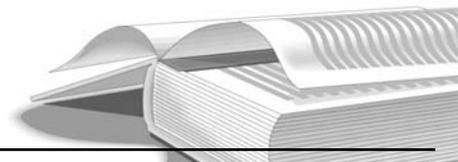


Friends Folio



A Newsletter from the
Friends of Ganser Library

No. 51, Fall 2005

Editors:
Marilyn McKinley Parrish &
Priscilla Oppenheimer

In This Issue:

1-2
The Library at
Millersville

3-4
International
Students

5
News
From the President

6-7
Recent Additions

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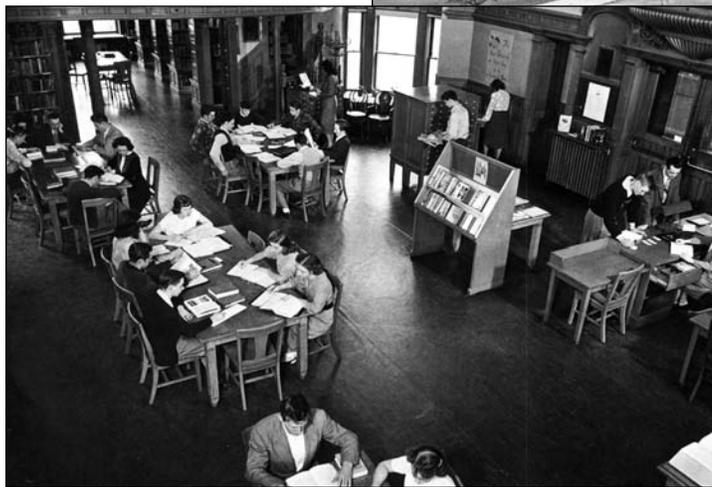
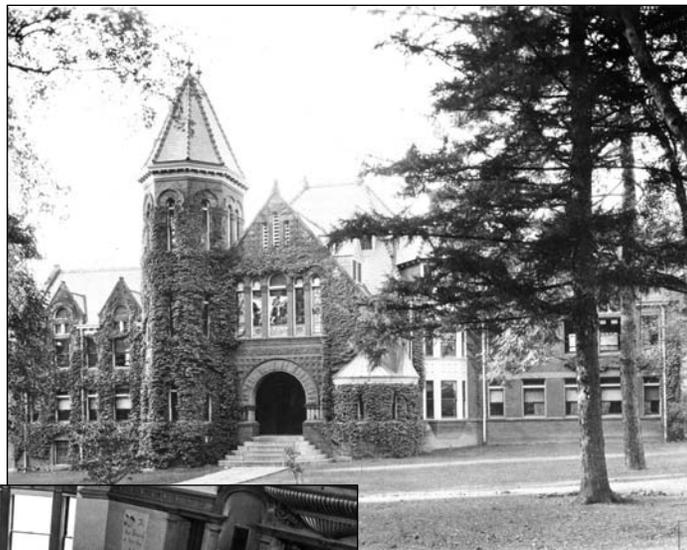
MU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative
Action Institution.

The Library at Millersville

By Marilyn M. Parrish

A lovely example of late Victorian architecture, The Biemesderfer Center was built in 1895 to serve as the library at Millersville. In 1897, *The Normal Journal* described the library as "the gem of the Normal School...The unique plan, the beautiful hardwood finishing, the elegant and substantial furnishings, [and] the lovely stained glass windows make it a joy and a delight to all who frequent it."

The library opened with fewer than 15,000 volumes, including the collection of the first principal of the school, J.P. Wickersham. Helen A. Ganser became librarian in 1911. By the time she retired in 1952, the library had grown in size to 50,000 volumes. A significant part of the library's history is connected with two literary societies. The Page Literary Society was founded in 1855, followed two years later by the Normal Literary Society. These societies were considered the most important social organizations on campus. They maintained separate libraries, sponsored debates and socials, and even formed musical groups and sports teams. The library building was designed to give each literary society library its own



wing (Page in the west wing and Normal in the east). The separate collections eventually were merged with the college collection to form one library.

