

Doylestown Agricultural Works records

09

**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

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Summary Information

Repository	Doylestown Historical Society
Creator	Doylestown Agricultural Works (Doylestown, Pa.)
Title	Doylestown Agricultural Works records
Call number	09
Date [inclusive]	1916-2010
Extent	1 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	Doylestown Agricultural Works in Bucks County, Pennsylvania produced farm machinery and ironwork that were sold around the world. It opened in 1867, flourished around the turn of the century, and for many years was the area's largest employer. The company ceased manufacturing new products in 1937 and closed entirely in 1968. The Doylestown Agricultural Works records, 1916-2010, consist of financial records from Doylestown Agricultural Works as well as some secondary research about the company.

Biography/History

Doylestown Agricultural Works in Bucks County, Pennsylvania produced farm machinery and ironwork that were sold around the world. For many years, it was the area's largest employer.

In 1849, Daniel Hulshizer and a partner moved to Doylestown and opened a small shop that made and sold threshers and horsepower engines. In 1867, Hulshizer expanded when he established the Doylestown Agricultural Works. The Doylestown Thresher, his best-known product, won first prize in its category at the Centennial Exposition of 1876.

By 1899, Doylestown Agricultural Works was manufacturing and selling diverse agricultural machinery, including seed sowers and planters, plows, cultivators, and mowing and reaping machines. In the early 1900s, other types of metal products were also produced out of the works, including automobiles (under the name Winslow Motor Carriage Company), park benches, and wrought iron grill work. The company opened an export office in New York City to handle overseas sales.

In 1920, General Motors bought the majority of Doylestown Agricultural Company stock and put it under its Sampson Tractor Division in an attempt to compete with Ford Motor Company in the agricultural machinery market. Doylestown Agricultural Company bought back its own stock in 1921.

In 1937, due to the Great Depression, Doylestown Agricultural Company ceased producing new machinery. It continued to sell and repair agricultural equipment until 1968, when it closed completely. A historic marker from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was erected on the site in 2003.

Bibliography:

Levenson, Edward. "Why Does the Doylestown Agricultural Works Include Former Houses?" *Doylestown Patch*, December 22, 2011. Accessed July 23, 2013. <http://doylestown.patch.com/groups/around-town/p/why-does-the-doylestown-agricultural-works-include-fo4d575b17cf>

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of financial records from Doylestown Agricultural Works as well as some secondary research about the company. The financial records include: ledger, 1916-1918; payroll registers, 1951 and 1953; business receipts, 1960s; and order form book (blank). The secondary materials include: newspaper advertisements, correspondence, and brochures; photographs (2010); and a handwritten history of Doylestown Agricultural Works by Wilma Rezer, 1979.

Administrative Information

Doylestown Historical Society

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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

Unknown.

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

Corporate Name(s)

- Doylestown Agricultural Works (Doylestown, Pa.)

Geographic Name(s)

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

Subject(s)

- Agricultural machinery
- Iron-works
- Threshing machines