

# Friends *Folio*

A Newsletter from the  
Friends of the Library  
No. 66 Spring, 2013

## Library Faculty Ready for Move



*Library faculty (L to R): Teresa Weisser, Marjorie Warmkessel, Rachel Gammons, Kim Grotewold, Krista Higham, Jessica George (Dept. chair).*

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**W**ith the renovation project nearly complete, library faculty and staff are busy planning for the move back into McNairy Library & Learning Forum. Over the past two years, library faculty members were kindly welcomed into buildings all over campus, including Franklin House, Hash, McComsey, Osburn, Caputo, and Stayer. While faculty members are leaving their offices in these buildings, saying goodbye to new and old friends, there is eager anticipation to move back into the renovated library.

**We are looking forward to welcoming the university community into  
The McNairy Library & Learning Forum in the fall of 2013.**

# The Power of Primary Sources: An Interview with Dr. Leroy Hopkins

Contributed by  
Joyce Anderson,  
a member of the  
English Department  
at Millersville.

Reading a letter by a Civil War soldier, Millersville University students can observe the fancy handwriting and learn war-time details from a fellow Lancasterian. Many libraries provide access to online archives, so people may find an ancestor was a part of the Underground Railroad and make new discoveries about their heritage.

One person who has a keen interest in using primary sources on Millersville University campus is Dr. Leroy Hopkins, Jr. A long-time Lancaster



A yearbook photo from 1965 shows the Foreign Language Department when Dr. Hopkins was a student at Millersville State College.

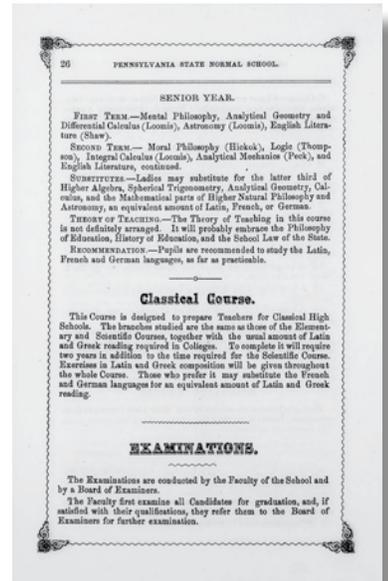
County resident, Hopkins graduated from Millersville University in 1966 and received his Ph.D. in 1974 from Harvard University. He says, "I have always worked with primary resources whether it be a literary topic or an historical one." As professor of German, his special interests include 20th Century German literature and African-American history.

He recalls a graduate school paper about Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and "using a first edition of Schlegel's translation" from Harvard's Houghton Library. For another graduate school topic, Hopkins tells about writing on "Goethe's treatment of the Prometheus myth and finding the 1747 and 1777 edition of the mythological lexicon that Goethe used." Many students find that primary sources are a requirement for academic writing.

But primary sources can also provide a perspective beyond the informative, by enriching one's cultural or personal understanding. For example, Dr. Hopkins found the "Negro Entry Book" after doing research in the County Archives and at the Lancaster County Historical Society. In local history, this book was "the result of a law requiring free persons of color entering or leaving Lancaster to register at the Mayor's Office." Dr. Hopkins remembers he wrote "an essay on the first year of entries (1820-21) that included information on over 89% of African Americans residing in Lancaster at that time." That essay has been used for local high school and community college instruction.

Supporting the value of archives, Dr. Hopkins says, "All of my research is based on primary sources. I have done research in varied places such as the Grand Lodges of New York and Pennsylvania, and the Masonic Museum in Bayreuth, Germany. I have used the census and tax records for Lancaster County to accumulate information on local Blacks." For presentations about Afro-Germans, Dr. Hopkins has also used "their published autobiographies." With over thirty articles in print, Dr. Hopkins notes, "all have their origins in an original source material."

Locally, Lancaster County has many helpful resources. Using the Millersville University Archives, Dr. Hopkins is working on the history of German instruction at Millersville, scanning the college catalogues from 1855-2000. Yet Dr. Hopkins also reveals, "Materials for my talks/publications I have found everywhere. In archives, historical societies, and by chance. For example, for a paper that I presented and had published by the Lancaster County Historical Society on two men with connections to Lancaster who traveled the globe during the 19th century, I bought a copy of "Pedro



Catalog listing for language study at Millersville, 1866-1867.

