
Rittenhouse Estate Collection

(1844-1964)

Accession # *2020.002.0018*

Finding Guide

Processed by Danielle McCleary
July 2021

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Accession Number: _____

Repository: Historic Trappe

Creator: Rittenhouse Family

Date: (1844-1964), bulk (1920-1940)

Processors: Danielle McCleary, Archives Assistant

Language: English

Extent: The total extent of the collection is 3 linear feet (8 boxes)

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Custodial History: This collection was received by Historic Trappe as a records transfer.

Restrictions: This collection is open for research.

Reproduction: Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured by Historic Trappe. Contact the archivist for more information.

Preferred Citation: Identification of specific item, Date (if known), Rittenhouse Estate Collection, Box and Folder Number, Historic Trappe, Trappe, PA.

PROVENANCE & ACQUISITION

Provide a brief statement on the origin, custody, and ownership of the collection. Provenance describes the original order of a collection; an acquisition is how the collection was brought to the archives, either through purchase, donation, or transfer.

This collection was donated to Historic Trappe by

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES

The scope and context of the Rittenhouse Estate Collection includes mostly letters and correspondence pertaining to family and business. The other materials include financial documents such as receipts, bills, and banking records, as well as personal financial documents. The time period covered in this collection is 1844-1964, with the bulk of the collection pertaining the early to middle 20th century. The processor divided the collection into four series with two subseries. The series include: 1) correspondence, 2) finances, with two subseries in 1) business and 2) family, 3) valuable documents, and 4) topical files and physical objects. Most of the collection includes correspondence between David Rittenhouse, Mary Rittenhouse, Henry Rittenhouse, and extended family and friends. Some of the financial documents are personal to said people, while most of the financial documents pertain to the operating of the Rittenhouse farm. The geographic area covered in the collection is mostly eastern Pennsylvania and more specifically the Perkiomen region and surrounding areas. There is some correspondence that is from Florida, from when a couple of Rittenhouse family members resided there.

The records are arranged in 4 series. The contents of each series are arranged both chronologically and alphabetically. For example, with the many folders of correspondence, they are arranged chronologically by year, whereas the other series and boxes are sorted alphabetically by name.

PROCESSING NOTE

The collection included two sets of rare periodicals. These were removed from the collected and added to Historic Trappe's rare book collection. You will find their removal forms in Series 4: Topical Files and Physical Objects.

SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence (1901-1953)

This series includes handwritten letters between Rittenhouse family members, business letters addressed to David C. Rittenhouse, 'Santa Claus' letters from Rittenhouse family members, greeting cards, and photographs.

Box 1: Correspondence (1901-1953)

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 1 | Santa Claus Letters (1901-1951) |
| 1 | 2 | Greeting Cards & Postcards (1906-1953) |
| 1 | 3 | Letters from Anne R. Parker-Rittenhouse (1930-1938) |
| 1 | 4 | Postcards from Mary Rittenhouse Tyson (1931-1942) |
| 1 | 5 | Letters from Mary Robinson-Rittenhouse (1933-1937) |
| 1 | 6 | Correspondence from Homeopathic Hospital (1934-1938) |
| 1 | 7 | Correspondence with Photos (1935-1938) |
| 1 | 8 | Letters from J. J. Rittenhouse (1935-1936) |
| 1 | 9 | Business Letters to David C. Rittenhouse (1938) |
| 1 | 10 | Greeting Cards (1 of 19) |
| 1 | 11 | Greeting Cards (2 of 9) |

Box 2: Greeting Cards

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 2 | 1 | Greeting Cards (3 of 9) |
| 2 | 2 | Greeting Cards (4 of 9) |
| 2 | 3 | Greeting Cards (5 of 9) |
| 2 | 4 | Greeting Cards (6 of 9) |
| 2 | 5 | Greeting Cards (7 of 9) |
| 2 | 6 | Greeting Cards (8 of 9) |

Box 3: Greeting Cards

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 3 | 1 | Greeting Cards (9 of 9) |
|---|---|-------------------------|

Series 2: Financial (1844-1940)

This series includes financial papers arranged into two subseries:

Subseries 1: Financial-Business (1898-1940)

This series includes receipts from local business's selling items such as agricultural objects, animal feed & seed, building materials, etc. These receipts pertain to the business on the Rittenhouse family farm. There are also receipts from automotive companies.

Subseries 2: Financial-Family (1844-1939)

This series includes banking and financial paperwork of the family including but not limited to receipts, receipts books, cancelled checks, and estate paperwork. The cancelled checks pertain to funeral expenses. Much of the estate paperwork is separated by individual, however there is some estate paperwork that pertains to the Rittenhouse family estate.

