

### Exciting Acquisitions!

The House Archives has recently received several fun and unique donations from former House Members. These collections include a variety of photographs, scrapbooks, campaign items, recordings, memorabilia, and much more. These materials will be a valuable resource for researchers seeking to learn about both the legislative process and the Members who have served in the PA House. The Archives looks forward to incorporating many of these items in our future exhibits throughout the Capitol.

#### Papers of Roger Raymond Fischer, Washington County, 1967-1988

—donated by his wife, Catherine Fischer



Representative Fischer earned degrees in math and physics as well as a Doctor of Ministry. He served in the United States Air Force and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. In addition to his House service, which he began at just 25 years of age, Fischer worked as an engineer and minister.

*Pictured: Scrapbook including campaign materials, news clippings, and a 1968 letter from Richard Nixon; photograph; interview recordings*

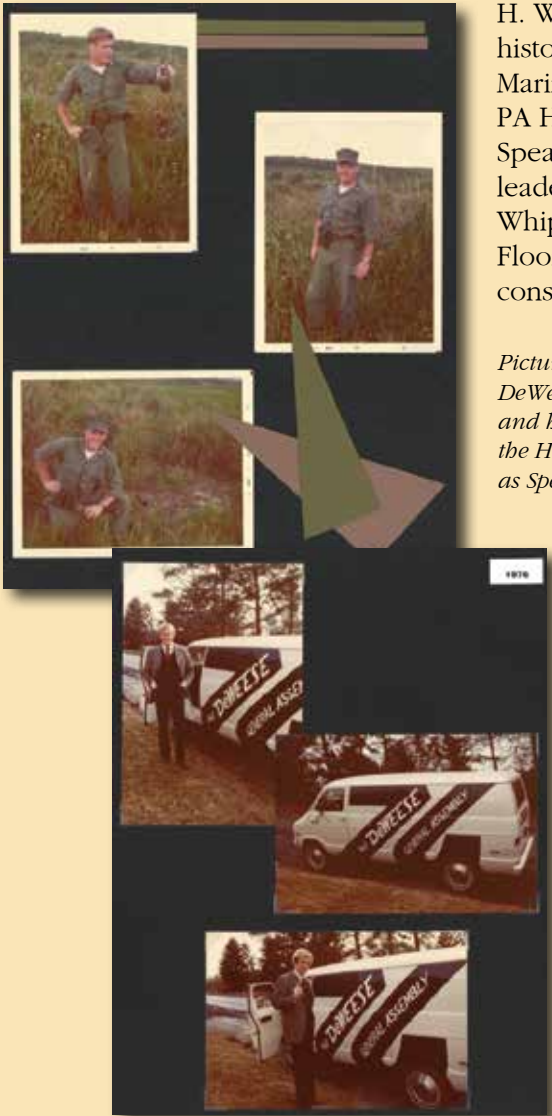


# Acquisitions Continued ...

Papers of H. William DeWeese, Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties, 1976-2012

H. William DeWeese earned a B.A. in history and served in the United States Marine Corps before his election to the PA House. In 1993, DeWeese was elected Speaker of the House. He also held other leadership positions including Majority Whip, Majority Floor Leader, and Minority Floor Leader. DeWeese is now a political consultant and registered lobbyist.

*Pictured: Pages from scrapbooks highlighting DeWeese's time in the United States Marine Corps and his 1976 House campaign; a photograph from the House Floor; photo album from his swearing-in as Speaker*



## Papers of Ronald Raymond, Delaware County, 1985-2008

Ronald Raymond served as Mayor of Sharon Hill prior to his House service. During his time in the House he served as the Secretary of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee from 1987 to 2008. He currently works as chief legislative officer, Versant Strategies.