## Friends Folio

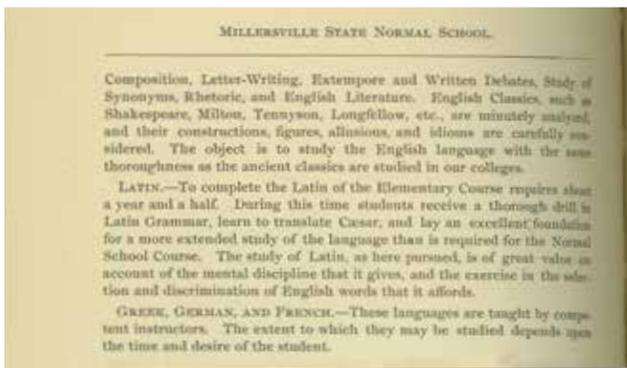
The *Friends Folio* is published twice a year (fall and spring) and distributed to the Millersville University community and Friends of the Library.

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Special.Collections@millersville.edu

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Catalog listing for German courses at Millersville, 1888-1889, p.32

Gorino” [autobiography of Harry Dean, ghostwritten by Sterling North in 1929] and used a copy of autobiography of Joseph Deane, a Lancastrian who circumnavigated the globe before the Civil War.”

As part of a continuing study, Hopkins has “collected material from confessions of local Blacks condemned to death for a felony.” He has created a Black perspective on Lancaster County and hopes to “reduce it into an article some day.”

A busy writer, researcher, and lecturer, Hopkins names many projects that he is currently researching: “an article on Germans and racial prejudice in the 19th Century; ongoing is what I hope will be a documented history of my mother’s and father’s families. I just finished an overview of local African-American history for a publication ‘The State of Black Lancaster.’ All of these are done with original sources and materials that I have found through research.”

Still, Hopkins recognizes finding these primary sources can be difficult. He writes: “Accessing materials is always a challenge, but I have usually found institutions quite interested in my research . . . in 1989 I wanted to visit the Grand Lodge of New York to delve into the relationship between German and African-American masons. When the Deputy Grandmaster who answered the phone learned that I taught German, he not only invited me to come to New York but he also Xeroxed all that I found and gave it to me gratis.”

Dr. Hopkins points out, “Doing primary research is time-consuming and patience is not just a virtue but a necessity. It is important to have as much information available as possible to put the information found in the primary sources in a context. Also it is important to not always believe what is found. In dealing with the federal census, for instance, I have found errors caused by indolence and carelessness of the compiler.”

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He illustrates: “I have great-grandparents who appear in tax records and the census as white, mulatto, and black. My great-grandmother lived in Conestoga in 1880 and was listed as black. Her brother lived in Lancaster and is listed as white. Occupations were also listed haphazardly: in a talk I gave recently in Southern Lancaster County I pointed out that a certain Perry Gibbs was identified in one census as a laborer, in a later as a farm laborer, and then in 1880 as a gospel minister.”

While recognizing human error, recording mistakes, and misguided intentions, a researcher can still find that primary sources provide a unique picture of the past. Hopkins adds his own recipe for the academic process: “Patience, caution, and knowledge are three attributes that a researcher needs to complement luck.”

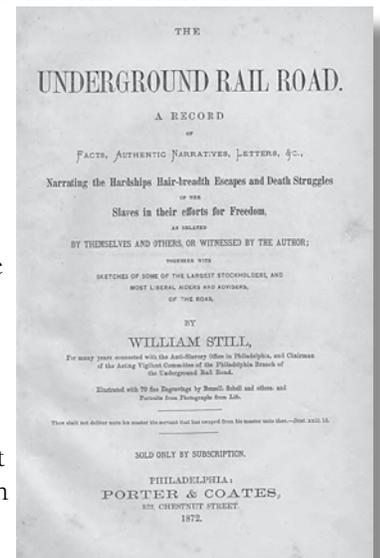
During a sabbatical to Germany, he researched African and African-Americans in Germany (1,500 to the present) and returned with “12 kilos of Xeroxing and over 120 books.”

*“Patience, caution, and knowledge are three attributes that a researcher needs to complement luck.”*

Working with primary sources can also offer many rewards. He got the opportunity to return to Germany by publishing an article in a professional journal (Unterrichtspraxis, Teaching German) on Africans in Germany. After winning the prize for the best article of 1994, he got a free trip to Germany. “While there I found material on Africans in Hamburg and won a second grant from the German government to do research in Hamburg. Through such visits and research I have made contacts and cemented working relationships on both sides of the Atlantic,” he adds.

