

R.D. Wood & Company and WaWa Food Market Chain

Richard Davis Wood died on April 1, 1869 and left behind him a vast treasure of impersonal achievements, infinitely more important in benefits to the community and the nation than his acquisition of large fortune for himself and his family.

On his death in 1869 his businesses were divided between his sons. One son, George Wood, received the cotton mill in Millville, N.J., and one of the other sons, Walter Wood, received the Florence Iron Works. Another son, Stuart Wood, received the R. D. Wood & Co. pipe and hydrant manufacturing business.

All these businesses are now defunct or subsumed by other companies. The cotton company survived the longest, as George Wood & Son Cotton Co., surviving until the late 1950s at which time it was liquidated at a price which, compared to book value, generated great tax losses. George Wood built a summer home in Wawa, Pa. and conceived himself to be a gentleman farmer, so he opened the Wawa Dairy as a hobby business in 1902. The Wawa Dairy continued to operate strictly as a Dairy with home delivery of milk until the 1960s. The cash from the liquidation of the cotton business and the tax losses were used by the grandson of George Wood, Grahame Wood, to fund the beginning of the Wawa Food Market chain:

Toward the end of the 19th Century, owner George Wood took an interest in dairy farming and the family began a small processing plant in Wawa, Pa, in 1902. The milk business was a huge success, due to its quality, cleanliness and "certified" process. As home delivery of milk declined in the early 1960s, Grahame Wood, George's grandson, opened the first Wawa Food Market in 1964 as an outlet for dairy products.

Today, Wawa is your all day, every day stop for fresh, built-to-order foods, beverages, coffee, fuel services, and surcharge-free ATMs. A chain of more than 750 convenience retail stores (over 500 offering gasoline) and employing 30,000 associates, Wawa stores are located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Central Florida.

Our Logo: "Wawa" is a Native American word for the Canada Goose that was found in the Delaware Valley over 100 years ago. Our original Dairy farm was built on land located in a rural section of Pennsylvania called Wawa. That's why we use the goose on Wawa's corporate logo.