Subseries 1: Financial-Business (1898-1940)

Box 3(continued): Business Receipts (1901-1940)

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|----|--|
| 3 | 2 | Agricultural Implements (1926-1937) |
| 3 | 3 | Auto Repair (1921-1940) |
| 3 | 4 | B.I. Latshaw, Building Materials (1921-1931) |
| 3 | 5 | Building Materials (1923-1938) |
| 3 | 6 | Collegeville Mills (1924-1938) |
| 3 | 7 | Feed & Seed Miscellaneous (1901-1924) |
| 3 | 8 | General Merchandise (1926-1931) |
| 3 | 9 | H.B. Fry- Mingo Garage (1922-1926) |
| 3 | 10 | Ironbridge Mills Feed & Seed (1922-1935) |
| 3 | 11 | Jacob Trinley & Son Millers Feed (1 of 2) |

Box 4: Business Receipts (1898- 1936)

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|----|--|
| 4 | 1 | Jacob Trinley & Son Millers Feed (2 of 2) |
| 4 | 2 | John A Flannery Grain & Seed, Monocacy (1926-1931) |
| 4 | 3 | Landes Brothers- Auto. Collegeville (1921-1926) |
| 4 | 4 | Landes Brothers Feed (1 of 2) |
| 4 | 5 | Landes Brothers Feed (2 of 2) |
| 4 | 6 | Lincoln Brothers, Feed & Fertilizer (1922-1926) |
| 4 | 7 | Ledgers (1898-1913) |
| 4 | 8 | Reading, Co., R. & R. (1924-1926) |
| 4 | 9 | Receipts (1908-1934) |
| 4 | 10 | Ridge Ave. Farmers Market (1924-1936) |

Box 4(continued): Business Receipts (1898-1936) (continued)

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|----|-----------------------------------|
| 4 | 11 | Taxes, Road, Property (1910-1926) |
| 4 | 12 | Bank Books (1877-1929) |
| 4 | 13 | Bank Books (1884-1889) |

Subseries 2: Financial-Family (1844-1939)

Box 5: Financial Documents & Receipts (1844-1939)

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 5 | 1 | Banking & Finances (1844-1939) |
| 5 | 2 | Banking & Finances (1870-1937) |
| 5 | 3 | Banking & Finances of Charles & Mary Tyson (1895-1926) |
| 5 | 4 | Cancelled Checks – Funeral Exp. (1871-1923) |
| 5 | 5 | Estate of Ann Rittenhouse, Dec. 1920 |
| 5 | 6 | Estate of Charles & Mary Tyson d. 1897 |
| 5 | 7 | Estate of David Rittenhouse (1881-1888) |
| 5 | 8 | Estate of David Rittenhouse (1888-1900) |

Box 6: Financial Documents & Receipt Books (1897-1939)

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 6 | 1 | Estate of Henry Rittenhouse, Dec. 1939 |
| 6 | 2 | Receipt Books of Mary Tyson c. 1897 |
| 6 | 3 | Rittenhouse Estate Receipts, etc. |

Series 3: Family & Personal Legal Documents (1874-1977)

This series includes personal and family legal documents including but not limited to insurance papers, mortgages, automobile papers, last testament & wills, etc.

Box 6(continued): Family & Personal Legal Documents (1874-1977)

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 6 | 4 | Insurance, Mortgage, etc. (1874-1936) |
| 6 | 5 | David Rittenhouse's individual documents (1921-1977) |
| 6 | 6 | Mary Tyson's individual documents (c. 1897) |

Series 4: Topical Files & Physical Objects (1890-1964)

This series includes miscellaneous files collected by the Rittenhouse family. Most of them appear to be from the estate of David Rittenhouse. Files in this series include but are not limited to school report cards; George Washington's bicentenary birthday celebration program; Newspapers spanning from 1890-1964; separation sheets for issues of *Agricultural Almanac*, *Pennsylvanischer Calendar*, and *The Perkiomen Region**; publications from the 1964 Presidential election campaign of Senator Barry Goldwater. There is also ephemera that include materials relating to the topics of domestic life such as kitchen appliances and diet information; farming manuals & other materials; homeopathic medicine and wellness literature; and tourism brochures & postcards. Finally, the physical objects in this series are mostly coin purses, wallets, pens, and needles.

Box 6(continued): Topical Files (1915-1940)

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|----|--|
| 6 | 7 | David Rittenhouse School Papers |
| 6 | 8 | Ephemera- Domestic Life (c. early 20ury) |
| 6 | 9 | Ephemera-Farming Materials (1915-1929) |
| 6 | 10 | Ephemera-Homeopathic Materials (1879-1940) |
| 6 | 11 | Ephemera-Tourism Materials (c. 1932) |

Box 7: Topical Files & Physical Objects (1890-1964)

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|----|--|
| 7 | 1 | George Washington's Bicentenary Program (1932) |
| 7 | 2 | Newspapers (1890-1964) (1 of 2) |
| 7 | 3 | Newspapers (1890-1964) (2 of 2) |
| 7 | 5 | Periodicals - Pennsylvanischer Calender (1903-1904) |
| 7 | 6 | Periodicals - Perkiomen Region (1921-1934) |
| 7 | 7 | Presidential Election Publications-Goldwater/Miller (1964) |
| 7 | 8 | Coin Purses |
| 7 | 9 | Wallets |
| 7 | 10 | Motorist Travel Guidebook (1927) |

Box 8: Physical Objects

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 8 | 1 | Motorist Travel Guidebook (1930) |
| 8 | 2 | Olympia Pins-WWI |
| 8 | 3 | Post Office Patches |
| 8 | 4 | Tie, Comb, Pen, & Keys |

FEEDBACK

If you would like to submit feedback, corrections, or additional information to improve this finding aid, please contact us at (610) 489-7560.