

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT PHILADELPHIA

March 2016 Newsletter

March is both Women's History Month and Irish-American Heritage Month! Commemorate March by discovering some of the records related to women and Irish-American citizens at the National Archives at Philadelphia.

Women's History Month:

Check out our Google Cultural Institute exhibit on women's imperative role in food conservation during World War I, titled "[The U.S. Food Administration, Women, and the Great War: The Pennsylvania Food Conservation Train.](#)"



The National Archives
at Philadelphia

March 2016

The National Archives at
Philadelphia is located at:

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Philadelphia, PA 19154
(215) 305-2044
Philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

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Month

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Upcoming Initiatives
&
Reminder – Bankruptcy Case
Files no Longer Held at National
Archives at Philadelphia

The National Archives at
Philadelphia research room is
open to the public Monday
through Friday from 8:30 am to
3:30 pm. Researchers can also
call to schedule an appointment
to view textual records in our
text research room.

The exhibit tells the story of the Pennsylvania Food Conservation Train, a local agent of the Food Administration. The Conservation Train was a traveling exhibit to educate "housewives and others interested" in methods of food conservation and substitution. A fundamental principle of the U.S. Food Administration, and thus the Pennsylvania Food Conservation Train, was that the agency would only be effective if they were able to mobilize the American people from the ground up. Primarily comprised of volunteers, the Food Administration encouraged American citizens to spread information about food conservation in order to aid the war effort. The Conservation Train, also comprised of volunteers, propagated the Food Administration mission via the Pennsylvania Railroad during World War I. Although the train only operated for a total of six months, three months per summer, over 50,000 people viewed the exhibits. The Conservation Train made rounds across the state of Pennsylvania, allowing housewives and other interested persons to obtain information and guidance about feeding Allied troops during World War I. Unprecedented in scope, the Conservation Train educated, inspired, and mobilized American women to serve their country by conserving food in the home. Learn more about the Pennsylvania Food Conservation Train and women's WWI efforts by checking out this [online exhibit!](#)

Commemorate Irish-American Heritage Month

For Irish-American History Month, take a look at "Operation: Famine Relief," a narrative written by Patrick Connelly, Archivist at the National Archives at Philadelphia. You can also see the Facebook photo [album](#) in which this story was featured on our [Facebook page](#).

Americans are all too familiar with the story of the Irish exodus to the United States in the 1840s. However, we are less familiar with the return voyages made by the "coffin ships" of the famine era. Passenger manifests would document vessels arriving at the wharves along the Delaware River in Philadelphia laden with Ireland's "poor huddled masses". Conversely, Outward Foreign Manifests were deposited with the Bureau of Customs documenting the hope being delivered to Erin's shores by American philanthropists.

In the first 6 months of 1847, the year considered to be the bleakest of the famine era, no less than 30 vessels set out from the port of Philadelphia to deliver a variety of humanitarian goods to a starving people. As stories of Ireland's devastation became more widespread, so did the spirit of philanthropy. Donations came from all parts of the United States and from people from nearly every religious denomination. This was certainly true in cities with established Irish populations, but was especially true in Philadelphia where the Society of Friends played a very important role in the civic life of the city. In 1846, Thomas Cope, a prominent Quaker, spearheaded the organization of the Philadelphia Irish Relief Committee for the express purpose of soliciting donations and facilitating delivery of relief supplies to

[No. 5.]

Manifest of Merchandise, SHIPPED by *George Redway, Reuben Lukens & Co. of Philadelphia, on behalf of the Society of Friends* whereof is Master, *Josiah Ames, London* for *Londonderry, Ireland* on the *2nd* day of *3rd* month 18*47*

MARKS.	NUMBERS.	QUANTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES.	Value of		
			DOMESTIC Articles.	Foreign Merchandise, entitled to Drawback.	FOREIGN Merchandise.
			Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.
PF		18 Hds. Wheat Flour	87.		
PF		76. Corn Meal	333.		
PF		404. ditto	1762.		
PF		114 Hds. ditto	205.		
PF		2,5 Hds. Pork	120.		
PF		5 Bags Corn	8.		
PF		1 Bag Beans	1.		
			<u>2,205.55</u>		

For distribution amongst the destitute Poor in Ireland

Ireland.

Cope and the Irish Relief Committee spearheaded journeys on vessels Monongahela, Susquehanna, Wyoming, and Saranak through the spring and summer of 1847. A typical voyage is evidenced in the journey made by the Barque John Welsh on March 3, 1847 bound for Derry. The vessel held 2 consignments of relief supplies, one from the Irish Relief Committee and the other on behalf of the Society of Friends. The items shipped varied from bags of corn meal and wheat flour to sacks of beans and peas. No donation was too small as the Society of Friends saw fit to send a mere 2 lbs of pork. The purpose of such goods was made clear by the notation, “for distribution amongst the destitute poor in Ireland.”

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

The National Archives at Philadelphia does not have any upcoming onsite events. However, our colleagues in Washington D.C. are hosting many [programs](#) throughout March, some of which you can live-stream or watch afterward on youtube.com! Our staff will definitely be tuning into the following program through youtube.com:

“Why the Bill of Rights Was Made”

In celebration of our new exhibition, “Amending America,” which reveals the stories behind why some proposed amendments successfully became part of the Constitution, we present a panel discussing the story behind the Bill of Rights, the Ratification of the Constitution, and the First Federal Congress. Panelists include Joseph Ellis, Jack Rakove, and Kenneth Bowling.

Watch the program here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyKDEbaUJcE>

Reminder: Bankruptcy Case Files No Longer Held at Philadelphia

All accessioned bankruptcy case files held by the National Archives and Records Administration are now centralized at the National Archives at Kansas City. The National Archives at Philadelphia still has the indexes, dockets, journals and other records that can provide researchers with an overview of individual and company bankruptcies that took place in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Federal Records Center in Philadelphia will also continue to hold more recent bankruptcy case files that are still owned by the U.S. Courts in our region. However, if you are searching for an older accessioned case file and have the case number, please contact the National Archives at Kansas City at kansascity.archives@nara.gov or 816-268-8000. Bankruptcy case files can no longer be shipped back to the National Archives at Philadelphia.



Follow the National Archives at Philadelphia on [Facebook](#) and [Tumblr](#) for featured highlights from our collection! We'll be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service throughout 2016 by highlighting some of our many NPS records.

Are you on the National Archives Mailing List? If the answer is “no,” then e-mail us with your contact information to Philadelphia.archives@nara.gov. *Per the Privacy Act of 1974 we will not share your personal information with third parties.*