad, the Wilmington and Western Railroad, and unbuilt railroads such as the Chester Creek and Brandywine Railroad Company. Notable in these clippings are reports of accidents, dates of opening, and dates of abandonment.

Information about railroads that were operated by local industries, such as the Phoenix Iron Company and Great Valley quarrying firms, can be found under **Township—Business Houses**.

Because of the complexity of corporate relationships, each entry contains, where applicable, the names of companies that were that company's direct predecessors, successors, lessors, or a controlling parent corporation.

Townships through which the lines passed may have information on hyper-local activities to those municipalities including individual stations. Many stations also housed post offices, and that information can be found in the **Post Offices**. Information about railroad-affiliated amusement parks like Birmingham Park in Birmingham Township can be found in the business houses of individual townships.

- 1) Railroads (General)
- 2) Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
- 3) Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York Railroad Company
 - a. See also: State Line and Juniata Railroad Company (Predecessor)
- 4) Beaver Creek Railroad
- 5) Berks and Chester County Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Wilmington and Reading Railroad Company (Successor)
 - b. Wilmington and Northern Railroad (Successor)
 - c. Reading Railroad – Wilmington and Northern Branch (Successor)
- 6) Brandywine Railroad
- 7) Cecil County Railroad Company
- 8) Chester and Delaware Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Philadelphia and Reading Railroad (Successor)
- 9) Chester County Central Railroad Company
- 10) Chester Creek and Brandywine Railroad Company
- 11) Chester Creek Railroad Company
 - a. Pennsylvania Railroad – Chester Creek Branch (Successor)
- 12) Chester Valley Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Norristown and Valley Rail Road Company (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Reading Branch and Downingtown Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - c. See also: Philadelphia and Chester Valley Railroad Company (Successor)
 - d. See also: Reading Railroad – Chester Valley Branch (Successor)
- 13) Columbia and Octoraro Railroad Company
- 14) Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad Company
- 15) Conestoga Valley Railroad Company

- 16) Cornwall and Phoenixville Railroad Company
- 17) Delaware River and Lancaster Railroad Company (a.k.a. Sowbelly Railroad)
 - a. See also: French Creek Railroad Company (Successor)
 - b. See also: Phoenixville and Lancaster Trolley (Proposed Successor)
- 18) Delaware and Western Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Wilmington and Western Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - b. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad – Landenberg Branch (Successor)
- 19) Doe Run and White Clay Creek Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Pennsylvania and Delaware Railroad Company (Successor)
 - b. See also: Pomeroy and Newark Railroad (Successor)
- 20) Downingtown and Lancaster Railroad (Predecessor)
 - a. See also: East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Downingtown and New Holland Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - c. See also: Pennsylvania Railroad, D&L Branch (Successor)
- 21) East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Downingtown and New Holland Railroad Company (Successor)
 - b. See also: Downingtown and Lancaster Railroad Company (Successor)
 - c. See also: Pennsylvania Railroad – D&L Branch (Successor)
- 22) Elkton and Oxford Railroad Company
- 23) Elkton and Southern Railroad Company
- 24) French Creek Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Delaware River and Lancaster Railroad (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Phoenixville and Lancaster Trolley (Proposed Successor)
- 25) Gallagherville and Coatesville Railroad
- 26) Germantown, Norristown, and Phoenixville Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Pennsylvania Railroad – Schuylkill Division (Parent Company)
- 27) Freedom Train, 1947 –1949
- 28) Lancaster and Reading Narrow Gauge Railroad Company
 - a. Lancaster and Quarryville Railroad Company (Successor)
- 29) Lancaster, Cecil, and Southern Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company (Parent Company)
- 30) Lancaster, Oxford, and Southern Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Peach Bottom Railway Company (Predecessor)
- 31) Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company
- 32) Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York Railroad Company (Merged into)
- 33) Norristown and Valley Rail Road Company
 - a. See also: Reading Branch and Downingtown Railroad Company (Successor)
 - b. See also: Chester Valley Railroad Company (Successor)
 - c. See also: Philadelphia and Chester Valley Railroad Company (Successor)
 - d. See also: Reading Railroad – Chester Valley Branch (Successor)
- 34) Octoraro Railway Company
- 35) Oxford Rail Road Company of Chester County
- 36) Peach Bottom Railway Company

