



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Von Lehe Family Papers, 1850-2001 (bulk 1850-1920)
SCHS #0590.00**

Description: 0.5 linear ft. (1 box)

Biographical/Historical note: John Christopher (or Johann Christoph) Von Lehe (1819-1894), a native of Hanover, immigrated to Charleston, S.C., where he became a grocer. He received citizenship in 1846, and in 1850 became a member of the German Colonization Society. He purchased lands in around the town of Walhalla in Pickens District and was living in that area by March 1854 as a farmer. He served in the Confederate States Army and returned to Walhalla after the war. His wife, also a native of Germany, was Terresser Helena Hillman Von Lehe (1824-1901). They had four sons and one daughter, Wilhelmina Catherine (1856-1937), who married Julius Andrew Ivester (1856-1918).

Scope and content: Collection consists of correspondence, financial records, property records, and other documents relating to the Von Lehe family and related families, as well as a settlement in Oconee County, South Carolina, which was established by mostly German immigrants and included the town of Walhalla. Correspondence dating from 1857 to 1902 is chiefly between members of the Hillmann family in Germany and John Christopher Von Lehe in South Carolina. Most of these letters are in German and mainly concern family matters; English translations are included. Later correspondence includes a letter, 1965, concerning the Ivester family. Some estate records pertain to the estates of John C. Von Lehe and Meta Hartmann. Financial records include slave bills of sale, promissory notes, and a certificate, 1864, issued in Charleston, S.C., to J. C. Von Lehe for his payment for Confederate bonds. Miscellaneous records include John C. Von Lehe's U.S. citizenship certificate, 1846, and his passport, 1853; newspaper clippings about Dr. Jim Von Lehe of Walterboro, S.C.; oaths of allegiance, 1865, of John C. Von Lehe; and two schoolbooks in German. Property records, some of which are in German (with translations), include a conveyance, 1853, of 163 acres in Pickens District and two lots "in the contemplated town of Walhalla" by Trustees of the German Colonization Society of Charleston, S.C., to J. C. Von Lehe; Mrs. Meta Luers' title deed, 1850, to 130 acres in Pickens District; and a contract of sales and conveyance, 1863, Johann Hillman to his son Christian Hinrich Hillman, of a house and farm, and other lands and possessions in Germany; a title, 1877, Christoph Hartman to Christopher Von Lehe, of a parcel of land of 130 acres near Walhalla "in what was formerly Pickens but now Oconee County;" and a plat, 1919, of five tracts "of what is known as the

German Colonization Society land” in Oconee County, surveyed for Mrs. J. A. Ivester. There are also photocopies of an 1849 plat of the “Falls Tract” in Pickens District; a copy of a plat of the Town of Walhalla; and a copy of an 1850 map of lands in Pickens District purchased by the German Colonization Society of Charleston containing 11,970 acres, 11,000 of which were laid out into 187 town lots, and 16 farms of 50 acres each, and 49 additional farms or plantations (“Re-copied” in 1942). Records relating to the German Colonization Society of Charleston, S.C. consist of a photocopied minute book, 1848-1882, and a bound translation of the minutes entitled the German Colony Protocol, printed in 1960.

Preferred citation: Von Lehe family papers, 1850-2001 (bulk 1850-1920). (590.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Hillman family.

Ivester family.

Von Lehe family.

German Colonization Society of Charleston.

Germans -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Societies, etc.

Farms -- South Carolina -- Oconee County.

German American families -- South Carolina -- Pickens District.

German Americans -- South Carolina -- History -- Sources.

Loyalty oaths -- South Carolina -- Pickens District.

Slave records -- South Carolina -- Pickens District.

Oconee County (S.C.) -- History.

Pickens District (S.C.) -- History

Walhalla (S.C.) -- History -- Sources.

Von Lehe, John Christopher, 1819-1894.

BOX 1

Correspondence:

- 1 Letter, 1857, in German, from Johann Hillmann (1791-1867) at Cappel-Altendeich, to his daughter Tiede and son-in-law Johann Christopher Von Lehe, concerning family matters.
- 2 Translations of 1857 letter in German; with some notes.
- 3 Letter, 1863 (in German) from C. H. Hillman in Germany to J. Von Lehe and his wife regarding family matters.
- 4 Translation of 1863 letter.

