

Guide to the Froebe family papers, 1889-2008

Summary Information

Collection No.:	MS 2020-014
Title:	Froebe family papers
Inclusive Dates:	1889-2008
Author:	Carolyn Friedrich, Nancy Martin
Repository:	Peters Township Public Library 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317
Creator:	Froebe family
Extent:	1.2 linear feet
Language of materials:	All materials are in English.
Abstract:	Papers consist of photographs and documents created or accumulated by members of the George and Elizabeth Froebe family of Peters Township. Papers include photographs of family members and farm life, school records and photographs, club membership and Farm Fair records, records relating to the introduction of dial telephone service in Peters Township in 1958, and records and photographs from Earl Froebe's time as a township supervisor and the roadmaster of Peters Township.

Biography/History

George William Froebe (1860-1949) married Elizabeth Zimmerman (1872-1950) on February 7, 1895. The couple had five children together: Albert John (1896-1929), Margaret Mary (1898), Clarence P. (1901-1904), Henry W. (1903-1909), and Earl August (1909-1997).

Only two of their five children - Albert and Earl - lived into adulthood, and only Earl lived past the age of 33. Albert died from tubercular meningitis in 1929. George and Elizabeth also adopted two children: Anna M. Orschler (1890-1974) and Ruth Viola Thomas (1922-2006).

George's younger brother John Philip Froebe married Fredericka "Ricky" Zwinger in 1887. The couple had six children together: Henry Valentine (1889-1977), Anna Mary (1890-1974), George W. (1892-1991), Elizabeth (1894-1978), Eva (1899-1987), and Margaret Elizabeth (1904-1988).

George and John Philip's sister Mary Froebe (1857-1946) married August Ernest Mollenauer on February 26, 1880. The couple had seven children together: Anna E. (1881-1929), Sam Valentin (1885-1950), Eva (1888-1973), Edward C. (1890-1972), William George (1893-1969), Philip John (1896-1971), and Mary Agnes (1902-1971).

Both George and John Philip purchased farmland in Peters Township in the early 1900s. George's farm lay on both sides of what became known as Froebe Road, while John Philip's farm was located on Church Hill Road where, as of 2026, the 1781 golf club is located.

George and Elizabeth's youngest son Earl Froebe married Bessie Young (1917-2008) on June 2, 1937. The couple had four children together: Mary Elizabeth (born in 1939), Philip Earl (born in 1943), Erla Ruth (1946-2025), and Richard W. (1953-2020).

Earl worked on the family farm. He also served as a township supervisor from 1953-1972 and as the roadmaster for Peters Township.

Collection Scope and Content Note

Papers consist of photographs and documents created or accumulated by the Elizabeth and George Froebe family of Peters Township.

The paper include photographs documenting Froebe family members and farm life between 1889 and 2004, school-related records and photographs dating from 1902 until 1961, records relating to Froebe family membership in local organizations including the Peters Township Society of Farm Women, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) and the Women's Club of Peters Township, prize ribbons and programs from Peters Township farm fairs from the 1940s and 1950s, records relating to the implementation of dial telephone service in the township in 1958, photographs and newspaper clippings relating to Earl Froebe's job as township roadmaster, and miscellaneous papers.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in 6 series:

- Series I. Family photographs and personal papers, 1889-2008
- Series II. Peters Township school records and photographs, 1902-1961
- Series III. Club membership records, 1921-1986
- Series IV. Farm Fair records, 1944-1959
- Series V. Bell Telephone Company records relating to the introduction of dial telephone service in Peters Township, 1956-1958
- Series VI. Earl Froebe's township supervisor and roadmaster records, 1958-1990

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions:

No restrictions on access.

Acquisition Information:

Gift of Richard Froebe, 2006.

Accruals note:

No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation:

Peters Township Public Library Archives, MS 2020-014 Froebe family papers

Processing Information:

The processing of this collection was initiated by Carolyn Friedrich in January 2024 and completed by Nancy Martin in April 2026.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact Peters Township Public Library.