- a. See also: Lancaster, Oxford, and Southern Railroad Company (Successor)
- 37) Penn Central Transportation Company
- 38) Pennsylvania Railroad
 - a. Pennsylvania Railroad – D&L Branch
 - i. See also: East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - b. Pennsylvania Railroad – Frazer Branch
 - c. Pennsylvania Railroad – Malvern Branch
 - i. See also: West Chester Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - d. Pennsylvania Railroad – Octoraro Branch
 - i. See also: Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - e. Pennsylvania Railroad – Schuylkill Division
 - i. See also: Schuylkill Valley Railroad (Subsidiary) Company
 - ii. See also: Philadelphia, Norristown, and Phoenixville Railroad Company (Subsidiary Company)
 - f. Pennsylvania Railroad – Trenton Cut-Off
- 39) Pennsylvania and Delaware Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Doe Run and White Clay Creek Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Pomeroy and Newark Railroad (Successor)
- 40) Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad Company (Successor and Parent Company)
 - b. See also: Pennsylvania Railroad – Octoraro Branch (Successor)
- 41) Philadelphia and Chester County Railroad Company
 - a. Philadelphia, Delaware, and Chester County Railroad (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Philadelphia and Midland Railroad Company (Successor)
 - c. Philadelphia and Delaware County Railroad (Successor)
 - d. Pennsylvania Railroad – Newtown Square Branch (Successor)
- 42) Philadelphia and Chester Creek Railroad Company
- 43) Philadelphia and Chester Valley Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Norristown and Valley Rail Road Company (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Reading Branch and Downingtown Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - c. See also: Chester Valley Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - d. See also: Reading Railroad – Chester Valley Branch (Successor)
- 44) Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad Company
 - a. Duffy’s Cut (Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad)
 - b. See also: Pennsylvania Railroad Company (Successor)
- 45) Philadelphia and Midland Railroad Company
 - a. Philadelphia, Delaware, and Chester County Railroad (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Philadelphia and Chester County Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - c. Philadelphia and Delaware County Rail-Road Company (Predecessor)
 - d. Pennsylvania Railroad – Newtown Square Branch (Successor)
- 46) Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Reading Railroad (Successor)
- 47) Philadelphia, Newtown Square, and West Chester Railroad Company

- 48) Philadelphia, Norristown, and Phoenixville Railroad Company
 - a. See also Pennsylvania Railroad – Schuylkill Division (Parent Company)
 - b. See also: Schuylkill Valley Railroad Company
- 49) Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Philadelphia and Delaware County Rail-Road Company (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington Railroad (Successor and Parent Company)
 - c. See also: Pennsylvania Railroad (Successor and Parent Company)
- 50) Pickering Valley Railroad
 - a. See also: Reading Railroad –Pickering Valley Branch (Successor)
- 51) Pomeroy and Newark Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Doe Run and White Clay Creek Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Pennsylvania and Delaware Railroad Company (Predecessor)
- 52) Reading Railroad
 - a. Reading Railroad – Wrecks
 - b. Reading Railroad – Chester Valley Branch
 - i. See also: Norristown and Valley Rail Road Company (Predecessor)
 - ii. See also: Reading Branch and Downingtown Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - iii. See also: Chester Valley Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - iv. See also: Philadelphia and Chester Valley Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - c. Reading Railroad –Pickering Valley Branch
 - i. See also: Pickering Valley Railroad (Predecessor)
 - d. Reading Railroad – Wilmington and Northern Branch
 - i. See also: Berks and Chester County Railroad (Predecessor)
 - ii. See also: Wilmington and Reading Railroad (Predecessor)
 - iii. See also: Wilmington and Northern Railroad (Predecessor)
- 53) Reading and Chesapeake Railroad Company
- 54) Reading Branch and Downingtown Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Norristown and Valley Rail Road Company (Predecessor)
See also: Chester Valley Railroad Company (Successor)
 - b. See also: Philadelphia and Chester Valley Railroad Company (Successor)
 - c. See also: Reading Railroad – Chester Valley Branch (Successor)
- 55) Schuylkill and Octorara Railroad Company
- 56) Schuylkill Valley Railroad Company
- 57) State Line and Juniata Railroad
 - a. See also: Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York Railroad Company (Successor)
- 58) Valley Railroad
- 59) Valley Forge Scenic Railroad
- 60) West Chester Railroad
 - a. See also: West Chester and Philadelphia Railroad (Lessor)
 - b. See also: Pennsylvania Railroad – Malvern Branch (Successor)
 - c. See also: Pennsylvania Railroad – Frazer Branch (Successor)
- 61) West Chester and Marshallton Railway
- 62) West Chester and Philadelphia Railroad Company

- a. a.k.a. West Chester Direct Railroad
 - b. See also: Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad Company (Successor, and Parent Company)
 - c. See also: Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad Company (Successor, and Parent Company)
 - d. See also: Pennsylvania Railroad (Successor)
- 63) West Chester and Phoenixville Railroad
- a. Pennsylvania Railroad – Phoenixville Branch (Successor)
- 64) West Chester and Port Deposit Railroad Company
- 65) West Chester Extended Railroad
- 66) West Chester and Unionville Railroad
- 67) William Penn Railroad Company
- 68) Wilmington and Downingtown Rail Road Company
- 69) Wilmington and Northern Railroad Company
- a. See also: Berks and Chester County Railroad (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Wilmington and Reading Railroad (Predecessor)
 - c. See also: Reading Railroad – Wilmington and Northern Branch (Successor)
 - d. See also: Birmingham Township Business Houses – Birmingham Park
 - e. See also: East Bradford Township Business Houses – Lenape Park
- 70) Wilmington and Reading Railroad
- a. See also: Berks and Chester County Railroad (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Reading Railroad – Wilmington and Northern Branch (Successor)
- 71) Willington and Western Railroad Company
- a. Delaware and Chester County Railroad (Predecessor)
See also: Delaware and Western Railroad Company (Successor)
 - b. Baltimore and Philadelphia Railroad (Successor)
 - c. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad – Landenberg Branch (Successor)
- 72) Yellow Springs Railroad

9. **Regional Transportation Authorities** contains clippings on the area’s regional transportation authority, SEPTA, and its predecessor lines. Notable are clippings about the formation of the authority out of the remains of the Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Company and the Philadelphia Transportation Company.
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)
 - See also: Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Company (Predecessor)
 - See also: Philadelphia and Western Railroad Company (Predecessor)
 - See also: Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company (Predecessor)
 - See also: Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Company (Predecessor)
10. **Taxis and Limousines** include clippings about cabs, limousines, and other cars-for-hire, including the Chester County Yellow Cab Company, Malvern Taxi Company, and Pickering Creek Industrial Park. Individual taxicab companies can be found also in the **Township--Business House** and **Transportation** clippings.