Although many times academic research is done alone and independently, the personal and relational aspect of transcribing a hand-written letter or viewing a family name in a census record is transforming. In the past and on the screen, the reader can find a part of history that has been safeguarded for future readers and researchers to discover and discuss.

Dr. Hopkins can tell several stories about his favorite finds in primary sources. “Discovering that [his] family in Maryland was involved with the Underground Railroad”



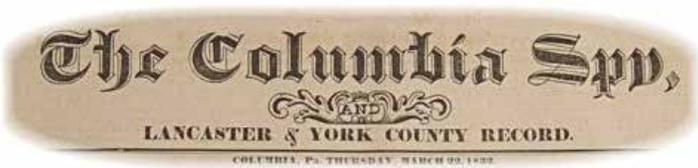
Dr. Hopkins recently presented a talk about local history and the Underground Railroad.

and “the discovery of the Negro Entry Book” are two of his most memorable. But he says, “Every project has its own miracle that is intrinsic to it.”

Another project that he is enthused about is the history of the Crispus Attucks Community Center. “I attended it as a child for daycare and the hot lunch project. My mother was an assistant cook there and I have fond memories of the first director. Now in researching it, I have been able to draw some small parallels to the Harlem Renaissance,” he reveals.

*“Every project has its own miracle that is intrinsic to it.”*

A board member of the Lancaster Historical Society, Hopkins observes, “Almost any record is important.” But he also knows that sometimes records are lost or irretrievable. “Churches have been notoriously lax in keeping their records. That is especially true of the African American community which is so caught up either in the day-to-day struggle of existence or is focused on the after-life that the here and now is neglected,” he explains.



Masthead from the Columbia Spy, 1832..

With the advance of technology, some of these records can be stored and accessed online. Although recognizing the value of primary discoveries, Hopkins also has used digital archives. He reflects, “Everything I have found has been astounding. I wish our local newspapers had a similar format, i.e. a searchable database. ‘The Columbia Spy’ is available in that format, but there is a wealth of information available in newspapers. With some friends who have created/revived the African-American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania, we are beginning to create a digital archive of local images to document our history since the Civil War.”

Still, many researchers dream of the possibility of a virtual interview with a person in the past. When asked what people or primary sources he’d like to encounter, Hopkins replied with his Wish List: “If I had my druthers I would like to talk to a long list of people (most deceased) such as Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Harriet Sweeney (local pow-wow doctress with connections to my family) . . . I would especially like to talk to my ancestors and get their perspective. Of special interest to me is Cupid Paca (1777-1847), my great-great-great-grandfather, who not only survived in a slave state but through his family created two churches and two schools for African American children.”



Frederick Douglass, from Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, 1845.

The challenge of finding sources, the thrill of discovery, and the power to create new understandings from a virtual world of information are the activities of both student and teacher. Engaging readers with photos from the past, a favorite yearbook, or handwritten letters from another time in history reveals the importance of the ordinary, as well as the value of critical analysis of treasured artifacts. For example, Dr. Hopkins uses primary sources in his Humanities class including “autobiographies and manifestos by Afro-Germans” by contextualizing them with materials such as magazines which he has collected over the years.

For a German Civilization course (800-1870), Hopkins has given students the names of significant individuals from that period and ties the people and concepts together in his lectures. A current unit of 1500-1800 explores the Reformation, Gegenreformation/Baroque/ Enlightenment. Students give oral reports on personalities and monuments, such as the cathedrals in Speyer, Munich, and Cologne. The final segments of the course introduce the development of Berlin and then Germans in America. “For the latter I plan to send them searching for local information and then take the German Club on a German tour of Lancaster City,” he explains.

Recognizing the value of oral histories or digitized documents, students can participate in ensuring that these important pieces of the present can be accessible in the future. With the McNairy Library and Learning Forum close to completion, primary sources will have a home for years to come, and researchers, students and faculty alike, will have limitless opportunities for rich discoveries.



Dr. Hopkins is a member of the “Alle Lernen Deutsch” (“Everyone is learning German”) committee of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) and board member of the Black German Heritage and Research Association as well as the Georgianna Simpson Society for German Diasporic Studies. Hopkins is a board member of the Lancaster Historical Society and has a long relationship to the Study Abroad programs with Philipps University in Marburg, Germany.

