

Collection: Berkheimer -Ration Book Collection

Accession Number: 2016.011

Finding Aid

Date Range: 1942-1943

Bulk Date: 1943

Creator: Donor, Nancy (Kalemba) Berkheimer

Number and type of containers: A File Folder

Storage Location: PCHS Library and Archives

Aid Created By: Heather Garside, Curator

Historical Information:

Civilian rationing was commonplace in much of the World during the course of WWII. During this period much of the canned food supply was reserved for military use, gasoline and tire rationing limited the transportation of fresh food and many imports, such as sugar, were limited. The resulting food shortages and scarcities led to civilian rationing in the United States. Rationing was controlled by the Office of Price Administration and books (containing removable stamps) were issued to individuals. Each book had a serial number assigned to it. Stamps for the correct item needed to be presented to a store at the time of purchase. There were four different ration books issued during the course of the war.

Biographical Information:

All of the individuals listed on the ration books were related, with the exception of Peter Cooper, who was a lodger. All of the individuals lived at the same address in 1943, except for Robert. The head of the household was John J. Kalemba (1908-1997) who lived with his wife Stella Borowski (1912-2009) and their son John Jr. (born 1938). Also residing with the Kalemba family was Stella's brother Steven Borowski (1918-2007) who served in the Navy during WWII and the Korean War. Stella and Steven's brother Robert Borowski (1914-1993), did not live with the family but his ration book is also included. Robert served in the Army during WWII.

Scope and Content:

The collection contains eight ration books, from several different individuals. Among the books is one Ration book 1, 2 Ration Book 3 and 5 Ration Book 4. John J. Kalemba is most commonly listed on the books.

Series:

The collection has been arranged in date order.