

Collection: John C. Ploch Collection**Accession Number:** 2003.20

Finding Aid

Date Range: 1896 – 1915**Bulk Date:** 1900-1915**Creator:** Passaic County Historical Society**Containers:** 1 Flip-top document case**Storage Location:** PCHS Library and Archives**Aid Created By:** Linda Hamer, volunteer

Scope Note and Content:

The papers of the late John C. Ploch, dated 1896 – 1915, include a certificate of transfer for a bull, one lease agreement, and 35 tax receipts that span 1900-1915. This collection primarily consists of tax receipts ranging from 1900 to 1915, all for properties located in Acquackanonk Township (now Clifton), NJ.

Acquackanonk Township Tax Receipts

The tax receipts indicate a house and barns on the properties. According to the tax receipts, he and his wife owned approximately 25 + acres of land on Telegraph Road, between 1900-1907. From 1908, they owned an additional 32 acres on Bloomfield Road. In 1910, they are labeled as Grove St and Bloomfield Rd properties, with house numbers. In 1913, John C Ploch is the sole owner, perhaps indicating his wife passing or change of ownership.

The papers in this collection represent a substantial land holding for Mr. Ploch. Of particular note is a phrase on the lease agreement (May, 1911), indicating “It is agreed by the parties here that any manure made on said leased premises shall not be removed from the premises unless by manure fork only.” The lease contains mention of Telegraph Rd, Morris Canal, and “north by Henry Ploch's land”. The agreement is for twenty dollars annual rent, payable in advance. The document is signed by J.C. Ploch and John B. Courter.

The 1910 Census shows John C. Ploch and his wife, Louisa living on Grove Street. He is listed as a farmer who owns his properties, with a mortgage. He place of birth is New Jersey, with both parents from Germany; Louisa was born in New York, with both parents from Germany. John C. Ploch and his wife, Louise, had 7 children, 6 of whom were living at the time of the 1910 Census. Their children included – Walter (18), Herbert (15), William(14), Henry(12), Elmer(9), and Florence (7).

Of interesting note on the 1910 Census is that their immediate neighbors. The heads of household are George Ploch (age 69, born in Germany), and John Ploch (age 37). Each of their households include

multiple generations and, assuming the same last name and other matching data, we can assume that this is all the same extended Ploch family. George Ploch was a naturalized citizen, arriving in the U.S. in 1857. The entire family is educated (can read and write).

Upon further research, I found a birth record for Emma Ploch, b 18 October 1890. Her parents are listed as John C. Ploch and Louise Schweisgut (FHL Film Number 494218). Since she is not listed on the 1910 Census schedule, we can assume that she is the child that passed away.

Certificate of Transfer, The Holstein – Friesian Association of America

The earliest document in the collection is Certificate of Transfer, No. 15224, from the Holstein-Friesian Association of America. While it is a single document, the certificate shows transfer of ownership from Jas. A. Graham, Paterson, NJ to J.C. Ploch, Richfield, NJ, in 1896. There is an official raised seal, from the association, with the face of a bull on it. As a singular document, it only shows the transfer. As part of this collection, it is perhaps one of the initial investments for Mr. Ploch. The bull, “Sir Henry Benneti”, was sold May 19, 1896. Properly identified Holstein cattle are worth more money non-identified animals. Today, the Holstein breed dominates the U.S. dairy industry due to superior production, unequalled genetic merit, and adaptability to a wide range of environmental conditions. They are known as the world's highest-production dairy animals.

Upon further research, I found that Ploch's Farm is still in existence, run by the Ploch family. (www.PlochsFarm.com), and was established in 1867 by George Ploch.

Series:

The documents within this collection were already in Society possession, and were assigned Accession # 2003.20.0 – 2003.20.13. The tax receipt documents are in Fair to Good condition, the certificate of transfer is in Good to Very Good condition (the raised seal still evident), and the lease agreement in Poor condition (taped at folds, and upper right section missing).

It is unknown how this collection came into possession by the Society.