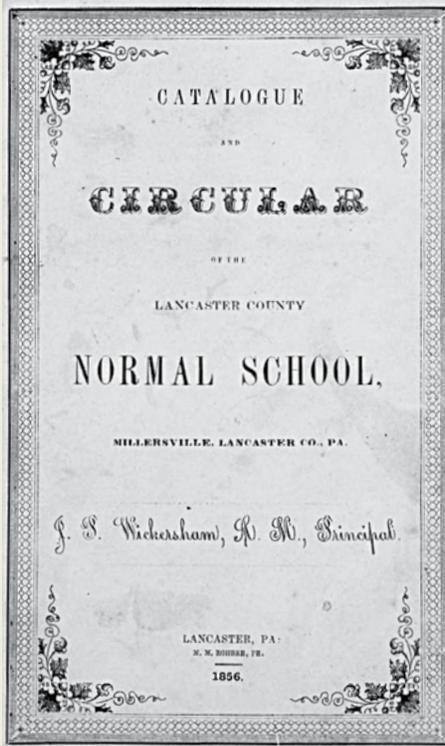


# Digitization at Millersville

A graduate student stops by to discuss work related assignments and to share information about a research project underway. The conversation shifts to a discussion of a major research project he completed while an undergraduate at Millersville. He concludes that the digitized *Columbia Spy* made his research about 19th century Columbia history possible.

Available through the LancasterHistory.org website, the *Columbia Spy* is one of several local historic newspapers digitized through the joint efforts of the Lancaster County Digitization Project, a consortium of educational, cultural, and historical organizations in Lancaster (including Millersville) dedicated to digitizing local cultural heritage primary source materials.

Here in Archives & Special Collections at Millersville, ongoing digitization projects are making additional resources available online for students and researchers. The Millersville University course catalogs (1855-2000) are available through the Keystone Library Network Digital Collections website: <http://digital.klnpa.org/cdm/millersville>. Search these catalogs to find out how the Civil War affected life at Millersville, the



Millersville catalog, 1856

Rules of behavior from 1881 provide background about the student rebellion that year, which ended up being covered in the *New York Times*.

Other collections available through the KLN website include *The Snapper* (1925-2005), 19th and 20th century alumni publications, and a growing collection of oral histories. The most recent addition is the *Millersville Yearbooks*, 1899-2012. Researchers will be able to browse or search through 113 years of content by and about Millersville students and faculty.

In addition to these projects, student assistants in Franklin House have assisted in scanning and transcribing a variety of primary source materials. Faculty minutes from the 19th century, as well as rare pamphlets and chap

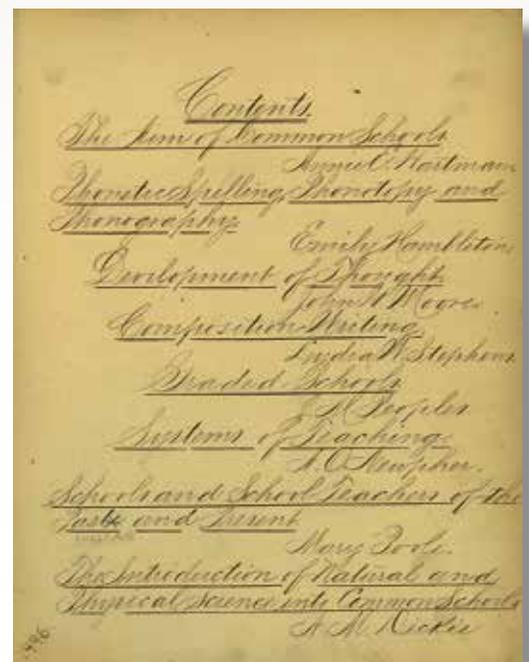
books, have been digitized. Students continue to scan and transcribe some of the oldest documents from Millersville's history: Trustee minutes, 19th century Student Theses, and Minutes books from the Page and Normal Literary Societies.

These additional resources will help researchers understand much more about life on campus in Millersville's early days. Digitizing unique materials from Millersville's history allows researchers here and around the world to access primary sources related to the history of education.

cost of tuition or laundry in 1925, who was on the faculty during the 1960s, or about the development of new areas of study when Millersville joined the Pa. State System.



Millersville Touchstone, 1932.



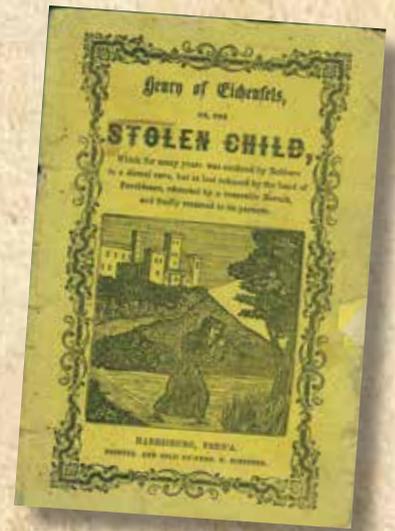
Millersville Student Theses, 1858.

