

C Crede Family Papers, 1818-1939
3065 2 linear feet and 2 oversize volumes; also available on 4 rolls of microfilm

MICROFILM

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INTRODUCTION

Personal correspondence, genealogical records, and business records of a German-American family living in Osage County, Missouri. The bulk of the collection concerns Hermann Crede, who emigrated in 1853; other papers pertain to his brothers, Wilhelm (who emigrated in 1853) and Carl (who emigrated in 1855). Much of the correspondence is in German; the business records are in English.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Crede Family Papers were loaned to the University of Missouri for copying by Charles Crede on 22 May 1989 (Accession No. 4911). Mary Ann Crede Klebba donated the actual papers on 14 March 2002 (Accession No. 5920). The papers are part of the German Heritage Archives.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

The first members of this family to emigrate from Cassel, Germany, to Osage County, Missouri, were the widow Margarete Versen Schroeder with her son, Hermann, and daughter, Christina. Their arrival in the mid-1830s places them among the founders of Westphalia. After her arrival, Schroeder married Johann/John Classen. Among the family that Margarete left in Germany was a married daughter, Clothilde Marie Crede. She and her husband, Heinrich Carl Friedrich Crede, sent three sons to Osage County, Missouri. They lived with their grandmother upon arrival.

Carl Hermann Crede was born in Cassel, Hesse, Prussia, on 25 February 1836. In 1853, at the age of 17, he immigrated to Missouri in company with his brother, Wilhelm Ernst (born 20 August 1837).

Hermann began a career of farming and served in several local appointed and elected offices, including postmaster, notary public, and county collector. Hermann also handled legal transactions for notes, deeds, estate settlements and administration, and account collections. He served as a translator for his German-born neighbors.

During the Civil War Hermann Crede served with the 28th Regiment, Enrolled Missouri Militia. He apparently acted as clerk and retained records of muster rolls and supplies.

In 1860 Hermann Crede married Marie Spuhler/Spoehler. Of their nine children, only Charles B., John W., William, and Adolph survived. Hermann's second marriage, about 1882, was to Anna Elizabeth Vering Kremer, a widow; they had no children. Hermann Crede died 11 August 1907.

Wilhelm/William Ernst Crede spent one season at Fort Arbuckle, Choctaw Nation, after contracting to drive a wagon to Texas. After returning to Missouri, William entered into steamboating on the Osage and Missouri rivers. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the 5th Missouri Infantry and fought at Carthage and Wilson's Creek. He reenlisted in the 3rd Missouri Cavalry,

which consolidated with the 7th Missouri Cavalry. Following the war, William married Emma Clarenback. William Crede died in 1891.

Carl Albert was the third Crede brother to immigrate to Missouri. Carl was born 25 April 1840 and emigrated at age 15, in 1855. During the Civil War, Carl served in the 7th Regiment of the Missouri Enrolled Militia and was killed at Center Creek near French Point, Jasper County, Missouri, on 15 May 1863.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

While much of this collection is in German, the business records and later correspondence are in English. Information in the English-language ledgers, at the end of the collection, relates to the correspondence, deeds, and court records within the business section. The fact that Hermann Crede's business records are in English, while his correspondence is in German, gives a key to his role in the community of Westphalia and to his success.

The personal correspondence with family and friends is mostly in German. Young Carl Crede wrote Hermann during the Civil War in both English and German. Portions of the collection are difficult to read due to the German script, the very thin paper, and the ink used.

Geographically, this collection concerns the Osage County area. Use of the personal correspondence with the business correspondence and the ledgers indicates the close familial relations among the residents. Many of the records pertain to leading citizens of the area. The Civil War correspondence indicates German-American reactions.

Numerous spellings of the same name occur in the collection; alternative spellings should be frequently checked. Many first names were Americanized, and alternatives should be considered. A detailed document calendar follows this inventory. The documents were sorted and identified by Adolf E. Schroeder, professor emeritus of Germanic and Slavic studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The papers are arranged by name of family member with the bulk of the papers belonging to Hermann Crede. The Huber-Versen-Classen Families section includes genealogical records; certificates of birth, good conduct, domicile, apprenticeship, and emigration; passports; legal documents; and correspondence showing the relationships, through marriage, of these and the Schroeder and Crede families.

The Wilhelm Ernst Crede section contains the correspondence of Wilhelm, whose name was americanized to William. The section includes an inventory of items brought to America in 1853. The Albert Carl Crede section consists of a diary kept during his voyage to America in 1855 and some correspondence. The diary begins on 29 March 1855 with his departure from Cassel for Bremen, Germany, and continues through his arrival in New Orleans on 3 June 1855 and his arrival in St. Louis on 13 June 1855. A translation of the diary follows the inventory.

