

**GUIDE TO THE PUBLISHED ARCHIVES
OF PENNSYLVANIA: COVERING THE
138 VOLUMES OF COLONIAL
RECORDS AND PENNSYLVANIA
ARCHIVES, SERIES I-IX**

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Guide to the Published Archives of Pennsylvania: Covering the 138 Volumes of Colonial Records and Pennsylvania Archives, Series I-IX by Henry Howard Eddy

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138 VOLUMES OF COLONIAL
RECORDS AND PENNSYLVANIA
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**THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL
AND MUSEUM COMMISSION**

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FOREWORD

It is not a unique inspiration which results in this *Guide to the Published Archives of Pennsylvania*. As early as 1893 and as late as 1929, Pennsylvania legislatures have provided for such a publication; at least two of Pennsylvania's librarians, in desperation, have compiled rudimentary indexes for their own reference desks; and several years since, while serving as State Archivist at Harrisburg, Dr. Curtis W. Garrison initiated the preparation of just such a guide. This booklet is designed to meet a need which has long been obvious.

Of necessity limitations have been placed upon the contents, and this *Guide* will not answer every question. Excepting for governors, generals, and the authors of journals and diaries, few names of individuals will be found listed. Such omission is deliberate, made in consideration of the fact that the twenty-five hundred pages of Volume XV of *Pennsylvania Archives*, Sixth Series, and the five volumes of the Seventh Series together index well over a million names of early Pennsylvanians; sufficient unto the names contained in the *Pennsylvania Archives* are these indexes in the Sixth and Seventh Series thereof. Persons searching for the name of an individual, for other specific but minute items, or for mere passing references, will find that this volume will serve as a starting point only. From its more general entries, notably from "Indexes," they can go on to the sometimes obscure but always more detailed listings which are to be found within the respective series. Unless an item totals several pages it is unlikely to appear in this *Guide*, for the inclusion of less bulky items would have required editorial exertion and printing expense beyond reason. The aim has been to provide handy but general reference, condensing for the sake of brevity and simplicity but making readily available the great number of important blocks of material which have too long remained obscure among the relatively uncharted reaches of the ten series.

Neither is the historical section of this *Guide* exhaustive in its treatment. The aim here has been to orient the investigator and to provide those significant facts which will enable him to evaluate properly such materials as he may select from one or another of the published series. To attain brevity and clarity in presenting this factual data, very little stress has been placed upon related archival developments at Washington and in other states. The result may be a certain lack of balance, for historical scholarship has never operated in a tower of ivory and no series of *Pennsylvania Archives* was in its origin a completely detached and unique phenomenon. Without doubt DuPonceau and Hazard were aware of the archival series which were being issued by their European contemporaries and of Peter Force's *American Archives* which began to appear in 1837. They could scarcely have remained ignorant of the work of Brodhead and of O'Callaghan in neighboring New York or of similar publication projects in other states of the union. During the

century from Force and O'Callaghan to Luther Evans and the Historical Records Survey, a variety of external forces have influenced the local archival activity of Pennsylvania, but in a brief presentation such general trends and extensive ramifications can receive but scant notice.

A very definite attempt has been made to attain detachment and fairness in presenting the story of the published archives. Satisfied with our present-day concept as to what deserves emphasis, moderns tend to manifest impatience with the differing interest, the seemingly more trivial and romantic fads and fashions of earlier days. Current prejudice almost inevitably colors our estimate of a generation of historians more concerned than we are with spectacular incident and military glory. It is hoped that such critical comment as is contained in this *Guide* may be expressed with fitting tolerance and humility even while fulfilling its essential purpose of providing honest guidance to modern searchers, for most of whom a primary interest in the development of documented studies treating themes of general economic and social significance can be assumed. Very possibly posterity will consider our interests, too, as somewhat quaint, and certainly we should avoid biased judgment.

Numerous persons have helped, in one way or another, with the preparation of this *Guide*. Even aside from the three alphabetical lists, Miss Martha Simonetti has assisted with many details. Mrs. Martha B. Curtis, like Miss Simonetti a member of the staff of the Division of Public Records, has aided by digging for elusive items and checking obscure points. Dr. Alfred D. Keator, State Librarian, and various members of his staff have been helpful. Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, and Mr. Donald H. Kent, Associate State Historian, have lent encouragement, advice, and active assistance throughout. Dr. Marvin W. Schlegel, now of the faculty of the State Teachers College at Farmville, Virginia, but formerly of the staff of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, has generously assisted. To each of these the *Guide* owes a debt.

It is to be accepted as inevitable that in a booklet so crowded with detail as is this one, a certain number of errors will be found. Readers who identify slips can help the accuracy of any possible future reprinting by notifying the Division of Public Records at Harrisburg. Such assistance to the cause of truth and accuracy will be appreciated.

HENRY HOWARD EDDY.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
August, 1949.

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COLONIAL RECORDS
and
PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, Series I-IX

IN BRIEF SUMMARY

Excepting for the splendid series of six volumes entitled *Notes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives of the Province of Pennsylvania*, a series begun by Benjamin Franklin in 1754 and terminated in 1776, publication of Pennsylvania's basic records began in 1838 with the first volume of *Colonial Records*. The latest to be issued was the tenth volume of the Ninth Series which came in 1935. In a span of almost exactly one hundred years, ten series, *Colonial Records* and *Pennsylvania Archives*, Series I-IX, have been issued to total 138 volumes.

