

C Wolff, Theodore H. (1905-1999), Papers, 1865-1979
3057 .8 linear feet

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

These papers contain manuscripts, correspondence, and research materials used by Reverend Theodore Wolff in his writings. Also included are the writings of his colleagues and information on the Methodist movement in Missouri and other religious sectors.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Theodore Wolff Papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Mrs. Betty Cook Rottman on 30 December 1974 (SHS Accession No. 1118). Additions to the collection were made by Given A. Brewer on 1 January 1977 (SHS Accession No. 2052), Reverend Theodore Wolff on 11 August 1977 (SHS Accession No. 2101), and by Given A. Brewer on 11 August 1977 (SHS Accession No. 2102).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Theodore H. Wolff was born in Leslie, Missouri, at his family farm on April 21, 1905. At the age of 16 he attended Central Wesleyan Academy in Warrenton, Missouri and then pursued his studies at Central Wesleyan College also in Warrenton. Wolff became a preacher at the age of sixteen when he sent away for his local preacher's license, which he renewed annually until he became a member of the Annual Methodist Conference. While attending Central Wesleyan College, he received academic honors and won the college's oratorical contest. Also while attending college, Wolff began preaching at the college's Methodist church. Wolff continued his service to the East Conference Circuit with assignments such as Drake, Cabool, Marionville, Berger-Senate Grove, Houston, Dixon Larger Parish, Sullivan, Wentzville, Waynesville, and Chaffee, Missouri.

Wolff served several functions for the Eastern Conference including membership on the Board of Pensions, Board Secretary, District Secretary of Missions, Secretary of the District, Conference Historian and Presenter.

He married Matilda E. Fabre, a St. Louis, Missouri native, on September 14, 1929. She assisted him in his writings, church duties, and tracking membership. After retiring in June of 1967, due to health concerns, Wolff began concentrating on his writings and adding to his extensive library.

At the time of his death, the Wolffs were living in Gerald, Missouri, and were members of Champion City Methodist Church.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers contain manuscripts, correspondence, research, and information compiled on conference statistics and church histories. Most of the writings were original works by Wolff, while others were written by a colleague, which Wolff then retyped for

preservation concerns. Several of his works were published and distributed to conference attendees and interested parties across the United States.

The foundations of his writings are clearly documented in the research and correspondence he donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri. The papers are arranged into five series which cover Wolff's manuscripts, supporting research and correspondence in creating the works, historical data, writings, and speeches on religion, and miscellany. These series are:

Manuscripts

Research

Correspondence

Religion in Missouri

Miscellaneous

The **Manuscript** series consists of finished and unfinished copies of his writings and transcription work, which are arranged by title of the manuscript. The focus of his writings and research was Jacob Lanius, a Methodist circuit rider in the 1830s. The outcome of Wolff researching Lanius' diary and writings was the manuscript entitled, "On the Trail of Jacob Lanius." Wolff's study of Jacob Lanius led to his interest in researching Lanius descendants. The result was a book entitled *The Tin Box* about Addison Brewer, Lanius' son-in-law. Given A. Brewer, a Lanius descendant, assisted with revisions and additions to this work. The series also contains two other manuscripts written by individuals with whom Wolff had close relationships through the East Annual Methodist Conference.

The **Research** series contains notes, newspaper clippings, and materials related to Jacob Lanius and his descendants. This series is arranged topically. Most of the notes are typed but some are handwritten.

The **Correspondence** series is primarily focused on Wolff's initial steps in gathering information on Jacob Lanius and his descendants. Wolff bound together his notes by subject and or recipient. In order to preserve his original order, the correspondence is arranged chronologically by the date of the cover letter. Other correspondence dealt with other manuscripts and the donation of Lanius family portraits to the State Historical Society of Missouri.

The **Religion in Missouri** series includes other writings and data compiled by Theodore Wolff on the subject of religion in Missouri. Materials include "A Narrative of the St. Louis Annual Conference," Quarterly Conference Meetings of the Wentzville and Cottleville circuits, Annual Catalogue of Paynesville Pritchett Institute, Conference Statistical Reports, and other church histories. This series also includes an address given by Alfred Friedli at Central Wesleyan College, Warrenton, Missouri, in 1973.

