Collection Note

The Archive of John D. Unruh, Jr (1937-1976) relates to the life, career, and legacy of John D. Unruh, Jr. with special focus on his tenure as a faculty member at Bluffton College, 1967-1976. These materials consist of both originals and photocopies, dealing with myriad topics, including lectures, research, history department activities, correspondence, and the publication and review of The Plains Across (University of Illinois Press, 1979). Three retrospective essays have been added to the archive, written by Robert Kreider, George Rable, and Von Hardesty.

- Von Hardesty, former Bluffton College history professor

The archive and inventory which follows was received from Von Hardesty on February 27, 2008.

Carrie Phillips, Archives & Special Collections Librarian

February 27, 2008

Archive of John D. Unruh, Jr. (1937-1976)

Life and Career—Three Vignettes

---Robert Kreider

“Reflections on the Life of John D. Unruh, Jr., 1937-1976”

---George C. Rable

“John D. Unruh, Jr.: Reflections of a Student”

---Von Hardesty

Photographs

---Photograph of John D. Unruh, Jr. from Bluffton College, ca 1975.

In Memoriam—1976

---Two items from the memorial service held at First Mennonite Church, Bluffton, Ohio on January 23, 1976: Formal funeral brochure with list of clergy and participants and order of service for memorial service.


---*Scope* (Bluffton College Bulletin for April 1976), fragment, contains memorial essays by George Rable and Arman Habegger, former students, faculty colleagues Burton Yost, Mel Goering, John Mecartney, Maurice Kaufmann, Richard Hite, and Robert Kreider. Also, comments by Harley J. Stuckey (Bethel College), and Clifford S. Griffin, graduate advisor (University of Kansas).


Department of History, Bluffton College (1967-1976)


---Departmental minutes of the History Department. Earliest document records minutes for October 8, 1968, when the department consisted of two members, John Unruh and Ray Hamman. The remaining minutes cover the period 1970-1971, including a “dinner meeting” held at Ingalls’ Restaurant on September 17, 1971. The department then consisted of four members: John Unruh, chairman, Ray Hamman, Von Hardesty, and Rick Hite.

---Letter of John Unruh to Dean Mark Houshower, October 11, 1971, defending the history department on the charge that current class enrollments did not justify a four-member department.

---Letter to Elmer Neufeld, Dean, from Von Hardesty concerning staffing for the history department, dated February 21, 1975.

Course Syllabi

---Assorted course syllabi from George Rable: 1) History 401 Colloquium, The American West, Spring 1971; 2) History 211, American Intellectual History, Fall 1970; and 3) History 210, American History II (Since 1865), no date.

---Unruh comments on honors research paper: “The Impeachment and Trial of Andrew Johnson: A Revisionist Study,” by George Rable. (Photocopy).

Course: European History II (Since 1789), Spring 1969

---File contains course syllabus with assigned books and notes on research paper, a seating chart, a footnote and bibliography sampler, a tentative lecture schedule with the caveat “Do not be surprised at changes,” and keys for two quizzes given on March 10 and May 2, 1969.

---Introductory remarks for European History II. The typed notes include Professor Unruh’s commentary on the “Cardinal Sins” of historical research. No date. After outlining the grading procedures, Professor Unruh announces that there will be no mandatory attendance, but frequent absences discouraged. Warns he may fail on occasion to make the class interesting, and adds humorous note that such a failing may be the consequence of myriad factors, including perhaps his reaction to the athletic fortunes of the Celtics, the Red Sox, the Kansas Jayhawks, UCLA Bruins, and Arnie Palmer. He notes that students will have a chance to evaluate him at the end of the semester. This rare set of notes offers a mirror on John Unruh’s exacting standards, keen interest in helping students excel, and his own sense of humor.

---Europe in Revolution (History 214). Fall Semester, 1967. Course syllabus. File also contains midterm and final examination questions.

---History of Civilization (SS 2) Course syllabus, assignment sheet, and seating chart. No date.
Class Lecture Notes

Course: European History II

---First Day Remarks, no date.

Course: Russian History

---“Population, Peoples, and Prehistory”
---“The First Romanovs, 1613-1682”
---“The Time of Troubles”
---“Russian Geography”
---“The Geography of Russia and Impact on Development”
---“The Birth of Modern Russia”
---“Nicholas I, 1825-1855”
---“Nicholas II, 1894-1917”
---“Alexander II, 1855-1881”
---“Alexander III, 1881-1894”
---“Russian Literature and the Birth of Intelligentsia”
---“Marxism and Russian Political Parties”
---“The Russian Revolution”
---“The First World War”
---“Discussion Outline for Russian Revolution”
---“Famine, Leninist Theory and the New Economic Policy”
---“Prospects for the Future”
---[fragment] lecture on Khrushchev and modern Russia

Course: European History.

