A few notes from the Saturday 2/8 meeting/discussion at the Priestley House:

A potential visual feature: The contrast in landscape between

1. Priestley's house and lab, which were a kind of h.q. for democratic scientific advancement but ended up surrounded by railroad tracks (the kitchen blown off in a train engine explosion!) in an industrial area

2. And French Azilum, an aristocratic agrarian utopian effort that slipped into rural obscurity (and is a favored kayaking area now for people wanting to get away from modern life :)).

Ideas discussed included a focus in the documentary on utopias on the Susquehanna, featuring Priestley's legacy and Coleridge's Pantisocracy in relation to French Azilum. This would include the story of different TransAtlantic movements finding a home on the Susquehanna after the Indian removal. It could include the drama of Priestley's scientific rival, a French artistocrat, being executed on the guillotine in the French Revolution that Priestley supported, and of communities of supporters and opponents of the Revolution coming to the Susquehanna. Also perhaps a focus on the summer camp along the river that recently became embroiled in a lawsuit agains the long-dead Priestley over his once-extensive landholdings in the area. There is an opportunity for archival research in Bucknell's Special Collections library as well, and the book A World on Fire was recommended as accessible reading on Priestley's involvement in the international scientific race to "discover" oxygen.