

Guide
to the
Walter D. Rush Collection

Hist. Mss. 1-4

Compiled

by

Timothy Rice
RR 1, Box 136
Perkasie, Pa. 18944

during
1989 and 1990

Completed
28 May 1990

Revised Upon Locating More Material
During September & October 1990

Completed
17 October 1990

PREFACE

Walter Rush was born to William M. & Susanna G. (Detweiler) Rush on 26 May 1899 in Plumstead Twp., Bucks Co., Pa. He married Hannah Gross, daughter of William & Hannah (Overholt) Gross, on 25 Dec 1920. Walter Rush died 26 Nov 1975 at the Doylestown Manor leaving behind his wife and seven children. There was another child that died at the age of two years.

In his early life, Walter Rush worked at a factory in Plumsteadville that made work gloves. It so happened that his future wife to be, Hannah Gross, worked there, too. Soon after they were married, they moved into her grandfather's house on the corner of Route 611 and Stump Road in Plumsteadville which Walter bought in 1924. At this location Walter and Hannah Gross began and operated a Texaco service station for over 50 years. With radios just coming in, Walter also took on an Atwater Kent franchise. He learned to repair radios and to vulcanized tires. On the front of his Texaco service station, he had a sign which read:

Not Chance
But Choice
Determines Our
Eternal Destiny

He was a charter member of the Plumsteadville Fire Company and served as chief for 21 years. He even erected a garage on his own property to house the fire engine until a new facility could be built a number of years later.

He had two main hobbies which were photography and local history, especially local Mennonite history. He took a number of pictures and slides showing a Mennonite congregation (Deep Run East) worshipping in an old fashioned type of meeting house. He served on the Deep Run East Cemetery Committee which catalogued the numerous stones. He also served on the committee to preserve the Deep Run School House. He was also a member of the Bucks County Fire Chiefs Association and the Bucks County Historical Society.

Many of the things Walter Rush saved over his life time have now ended up in this archival collection. This collection provides considerable research material for the early to mid 1900s especially for Deep Run Mennonite Church East and other churches within the Franconia Conference. Other documents in this collection provides information on Franconia Conference programs and activities, Franconia Mennonite Historical Society & MHEP, local schools, and local businesses especially the Plumsteadville Creamery. The collection also contains significant source material on Mennonite views and actions regarding nonresistance and war in the twentieth century.

It should be noted that many of Walter Rush photographs and slides are being kept in a separate MHEP photograph collection.

Table of Contents

Walter Rush Personal Files	1
Files on Various Individuals	1
Deep Run Mennonite Church East Files	2
Conscientious Objection & Service Documents	3
Anniversary, Buildings, Bible School, & Schoolhouse Documents	4
Church Programs and Newspaper Clippings Files	4
Franconia Mennonite Conference Programs and Ministries . . .	5
Franconia Mennonite Historical Society & MHEP	6
Miscellaneous Mennonite Outreaches and Programs	6
Non-Mennonite Religious Programs and Outreaches	7
Schools	7
Business-Related & Miscellaneous	8
Newspaper Clippings and Miscellaneous Items Collected by Walter D. Rush	9
Oversized Files	10
Plumsteadville Dairymen's Association	11

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box #1

Walter Rush Personal Files

- 1) Walter Rush - Assorted Artifacts, c. 1918-1970
Contains among other things: a 1918 draft registration card, some religious notes from meetings, Walter D. Rush Radio and Tire Store Radio Log, a quarantine permit, a cow registry certificate (Holstein), Certificates of Contribution to MCC for Civilian Public Service by Walter D. Rush, Walter Rush Texaco Service Station Calendar for 1953, Samples of the KVP Philosopher [Walter Rush received this publication from at least January 1932 through October 1945]
- 2) Walter Rush - Some Thoughts Concerning the Teaching of the Holy Scriptures by William Gross
Also contains a Harvery G. Gross business and Christmas greeting card attached to the book
- 3) Walter Rush - Personal Comments on Early School Days
Also contains some samples of school work
- 4) Walter Rush - Correspondence, 1918-1974
Contains among other things: a 1918 postcard from William Rice who was in CPS, correspondence relating to Sunday School materials and teachers, correspondence with Florence Baver regarding a radio program sponsored by Fereinicht Pa. Deitsch Fulk, genealogical and historical correspondence with Elma G. Gray & George White both of Ontario
- 5) Walter Rush - Personal Notes
Contains personal notes and reflections - genealogical, historical, spiritual, etc.
- 6) Walter Rush - World War II Ration Cards and Stamps