While Page and Normal had become much less important by the middle of the twentieth century, books from the two collections remained in the library.

Three Millersville University graduates recently gathered to discuss their memories of learning and working in the building during the 1940s. Frances Keller, Marjorie Rambo, and Mary Heisey Shellenberger were three of six students who graduated from library science program at Millersville in 1945.

Frances Keller remembers the building layout at the time:



The reference section was straight as you went in the door, and Page was one side and Normal the other...Magazines were in the basement, and there were little winding stairs to go up to the second floor and to go to the basement. We could study on the second floor...The charging desk was to the left as you first came in...right at the door...you couldn't get out without going by it.

Frances Keller

Marjorie Rambo and Mary Shellenberger described working on campus through a program called NYA (National Youth Administration). They were paid 35 cents an hour. Junior and senior library science students were required to work in the library in unpaid positions. Marjorie describes the atmosphere of the library as:

Quiet...there was no talking or conversations in the library...but that business of Page and Normal...there were two wings, Page had one wing and Normal had the other. So you could get pretty far away from the front desk!

There were many reminiscences about conversations with head librarian, Miss Helen Ganser. Marjorie Rambo remembers having transposed a few letters on catalog cards while working in the library. She was called to Miss Ganser's office:

It was an interview over my corrected cataloging cards...Miss Ganser was reviewing how many errors I had made.....Miss Ganser's office was on the balcony, just to the right of the head of the stairs... It was a very small cubby hole, but it was Miss Ganser's office... What kept it in my memory all this time was that after two years as a high school librarian, I resigned and went to graduate school and got a master's... I worked at the Library School as a part-time student, and one of my jobs was correcting catalog cards. And I thought, if Miss Ganser could see me now!



Marjorie Rambo

Frances Keller shared the highlight of her memories of Miss Ganser:

I would work at the desk in the evenings and have to close up the library and take the key back to Miss Ganser, who lived in the dormitory...because most of the unmarried women had to live in the dormitory. So Dick would come in...he would ...have been in the library studying or working and then when it was about five minutes before closing time, he would come to the desk and wait for me. So this one time, he was perched there...on the desk and Miss Ganser toddled in and...looked the situation over...And when I took the key back, she said, 'Come in Miss Keller... I saw that Mr. Keller was talking to you in the library...you understand that the state is investing a lot of money in your education and we really expect you to repay the state

by working and not getting married right away'...So I waited until January to get married.

Mary Shellenberger remembers classmates who got married while in school and kept it a secret from Miss Ganser. She also recalls the challenges faced by Millersville during the war years:

I commuted,...my home was between Marietta and Donegal... [because] times were tough... When the time came in the second year, Dr. Tanger sent out word that... everyone not living at home and ...working your way through college...had to move into the dormitory...Some of our stipends helped to keep the place going. So I had a marvelous 3 and a half years.



Mary Shellenberger



Mary Shellenberger, Frances Keller, and Marjorie Rambo

The Millersville library science program served these graduates well. Following graduation, Frances Keller worked as a librarian in the Phoenixville School District, the Raritan School District (NJ), and served as a substitute teacher

in the Lancaster area. Mary Shellenberger was a school librarian in several locations in Pennsylvania, and taught 9th grade English and served as a librarian in the Penn Manor School District for 22 years. Marjorie Rambo began her career as a school librarian in Coatesville, completed graduate work at the George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, and worked for over thirty years as a librarian supervisor for the Air Force in locations such as Germany, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, and Hawaii.

Library renovations in 1952 changed the building these women frequented. Flooring was added to each of the balcony areas and straight staircases replaced winding ones. Following the opening of Ganser Library in 1967, the building served as a temporary student center. In 1972, renovations for its current use as an administration building began. Biemesderfer is named in honor of former Millersville president Dr. D. Luke Biemesderfer and his wife Elva Walter Biemesderfer (class of 1917). Biemesderfer Center was dedicated on December 2, 1973, and the former library began an important new function as the administrative center on campus, housing the offices of the President and Provost.

