



Celebrating Diversity with the PA House Archives!

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives Archives is excited to announce a new project that will celebrate the growing diversity in the PA House. In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus (PLBC), we are working to revise a 2011 publication entitled *Black Legislators in Pennsylvania: 1911-2010*. The book consists of biographies of every Black legislator elected to the General Assembly. In addition to updating the previous book's entries, the Archives is going to expand the scope of the publication to include Members of the House from a variety of diverse backgrounds that have historically been underrepresented in the House of Representatives.

In the past decade since the original book's publication, there have been several Members elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives with Latino and Asian heritage. The Archives wants to document these Members' experiences for future generations.

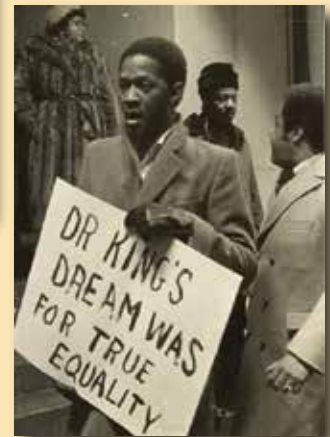
The Archives will be reaching out to former Members of the PLBC — as well as others who have identified themselves as being from diverse communities — asking them to complete surveys in an effort to collect these stories.

The Archives would also ask any current or former Members with campaign memorabilia, photographs, correspondence, or other relevant items related to diversity in the House to consider donating so that we can share these valuable histories with our visitors.

Be sure to follow the Archives on social media for updates on this project as well as Black History Month features!



Left: Representative Crystal Bird Fauset, Philadelphia, 1939-1940, was the first Black woman elected to any state legislature in the nation.



Right: Representative Dwight Evans, Philadelphia County, 1981-2016: Evans donated many photographs — including this one — which are a valuable resource within our collections.



Members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus 1980s

Diversity in the PA House (Continued)

Iconic Members:



K. Leroy Irvis became the first African American Speaker of the PA House in 1977. Serving in the House from 1959 to 1988, Irvis was a well-known Renaissance man who, in addition to his remarkable political career, was a published poet and accomplished sculptor.



Right: Susie Monroe was first elected to the PA House in 1948, and served until her death in 1968. During her time in the House, Monroe worked on issues relating to equal opportunity in employment, public health, and housing.



Left: David P. Richardson, Jr., became a leading advocate of social justice causes in Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Richardson was first elected in 1972 at the age of 24, and served until his death in 1995.

We Need Your Help!

Did you know that out of 167 House Archives oral history interviews, only 11 participants have been African American Members of the House?

The Archives is seeking interviews with former Members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus and/or Members who have an ethnically diverse background to complete the larger story of minority Members in the House. Our office wants to document your accomplishments and those of former Members no longer with us. There are no stories too large or too small! Interviews can be in person or over Zoom.

If interested, please contact Taylor Mason, Outreach Archivist, at tmason@pabmc.net or call our office at 717-783-3866 to schedule.



Pictured: Representative Joseph Rhodes, 1973-1980. Rhodes spoke to the House Archives in 2008 to share stories of his time in office. Included are his experiences as both a Black and Asian American legislator representing Allegheny County.

Where are they Now? House Archives Interns

The House Archives provides internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students looking to gain experience working in a professional archive. Interns gain hands-on, real-world experience through working alongside professional archivists. In addition to meeting with other public historians at the State Archives and State Museum, our interns have the opportunity to meet with lawmakers, lobbyists, and many others who work in the Capitol Complex. Following their internship, many students have gone on to have successful careers in both public service and public history. Highlighted here are a few former interns who participated in the program in recent years.



Summer 2018

Sara Kern is the Student Success and Outreach Librarian at Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. She teaches information literacy and research skills to students across campus and organizes events at the library. This semester, she's excited to bring two archives-related events to Beeghly Library – one where students learn to transcribe digitized documents, and another where they can add historical knowledge and archival citations to Wikipedia articles. Sara is grateful for her time at the House Archives, where she enhanced her research and writing skills by creating biographies for *History of the Women of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives* and for the Historical Biographies project.



Fall 2019

Martavis Washington is currently the Research and Exhibit Specialist for the Pennsylvania Senate Library. His responsibilities include planning and installing exhibits, writing newsletter features, and answering research requests. He is currently working on an upcoming exhibit. Be sure to check out the exciting projects the PA Senate Library is working on by visiting: <https://www.library.pasen.gov/>.



Summer 2019

Noah Logan is currently the Government Relations Specialist at the PA State Nurses Association. He started with the organization just two days after graduating from college in May 2020. He has been advocating for Pennsylvania's 229,000 registered nurses ever since. Notably, he advocated on behalf of the Nurse Licensure Compact (SB 115) which passed in 2021, and has been working on safe staffing, nurse practitioner full practice authority, and nurse student loan forgiveness issues ever since. Noah explained, "Nurses are my personal heroes, and being able to represent them in the Capitol is one of the greatest honors of my life. My experiences as an archives intern helped me figure out what I was interested in by exposing me to such a wide range of policy areas."

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New Exhibit: *The Transformation of House Technology*

The House Archives is proud to announce the opening of our latest exhibit: The Transformation of House Technology! This latest exhibition highlights the technological changes on the House Floor, as well as the transformation of technology utilized by Members and staff. Some of the items featured include old forms of media such as VHS tapes, cassette tapes, and film reels. Also included are voting machines used by Members on the House floor and a Stenograph machine used by the Official Reporter's Office. If you are in the Harrisburg area, be sure to pay the House Archives a visit to see these unique items!



Clockwise from top left: A Stenograph machine used on the House Floor; a film reel donated by Senator Franklin Kury and microfilm containing early House Journals; Representative Jere Schuler using his voting machine and examining a copy of the House Calendar at his desk on the House Floor.