

# friends folio

A Newsletter from the  
Friends of Ganser Library

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## Celebrating 35 Years of Ganser Library

By Barbara Hunsberger

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The Friends of Ganser Library has sponsored a new exhibit located in the lobby of Ganser Library. This two-part exhibit illustrates the history of librarianship at Millersville while including interesting tidbits from the rich heritage of the University. The first part of the exhibit, titled *MU Library: Reflections of Our Past*, begins with the founding of the school in 1855 and continues through 1966. The second part of the exhibit begins in 1967 and celebrates the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the move from the old library to Ganser Library in September 1967. This part of the exhibit, which begins in 1967 and continues until the present, is titled, *Ganser Library – A Celebration of 35 Years*.

The exhibit includes photographs and artifacts from the University Archives housed on the fourth floor of the library. A major component of the exhibit is a timeline showing both university and library events since 1855 alongside major national and world events, which place the institution and the library in a broader context. The many photographs and artifacts provide a picture of the institution's progress from a provincial and rural teachers institute to a state normal school and to the current university that is rated as one of top 10 public universities offering masters degrees in the North.

The University Archives is a fascinating repository of information, photographs and artifacts from the almost 150 years of University history. We uncovered a number of wonderful and surprising tidbits of information about the University, the library and the individuals who have graced the halls of this institution. Did you know that Millersville originally had three separate libraries? There was the college library, which had a small collection of reference books and other materials. However the main collections were the libraries funded and controlled by the two competing literary societies, Page and Normal. If you were a member of the Page Literary Society, you could not take out books from the Normal Literary Society unless you had a member do it for you, and vice versa. You were also prohibited from checking out books if you had not paid your membership dues to your respective literary society. There was such a competition for members that the leadership of the societies met the trains in Lancaster to recruit the freshman as they were arriving for their first semester. The two society libraries continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A major force for libraries on Millersville's campus occurred with the arrival of Miss

### Classes Use Archives & Special Collections for Research

During fall semester, 95 students from four sections of English 110 and from Anthropology 233 used resources from Ganser Library's Archives and Special Collections for their research.

Dr. Patricia Gible's Historic Anthropology class investigated the differences between primary and secondary resources on topics relating to Pennsylvania history. Students were introduced to resources that focused on the history of the brewing/distilling, coal, transportation, education, and hotel/tourism in Pennsylvania. Of particular interest was the Solomon Helser Daybook (MS 118)

which contains the business records of Solomon Helser, a lumber mill operator, distiller and farmer, who lived with his family on the border between Washington County, MD, and Franklin County, PA from the 1840s until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Helser's business records record the daily sales of whiskey, the amount of liquor purchased, the amount paid, and by whom. Students also enjoyed seeing the receipts of Abraham Peters (MS 70), a distiller and tavern owner in Millersville from the 1780s to 1818.

Prof. Sally Woodward-Miller asked her

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UNIVERSITY  
Millersville, PA 17551-0302

A member of Pennsylvania's State  
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## Celebrating 35 Years

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Helen A. Ganser as the head librarian in 1911. She was a 19-year-old graduate with a certificate in librarianship from what is now Drexel University. Her salary was \$500 a year plus room and board. Miss Ganser lived in quarters in the women's dormitory part of Old Main until her retirement in 1952. When Miss Ganser came to Millersville there was no electricity in the library building, so the library had to close around 4:00 pm in winter due to the lack of lighting. Electricity was not supplied to the library until the early 1920s and there were no bathrooms in the building until after Miss Ganser's retirement.

Interesting tidbits of more modern University history are also included in the exhibit. With the opening of Ganser Library in the fall of 1967, it was necessary to move the library collection of almost 100,000 volumes from the old library. Much to the dismay of the administration and librarians, the bids for this move came back as too expensive. Concern was also raised as to the length of time the move would take as projected by the moving companies. Therefore the librarians, under the leadership of Isabel Huston devised the plan for a book walk. The administration agreed to cancel classes and the students, faculty and administration were engaged as volunteers to move this library collection. On September 21, 1967 the entire book collection was moved from the old library to the new in approximately 4 hours. Each volunteer carried a stack of books about 12 inches high, which had a color-coded moving tag, attached. The color of the tag indicated on which floor of Ganser Library housed that part of the collection. Librarians and staff were situated throughout both buildings to provide guidance and assistance to the volunteers.

You will find additional interesting anecdotes illustrated in this exhibit celebrating the history and librarianship of Millersville University. The exhibit will be on display in the main lobby of Ganser Library throughout the 2002-2003 academic year and is available for viewing whenever the library is open. Library hours are posted on the library's web site at [www.library.millersville.edu/](http://www.library.millersville.edu/), or by calling 717-872-3665.