- 5 Letter, Feb. 4, 1867 (in German), from Christian Hinrich Hillman at Cappel Altendeich in Germany, to his brother-in-law and sister, mainly regarding the death of his father Johann Hillman.
- 6 Translation of letter of Feb. 4, 1867.
- 7 Original letter in German, Feb. 18, 1870, John N. Tidemann in Charleston to “Dear Friend von Lehe,” asking for a loan of money.
- 8 English translations of letter of Feb. 18, 1870.
- 9 Original letter in German, Aug. 20, 1876, from C. H. Hillmann at Cappel Altendeich to brother-in-law and sister.
- 10 Translations of Aug. 20, 1876 letter.
- 11 Original letter in German, July 27, 1883, Alma Hillman at Cappel Althendeich to aunt and uncle re family matters.
- 12 Translation of July 27, 1883 letter.
- 13 Letter, 1887, addressed to “Dear Minna,” from [W.] A. Wichman in Walterboro, S.C.
- 14 Letter, [1893], in German, to J. C. Von Lehe and his wife from Heinrich Hillmann, regarding family matters.
- 15 Translation of 1893 letter.
- 16 Correspondence, 1899-1902. Includes a note, Oct. 2, 1899, to F. C. Ritter, about an order of goods from the Augusta Lumber Company in Augusta, Ga.; and a note, Jan. 27, 1902, to A. C. Von Lehe in Walterboro from Stribling & Herndon, attorneys in Walhalla, regarding money sent to him on behalf of his sister Mrs. Ivester.
- 17 Correspondence, 1965-2001: includes a letter, 1965, relating to the divorce of Margie Randall Ivester and James Dedrick Ivester; a letter, May 24, 1983, to “Mary” [Mrs. J. Ray Doester?] in Charleston, from Gertha R. Reinhert in Pittsburg, Pa., partly concerning “Dr. V. Lehe’s article”; and a note, Aug. 17, 2001, to Mary from Gertha regarding the translation of “the Hillman contract.”

Estate records:

- 18 Assignment of interest, Feb. 18, 1853, C. Lee to E. [Meissner], to real property in Charleston District; and a “Grant in Case of Death,” 1860; an estate document in which Meta Hartmann grants 130 acres to her husband Christoph Hartmann.
- 19 Translation of 1860 grant.

- 20 Letter, March 23, 1912, to J. A. Ivester at West Union, S.C., from Dresden H. Smith, probate judge of Oconee County, transmitting a voucher from John W. Wickliffe. Document relates to the estate of J. C. Von Lehe, deceased. Also, a receipted voucher, March 16, 1912, J. A. Ivester to estate of J. C. Von Lehe.

Financial records:

- 21 Slave bills of sale and receipt, 1851-1857. Includes a bill of sale, 1851, Thomas [Trout?] to J. C. Von Lehe, for a slave woman named Hagar and her child; a bill of sale, 1855, Pickens District, John H. [Avial?] to J. C. Von Lehe, for a “negro boy”; a bill of sale, 1855, Miss Ann [G.?] Duffus to John C. Von Lehe, for a “certain family of Negroes”; and a receipt, Pickens Court House, Jan. 18, 1857, Henry W. Von Hollen to J. C. Von Lehe, for “the purchase of one Negro Slave.”
- 22 Receipt, Aug. 3, 1854, to “E. Gillison Late P.M. at Bounty Pickens District” for payment in full for a Postmaster General’s draft payable to J. M. McElroy.
- 23 Certificate, Charleston, S.C., March 29, 1864, to C. Von Lehe, for his payment for Confederate bonds.
- 24 Promissory notes, 1867-1918. Includes a promissory note, Dec. 26, 1867, from Moses [Simmons] to J. C. Von Lehe, for thirty dollars; promissory note, Walhalla, Dec. 15, 1888, H. D. A. Biemann to J. C. Von Lehe; and a promissory note, May 3, 1918, J. T. [Crenshaw] at Seneca, S.C., to Mrs. W. C. Ivester of Walhalla.
- 25 Miscellaneous financial records: record of payments, Feb. 27, 1899, on stationery of “Office of W. H. Hughes, Dealer in General Merchandise and Manufacturer of Red Brand Guano,” in Richland, S.C. Also, photocopies of Confederate currency (originals removed to SCHS Confederate Currency Collection).

Miscellaneous papers:

- 26 Miscellaneous items including a fragment of a document in German; a U.S. citizenship certificate, 1846, for J. C. Von Lehe; issued in Charleston, S.C.; photocopy of an 1848 document in German which includes a list of names, among them John A. Wagener and Eimer Cappelman; U.S. passport, 1853, issued to J. C. Von Lehe; and a newspaper clipping of a notice or advertisement in German, Oct. 12, 1884.
- 27 Oaths of allegiance: oath of allegiance, June 15, 1865, of “J. C. Von Lee, Private 1st S.C. Regt., of the Dist. of Pickens, State of South Carolina.” Issued at New York; and oath of allegiance, Sept. 4, 1865, for “John C. Von Leah” issued by the Provost Marshal’s Office at Walhalla, S.C.

