

STHS Archive report
2014

RAMcEwan Oct. 4,

HSP Small Archives "update" Presentation Oct. 2, 2014, Mercer Museum

HSP's Jack McCarthy, who visited STHS twice, and his team of archivists presented their update to a fair size audience of historical society representatives. There are a lot of us! 23 small repositories in Historical Societies in Bucks County alone.

Much of the presentation is to be found on their web site however key learnings I gleaned and would like to share are:

1. The program was just given more grant money to last to April 2016...good news.

At that time it will migrate to another organization for long term over sight.

* Phase 3 (now) will get into tailoring archive training..good news for STHs if we take advantage of whatever they offer. Their approach appears to be very hands on, and for me common sense, and I trust effective.

2. PACSCL website and archive finding aid.

PACSCL is a centralized resource/site being constantly added to, that hosts Philadelphia museum and Historical Society archives. it was initially built for large professional institutions however now, HSP's (and thus STHS') information will be added to this powerful finding tool. Good news.

3. UPDATING our Archive items and promoting in HSP/PACSCL

We are encouraged to write up in their format, our archive additions and submit them to HSP who will enter them into HSP and PACSCL. In line with doing this we need to have on our STHS web site a parallel archive directory so we capture our own information which visitors can quickly find. Examples that come to mind which we have on our site but not informed HSP about include the interactive tour maps, the new map collection, the Oral History Collection. Items we are just about to get to the posting stage include: our library update & the Waring collection

4. FREE helpful SOFTWARE:

The mentioned VIEWSHARE as very good for (interactive) maps and photos.

5. BEST archive finds of HSP's search.

They highlighted an archive that to me looked a lot like our Waring travel photo & papers collection. The point they made was "yes the photo's are not local history, BUT they are great records of an early travel period and along with the diary and articles are wonderful history and will be studied once researcher get to them." So we should double think at STHS on what to keep and who to keep it and certainly how to promote it via PACSCL.