Sources:

Biemesderfer Executive Center, Millersville State College, printed in cooperation with the MSC Alumni Association, 1973; *The Normal Journal*, 1895-1897; Interview with Frances Keller, Marjorie Rambo, and Mary Shellenberger, July 2005, Lancaster, PA.

Marilyn Mckinley Parrish is Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist.

International Students at Millersville State Normal School, 1856-1920

By Janet L. Dotterer

It is assumed that in the present day, students travel all over the world to attain a higher education. Here at Millersville, there is an International House, an Office of International Affairs and an International Student supervisor. This affords an opportunity for Millersville University students to study abroad, as well as students from all over the world to come to Millersville University.

What may come as a surprise to many is that students from all over the world came to Millersville when it was a normal school. This article concentrates on students who attended the institution prior to 1920. In checking the catalogs for a listing of students, it was very apparent that Millersville State Normal School drew students from all over the country and the world and that many of our graduates went on to have an influence throughout the United States and the world.

Our first international student, F.J.P. Varro, is listed in the 1856-1857 catalog as coming from Strasburg, France. Mr. Varro is mentioned in letters home from Sallie Bolton, a fellow student, noting that he will be taking mathematics. After leaving Millersville, Mr. Varro moved to Washington, Pa., in the western part of the state. He joined the Pennsylvania Militia during the Civil War, serving in September 1862. He died in 1868 in Dixmont, a suburb of Pittsburgh.

Following Mr. Varro, there were a handful of students who traveled a great distance to attend Millersville State Normal School: George E. Huey, from Londonderry, Ireland, attended in 1858-1859; G. W. DeLeon, from Kingston, Jamaica, attended in 1865-1866; Bessie, Lillian and William Easty, from Montreal, Canada, attended in 1868-1869; Charles Rowe, from Cornwall, England, attended in 1869-1871; and Florence Geary, from London, England, attended 1870-1871. According to the catalog they only attended one year and did not graduate so we have no record of what became of them. This was true for many of the early students. After one year of schooling they could get a job teaching and rarely returned to actually earn their degree.

Prior to 1880 a majority of the international students were from Europe, the exception being our three students from Canada and one from Jamaica. After 1880, the majority of our international students came from Central and South America, though there were students from other parts of the world as well. According to the catalogs there were students from the following countries at MSNS between 1880 and 1920: Nicaragua, Cuba, Venezuela, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Mexico, The Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Trinidad, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Great Britain, Japan, India, South Africa, Switzerland, Spain and Canada. In all, 164 students traveled from around the world to attend MSNS between 1856 and 1920.

Our first international student to be listed as a graduate was

Hannah J. Davies from 'Nathe Glanmorganshire, South Wales, Great Britain, who was graduated in 1885. The next to graduate was Jose A. Villalon from Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo, who graduated in 1907. Miguel A. Cocco from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, and Bula S. Seyfert from Collingwood, Ontario, Canada, were graduated in 1908; brothers John F. and Lester F. Merrick of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, were graduated in 1913 and 1914, respectively; Ricardo I. Plaza from Esmeraldas, Ecuador, and J. Carlos Lopes from Itaguy, Brazil, were graduated in 1915; Louisa Lillo from Santiago, Chile, was graduated in 1918; and Lazaro Milaor from Manila, Philippine Islands, was graduated in 1920.

