



**John D. Cappelmann Personal Papers, 1859-1928**  
**SCHS 478.19**  
**Boxes 478/67-478/92**

**Description:** 9 linear ft.

**Biographical/historical note:** John Diedrich Cappelmann (1857-1929), a Charleston attorney, was born near Walhalla, S.C. He was the son of Eimer (1811-1885) and Christine Dorothea (1818-1888) Cappelmann. He studied law under William C. Keith and John S. Verner at Walhalla, and in 1879 moved to Charleston, where he continued his law studies and was admitted to the bar, forming his first law partnership with J. Ancrum Simons (Simons & Cappelmann). Afterward Cappelmann was in private practice for a short period, before forming another professional alliance with James Simons, Jr. and Rudolph Siegling in the firm of Simons, Siegling & Cappelmann (1890-1910). After the dissolution of this firm Cappelmann practiced privately again, and later formed partnerships with his sons F. W. Cappelmann and E. Henry Cappelmann in the Cappelmann Law Firm, and Cappelmann & Cappelmann.

John D. Cappelmann served as a South Carolina state representative from 1885 to 1889, campaigned for Charleston mayoral candidates R.G. Rhett and T.T. Hyde, and was a member of the Charleston city council during Mayor Hyde's administration (1915-1919). Cappelmann also served as mayor pro tem of Charleston. His business interests included the Percival Manufacturing Company, of which he was president and treasurer. The 1886 Charleston city yearbook listed him as a commissioner of the City Hospital. His organizational memberships included the German Artillery, the Stonewall Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and the Charleston Chamber of Commerce. In 1882 he married Julia A. Pieper (1859-1944), the daughter of William Henry Pieper of Walhalla. Of this marriage four sons and one daughter survived, W. Gertrude Cappelmann (a pianist and teacher), John D. Cappelmann, Jr., F. William Cappelmann, Ernest Henry Cappelmann (1891-1968), and George James Scherer Cappelmann (1901-1976). John D. Cappelmann was an active and influential member of the Lutheran Church. He served as a delegate to the United Synod South, trustee of Newberry College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary, and board member of the United Lutheran Church in America and of its Board of Deaconess Work (which managed the Motherhouses or training schools for young women). Cappelmann was also treasurer of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of the United Synod South, board member of the Lutheran Orphan Home, president of the Lutheran Brotherhood, a Sunday school superintendent, and a choir member. He was a member of the Wentworth Street Lutheran Church (later the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church), and St. John's Lutheran Church, and later helped to establish and became a member of St. Barnabas Lutheran Church. Cappelmann also assisted with teaching and music within several Lutheran churches including St. John's, St. Matthew's, and St. Barnabas. As an attorney, he handled legal matters for various Lutheran and non-Lutheran churches and civic organizations. Some of the organizations in which he was involved included the Young Men's Christian Association

(YMCA) the Star Gospel Mission. As a close friend of and estate executor for C. D. Franke (died 1892), Cappelmann helped to establish the Evangelical Lutheran Charities Society in Charleston to oversee the establishment and maintenance of the Jacob Washington Franke Lutheran Hospital and Home, endowed by the will of C. D. Franke. Cappelmann was the solicitor of the Evangelical Lutheran Charities Society and was president of its auxiliary group.

**Scope and content:** The collection, which forms part of the records of the law firm of Simons, Siegling & Cappelmann, includes extensive personal correspondence of John D. Cappelmann concerning family matters, business interests (including affairs of the Percival Manufacturing Company), and, to a lesser extent, activities of the Stonewall Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, public education in Charleston, local politics and economics, and state legislation. As a lawyer Cappelmann handled many legal and financial affairs for family members and relatives, and so many of the letters concern these topics as well as personal and family matters. Some letters to John D. Cappelmann from his sons, who were also lawyers, also concern legal business. Some of Cappelmann's correspondence with immediate family members relates to the health, medical treatment and education of his daughter Gertrude, the education of his sons, and the service of his sons in World War I. The papers of Cappelmann's wife Julia are a separate series, and the letters of William A. Courtenay, artist John Stolle, and Helen J. Simons (the widow of J. Ancrum Simons; later Mrs. Ballantyne) are also foldered separately.

Correspondents include F.W. Pieper, E.C. Hesse, H.W. Pieper (Walhalla, S.C.), J.S. Verner (Walhalla and Columbia, S.C.), H.B. Schroder (of Walhalla; JDC's brother-in-law), J. Ancrum Simons, W.F. Scheff (Savannah, Ga.), James J. Corcoran, K.H. Boland (of the National Surgical Institute of Atlanta, Ga.), James Simons, Jr., M.F. Ansel, G. Wanner (Walhalla), J.F. Pieper (Charleston) S.P. Dendy (Walhalla), Mrs. L.M. Robinson (Ohio), H.F. Wagener, V.L. Norman (Walhalla), W.J. Schroder, Richard H. Manning, Augustine T. Smythe, R. C. Merritt, and the parents and children of John D. Cappelmann, including his daughter Gertrude, and sons Henry and William.