The **Miscellaneous** series includes a map of the City of Columbia, Calvary Church Cemetery Landmark Tombstone brochure, the article, "Missouri Plantation Life," by Berenice Morrison-Fuller (1937); a biography of William Null (1924); and memorial cards from the German Methodist Episcopal Church in New Melle, Missouri.

FOLDER LIST

Manuscript Series

- f. 1-3 "On the Trail of Jacob Lanius"
- f. 4-5 "On the Trail of Jacob Lanius" and supporting notes
- f. 6-8 "The Long Trek" by Arthur W. Darter
- f. 9 *The Tin Box*, by Theodore Wolff and Given Brewer, 1979
- f. 10 *The Tin Box*, revisions and notes by Given Brewer, 1979
- f. 11-13 "German Missions in Missouri," by Reverend Adam Miller

Research Series

- f. 14-17 Jacob Lanius and family
- f. 18 Newspaper clippings on Jacob Lanius diary

Correspondence Series

- f. 19 Jacob Lanius diary, 1962-1973
- f. 20 Lanius family portraits, 1976
- f. 21-35 "On the Trail of Jacob Lanius" research
 - f. 21 1961-1962
 - f. 22 January-June 6, 1963
 - f. 23 June 9-December 1963
 - f. 24 1964-1971
 - f. 25 February-May 15, 1972
 - f. 26 May 19-November 30, 1972
 - f. 27 January-April 8, 1973
 - f. 28 April 20-August 13, 1973
 - f. 29 August 27-September 19, 1973
 - f. 30 September 24-October 10, 1973
 - f. 31 October 10-October 15, 1973
 - f. 32 October 15-December 31, 1973
 - f. 33 January-March 15, 1974
 - f. 34 March 16-October 1974
 - f. 35 1976-1977
- f. 36 "The Long Trek"
- f. 37 *The Tin Box*, 1976

Religion in Missouri Series

- f. 38 United Methodist Church Quarterly Conference Meetings, Wentzville Circuit, 1867-1889
- f. 39 United Methodist Church Quarterly Conference Meetings, Cottleville Circuit, 1867-1884
- f. 40 Peniel Methodist Church, New Melle, MO, 1869-1960

- f. 41 Methodist Church Histories in Missouri
- f. 42 Annual Catalogue of Paynesville Pritchett Institute, 1889-1890
- f. 43 Champion City Methodist Church Report, c. 1967
- f. 44 Statistical Reports for the United Methodist Church, 1972-1973
- f. 45 Methodist Church Conference Materials, St. Louis, MO, 1924
- f. 46 Missouri East Conference meeting notes
- f. 47 *Religions in Saint Louis: A Strong Heritage*; 1976 clergy roster
- f. 48 Address at Central Wesleyan College, Warrenton, MO,
February 24, 1973

Miscellaneous Series

- f. 49 Miscellaneous- map of the City of Columbia, Calvary Church Cemetery
Landmark Tombstone brochure, "Missouri Plantation Life," by Berenice
Morrison-Fuller (1937); a biography of William Null (1924); and memorial cards
from the German Methodist Episcopal Church in New Melle, Missouri

INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders	Image
Bayse, John W. (1770-1845)	1, 15, 21	
Brewer family--Genealogy	9, 10	
Brewer, Addison Lanius (1848-1940)	10	y
Brewer, Addison Lanius (1848-1940)	9	y
Brewer, Basil (1809-1849)	9	y
Brewer, Basil (1809-1849)	9, 10, 15	
Brewer, Edward Denton (1895-)	10	
Brewer, Given A.	9	y
Brewer, Given A.	8-10, 35, 37	
Brewer, Jane McMurry (1812-1866)	10	y
Brewer, Jean Given	9	y
Brewer, Jessie (1879-1974)	9	y
Brewer, Jessie (1879-1974)	10	y
Brewer, Juliet Lanius (1848-1918)	9, 10, 16	
Brewer, Juliet Lanius (1848-1918)	9	y
Brewer, Mary	10	
Brewer, Robert David	10	
Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri	49	
Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri	2	
Central Wesleyan College, Warrenton, Missouri	48	
Central Wesleyan Orphan Home, Warrenton, Missouri	48	

