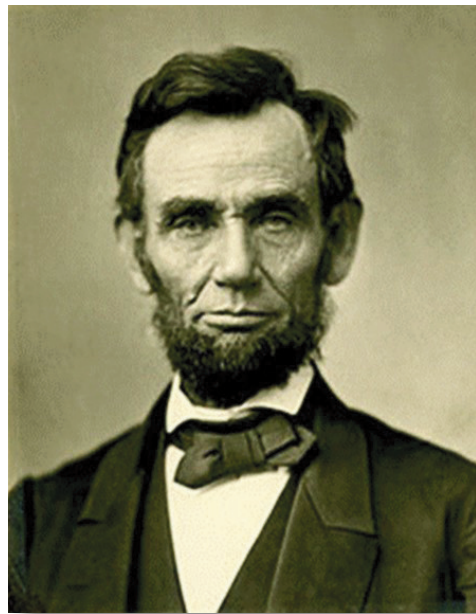


Abraham Lincoln and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Twice President Lincoln entered the Pennsylvania House of Representatives chamber, once on his celebratory inaugural journey to Washington, DC, to assume the Presidency on February 22, 1861, and again on April 22, 1865, when his funeral train procession stopped for mourners to pay their final respects to the fallen Commander



Original photograph taken by Alexander Gardner in 1863. Library of Congress.

in Chief. These strikingly different days of national celebration and grief mark two of the most famous moments in which national attention focused on events in Pennsylvania's House of Representatives.

On the morning of February 22, 1861, the President-elect left Philadelphia to travel to Harrisburg for his scheduled address to the Pennsylvania Legislature. Prior to his arrival, a joint session of House and Senate convened in the House chamber at 3 p.m. that day. Both the Speaker of the Senate, Robert M. Palmer, and Speaker of the House, Elisha W. Davis, addressed the President-elect by welcoming him and expressing their confidence in his ability to take on the challenges facing the nation. Lincoln began his address by thanking the Commonwealth for its support in the recent election, and expressing his gratitude at the promise of military support from

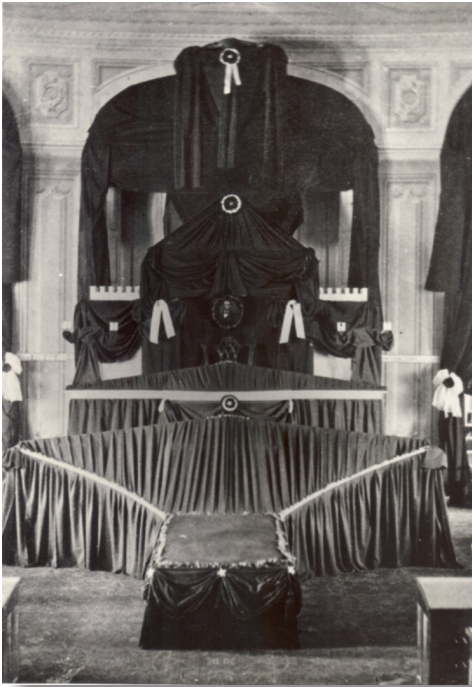
Pennsylvania for the Federal government in the event of conflict. However, he expressed his sincere hope that military involvement would not be necessary to preserve the union. Lincoln left Harrisburg that day, making it his final stop before arriving in Washington, DC, the next morning.

A little more than four years later, Lincoln would again grace the Halls of the House. This time, however, it was the President's coffin that was brought to the House chamber after his assassination on April 15, 1865. The body of the fallen leader was transported via train from Washington, DC, to his final resting place in Springfield, Illinois. The route – reminiscent of his inaugural journey to Washington, DC – traveled through seven states and let the bereft pay their final respects at stops along the way. The train arrived in Harrisburg on the evening of April 21, 1865, in the

(Continued on Page 2)

Abraham Lincoln and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

(continued from page 1)



midst of a pouring rain. Lincoln's body was taken into the Halls of the House and placed on a catafalque – a wooden frame that was built to support and display the coffin – where his remains laid in state overnight. Mourners formed a procession and from 9:30 p.m. until midnight, and again from 8 to 9:30 the next morning, thousands paid their final respects. Lincoln's coffin was

then returned to the train to move on to its next stop in Philadelphia.

These two dates mark not only pivotal moments in the Pennsylvania House's history, but also in the history of the nation. The House has the unique honor to have both celebrated Lincoln's ascension to the nation's highest office and grieved his tragic death within its walls.

Lincoln's catafalque in the House chamber of the Hills Capitol Building. The Hills Capitol Building, which was operational during both Lincoln's inaugural stop and his funeral procession, was destroyed by a fire in 1897. Photo courtesy of Pennsylvania State Archives.

The Marquis de Lafayette's Address to the Assembly

The esteemed Frenchman, Marquis de Lafayette, was born into a wealthy and influential family in France, but is best known in America for his service to the Colonial Army during the American Revolution, when he served as a top officer to General George Washington in 1777. Lafayette traveled back to France in 1778 and successfully lobbied the Court of King Louis XVI to enter into an alliance with the Colonies, turning the tide of the Revolution in the Colonies' favor. He served the cause of the American Revolution with such distinction that he gained notoriety as "the hero of two worlds."