Related Materials:

MS 2020-031 Matthews family papers
MS 2020-047 Latimore family papers
MS 2022-087 Collection of Peters Township school records
MS 2022-090 Peters Township municipal government records
MS 2023-043 Peters Township Society of Farm Women records
MS 2023-077 Women's Club of Peters of Peters Township records

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Contents List

Series I. Family photographs and personal papers, 1889-2008

Series Extent: 28 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of photographs and personal papers of three generations of the George and Elizabeth Froebe family. Series includes many photographs of the Froebe Farm and of family members working the land. The personal papers include a sales agreement for the farm's milk, a baptism certificate, estate documents, wedding invitations, memorial cards, funeral programs, a Hollywood Restaurant menu, and a sketch of Richard Froebe by Carol Modery from 2008. Series is arranged in roughly chronological order.

Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 1	Copy of an agreement between George Froebe and Peters Hermes in which Froebe agrees to sell his milk to Hermes	1889
Folder 2	Photograph of men posing beside lumber milling equipment (faded)	undated
Folder 3	Photographs of brothers Henry "Harry" Froebe and George Froebe (Albert Froebe appears in two photographs with his cousins.)	1890-1918
Folder 4	Photographs of Elizabeth Froebe, her sons George and John Philip, George's wife Elizabeth, and farmhand John Bucks taken in front of the house they rented on Sugar Camp Road (3 photographs)	1895
Folder 5	Photographs of spouses Fredericka "Ricky" and John Philip Froebe (3 photographs).	circa 1895-1946
Folder 6	Photographs of brothers Albert, Clarence, and Earl Froebe	circa 1897-circa 1915
Folder 7	Memorial cards for Margaret Froebe (1898) and her grandmother Elizabeth Froebe (1829-1899), obituaries for family members and friends, and a funeral program for Fredericka "Ricky" Froebe (1863-1958) (2 copies)	1898-1978
Folder 8	Photographs of sisters Eva and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Froebe	1899-circa 1920
Folder 9	Group photographs of unidentified individuals on a farm	circa 1900
Folder 10	Photograph of Froebe family members and neighbors in front of the skeleton of a barn under construction	circa 1902
Folder 11	Copy of a baptism certificate for Earl Froebe	1909

Box 3	Folder title	Dates
Folder 1	Documents relating to the settlement of Henry Zwingler's estate (Henry was Fredericka "Ricky" Froebe's brother.)	1910-1911
Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 12	Photographs of family and friends	1915-1920, circa 1950
Folder 13	Photographs of the George and Elizabeth Froebe farm	1915-1920s, 2004
Folder 14	Photographs of Elizabeth "Lizzie" Froebe Matthews, her husband Harvey McMurray "Mac" Matthews and one of their four children	1920s
Folder 15	Photographs of Froebe livestock	circa 1920, circa 1980s
Folder 16	Family wedding invitations and announcements	1923-1948
Folder 17	Photographs of Conrad and Anna Zwingler (the parents of Fredericka "Ricky" Froebe)	undated
Folder 18	Photographs of farm work on the Froebe farm	circa 1930- 1980s
Box 2	Folder title	Dates
Folder 1	Photographs of Earl and Bessie Froebe and their children	circa 1940- 1950s
Folder 2	Miscellaneous documents: - Envelope addressed to "Mrs. George Froebe" postmarked 1949 - Photograph of an unidentified group of people including Earl Froebe, circa 1960s - Menu from the Hollywood Restaurant at Donaldson's Crossroads on the back of which is a note signed by Norman C. Westwood, an adjustor with Motors Insurance Corporation, concerning a check endorsed by Earl Froebe, 1965 <i>Observer-Reporter</i> article about Richard Froebe's corn crops, 2003	1949-2003
Folder 3	Photographs of the Froebe farm in winter	1950, 1964
Folder 4	Photographs of the Mollenauer barn and house	1957, circa 1980
Folder 5	Family photographs and negatives	1978
Folder 6	Miscellaneous photographs of unidentified individuals	Undated
Folder 7	Copies of historical photographs of members of the Mollenauer family	undated

Folder 8	Froebe family history and genealogy written by Earl Froebe for Beverly Holmes Rocker	1979
Folder 9	Documents and photographs relating to Froebe and Mollenauer family genealogy	1995, 2000
Drawer 12	Folder title	Dates
Folder 4	Sketch of Richard Froebe by Carol Modery	2008

Series II. Peters Township school records and photographs, 1902-1961

Series Extent: 12 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of class photographs, school dedication and commencement programs, Parent Teacher Association handbooks, and other materials related to the education of the Froebe family in Peters Township. Series is arranged in roughly chronological order.