Papers also include correspondence, legal and financial records, speeches, minutes, clippings, and other items relating to John D. Cappelmann's membership and activities in various German organizations and his interest in German heritage and culture; and papers reflecting his tenure as a commissioner for the City Hospital.

Cappelmann family papers include correspondence of Julia Cappelmann and her children, and there are two separate series of papers pertaining to the related families of Pieper and Schroder.

**Preferred citation:** Cappelman, John D., 1857-1929. John D. Cappelmann papers, 1859-1928. (478.19) South Carolina Historical Society.

Note: Forms part of: Simons, Siegling & Cappelmann records, 1857-1928.

**Search terms:**

Cappelmann, John D., 1857-1929.

Cappelmann family.

Lawyers -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

**Series Outline:**

478.19.01 John D. Cappelmann personal correspondence, 1872-1889

- 478.19.02 Personal correspondence arranged by correspondent
- 478.19.03 City Hospital papers, 1880-1891
- 478.19.04 Papers relating to German organizations and heritage, 1874-1924.
- 478.19.05 Miscellaneous personal papers, 1880-1926:
- 478.19.06 Papers relating to churches and charities
- 478.19.07 Cappelmann family papers
- 478.19.08 Pieper family papers, 1872-1927
- 478.19.09 Schroder family papers

**Container List:**

BOX 67

*478.19.01 John D. Cappelmann personal correspondence, 1872-1889*

BOX 68

Personal correspondence, 1890-1894

BOX 69

Personal correspondence, 1895-1898

BOX 70

478.19.01 Personal correspondence, 1899-1902

BOX 71

Personal correspondence, 1903-1908

BOX 72

Personal correspondence, 1909-1912

BOX 73

Personal correspondence, 1913-1917

BOX 74

Personal correspondence, 1918-1925

BOX 75

Personal correspondence, 1926-1928; and undated correspondence

*478.19.02 Personal correspondence arranged by correspondent  
William A. Courtenay, Helen J. Simons (Ballantyne), and John Stolle.*

BOX 76

*478.19.03 City Hospital papers, 1880-1891. SEE ONLINE RECORD*

BOX 77

*478.19.04 Papers relating to German organizations and heritage, 1874-1924.*

- 01 German Artillery papers: correspondence, 1882-1922
- 02 German Artillery papers: miscellaneous documents, ca. 1878-1923
- 03 Deutsche Freundschaftsbund (Arion Society) papers, 1892-1922
- 04 German Friendly Society papers, 1883-1919
- 05 German Fusiliers papers, 1901-1905
- 06 National German American Alliance papers: correspondence, 1907-1916
- 07 National German American Alliance papers, 1908-1911
- 08 German Rifle Club papers: correspondence, 1882-1921

BOX 78

- 09 German Rifle Club papers, 1876-1912
- 10 Schuetzen Bund papers, 1905-1907
- 11 German School Association papers, 1874-1903
- 12 Charleston Independent Turner Association papers, 1888-1889
- 13 Miscellaneous papers relating to German organizations and heritage
- 14 Miscellaneous papers relating to German organizations and heritage
- 15 Clippings
- 16 German Fire Company receipt book, 1883-1889

BOX 79

*478.19.05 Miscellaneous personal papers, 1880-1926*

- 01 Business and financial records
- 02 Business and financial records
- 03 Commerce and business organization records
- 04 Commerce and business organization records
- 05 Dorchester Town-Site Corporation records
- 06 Dorchester Town-Site Corporation records

BOX 80

- 07 Knights of Pythias papers: correspondence
- 08 Knights of Pythias papers: miscellaneous items
- 09 Ladson farm papers: correspondence, 1919-1922
- 10 Ladson farm papers: correspondence, 1923-1925
- 11 Ladson farm papers: miscellaneous records
- 12 Charleston political papers: correspondence, 1895-1916
- 13 Charleston political papers: correspondence, 1917-1921
- 14 Charleston political papers: miscellaneous documents
- 15 Papers relating to county, state and national politics: correspondence, 1888-1898

BOX 81

- 16 Papers relating to county, state and national politics: correspondence, 1900-1924
- 17 Papers relating to county, state and national politics: miscellaneous documents
- 18 Papers relating to county, state and national politics: papers re William Jennings Bryan
- 19 Rifle Club papers
- 20 School papers, 1900-1922
- 21 Walhalla papers

- 22 Speeches, undated
- 23 Speeches, 1894-1918
- 24 Miscellaneous personal papers

BOX 82

*478.19.06 Papers relating to churches and charities*

Board of Missions records:

- 01 Board of Missions correspondence, 1886-1887
- 02 Correspondence, 1888
- 03 Correspondence, 1889
- 04 Correspondence, 1890
- 05 Correspondence, 1891