Files on Various Individuals

- 7) William Rush, c. 1910-1948
contains miscellaneous letters, postcards, and bills; also contains a copy of the first and final settlement of the accounts of Jacob M. Rush and William M. Rush - Administrators of Anna Rush late of Plumstead Twp., Bucks Co., Pa., and a statement of proposed distribution of the estate of Phillip K. Musselman-late of Dublin Borough
- 8) William Rush - School Tablet
Contains some fraktur-like drawings and fancy letters of the alphabet; also contains some writing in German

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box #1

- 9) Richard Rush - Correspondence Relating to Service with MCC, 1951
Also contains newspaper/magazine clippings on MCC Builder Unit that was to go to Western Germany and two photographs of this unit

10) Statement of Accounts for Susie G. Rush, nee Detweiler, 1897-1898

11) Joseph L. Gross-Ordination as Bishop- Newspaper Clipping, 1944

Deep Run Mennonite Church East Files

- 12) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Bible Instruction Meeting, c. 1933-1953
- 13) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Young People's Meeting, 1947-1967
- 14) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Youth Meeting, 1949-1954
- 15) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - New Year Song Service
Contains a program dated 1967 and a newspaper clipping from an unknown year when J.W. Yoder was the director
- 16) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Misc. Meetings, 1947-1961
- 17) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Newspaper Clippings
- 18) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - A Collection of DRE History by Walter Rush, c. 1950
Also contains some Deep Run Schoolhouse history
- 19) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Two Histories by Harrison Yothers, 1961 & 1962
- 20) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Notes for a Talk on Schools, Singing Schools, and Funerals by Walter Rush
- 21) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Certificates and/or Transferals of Memberships, c. 1939-1966
- 22) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Organizational Patterns
- 23) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Miscellaneous
Contains among other things: Sunday School records and a list of books "taken to C.D. Historical Library" on 2 Apr 1971

Conscientious Objection & Service Documents

- 24) General Publications Relating to Conscientious Objectors
Includes Peace Council For Mennonite Youth by Henry A. Fast; Mennonites on Military Service (No. 607); Principles of Christian Peace and Patriotism published by the Peace Committee of the Mennonite Western District Conference; Peace, War, and Military Service: A Statement of the Position of the Mennonite Church-resolutions adopted by the Mennonite General Conference at Turner, Oregon, August 1937; Counsel To Mennonite Young Men Regarding The Selective Training and Service Act Of 1940 As It Applies To Conscientious Objectors; Additional Counsel To Mennonite Young Men Regarding The Selective Training And Service Act Of 1940 As It Applies To Conscientious Objectors; The Mennonite Civilian Service Program; Mennonite Civilian Public Service Camps Bulletin of Information May 1941 sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee; A Statement of the Position of the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of North America On Peace, War, Military Service, and Patriotism as approved by the General Conference, Souderton, Pa., August 17-22, 1941; Our Attitude as Nonresistant Christians in the Present Situation: A Message To Mennonites and Other Nonresistant Christians adopted by the Mennonite Central Committee, Chicago, January 3, 1942; Report of the Peace Committee 1938-1941 by Ernest J. Bohn; A Declaration of Christian Faith and Commitment with Respect to Peace, War, and Nonresistance: The Position of the Mennonite Church as adopted by the Mennonite General Conference at Goshen, Indiana, August 23, 1951; A Year of Civilian Public Service, July 1942 by Mennonite Central Committee; The Philosophy of Quaker Service by Rufus M. Jones; a couple newspaper clippings [These publication are pamphlets or short booklets]
- 25) Conscientious Objection and Service Efforts - Misc. Documents
Includes a 2 Sept 1943 letter to members of the Mennonite Church in the Franconia Conference from the Peace Committee of the Franconia Conference and a program dated 9 August 1947 for a Franconia C.P.S. Reunion at Plain Mennonite Church in Lansdale
- 26) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Civilian Public Service
Besides specific Deep Run East material, this file also includes some general publications relating to Civilian Public Service
- 27) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Letter Regard Universal Military Training-1 Apr 1948
- 28) Deep Run Mennonite Church East: I-W Service

