

Robert Sheldon Rush

The Easton Express - Sept. 30, 1985 ¹ (excerpts):
 'Robert S. Rush, 43, of Brass Castle, Washington Township died Saturday at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia.

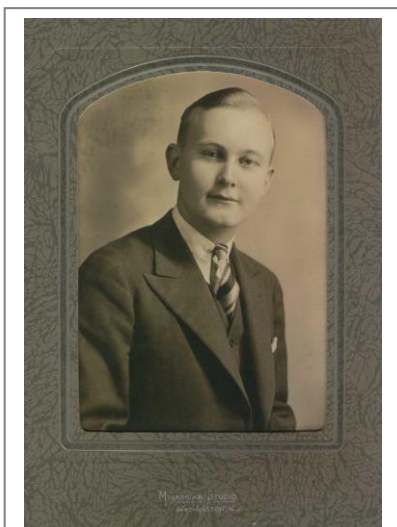
Born in Glen Gardner, N.J., on May 27, 1942, he was a son of Florence Rush Schumann of Washington, and the late Wilbur M. Rush, who also served as Warren County prosecutor and practiced law in Washington.



Robert Rush Class Picture at 20 years

A graduate of Perkiomen Preparatory School, Mr. Rush received a bachelor of arts degree from Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa., and a juris doctor degree from the Law School of Seton Hall University, Newark. He served his clerkship with the firm of Schenk, Price, Smith and King, Morristown. Mr. Rush, a lifelong resident of Washington Township was also an accomplished photographer.

Surviving in addition to his mother are his stepfather, Leonard R. Schumann; a sister, Ellen Brown, Hellertown, Pa., and a niece and nephew. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church, Washington, where he served as an elder. Interment will be in the Montana Cemetery. The Ford Funeral Home, Washington, is in charge of arrangements.'



Wilbur Rush

The Rush Family is an ancient one and of English origin. It is said to have originated in Sudborne, Suffolk County, England, prior to the Fifteenth Century.* ² And this branch of the Rush family was on course to be one of the most important families in the region!

Listed in the 2 Volume tome: 'Prominent Families of New Jersey,'³ Robert's father, Wilber M. Rush, (1912-1969), and his Father and Mother before him (Sheldon Raymond Rush and Mabel (Miller) Rush) are listed as natives of Washington, NJ. Sheldon was a 'hardware merchant' who maintained stores in Oxford. (Major & Rush Hardware and Plumbing), and Washington (Rush & Sinkway).

Wilber was a leading lawyer and senior partner of the law firm **Rush and Schumann** in



Sheldon Raymond Rush and Mabel (Miller) Rush

¹ The Easton Express - Sept. 30, 1985

² 'HISTORICAL and GENEALOGICAL ACCOUNT of the RUSH FAMILY' by SYLVESTER R. RUSH published FESTNER PRINTING COMPANY 1925 Omaha.

³ 'PROMINENT FAMILIES OF NEW JERSEY: In Two Volumes' by Willam Starr Myers (Books.google.com)

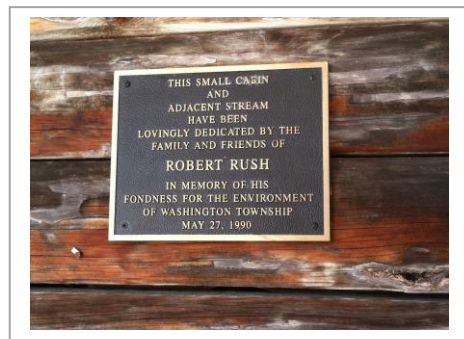
Washington, and was a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a member of the American Bar Association, the New Jersey Bar Association, and the Warren County Bar Association, where he also acted as Secretary. He was offered a New Jersey Superior Court judgeship by 2 separate governors, but he declined. He was admitted to the US Supreme Court in 1949.

It would have come as no surprise that their only son, Robert, would follow in his footsteps. Robert became a prominent Attorney and Prosecutor for the Borough of Washington, and a member of the same Bar Associations as his father. In his leisure time, he had a great love of nature and wildlife, choosing photography as a way to express that love, and taking hundreds of photographs, often in an area around an ancient log cabin near Mine Hill Road, which he presumably used as a 'hide' when taking his photographs.

On the 28th of September, 1985, Robert, was suddenly taken ill, and transferred by ambulance to University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, where he underwent a relatively minor operation. Septicemia set in and suddenly, this only scion of such a wealthy and well-appointed family was dead, at the age of 43.

His distraught Mother, Florence Rush Schumann, wanted to memorialize her son, and with the help of a few friends, they formed The Robert Sheldon Rush Foundation and acquired 113 acres around the Pohatcong creek, where he spent so much of his time, to create **The Robert Sheldon Rush Park and Nature Trail**. They tried to move the log cabin so it would become the entrance to the park, but it was so old, it disintegrated even further, so they built a log cabin on the site where it now stands. It was to be used for the display of Robert's wildlife and nature photographs. Washington Township was presented with the deeds and became owners of the property, but the Foundation would maintain it from the Trust.

*"This small cabin and adjacent stream
Have been lovingly dedicated by the family and friends of
ROBERT RUSH
In memory of his fondness for the environment
Of Washington Township
May 27, 1990*



Pohatcong Native Arboretum

Robert's Mother, Florence Schumann, (1911-2003) wanted to have all the trees, flowers, and other vegetation in the Park identified, so a member of the Trust approached Rutgers University to have this accomplished. Anthony Pasquini, a native of Washington,

applied for and received the grant in 2002, and started with 40 species of plants. The money ran out, but Anthony stayed on. It can now boast a collection of 143 species of native trees and shrubs, organized into 38 plant families, approximately 200 trees and shrubs, and more than 30 species of wildflowers, grasses, ferns, sedges, and rushes, all due to Anthony's hard work and persistence. Pohatcong Native Arboretum, located on 56 Mine Hill Road, just outside of Washington, NJ, has one of the most comprehensive collections of native woody plants in the Mid-Atlantic region. All plants are native to New Jersey. The project was initially funded, and, since that time, has relied on volunteers and plant donations from plant nurseries, he said. **The Washington Township Department of Public Works** and a handful of students from Warren Hills High School have also helped to maintain and develop the project. Pasquini, himself, is an alumnus of Warren Hills High School. According to Pasquini, for the larger community, "it's so important because it's promoting native plants and its promoting protection of Pohatcong Creek and watershed. The arboretum is a representation of the native plants that are in the Pohatcong Creek watershed. Like Robert Rush, "I love the area, I am from the area, and I want people to enjoy those native plants as much as I do and have the opportunity to learn," he said. This also fulfilled Robert Rush's love of beauty and the dream of Florence Rush Schumann who hoped that the trails would be used for nature walks and studies. Anthony Pasquini has memorialized Florence by planting a Sweet bay Magnolia tree which faces the cabin, eternally bearing her name.