BOX 83

- 06 Board of Missions correspondence, 1892
- 07 Board of Missions financial records, 1886-1892
- 08 Board of Missions records, undated

BOX 84

South Carolina Sunday School Association records:

- 09 Sunday School Association correspondence, 1897-1912
- 10 Correspondence, 1913-1915
- 11 Correspondence, 1916-1926
- 12 Sunday School Association statistical reports, 1907-1913
- 13 Sunday School Associations records, undated

BOX 85

Charleston Lutheran church papers:

- 14 Wentworth Street Lutheran Church records, 1878-1900
- 15 St. Andrew's Lutheran Church records, 1898-1906
- 16 St. Andrew's Lutheran Church records, 1907-1917
- 17 St. Andrew's Lutheran Church records, undated
- 18 St. Barnabas Lutheran Church records: correspondence, 1892-1914
- 19 St. Barnabas Lutheran Church records: correspondence, 1915-1921
- 20 St. Barnabas Lutheran Church records: correspondence, 1922-1926; and undated

BOX 86

- 21 St. Barnabas Lutheran Church records, 1912-1925; and undated
- 22 Papers relating to St. Johannes Lutheran Church, 1892-1924
- 23 Papers relating to St. John's Lutheran Church, 1911-1928
- 24 Papers relating to St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 1904-1922
- 25 Lutheran Synod records: correspondence, 1884-1918
- 26 Lutheran Synod records: correspondence, 1919-1925
- 27 Lutheran Synod records, 1887-1919
- 28 Papers relating to Newberry College, 1887-1916
- 29 Papers relating to Newberry College, 1917-1924

BOX 87

- 30 Papers relating to the Lutheran Seminary (Mt. Pleasant, S.C.): correspondence, 1898-1900
- 31 Papers relating to the Lutheran Seminary (Mt. Pleasant): correspondence, 1901-1911; n.d.
- 32 Papers relating to the Lutheran Seminary (Mt. Pleasant), 1898-1910
- 33 Papers relating to the Lutheran Seminary (Columbia, S.C.), 1909-1922
- 34 Lutheran Brotherhood papers: correspondence, 1919-1921
- 35 Lutheran Brotherhood papers: correspondence 1922-1926
- 36 Lutheran Brotherhood papers: correspondence, 1927-1928; and miscellaneous items.

BOX 88

- 37 Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse papers: correspondence, 1919-1927
- 38 Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse papers: minutes of board meetings, 1920-1923
- 39 Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse papers: minutes of board meetings, 1924-1927
- 40 John D. Cappelmann general religious papers: correspondence, 1885-1909
- 41 General religious papers: correspondence, 1910-1919
- 42 General religious papers: correspondence, 1920-1927
- 43 General religious papers: miscellaneous documents, 1885-1926

BOX 89

- 44 John D. Cappelmann general religious papers: miscellaneous documents, undated
- 45 General religious papers: papers relating to the Quadricentennial of the Reformation
- 46 General religious papers: paper relating to William Jennings Bryan, 1911-1922
- 47 JDC papers relating to non-Lutheran churches and charities, 1891-1921; and undated
- 48 JDC papers relating to charities and social organizations: Lutheran Orphan Home papers
- 49 JDC papers relating to charities and social organizations: Evangelical Lutheran Charities
- 50 JDC papers relating to charities and social organizations: YMCA, 1892-1928
- 51 JDC papers relating to charities and social organizations: Star Gospel Mission, 1905-1928

BOX 90

*478.19.07 Cappelmann family papers*

- 01 Julia Cappelmann papers: correspondence, 1884-1888
- 02 Julia Cappelmann papers: correspondence, 1889
- 03 Julia Cappelmann papers: correspondence, 1890-1892
- 04 Julia Cappelmann papers: correspondence, 1893-1928; and undated
- 05 Julia Cappelmann papers: miscellaneous items, 1883-1921
- 06 E. Henry Cappelmann papers, 1911-1928
- 07 W. Gertrude Cappelmann papers, 1899-1928
- 08 F. William Cappelmann papers, 1904-1924
- 09 John D. Cappelmann, Jr. papers, 1904-1924
- 10 George James Scherer Cappelmann papers, 1913-1923
- 11 Miscellaneous Cappelmann family papers, 1883-1922

BOX 91

*478.19.08 Pieper family papers, 1872-1927*

- 01 John F. Pieper papers, 1892-1893
- 02 Frederick W. Pieper estate papers, 1895-1907
- 03 Julius H. Pieper estate papers, 1872-1906
- 04 Julius H. Pieper estate papers, 1872-1906
- 05 Albertine L. Pieper papers, 1892-1900
- 06 Pieper family papers, 1886-1900
- 07 Pieper family papers, 1901-1927; and undated

BOX 92

*478.19.09 Schroder family papers*

- 01 Schroder family papers, 1859-1926
- 02 Julius H. Jahnz estate papers, 1926
- 03 Henry B. Schroder war claims papers, 1905-1906