

LMHS.23: Lower Merion Historical Society map and atlas collection

23

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

Last updated on November 09, 2012.

Lower Merion Historical Society

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Summary Information

Repository	Lower Merion Historical Society
Creator	Lower Merion Historical Society.
Title	LMHS.23: Lower Merion Historical Society map and atlas collection
Call number	23
Date [inclusive]	1753-1998
Extent	9 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Lower Merion Historical Society map and atlas collection, 1753-1998, includes about 20 atlases and numerous framed and unframed loose maps. The collection focuses on Lower Merion, the Main Line, and the City of Philadelphia. The township of Lower Merion in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania was first settled by Welsh Quakers in 1682. It is part of the "Main Line," a collection of affluent Philadelphia suburbs located alongside the Pennsylvania Railroad line that was built between Philadelphia and Harrisburg in the mid-19th century.</p>

Biography/History

In August of 1682, Welsh Quakers from the County of Merionethshire landed in Pennsylvania. These "Merioneth Adventurers" were bound for the "Welsh Tract," granted to them by William Penn. Today, the area is Lower Merion township and Narberth borough, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Lower Merion township has become known for two industrial giants, the Pencoyd Iron Works and the Autocar Company. The Pencoyd Ironworks was started by the Roberts family in 1852. The company became a major bridge and structural steel supplier. The Autocar company moved to Ardmore from Pittsburgh in 1900. Autocar was a manufacturer of commercial vehicles. The company moved to Exton, Pennsylvania in 1953.

In the mid-19th century, the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad was constructed, running from Philadelphia to Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. The route passed through Lower Merion, and like other "Main Line" towns, the area developed into an affluent suburban community due to its convenient location.

Bibliography:

Lower Merion Historical Society. "Business and Industry." Accessed November 7, 2011. http://www.lowermerionhistory.org/texts/first200/business_5.html.

Francis, Gerald A. "Celebrating William Penn's Vision and the First Welsh Settlement in Lower Merion and Narberth: 1682-2007." The Lower Merion Historical Society, 2007.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes about 20 atlases and numerous framed and unframed loose maps. The collection focuses on Lower Merion, the Main Line, and the City of Philadelphia. Most of the loose maps are reproductions, although some are originals. The majority of the atlases available are listed on the Lower Merion Historical Society website.

Administrative Information

Lower Merion 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 Lower Merion Historical Society for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Collected by the Lower Merion Historical Society.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Ardmore (Pa.)
- Bala-Cynwyd (Pa.)
- Bryn Mawr (Pa.)
- Gladwyne (Pa.)
- Haverford (Pa. : Township)
- Lower Merion (Pa. : Township)
- Main Line (Pa.)
- Merion (Pa.)
- Montgomery County (Pa.)
- Narberth (Pa.)
- Villanova (Pa.)
- Wynnewood (Montgomery County, Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Atlases
- Maps