There were many ways students could participate in the everyday life of Millersville State Normal School: the literary societies, athletics and social organizations. The international students were active in these many pursuits, with the most participation in athletics. Jose Villalon played forward on the basketball team; Miguel Cocco played guard on the basketball team, played end on the football team, and was president of the class in 1907; Juan Villa played left field on the 1907 baseball team; Lorenzo Ruiz played infield on the baseball team in 1905 and 1907, and right end on the 1906 junior football team; Manuel Casares played outfield on the 1905 baseball team; Lorenzo Alvarez played left halfback and Antonio Martinez played right half back on the 1908 junior football team; J.C. Lopes played on the football team from 1912 through 1914 and on the basketball team from 1913 through 1915, earning a varsity letter; Ramon Caceres was a substitute on the 1912 prep basketball team. Juan Estiu played flute in 1902 Normal Orchestra; Jose Portuando was an assistant patrolman on the Life Saving Corps and Andres Fernandez was in the 1902 Military Company.

Of those that graduated, some information can be learned from the class histories that were gathered in subsequent years.

Hannah J. Davies Taylor returned to South Wales to teach and later married. Her husband died in 1894. No date of death is known for her.



Jose A. Villalon

Jose A. Villalon went on to school at Bucknell and remained in the United States working as an engineer. He married a young woman from York, Pa., and eventually settled in Philadelphia. His brothers, J. Emilio and Luis, also attended MSNS but are not listed as graduates.



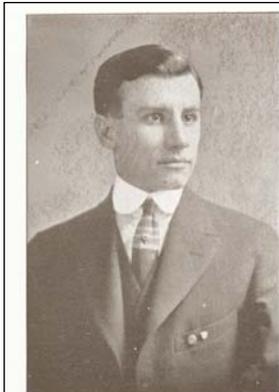
Bula S. Seyfert

Bula S. Seyfert married Walter A. Gilbert (class of 1909) and settled in Christiana, Pa., and eventually moved to Philadelphia where he was a banker.



Miguel A. Cocco

Miguel A. Cocco moved to Harrisburg and then Baltimore. He married Myrtle E. Widle (Class of 1908). By 1923 he had moved back to Puerto Plata and was working as a civil engineer.



J. CARLOS LOPES.....Haquy, Brazil.

"Self conquest is the greatest of victories."

This handsome young man hails from Brazil where they throw some bull and brand him every morning for an appetite for breakfast. He is the athletic star of our class and is famous in football, basketball, baseball, and track. Joe has a thorough knowledge of Millersville life, having passed through all the stages of natural development from "B Prep" to Senior. His chief delight is in the relation of some of his experiences in the sunny South. For the past two years his chief occupation has been being a senator, and as such he sets an example to the rest of us on study hall, except that he has a weakness for burning a light after bells. This only goes to show what a good worker he is and as a proof of our appreciation of his diligence we elected him Editor-in-chief of our

TOUCHSTONE. Joe intends to go to Cornell and from there back to his home in sunny Brazil. Joe, you have the best wishes of your Class!

J. Carlos Lopes continued his education at Cornell, studying civil engineering. Upon graduation he was employed by Bethlehem Steel Corporation as a draftsman. He married Sarah Weaber (class of 1915) and they settled in Schaefferstown, Pa. They had five daughters, Olga, Lela, Zelia, Rita and Ruth. He served as president of the class from 1938 to 1940.



Ricardo I. Plaza returned to Ecuador as a teacher and principal at the high school in Esmeraldas. He went on to serve as Treasurer of the Providence of Esmeraldas; Director of Education in Esmeraldas and took charge of the American consulate in Esmeraldas, Ecuador until the closing of the office; in 1939 he became a professor of the College "5 de Agosto" in Esmeraldas.

Ricardo I. Plaza

Louisa Lillo was hired in 1917 by MSNS to teach Spanish. She taught while working on a degree at MSNS. After graduation she completed her B.S. at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1919, and then returned to her native Chile and taught in Santiago. She did marry but we do not have a date of her marriage; DeJara was her married name. Louisa died in 1960.



Louisa Lillo

Lazaro Milaor returned to the Philippine Islands. In 1923 he was working at the Bureau of Education in Manila.

