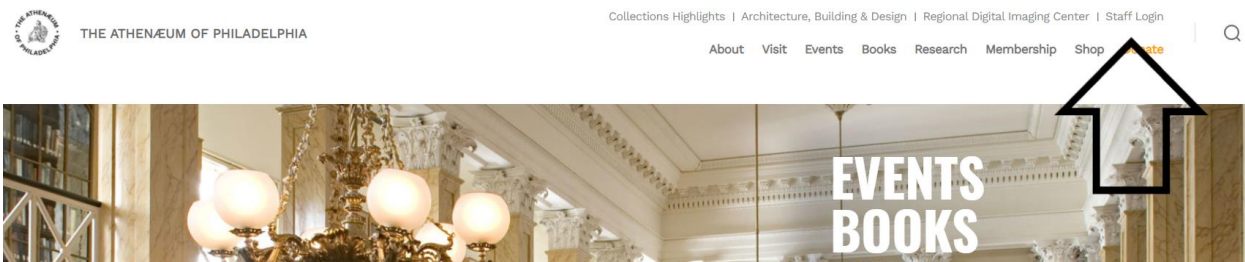


Since 1814, the Athenaeum of Philadelphia has been visited by politicians, diplomats, scientists, and literary figures. Our guest book was traditionally called the Record of Strangers: each non-member, or “Stranger” was usually signed in by an Athenaeum member. We are preparing a searchable list of some of the names that have been indexed from the Record, and we are excited to welcome volunteers to this project.

The full six volumes of the Record of Strangers from 1814-2006 have been digitized and may be viewed using the links found [here](#). We will be working from these digitized copies.

1) GETTING STARTED:

Sign in from the upper right-hand corner of the Athenaeum’s home page. <https://philaathenaeum.org/>



Use the login that was emailed to you. Each volunteer will have their own login. Please **do not** share your login information.

2) POSSIBLE STARTING POINTS:

You may work in any year of the Record that interests you from 1814-1925.

Check the database first to make sure your Stranger has not already been entered for that date!

For areas of the Record that have been only lightly indexed, try one of these starting dates:

[January, 1823](#) - We have one visit by Henry Clay in March of this year, and one other visitor.

[January 2, 1833](#) - We have no Strangers indexed for 1833

[January, 1834](#) - We have no Strangers indexed for 1834

[January 26, 1835](#) - We have only 4 Strangers indexed for 1835 (including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Martin Van Buren)

[June 22, 1835](#)

[January 1, 1852](#) - We have only two Strangers indexed for 1852 (including James Buchanan)

[February 7, 1853](#) – Two Strangers (including Thackeray)

[January, 1862](#) – No Strangers yet

[January 1873](#) – No Strangers yet

[May, 1874](#) - (We have only Henry Armitt Brown indexed in 1874)

3) CHECKING MEMBERS:

If you are having trouble transcribing the name of the member who signed in your Stranger, you may refer to this [online document](#). It is a preliminary document only, that was prepared in the mid-twentieth century, and it is possible that there will be some omissions, but it is useful in deciphering names.

Some of the names that appear in the “By Whom Introduced” column do not appear in this list. More research will need to be done!

4) COMMUNICATING ABOUT THE BIO FOR A STRANGER:

The descriptions of our Strangers are primarily being handled by Rob Jagiela. Feel free to email him, or to stop by the front desk on Saturdays or Mondays from 1-5 PM to discuss descriptions.

rjagiela@philaathenaeum.org

5) SCHEDULED TRANSCRIPTION DATES:

April 9 – 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

April 13 – 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

May 16 – 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Please register with Tess Galen (events@PhilaAthenaeum.org) if you would like to attend

You may continue to work on transcribing Strangers from home if you like.

6) QUESTIONS?:

Jill LeMin Lee, Librarian – jilly@PhilaAthenaeum.org