



Special Collections and University Archives

**Dr. John R. Sahli Papers
Manuscript Group 58**

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Last Modified October 22, 2018**

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Dr. John R. Sahli Papers, Manuscript Group 58
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and Archives
6 boxes; 6 linear feet

Biographical Note

Dr. John Rankin Sahli (May 1, 1910-February 27, 1976) was a Professor of History from 1946 until his retirement in 1975 at Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC), which became Indiana State College (ISC) in 1959, and achieved university status as Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in 1965-1966. John Sahli was born in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, and his parents were Ada Knowles Sahli (March 14, 1875-August 21, 1961) who came from Derbyshire, England, and Augustus Sahli (August 26, 1873-August 1941) who was born in Harmony, Pennsylvania. John Sahli earned his undergraduate degree from Geneva College, and went to the University of Pittsburgh for his graduate degrees in History. After teaching history at Beaver Falls Junior High School for several years, Dr. Sahli earned his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh in 1941. John Sahli married Betty McClane (April 4, 1915-January 29, 1996) on June 4, 1939, and she was the daughter of F.W. and Anna Laura Smith McClane of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

Dr. John R. Sahli first taught in the Keith Laboratory School (see [Record Group 19](#)) at Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC) in 1946, and later he taught history in the Social Studies Department and the Department of History at ISTC. He was a Professor of History from 1957 to 1975, and he served as assistant chair of the Department of History during his tenure. Moving to Indiana in 1946, John and Betty Sahli were active members of the community and belonged to Grace Methodist Church. Betty Sahli also belonged to the Order of the Eastern Star. Dr. John Sahli was involved in Freemasonry, the Indiana County YMCA, Kiwanis Club, Phi Delta Kappa, and the Republican Party. Dr. Sahli was also a founding member of the Pennsylvania Council for Social Studies (PCSS), see [Manuscript Group 88](#).

Scope and Content

The Dr. John R. Sahli Collection includes lecture notes, teaching plans, timelines and maps, bibliographies, and graduate papers on topics in Pennsylvania history. Most of the material dates from the 1960s and 1970s.

See [Manuscript Group 23: Dr. John R. and Betty Sahli Collection](#) (20 boxes) for additional lecture notes in Box 1, and publications including commercial catalogs that were collected by the Sahli family.

Provenance

This collection was donated to the IUP Special Collections and University Archives from the estate of retired IUP History Professor John R. Sahli by his wife Betty McClane Sahli. Additional materials were also donated by their daughter Dr. Nancy Sahli.

Restrictions

None, this collection is open for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the [Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist](#).

Processor

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on October 22, 2018.

Container List

Box 1 Courses and Subject Files (25 folders)

1. Lecture Notes/Course Materials: History of Civilization I (2 notebooks), 1957-1962
2. Lecture Notes/Course Materials: History of Civilization II, 1957-1970
3. Syllabus for Social and Economic History (HIST 531), 1972
4. Notes for Civilization I
5. Course Materials and Lecture Notes for History of Civilization I, 1965
6. Course Materials and Lecture Notes for History of Civilization I, 1964
7. PA HI 365, Second Semester 1966-1967
8. PA HI 365, First semester 1973-1974
9. PA HI 531 Economic and Social History, Second semester 1972-1973
10. HI 104 History of US and Pennsylvania II, Summer 1974
11. HI 102 History of US and Pennsylvania II, Summer 1967
12. SS 365 History of Pennsylvania, 1966
13. ED 451 Teaching Social Studies in Secondary Schools
14. SS 531 Economics and Social History
15. SS 301 United States and Pennsylvania, Summer 1965
16. HI 353/553 England 1688-present, Summer 1973
17. HI 102 Civilization II, Second Semester 1967
18. HI 345 Colonial America, Summer 1969
19. HI 531 Social and Economic History of Pennsylvania, Second Semester 1971-1972
20. HI 102 History of Civilization II, Second Semester 1967-1968
21. HI 522 Southwestern Pennsylvania, Summer 1971
22. HI 521 Southwestern Pennsylvania, Second Semester 1968-1969
23. Time Line: Significant Events in Pennsylvania History
24. Maps of Pennsylvania (overheads)
25. Panel Discussion (on reel to reel tape)