Two of our international students were sons of a former MSNS graduate. John and Lester Merrick were the sons of Frank Merrick, Class of 1887, who was a manager and later vice president for Westinghouse Corp. in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and chose to send his sons to MSNS. Like his father, John was valedictorian of his class. He went on to Cornell to study electrical engineering and after graduation moved back to Canada working in the engineering field. He served in the Air Corps from 1917 to 1919 and from 1942 to 1945 and by 1953 was living at the Bar O Ranch in Bandera, Texas, as a rancher



John Merrick

and oil producer. Unfortunately, we know very little about Lester, except that he went on to Cornell like his brother.



Lester Merrick

The two students from Japan were children of an MSNS graduate who was a missionary in Japan. The Rev. Irwin H. Correll, Class of 1871, chose to send his daughters to his alma mater in 1903-1904. Ethel and Florence Correll were two of the Rev. Correll's eight children. It appears that they were the only two children he chose to send to MSNS. In later years he wrote one of his daughters had chosen to teach kindergarten and be a missionary in Japan but was stricken and died. Since he does not name the daughter we do not know if it was one the daughters that attended MSNS.

It should be noted that the Rev. Correll was not our only graduate to travel overseas as a missionary or teacher. We had graduates who traveled to Japan, India, China, Mexico, Peru and the Philippine Islands. What is not known is how many students who did not graduate went on to become missionaries and teachers overseas and how many of our overseas students were sent to MSNS on the recommendation of these former students.

Janet Dotterer is Library Technician in Ganser Library at Millersville University. She has an undergraduate degree in history from Clarion State College and a Masters degree in history from Millersville University. Janet has prepared a new exhibit based on her research in the Special Collections Reading Room on the 4th floor of Ganser Library. Stop by to learn more about our earliest international students.

Friends of Ganser Library Board Members 2005-2006

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Planned Giving Opportunities

Consider including Millersville University in your estate planning. For more information on planned giving opportunities, including Ganser Library, Friends of the Library, or student scholarships, contact the Millersville University Development Office at (717) 872-3820.

News *Items*

Fall Lecture

Dr. William G. Smith, chair of the Philosophy department at Millersville University, spoke on "Plato and Popcorn" on September 13 in the Bolger Conference Center. Professor Smith, an actor and movie enthusiast, has recently published a book of the same name, a guide to watching and reflecting on 75 thought-provoking films.

Bus Trip To National Book Festival: September 24, 2005

Last year's Friends-sponsored trip to the Book Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., was a smashing success. Again this year, two buses filled with book lovers traveled to the festival in Washington. The festival featured more than 70 poets, illustrators and story-tellers, creating an exciting day of talks, readings, book-signings, book sales, and food booths.

Book Sale

The 28th annual Used Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of Ganser Library will be held in March 2006. A preview sale will be held Sunday, March 19, from 6 - 7:30 p.m.. The book sale will be open to the public Monday, March 20, and Tuesday, March 21, from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Wednesday, March 22, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., in the lobby of Ganser Library. The three-day sale features a great selection of quality used books.

We are always interested in receiving gifts of books for the sale, particularly juvenile, art, music, and collectible books. Please check your shelves for possible donations. Gifts may be dropped off during the hours the library is open, or you may contact Leo Shelley at 872-3610 to arrange for them to be picked up.

From the President

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to Ms. Barbara Johnson, last year's vice president, who coordinated the well-attended spring dinner and lecture in April. The speaker was Dr. Francis J. Bremer, MU professor and editor of the Winthrop Papers, who presented: "Religious Wars in America: How the History of Puritan New England Can Help Us Deal with the Religious Conflicts of Today."

The Friends of Ganser remains a very vital group and looks forward to many future events. Ms. Judy Carter, vice president, collaborated with Barbara in planning the fall lecture featuring Dr. William G. Smith.

Board member Phil Bishop and his wife Sue implemented the second Friends of Ganser-sponsored bus trip to the National Book Festival in Washington, DC on September 24, 2005. Thanks to their planning and hard work, two buses filled up quickly and allowed book lovers from our area to enjoy a wonderful day in Washington.