Box 2	Folder title	Dates
Folder 10	Class photographs of Wright School students (4 photos) that include either Albert or Earl Froebe	1902-1915
Folder 11	Newspaper clippings (3 articles) relating to Peters Township schools	1921, 1932, 1936
Folder 12	Copy of Earl Froebe's eighth grade diploma	1924
Box 3	Folder title	Dates
Folder 3	Program of the dedication of the new Peters Township High School (3 copies)	1930
Folder 4	Photograph of the cast of a play taken onstage at Peters Township High School	undated, circa 1930s
Folder 5	Invitation to and program for the 50 th anniversary of Peters Township High School	1952
Folder 6	Class photographs (2)	undated
Folder 7	Commencement program for Venetia Graded School	1954
Folder 8	Peters Township High School student newspaper <i>Shawnee</i> , Vol. 9, No. 7, Sophomore edition	1955
Folder 9	McMurray School Parent Teacher Association handbooks	1957-1958, 1958-1959

Folder 10	Program of a testimonial dinner honoring educators E. Paul Day and Harvey M. Matthews (husband of Elizabeth “Lizzie” Froebe Matthews)	1959
Folder 11	George Froebe’s correspondence with Peters Township High School principal B. G. Lauda regarding the 50 th anniversary of the Class of 1911	1961

Series III. Club membership records, 1921-1986

Series Extent: 7 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of records relating to Froebe family membership in local organizations including the Peters Township Society of Farm Women, the Independent Order of Oddfellows (I.O.O.F.), and the Women’s Club of Peters Township. Series is arranged by club and then in roughly chronological order within each club.

Box 3	Folder title	Dates
Folder 12	Peters Township Society of Farm Women yearbooks	1921, 1949, 1961
Folder 13	Newspaper clippings relating to the Peters Township Society of Farm Women	1930s-1970
Folder 14	Miscellaneous Peters Township Society of Farm Women records	circa 1930s-1969
Folder 15	“History of the Pennsylvania Society of Farm Women”	1952
Folder 16	Earl Froebe’s Independent Order of Oddfellows (I.O.O.F.) membership and meeting cards	1929
Folder 17	Newspaper clipping relating to the Peters Township Library	1950s-1960s, 1986
Folder 2	Copy of “History of Women’s Club of Peters Township” with 1986 revisions	1965, 1986
Folder 18	Peters Township Library Board’s Library Building Committee’s Recommendations for Budgeting Land Acquisition	1972

Series IV. Farm Fair records, 1944-1959

Series Extent: 3 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of Peters Township Farm Fair programs and ribbons won by members of the Froebe family at the annual fair. Series is arranged in roughly chronological order.

Box 4	Folder title	Dates
Folder 1	Peters Township Farm Fair ribbons won by members of the Froebe family	1944-1951, 1958, 1959
Folder 2	Peters Township Farm Fair program (2 copies)	1957
Folder 3	Peters Township Farm Fair program	1958

Series V. Bell Telephone Company records relating to the introduction of dial telephone service in Peters Township, 1956-1958

Series Extent: 3 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of records relating to the construction of the new Central Dial Office (Willson), Bell Telephone Company in McMurray in 1956 and to the introduction of dial telephone service to Peters Township in 1958.

Box 4	Folder title	Dates
Folder 4	Records relating to the groundbreaking for the new Bell Telephone Company building in McMurray	1956
Folder 5	Records relating to the introduction of dial telephone service in Peters Township by the Bell Telephone Company	1958
Folder 6	McMurray Special Telephone Directory	1958

Series VI. Earl Froebe's township supervisor and roadmaster records, 1958-1990

Series Extent: 4 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of photographs, documents, and newspaper clippings relating to Earl Froebe's roles as a township supervisor from 1953-1972 and as the roadmaster of Peters Township in the 1950s and 1960s.

Box 4	Folder title	Dates
Folder 7	Township Supervisor records	1958, 1962, 1990
Folder 8	Photographs of Peters Township roads and road maintenance equipment	1960s
Folder 9	Photographs of snowy roads and snow removal in Peters Township	1960s
Folder 10	Newspaper clippings relating to Earl Froebe's roles as a township supervisor and as the roadmaster of Peters Township	1964-1976