Subject	Folders	Image
Champion City Methodist Church, Champion City, Missouri	42	
Churches, Methodist--Missouri	40, 41, 45	
Churches, Methodist--Missouri--History	1-3, 11, 14-18, 41, 44, 45, 48	
Circuit riders--Missouri	1-3, 9, 14-18	
Circuit riders--Missouri, Cottleville	39	
Circuit riders--Missouri, Wentzille	38	
Clergy--Missouri, St. Louis	47	
Colston family--Genealogy	10	
Darter family	6-8	
Darter, Anthony William	6-8, 36	
Diaries--Men	2, 3, 14-19, 21, 23, 25-27	
Ebenezer Methodist Church, Berger, Missouri	41	
Farm life--Missouri, 1880s	6, 7, 49	
Farm life--Missouri, 1900s	7, 8	
First United Methodist Church, Lebanon, Missouri	41	
Friedli, Alfred	48	
Harner family	6	
Hydesburg Cemetery, Hydesburg, Missouri	26, 28, 33	
Hydesburg Methodist Episcopal Church South, Hydesburg, Missouri	15, 16, 27, 34	
Ichord, Richard (1926-1992)	30	
Jacobs, Robert P.	47	
Lanius family--Genealogy	1-4, 9, 10, 16, 23, 26, 33	
Lanius family--Portraits	1-3, 9, 10, 20, 23, 24	
Lanius, Carol V.	2, 17, 19, 21-23	
Lanius, Jacob (1814-1851)	9	y
Lanius, Jacob (1814-1851)	1-5, 9, 10, 14-35, 37	
Lanius, James A. (1846-)	1-3, 15, 33	
Lanius, Juliet Mitchell (1848-1918)	9, 10	
Lanius, Juliet Mitchell (1848-1918)	9	y
Lanius, Laura	19, 21, 23-25	
Lanius, Nancy Tong (1813-1886)	1, 3, 10, 15, 16, 20, 37	
Lanius, Nancy Tong (1813-1886)	9, 10	y
Lanius, Tudor	1, 2, 9, 23, 24, 34	
Lawrence, B.I.	19, 24, 26, 27-29, 35	
McKasson, Dorothy	9	y

Subject	Folders	Image
McMurry family--Genealogy	9, 10	
McMurry, Rebecca	10	y
Methodist Children's Home of Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri	48	
Methodist Episcopal Church Conference	45	
Methodist Episcopal Church South	38, 39	
Methodist Episcopal Church South	38-39	
Miller, Adam	11-13	
Missions, German--United States	11-13	
Missouri East Conference Commission on Archives and History	25, 27, 46	
Missouri West Conference Commission on Archives and History	26, 27	
Missouri, Boone County--Maps, 1970s	49	
Missouri, Columbia--Maps, 1970s	49	
Missouri, Florida	30	
Missouri, Hydesburg	30	
Missouri, St. Louis--Church history	47	
Monroe, Andrew (1792-1871)	14, 26	
Morrison-Fuller, Berenice	49	
Null, William	49	
Old Tavern, Arrow Rock, Missouri	32	y
Park, Francis H.	1-5, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25 30, 32, 33	
Paynesville Pritchett Institute, Paynesville, Missouri	21, 42	
Peniel Methodist Church, New Melle, Missouri	40, 49	
Pinckney family	35	
Plantation life--Missouri	49	
Rarbitha, Saiah Immerline (1865-1947)	7	
Religion--Missouri, St. Louis	47	
St. Louis Annual Methodist Church Conference	45, 46	
St. Louis Annual Methodist Church Conference, 1923	45	y
Swinney family	25, 26, 28, 32, 49	
Swinney, William D.	2, 23, 25, 26, 29, 49	
Tong family--Genealogy	3, 9, 10	
Tucker, Frank C.	16, 30	
Wolff, Matilda	3, 22, 43	
Wolff, Theodore (1905-1999)	9	y

Subject	Folders	Image
Wolff, Theodore (1905-1999)	1-6, 8-10, 14-39, 42-49	
Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, Beemont, Missouri	41	