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box #1

- 29) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Post World War II Service and C.O. Documents

Anniversary, Buildings, Bible School, & Schoolhouse Documents

- 30) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - 200th Anniversary Celebration, 1946
- 31) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Records from Walter Rush Pertaining to the 1948/49 Building
- 32) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - New Building Newspaper Clippings, 1949
- 33) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - 225th Anniversary Celebration, 1971
- 34) Deep Run Mennonite Church East - Summer Bible School Records, c. 1950s
- 35) Deep Run Schoolhouse
Contains history and some restoration records
- 36) Deep Run Schoolhouse - Miscellaneous Articles
Contains articles from Panorama, Bucks County Traveler, and WBYO Wavelength
- 37) Deep Run Schoolhouse - Photographs
Contains pictures of interior, exterior, music notes written on the ceiling beams, desks, and a picture of a boy wearing "goat spectacles" used for punishment purposes

Church Programs and Newspaper Clippings Files

- 38) Blooming Glen Mennonite Church - Programs and Newspaper Clippings, c. 1935-1954
- 39) Bristol Mennonite Church - Programs, 1954
- 40) Deep Run Mennonite Church West - Programs and Newspaper Clippings, 1949 & 1955
- 41) Deep Run Mennonite Church West - Dedication Programs-1949, 1957
- 42) Doylestown Mennonite Church - Programs and Newspaper Clippings, c. 1934-1961
- 43) First Mennonite Church (Norristown) - Programs, 1940
- 44) Groveland Mennonite Church - Programs, c. 1948-1958

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box #1

- 45) Haycock Mennonite Church - Programs, c. 1950
- 46) Lambertville Mennonite Church - Programs, 1953
- 47) Lansdale Mennonite Church - Programs, 1960
- 48) Methacton (Worcester) Mennonite Church - Programs and Newspaper Clippings, 1944-1945
- 49) Perkasio Mennonite Church - Programs, 1949-1954
- 50) Plain Mennonite Church - Programs and Newspaper Clippings
- 51) Rockhill Mennonite Church - Programs, 1944-1957
- 52) Rocky Ridge Mennonite Church - Programs, c. 1943-1949
- 53) Salem Mennonite Church - Programs, c. 1947-1952
- 54) Salford Mennonite Church - Programs, 1948 & 1960
- 55) Springfield Mennonite Church - Programs and Newspaper Clippings, 1944 & ?
- 56) Towamencin Mennonite Church - Programs
- 57) Trevoise Heights Mennonite Church - Programs
- 58) Upper Skippack Mennonite Church - Programs, 1950
- 59) Vincent Mennonite Church - Programs, 1924

Franconia Mennonite Conference Programs and Ministries

- 60) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Sowing Circle Programs, 1946
- 61) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Workers' Meetings Programs, c. 1945-1954
- 62) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Sunday School Meetings, 1924-1959
- 63) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Youth Conferences, 1958 & 1965
- 64) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Young People's Institute Programs, 1946-1958
- 65) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Bible School Conferences and Meetings, 1947-1956

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box #1

- 66) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Ministerial Meeting, 1938-1965
- 67) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Ministerial and Christian Worker's Course Brochure, 1950-1959
- 68) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Nonconformity Conferences Programs, 1951 & 1955
- 69) Franconia Mennonite Conference - Miscellaneous Programs, c. 1939-1957
Contains Programs for Nonresistance Conference, Peace Conference, Economic Study Conference, Hymn Study Conference, Christian Community Relations
- 70) Franconia Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities - Annual Meetings, 1937-1961

