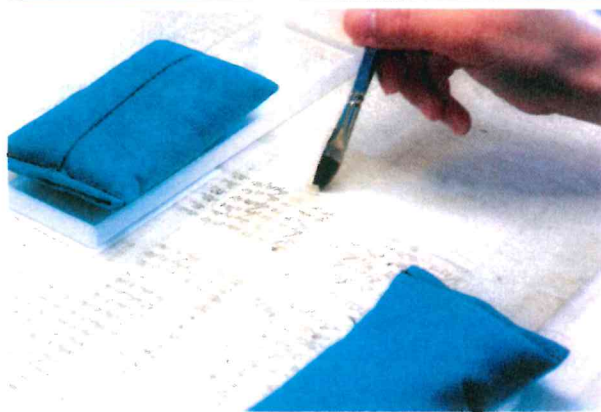


Pennsylvania Civil War Muster Rolls

A Conservation Project

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania Heritage Society is managing a \$1.1 million-dollar three-year project to save a deteriorating group of historical Muster-Out Rolls listing soldiers from Pennsylvania Regiments during the Civil War. The Muster Rolls, housed at the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg, are the official government records for each of the approximately 362,000 soldiers who comprised the regiments, battalions, colored troops, veterans' reserves, and militia raised by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between 1861 and 1865.

The Muster Rolls are of incalculable value to the people of Pennsylvania: they are the legacy of the Commonwealth's role in the most seminal event in our Nation's history. They are an official portrait of each regiment, company, and individual soldier at the moment of their discharge, giving detailed information on name, hometown, military engagements, and final status. The simple entries are poignant, putting a human face to war: General Strong Vincent's death is officially recorded here, "Died July 8th 1863 of wound received July 2 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, PA. Made Brig. Gen'l;" the Third U.S. Colored Troops' casualties at Ft. Wagner,



Pennsylvania's Muster Rolls undergoing treatment at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia

South Carolina, are listed here; and the Irish of the 116th who saw heavy action at Fredericksburg are recorded, many as prisoners at Salisbury and Andersonville.

The Muster Rolls average 31" x 40" and are severely deteriorated from overuse during the last 145 years, becoming dirty, badly torn and difficult to read. The project will run through 2008, and will conserve over 2,500 of the most severely damaged rolls. Professional conservators will clean, repair, and place each into acid-free containers. A second project is planned for 2008-2010 to scan and place digitized copies of the Muster Rolls on the World Wide Web for researchers.

The Pennsylvania Heritage Society is a non-profit organization supporting the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the official state agency charged with preserving and interpreting the Commonwealth's heritage and culture.

The Heritage Society welcomes additional contributions to this project, which can be sent to their headquarters at 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0024. For more information contact (717) 787-2407 or visit www.phmc.state.pa.us and www.paheritage.org.

FUNDED BY SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

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