



# COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Cumberland County Article Wins MARAC Custer Prize***

**Cumberland County, Pa.** – An article based on records in the Cumberland County Archives has been awarded the 2017 Arline Custer Memorial Award from the Mid-Atlantic Archives Conference (MARAC).

“‘The High Price of Living’: The Lives of Insolvent Laborers in Jacksonian-Era Cumberland County,” by Dr. Michael B. McCoy of SUNY Orange college, New York, is based on the original Insolvent Debtor Petitions 1799-1860. The article was published this Spring in “Pennsylvania History, A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies.” The article considers the lives and economic conditions of the County’s poor by analyzing the reasons listed in the insolvency petitions.

More than 2,500 insolvent debtor petitions were arranged, cleaned, inventoried and scanned by the County Archives from 2009 - 2010. Researchers have found these petitions to be valuable sources of information. They contain genealogical, business, land, military and economic information. This record series can be viewed online at <http://ccweb.ccpa.net/archives/RecordGroupSeries?RGID=47&RID=1>. As part of its on-going efforts to increase the accountability, access, and preservation of the County’s government records, the Archives was able to completed this project through partial funding by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The Arline Custer Memorial Award is given annually for a publication making the best use of archival materials and honors the memory of Arline Custer (1909-1975), a MARAC member and editor of the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. The award recognizes the best books and articles written or compiled by individuals and institutions in the MARAC region, which includes the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

For more information on the work of the Cumberland County Archives, visit [www.ccpa.net/2566/Archives](http://www.ccpa.net/2566/Archives).

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