The Friends are planning for next year's book sale to be held on preview night March 19 and sale days from March 20-22, 2006. Mark your calendars! The proceeds of the sale will be used to purchase items for the Special Collections area. Contact Mr. Leo E. Shelley, Book Sale chairperson, at Ganser Library if you have any donations for the event.

It is my privilege to begin a second year as president. My thanks to all the members for your participation and support as true Friends of Ganser Library and I invite you to join us at our upcoming events.

With my warm regards,

Michelle M. White, President

Becoming a Friend

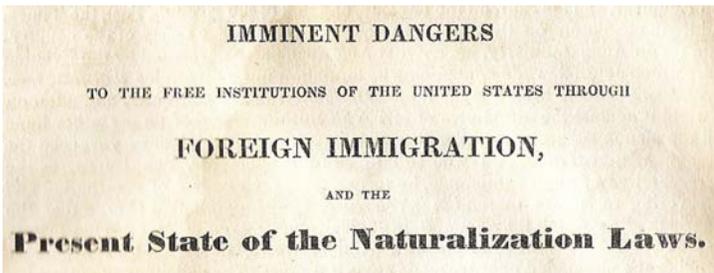
People become Friends of Ganser Library when they make a donation to Millersville University and request mailings from the Friends. Encourage your friends to become Friends of the Library through their support of Millersville University. For more information, contact the Millersville University Development Office at (717) 872-3820.

Recent Additions

Each issue of the Folio lists acquisitions made possible through funding from the Friends of Ganser Library. Here are highlights of some of the new materials we have recently purchased or received through donations:

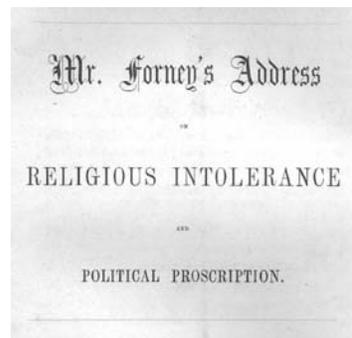
Political Discourse

Several recent purchases highlight the dynamic world of political campaigns and perspectives during the 19th century. These documents and tracts advance specific viewpoints on immigration, presidential campaigns, the use of education to facilitate democracy, and women's use of the vote.



The strongly anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant publication *Imminent Dangers to the Free Institutions of the United States through Foreign Immigration, and the Present State of the Naturalization Laws* was first published anonymously in 1835 by Samuel Morse. Morse was an accomplished painter and sculptor, who began to explore the idea of the telegraph on a voyage home from Europe in 1832. Morse also published articles about the dangers of Catholicism. In 1836 and again in 1841, Morse ran unsuccessfully as a nativist or anti-Catholic candidate for mayor of the City of New York, while pursuing legal battles over the right to claim the telegraph as his own invention. In 1854 the Supreme Court finally confirmed Morse's patent claims.

An anti-nativist view is put forth by John W. Forney in an address delivered in Lancaster in September, 1855. Forney was a noted journalist, editor, and government official whose speech *Address on Religious Intolerance and Political Proscription* met with great acclaim, and was published following a request by George M. Steinman, Esq.



John W. Forney, born in Lancaster in 1817, was instrumental in the merger of the *Lancaster Journal* and the *Lancaster Intelligencer* in 1839 and used the paper to promote the political career of James Buchanan. In addition to subse-

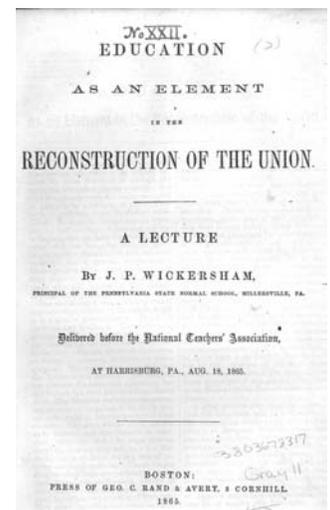
quent editorial positions with newspapers in Philadelphia and Washington, Forney served as the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1851-1857, and Secretary of the Senate from 1861-1868. Forney's address warns of the dangers of the Know Nothing (or American) Party, an anti-immigrant and anti-Roman Catholic political party which gained prominence during the 1850s. Secret orders of the nativist organization were gaining members in cities across the country, as growing numbers of German and Irish immigrants arrived in the U.S. Forney's address calls on citizens to reject the political proscription of Catholics, and to embrace the tolerance of religions fostered by the earliest residents of Pennsylvania. He remarks:

