

Codebook and Notes on Methodology

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Notes on methodology

This data was collected from 1998 through 2004 from a variety of sources, including newspapers, Philadelphia city directories, company-published broadsides and published annual reports, and internal company records. These sources were primarily in the collections of (in alphabetical order) the Hagley Museum and Library, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Library Company of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania State Archives. It was compiled in a Filemaker file (officers OLD.fp7), which was exported to an Excel file (Officers.xlsx).

IMPORTANT: the Officers.xlsx file is the original compiled data, unrefined, as of 2005. The Officers.csv file is cleaned according to the below methodology: To clean this data in 2014, I used OpenRefine 2.5. The Openrefine project file, including all transformations saved by the application, is included as the file officers.project.zip. Substantial cleanup had to be performed without the ability to refer to the original sources. For the Company field, that involved only standardizing abbreviations and capitalization. For the lastname field, that included making some assumptions on clustering like records. When the first name was the identical, extremely similar last names were clustered and made uniform, especially when one lastname entry was a clear outlier. For example, the lastname in record 6169 was changed from "Petit" to "Pettit," as it was the only "Petit" in the database, and there were 27 instances of "Pettit," of which 18 had the same first name as the "Petit" entry (Andrew), and 14 of which were also the same corporation (ICNA). Other changes include the corrections of typographical errors, most likely from data entry (in other words, mine) but also possibly on the part of the original printer. For example, Record 2475 appeared as lastname "Sasnom" firstname "William," the only such entry, compared to 31 entries with lastname "Sansom" firstname "William"; another example is entry 7006, lastname "Serrill" was corrected to "Serrill." Fewer first names were corrected, and were entirely typographical (for example, correcting an instance of "Wiliam" to "William").

Fields: year, Company, position, lastname, firstname, occupation, category, Appointee

Year: the year in which the person was an officer. Because many terms began during the calendar year rather than on January 1, the year was interpreted as the calendar year when the term began.

Company: the corporation of which the person was an officer.

Company Abbreviations

AFIC American Fire Insurance Company

AIC Atlantic Insurance Company

AICP American Insurance Company of Philadelphia

B&SR Bustleton and Smithfield Road
BM&M Manufacturers and Mechanics bank
BNA Bank of North America
BNOLI Bank of Northern Liberties
BPA Bank of PA
BPhilly Philadelphia Bank
BPT Bank of Penn Township
BSCHUY Schuylkill Bank
BSOUTH Southwark Bank
BUS Bank of the United States
C&D Chesapeake and Delaware Canal
C&WT Cheltenham & Willow Grove Turnpike
CAMDEN Camden Bank (NJ)
CB Commercial Bank
D&S Delaware & Schuylkill Navigation (although even here, there's several)
DCC Delaware Coal Company
DIP Delaware Insurance Company of Philadelphia
E&WT Easton & Wilkesbarre Turnpike
FARMEC Farmers & Mechanics Bank
F&BT Frankford & Bristol Turnpike
FIRA Fire Association
FRANKLIN Franklin Fire Insurance Company
G&PT Germantown & Perkiomen Turnpike
GIRARD Girard Bank
ICNA Insurance Company of North America
ICPA Insurance Company of Pennsylvania
KBANK Kensington Bank
L&P Lancaster Philadelphia Turnpike
LC&N Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company
LSBC Lancaster Schuylkill Bridge Company
LSRR Little Schuylkill Navigation Railroad and Coal Company
MAC Mutual Assurance Company for Insuring Houses from Loss by Fire
MB Mechanics' bank
MFC Marine and Fire Insurance Company
MFIC Marine and Fire Insurance Company
MIC Marine Insurance Company
MOYAB Moyamensing Bank
MSRR Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Rail Road Company
PAFIC Pennsylvania fire insurance company
PCILGA Pennsylvania Company for Insurance on Lives, Granting Annuities, and
Executing Trusts
PCON Philadelphia Contributionship for Insuring Houses from Loss by Fire
Phoenix Phoenix Insurance Company
PIC Philadelphia Insurance Company
PTRR Philadelphia and Trenton Rail Road Company
RIDGE Ridge Turnpike Company

S< Susquehanna and Lehigh Turnpike Company
S&S Schuylkill and Susquehanna Navigation Company
S&TR Susquehanna & Tioga Turnpike Road Company
SNC Schuylkill Navigation Company
SPCBO Schuylkill Permanent Bridge Company
TDBCO Trenton Delaware Bridge Company
UIC Union Insurance Company of Philadelphia
UNION Union Canal Company
USIC US Insurance Company
WESTB Western Bank

Position

The position to which the person was appointed or elected. In the original filemaker file, this field allowed the following responses: president, manager/director, treasurer, actuary.

Lastname

Person's last name

Firstname

Person's first name. No periods for initials. Junior and Senior listed as "Jr" and "Sr" respectively in firstname field trailing first name and any other initials.

Occupation

For some lines, occupation was entered based upon entries in city directories. Even for those individuals who have been identified as having an occupation in one row, it is not necessarily identified on other rows.

Category

Blank

Appointee

"Yes" entered for those corporate officers appointed by the state as a condition of the corporation's charter.