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Over 5.2 Million Votes of Support for Online Campaign to Save Pennsylvania's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts

Passmore Williamson's visitors' book from Chester County Historical Society named People's Choice Award winner for the most votes, shares and individual donations during campaign

PHILADELPHIA – November 4, 2013 – The online campaign to save [Pennsylvania's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts](http://PATop10Artifacts.org) has officially ended. The six-week public relations and crowdfunding initiative created by the [Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts](http://CCAHA.org) (CCAHA) successfully raised public awareness for these artifacts by attracting over 5.2 million online votes, amassing 623 social media shares and raising just over \$16,000 toward the conservation of historic artifacts across the state.

The **Chester County Historical Society** from West Chester was named the People's Choice award winner, receiving a total of 1,968,595 votes, shares and individual donations in support of abolitionist Passmore Williamson's visitors' book from his time in Philadelphia's Moyamensing Prison, which contained the signatures of Frederick Douglass and hundreds of other notable supporters. The campaign inspired institutions to connect with new audiences and host creative social events such as a Thaddeus Stevens lookalike contest, happy hour click-a-thon and more.

"It was very exciting to see the momentum of the campaign building since the launch in Harrisburg," said CCAHA Executive Director **Ingrid Bogel**. "I hope that this experience has encouraged people to visit and support their local museums, historical societies and archives, and to feel invested in our shared histories."

Pennsylvania's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts was a social media-driven crowdfunding experiment that highlighted ten historic treasures held by Pennsylvania institutions, and offered an opportunity for the public to become directly involved in conservation efforts. From historic manuscripts, books and films to 18th-century butterfly specimens and a wig worn by a congressman instrumental in abolishing slavery, each of the artifacts illuminates an important facet of the nation's history.

In addition to the Chester County Historical Society, other participating institutions were The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, American Philatelic Society, Carnegie Museum of Art, LancasterHistory.org, Mennonite Heritage Center, Old Economy Village, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, and Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center. Each institution will receive all funds donated toward the conservation of its artifact, in addition to \$250 donated to each organization by The Beneficial Foundation.

Supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and the Beneficial Foundation, Pennsylvania's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts was part of CCAHA's **Save Pennsylvania's Past**, a multi-year, statewide effort to protect and preserve the millions of objects and historic artifacts that shape the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's history and define our nation. To view the final standings and learn more about each artifact, please visit www.PATop10Artifacts.org.

About the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts

The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) is the country's largest nonprofit conservation facility serving cultural, research and educational institutions, as well as individuals and private organizations. Its mission is to provide expertise and leadership in the preservation of the world's material culture. CCAHA specializes in the treatment of works of art and artifacts on paper, such as drawings, prints, maps, posters, historic wallpaper, photographs, rare books, scrapbooks and manuscripts, along with related materials like parchment and papyrus. CCAHA also offers digital imaging services, on-site consultations, educational programs and seminars, fellowships and emergency conservation services. Learn more at ccaaha.org.

About Save Pennsylvania's Past

Save Pennsylvania's Past is a statewide effort to preserve the millions of objects and historic artifacts that shape the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's history and define our nation. Now in its second year, this two-year initiative is preparing collections care staff to address the challenges threatening Pennsylvania's world-class collections through training programs and online resources.

As Save Pennsylvania's Past project leader, CCAHA has partnered with a creative coalition of arts, cultural, educational, government, and historic organizations from all across the state: the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC), PA Museums, and LYRASIS. The initiative is supported by an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Connecting to Collections Statewide Implementation Grant and by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

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