

Sharon Hill Historical Society local history collection

02

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

Last updated on May 02, 2014.

Sharon Hill Historical Society

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Summary Information

Repository	Sharon Hill Historical Society
Creator	Sharon Hill Historical Society
Title	Sharon Hill Historical Society local history collection
Call number	02
Date [inclusive]	1879-2013
Extent	10 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	Sharon Hill is a community in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, just outside of Philadelphia. Largely undeveloped until 1872, the construction of a railroad in the area spurred residential and commercial growth. Sharon Hill separated from Darby Township and incorporated as a borough in 1890. The Sharon Hill Historical Society local history collection, 1879-2013, consists mostly of secondary-source and copied materials with a sizeable amount of photographs and scattered other primary-source documents relating to Sharon Hill and its history.

Biography/History

Sharon Hill is a community in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, just outside of Philadelphia. "A community less than a square mile in size, Sharon Hill came into its own in the 19th century. The surroundings were mostly undeveloped until 1872, when the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad ran its rails through the area. A few homes and farms dotted the landscape, and there were two

passable roads. One main thoroughfare, known earlier as the Queen's Highway and now as Chester Pike, ran through the entire length of the town. With the arrival of the railroad, a town plan was developed and Sharon Hill added a few stores and businesses to its landscape. Affluent Philadelphians built their mansions along Chester Pike, and churches and schools soon followed. In 1890, Sharon Hill was incorporated as a borough when it separated from Darby [Township]."

Bibliography:

Quoted text from: Clarke, Kathleen and Jean Shiber for the Sharon Hill Historical Society. *Images of America: Sharon Hill*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 2009.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists mostly of secondary-source and copied materials with a sizeable amount of photographs and scattered other primary-source documents relating to Sharon Hill and its history. The two largest segments of the collection are alphabetical subject files and photographs; there are also various loose materials.

The subject files principally consist of secondary materials such as newspaper clippings, computer print outs, and copies of primary documents. There are also a few original primary-source documents from the early 20th century, such as receipts and deeds, scattered throughout. The subject files are in alphabetical order and focus on local organizations, buildings, schools, churches, families, and other topics.

The collection also includes a substantial number of photographs of Sharon Hill, most of which are original and some of which are copies, dating from the late 19th century to the 21st century. Black and white photographs, color photographs, and film negatives are all represented. There are binders of photographs on the following topics: old homes and buildings, individuals, school photos, transportation. There is also a series of real photo postcards and similarly sized photographs, organized alphabetically by subject. Additionally, there is a series of photographs of all the buildings in Sharon Hill, taken circa 2000 by Delaware County as part of a county-wide census. These building photographs are associated with a master file document that lists owner, deed date (and location in deed book), and property value. More photographs of Sharon Hill, including clubs, the train station, and other residents and buildings, are on display.

The remainder of the collection is various loose materials that include: deeds (mostly copies, though some are original), a clippings scrapbook (early 20th century), maps of the town from various eras (also mostly, although not all copies), an autograph album (1879), Sharon Hill Centennial Committee records, and an oral history with elderly residents about their early memories of Sharon Hill. Of special interest are Douglass family papers, circa 1883-1930, including several deeds and company charters, photographs, an original plot plan for Sharon Hill, and other documents.

Administrative Information

Sharon Hill Historical Society

Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Sarah Leu 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 Sharon Hill Historical Society for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Materials collected by the Sharon Hill Historical Society over time.

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 Sharon Hill Historical Society directly for more information.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials Note

Sharon Hill Historical Society: Jean Shiber clippings collection on Sharon Hill.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Delaware County (Pa.)
- Sharon Hill (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Genealogy
- Local history