# Recent Additions

Each issue of the Folio highlights recent additions to the collection, made possible through funding from the Friends of the Library or through donation.

## Works for Children and the Young at Heart

**Henry of Eichenfels, or the Stolen Child** was printed in Harrisburg, Pa., in the 1850s by Theodore F. Scheffer. A translation of the original by Christoph Von Schmid, the small chapbook is subtitled “which for many years was confined by Robbers in a dismal cave, but at last released by the hand of Providence, educated by a venerable Hermit and finally restored to its parents.” Schmid was a popular German author of books for children whose works focused on the benevolence of God.



**Big Little Books and Better Little Books** were published by The Whitman Publishing Company during the 1930s and 1940s. Several recent additions to our collection in this genre include *Uncle Wiggily's Adventures*, *Terry and War in the Jungle*, and *Little Orphan Annie and the Gooneyville Mystery*. These 3 ½" by 4 ½" chunky books had colorful cartoon illustrated covers with black and white illustrations inside, opposite the 12-13 lines of text on each page. *Little Orphan Annie and the Gooneyville Mystery* follows Annie as she alerts the police after finding a dead man in the ice house. This **Better Little Book** is based on the newspaper comic strip written by Harold Gray, with the story by Helen Berke (published 1944, 1946, 1947).

## Immigration and Housing

**The Dangerous Classes of New York** was published by Charles Loring Brace in New York in 1872. Brace is considered the father of the foster care movement, creating the Children's Aid Society in 1853 and the Orphan Train movement (1853-1929). Brace wrote *The Dangerous Classes of New York* to illustrate the history of his twenty years of working with poor children. The book includes historical treatment of poverty and crime and the development of the Children's Aid Society. Tipped/glued into our copy of the book is a letter (dated January 13, 1862) on Children's Aid Society letterhead from Brace to the book's owner, Charles Nordhoff.

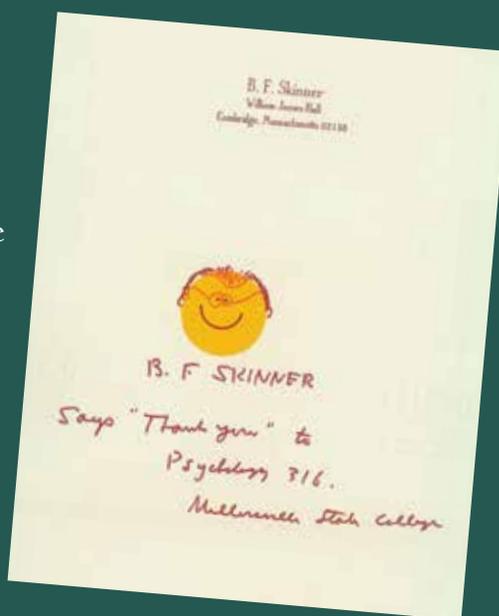


**The Tenement House Problem**, including the report of the New York State Tenement House Commission was published in New York in 1903 by the MacMillan Company. The writers state: “This book is published as a contribution to the cause of municipal reform, to report progress made and to guide progress still to come. It embodies the result of the investigations made in connection with the New York State Tenement House Commission appointed by President Roosevelt when he was governor of the State of New York in 1900.” The volume reviews housing conditions in cities across the country, and compares them to conditions in European cities at the turn of the 20th century. Contents also include statistics, charts, photographs, reports on spread of disease and fire, and narratives on “tenement evils as seen by the tenants” as well as inspectors.

## Treasures of the Archives

by Janet Dotterer

This summer we received numerous boxes of folders from Dr. Susan Luek, psychology. In the course of going through the files, our student worker, Rose Chiango, came across a folder simply named "Skinner." When she opened the folder she found an envelope and handwritten note from the eminent psychologist, B.F. Skinner (1904-1990). The postmark was 24 March 1975, just a year after he had retired from Harvard. In the note he thanks Psychology 316, a new course that was offered as a theoretical laboratory investigating the concepts of learning and motivation. One can only assume that the students were greatly motivated by his research. To learn more about the letter from B. F. Skinner, go to: <http://bit.ly/18XTVG2>



### Electronic Folio

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### Becoming a Friend

People become Friends of the 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.

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