- 28 Photographs, including a reprint of a photograph [ca. 1875] of a man and two ladies, [ca. 1875?]; and a color photograph, [1973?], of [Dr. Erich von Lehe] and another man.
- 29 Clippings, notes, etc.: Includes an [obituary], of “Dr. phil Erich von Lehe” (1894-1983), in German; copy of a newspaper clipping (no date – 1960s?) about Dr. Jim Von Lehe of Walterboro, S.C.; a newspaper clipping of an article about Dr. Jim von Lehe; a newspaper clipping, Feb. 27, 1974 (*Tugaloo Tribune*, Seneca, S.C.) of article about the Von Lehe family and other Walhalla settlers; a typescript biographical sketch of John Christopher von Lehe; typescript notes about German naming patterns; and typescript notes about Walhalla and German settlers in South Carolina.

Property records:

- 30 Conveyances, 1850: includes a title deed, 1850, Trustees of the German Colonization Society of Charleston, S.C., to J. C. Von Lehe, of 163 acres in Pickens District, and two lots in the “contemplated Town of Walhalla;” and a title deed, 1850, Trustees of the German Colonization Society, to Mrs. Meta Luers (“widow of Charleston”), of a parcel of land “near the contemplated Town of Walhalla” containing 130 acres.
- 31 Conveyances: bill of sale, Johann Hinrich von Lehe and his wife, to their son Johann Hinrich von Lehe, of their property and possessions, Jan. 12, 1851.
- 32 Conveyances: translation of the 1851 bill of sale.
- 33 Conveyances, 1859-1863: Includes a title deed, 1859, German Settlement Society of Charleston, to J. C. Von Lehe, of 121 acres near Walhalla; and a contract of sales and conveyance, 1863, Johann Hillman to his son Christian Hinrich Hillman, of a house and farm, and other lands and possessions in Germany.
- 34 Translation of 1863 contract.
- 35 Conveyances and plats, 1877-1894: includes a title, 1877, Christoph Hartman to Christopher Von Lehe, of a parcel of land of 130 acres near Walhalla “in what was formerly Pickens but now Oconee County;” a deed of trust, 1881, J. C. Von Lehe to Wilhelmina C. Von Lehe conveying 130 acres in Oconee County “on waters of North prong of Cane Creek;” a plat of 132 acres. “For further particulars of location, reference is had to platt of German Colony Settlement Lands, Resurveyed July 1891;” and a title to real estate, 1894. J. W. Holleman, Judge of Probate, to Mina Von Lehe, conveying lands in Walhalla from the estate of John F. Ritter (includes plat).
- 36 Plats, 1916-1919: includes a plat, Dec. 15, 1916, of “adjoining tracts of what is known as the German Colonization Society land” in Oconee County; a plat, 1916, of “nos 18 & 21 of the German Society lands” in Oconee County; and a plat, April 10, 1919, of five tracts

“of what is known as the German Colonization Society land” in Oconee County, surveyed for Mrs. J. A. Ivester.

- 37 Miscellaneous property records, 1965-1971: photocopy of a plat, 1965, of about 28.5 acres east of Walhalla belonging to Albert Ivester, with an accompanying letter, 1965; and a certificate, March 20, 1971, “To Whom it May Concern,” from Joe T. Rogers, realtor, certifying an appraisal of the property of Mr. J. C. Ivester (Walhalla) and others.
- 38 Miscellaneous property records (photocopies, etc.): includes copies of an 1849 plat of the “Falls Tract” in Pickens District; copies of a plat of the Town of Walhalla; copies of an 1850 map of lands in Pickens District purchased by the German Colonization Society of Charleston containing 11,970 acres, 11,000 of which were laid out into 187 town lots, and 16 farms of 50 acres each, and 49 additional farms or plantations (“Re-copied” in 1942); and a certificate, Aug. 29, 1974, recognizing the “historic farm property” of J. Ray Ivester as a “Century Farm,” issued by the Pendleton District Historical and Recreational Commission (with accompanying letter).

Records of the German Colonization Society:

- 39 -40 Photocopy of the minute book (1848-1882) of the German Colonization Society of Charleston, S.C. (Note: The original minute book is housed at the Oconee County Public Library in Walhalla, S.C.).
- 41 Book entitled *German Colony Protocol* (1960). This is an English translation of the minute book (1848-1882) of the German Colonization Society of Charleston.

Printed material:

- 42 Books, consisting of two school books: a catechism by Martin Luther (in German), 1867, inscribed by Mina Von Lehe; and *A First Book in German for Young Pupils* by Dr. Emil Otto, 1874; inscribed by Tied Von Lehe.