## Classes Use Archives

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English 110 students to select a personal experience and connect their own family history to events and experiences in a broader historical context. Students were to write about experiences in contemporary American life and to find parallels with events during and after the Civil War. Students pursued topics such as the history of the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, history of contraception, theater during the Civil War, the underground railroad, music in the Civil War, and Jewish women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century using the resources of Archives & Special Collections as well as digital archives available through the Library of Congress and other research libraries across the country. Connecting personal interest with events and people of historical significance offered the opportunity for students to explore writing in new ways. Especially important to these classes were groups of people who have been overlooked in standard approaches to history.

Dr. Carla Rineer's two honors sections of English 110 examined differences between secondary and primary local history source materials. Students were fascinated by the diaries of Maggie Cameron (MS 157), daughter of Simon Cameron, who chronicled both her travels to Great Britain and Europe in 1857, and her trip to Russia in 1862 when her father was appointed ambassador. Students were surprised to find signatures of early faculty and administrators such as Lyte and Wickersham in the autograph books of Millersville Normal School students (RG 6-D). These books contain other items of interest such as poems, drawings and locks of hair. The Wickersham collection was of interest to education students who reviewed how teachers in training were taught subjects such as geography, language, history, and medical science during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Dr. Rineer's classes were lively and engaged in animated discussions about the materials. One section needed to schedule an additional session to cover the digital archives, because students were so interested in the Archives & Special Collections materials.

## Spring 2003 Bus Trip

The Friends of Ganser library will sponsor a special one-day bus trip to New Castle, Delaware, on Saturday, March 15, 2003. We will be leaving from Millersville University campus (Pike House lot) at 7:30 am and will return by 5:30 pm. This tour of colonial New Castle begins with a welcome reception and tour of the Read House, a Federal-style mansion built in 1801 by the son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution. A short guided walking tour of Old New Castle will feature the New Castle Court Museum, built in 1732 to serve as the first Capitol of Delaware, and home of the colonial and First State Assembly. Discover New Castle's colonial history and its role in the Underground Railroad. Take the afternoon to eat lunch on your own and explore shops and historic buildings. The Dutch House, initially built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, displays the furnishings of early Dutch colonists. The Amstel House, built by Dr. John Finney, demonstrates the refinements of early colonial life.

The cost for the trip is \$50.00/person and includes the welcome reception and admission/tour of the Read House, the guided walking tour of Old New Castle, Courthouse Museum, escort, driver gratuity and round trip motor coach transportation. To reserve your seat, make checks payable to Millersville University/Friends of Ganser Library and mail to Catherine (Kitty) Glass, 356 Herr Ave., Millersville, PA 17551. Contact Kitty at 872-7743 for more information.

### *Seeking Historic Materials and Memorabilia*

In preparation for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Millersville's founding, we are actively collecting historic materials and memorabilia from Millersville's history. If you have something you would like to donate to Archives & Special Collections, please contact Marilyn Parrish at (717) 872-3624 or [marilyn.parrish@millersville.edu](mailto:marilyn.parrish@millersville.edu).

### *Friends of Ganser Library Board Members, 2002-2003*

President – Janet Dotterer  
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## Letter from the President

This year we celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of Ganser Library. Please take the time to stop by the library lobby and see the exhibit mounted by Barbara Hunsberger and Marie Zubatsky. It is a chance to see the history of the library as a whole, as well as of the building. We will celebrate the anniversary of the library in April with a number of activities during the week of April 6. The Friends remain very active in supporting the work of the Special Collections area and the Board members deserve special thanks for their work during the book sales and their willingness to serve. As you can see from the newsletter it will be a busy spring for the Friends, with a bus trip, the annual dinner and book sale, as well as the library celebration, your participation and support are greatly appreciated.

Janet L. Dotterer

## Annual Book Sale

The Twenty-fifth Annual Book Sale will be held during the week of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2003 on the first floor lobby of Ganser Library. Donations are welcome and pickup of books can be arranged. We welcome books in all areas and are particularly interested in local history and children's books. Please contact Leo Shelley at 872-3610 for more information.