Franconia Mennonite Historical Society & MHEP

- 71) Franconia Mennonite Historical Society - Notes from Annual Meetings, 1937 & 1947
- 72) Franconia Mennonite Historical Society - Annual Meeting Programs, 1933-1962
- 73) Franconia Mennonite Historical Society - Miscellaneous
- 74) MHEP - Miscellaneous Documents

Miscellaneous Mennonite Outreaches and Programs

- 75) Eastern Mennonite Home-Application Form, Rules, and Fees, c. 1952
- 76) Clayton Kratz Fellowship - A Christmas Program
- 77) Life With God Broadcast Dedication Program, 1962
- 78) Franconia Mennonite Day School Association - Programs, 1946-1963
- 79) Indian Creek Haven - Open House Invitation
- 80) Lancaster Mennonite Conference - Young People's Christian Life and Service Institute, 1945 & 1947
- 81) Lancaster - Christian Day School Meeting Programs, 1944-1958
- 82) Virginia Mennonite Conference - Young People's Institute, 1939-1942

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box #1

- 83) Joint Conference: Mennonites, Schwenkfelders, Brethern, and Friends - Programs, 1940-1948
- 84) Norris Square Mennonite Church - Programs, 1939-1944
- 85) Brunk Brothers Evangelistic Campaigns, 1953 & ?
- 86) The Way, 1951-1958 (Very Incomplete)
- 87) Miscellaneous Mennonite Programs, c. 1939-1971
- 88) Grace Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church (Quakertown) - 75th Anniversary Booklet, 1947

Non-Mennonite Religious Programs and Outreaches

- 89) *Bucks County Sabbath School Association - Annual Convention Programs, 1921-1951*
- 90) Second District Sunday School Association - Annual Convention, 1917, 1945-1959
- 91) Miscellaneous Sunday School Convention Programs, 1922, 1944, & 1956
- 92) Boehm's Church of Bluebell - Newspaper Clipping
- 93) New Britain Baptist Church - 175th Anniversary Program, 1929
- 94) Plumstead Presbyterian Church/Plumstead Union Sunday School
- 95) Miscellaneous Religious Programs (extra thick file)

Schools

- 96) One Room School House File
- 97) Danboro Christian Day School, c. 1950?
- 98) Deep Run Mennonite School - Commencement Program, 1952
- 99) Gehman's Glimpse, Vol. 2, #2, c. March 1947 (see page 35)
- 100) Pipersville School Souvenir, 1920-1921
- 101) Report Card - Daniel Miller, Western Brick School, 12 March 1890
- 102) Plumstead Township Schools - Commencement Programs, 1914 & 1946

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box #1

- 103) School Manuscript in English & Godshalk Family History in German
- 104) Central Bucks Senior High School Program of Studies, 1966-1967
- 105) Philadelphia School of the Bible - Commencement Exercises, 1945

Business-Related & Miscellaneous

- 106) McCormick-Deering Mowers Instruction Book and Parts Catalog, n.d.
- 107) This file was eliminated & combined with a later Plumsteadville Dairymen's Association file.
- 108) Doylestown Trust Company - Open House, 1958
- 109) Dublin National Bank - Correspondence, 1927-1947
- 110) Plumsteadville Fire Company - Correspondence, 1932
- 111) Bangs and Co. - Delaware Lottery Letter, July 1860
- 112) Mennonite Weekly Review Calendar, 1959
- 113) Plumstead Township Relief - 1932
- 114) Mattress Fires - Newspaper Clippings, 1966-1968
- 115) Railroad File - Newspaper Clippings, 1959-1960
- 116) 4-H Newspaper Clippings, 1952 & 1959
- 117) Pennsylvania Dutch File - Brochures & Newspaper Clippings
- 118) Covered Bridges - Brochures & Newspaper Clippings
- 119) Bucks County Traveler, "The Mennonites In Bucks County," Nov 1951
- 120) Fretzletter, 1971-1976