11. **Time Tables** contains clippings and pasted ephemera about timetables. Included are timetables for railroads, buses, trolleys, and, notably, stagecoach lines. Most timetables include a listing of stations or stops and occasionally maps.
12. **Trolleys and Electric Railways**, so named because not all electrically powered traction lines operated with trolley poles, consists primarily of clippings dating from 1890 to 1930. This section focuses on the construction and operation of the West Chester Street Railway Company, which operated lines to Kennett Square, Downingtown, and Coatesville, and the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company, which connected West Chester to Philadelphia. Many clippings focus on subsidiary lines used to facilitate construction, like the Philadelphia, Castle Rock, and West Chester Electric Railway Company. Other clippings in this section relate to their connecting lines (such as the railway lines to Lancaster and Wilmington), and lines in the Phoenixville vicinity like the Montgomery and Chester electric railway.

Numerous cards include “paper” companies that were incorporated but never built any railways, such as the Wilmington and West Chester Electric Railway Company, which would have built a trolley down Wilmington Pike, and the Pottstown and Phoenixville Electric Railway Company which was planned in the northern part of the county. In the West Chester Street Railway Company’s cards, one will find information about freight hauling on interurban and electric railways. Corporate relationships such as subsidiaries, predecessors, and successors are noted for each entry.

Information about electric-railway-operated amusement parks, known as “trolley parks,” can be found in **Township—Business Houses—Bonnie Brae Park**, operated by the Montgomery and Chester Electric Railway Company in East Vincent Township; Lenape Park, operated by the West Chester Street Railway Company, in East Bradford Township; and Valley Park, operated by the Phoenixville, Valley Forge and Strafford Electric Railway Company, in Schuylkill Township.

- 1) Electric Railways (Misc.)
- 2) Trolleys (General)
- 3) Berwyn and Devon Passenger Railway Company
- 4) Brandywine Electric Railway Company
- 5) Brandywine Traction Company
 - a. See also: Uwchlan Street Railway Company
 - b. See also: West Chester and Downingtown Street Railway Company
- 6) Bridgeport and Phoenixville Electric Railway Company
 - a. See also: Phoenixville and Bridgeport Electric Railway Company
- 7) Chester, Concordville, and West Chester Electric Railway Company
- 8) Citizens Railway Company of Chester County
- 9) Coatesville and Christiana Street Railway Company
- 10) Coatesville and Downingtown Street Railway Company
- 11) Coatesville and Modena Electric Railway Company (a.k.a. Coatesville Traction Co.)

- a. See also: Coatesville Rapid Transit Company
- 12) Coatesville Rapid Transit Company (a.k.a. Coatesville Traction Co.)
 - a. See also: Coatesville and Modena Electric Railway Company
 - b. See also: West Chester Street Railway Company (Parent Company)
- 13) Coatesville and Western Railway Company
- 14) Conestoga Traction Company
- 15) Delaware County Passenger Railway Company
 - a. See also: Philadelphia, Castle Rock, and West Chester Electric Railway Company
 - b. See also: Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company (Parent Company)
- 16) Downingtown and Lancaster Railway Company
- 17) Glen Loch–Valley Hills Railway
 - a. See also: East Whiteland Township Business Houses – Silica Stone Company
- 18) Kennett and Coatesville Railroad Company
- 19) Keystone Traction Company
 - a. See also Pennsylvania Traction Company
- 20) Lancaster and Philadelphia Electric Railway Company
- 21) Lancaster and Southern Street Railway Company
- 22) Lima, Gradyville, and West Chester Electric Street Railway Company
- 23) Montgomery and Chester Electric Railway Company
 - a. See also: East Pikeland Township Business Houses – Bonnie Brae Park
- 24) Oxford and Kennett Electric Railway Company
- 25) Oxford and Newark Electric Railway Company
- 26) Oxford and West Chester Electric Railway Company
- 27) Oxford and Wilmington Electric Railway
- 28) Oxford, Cochranville, and Parkesburg Electric Railway Company
- 29) Oxford, West Grove, and Avondale Electric Railway Company
- 30) Paoli, Wayne, and Overbrook Electric Railway Company
- 31) Parkesburg and Coatesville Street Railway Company
- 32) Pennsylvania Traction Company
 - a. See also: Keystone Traction Company
- 33) People’s Railway Company of Wilmington
 - a. See also: Wilmington and Brandywine Springs Railway Company (Subsidiary)
- 34) People’s Street Railway Company of West Chester
- 35) Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company
 - a. See also: Philadelphia, Castle Rock, and West Chester Electric Railway Company (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Delaware County Passenger Railway Company (Subsidiary Company)
- 36) Philadelphia and Western Railroad Company
 - a. See also: Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Company (Successor)
- 37) Philadelphia, Castle Rock, and West Chester Electric Railway Company
 - a. See also: Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company (Successor)
 - b. Delaware County Passenger Railway Company (Parent Company)
- 38) Philadelphia, Coatesville, and Lancaster Electric Railway Company
 - a. See also: Coatesville Traction Company (Successor)

