

Register for the
CHARLES KROEKEL PAPERS

1860-1975
(Span dates 1860-1938)

[formerly the Paul Kroekel papers, 1648-1975]

MSS 179
(M75-18)

PG 24

1.0 linear feet

Larisa Repin
Project Archival Processor for The Balch Institute
of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

April 2002

The Balch Institute
of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

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John C. Haas*

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PROVENANCE

Charles Kroekel's son, Paul, donated this collection to the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in 1975. The papers came in as one accession, M75-18, and were processed in April 2002 by Larisa Repin, project archival processor for the Balch Institute of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Materials are in English, and a few in German.

Several photographs had previously been separated from the manuscripts into Photo Group (PG) 24.

The complete newspapers have been kept with the manuscript collection and placed into Oversize Folder 2.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

This collection deals with the history partly of the Daetwyler – Kroekel families and partly of Egg Harbor City, New Jersey.

In 1848, Jacob Daetwyler von Staffelbach (1825-1899) and Lisette Huziker von Mooslerau (1823-1903) were married in Staffelbach, Canton Argau, Switzerland. They had ten children, including Jacob and Rudolphina, who was born in 1861. They came to the United States in 1869 and settled first in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Several years later the family moved to Egg Harbor City, New Jersey, where they both were bakers.

The Kroekels lived in Braunschweig, Germany, where he was a blacksmith. There were six children in the family. In 1860, the father moved to the United States, and the family followed in 1865. They eventually settled in Egg Harbor City, New Jersey, where the father bought a blacksmith shop, and later a hotel business. At that time, son, Charles (Carl August Hilmar Kroekel), was ten years old.

Charles Kroekel received his education in the public schools of Egg Harbor City. His first job was in the Rothholz lace and trimming business, and then he worked at the “Tabel and Rohberg Cigar” factory. In 1870, he was hired by the Egg Harbor Pilot, a German newspaper and the first newspaper printed in Atlantic County. By 1877, Kroekel had bought the share of this business and became part owner with Hugo Maas. After his father’s death in 1881, Kroekel took over his father’s hotel business, which he leased to Jacob Daetwyler a few times until the business was sold. Soon after he joined the Philadelphia Gazette (q.v. SC 37, SC 38, and SC 78).

In 1890, Kroekel married Rudolphina Daetwyler. They had eight children. Some years later he became sole owner of the Egg Harbor Pilot, and continued its publication until his retirement from the printing business in 1917.

Kroekel was an active participant in the development of Egg Harbor City. For a number of years he served as a member of the school board, and in the town council as councilman, and for many years, was city treasurer and tax collector. He was one of the organizers of the Egg Harbor Building and Loan Association, and later, its treasurer, until his retirement in 1928.

Charles Kroekel lived for the last ten years of his life in Philadelphia. He died on March 2nd, 1938.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

Textual Records: This small collection spans the years 1860-1975, but the bulk of the materials is concentrated between 1860-1938. The papers contain mostly Charles Kroekel's personal papers, some family information, and business materials, but there is little about his political, civic, and community activities.

Materials in Series IA include Kroekel's autobiography, certificates, deeds, indentures, notebooks, a few drawings (probably his), songs and poems, greeting and Sunday school cards, and concert and other programs. Series IB contains business records, including a few certificates, some correspondence, financial documents and ledgers, minutes, newspaper clippings, and reports.

Series II is composed of materials regarding Egg Harbor City, and includes a map, plans, and schemes, post cards and lithographs, songs and poems about the city, and newspapers and clippings.

All materials are in German and English.

Photographs: Several photographs had previously been put into Photo Group (PG) 24.

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RECORD SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES I: KROEKEL FAMILY PAPERS, 1648(?)-1941 & n.d., Boxes 1-2
& Oversize (OS) Folders 1-2

SUBSERIES A: Family and Personal Materials, 1648-1941 & n.d., Box 1

This small subseries contains mostly Charles Kroekel's personal materials, such as his autobiography, diaries and note books, songs, poems, and a few drawings, which were probably his own. In addition, there are greeting and business cards, coupons, and tickets. There is a program of the 80th birthday anniversary dinner for Rudolphina Datwyler Kroekel and her twin brother Rudolph, given by Paul Kroekel in 1941. This program also contains several photos of the Daetwyler – Kroekel family members. In the newspaper The News of March 1938 is an obituary of Charles Kroekel. Materials are in German and English. Arrangement is alphabetical.

SUBSERIES B: Business Materials, 1860-1932 & n.d., Boxes 1-3
& Oversize (OS) Folder 1

This section deals with a few business materials, including a few ledgers, which contain records of a printing company, the Egg Harbor City Common Council, the Economic Union, and Charles Kroekel's debts. Correspondence consists of letters from The Local Relief Committee concerning a campaign of The German Child Feeding Fund, and there are also committee minutes in this series. Finally, there are some annual reports of The Egg Harbor Building and Loan Association, where Charles Kroekel was the secretary and director. Again, materials are in German and English, with alphabetical arrangement.

SERIES II: EGG HARBOR CITY MATERIALS, 1866-1975 & n.d.,
Box 3 & Oversize (OS) Folders 1-2

Materials of this tiny series concern the history of Egg Harbor City, and include a city map, plans and schemes, views in lithographs and post cards, newspaper clippings from 1955, and a few songs and poems dedicated to the city. Materials are mostly in English with a few in German, and, as above, arrangement is alphabetical.

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BOX LIST

SERIES I: KROEKEL FAMILY PAPERS, 1860-1941 & n.d., Boxes 1-2
& Oversize (OS) Folder 1

SUBSERIES A: Family and Personal Materials, 1886-1941 & n.d., Box 1

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
1	1	Anniversary of the Daetwyler twins	1941
	2	Autobiography of Charles Kroekel	1929
	3	Business cards, coupons, tickets & other materials	1904-17 & n.d.
	4	Certificates, deeds, indentures & other documents	1903-18
	5	Diaries and notebooks	1878-95
	6	Drawings, songs, poems & stories	1886, 1896 & n.d.
	7	Greeting cards & other materials	1876 & n.d.
	8	Programs of concerts & other events	1912-25 & n.d.
	9-10	Religious materials: Sunday school cards	1907-16
OS Folder 2		Obituary of Charles Kroekel	1938

SUBSERIES B: Business Materials, 1860-1932 & n.d., Boxes 1-3
& Oversize (OS) Folder 1

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
1	11	Certificates & other documents	1860, 1877, 1900-17
OS Folder 1			

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SUBSERIES B: Business Materials, 1860-1932 & n.d.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
1	12	Correspondence	1922
		Financial materials	
2	1-4	Ledgers (bound)	1873-1918
3	1	Receipts, statements & other documents	1908-1922 & n.d.
	2	Minutes for The Local Relief Committee	1921-22
	3	Newspaper clippings & other print materials	1878 & n.d.
	4	Reports & other materials	1894, 1905-32

SERIES II: EGG HARBOR CITY MATERIALS, 1866-1975 & n.d.,
Box 3 & Oversize (OS) Folders 1-2

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
3	5	City views in lithographs and post cards	1866 & n.d.
OS Folder 1	Map		1913
OS Folder 2	Newspapers: <u>The News</u>		1938, 1975
3	6	Newspaper clippings: Series on history of the city	1955
OS Folder 1	Plans & schemes		n.d.
3	7	Songs, poems & other materials	1929 & n.d.