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box #2

*Newspaper Clippings and Miscellaneous Items
Collected by Walter D. Rush*

- 121) General Mennonite Newspaper Clippings
- 122) Bucks County Historical Society - Newspaper Clippings
- 123) Bucks County - General Historical Newspaper Clippings
- 124) Miscellaneous Bucks County Newspaper Clippings
- 125) Miscellaneous Historical Newspaper Clippings
- 126) W. Lester Trauch Columns
- 127) Pa. History
- 128) A Page From a German Newspaper
- 129) Miscellaneous Clippings
- 130) History of Tinicum Township
- 131) Upper Bucks County Guides and Misc. Other Guides
- 132) Miscellaneous Brochures and Guides
- 133) Dedication of Bucks County Courthouse, 29 Sept 1962

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box #3

Oversized Files

- 134) A Thank You Note For Service Performed in Europe, 1948
- 135) Walter Rush - Correspondence, 1965
- 136) Farmers' American Mutual Fire Insurance Company - Annual Statement, 1900
- 137) Walter Rush - Deep Run East Cemetery Records

[This box also contains 6 Deep Run Church and Schoolhouse woodcuts.]

Walter D. Rush Collection, Hist. Mss. 1-4, Box 4

An Unidentified Account Book Dated 1900 - 1921

Items listed were mostly grains such as corn, oats, bran, and midlings.

Plumsteadville Dairymen's Association

Within the Walter Rush collection, there is a large series of account books from the Plumsteadville Dairymen's Association commonly known as the Plumsteadville Creamery. The following is an attempt to describe the various account books.

Treasurer's Records - Monthly

These three account books cover the following dates: 1901 - 1912, 1912 - 1929, and 1933 - 1939. These books contain records of expenses under various categories as well as records of amount and quality of milk, butter, and cheese received or produced.

Treasurer's Records - Weekly

This includes ten record books covering the time span from 1908 to 1940. These contain records of gross income for the week.

Cash Books

These three account books cover the following dates: 1935 - 1938, 1938 - 1939, and 1939 - 1941.

Suppliers' Account Books

These eight account books cover the following dates: 1928 - 1936, 1903-1906, 1909 - 1910, 1929 - 1931, 1933-1935, 1935 - 1937, 1937 - 1939, and 1939 - 1941.

Hist. Mss. 1-4, Walter D. Rush Collection, Box #5

The following is a continuation of the description of the Plumsteadville Dairymen's Association (aka Plumsteadville Creamery) account books.

Butter and Cheese Sales Account Books

These ten account books cover the following dates: 1892 - 1910, 1927 - 1934, 1933 - 1940, 1933 - 1935, 1935 - 1936, 1936 - 1937, 1937 - 1938, 1938 - 1939, 1938 - 1939, and 1939 - 1940.

Employees' Hours, c. 1910

Hist. Mss. 1-4, Walter D. Rush Collection, Box #6

The following is a continuation of the description of the Plumsteadville Dairymen's Association (aka Plumsteadville Creamery) account books.

Suppliers' Account Books

These four account books cover the following years: 1906 - 1918, 1919 - 1927, 1928 - 1935, and 1935 - 1940.

Cash Book 1911 - 1931

Hist. Mss. 1-4, Walter D. Rush Collection, Box #7

The following is a continuation of the description of the records of the Plumsteadville Dairymen's Association aka Plumsteadville Creamery.

Minute Books of the Plumsteadville Dairymen's Association

These minute books cover the following years: 1900 - 1920, 1920 - 1925, 1925 - 1933, and 1934 - 1946.

General Account Books, 1886 - 1910 & 1889 - 1924

Building Fund Account Book, 1881 - 1940

Stockholders' Account Books, (2 books), 1880 - 1946

Stock Certificate Book, 1888 - 1946

[In File Folders]

140) P.D.A. Constitution and By-Laws, 1881

141) P.D.A. Stock Certificates, part 1

142) P.D.A. Stock Certificates, part 2

143) P.D.A. Miscellaneous Legal & Tax Documents

144) P.D.A. Correspondence, 1930 - 1945

145) P.D.A. Documents Pertaining to Sale of Land, 1941 - 1945

146) P.D.A. Dissolution Documents, 1945 - 1946