

Doylestown Historical Society subject files

02

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

Last updated on November 19, 2013.

Doylestown Historical Society

Table of Contents

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	4
Scope and Contents.....	4
Administrative Information.....	5
Controlled Access Headings.....	6

Summary Information

Repository	Doylestown Historical Society
Creator	Doylestown Historical Society (Doylestown, Pa.)
Title	Doylestown Historical Society subject files
Call number	02
Date [inclusive]	1880-2013
Extent	32 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The area now known as Doylestown (Bucks County, Pennsylvania) was given to Edward Doyle as a land grant from William Penn in 1692. Doylestown became the county seat of Bucks County in 1812, and the area flourished when a railroad line was completed between Doylestown and Philadelphia in 1856. Doylestown's historic downtown began to deteriorate in the early 1960s, but the town was revitalized in part due to an architectural preservation movement. The Doylestown Historical Society subject files, 1880-2013, are organized into the following series: I. Local history; II. Businesses; III. Biographies; and IV. Locations. It consists mostly of newspaper clippings and other secondary-source materials, with some primary-source documents such as ephemera, newsletters, pamphlets, photographs, invoices, deeds, advertisements, and some business records.</p>

Biography/History

Doylestown is the county seat of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Founded in the mid 18th century, it became the county seat in 1813 and was formally incorporated as a borough in 1838.

"Doylestown is named after the Doyle family. The Doyle family originally came from France (the name was D'Ouilli), but moved to Ireland during the Inquisition. Circa 1600 the name was changed to D'Oyley and later was changed again to Doyle. Edward Doyle sailed to America in 1640 and lived for a time in Rhode Island until he moved to Bucks County upon receiving a land grant from William Penn in 1692. He died in 1703. Edward Doyle's children remained in Bucks County and settled in the area of Doylestown. In 1730, Edward Doyle Jr. (born 1690) bought 150 acres of land in what is now Doylestown, and further purchases were made by the Doyle family in 1737. The Doyles built an inn in 1745 and the town was known early on as "William Doyl's Tavern" and "Doyle's Town." In 1752, a second tavern was built, which still stands today (though now much modified). In 1776, the inn was sold by William Doyle (born in 1712, son of Edward Doyle, Jr.), who moved to Plumstead, Bucks County, where he died in 1780. After the sale of the tavern, the town became known by its present name. In 1778, George Washington and his Continental Army camped near Doylestown, on their way from Valley Forge to fight the British in New Jersey. In 1812, Doylestown became the County Seat of Bucks County.

"In 1856, a railroad line was completed between Doylestown and Philadelphia. The present train station dates from 1876. A trolley line was installed that ran to Trenton and Easton. The older part of town is listed on the National Register of Historic Places."

Bibliography:

Quoted text from: Ludwig, Ed. "Brief History of Doylestown." Accessed July 22, 2013. <http://www.doylestownhistorical.org/0HistoryDoylestown.htm>.

Scope and Contents

This collection on Doylestown local history consists mostly of secondary materials, such as newspaper clippings, photocopies of clippings, and computer print-outs of scanned photographs, with some original and primary-source documents such as ephemera, newsletters, pamphlets, photographs, invoices, deeds, advertisements, and some business records. The collection is organized into four series: I. Local history; II. Businesses; III. Biographies; and IV. Locations.

Series I. Local history is further subdivided into the following subseries, within which files are organized alphabetically:

- African Americans
- Artists/writers/poets

- Auto shows
- Bucks County government
- Camps
- Clubs
- County agencies
- Covered bridges
- Cultural and educational
- Doylestown Borough
- Doylestown
- General
- Miscellaneous
- Events
- Farms and gardens
- Festivals
- Fire company
- Highways and roads
- Houses of worship
- Law/judicial
- Military/wars
- Monuments and memorials
- Museums and historic sites
- Organizations and associations
- Parades and celebrations
- Parks
- Prisons
- Post offices
- Sports/games
- Transportation
- Weather events

Series II. Businesses and III. Biographies are organized alphabetically by name.

Series IV. Locations is subdivided into subseries--Doylestown, Bucks County Townships, and Bucks County towns and villages--within which folders are in alphabetical order by municipality.

Administrative Information

Doylestown Historical Society

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

Sponsor

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

Access Restrictions

Contact Doylestown Historical Society for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Materials collected from various sources over time by the Doylestown Historical Society.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2012-2014 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact Doylestown Historical Society directly for more information.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Bucks County (Pa.)
- Doylestown (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Genealogy
- Local history