

Collection #
M 0665
OM 0335

**OSTERMEIER-BUESKING FAMILY PAPERS,
1849-1979 (BULK 1885-1927)**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 oversize folder, 1 photograph

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive, 1849-1979; Bulk, 1885-1927

PROVENANCE: Jacqueline Johnson, Martinsville, IN, 23 August 1995

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1995.0707

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The papers in this collection center around Sophie Luise Eleanor (Ellen) Schwartz, Christian Ostermeier and Frederick Buesking. Sophie (Ellen) Schwartz (1849-1921) was born in Frille, Westphalia, Germany. She and her two siblings emigrated to the United States with her parents, Antoine and Caroline, around 1850 and planned to settle in Indianapolis. Two days after the family's arrival in Indianapolis, Antoine was dead of typhoid.

With the assistance of other family members who had arrived in the area earlier, Caroline and her children settled and farmed a plot of land in Buck Creek Township, Hancock County, Indiana. In 1871 Ellen Schwartz married fellow German immigrant, Christian Friedrich Anton Ostermeier (1842-1874), and they had two children, Charles Gottlieb and William Henry.

After Christian Ostermeier's death, Ellen worked at the Anton Schildmeier farm where she met and married Frederick Buesking (1855-1936), originally from Neunknick, Germany, in 1878. They returned to farming on her homestead in Hancock County, which she had settled with her first husband. Frederick and Ellen Buesking produced four children, Albert, Edward, Caroline and Julia.

Source: Information in Collection (Jacqueline K. Johnson, *The First Hundred Years in America: An Account of the Ostermeier/Buesking Family*, 1979)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of twenty-nine letters sent to Frederick Buesking and his family from relatives in Neuenknick, Depenbrock and Seelenfeld, Germany, 1885-1927. Topics include family news, local happenings, farming information exchanges, the military draft in Germany, and World War I. The tone of the letters are very religious and optimistic in nature. They included English translations by Ilse Edwards of Indianapolis, IN. Also included are family documents such as birth certificates, wedding licenses, naturalization papers, and certificates, 1849-1930. There is also a copy of the Ostermeier/Buesking family history by Jacqueline K. Johnson, 1979, and other related genealogical information.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Family Correspondence and Genealogical Information, 1849-1979 **FOLDER CONTENTS**

1 Correspondence from Germany, 1885-1898

- 2 Correspondence from Germany, 1899-1900
- 3 Correspondence from Germany, 1903-1914
- 4 Correspondence from Germany, 1919-1927 & n.d.
- 5 Family Documents, 1849-1930 (also OM 335 and VC)
- 6 Family History, 1979, Folder 1
- 7 Family History, 1979, Folder 2
- 8 Family History, 1979, Additions and Corrections
- 9 Family History Research, n.d.

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0665).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.