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I spent five weeks in residence at the State Archives thanks to the Scholars-in-Residence program. During those five weeks, I made great strides in my research and came to a better interpretation of the major events that play a prominent role in each of my chapters.

My dissertation has seven chapters in addition to a historiographical essay as an introduction and an extended conclusion. My first chapter begins with Penn's first Frame of Government and ends after the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794. My dissertation follows the history of Pennsylvania as it extended westward and pays particular attention to the politics on the frontier, a field of inquiry often-overlooked by historians. Most historians of Pennsylvania politics study the constant tension between the Assembly and Proprietor and the most recent historians of the frontier have focused on relations between Native Americans and European-Americans. My dissertation hopes to bridge this divide, to examine the politics of the frontier and to examine how Indians shaped the political culture of the frontier.

In order to summarize my dissertation and how the five weeks at the PHMC helped me advance towards its completion, I'd like to briefly summarize each chapter and talk about some of the holdings at the State Archives that I found relevant to each chapter.

My first chapter chronicles early Pennsylvania history, beginning with William Penn's grant then studying the 1701 Frame of Government that last until the Revolution and ending in the 1720s when Pennsylvania experienced a huge influx of new settlers. In order to better access the early history of Pennsylvania's government, I examined the Pennsylvania Executive Correspondence. Much of this has been incorporated into the printed *Pennsylvania Archives*, specifically the *Minutes of the Provincial Council* but not all. Of particular interest was a petition written by the inhabitants of Philadelphia County requesting support from Indians and referring to themselves as "frontier inhabitants." James Merrell in *Into the American Woods*, cites this petition and holding but does not describe its exact contents. This petition will play a central role in my chapter as one of the first requests for defense settlers in outlying regions make and also one of the first instances Pennsylvanians themselves define an area as the "frontier."

I also found documents in this collection extremely relevant to my second chapter. As I mentioned, much of these documents were printed in the *Minutes of the Provincial Council*, but not all. My second chapter focuses heavily on Cresap's War. Cresap's War was a conflict between Maryland and Pennsylvania fought over control of the land west of the Susquehanna. I found a number of highly relevant letters written by Thomas Penn and others on the conflict that will be extremely useful. Although these letters did not change my overall interpretation of the event (the Historical Society of Pennsylvania has hundreds of letters relevant to the story that I had already transcribed), they added additional evidence that will allow me to give as complete a picture of the event as possible. One a related note, one of the PHMC's staff members, Willis, provided me with invaluable guidance and advice. Willis has written extensively on the land patents

given out during the conflict and he shared with me a map that the State Archives has that shows all of the original patents made on the west side of the Susquehanna. This map helped me better understand the geography of the conflict and I subsequently used the map for a conference paper I delivered on the conflict in September 2008. Audience members commented on how effective the map was as a complement to the paper I presented.

My third chapter is a chapter that was in need of the most archival research and the resources at the PHMC helped me solidify my thinking on this chapter. In this chapter, I explore the Seven Years War, the first time full-scale war came to Pennsylvania. I argue that those living beyond Philadelphia began to cohere and bridge ethnic and religious divides during the war. As a result of Assembly policy with which they disagreed, the frontier began to construct a new political platform, one that was anti-Quaker and anti-Indian. I found numerous holdings relevant to this chapter.

Three collections in particular are worth mentioning, as they helped me come to this conclusion. They are the Fort Pitt Museum Collection, the Shippen-Burd Papers, and the John Harris Papers. Each of these had important correspondence on the structure and composition of locally formed militia regiments, on the construction and maintenance of forts, and on the relations between western settlers with both Indians and the colonial government.

My fourth chapter focuses on three events that happened in the Pennsylvania west between 1763 and 1768: The Paxton Boys Rebellion in 1763, the Black Face Boys Rebellion in 1765, and the Frederick Stump affair in 1768. I argue that these three episodes, all of which involved settler mobilizations in opposition to Indians and Indian policy, evoke a new political awareness on the frontier that was a direct result of the Seven Years War.