- b. See also: West Chester Street Railway Company (Successor)
- 39) Philadelphia, Devon, and West Chester Electric Railway Company
- 40) Philadelphia, Paoli, and West Chester Electric Railway Company
- 41) Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company
 - a. See also: Philadelphia Traction Company (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) (Successor)
- 42) Philadelphia Suburban Traction Company
- 43) Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Company (a.k.a. Red Arrow Lines)
 - a. See also: Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company (Predecessor)
 - b. See also: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) (Successor)
- 44) Philadelphia Traction Company
 - a. See also: Philadelphia Traction Company (Successor)
 - b. See also: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) (Successor)
- 45) Philadelphia, Wayne, and Paoli Street Railway Company
- 46) Philadelphia, Valley Forge, and Suburban Electric Railway Company
- 47) Phoenixville and Bridgeport Electric Railway Company
 - a. See also: Bridgeport and Phoenixville Electric Railway Company
- 48) Phoenixville and Lancaster Trolley
 - a. See also: Delaware River and Lancaster Railroad (Proposed Successor to)
 - b. See also: French Creek Railroad (Proposed Successor to)
- 49) Phoenixville, Valley Forge and Strafford Electric Railway Company
 - a. See also: Schuylkill Township Business Houses – Valley Park
- 50) Pottstown and Phoenixville Electric Railway Company
- 51) Pottstown and Reading Street Railway Company
- 52) Pottstown and West Chester Electric Railway Company
- 53) Reading Street Railway Company
- 54) Rock Glen Street Railway Company
- 55) Royersford Street Railway Company
- 56) Schuylkill Valley Electric Street Railway Company
- 57) Spring City, Royersford and Trappe Trackless Trolley Co.
- 58) Suburban Railway Company of West Chester
- 59) Uwchlan Street Railway Company
 - a. See also: Brandywine Traction Company
 - b. See also: West Chester and Downingtown Street Railway Company
- 60) Valley Forge and Suburban Electric Railway Company
- 61) Valley Forge Railway Company
- 62) West Chester and Downingtown Street Railway
- 63) West Chester and Exton Railway
- 64) West Chester and Pottstown Electric Railway Company
- 65) West Chester and Unionville Electric Railway Company
- 66) West Chester, Coatesville and Downingtown Street Railway Company

- 67) West Chester, Kennett, and Wilmington Electric Railway Company
- 68) West Chester Street Railway Company
 - a. See also: Chester Valley Bus Company (Subsidiary Company)
 - b. See also: People’s Transportation Company
 - c. See also: West Chester Transportation Company
 - d. See also: East Bradford Township Business Houses – Lenape Park
- 69) West Chester, Unionville, and Western Electric Railway Company
- 70) Westtown Electric Railway Company
- 71) Wilmington and Brandywine Springs Railway Company
 - a. See also: People’s Railway Company of Wilmington (Parent Company)
- 72) Wilmington and Philadelphia Traction Company
- 73) Wilmington and West Chester Electric Railway Company
- 74) Wilmington and West Chester Railroad Company
- 75) Wilmington City Railway Company

13. **Watercraft** contains clippings on boats, river crossing ferries, and steamboats in what limited capacity these modes existed in Chester County.

TRAVELS

When this clipping collection started, the creators wanted a category to place articles describing little jaunts throughout the county so that researchers could see the changes which occurred over time. For lack of a better term, it was labeled “Travels,” which might have different connotations today.

This collection is divided into 3 parts:

- **Part 1:** The 19th century is a random collection of articles from various papers describing an anonymous author’s trip somewhere through Chester County. These are valuable for the descriptions of the countryside they are observing and for some of their comments and comparisons to earlier times.
- **Part 2:** Starting in 1899, there are a series of articles written by historians about Chester County. The most notable two are Charles H. Pennypacker and Samuel R. Downing, members of two prominent Chester County families with long histories.
- **Part 3:** Great changes occur in the United States after the end of World War I. Henry Ford develops the assembly line process for producing cars and starts mass producing them (15 million were produced between 1908 and 1927). In his philosophy, Ford was creating a car for the middle class (the Model T), which cost \$500 and came in the color black. Following the flu epidemic and the prosperity of the 1920s, the automobile became a source of recreation and American’s love affair with cars was born. For purposes of this collection, competing newspapers wrote competing articles about

places to go on those “Sunday Drives,” which became a source of family entertainment that carried into the 20th century with weekend road trips.

Part 1: The section begins with a reprint of Thomas Pownall’s Journal of 1754, which discusses the names of inns and taverns. Since it was printed in 1871, the current names were also included. Part 1 also includes travels throughout Chester County and the mid-Atlantic region.