## Lecture Series

### *Fall 2002*

On September 17, 2002, Dr. Dennis Downey presented a lecture on the history of Millersville University to a standing room only crowd in the Old Main Room at the Bolger Conference Center in Gordinier Hall. Dr. Downey described pivotal events and individuals in the development of Millersville from the first Normal School in 1859 through the beginnings of Millersville State Teacher's College in 1927. His presentation was followed by a lively time of questions and discussion. Dr. Downey's work on the history of the University continues in preparation for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

### *Spring 2003*

The Spring Banquet and Lecture will be held on April 1, 2003 at 6:30 pm, in the Bolger Conference Center. Barbara Hunsberger and Dr. George Stine will present an anecdotal history of Millersville, incorporating postcards and other illustrative material. Stop by the Book Sale in the first floor lobby of Ganser Library before coming to the banquet to take advantage of the wonderful selection of used books.

## Recent Additions

With the support of the Friends of Ganser Library, the Special Collections Department has acquired a number of unique manuscripts, rare books and publications on local and cultural history. The highlights of these acquisitions are listed below.



### Manuscript Collection

- **Account books of John Bachman Lumber Accounts and Mill Laborers Time Book**

John Bachman was the owner (with Isaac Pusey) of a lumber mill in Columbia, PA. These account books cover the years 1870-1880 and add to the Bachman papers already in the collection (MS 170), which document the Bachman & Pusey lumber business before and during the Civil War.

- **Robert Scott Account Book**

Robert Scott was a farmer at Oak Hill, Little Britain Township, Lancaster County, Pa.

The account book includes record of income and expenditures in the operation of a farm during the years 1865-1870. Ledger records include payments to laborers in cash and in kind, as well as funds expended for the purchase of lime, and income received in payment for farm produce.



### Rare Book Collection

- **Elflora of the Susquehanna: a poem**, by Caleb Harlan.

Printed for the author by J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1879. An eighteen part poem highlights the scenes and characters of the author's childhood home near the Susquehanna.

- **Fearful adventures in Pennsylvania's wilds; or The startling narrative of Adelaide Lane.** Barclay & Co., 1857.

An illustrated tale of abduction and unrequited love, set in the "wilds" of Pennsylvania.

- **Snarl of a cynic: a rhyme**, by Benneville Ottomar Hoffman, a Pennsylvania Teuton. Published by P.M. Heitler, 1868.

Published in Ephrata, PA, this small volume contains the forty-page rhyme of a poet of Pennsylvania Dutch heritage. The printer notes his hope that "perchance the public might be inclined to purchase and read a work by one of that class of native Americans, known as the 'Pennsylvania Dutch,' a peculiar class of people, of peculiar habits and customs, and perhaps of peculiar turns of thought;—perchance that the rhymes of a 'Pennsylvania Teuton,' might be a novelty to the reading public, and thus, by a stroke of fortune, remunerate the printer for his otherwise hazardous undertaking."

- **Widow's sixpence, or, Go thou and do likewise**, by Josephine Nall. Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1858.

Originally part of the library of the Normal Sunday School of Millersville, PA, this small volume recounts the tale of a widow's generosity and its effect on the giving of others.

## Pennsylvania Regimental Histories

- **Attack and defense of Little Round Top, Gettysburg, July 2, 1863**, by Oliver Willcox, Norton. Neale Publishing Co., 1913.

- **First City Zouaves and City Grays: history of Harrisburg's leading military organization, 1861-1913 : series of sketches covering fifty-two years of service in peace and war**, compiled by Lieut. Charles P. Meck.. Telegraph Print, 1914.

- **History of Company K of the 140th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers (1862-'65)**, by B.F. Powelson, under the direction of Aleck Sweeney and

with the co-operation of others of the company. Carnahan Print. Co., 1906.

- **History of the Eighty-third regiment Pennsylvania volunteers**, by A. M. Judson. B. F. H. Lynn, [1865]

- **History of the Fifty-seventh Regiment :Pennsylvania Infantry. 57th Regiment, Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry, First Brigade, First Division, Third Corps, and Second Brigade, Third Division, Second Corps, Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865**, compiled by James M. Martin ... [et al.]. McCoy & Calvin, printer, [19—?]

- **History of the Pittsburgh Washington infantry: 102nd (old 13th) regiment, Pennsylvania veteran volunteers, and its forebears: Pittsburgh light infantry, 1792-1809; Pittsburgh blues (war 1812) 1809-1820; Jackson independent blues, (Mexican war) by the Washington Infantry of Pittsburgh, Pa.** Burgum Printing Co., 1931.

- **Kilpatrick and our Cavalry: comprising a sketch of the life of General Kilpatrick : with an account of the cavalry raids, engagements, and operations under his command, from the beginning of the rebellion to the surrender of Johnston** by James Moore. W.J. Widdleton, 1865.