I found a number of documents and holdings at the PHMC particularly useful for this chapter. When I came to the PHMC, I had identified a number of MG and RG that I needed to consult. I did not realize, however, that the PHMC held five microfilm reels of the Thomas Gage Papers. I knew that the Gage papers were an extremely rich source for information on the Black Face Boys and that they had been relatively untapped. In my first visit in August, I transcribed and photocopied the documents relevant to the Black Face Boys. Additionally, the Gage Papers helped me better understand the imperial perspective on frontier policy. I was able to integrate this information into a paper I presented at the Pennsylvania Historical Association's annual meeting.

In addition to the Black Face Boys, thanks to Linda Ries, I found relevant county court documents on the Frederick Stump affair, which I will use in this chapter.

My fifth chapter explores two separate events that happened in the 1770s. The first is Dunmore's War, during which Virginia established legal control over what is today western Pennsylvania. Using the land records at the PHMC, I was able to determine what Virginia's owned land and where. I also was able to locate the court records of

Virginia during that period. The second event I explore in this chapter is the conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Jonathan Strayer turned me onto the Lukens Collection, which held some documents relevant to this conflict. I also consulted the microfilm collection of the Pennsylvania Colonial Records as well as the Provincial Council Executive Minutes. Although I have yet to write this chapter, the preliminary findings from this research play a prominent role in my introduction, which I wrote while in residence at the PHMC.

My sixth chapter explores the American Revolution in the west. I am particularly interested in the mobilization and militarization of the area from 1774-1785. The State Archives held an enormous amount of materials relevant to this chapter. I had not identified the papers relevant to the Bedford County Committee of Correspondence and the mobilization of the militias in that county. I also consulted the Yeates Family Papers, Archibald Lochry Papers, Edward Hand Papers, Miscellaneous Manuscript Collection of the Revolutionary Era, Military Manuscript Collection, the Records of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Government, the Fort Pitt Museum Collection, and a variety of other sources. This chapter has yet to be written, but I now have a much fuller understanding of the period and am confident that I will be able to write the chapter armed with the knowledge I gained at the PHMC.

I also found letters and documents related to the Westsylvania campaign, which was an attempt by westerners to carve out a new state in western Pennsylvania. These documents were found in the Records of the Proprietary Government, Records of the Revolutionary Government, and the Provincial Council Executive Correspondence.

These are the sources I consulted most heavily and that were the most relevant to my dissertation's specific chapters and events. In addition to these collections, I also called a number of maps from the Map Collection, which helped me better understand the geography and development of western Pennsylvania. I may ask for reproductions of some of the maps for my dissertation. I also consulted the collection of diaries and journals and found one – a 1794 journal from an unnamed traveler – to be of particular value in helping me understand what western Pennsylvania was like.

My time at the PHMC came at a crucial point for my dissertation. Up to this point, I had consulted holdings at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Clements Library, the Virginia Historical Society, and various county archives. The PHMC was my final archival stop and, along with the HSP, one of the richest repositories of materials relevant to my topic. After completing my research time at the PHMC, I was able to transition to full-time writing.

The Scholars-in-Residence program has a lot to commend itself. The staff at the PHMC was among the most helpful I have met. Everyone took a real interest in my project and helped me find sources relevant to it. On a very practical level, one of the best benefits of the program is the ability to make photocopies. I was able to conduct far more research at the PHMC in a far shorter time than I have been able to do elsewhere because I did not

have to transcribe the materials and could read them and print them out and have them on file for when I write. This benefit is rare and of great value to a researcher.

I enjoyed my time at the PHMC greatly and look forward to visiting there again. As I consider myself a historian of Pennsylvania, I expect the Scholars-in-Residence program served as an introduction to what I hope will be along relationship that I have with the archives and archivists at the State Archives. I hope that as I begin my career as an educator, I will continue to work with the PHMC to help promote a deeper understanding of Pennsylvania's past.