1. 1818–1830
 - a) trip to Wilmington by horse and buggy
 - b) trip to Pottsgrove via Goshen, Willistown and Tredyffrin; mentions Kimber’s School in East Pikeland Township
 - c) travel along the Philadelphia and Lancaster turnpike
 - d) travel to London Grove, comparing verdant Chester County with decadent Europe, describing innovations in farming, bridges and mills on the route
 - e) from Governor Thomas Pownall’s Journal of 1754, a trip from Philadelphia to Wright’s Ferry, Lancaster County, on the Susquehanna

2. 1831–1860
 - a) description of the landscape at dawn
 - b) comments on “Notes by the Way” from the *United States Gazette*, which degrades the citizens of Chester County, written by Stone
 - c) with advent of the railroad, a trip from West Chester to Reading via Phoenixville on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad (1840)
 - d) travel across the County, starts at Westtown School and follows route of the Crown Forces from Kennett Square to the Battle of Brandywine
 - e) *American Republic* column traveling through and giving highlights of Uwchlan, Tredyffrin, the Coventrys and Pikelands, French Creek, the Welsh Mountains, and Honeybrook
 - f) a correspondent from the *Lancaster Examiner* writes two articles that cover New London, Parkesburg, and Ercildoun
 - g) train trip from Pottsville to Chester County on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, with stops for exploration along the way; includes observations about rail travel in general and includes his thoughts regarding the incipient industrial revolution

3. 1861–1880
 - a) description of northerner traveling in South as it secedes from the Union
 - b) railroad trips:
 - i. West Chester to Doylestown
 - ii. From West Chester along the Baltimore Central Railroad
 - iii. Philadelphia to Waynesburg (Honey Brook) on the East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad
 - iv. Oxford to Parkesburg

- v. Upper Oxford to Downingtown
 - vi. Rising Sun, Maryland, to Kennett, on the Baltimore Central Railroad
 - c) comments on Chester County from visitor
 - d) a walk around Chester County, including along the Brandywine Creek, including legends and stories of buried treasure (1873)
 - e) West Chester to Chadds Ford
 - f) description of Chester County as a rural/agricultural county, the “Tyrol of America”
 - g) looking for minerals and observing natural sciences, trips by horse-and-buggy to study nature
 - h) Phaeton carriage tour through eight counties in ten days, from West Chester to Newark, and through the northwestern townships of Chester County
 - i) a Philadelphia girl’s travels in Chester County
4. 1881–1899
- a) trip to the Susquehanna and back
 - b) multiple “strolls, rambles,” etc. through the county, observing the state of agriculture and mentioning names of residences visited
 - c) search for minerals
 - d) A Lancasterian’s trip to Chester County
 - e) a member of the New Jersey Bar describing a visit to Chester County
 - f) bicycle trips in Chester County
 - g) trip of 50 miles in canvas boats from West Chester to Wilmington and up Delaware to Philadelphia
 - h) reminiscences of Brinton Woodward from his boyhood in Chester County

Part 2: This section includes the articles by historians Charles H. Pennypacker and Samuel R. Downing. Charles H. Pennypacker (1845–1911) was a cousin to Governor Samuel Pennypacker. Pennypacker attended school at West Chester Academy (later to become the Normal School and eventually West Chester University) and Philips Academy in Exeter. He became a lawyer (he represented insurance companies during the famous Udderzook trial) and was eventually admitted to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court. Considered the County’s expert on minerology and local history, he was commissioned by the Borough Council of Downingtown to write a history of Downingtown to be published for their 50th anniversary in 1909.

Pennypacker began writing his articles at a time when the *Daily Local* published long articles on various subjects, such as minerology, old diaries, old books, etc. Starting in May 1899, Pennypacker was a consistent contributor for 4 years; after that he continued to write, but sporadically.

His initial articles all have to do with the Society of Friends, and some of their regular and quarterly meetings. He then branched out to trips around the county, most of which are taken on foot. Because he was so well acquainted with the leaders of Chester County, many of these walks include a stop for dinner at one of their houses.

The collection has his articles from 1900, 1901, 1902. Almost no articles from 1903 were ever clipped and pasted. His topics include:

- comments on farming in multiple townships
- old families and famous persons of the County
- historical events which took place in the County
- old books and school experiences of the past
- a visit to Old Upland, pointing out name changes like Marlborough (Hilltown), Bradford (Bensalem)

By 1905, some Chester Countians began to own automobiles, and Pennypacker's rambles were with these car owners. Articles became fewer, as Pennypacker became Chief Burgess of West Chester. An occasional article will appear after 1905, but not regular columns. The newspaper faced a dilemma, as these articles were well received. Additional articles do appear, some by stated authors, but most are written by *Daily Local* reporters.

Of great interest in this intermediate period are the descriptions of trips taken by trolley, the new means of transportation. One such trip goes from West Chester, through Downingtown and Coatesville, and all the way to Lancaster and back.

By 1916, the gap in news coverage is filled by Samuel R. Downing, a regular columnist in the style of Pennypacker. Samuel was born in 1833 and died in 1927 at age 93. He was the great, great, grandson of Thomas Downing, after whom Downingtown was named. His mother died in childbirth, and his father died in 1847.

