

Pennsylvania Conservation & Environmental History

Archival Sources

Pennsylvania State Archives

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_archives/

The state archives are very rich in sources for Pennsylvania conservation and environmental history. Organized under the research topic headings of 'Energy Resources' and 'Environmental Resources' are the following collections in approximately the order listed in the finding aids:

The archives hold the records of the Department of Forests and Waters, the Game Commission, the Navigation Commission for the Delaware River and Its Navigable Tributaries, the Department of Environmental Resources, the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries, the Civil Works Project Administration Records, 1933-1938, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Environmental Hearing Board, the Fish and Boat Commission, the Works Progress Administration Bituminous Coal and Coal Mining Maps, 1934-1936, the annual reports of the County Soil and Water Conservation Districts 1943-1969, Geological Survey Accounts 1837-1840, 1851-1857, 1875, River Improvement Accounts 1810-1835, records of environmental concerns contained in the papers of Robert P. Casey, Sr. 1964-1976, Biennial Reports to the Governor [Pinchot, on conservation issues] 1923-1926, Citizens Committee For Project 70 Files 1961-1965 [open space initiative], Delaware River Compact Book 1927, Publications (Forest Leaves & Service Letter) 1923-1935, General Correspondence (by correspondent, on conservation) 1922-1941, extensive papers from the Park Commission and Bureau of Parks, the Bureau of Forest Management, the Division of Flood Control Dept. of Forestry 1895-1923, the Bureau of Abandoned Mines and Reclamations, and the Water Supply Commission 1905-1923. The archives contain the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control & Conservation Committee Newsletters, Annual Reports, etc., the papers of The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, the Records of the Office of the Governor, most notably Gifford Pinchot, the papers of the Deputy Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Division of Sanitary Engineering, the Air Pollution Commission, the Sanitary Water Board, the Records of The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Department Of Internal Affairs, and the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey. The archives hold records of special commissions including the Commission for the Investigation and Control of the Chestnut Tree Blight Disease in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Commission on Three Mile Island (TMI) and other TMI investigation documents, the State Forestry Commission, and the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin. They contain the records of the Public Utility Commission

concerning energy transmission, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Navigation Commission for the Delaware River and Its Navigable Tributaries, the Bureaus of Air Quality Control, of Community Environmental Control, of Mining and Reclamation, of Water Resources Management, of Forestry Library Materials, and of Soil and Water Conservation. The collections include the Records of the Dept. Of Mines and Mineral Industries, the Environmental Quality Board, the Citizens Advisory Council, the Diaries and Journals Collection 1763-1938 and the Pennsylvania Collection (Miscellaneous), by author, related to environmental issues. Holdings of the papers of public and private individuals who were influential in Pennsylvania conservation and environmentalism include those of Mira Lloyd Dock and the Dock family, Richard J. Beam, Arthur C. Bining, the Harris family, J. Horace McFarland, the Treziyulny family, the Henry Howard Houston Estate, Edward Martin, Arthur H. James, John M. Phillips, Samuel W. Pennypacker, James H. Duff, David L. Lawrence, John S. Fine, George M. Leader, William W. Scranton, Raymond P. Shafer, Warren J. Harder, the Hamlin Family, Milton J. Shapp, Dick Thornburgh, George H. Earle, the Stauffer family, Harold and Lucinda Denton, Walter Lyon, Dorothy R. Turner and James T. Lemon.

University of Pittsburgh Archives

<http://www.library.pitt.edu/archives-service-center>

Pitt's archives contain a substantial amount of material on air pollution, including the Abraham L. Wolk papers, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development Collection, the records of the Allegheny County Air Pollution Advisory Committee, the Allegheny County Health Department EPA/SIP Air Quality Records, the Allegheny County Health Department Lead Survey, 1971-1975, the Allegheny County Bureau of Air Pollution Control Records, Pennsylvania DER Environmental Quality Board Hearings 1971-1972, the Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP), the Smoke Investigation Activities of the Mellon Institute of Research (Pittsburgh) 1911-1957, and the Smoke Control Lantern Slide Collection 1940-1950. The archives also contain sources on industrial pollution, including the papers of the Concerned Residents of the Youghiogheny organization, the CONSOL Energy Inc. Mine Maps and Records Collection, the Nine Mile Run Greenway Project and the Raymond Proffitt Foundation Longwall Mining Video Collection. Other environmental organization records are those of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Environmental Action Foundation, Environmentalists for Full Employment, the North Area Environmental Council 1968-2001, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy 1845-2006, and the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter 1970-1997. The collections and records of citizen activists include the papers of Gail M. Rockwood, Gil Black, Jeanette Widom, Leonard Green, Marilyn Skolnick, Marjorie T. Duck, Maurice A. Shapiro, Michelle Madoff, Patricia Pelkofer, William E. Guckert, Wyona Coleman and Robert Broughton. Pitt houses collected papers of Governor Dick Thornburg, which contain extensive references to state conservation and environmental policy.