Nothing so deeply disgraces this whole secret movement as its religious intolerance, except the falsehood and pertinacity with which this intolerance is denied by those most prominent in the wrong. The course which has been pursued towards the members of the Catholic Church in the State of Pennsylvania, beginning with Mr. Chandler of Philadelphia, who was at once repudiated after a life of signal purity and usefulness, only because he was a member of this church, is familiar to all your minds. And yet, in the face of such persistent and exceptionless outrages, we find almost the entire press of the Order, nearly all their orators, declaring that they are in favor of the widest religious freedom. In other words, while seeking to disfranchise those who are Catholics, and indeed while carrying the threat of disfranchisement into execution, they coolly tell their victims that all this is intended for their good. (pp. 24-25).

A woodcut of two bears milling buckwheat illustrates a handbill advertising the first Republican candidate for the President: *Freedom is National! Slavery is Sectional! Free Labor for Free Men on Free Soil! Fremont for the People! And Freedom for Kansas! Grand Mass meeting of the Friends of Fremont and Dayton, in the city of Lancaster, on Wednesday, October 1, 1856.* Fremont's campaign brought him to opponent Buchanan's hometown of Lancaster. The handbill testifies that more than 1000 Lancastrians signed a petition to hold the political rally to support Fremont. Supporters organized the meeting "to express their indignation at the folly, recklessness, and imbecility of the present National Administration..."

J.P. Wickersham delivered an address before the National Teachers' Association in Harrisburg, Pa., August 18, 1865, while principal of the State Normal School at Millersville. In *Education as an Element in the Reconstruction of the Union: A Lecture*, Wickersham states that the reconstruction of the:

Union cannot safely take place without doing two things: First, the granting of full civil rights to all those who have heretofore been denied them, and second, the speedy preparation of all



those who need it for the exercise of the rights of citizenship. The first of these duties belongs to the statesman; the second can only be discharged by the educator. (p. 6).

Wickersham proceeds to describe how education can be a benefit to all of the people of the South, asserting:

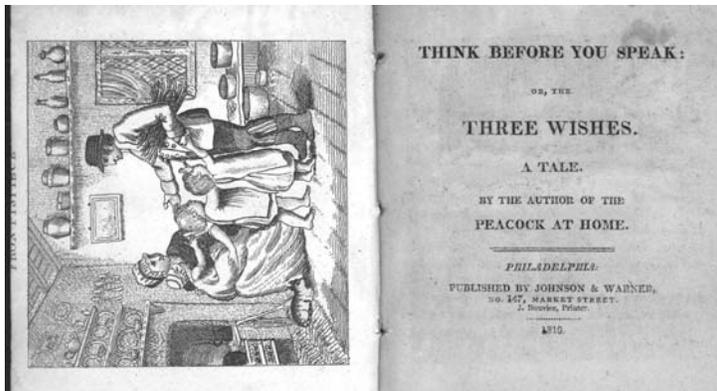
Our national authorities are bound by the Constitution to secure to each State a republican form of government; and reason and experience both show that a republican form of government cannot long exist without providing a system of free schools. A republic must make education universal among its people. Ignorant voters endanger liberty. (p. 8)

Witnesses for Garfield was published in Lancaster in 1880, containing endorsements for presidential candidate James A. Garfield, from both Democratic and Republican leaders. The subtitle includes the following summary of its contents:

his integrity beyond question with friend or enemy; the Credit Mobilier slander refuted; also, approval of his views and record on the question of tariff by leading protectionists.