His writing skills were honed as the publisher of the *Chester County Times*, which he sold in 1863. He was on the State Board of Agriculture for 15 years and was active in the Goshen Grange for over 50 years. All of these activities are reflected in his articles.

Starting his articles at the age of 83, Downing began by reminiscing about the Chester County of his youth. The column appears to be weekly, and though the collection does not have the complete run clipped and pasted, they can all be found on microfilm at CCHC. Some of the topics include:

- stories of Downingtown, especially during the 1840s and 50s
- stories about old families
- information gleaned from diaries
- old books and school experiences
- travel by train

Part 3: The interest in historical reminiscences and travels waned during 1917 due to the U.S. involvement in World War I. All activities were geared toward supplying and winning the war. Shortly after the Armistice, the world suffered through the Spanish flu epidemic.

The "Roaring Twenties" ushered in many new inventions and initiated different living patterns. Consumer goods, especially appliances, could be purchased on credit, allowing many families to

own them. This was a time of glossy magazines, filled with advertisements, which introduced new needs and wants in many middle-class families. The biggest change was the affordability of the Model T Ford, giving rise to the Sunday Drive as well as putting pressure on governmental bodies to lay and maintain good roads (see **County—Organizations—Good Roads Association**).

By building on earlier interest, newspapers begin developing columns to give guidance and suggestions for the “Sunday Drive”:

1. *Philadelphia Bulletin* “Pathfinder Series”
 - a) concentrated on historic places to visit with a car
 - b) were illustrated and contained maps
 - c) earliest articles were compiled into an illustrated pamphlet in 1926 and were sold for 50 cents; articles continued to appear in the paper after publication of the pamphlet
 - d) were not limited to historic places in Chester County
2. “Travel With Me Through Historic Center County” (G. W. Mitchell)
 - a) serialized by the *Daily Local News*
3. “Rambling through the County” and “Wayne’s Talk” (*Honey Brook Herald*)
 - a) both columns were published by the *Honey Brook Herald*, the newspaper of the Honey Brook area after the fire and demise of the *Honey Brook Graphic*
 - b) “Wayne’s World” articles covers topics within a ten-mile radius of Honey Brook Borough; the format remains the same—typically Wayne finds an old newspaper article, tracks down the people discussed in the article, and writes of the conversation
 - c) “Wayne’s World” are usually stories about people or specific events from the Honey Brook area
 - d) the rambling articles have length, gives past history and often emphasizes an interview with people from the past
 - e) “Wayne’s World” ceased around 1929 and is replaced by the “Village Gossip,” which is found in the history section of Honey Brook Borough
4. “Over Highways and Byways in Chester County” (*Daily Local*, authored by W.R. Kessler and E. L. McKinstry, alias ‘Bill and Buck’)
 - a) geared to the motorist and includes names of highways
 - b) articles appear to be weekly
 - c) interested in ferreting out old roads and stories of the past from the entire county
5. “View Afoot” (authored by J. W. Walker, reporter for the *Coatesville Record*)
 - a) relatively short articles
 - b) appears to be a daily column
 - c) Walker is not an historian, but relies on that which was previously written and uses the car to check out the information
 - d) articles are the history within a ten-mile radius of Coatesville

All of the above articles have certain themes in common:

- old roads, especially turnpikes
- old taverns and name changes
- old mills
- early histories of townships and boroughs, including prominent names
- interviews with “old timers”
- contain many reminiscences, making the articles seem more personal

These articles start in the 1920s and continue through 1939.

VALLEY FORGE

Though Valley Forge is part of the American Revolution and is included in the clipping cards found in the military section, the interest, love, fervor and affection people held towards Valley Forge forced a special section to accommodate the multitudes of clippings found on the subject.

There was no climactic battle or even a battle at all in the winter of 1777–1778 between the British Army and the Continental Army at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania. The value of Valley Forge was the respite, re-supply and training afforded the fledgling Continental Army by regrouping at the encampment. Today, Valley Forge National Historical Park protects and preserves over 3,500 acres of the original encampment site.

Valley Forge was established as the first state park of Pennsylvania in 1893 by the Valley Forge Park Commission (VFPC). Its mission was to preserve, improve, and maintain as a public park the site on which General George Washington’s army encamped at Valley Forge. The area around Washington’s Headquarters was chosen as the park site. In 1923, the VFPC was brought under the Department of Forests and Waters and later incorporated into the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1971.

The park served as the location of the National Scout Jamboree in 1950, 1957, and 1964. Valley Forge was designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1961 and was listed in the first National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The area covered by these Clippings goes outside what was the Valley Forge State Park boundaries to include four historic houses where the Marquis de Lafayette and other officers were quartered. In 1976, Pennsylvania gave the park as a gift to the nation for the Bicentennial. The U.S. Congress passed a law signed by President Gerald Ford on July 4, 1976, authorizing the addition of Valley Forge National Historical Park as the 283rd Unit of the National Park System.

The clippings found in this section are from a variety of newspapers, the earliest being 1824. Clippings were pasted when they became available, and it is worth remembering that only duplicate newspapers were clipped. The clippings of the 19th century give one a sampling of the affection and fervor the concept of Valley Forge was held by the American people. The clippings are divided into two sections: articles by date and articles by subject matter.

