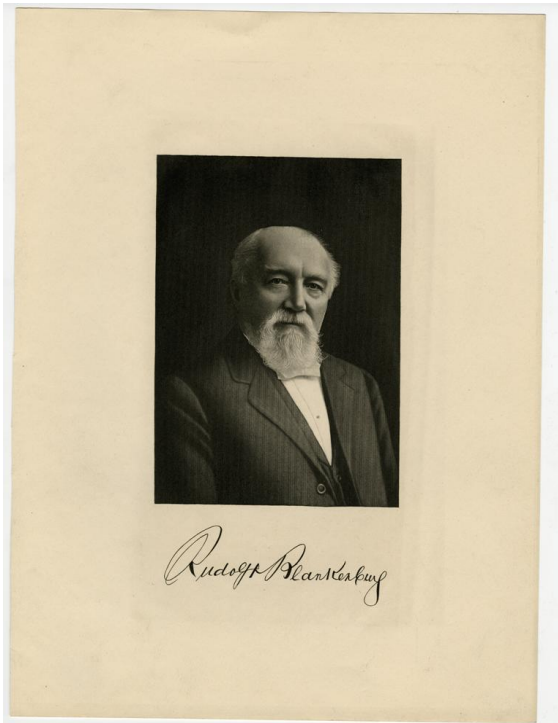


Rudolph Blankenburg

- Born in Germany, elected county commissioner for Philadelphia in 1905, serving 1906-1909
- Reform mayor of Philadelphia, 1912-1916, known as "Old Dutch Cleanser"
- Ended assessments by ward leaders of policemen, reorganized the civil service system to have it based on merit, gained passage by the legislature of a bill to enable the city to lease development of subway and transit lines

Primary Sources



Rudolph Blankenburg papers, 1881-1913

Correspondence concerning Philadelphia politics, including statements concerning graft in the City Treasurer's Office, 1881, as well as material on high speed transit and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, the sending of the Liberty Bell to San Diego, 1915, and other items showing interest in good government for the city. Correspondents include: Wayne MacVeagh, Edward T. Stotesbury, and Morris L. Cooke. Some miscellaneous pamphlets and clippings.
Collection #1613

(Rudolph Blankenburg, from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania portrait collection #V88, Digital Archive item #2292)

The Times and honest politics

by Rudolph Blankenburg, published 1888
Call number: Wz*.999

Rudolph Blankenburg scrapbooks 1882-1916, bulk 1900-1901 and 1911-1916

This collection of scrapbooks, presumably put together by Blankenburg and probably given to the historical society by his wife, thoroughly cover Blankenburg's public career as a politician in Philadelphia. (There is little in the scrapbooks that shed light on Blankenburg's personal life.) The clippings, which articles, editorials, and political cartoons, discuss everything from city and regional affairs to his campaigns for office. They also generally cover the political, economic, and social climates of early twentieth century Philadelphia. Some are in German and Yiddish.
Collection #Wz937F

Real estate and its taxation in Philadelphia : questions and answers relating to a proposed system of assessment.

Call number: Wz*.213

Equalization of assessments and new sources of revenue : an address

Delivered by Mayor Blankenburg to the Business Men's Associations of Philadelphia on January 20, 1913

Call number: Wz*.983 vol.1

Benjamin Franklin Parkway papers, 1907-1917

Correspondence and papers primarily on the acquisition of real estate along the proposed Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. Many of the letters are addressed to Mayors John Edgar Reyburn, 1907-1911, and Rudolph Blankenburg, 1912-1913. There is also outgoing correspondence from the Mayor's Office on the project.

Collection #1713

The Blankenburgs of Philadelphia

The biography of Rudolph Blankenburg. The autobiography of Lucretia Longshore Blankenburg. Letters and speeches.

by Lucretia L. Blankenburg, published 1928

Call number: UPA/Ph F 158.5.B64 1928

For mayor: miscellaneous campaign literature for Mayor Rudolph Blankenburg

Call number: Wz*.983 vol.1