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United States, President James Monroe invited Lafayette to tour the United States in 1824. Lafayette accepted President Monroe's invitation, and in his 1824 through 1825 trip he traveled over 6,000 miles to visit every state in the Union. Everywhere Lafayette visited he was greeted by adoring citizens and received celebratory gifts and honors. He visited state halls, attended town meetings, and met with dignitaries and elected officials – oftentimes addressing these gatherings by offering his thanks for their hospitality.

Lafayette accepted an invitation to address the Pennsylvania General Assembly on Tuesday, February 1, 1825. Lafayette was honored by the House to sit in the chair occupied by John Hancock during the Continental Congress. The General Assembly convened in session for the purpose of hearing Lafayette's address. In his address, Lafayette called the Pennsylvania men he fought alongside during the war his "revolutionary companions and beloved brother soldiers, the sons of many of whom I have the pleasure to find on the floor of this Capitol."

Famous Faces Visit the House



On November 13, 2001, the House conducted a Veterans Day Ceremony at which Philadelphia native William “Wild Bill” Guarnere was honored. Guarnere’s military service as part of the Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, in the 101st Airborne Division was dramatized in the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*. In Guarnere’s brief words he said, “When you look at me, see your brother, your uncle, your father, your grandfather. I represent every man that fought in World War II...”

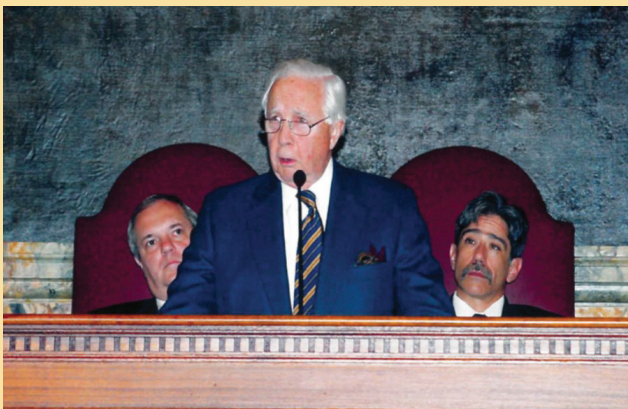


Above: Veterans William Guarnere and Ed “Babe” Heffron, pictured with community members Rod Strobl, Ed Joint, and Forrest Guth.



On March 27, 2012, Kathy Sledge, lead vocalist for Sister Sledge, was recognized by the House for her philanthropic efforts to improve the lives of children in the Commonwealth. Sledge performed the hit song “We Are Family” for the House and is pictured here with former Speaker Sam Smith and former Representative Ron Waters.

Football player Hines Ward posed with House Parliamentarian Clancy Myer on his May 22, 2012 visit to the House, where he was recognized for his distinguished career with the Pittsburgh Steelers.



On November 8, 2004, two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author David McCullough spoke as part of the Speaker’s Millennium Lecture Series. McCullough, a Pittsburgh native, is well known for his popular historical works, including *The Johnstown Flood*, *Truman*, *John Adams*, and *1776*.

David McCullough pictured with former Speaker John M. Perzel and former chair of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Michael A. Tomor.

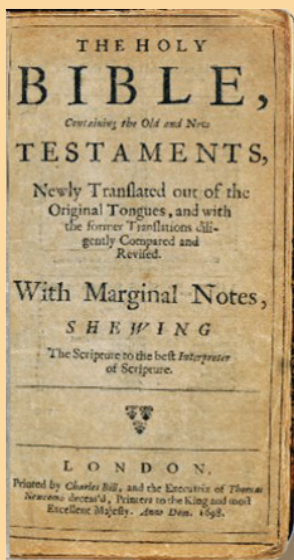
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Recent additions to our collections

- Photograph of House softball team, 1983 – From David Sweet (D-Washington) 1977-1988
- Campaign pins from Philadelphia area – From Christopher Wogan (R-Philadelphia) 1981-2002
- Personal papers of former members: William Adolph (R-Delaware) 1989-2016, Mark Cohen (D-Philadelphia) 1974-2016, Lawrence Curry (D-Montgomery, Philadelphia) 1993-2012, Bernard Dombrowski (D-Erie) 1971-1990, Dwight Evans (D-Philadelphia) 1981-2016, Mauree Gingrich (R-Lebanon) 2003-2016, Julie Harhart (R-Lehigh, Northampton) 1995-2016, Tim Mahoney (D-Fayette, Somerset) 2007-2016, Sandra Major (R-Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming) 1995-2016, David Parker (R-Monroe) 2015-2016, L. Chris Ross (R-Chester) 1997-2016, and Mike Vereb (R-Montgomery) 2007-2016

A Closer Look: William Penn Bible

The 201st House Session began on January 3, 2017, with House Members taking their oaths of office. By special request, Speaker Mike Turzai swore his oath on the personal Bible of William Penn. The Bible was loaned from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and was printed in London in 1698. Turzai requested the Bible in honor of the 335th anniversary of the first General Assembly meeting in 1682. This marks the first time a House Member used the Bible for swearing-in, having previously been used by Governors Thornburgh and Corbett for their oaths of office.



Left: Title page of William Penn Bible. Right: William Penn nameplate on inside cover. Images courtesy of Historical Society of Pennsylvania.