

MG-139
Frank W. Melvin Papers
1708 (1920-1961) 1961

Papers of Frank W. Melvin (b. 1884, d. 1961), Philadelphia lawyer who held many important legal and historical positions in Pennsylvania. He was chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, 1936-40; chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1956-61. (See RG-13) He was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania 300th Anniversary Commission, 1937-38. (See RG-25) He was a member of the Valley Forge Park Commission, 1936-39; and the Brandywine Battlefield Commission, 1947-61.

Gift of Mrs. Frank W. Melvin, Philadelphia, March 19, 1964.

Notes on organizations represented in the papers and Melvin's participation in them.

American Swedish Historical Museum, 1928 (1936-38) 1939

The governing body of the American Swedish Historical Museum was the Board of Trustees (or Executive Council) of the American Sons and Daughters of Sweden. The Oct., 1937, minutes note that the name, American Sons and Daughters of Sweden, had been legally changed to American-Swedish Historical Foundation. Frank W. Melvin was chairman of the Board of Trustees from Nov. 23, 1936 until October 1938. Included in the correspondence are constitutions, 1928, June 24, 1939; Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1936-37; Minutes of the Women's Committee, 1938, and Reports 1936-38.

Brandywine Battlefield, 1946-1961, n.d.

Beginning in 1946 Frank W. Melvin was chairman of the Brandywine Battlefield Committee of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania. In this capacity Frank W. Melvin worked for legislation to establish a Brandywine Battlefield Park. By Act No. 517 (Senate Bill No. 235) of the General Assembly on July 5, 1947, the Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission was established. On Nov. 17, 1947, Gov. James H. Duff appointed Melvin to the Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission. Frank W. Melvin held the following positions on the Commission: Treasurer, Dec. 6, 1947-1952; Vice Chairman, 1953-56; member ex officio as chairman of the PHMC, 1956-61.

This file is mainly correspondence and includes a small amount of correspondence between Melvin and Gov. James H. Duff and copies of minutes. Also included are clippings, legislation, lists of Commission members, maps, photographs, publications, rules of organization and procedure, and traveling expense vouchers.

The New England Society of Pennsylvania, 1920-1960, n.d.

Frank W. Melvin became a life member of the society in 1921. He served as Vice President, 1937-45?; President, 1948-1954. This correspondence includes copies of the minutes, clippings, constitution and By-Laws, lists of officers and members.

Pa. Federation of Historical Societies, Committee on Preservation of Pa. Antiquities. Melvin was chairman of this committee, March 1929-1933.

Pennsylvania Swedish Pioneer Commission, 1948

This commission was appointed by Gov. James H. Duff on April 16, 1948, to represent the Commonwealth and to make arrangements to welcome the Royal Swedish Pioneer Delegation when it visited Philadelphia on June 29, 1948. Frank W. Melvin was appointed chairman of this commission.

Correspondence includes lists of members and minutes.

Valley Forge Park Commission, 1935-39, n.d.
Melvin was a member, 1936-39

Included in the correspondence are clippings; legislation, appropriation Bill, 1937 and Zoning Bill, 1937; Reports, Superintendent and Landscape Architect; Speech.

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6 Boxes

	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>
GM		
0708	1	1
Biographical Data Sheet, 1957		1
<u>General Correspondence, 1920-1961</u>		13
Achterman, Leo A., 1941		1
American Swedish Historical Museum, 1928, (1936-38), 1939, n.d.		1
B, 1940-41		7
Bining, Arthur C., 1940		29
Brandywine Battlefield, 1946-48	2&3	1
Brandywine Battlefield, 1949-1961, n.d.		1
C, 1940-43		1
Cadzow, Donald A., 1940-43		1
D, 1943		1
Dougherty, Cardinal, 1942		1
Duff, Gov. James H., 1948		1
F, 1944		1
Finland, Legation of, 1939-40, 1942, 1954, 1958		1
G, 1940		1
H, 1940		1
J, 1940		1
Jones, Gilbert S., 1942		1
L, 1940, 1943		1
Lawrence, David L., 1944		1
Leach, M. Atherton, 1940-42		1
M, 1940-44		1
N, 1940-42		1
New England Society of Pennsylvania, 1920-24, 1929, 1931, 1936-43, 1947-1960, n.d.		14
Okie, R. Brognard, 1940-42	4	1
P, 1940		1
Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, Committee on Preservation of Pa. Antiquities, 1929-33, n.d.		2
Pennsylvania Swedish Pioneer Commission, 1948, n.d.		2
Shoemaker, Henry W., 1941-42, 1947		1
Stevens, S. K., 1940-45, 1947-48		1
Swedish Colonial Society, 1956, 1958		1
T, 1940		1
UNESCO, 1955-56		1
Valley Forge Park Commission, 1935-39, n.d.		10
W, 1940-1944, n.d.		1
0710	5	2
Commissions and Honors, 1936-38, 1949, 1956-57, 1959, n.d.		1
Deeds, 1708-1824		1

	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>
<u>Maps</u> , 1912, 1917, 1933, 1935-38, 1943, 1945, n.d.		
Bucks County, 1935		1
Chester County, 1912, 1943		1
Delaware County, 1912, 1933, n.d.		1
District of Columbia, 1937		1
French Creek Project, 1938		1
Genealogical Map of the Counties, 1936		1
Maryland, 1938		1
Montgomery County, 1943, n.d.		1
New Jersey, 1917, n.d.		1
Valley Forge, 1945		1
0711 Pamphlets and Articles, 1926, 1930, 1933, 1937-41,	6	
1948-49, 1952, 1955-56, 1960, n.d.	(END)	6
Photographs, 1958, n.d.		1
Programs and Invitations, 1937-38, 1957		6
Speech, 1958		1