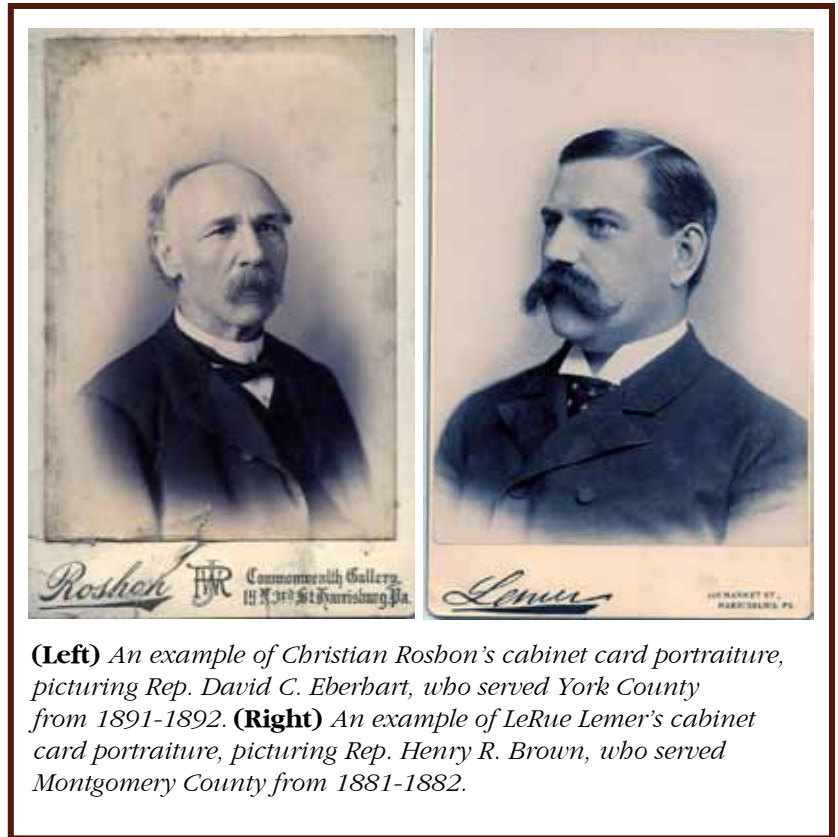




### ‘Striking likenesses’ of late 19th century House Members

In the Victorian era, photography studios were a common fixture in most American cities. Dozens of portrait photographers worked at their trade in the Pennsylvania Capitol, but two studios in particular were favorites for political portraiture: those of LeRue Lemer and Christian Roshon. The House Archives holds a collection of these photographs, called cabinet cards, which are carefully housed in preservation-standard storage in the House Archives. Cabinet cards were thin photographic prints pasted onto cardstock, designed to be shared with friends, given as gifts, or placed in albums. A curated selection of these small portraits is currently on display in the Archives’ new exhibit case in the Main Rotunda of the Capitol.

LeRue Lemer Sr. was a photographer in the wider Harrisburg area. His portrait studio in the capital city was located at 206 Market St., next to the courthouse. Lemer was recognized as one of the most talented photographers in the area and was chosen to take photographs of the members of the Pennsylvania Legislature.



**(Left)** An example of Christian Roshon’s cabinet card portraiture, picturing Rep. David C. Eberhart, who served York County from 1891-1892. **(Right)** An example of LeRue Lemer’s cabinet card portraiture, picturing Rep. Henry R. Brown, who served Montgomery County from 1881-1882.

**LEGISLATORS PHOTOGRAPHED.**  
In front of Mr. Lerue Lemer’s establishment, Market street opposite the court house, are displayed the photographs of all the members of the house of representatives of Pennsylvania of 1875-76, with those of the officers. The pictures are all striking likenesses of the originals and are grouped in the most faultless style. Mr. Lemer has for years taken the photographs of the members of the legislature and arranged them in frames in the most exquisite manner, but the pictures this year are an improvement on any previous productions,

Christian S. Roshon owned and operated his own portrait studios in central Pennsylvania from 1860 to 1900. His Harrisburg studio, which was located on the corner of Third and Market streets, contained a printing room that could turn out as many as 8,000 to 10,000 cabinet card pictures per week. Additional materials on cabinet card photographs and photographers are located at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Archives and the Pennsylvania State Archives.

*This article (left) from the Harrisburg Patriot, “Legislators Photographed,” printed May 15, 1875, announces the completion of portraits of the entire House of Representatives in the 1875-1876 session, by LeRue Lemer.*

# Symbols of government: Pennsylvania's Great Seal

Very early on in American history, existing states selected official seals, or uniform symbols, for use in formal publications and correspondence. These seals were intended to represent the selected values of the people and government of each state; many of these seals

General Committee of Safety. The goal of this group was to organize the defense of Philadelphia and appropriate funds for military operations. In order to conduct this business and distinguish official publications in this developing era of independence, the committee

on Sept. 28, 1776, included a provision "for a seal for the General Assembly" to be called the "seal of the laws of Pennsylvania."

The seal was designed similarly to a coin; Pennsylvania is one of the few states in the union to have a two-sided seal. This seal, pictured below, was engraved in Paris in 1780. Historians are uncertain who designed the original seal, but the result showed a woman, representing liberty, defeating a lion, representing tyranny, bearing the motto "Both can't survive." Later, in Pennsylvania's 1790 Constitution, the House of Representatives and Senate of Pennsylvania stipulated that the seal was to "be affixed to all patents, proclamations, and other public rolls, commissions, and papers of State."