Box 2 Courses and Subject Files (23 folders)

1. HI 522 Southwestern Pennsylvania, Summer 1970
2. HI 522 Southwestern Pennsylvania, Summer 1971
3. HI 522 Southwestern Pennsylvania, Summer 1974
4. Graduate School Information, 1969
5. HI 365 History of Pennsylvania, First Semester 1972-1973
6. HI 365 History of Pennsylvania, Second Semester 1973-1974
7. SS 201 Civilization I, Summer 1964
8. SS 531 Economic and Social History, First Semester 1960

9. HI 104 United States and Pennsylvania II, Summer 1971
10. HI 103 United States and Pennsylvania I Lectures and Test
11. HI 104 United States and Pennsylvania II, Summer 1973
12. HI 102 Lecture Notes / History of Civilization II
13. HI 365 Lecture Notes/ United States and Pennsylvania II
14. HI 104 Lecture Notes/ United States and Pennsylvania II
15. Bibliography Early Modern France and Bibliography History of France
16. Bibliography Civilization II
17. Contemporary Europe, 1966
18. Student Teaching, 1972-1973
19. Social Science Teaching Techniques, 1966
20. Western Pennsylvania Counties, 1959-1960
21. Pennsylvania History Workshop-binder
22. A List of Teaching Plans for Use in Pennsylvania History
23. HI 104 Lecture Notes/ United States and Pennsylvania II

Box 3 Courses and Subject Files (12 folders)

1. United States and Pennsylvania II, 1971 (2 copies)
2. HI 104 U. S. and Pennsylvania II, Summer Session 1971 (2 copies)
3. HI 104 U. S. and Pennsylvania II, Summer session 1974 (penciled in)
4. HI 104 U. S. and Pennsylvania II, Main Summer Session 1973
5. HI 104 U. S. and Pennsylvania II, Summer Session 1974 (2 copies)
6. HI 365 History of Pennsylvania, First Semester 1971-1972 (2 copies)
7. HI 365 History of Pennsylvania, First Semester 1972-1973 (3 copies)
8. HI 365 History of Pennsylvania, First Semester 1973-1974 (2 copies)
9. HI 365 History of Pennsylvania, First Semester 1974-1975 (2 copies)
10. HI 531 Economic and Social History of Pennsylvania-Southwestern PA Profiles
11. HI 531 Economic and Social History of Pennsylvania, Main Summer Session 1972 (2 copies)
12. HI 531 Economic and Social History of Pennsylvania, Second Semester 1972-1973

Box 4 Pennsylvania History Subject Files (55 folders)

1. Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
2. Armstrong County, Pennsylvania
3. Beaver County, Pennsylvania
4. Blair County, Pennsylvania
5. Bedford County, Pennsylvania
6. Bradford County, Pennsylvania
7. Butler County, Pennsylvania
8. Cambria County, Pennsylvania
9. Chester County, Pennsylvania
10. Clarion County, Pennsylvania
11. Clearfield County, Pennsylvania
12. Elk County, Pennsylvania
13. Erie County, Pennsylvania
14. Jefferson County, Pennsylvania

15. Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania
16. Indiana County, Pennsylvania
17. Lawrence County, Pennsylvania
18. Northumberland County, Pennsylvania
19. Potter County, Pennsylvania
20. Somerset County, Pennsylvania
21. Venango County, Pennsylvania
22. Washington County, Pennsylvania
23. Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
24. York County, Pennsylvania
25. French and Indian War
26. Pennsylvania Profiles
27. Silas M. Clark (1834-1891), Indiana, Pennsylvania
28. Organization of Steelworkers, 1936-1939
29. A Tour Guide to Western Pennsylvania
30. The Quality Life of Homestead, 1900-1910
31. Racial Tensions in Johnstown, 1926-1969
32. Arthur St. Clair and the Pennsylvania-Virginia Boundry Dispute
33. The Story of the Lead Mine Fort; Fort Roberdeau
34. Hannastown: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow ([Hanna's Town](#), Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania) – [Westmoreland County Historical Society](#)
35. Index Cards, index to papers contained in above county files
36. Tour Book of Pennsylvania Counties and Regions (2 copies)
37. History of [Pithole](#) (1865-1877), Venango County, Pennsylvania (first commercial oil well in the United States)
38. Great Depression and Punxsutawney Schools, 1929-1939
39. Pennsylvania Music and Musicians
40. History of the Shawnee Indians in Southwestern Pennsylvania
41. Five Tours in Western Pennsylvania
42. Elementary History of Blair County
43. Local History Analysis Food of the Pioneers
44. Local Analysis of Armagh, Indiana County, Pennsylvania
45. General Charles Campbell
46. Hunting in Early Indiana County
47. Colonel Richard White and His Family
48. Linton Park
49. General Harry White
50. Hugh Henry Brackenridge: Frontier Legend
51. Samuel Breck and Public Education
52. Researching Local History
53. Tasks of the Early Settlers
54. Know Your Pennsylvania-Description and Travel (2 copies)
55. Some Western Pennsylvania Profiles (local histories; 7 spiral notebooks)

Box 5 Pennsylvania History Subject Files and Biographical Information (58 folders)

1. James Buchanan (1791-1868): Lawyer and Politician in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

2. Tour Guide of Indiana County, Pennsylvania
3. Tour Book of Pennsylvania Counties and Regions
4. A Tour Guide of Western Pennsylvania
5. Historical Tours of Indiana County and Western Pennsylvania
6. A Tour Guide of Southwestern Pennsylvania
7. Syllabus: History of Modern Civilization (Revised Edition)
8. Slide Catalog of Historical Sites in Indiana County
9. The Pennsylvania Prison Systems: Past, Present and Future
10. Economic and Social History of Pennsylvania (Committee Report)
11. Indiana County Politically Supports the Civil War in 1864
12. A Historical Study of the Ku Klux Klan in Westmoreland, Armstrong, and Indiana Counties
13. John B. McCormick: Pathfinder for a New Age in Water Turbines
14. A Study of the Altoona Loyal War Governors' Conference of 1862
15. Suggested Readings for the Teacher of Pennsylvania History
16. The Early History of Beaver County, 1781-1900
17. The Problems Encountered in the Renaissance of Pittsburgh, 1943-1950
18. Dorothy Dix (1861-1951) in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, 1844-1861
19. 1890 Autobiography of Andrew Wilkins Wilson (1826-1897), Wilson Hall at IUP
20. Nellie Bly: Fact or Fiction? The Life and Legend of Elizabeth Jane Cochrane (1867-1922)
21. John Pratt Elkin (1860-1915), Indiana County, Pennsylvania
22. Origin of Oil City, Venango County, Pennsylvania
23. William K. Thaw (1818-1889): Pittsburgh Transportation Millionaire, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
24. Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919): His Views on Labor, Allegheny County
25. The Effect of Coal Mining in Armstrong County
26. The Influence of the Babcock and Wilcox Company on Beaver County
27. The Dam that Could Not Break
28. Blairsville's Westinghouse-- A Modern Advancing Industry
29. David Wilmot (1814-1868), A Biographical Sketch
30. Harry L. White (1834-1920), Indiana County, Pennsylvania
31. [Dr. Robert Mitchell](#): The Only Man Convicted of Harboring and Concealing Slaves in Pennsylvania, Dr. Robert Mitchell (1787-April 14, 1862)
32. Albert R. Pechan (1902-1969) A Biography ([Manuscript Group 6](#))
33. James Smith: Frontier Hero or Frontier Villian? James Smith (1737-1812)
34. Military Groups Support Nation in Wars
35. Adopted Son: A Biography of Howard W. Lindaman (1891-1986) Educator and Civic Leader (Pennsylvania)
36. Joseph Johns (Josef Schantz), Founder of Johnstown in 1800 (Swiss German immigrant)
37. John Fritz (1822-1913), Ironmaster of Iron Foundry in Pennsylvania
38. William Findley (1741-1821) Westmoreland County politician
39. A Man for All Seasons: Biography of Neville B. Craig (1787-1863)
40. Judge Jeremiah Murray Burrell (September 1, 1815-October 1, 1856)
41. Armstrong's Journey to Kittanning, General John Armstrong, Sr. (October 13, 1717-March 9, 1795)

