

The reports in the series were either specifically requested by the Assembly or were filed as required by an act passed to create a company; this is particularly true of the many financial accountings filed by transportation agencies. For example, in late 1820 there are accounts presented by the companies established to create the Stoystown and Greensburg, the Perkiomen and Reading, the Bridgewater and Wilkesbarre [sic], the Belmont and Easton, the Milford and Owego, the Bedford and Stoystown, and the Harrisburg, Carlisle and Chambersburg turnpikes. Another detailed financial accounting was filed in October 1835 for six months expenses of the Allegheny Portage Railroad. A technological wonder, this thirty-six-mile-long line, with its innovative system of ten inclined planes (five up the mountains and five down), runs of flat tracks, and a nine-hundred-foot tunnel (the first carved out for a railway in the United States), was the first to cross the Allegheny Mountains and to connect the existing railroads and canals that enabled freight and passengers to travel from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. Also in the series are annual reports of expenditures made by various state offices such as that of the treasurer, surveyor general, auditor general, and the land office. As another example, upon the Assembly's request, several counties filed in 1814 abstracts of annual arbitration proceedings and trials in their localities. Institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania (1790-1811) and Pennsylvania Hospital (1808) also filed financial records with the legislature.

Present throughout the series are applications from citizens seeking official positions as door keeper, sergeant-at-arms, or government printer; applicants for the latter appointment either offered to issue state publications in English or German. There is a letter from William Musgrave seeking to be the state librarian in 1816 (7354.F.63). He did not win the position then but did in 1819, and held the job through 1832. Conversely, there are a number of depositions filed between 1805 and 1812 with the Assembly by citizens seeking to oust local judges.

Five folders hold the Senate journal in manuscript, recording the minutes of daily actions in the period December 1791 through April 1792. Similar diaries exist for the House for select days in the period 1821-1823. Another type of record in the series is a list of officers of the Senate with their home addresses in 1829-1830 (7370.F.8); it is inscribed "500 copies" suggesting that it was intended for a printer.

The material in Series I is entirely in manuscript except for two printed items: a pardon of William Jackson, signed by Simon Snyder and dated September 16, 1816 (7355.F.64), and a copy of an 1825 act to appoint a board of Canal Commissioners (7366.F.61). The latter is a printed document which was pasted into booklet, then annotated and corrected in manuscript to become the true copy filed with the Secretary's Office in Harrisburg.

Series II Petitions, Remonstrance, and Memorials (1783-1859) were presented to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, and are addressed in nearly the same language each time: "To the Honorable the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in session assembled...." By definition, a petition is an earnest formal request