The Hermann Crede section includes correspondence, financial and estate records, political papers, and business papers. The correspondence is letters from parents, sisters, and other family members in Germany and the United States. Correspondence and documents concerning the Civil War in general, and specifically the 28th Regiment, Enrolled Missouri Militia, and Reconstruction can also be found in this section. The financial records include Crede's last will and testament, information on the settlement of his estate, yearly financial statements of business transactions, tax receipts, real estate deeds and related documents, and miscellaneous business records. Volumes 1 through 7 are also related to this material. The political papers include sample tickets for the Democratic and Republican parties, election results, correspondence, and election notices. Crede served as Osage County collector and notary public. The business pa-

pers are records of collections, estate management, and real estate transactions done for clients. The business papers are arranged alphabetically by name of client.

The Crede Family section is made up of miscellaneous items from other family members. The ledgers and account books section include books that belonged to Hermann Crede as well as other family members.

FOLDER LIST

Huber-Versen-Classens Families, 1818-1888

- f. 1 Crede family genealogy and family documents
- f. 2-4 Huber-Versen-Classens family documents and correspondence, 1835-1868

Wilhelm Ernst Crede Papers, 1853-1892

- f. 5 1853-1863
- f. 6 1864
- f. 7 1865-1867
- f. 8 1869-1892

Albert Carl Crede Papers, 1855-1863

- f. 9 Diary, 1855
- f. 10 Correspondence, 1858-1863

Hermann Crede Papers, 1837-1915

- f. 11-13 Correspondence, 1853-1859
- f. 14-19 Correspondence, 1860-1869
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- f. 23-29 Correspondence, 1880-1889
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- f. 39 Last will and testament
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- f. 54-87 Business Papers, 1862-1904
 - f. 54 Peter Bauer; Christ. Berensmeyer, Sr.; A. Berg; Stephen Berhorst estate; Mary Bode estate
 - f. 55 Boeckmann family, including management of estates
 - f. 56 Friedrich Bosch and Joseph Goellner, including the Goellner estate
 - f. 57-63 Franz Braecklein, n.d., 1862-1924. Business and personal correspondence and records
 - f. 64 John Braester estate

Hermann Crede Papers, 1837-1915 (con'd)

- f. 65 Theophile Dubrouillet, sheriff. Real estate sales, taxes, and politics
- f. 66 Hubert Even estate
- f. 67 Anton Fork and Joseph Buthe. Includes notes and deeds of trust
- f. 68 H. Gehner; Balthasar Heckmann
- f. 69 Bernhard Heitmann/Bernhard Heidtmann estates. Includes 1884 documents of widow contesting the will
- f. 70 Henry/Heinrich Hochstrate
- f. 71 John Hodgdon estate. Correspondence re sale of land
- f. 72 Michael Hoerschgens; C. George Holtschneider estate
- f. 73 Francis Huchtmeyer
- f. 74 J. T. Huddleston; *Christ. Linnemann v. John H. Schepers*
- f. 75 Luther H. Lockwood
- f. 76 Mary Leubbert
- f. 77-78 Bernard Leuckenhoff estate. See also Porth
- f. 79-81 Mertensmeyer/Mertensmeier family. Estate settlement, information on Anna Mertensmeyer Crede, real estate, and guardianship of minors
- f. 82 John Peter Nilches farm
- f. 83 Gerhard Plassmeyer; Peter Porth. See also Leuckenhoff
- f. 84 John Rehagen; Gustave Reiche
- f. 85 R. Steele Ryons; Peter W. Schmitz
- f. 86 William Sprenger estate; F. Strobach; W.L. Vaughan
- f. 87 Joseph Werner. Adjudged insane and committed to State Lunatic Asylum at Nevada, Missouri, 1900

Crede Family Papers, 1889-1939

- f. 88-89 John W. and Anna Crede. Correspondence, financial and tax records, and receipts. See also volumes 8 and 9
- f. 90 Rudolph A. Crede
- f. 91 Adolph Crede
- f. 92 Elizabeth Crede. Appointment of John W. Crede as guardian, 1906
- f. 93 William L. Huber

Ledgers and Account Books

- v. 1 Hermann Crede--Account Book, 1867-1869. Begins with 1 January 1867 with his administration of the John Classen estate
- v. 2 Hermann Crede--Ledger of Collections, Accounts and Expenses, 1869-1878
Names in index frequently correspond to the business papers series concerning estates, guardianships, and official business. Loose items within the volume include blank forms, flowers, and baptismal and confirmation certificates of children

Ledgers and Account Books (con'd)

- v. 3 Hermann Crede--Ledger "C", 1884-1904. Includes daily activities on the farm. Index at front of volume
- v. 4 Hermann Crede--Ledger "D", 1884-1906. Contains 1884 state revenue, accounts of John Boeckmann estate, Martin Boeckmann estate, notary public office, county road funds, school taxes, and other entries. Index at front of volume. Includes diary entries for 1900-1901
- v. 5 Osage County Plat Book, n.d.
- v. 6 Pocket Memorandum Book. Contains land description for Township 43
- v. 7 Notebook of Earnings and Expenses, 1895-1910
- v. 8 John W. Crede--Notebook of Interest, 1920-1926. Collections and banking transactions
- v. 9 Farmer's Notebook, 1921. Expenses and miscellaneous entries including the birth of livestock, 1804-1919
- v. 10 C. J. Fechtel--Farmer's Notebook, 1913-1923.

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