The series bear a basic resemblance one to the other, but at two points there are minor peculiarities in terminology. It will be noted that throughout this discussion there occur references to "the ten series." The use of this term seems justified by the fact that *Colonial Records* contains important archival material of Pennsylvania and in fact raises the total to ten even though the books do not actually bear the title *Pennsylvania Archives*. Also to be noted is the fact that to call Hazard's work the "First Series" is not entirely correct. The term "Pennsylvania Archives" was first used when the Assembly authorized the series which Samuel Hazard came to edit during the 1850's, and very naturally Hazard's series was not originally known by any additional designation. Over twenty years later, the publication of supplementary material in additional volumes resulted in the title *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, and subsequently seven other series, each designated by a number, have come to be issued. Popular usage to the contrary notwithstanding, this numbering of later series does not make Hazard's the First Series in a strict sense, and occasionally learned footnotes will be found citing *Pennsylvania Archives* with no series designated. These may tend to confuse the searcher, but they refer to Hazard's compilation and are quite correct and proper.

To remember details regarding the dates of publication, editors, and general characteristics of these ten more or less separate series is not easy. Happily, certain of the series possess features in common, and series thus related can with logic be combined into half as many larger

units. The characteristics of five basic units can be retained in memory more easily, and the following condensed data will provide a handy guide among volumes otherwise confusing in their sheer bulk. In briefest summary, the five eras of archival publication in Pennsylvania may be set forth in this tabular form.

- I. THE INITIAL PERIOD OF PUBLICATION, 1838-1860, which produced in *Colonial Records* and Samuel Hazard's *Pennsylvania Archives* (later to be known as the First Series) twenty-eight volumes (plus an index volume issued in 1850) of important records, well edited, with a terminal date of 1790.
- II. THE DR. WILLIAM HENRY EGLE PERIOD, 1874-1899, which added the Second and Third Series of *Pennsylvania Archives*, a total of forty-five volumes (plus an important volume, or portfolio, of maps titled "Appendix, Third Series, I-IX" but otherwise unnumbered). These contain materials of widely varying degrees of importance, for the most part dating prior to 1815. In arrangement and quality of editing these series fail to reach the high standard set by Hazard.
- III. THE DR. GEORGE EDWARD REED PERIOD, 1899-1902. During a brief term of 45 months as State Librarian, Dr. Reed rounded off the Third Series by adding four volumes of index, XXVII-XXX, to cover the sixteen volumes immediately preceding. He issued, as well, the twelve volumes of the Fourth Series containing such papers of Pennsylvania's governors, 1681-1902, as he found readily accessible.
- IV. THE DR. THOMAS LYNCH MONTGOMERY PERIOD, 1905-1914, which brought forth the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Series, twenty-eight volumes made up chiefly of rosters, militia rolls, ships' lists, and lists of taxables and land warrantees. These are equipped with very full indexes and are of prime importance to genealogists.
- V. THE PERIOD OF THE 1930's, 1931-1935, which turned out, in the Eighth and Ninth Series, eighteen volumes of records important for historical research but, as yet, lacking indexes.

For purposes of quick reference as to the individual series, the following brief summaries, covering the ten series each in turn, in the order of their publication, may at times prove helpful:

- I. COLONIAL RECORDS: A total of sixteen volumes containing the minutes of the Provincial Council, 1683-1775, in Volumes I-X; those of the Council of Safety (and of the Committee of Safety), 1775-1777, in X and XI; and those of the Supreme Executive Council, 1777-1790, in XI-XVI. These were printed directly from the manuscript books with no editing apparent. Issued 1838-1853.

- II. PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, later to be known as the First Series: These twelve volumes reproduce papers selected chiefly from the files at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, printed in chronological order to parallel and supplement *Colonial Records*. The earliest materials are dated 1664 and the latest 1790. Well edited by Samuel Hazard and issued 1852-1856.
- III. PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, *Second Series*: In its nineteen volumes this series contains varied and diverse materials; militia rolls and church records are prominent, but there are as well the minutes of the Board of War and those of the Navy Board, both of 1777, and much on the Wyoming Controversy with Connecticut and on the Whiskey Insurrection. Edited by John B. Linn and Dr. William Henry Egle through Volume XII, and by Dr. Egle alone for the remainder of the series. Issued 1874-1890.
- IV. PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, *Third Series*: The first twenty-six volumes of this series resemble closely those of the Second Series, while the last four volumes consist of an index to the sixteen volumes immediately preceding. Filled for the most part with militia rolls and lists of land warrantees and taxables, this series does contain some materials of a more general nature, such as a discussion of Virginia's claims to western Pennsylvania, and an account of the Donation Lands. Edited by Dr. Egle (I-XXVI) with four index volumes edited by Dr. George Edward Reed. Issued 1894-1899.
- V. PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, *Fourth Series*: In twelve volumes, this series collects the addresses, messages, proclamations, and a very few other Papers of Pennsylvania's Governors, 1681-1902, with brief biographies and portraits but with a minimum of documentation. Edited by Dr. George Edward Reed and issued 1900-1902.
- VI. PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, *Fifth Series*: This series fills eight volumes with muster rolls and other military lists, chiefly of the provincial and revolutionary period, some reprinted with greater accuracy and neatness from the Second and Third Series, and certain of the others taken from sources outside official custody. Edited by Dr. Thomas Lynch Montgomery and issued in 1905.
- VII. PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, *Sixth Series*: For fourteen volumes this series continues the printing of military rolls, covering chiefly the period from the Revolution to the War of 1812, including militia rolls for the years of peace, with some material as late as the Mexican War. There are also a few orderly books, military accounts for the 1812 period, and some papers non-military in nature, notably church records of marriages and baptisms, inventories of estates