*Pictured: Photographs, campaign literature, and pins*



# Upcoming *Diverse Members of the PA House* Book Sneak Peek:

## Representative Marshall L. Shepard, Sr.

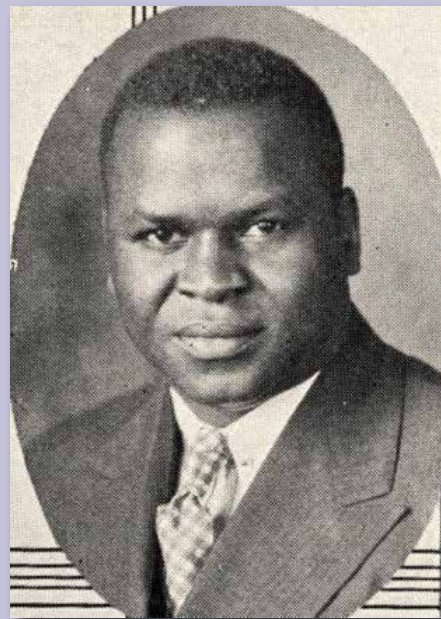
Marshall L. Shepard, Sr., was born July 10, 1899, in Oxford, Granville County, North Carolina. He graduated from Pendle Hill High School in Wallingford, Pennsylvania. Shepard attended Winston-Salem Teachers College and graduated from Virginia Union University, earning an A.B. While attending Virginia Union University, he served as a private in the Student Army Training Corps. He also attended Temple University in Philadelphia. Shepard was married to Lucille, and they had two children: Marshall L. Jr. and Samuel.

Following his studies, Shepard worked as an assistant to Reverend Clayton Powell, Sr., at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City. He was later a minister at the Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Philadelphia, where he remained for 42 years. Shepard also served as an assistant secretary to the National Baptist Convention.

Shepard became active in local politics while also serving his congregation. He made national headlines when he became the first Black person to offer a prayer at the 1936 Democratic National Convention — which prompted South Carolina Senator Ellison Smith to walk out. Of the affair Shepard remarked, “Rather than being bitter about it...I feel sympathy and pity for him and pray to God that he may be emancipated from his prejudices” (Record-Argus, Greenville, PA, June 25, 1936).

Shepard was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1934. He was reelected in 1936 and 1940. While in office, Shepard secured appropriations for Lincoln University and was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 382 of 1935 which prohibited discrimination based on race, creed, or color in employment under contracts for public buildings and public works.

Following his time in the House, Shepard was elected the Recorder of Deeds for the City of Philadelphia, serving from 1951 to 1956. He was also elected to the Philadelphia City Council, and served from 1956 until his death in 1967. Shepard died February 21, 1967, in Philadelphia. He is interred at Plummer Cheatham Cemetery in Oxford, North Carolina.



*Left: Headlines such as these were featured in newspapers across the nation following Shepard's historic prayer.*

*Source: The Richmond News Leader, Richmond, Virginia, June 25, 1936.*

## Attention! Former Members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus:

**If you have not received and/or completed the Diverse Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Survey — please contact Jennifer Ott at [jott@pabmc.net](mailto:jott@pabmc.net) or call 717-783-3866 to receive a copy.**

**Your contribution to this upcoming publication is absolutely essential!**

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## Collaboration with Gettysburg College Special Collections and Archives



House Archives staff and interns had the opportunity to tour the Gettysburg College Special Collections and Archives. They showed us some of the highlights of their collections — including a German-language copy of the Declaration of Independence, which is one of only two known to exist. The visit also resulted in the donation of many early volumes of Pennsylvania Legislative Documents and House Journals which the college no longer had use for (right). These volumes need some extra care due to their age, but are an exciting addition to our library.



### Restoring a Curled Panoramic Photograph



The House Archives recently received a panoramic photograph of a group on the front steps of the State Capitol. While we are not sure of the exact date or group, some details indicate a connection to a railroad fraternity or organization. The photograph had been stored rolled up and had become brittle over time. Flattening the photograph required specialized equipment and care. Gettysburg College Archives generously offered us the use of their humidification chamber, which allowed the photograph to slowly be revived.

*Left: The rolled panoramic photograph in the chamber where water vapor slowly allowed the brittle photograph to uncurl.*

*Below: Photo following treatment.*

