

Finding aid for the Helmecke family papers, 1767-1961

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Title:	Helmecke family papers, 1767-1961
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Abstract:	Correspondence, memorabilia, and legal and religious documents of the Helmecke family, a family of German origin who lived in Cincinnati. The material documents the family's life in Germany, their immigration to the U.S., and their lives as German-Americans living in Cincinnati and then in Michigan.
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Biography of the Helmecke Family

The Helmecke family of this collection lived in Braunschweig, Germany before immigrating to the United States. Stephan Helmecke came to Cincinnati in 1902 to work for the Globe Wernecke Company in Norwood, Ohio. It is likely that Stephan Helmecke took this job, because he was related to the Wernecke family. Stephan appears to have done a substantial amount of timber-cruising for the company in the Southern United States and in Michigan. This job consisted of assessing the value of timber.

Stephan's wife, Marie (Engel) and their two children Carl Albert and Marie Gertrud followed him to the United States in 1903. The family lived in Cincinnati for five years before moving to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Both Carl and Gertrud attended the University of Michigan. Carl became a professor of German language and literature after receiving his M.A. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He taught at Upper Iowa University and Western State College at Gunnison, Colorado. While at Gunnison, he spent a sabbatical year in Hitler's Germany (1937-1938) serving as an exchange professor at the University of Berlin. Upon retiring from Gunnison in 1955, Helmecke moved to Corpus Christi, Texas where he taught at Del Mar College, the Incarnate Word Academy Christopher College and the University of Corpus Christi. He passed away in 1984.

Scope and Content

Correspondence, memorabilia, and legal and religious documents of the Helmecke family, a family of German origin who lived in Cincinnati. The material documents the family's life in Germany, their immigration to the U.S., and their lives as German-Americans living in Cincinnati and then in Michigan.

Statement of Arrangement

This collection is arranged into folders by topic.

Related Material

Also see the Carl A. Helmecke papers, GA-05-04

Restrictions on Access

This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

The preferred citation for this collection is: Cite specific item as appropriate, Helmecke family papers, 1767-1961, GA-09-04, Archives and Rare Books Library, The University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection.

Subjects:

Immigrants - United States

German Americans - Ohio - Cincinnati

National Socialism - Germany - Berlin

German Americans - Michigan

Tourism - Germany

Detailed Description of The Collection

Box 1, 1870-1905

Folder 1

Helmecke/Engel families, various items from Germany (correspondence, receipts, invitations), 1870-1901

Folder 2

Correspondence and business material of Stephan Helmecke, 1891-1897

Folder 3

Correspondence, Stephan Helmecke to Marie Helmecke (while in transit to U.S. - letters have significant pest damage), May 1902

Folder 4

Correspondence, Stephan Helmecke to Marie Helmecke, May-June 1902

Folder 5

Correspondence, July 1902-October 1902

Folder 6

Correspondence, September 1903 - May 1904

Folder 7

Correspondence, June 1904 - August 1904

Folder 8

Correspondence, September 1904 - December 1904

Folder 9

Correspondence, January 1905 - August 1905

Box 2, 1901-1911**Folder 1**

Correspondence, Stephen Helmecke to Marie Helmecke during Marie's trip to Braunschweig, 1911

Folder 2

Correspondence, Stephen Helmecke to Marie Helmecke during Marie's trip to Braunschweig and after her return from Owensboro, Kentucky, 1911

Folder 3

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to Stephen Helmecke, 1901-1902

Folder 4

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to Stephen Helmecke, 1902

Folder 5

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke (Cincinnati or Norwood, OH) to Stephen Helmecke, 1903

Folder 6

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke (Cincinnati or Norwood, OH) to Stephen Helmecke, January - May 1904

Folder 7

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke, May-August 1904

Box 3, 1902-1959

Folder 1

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke, September 1904-April 1905

Folder 2

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to her children, 1911-1916

Folder 3

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to Stephen Helmecke and children including letters from Braunschweig Germany, 1909-June 1911

Folder 4

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to Stephen Helmecke and children including letters from Braunschweig Germany, July-August 1911, July 1911-January 1915

Folder 5

Correspondence, Helmecke family, from Germany, 1902-1927

Folder 6

Correspondence, Helmecke family, 1902-1959

Folder 7

Correspondence, H. Krause to Helmecke family, 1905-1909

Folder 8

Correspondence, Gertrude Helmecke (Grand Rapids) and one photograph of Gertrude, 1911

Folder 9

Correspondence, Carl Helmecke and family from Syracuse University includes photographs, 1914-1915

Folder 10

Correspondence, Helmecke family, and miscellaneous items including material pertaining to Carl Helmecke's attendance at Grand Rapids High School, 1905-1939

Box 4, 1870s - 1961**Folder 1**

Correspondence and Misc. Items, Carl Helmecke at the University of Pennsylvania, 1918-1925

Folder 2

Correspondence, Helmecke family, 1928-1930

Folder 3

Correspondence, Gertrud Helmecke Reimer, 1938-1942

Folder 4

Postcard, University of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia, 1918-1924

Folder 5

Correspondence, Gertrude Benecke Pruedent to Carl and Maire Helmecke, 1957-1961

Folder 6

Carl Helmecke, Misc. Items from trip to Europe, 1956

Folder 7

Newsclippings - Braunschweig papers, 1889-1893

Folder 8

Souvenir Cards from Germany, circa 1870s

Folder 9

Photographs, Helmecke Home, Philadelphia, PA, 1918-1919

Folder 10

Newsclippings and Miscellaneous items, 1918-1924

Box 5, 1840-1947

Folder 1

Correspondence and material relating to wedding and honeymoon of Stephen Helmecke and Marie Engel (including calling cards, ticket stubs, and clippings, approximately 50 items), 1887-1889