Pennsylvania State University

<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/findingaids/finaidaz.html>

Of particular interest in the Penn State archives are the Mira Lloyd Dock Papers 1879-1947 and the Mira Lloyd Dock Lantern Slide Collection, William Edwards Forestry Collection 1909-1956 and undated, the Forest History Collection 1880-1975, the Maurice K. Goddard Papers, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association Records 1880-2000, and the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service Pennsylvania Soil Survey Records 1904-2002. It houses the collections of the university's Institute for Research on Land and Water Resources, Center for the Study of Environmental Policy, Center for Air Environment Studies Reports 1967-1985, and Institute for Research on Land and Water Resources Records 1931-1991. It also has the Allegheny Society of American Foresters Records 1922-1997, and Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant Videotapes 1979-1990.

University of Pennsylvania

<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/>

UPenn's archives mainly cover the history of the university and its alumni, for example Joseph Rothrock, and they contain records of the school's evolving energy conservation policies. They also house papers of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and maintain an index of state and local newspapers.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

<https://hsp.org/collections>

Among the collections are extensive Pennsylvania land records, Bartram family papers, 1684-circa 1935 (bulk 1765-1803), Coxe Family Mining Papers 1774-1968, Charles G. Darrach papers 1906-1919 (Philadelphia water issues), and collections of conservation-related periodicals including *The Nature Conservancy News*, *The Beacon*, *Sylvanian*, *Sierra Watch*, *The Pennsylvanian Audubon Society* and *The Watershed News*.

Academy of Natural Sciences

<http://www.anasp.org/research/library/archives/finding-aids/>

Collections concerning the natural resources of Pennsylvania include papers of John and William Bartram, the Botanical Society of Pennsylvania, the Entomological Society of Philadelphia, the Geological Society of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Audubon Society, the Philadelphia Botanical Society, and the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society. It also includes Inspection Reports of the Bureau of Mines and twenty-five years of the periodical *Philadelphia Conservations*, on conservation of natural resources between 1953-1978.

American Philosophical Society

<http://www.amphilsoc.org/library>

Manuscript collections include the J.P. Lesley papers (coal and the first Pennsylvania Geological Survey), Benjamin Smith Barton journals and notebooks 1785-1806, the Violetta Delafield-Benjamin Smith Barton Collection, the Benjamin Smith Lyman papers 1844-1918 (Pennsylvania geology), Muhlenberg family papers 1769-1866 (Pennsylvania natural history), the John Bartram Association archives 1929-1932, and Joseph T. Rothrock letters 1878-1884 to Eli K. Price.

About the Authors

Dr. Brian Black is Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Penn State Altoona, where he currently serves as Head of Arts and Humanities. His research emphasis is on the landscape and environmental history of North America, particularly in relation to the application and use of energy and technology. He is the author of several books, including the award-winning *Petrolia: The Landscape of America's First Oil Boom* (Johns Hopkins, 2003) and *Crude Reality: Petroleum in World History* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014). He is also the editor of a number of books, including the *Nature's Entrepot: Philadelphia's Urban Sphere and its Environmental Thresholds* (University of Pittsburgh, 2013). He is a former editor of *Pennsylvania History* and he also served as co-editor of "Oil in American History," the 2012 special issue of the *Journal of American History* (available at <http://journalofamericanhistory.org/projects/oil/index.html>).

Marcy Ladson graduated from Penn State Altoona with degrees in history and environmental studies. She received her Master's degree in history from the University of Pittsburgh, where she is currently pursuing doctoral studies. Her research interests include land use and public policy concerning energy issues, extractive industries and agriculture during the 20th century, with particular focus on Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic. Her dissertation topic is the impact of natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania before the Marcellus boom.

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