John Unruh taught at least three courses in this area: European History (to 1789); European History II (Since 1789); and Europe in Revolution. His surviving lecture notes dealing with this teaching area are listed below:

---“The Thirty Years War”
---“Europe in 1600”
---“Mercantilism”
---“Oliver Cromwell, Parliament and the King”
---“The Glorious, Bloodless Revolution of 1688”
---“Establishing Absolute Monarchy in France”
---“Louis XIV”
---“Enlightened Despotism”
---“The Rise of Prussia”
---"The Anglo-French Struggle for Empire"
---"The Enlightenment"
---"The Scientific Revolution"
---"The Age of the Democratic Revolution—American Revolution"
---"The Austrian Empire"
---"The French Revolution"
---"Metternich and Europe"
---"The Congress of Vienna"
---"Napoleon III"
---"The Paris Commune of 1871"
---"Darwin and his Message"
---"Darwinism—Social Darwinism"
---"Karl Marx and Marxism"
---"Karl Marx and his Impact"
---"The Emergence of Russia"
---"The New Imperialism"
---"Kaiser William II’s Germany"
---"The Declining Empire of the Hapsburgs"
---"The First World War"
---"England and Irish Nationalism"
---"The Russian Revolution (2)"
---"The Versailles Treaty"
---"The Weimar Republic"
---"The Great Depression"
---"The Locarno Spirit"
---"The League of Nations and Ethiopia"
---"Discussion on Hitler and Nazi Seizure of Power"
---"The Nature of Totalitarianism"
---"Munich and Appeasement"
---"The Second World War"
---"Adolf Hitler Analyzed"
---"The Nuremberg Trials"
---"Charles de Gaulle—Anachronism, Realist, or Prophet?"
---"Discussion—The Cold War"
---"Ferment in Czechoslovakia"
---"Problems of Contemporary History"


Course: History of Civilization (See also course syllabus)

---“Seek Out, Discover, and Find”
---“L’Etat, C’est Moi”
---“The Proper Study of Mankind is Man”
---“New Forces and the Old Regime”
---“The Strife of States and Kings”
---“A World Fit for Heroes”
---“Parliaments and Political Reforms”
---“Opposing Ways of Life”
---“Promise and Peril”
---“The Rights of Man”
---“Old Worlds Beyond the Horizon”
---“Chinese History”
---“The Tragic Decade and Global Conflict”


Research/Writing


---“The Golden History of Overland Emigrations,” autographed off print presented to Von Hardesty (Photocopy).

The Plains Across (University of Illinois Press, 1979)

---Correspondence from the University of Illinois Press. Letter from Elizabeth G. Dulany, managing editor, to Ellie Unruh and Von Hardesty, dated February 15, 1978, concerning status of the manuscript.

---Draft foreword for The Plains Across by Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. sent to Von Hardesty, no date.

---Letters of Von Hardesty to Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. (November 2, 1976) and Richard Wentworth of the University of Illinois Press (March 30 and May 13, 1977) concerning planning for the publication of The Plains Across.


Bluffton College, the 1970s


Faculty, Bluffton College ca. 1970s


---Letter to the Faculty, Bluffton College from John Unruh and Von Hardesty, April 19, 1971 on curriculum reform. File contains miscellaneous items and memos related to the reform of general education.


Mike Lackey Columns, *The Lima News*

“Late Professor’s Albatross Hailed,” (1979, a fragment)

“Professor’s Lamp Still Shines 17 Years After His Death” (1993)

“Doing it the Unruh Way, Not the Easy Way” (2004)

Obituaries—The Unruh Family

Obituaries (some undated) from the *Freeman Courier*. Clippings include John D. Unruh; John D. Unruh, Jr., and Amalia Unruh. Gift of Robert S. Kreider.

Notebooks—Graduate School, Kansas University

--- Five red-bound spiral notebooks, “The Jay Book” from the Kansas Union Book Store, containing handwritten and typed summaries of books read by John Unruh during his graduate studies at KU. Assorted news clippings, articles, and notes are attached. No date. Summaries are highly detailed and cover topics related to European history.