

Mining the Backlog: Uncovering Collections to Enrich Labor Community Heritage and Memory

MARAC Spring 2019 - Session 19

Amanda Peters and Abby Shirer

Coal and Coke Heritage Center



PennState

Fayette, The Eberly Campus



Patch Work Voices Project

— — —

- Began in the 1970's
- Collection of oral histories
- Artifacts, photographs, and other materials donated by interviewees and coal community into the early 2000's
- Accession records were created, on occasion, and some records were kept in notebooks

Focus - Patch Work Voices Community Collection

Challenges of this particular backlogged collection:

- History of accession
- Archival Processing
- Learning curve

Plan to use the collection to enhance and rebuild the story of the mining community within the region, while also improving accessibility and diversity.

History of Accession

This collection, aside from the oral histories, is roughly estimated 180 linear feet.

- Mission of the project and collection (Then and Now)
- Donations and Accession Records
- Storage
- Archival Processing (Then)

[illegible]



Archival Processing (Now)

— — —

- Hire Collections Services Assistant
- Inventorying collection
- Learning curve
- Preservation concerns

Next Steps...

- Weed
- Rehouse
- Finding aid and access



Enhance and Rebuild the Mining Community Story

— — —

- Redesign and update the CCHC Museum
 - Educational
 - Inclusive & Diverse
- Improve archival accessibility
- Expand collections to include
 - Modern mining (1960's to 1980's)
 - Enhance diversity within the collections
- Significant transformations this and similar projects could have on the library and archival profession

Thank You!

Amanda Peters – acp47@psu.edu

Abby Shirer – aks5994@psu.edu

Coal and Coke Heritage Center - <https://fayette.psu.edu/visit/coalandcoke>