The Great Seal represents the "signature" of the formal government of Pennsylvania on official documents and portrays to the rest of the United States and the world the values intended to symbolize the Commonwealth's principles.



THE GREAT SEAL OF WILLIAM PENN.

(Obverse and Reverse.)

share impressions of strength, unity, and industry. The first seal used to represent the territory that would officially become the Commonwealth as we know it was a circular representation of William Penn's family coat of arms. This, as seen above, acknowledged Penn as the colony's proprietor, and illustrated the ideas that Penn's leadership hoped to imbue on the land: "truth, peace, love, and plenty."

created a seal that read "This is my right, and I will defend it." It remained in use until 1778, when the first official seal of the Pennsylvania General Assembly was designated. The first state constitution, adopted

In 1775, when Pennsylvania's Provincial Assembly met to discuss the brewing revolutionary tensions in the northern colonies following the Battles of Lexington and Concord, they formed a group called the



Obverse.



Reverse.

Pennsylvania House of Representatives Archives  
PO Box 202220, 469 Forum Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2220,  
717-783-3866, [records@pabmc.net](mailto:records@pabmc.net), [www.house.state.pa.us/bmc/archives](http://www.house.state.pa.us/bmc/archives)

# Inside the House: Portrait of Rep. Marion L. Munley



*Oil portrait of Marion L. Munley by artist Brian Keeler in 1986 (Member's Lounge)*

The House Archives staff has recently fielded several inquiries regarding a small oil painting currently hanging in the Member's Lounge in the Pennsylvania Capitol, adjacent to the Hall of the House. The artwork that has been piquing interest is a small portrait of former Rep. Marion Munley, who served Lackawanna County from 1947-1965. In recognition of her achievements as a member, Munley's children donated the portrait to then-Speaker K. Leroy Irvis.

Munley was one of the longest-serving members of the House in her time, having gotten involved in state government after years of

employment in a congressional office and private campaign work upon graduation from college. She was well-known in Lackawanna County politics, and her husband, Robert W. Munley, was a five-term representative for the county when he died suddenly in early 1947. In a special election on Sept. 9, Marion Munley was elected to fill his seat. She went on to win nine more elections to represent that district, supporting memorable legislation.

One of her great accomplishments was the passage of House Bill 66, the Equal Pay for Women Act, which

became Act 694 of 1959 when signed into law by Gov. David Lawrence in December of that year. Munley was also active in legislating for the creation of Archbald Glacial Pothole State Park.

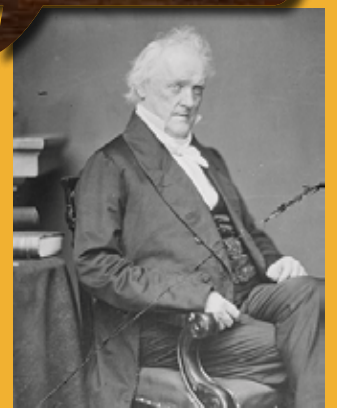
Munley's portrait will be viewable in the East Wing Rotunda on Archives Day, Oct. 8, along with a selection of materials honoring the history of women in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, as well as archives in general. Stop by to learn more about what the House Archives preserves!



*Rep. Marion Munley, front left, at the signing of the Equal Pay Act by Gov. David Lawrence in December 1959.*

DID YOU  
KNOW?

**2014 marks the 200th anniversary of the House service of the United States' only president from Pennsylvania, James Buchanan. The 15th president was elected as a Federalist to represent Lancaster County, and served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for two terms, from 1814-1816. Buchanan was born in Cove Gap, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1791. He worked as an attorney in Lancaster for two years prior to his nomination to the House on Aug. 24, 1814.**



*Would you like to learn more about the history of the Pennsylvania House, your legislative district, or historical members? We're here to help!*



**Celebrate American Archives Month with the House Archives! Visit our display case in the Main Rotunda and stop by our table in the East Wing Rotunda on Archives Day, Wednesday, Oct. 8.**

## Recent Archival Acquisitions

**In the past few months, we've been fortunate enough to add the following items to our collections:**

- "A Capitol Journey" by Vincent P. Carocci (2005).
- "Pennsylvania Elections" by John J. Kennedy (2006).
- "Organizing Archival Records" 3rd edition by David W. Carmichael (2012).
- "Bringing the War of Independence to Life" by Kurt Zwikl. Donated by Kurt Zwikl.
- "PCN Profiles: Clancy Myer, PA House of Representatives Parliamentarian" (DVD), 2011.
- "The Politics of Progress: Governor Leader's Administration, 1955-1959" by Richard Cooper and Ryland Crary (1982).
- "The Pennsylvania Citizen" by Elinor Deatrick (1958).
- "Inside the House: Former Members Reveal How Congress Really Works" edited by Lou Frey Jr. and Michael T. Hayes (2001), with a chapter by R. Lawrence Coughlin (R-Montgomery, 1965-1966).
- "View of the Whole Ground: A Brief History of the Proposed Impeachment of the Governor of Pennsylvania" printed by William Hamilton (1808).
- 14 new oral history transcripts are now available online at: <http://www.house.state.pa.us/BMC/archives/oralList.cfm>