

## ABSTRACT

This word list is based on diaries, letters and other personal documents written by Bucks County residents between 1850-1876. During this period, the influences of western emigration, the Civil War, and the increased tempo of transportation brought changes into the attitudes and life styles of these rural people. Many of them descendants of the first English settlers of "Penn's Woods," the majority were Quakers. Most of the personal documents consulted were written either by members of farm families or by citizens of the county serving short terms in the Union Army. In some cases, the soldiers themselves were members of Quaker families. Even within the statements written by one person, contrasts are evident between a religious life based on moderation in speech and rejection of warfare on the one hand and a moral crisis centered on the issues of national unity and slavery on the other. Members of some families had moved west. Their letters reported a standard of living very different from the serene existence offered by the thrifty, prosperous farmsteads of Bucks County. Railroad service was expanded during this period, offering easy travel for marketing farm products, vacationing, and the visits among Friends Meetings, so much a part of Quaker life. The Centennial Year celebrations and exhibitions opened up the insular pattern of farm life. In this study, some twenty-two collections of documents are cited, and approximately four hundred fifty items are included in the word list. (NAH)

## INTRODUCTION

The personal documents used in this study are part of the manuscript collection of the Bucks County Historical Society housed in the Spruance Library of the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. The Library's holdings offer materials dealing with the earliest history of the County and of Pennsylvania up to the present.

Bucks County lies just to the North of Philadelphia and extends up the Delaware River about forty miles. It ranges from about twelve to about twenty miles in width and was established as a proprietary province by the English in the early 1680's. William Penn acquired his huge tract of land in America from Charles II in 1681. He sought to attract settlers through a humane, liberal system of government and through complete freedom of religion. The majority of the first settlers were Quakers from England.<sup>1</sup> By 1685, Philadelphia was well established, and