42. "Little, Tiny Pieces of Time": Jimmy Stewart (1908-1997)
43. Pennsylvania History: Discover Historic Pennsylvania
44. The Blairsville Native Americans
45. George Findley, First Settler in Indiana County, Pennsylvania
46. John Buchanan McCormick, Master of Many Trades (born November 4, 1838)
47. Significant Events in Pennsylvania History
48. *Harper's Weekly*, June 15, 1889, Volume XXXIII, No. 1695, "After the Johnstown Flood – Relief Party crossing the temporary bridge erected over the Conemaugh"
49. Education: Thesis by John Rankin Sahli, "The Seneca and their Relations to the Colonies during the American Revolution," 1932
50. Education: Doctoral Dissertation by John Sahli, "An Analysis of Early American Geography Textbooks from 1784 to 1840," University of Pittsburgh, 1941
51. Keith Laboratory School (Keith Hall), see [Record Group 19](#) Box 2 (University School)
 - a. *Fun with Tom and Betty: Reading-Readiness Book* (1950)
 - b. *Acorn*, Keith School Yearbook, 1950
 - c. *Acorn*, Keith School Yearbook, 1951
 - d. *Acorn*, Keith School Yearbook, 1952
52. Program: Indiana County Republicans honoring William W. Scranton, Governor of Pennsylvania, October 17, 1963 (signed by Bill Scranton)
53. Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Publications, 1970s
 - a. Dames International Dining (Cookbook), 1971
 - b. Phi Delta Kappa: Epsilon Pi Chapter, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Handbook, 1976
54. Jimmy Stewart 75th Birthday Celebration booklet and newspaper articles, 1983 (see [Manuscript Group 172 Nancy and Steven Zellman Collection](#) and [Manuscript Group 200 James Stewart Collection](#))
 - a. Booklet: Happy Birthday Jimmy: Welcome Home for your 75th, Indiana, Pennsylvania, May 20, 1983
 - b. *Indiana Gazette*, "It's a Wonderful Life," May 19, 1983
55. Biographical Information: Dr. John Rankin Sahli
 - a. Newspaper Articles
 - b. Curriculum Vitae
 - c. Geneva College Transcript
 - d. Sabbatical Leave Report, 1975
 - e. Biographies of Professor Emeriti, Department of History, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP)
 - f. Articles published by John R. Sahli
 - g. World War Two: Air Raid Warden Service, City of Beaver Falls, Instructions to Civilians, Chief Air Raid Warden John R. Sahli, no date (1940s)
56. Diaries kept by John R. Sahli, 1923, 1925, 1929
 - a. Boy Scouts of America Diary, 1923
 - b. Diary, 1925
 - c. Ready Reference Diary, 1929
57. Diaries kept by John R. Sahli, 1931 and 1941

58. Diaries kept by John R. Sahli, 1945 and 1946

Box 6 Diaries and Notebooks kept by Dr. John R. Sahli (5 folders)

1. Diaries kept by John R. Sahli, 1947 and 1956
2. Diary kept by John R. Sahli (notebook), 1966
3. Diary kept by John R. Sahli (notebook), 1967-1971
4. Diary kept by John R. Sahli, 1972-1976
5. Kiwanis International Certificate of Appreciation presented to John R. Sahli in recognition of your address before the Kiwanis Club of Indiana, Pennsylvania, August 1, 1966