One must also be aware that some definitions currently in use do not fit the definitions used during the encampment. For example, the word “fort” usually brings to mind a building with a stockade fence around it. There were four “forts” at Valley Forge, but no buildings. The term was used to designate defensive earthen works.

Also available is the topic of Valley Forge in the Library’s Revolutionary War Collection, which contains Park Commission meeting minutes, pamphlets, articles, ceremonies, celebrations and event documentation for Valley Forge Park held at the Chester County History Center.

Valley Forge —Dated Section (highlights)

1825–1850

1. Yearly reunions and celebrations of any military units, some not necessarily associated with the Revolution
2. Memories of those who served
3. Descriptions of land as seen today as compared to the encampment

1851–1875

1. Site of many political meetings
2. Artifacts found by people walking the grounds of the encampment
3. 100th anniversary celebration in 1878

1876–1899

1. Various movements to purchase some of the grounds and renovate structures/sites
2. Movements to erect monuments and memorials
3. 1893 — State tries to appropriate money to establish a commission with the aim of establishing a park
4. Purchase of lands starts with 30 acres. Starts a pattern of landowners objecting and matter ending up in court; by 1897, there are 217 acres in the park

1900–1925

1. Much talk of making park National Park and opposition to the idea
2. Becomes State Park in 1916
3. 1925 — World War I Vets want memorial at Valley Forge. Get a log cabin from Ft. Meade In Maryland and bring it to Valley Forge

1926–1949

1. 1926 — Reenactments begin
2. 1932 — History of the workings of the Valley Forge Park Commission
3. 1936 — proposal to double size of park, wants to use CCC for labor
4. D.A.R. presents their collection of records pertaining to Valley Forge
5. 1945 — Proposal to make Valley Forge the home of the United Nations

6. Van Wyck Mason's serialized treatises on Valley Forge
7. 1947 — 170th Anniversary

1950–1974

1. The Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) to pay for the National Carillon of 49 bells in tower (representing U.S. states) which will later give concerts
2. Myths, legends and ghost stories unproved
3. Boy Scout Jamborees
4. Heathcote's newspaper series on Valley Forge
5. 1952 — 175th anniversary—starts movement for more research and more articles written
6. 1954 — 3 million visitors a year at park of 2033 acres
7. Series of articles written by historian Phoebe Gilkyson
8. Introduction of taped auto tours
9. Discussion of part of Chesterbrook becoming part of Valley Forge

1975–

1. Valley Forge State Park, after 197 years, what is its future?
2. 1977 — teams of researchers looking at documents and what is underground at park
3. Congress appropriates funds for land acquisition

Valley Forge – List of Subjects

In looking at all the clippings found in this section on Valley Forge, it appears that a change of thinking occurred around 1950. Prior to this time, every subject from the beginning, was found in the dated section. What appears to have happened is that the preponderance of materials became so large, that a decision was made to break down Valley Forge into individual topics. Also, many of the cards contain photographs, pictures or drawings of named memorials, buildings, and headquarters.

In addition, there is renewed interest in architecture and antiques, as evidenced in magazines. This carries over into the articles on the various buildings used as headquarters during the Encampment. When a building was drawn, often access to the interior was granted (most were in private hands in the 1950s), and histories of the properties, along with descriptions of the interiors, are found under the headquarters names.

Some additional topics include:

1. Bake House —cellar ovens produced bread for the troops (see also: Washington Inn)
2. Camp School—what was a school (ca. 1709) was used as a hospital during encampment. Schoolhouse has been restored. Many pictures
3. Cannons—pictures of cannons in park. Some were buried in 1777 at Warwick Furnace. The buried cannons were never dug up and laid there for almost 100 years; seven were dug up in 1875 and five more were found in 1895.
4. Carillon (Bells in Tower)—history of the bells and concerts

5. Catholic Shrine—need for a shrine as a place for Mass came to light during Boy Scout Jamboree. Name of this chapel is Saint Theresa of Avila and is dedicated to veterans of all American wars. It is located in West Norriton Township, Montgomery County.
6. Centennial—1878—more articles about the Centennial (others found in 1878), with majority from the *Village Record*
7. Covered Bridge—postcards of Knox's bridge over Valley Creek
8. Dogwood Trees—many pictures of the dogwood in bloom, with backgrounds of historic buildings. An authorized celebration was organized in the first half of the 20th century
9. Eisenhower Garden—tribute garden dedicated in 1968
10. Entrenchments (called Intrenchments until the mid-20th century)—are earthwork redoubts. A series of redoubts were considered brilliant at the time of the encampment.
11. Forge—the British burned original forge and a campaign was started to restore it
12. Graves (Deceased persons)—often connected with the monuments erected by states to commemorate their positions and deaths during the encampment. Each state had their own encampment and was responsible for its soldiers, including the deaths which occurred.
13. Huts—Pictures and description of huts built to house soldiers. Is helpful to remember that there was not just one area of huts, but each colony had their own encampment with their own huts
14. Justice Bell—bell which was rung in 1920 to announce the vote of women
15. Log Cabin Memorial—established by Veterans of the 314th Infantry, American Expeditionary Force, of World War I. It stands near Washington Memorial Chapel
16. Maine Monument—Dedicated 1907 in memory of 500 Maine patriots which spent the winter at Valley Forge
17. Mansion House—original two-story building served as first U S military hospital. Restoration began in 1964
18. Maps—a series of reprinted maps from the encampment itself, along with drawings made based on information available. Also found in these maps is the growth of the park itself.
19. Marquee (tent used by Washington)—dispute as to where it should be
20. Memorial Arch—appropriation of \$50,000 by the legislature to build the National Memorial Arch to commemorate Washington and the encampment.
21. Museum—formally opened in 1909 with funds to purchase marquee of Washington. Part of its mission was to create a library of all historical items, including books and manuscripts, relating to the encampment at Valley Forge
22. Observatory—built in 1845, was about 40 feet high, for the purpose of seeing the surrounding area. It fell into neglect and gradually rotted away by 1877. Rebuilt in 1906, and called Mount Joy Observatory, it was open to the public
23. Pennsylvania Columns—marks the site of two Pennsylvania brigades
24. Powder House—near Washington's headquarters, stream next to it was fresh water supply for the troops at Valley Forge. In 1959 it was owned by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
25. Reading Railroad Station—erected near Washington's Headquarters to bring tourists to Valley Forge

