

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Rich, Robert Fleming (1883-1968)** **MC 2010.3**

Material: Papers (1932-1951)

Volume: 0.5 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Gift of Julie Bell Martin via Lycoming College, 2009

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Robert Fleming Rich was born in Woolrich in Clinton County, Pennsylvania on June 23, 1883. His parents were Michael Bond Rich, from the famous Pennsylvania textile family, and Ida Belle Shaw. He was schooled at Mercersburg Academy and the Williamsport Commercial College before he entered Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 1903 with the class of 1907. He joined Phi Kappa Psi during his freshman year and played two years on the football team, but left the college in 1906 without graduating to take up a position in the family's Woolrich Woolen Mills. Thus began a long and successful commercial career which saw him become general manager from 1930 to 1959, then president and chairman of the board of Woolrich Woolen Mills. He also engaged in other ventures in banking, manufacturing and utilities.

Rich became active in Republican politics, representing his district as a delegate to the national convention in 1924. In November 1930, he was elected to the Seventy-First Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Edgar R. Kiess. He served for the next twelve years until 1942 when he did not seek re-nomination, but he returned to the House of Representatives in the Seventy-ninth Congress in 1945 and served another three terms. He retired from politics in early 1951 and devoted himself from then on to his work at Woolrich.

Rich had married Julia Trump in June 1910 and the couple had four daughters. His first wife passed away, and he married Pattie Holmes Wideman in February 1956. She survived him by two years. A Methodist, he was very active on the boards of several institutions, including his *alma mater* for whom he served as a trustee for almost half a century from 1912 until 1958. He received an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree from Dickinson in 1941. Robert Fleming Rich died at Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania in the early evening of April 28, 1968. He is buried in the Woolrich Cemetery.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Robert Rich Dickinson Collection is composed of papers relating to Rich's time as a student and trustee at Dickinson College. The collection was part of a larger group of papers donated to Lycoming College by Rich's granddaughter, Julie Bell Martin. Papers relating to Dickinson were subsequently transferred to the Dickinson College archives with permission from Ms. Bell. The collection is divided into six series: Board of Trustees General Business, Board of Trustees Financial, Board of Trustees Honorary Degree, Alumnus Donations, Alumnus Events, and Alumnus General Business. The contents of each series are arranged in chronological order.

The Board of Trustees General Business series contains correspondence between Rich and other members of the board of trustees relating to general affairs and Rich's involvement with the executive committee. These papers include correspondence relating to the election of board members and Rich's concerns over the growing separation between Dickinson College and the Methodist Church.

The Board of Trustees Financial series is composed of correspondence between Rich, members of the board of trustees, and several presidents of the college relating the financial climate of the college. At several points during his tenure on the board of trustees, Rich was concerned with the expenditures of the college.

The Board of Trustees Honorary Degree series consists of correspondence between Rich, members of the board of trustees and various candidates for honorary degrees.

The Alumnus Donations series contains correspondence concerning various gifts and donations made to the college by Rich. In addition to monetary donations, Rich was also responsible for donating rugs and helping to finance several portraits for the college, including portraits of Boyd Lee Spahr and Bradford McIntire.

The Alumnus Events series contains correspondence between Rich and other alumni and trustees regarding attendance at events such as reunions, anniversaries and commencements.

The Alumnus General Business series is composed of correspondence between Rich and other members of the Dickinson community regarding general matters such as the college football team and his daughter's attendance at the college. The series also includes a photograph of Rich as an editor for the *Dickinson Union* and a copy of his report card from the fall term 1906.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2010.3

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – GENERAL BUSINESS

Folder 01)	Correspondence - 1933
Folder 02)	Correspondence - 1934
Folder 03)	Correspondence - 1935
Folder 04)	Correspondence - 1936
Folder 05)	Correspondence - 1937
Folder 06)	Correspondence - 1945
Folder 07)	Correspondence - 1946
Folder 08)	Correspondence - 1947

BOX 1 - MC 2010.3 (cont.)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – GENERAL BUSINESS (cont.)

- Folder 09) Correspondence - 1948
- Folder 10) Correspondence - 1949
- Folder 11) Correspondence - 1950

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – FINANCIAL PAPERS

- Folder 12) Correspondence - 1933
- Folder 13) Correspondence - 1935
- Folder 14) Correspondence - 1936
- Folder 15) Correspondence - 1937
- Folder 16) Correspondence - 1938
- Folder 17) Correspondence - 1946
- Folder 18) Correspondence - 1947
- Folder 19) Correspondence - 1948
- Folder 20) Correspondence - 1949
- Folder 21) Correspondence - 1950

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – HONORARY DEGREES

- Folder 22) Correspondence - 1932
- Folder 23) Correspondence - 1933
- Folder 24) Correspondence - 1935
- Folder 25) Correspondence - 1936
- Folder 26) Correspondence - 1937
- Folder 27) Correspondence - 1938
- Folder 28) Correspondence - 1945
- Folder 29) Correspondence - 1946
- Folder 30) Correspondence - 1947
- Folder 31) Correspondence - 1948
- Folder 32) Correspondence - 1949
- Folder 33) Correspondence - 1950

ALUMNUS – DONATIONS

- Folder 34) Correspondence - 1935
- Folder 35) Correspondence - 1936
- Folder 36) Correspondence - 1937
- Folder 37) Correspondence - 1945
- Folder 38) Correspondence - 1946
- Folder 39) Correspondence - 1947
- Folder 40) Correspondence - 1948
- Folder 41) Correspondence - 1949
- Folder 42) Correspondence - 1950

BOX 1 - MC 2010.3 (cont.)

ALUMNUS – EVENTS

- Folder 43) Correspondence - 1935
- Folder 44) Correspondence - 1936
- Folder 45) Correspondence - 1937
- Folder 46) Correspondence - 1948-1950

ALUMNUS – GENERAL BUSINESS

- Folder 47) Photograph of editors of “Dickinson Union” - circa 1900s
- Folder 48) Report card for fall term - 1904
- Folder 49) Correspondence - 1935
- Folder 50) Correspondence - 1936-1938
- Folder 51) Correspondence - 1947
- Folder 52) Correspondence - 1948-1950
- Folder 53) Photograph of Class of 1907 50th reunion - 1957

This collection register was prepared by Michael Blake, November 2010.