Folder 2

Helmecke, 14 family photographs in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1910-1916

Folder 3

Stephan A. Helmecke, 2 bank account books, Sturgis National Bank, Michigan, Oct. 4, 1919-Nov. 20, 1925, Jan. 21, 1920-Sept. 12, 1925

Folder 4

Photographs, Helmecke family (Mildred Arthur Helmecke's family? Her father was a Disciples of Christ minister) in Birmingham, Michigan and Clippings from Sturgis, Michigan, circa 1920s

Folder 5

Booklet, *The Christmas Story in German Art*, published by German Library of Information, New York, 1940

Folder 6

Itineraries and Announcements, Activities of Humboldt-Klub in Berlin, 1937-1938

Folder 7

Carl A. Helmecke, Correspondence with Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Berlin (34 items), 1937-1938

Folder 8

Miscellaneous material, Carl A. Helmecke's school in Berlin, 3 items, circa late 1930s

Folder 9

Carl A. Helmecke, receipts and correspondence for travel to Germany, 8 items, July - August 1937

Folder 10

Censored envelope USA to Germany, 1 item, 1938

Folder 11

Church of St. George Monthly Journal Berlin, 1 item, 1938

Folder 12

Carl Engel, Correspondence to Theodor Benecke, 4 items, 1840-1848

Folder 13

Deutsche Bank, Correspondence to People's Bank of West Virginia, Richard Aspinall, 5 items, 1922

Folder 14

German newspaper clippings to the death of Bismark, 3 items, 1898

Folder 15

Postcards, High School Grand Rapids, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and South Bethlehem, PA, 8 items, circa 1900-1920s

Folder 16

Invitation to a lecture of Graf Stauffenberg in Berlin, 1 item, 1938

Folder 17

German Letter from Braunschweig to C. A. Helmecke in Berlin, 1 item, 1937

Folder 18

Ingrid Kuhnert (from Flensburg), German Letter to C. A. Helmecke, 1 item, 1947

Folder 19

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to Stephan Helmecke, in German, 1888-1889

Box 6, 1890-1925**Folder 1**

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to Stephan Helmecke, in German, 1890 - July 1893

Folder 2

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to Stephan Helmecke, in German, August 1893-1897

Folder 3

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke, to son Carl from Grand Rapids in German, 1915-1916

Folder 4

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to son Carl from Grand Rapids, in German, 1917-1919

Folder 5

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to son Carl from Sturgis, in German, 1921-1921

Folder 6

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to son Carl from Sturgis, in German, 1922-1925

Box 7, 1853-1938**Folder 1**

Correspondence, Marie Helmecke to son Carl from Cincinnati, in German, 21 letters, 1928-1930

Folder 2

Correspondence from Evansville, Indiana to Engel Family in Braunschweig, in German, 11 items, 1888-1900

Folder 3

Correspondence, Carl A. Helmecke from Berlin to his parents, in English, 2 items, 1937

Folder 4

Business correspondence, Stephen Helmecke, in German, 120 items, 1900-1901

Folder 5

Correspondence of Carl Engel, in German, 20 letters, 1853-1869

Folder 6

Correspondence, to Gertrud Helmecke, in German, 3 letters, 1899-1912

Folder 7

Correspondence to Marie and Stephan Helmecke, in German, 1883-1898

Folder 8

Correspondence to Marie and Stephan Helmecke, in German, 1881-1888

Folder 9

Map of Western State College, Gunnison Colorado, 1 item, 1950?

Folder 10

Menus and passenger list of M. S. St. Louis (Hamburg-Amerika Line) to New York, 26 items, 1938

Folder 11

Miscellaneous cards including dance cards, calling cards, invitations, and announcements from Germany, 22 items, circa 1880s - 1900

Folder 12

Miscellaneous items from Carl Helmecke's work in Germany (receipts, correspondence, invitations, announcements, ticket stubs), 42 items, 1937-1938

Box 8, 1915 - late 1940s

Folder 1

Miscellaneous Helmecke and Engel Family memorabilia (calling cards, correspondence, documents, birth announcements, wedding programs), 1815-1902

Folder 2

Miscellaneous memorabilia, Helmecke family, and newspaper clippings, 7 items, 1936-1950

Folder 3

Postcards to Marie and Stephan Helmecke, 7 items, circa 1890s-1900

Folder 4

Schedule of Deutsche Lufthansa, 3 items, 1937-1938

Folder 5

Carl A. Helmecke, Speech "The Problems of Germany" prepared after WWII, circa late 1940s

Box 9, 1767-1940

Folder 1

Confirmation certificate for Carl A. Helmecke, 1905

Folder 2

Album von Harz, Photography album, Berlin, 1940

Folder 3

Inventory list of Marie Helmecke's Household in Germany including a list of wedding presents, 1 item, undated

Folder 4

Lehrcontract of Stephan Helmecke of 1876 in German, 1 item, 1876

Folder 5

Correspondence in German, Carl Engel to his father, 1829-1854

Folder 6

Miscellaneous Helmecke family items (Correspondence, legal documents, receipts, certificates) 35 items, 1859-1927

Folder 7

Miscellaneous Helmecke and Engels family items, 1864-1895

Folder 8

Engel Family documents, certificates, and miscellaneous items, 43 items, 1803-1902

Folder 9

Protocol of Gesangsverein der Loge "Carl zur gekroenten Säule," 1 item, 1865

Folder 10

Schuldverschreibung Berlin 1915, Wien 1921, Warsaw 1921, 3 items, 1915-1921

Folder 11

Various Engel and Helmecke family documents and miscellaneous items including drawings, wills, and a family tree, 1767-1891

Folder 12

Correspondence in German, Carl Engel to his father plus inventory of Marie Helmecke's household, 1855-1917