How Kansas Women Use the Ballot, by Laura M. Johns was published by the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1898. Laura M. Johns, a Pennsylvanian and suffragist, recounts women's use of the ballot in her adopted state of Kansas. Women in Kansas had earned the right to vote in local elections in 1886, but it wasn't until 1912 that the vote for women was extended to all elections.

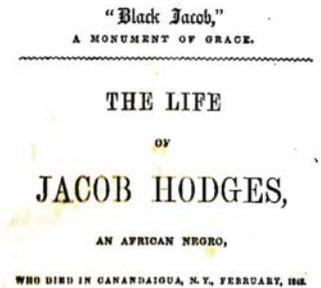
Books for Children



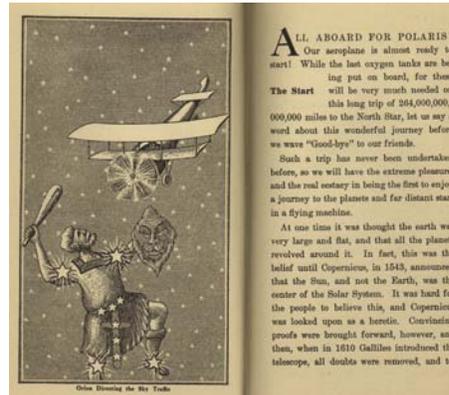
Think Before you Speak; or the Three Wishes by Catherine Ann Dorset was published in Philadelphia, in 1811. This early American edition is a reprinting of the London edition of 1809. Dorset retells a folktale for children in which peasants are unsure of how to use three wishes granted to them. The author encourages readers not to attempt to rise above their station in life.

Rev. Ansel Doane Eddy's *Life of Jacob Hodges* was published in 1842 by the American Sunday School Union in Philadelphia. Jacob Hodges was born to a free black family in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1763. At the age of 10, Jacob was placed as a servant on the schooner Lydia leaving Philadelphia for

the West India trade. This small volume traces Jacob's life, including time spent in prison where he experienced a conversion to Christianity. The American Sunday School Union was established in Philadelphia in 1824 to promote Christian education for children, particularly in locations where no Sabbath schools were available. Their books and periodicals reached a wide audience across the United States.



Charles S. Muir's *A Trip to Polar or 264 Trillion Miles in an Aeroplane*, was published in 1923. Muir sets out to teach children about astronomy through a story of a trip to the North Star. Planets, stars, and astronomy terms are described as the imaginative journey proceeds.



World Renowned Fish Culturist

Millersville graduate Tarleton Bean (class of 1868) published *The Basses, Freshwater & Marine*, with co-author William Harris (edited by Louis Rhead) in 1905. Bean was born in Bainbridge, PA, in 1846. He studied botany at Millersville. After teaching for a few years, Bean worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, and for the U.S. Fish Commission, and the Smithsonian. Bean became know as one of the most well-regarded fish culturists in the world. This edited text is a collection of Bean's and other scientists' writings on the world of fresh water and marine basses.



Farm Life

The *Henry Ensminger Farm Ledger/Account Book*, (1860-1913) documents the business of a Pennsylvania German farmer and orchard grower in South Annville Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Most of the accounts are from 1860 to 1880, hand-written in German and English. The ledger includes plans for a grape vineyard, apple orchard, pear orchard, expenses for building a house, as well as a recipe for donuts.

Friends *Folio*

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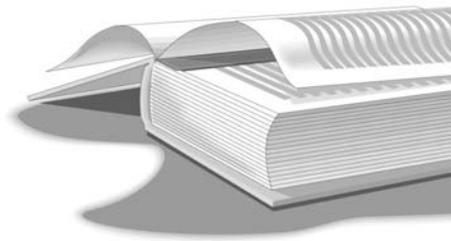
No. 51, Fall 2005

1-2 •The Library at Millersville

3-4 •International Students

5 •News
•From the President

6-7 •Recent Additions



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