## Local and Cultural History Collection

- **City transformed: redevelopment, race, and suburbanization in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1940-1980**, by David Schuyler. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002.

- **Delaware and Lehigh Canals**, compiled by Ann Bartholomew; researched by Lance E. Metz. Center for Canal History and Technology, 1989.

- **Down the Susquehanna to the Chesapeake**, by Jack Brubaker. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002.



***Pennsylvania Regimental Histories***  
***(secondary resources, reprints,***  
***and edited works)***

- **Foreigners in their own land: Pennsylvania Germans in the early republic**, by Steven M. Nolt. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002.
- **Friend among the Senecas: the Quaker mission to Cornplanter's people**, by David Swatzler. Stackpole Books, 2000.
- **Garden spot: Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the Old Order Amish, and the selling of rural America**, by David J. Walbert. Thesis (Ph. D.), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2000.
- **Illustrated historical atlas of Berks County, Penna**, compiled & drawn from personal examinations, surveys & under the personal supervision of F. A. Davis and H. L. Kochersperger. Masthof Press, 2001.
- **Just over the line: Chester County and the underground railroad**, by William C. Kashatus, Chester County Historical Society; Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002.
- **Mennonite piety through the centuries: its genius and its literature**, by Robert Friedmann. Timely Publications, printed by Schlabach Printers, 1949.
- **Two centuries of corrections in Pennsylvania: a commemorative history**, by John C. McWilliams. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2002.

- **Avery Harris Civil War journal**, edited by Peter Tomasak. Luzerne National Bank, 2000.
- **Bound to be a soldier: the letters of Private James T. Miller, 111th Pennsylvania Infantry, 1861-1864**, edited by Jedediah Mannis and Galen R. Wilson. University of Tennessee Press, 2001.
- **Brief history of the Fourth Pennsylvania Veteran Cavalry: embracing organization, reunions, dedication of monument at Gettysburg, and address of General W.E. Doster, Venango County Battalion, reminiscences, etc.**, compiled by William E. Doster. Longstreet House, 1997.
- **Civil War journal of Colonel William J. Bolton: 51st Pennsylvania, April 20, 1861-August 2, 1865**, edited by Richard A. Sauers. Combined Pub., 2000.
- **Civil War letters of first Lieutenant James B. Thomas, adjutant, 107th Pennsylvania volunteers**, edited by Mary Warner Thomas and Richard A. Sauers. Butternut and Blue, 1995.
- **"Duty well done": the history of Edward Baker's California Regiment (71st Pennsylvania Infantry)**, by Gary G. Lash. Butternut and Blue, 2001.
- **History of a cavalry company: a complete record of Company "A," 4th Penn'a Cavalry, as identified with that regiment, and with the Second Brigade, Second Division, Cavalry Corps, in all the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac, during the late Civil War**, by William Hyndman. Longstreet House, 1997.
- **History of the One Hundred and Fifty-third Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry: which was recruited in Northampton County, Pa., 1862-1863**, written by W.R. Kiefer; assisted by Newton H. Mack. Butternut and Blue, 1996.
- **Hurrah for the artillery!: Knap's Independent Battery "E", Pennsylvania Light Artillery**, compiled by James P. Brady. Thomas Publications, 1992.

- **Infantryman Pettit: the Civil War letters of Corporal Frederick Pettit, late of Company C, 100th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment, "The Roundheads," 1862-1864**, edited by William Gilfillan Gavin. White Mane Pub. Co., 1990.
- **Inside the Army of the Potomac: the Civil War experience of Captain Francis Adams Donaldson, 1840-1928**, edited by J. Gregory Acken. Stackpole Books, 1998.
- **Memoirs of Charles Henry Veil: a soldier's recollections of the Civil War and the Arizona Territory**, edited and with an introduction by Herman J. Viola. Orion Books, 1993.
- **My life in the Irish Brigade: the Civil War memoirs of Private William McCarter, 116th Pennsylvania Infantry**, edited by Kevin E. O'Brien. Savas Pub., 1996.
- **Ricketts' battery: a history of Battery F, 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery**, by Richard A. Sauers & Peter Tomasak. Luzerne National Bank, 2001.
- **Right flank at Gettysburg: an account of the operations of General Gregg's cavalry command, showing their important bearing upon the results of the battle**, by William Brooke-Rawle. Olde Soldier Books, [198-].
- **Stopping Pickett: the history of the Philadelphia Brigade**, by Bradley M. Gottfried. White Mane Books, 1999.
- **35 days to Gettysburg: the campaign diaries of two American enemies**, by Mark Nesbitt. Stackpole Books, 1992.



## 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.

## 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.

