The South Carolina Historical Society

Johanna Aichel family papers, 1869-1896.
SCHS 289.00

Description: 1.5 linear ft.

Creator: Aichel, Johanna Margartha Helene.

Biographical./Historical Note: Oskar Aichel (1837-1895) was a partner in John Hurkamp & Company, a grocery business in Charleston, S.C. He married Margaretha C. Hurkamp (1837-1886) in 1861, and their children were Johanna, Oskar, Alma, Talulah, and Thusnelda.

Scope and Content: This collection is primarily composed of correspondence of Johanna Margaretha Helene Aichel, and is divided into three main series: letters to her from her father Oskar Aichel, letters from her mother Margaretha H. Aichel, and letters to Johanna Aichel from other family members and friends.

The letters (1869-1892) of Oskar Aichel, mostly from Charleston (S.C.), but also Sullivans Island (S.C.), Berlin, and other locations in Germany and elsewhere, are to Johanna (called Hannetta) Aichel during her sojourn in Stuttgart (Germany), where she was studying piano. He writes of her piano studies, music, family and friends, the weather, a family house on Sullivans Island, his activities as a businessman, and life and musical events in Charleston (S.C.), including concerts by the pianist Gustave Satter (1878). A letter of July 25, 1877, from Berlin, mentions Oskar Aichel's visit to the widow of "our celebrated relation Professor Erckle" (discoverer of a comet). In a letter dated Sept. 7, 1879, Aichel responds to his daughter's complaint that she lacks musical talent, and he chides her for her lack of "energy and resolution." His letter of Sept. 8, 1880, makes reference to his position as an alderman and the president of the "Freundschaftbund." Two letters from Oskar Aichel written in October 1880 contain descriptions of Denver (Colorado), where he went for a vacation.

Letters (1876-1885) of Margaretha C. Hurkamp Aichel, mostly from Charleston and Sullivans Island, to her daughter Johanna ("Nettie") in Germany and elsewhere include data on family health; the activities, marriages, deaths and movements between Germany and Charleston of members of the Charleston German community; activities of the Freundschaft Bund; and many references to Leseman, Linsebrink, Muller, Ojeman and other family members. There are references to singing, musicales, the education of Thusnelda, Talulah, Oskar and Alma Aichel; Charleston educator Miss Henrietta Aiken Kelly; servants; pets; visiting the South Carolina Agricultural Fair; the failure of many Charleston grocery stores (1879); a trip to Walhalla (S.C.); the artesian well system (1880-1881); gardening, and other domestic subjects, revealing Margaretha Aichel's attitude toward her housewifely duties, religion, and Germany.

Correspondence (1872-1896) of Johanna Aichel mainly consists of letters to her from friends and family members (other than her parents) writing from Charleston (S.C.), Berlin, Stuttgart, and other places in Germany, Sullivans Island (S.C.), Augusta (Ga.), New York (N.Y.),

Chicago (Ill.), Walhalla (S.C.), Cattell Island (Jacksonboro, S.C.), and many other locations. The letters concern her immediate family, Charleston social life, family and friends in Germany, the death of her mother Margaretha Aichel (1886), and other matters. Correspondents include Elise M.H. Linsebrink (later Elise Lindort or Lindorf), Caroline Hubener, Annie Bischoff, Emilie Hubener, Johanna Maria Hurkamp (her grandmother), Dr. Oswald Aichel (her uncle), Herman Uebelen, Thusnelda Aichel (her sister), and Oskar G. Aichel, her brother. Included is a letter (Feb. 1881) from Nettie Aichel in Stuttgart to her sister Thusnelda. Many of the letters in this series are written in German, and some have been translated into English.

Other papers of Johanna Aichel include school records (1877-1881) for the Conservatorium fur Musik in Stuttgart (Germany); a diary (1881), written in German, mainly concerning her music studies; and programs (1878) for the Gustave Satter concerts at the Freundschaftbund Hall in Charleston.

Additional correspondence (1884-1886) consists of Aichel family letters, mostly to Margaretha H. Aichel from her husband Oskar Aichel. All of his letter in this group are written in German, and a few have been translated into English. There are also letters from Oskar Aichel, Jr. to his parents, and a letter (Sept. 21, 1886) from Talulah Aichel in Asheville (N.C.) to her parents in which she writes of feeling earth tremors.

Preferred Citation: Aichel, Johanna Margaretha Helene. Johanna Aichel family papers, 1869-1896. (289.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Collection Inventory:

Outline:
289.01 Johanna Aichel Papers
289.01.01 (C) 01 Letters from Oskar Aichel
289.01.01 (C) 02 Letters from Margaretha Aichel
289.01.01 (C) 03 Johanna Aichel general correspondence
289.01.01 (D) 01 Johanna Aichel diary
289.01.01 (M) 01 Miscellaneous items
289.02 Aichel Family Documents
289.02.U (C) 01 Aichel family correspondence
289.02.U (M) 01 Miscellaneous items

Container list:

BOX 1
289.01.01 (C) 01 Letters from Oskar Aichel, 1869-1892
289.01.01 (C) 02 Letters from Margaretha Aichel, 1876-1881

BOX 2
289.01.01 (C) 03 Johanna Aichel general correspondence, 1872-1880

BOX 3
289.01.01 (C) 03 Johanna Aichel general correspondence, 1881-1887

BOX 4
289.01.01 (C) 03 Johanna Aichel general correspondence, 1888-1891

BOX 5
289.01.01 (C) 03 Johanna Aichel general correspondence, 1892-1896
289.01.01 (C) 03 Johanna Aichel general correspondence, no date
289.01.01 (D) 01 Johanna Aichel diary, 1881
289.01.01 (M) 01 Miscellaneous items

BOX 6
289.02.01(C) 01 Aichel family correspondence, 1884-1886
289.02.01 (M) 01 Miscellaneous items