26. Steuben (Von)— Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben was drillmaster of Continental Army. He trained in the army of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, with his methods and discipline turned an unorganized band of soldiers into disciplined troops. The building was restored in 1966
27. Valley Forge Mill—restored in 1909 and wanted to manufacture worsted yarns and dress goods.

WEATHER

From its inception until the 1950s, Chester County was a rural, agrarian society. Agriculture was its primary economic activity and all things related to agriculture were of great importance. The county experimented with hybridizing crops, especially in the development of fruit trees. As an adjunct to development, it became a main mail order source of plants and agricultural products. It often relied on the use of greenhouses to prepare plants for market.

In addition to farming, Chester Countians maintained a strong interest in natural science, astronomical phenomena, and the world around them. Practically, weather not only affected crops, but also communication, transportation, and bridges.

Starting with the earliest clipping from 1803, all these aspects were covered in discussion of weather. One can assume that for each decade there were periods of heavy snowfall, heavy rain, no rain, early frosts, hail, and floods caused by rain and melting snow. To conserve space, some of the highlights will be found below.

A reminder: this collection is ongoing and as of the time this finding aid is produced, many papers remain to be pasted. Thus, there are some gaps in the modern entries.

- 1819—meteor sighted on January 21
- 1824—comet spotted
- 1832—blizzard lasted 6 days with snowfall at 5 feet with drifts from 25-30 feet
- 1836—May 7, snow fell to a depth of 7 inches
- 1838—drought from June until September
- 1845—heat wave in April with temperatures reaching 105 degrees
- 1847—violent snowstorm blocks railroads
- 1851–1860—series of snowstorms blocking railroads, with heavy rains interspersed, causing massive flooding, resulting in loss of property, roads, and life. To add to their misery, a tornado crossed the county in 1856.
- 1866—extraordinary meteor shower with 5,000 counted in one hour
- 1867—another meteor shower, sighting 25-30 per minute
- 1871—earthquake lasted 30 seconds, but no damage recorded
- 1873—hail falls to a depth of 2 feet, the size of hen’s eggs
- 1877—massive tornado in Ercildoun destroys property, injuring people
- 1878—hurricane ravages entire East Coast in October
- 1880–81—massive snowstorms resulting in property damage, killing of livestock, damaging any means of transportation

- 1882—November, Aurora Borealis observed
- 1885—September, cyclone destroys property, number of people injured
- 1886—earthquake rattles windows
- 1889—March, earthquake causes vibrations
- 1892—June—tornado north of West Chester
- 1893—January—Oxford Caramel Factory uses flags and whistles to announce weather conditions
- 1894—May—severe storm flooding causing extensive property damage
- 1899—February—blizzard with severe cold of -13° F
- 1900—lightning causes fire and destroys property
- 1902–1910—many storms with heavy rain, causing flooding, loss of crops, destruction of bridges and roads and power lines
- 1910—severe storm cripples phone lines, destroys property and hampers trolley lines
- 1911–1924—series of storms damaging telephone lines, flooring, roads, property damage
- 1925—Earthquake shakes West Chester
- 1926–1942—severe storms, some dropping temperatures to below 0° for prolonged periods, resulting in deaths
- 1943–44—prolonged drought affecting farmers
- 1948—Massive flood in Downingtown
- 1954–55—Hurricane Hazel and Hurricane Connie. Winds of 75mph, causing massive damage
- 1957—huge blizzard paralyzes the county.
- 1958—snowstorm of 1958 dropped 42 inches of snow in a short amount of time, making it impossible for people to return home until long after the storm. The county was crippled and the storm became part of historical lore. Over 20 cards of clippings tell the story of this storm in word and picture.
- 1959—another massive snow storm
- 1963—tornado hits Kennett Township
- 1966—massive snow storm
- 1972—rain from Hurricane Agnes causing massive flooding of Brandywine Creek, causing many problems in the communities along the creek, especially Downingtown
- 2021—Hurricane Ida—massive flooding, especially in Downingtown, and massive property damage