

# **Bridesburg Historical Society local history collection**

**01**

**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.**

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Last updated on November 15, 2012.

Bridesburg Historical Society

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Bridesburg Historical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Bridesburg Historical Society.
<b>Title</b>	Bridesburg Historical Society local history collection
<b>Call number</b>	01
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1816-2012
<b>Extent</b>	10 linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The Bridesburg Historical Society local history collection, 1812-2012, includes original and reproduction photographs, newsletters and ephemera, clippings, research materials, and a small amount of original documents and deeds relating to Bridesburg in northeast Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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## Biography/History

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Bridesburg is a neighborhood located in the northeast section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is bounded by the Delaware River and the Frankford Creek. It was originally known as Kirkbridesburg after Joseph Kirkbride, a prominent citizen who owned much land in the area and operated a ferry across the Frankford Creek. The neighborhood's name was eventually shortened to Bridesburg. The community began to form around 1800, and industry moved into the area with the U.S. Arsenal on Frankford Creek (commonly known as the Frankford Arsenal) in 1812 and the Bridesburg Manufacturing Company in 1820. With

these industries the community grew, and Bridesburg was incorporated as a borough in 1848. It became part of Philadelphia in the 1854 Act of Consolidation.

**Bibliography:**

Siegle, Frederick and Teresa Pyott. *Images of America: Bridesburg*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 2004.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection includes original and reproduction photographs, newsletters and ephemera, clippings, research materials, and a small amount of original documents and deeds. Of special interest are a number of photographs and real photo postcards created William H. Sliker, a well-known Philadelphia photographer based in Bridesburg in the first decades of the 20th century. There is also a small amount of material relating to Rohm & Haas, a multi-national chemical manufacturing company that was based in Bridesburg for nearly a century. The collection is stored in two locations.

In Marian Hall, there are files on local history topics organized by category (e.g. schools, industry, religion and education, and others). There are also binders on the following topics:

Bridesburg architecture photographs, 2001

Bridesburg weddings photographs (reproductions, 1900-1950)

Copies of maps (with index)

Postcards, circa 1900-1920

Genealogical research and 1850 census

Rohm & Haas photographs (mostly reproductions)

Sports photographs (two binders of reproductions)

The basement of All Saints' Church contains original deeds, correspondence, photographs, films, and other materials. These include:

Copies of photographs and documents relating to the Donnelly family

Hugh Roberts research materials

John W. and Bud Gross 16mm films of holidays and family events, 1956-1967

Josephine Cuprys, about 2 dozen letters from her brothers in the service during WWII, 1941-1945

Photograph album with Memorial Day photographs and reproductions of Civil War photographs, circa 1990

Photograph album with soldiers, circa 1945

Photographs of Bridesburg citizens, buildings, and events, circa 1890-2000

Research for Bridesburg book (Arcadia publishing)

Scrapbooks of tickets and ephemera, circa 1938

Unidentified family photograph album, circa 1920

Water bills, 1913-1927

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## **Administrative Information**

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Bridesburg Historical Society

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### **Access Restrictions**

Contact Bridesburg Historical Society for information about accessing this collection.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition Note**

Materials collected by or created by the Bridesburg Historical Society.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Rohm and Haas Company.

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Bridesburg (Philadelphia, Pa.)

**Personal Name(s)**

- Sliker, William H.

**Subject(s)**

- Local history