Ephraim Dyer IV Collection, ca. 1842, of the sketches of Sherman Day

Circa 1842

Mss.917.48.D33

Table of Contents

Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Creator	Day, Sherman,1806-1884.
Title	Ephraim Dyer IV Collection, ca. 1842, of the sketches of Sherman Day
Date	Circa 1842
Call number	Mss.917.48.D33
Extent	0.5 Linear feet 150 sketches, 100 engravings
Extent	150 sketches, 100 engravings.
Location	LH-MV-E-12
Language	English
Container	1

Abstract

These are the original sketches used for the engravings in Day's 1843 publication, "Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania" (Philadelphia). They are finely detailed renderings of public and private structures and landscape throughout Pennsylvania. Accompanying these sketches are 150 pages of photocopied letters of Day, from originals at Yale University. These were used by Smith in his book.

Background note

Sherman Day was an artist and civil engineer who published an important book on Pennsylvania history in the 1840s. His Historical Collection of the State of Pennsylvania contained many original drawings and descriptions of Pennsylvania life past and present.

Prior to this work, Day, son of Jeremiah Day, Yale's President, and grandson of Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, worked as a merchant and a civil engineer in the Old Northwest. He lived in Pennsylvania for a year, where he undertook the work that would become the Historical Collection of the State of Pennsylvania. In 1849, he traveled to California, where he worked as a miner, surveyor, and professor.

Scope & content

Native American Images note : Sketches of Native American interest include the treaty monument of William Penn and the Indian Nation in Kensington, 1692; the "Indian God" rock in Venango County, just south of Franklin, Pennsylvania; Seneca petroglyphic figures cut into the upper face of the rock.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Presented by Peter R. Dyer and accessioned, 1976. Photocopied items from originals at Yale University received and accessioned, 1980 (1980 1907ms).

Processing Information

Only maps and scanned Native American images are noted.

Indexing Terms

Genre(s)

- Art
- Engravings.
- General Correspondence
- Sketchbooks
- Sketches.

Geographic Name(s)

- Pennsylvania -- Description and travel.

Personal Name(s)

- Penn, William,1644-1718.

Subject(s)

- Architecture -- Pennsylvania.
- Delaware Indians
- Eastern Woodlands Indians
- Indians of North America--Pennsylvania
- Landscape -- Pennsylvania.
- Literature, Arts, and Culture
- Pennsylvania History
- Seneca Indians
- Social Life and Custom

Other Descriptive Information

These are the original sketches used for the engravings in Day's 1843 publication, Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania. They are finely detailed sketches of public and private structures throughout the state. The sketches were reproduced in Murphy D. Smith, Sherman Day: Artist, Forty-niner and Engineer. Accompanying the sketches are 150 pages of photocopied letters of Day, from originals at Yale University. The APS owns Day's original 1843 published work.

Other Descriptive Information

This collection contains the proofs of images for Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania. The book is over 700 pages long with more than 200 images. The book and images capture Pennsylvania life past and present and can provide insight into the customs of the period. Days' engravings provide detailed images of towns and areas of Pennsylvania circa 1840. Some of the over 250 images included in this collection are: Pittsburgh with steamboats traveling up the rivers and smoke spouting in the sky from factories, a redoubt at Fort Pitt, a vista of Reading, mines in western Pennsylvania, Native American engravings found on a rock, the public squares at Chambersburg, Lancaster and Erie, and Ephrata's houses.

In addition to the proofs, the collection contains original sketches and drawings, some of which were not used in the book. The APS also has reproductions of 150 letters Day wrote between 1818-1884.

Collection Inventory

#103 Monument of the Treaty Tree, Kensington	1842	4 x 4 inches black & white engraving

Monument of the Treaty Tree, Kensington, 1842

[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3306]

#135 Indian God	1842	4 x 5 ½ inches pencil sketch

Indian God, 1842

[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3307]

#136 Figures on the rock, Indian God	1842	4 x 5 ½ inches pencil sketch

Figures on the rock, Indian God, 1842

[http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:3305]

Day, Sherman,1806-1884. 1840 1 map, 27.9 x 917.48 D33
 #C Susquehanna Valley of central 26 cm #3.
Pennsylvania

Other Finding Aids

 Realms of Gold, 12 (2).

 Susquehanna Valley of central Pennsylvania. ROG 12(2)

 [http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/fedora/repository/graphics:4777]

Day, Sherman,1806-1884. #D Fort Pitt in 1795 - copied from the large drawing at the Monongahela House	1840	1 map, 19.7 x 12.7 cm	917.48 D33 #3.

Other Finding Aids

  Realms of Gold, 12 (1).