Finding aid
of the records
of

Ludwig (Louis) David de Schweinitz
(1780-1834)
1789-1834

PP SchwLD

Katey Fardelmann
2011
The reference number is the number on the left of the title.  
In order to request or cite items, you need the name/abbreviation of the record group and the reference number

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1.1 Reference Code
PP SchwLD

1.2 Title
Ludwig David de Schweinitz Papers

1.3 Date(s)
1789-1834

1.4 Level of Description
Item level

1.5 Extent and medium of the unit of description (quantity, bulk, or size)
1 box

2.1 Name of Creator
Ludwig David de Schweinitz

2.2 Biographical History
Ludwig (Louis) David de Schweinitz was born in Bethlehem, Pa., on February 13, 1780, to parents Hans Christian Alexander and Anna Dorothea Elizabeth (née von Watteville). On July 14th, 1787 Ludwig entered Nazereth Hall as a student and remained there, after completing his school work, until 1798 as a teacher. In 1798, Louis David's father Hans Christian was called to Germany and Louis David chose to accompany them in order to further his education. In 1798, Louis David entered the Theological Seminary in Niesky, Germany. In 1801 he accepted a position in Niesky as a teacher at the Boys' School. On May 18, 1804 Louis David became an acolyte in Niesky. Two years later he was invited to Gnadenberg as a "Brüderpfleger" where he remained for two years before moving to Gnadau to perform similar tasks. He was ordained as a deacon on May 24, 1808 in Herrnhut. In 1812 Louis David was called to serve as an administrator in Salem, North Carolina, and in preparation he chose to marry Louise Amalia Ledoux (1791-1858), a teacher at the girls' school in Niesky. Louis David and his new wife
arrived in Salem on November 14, 1812. In Salem, he served the church in multiple administrative capacities, including handling inspection and real estate matters, and representing Salem at the general synods in Herrnhut in 1818. He was consecrated as a presbyter in Herrnhut on September 1, 1818. In 1821 L.D. was called to Bethlehem as minister and principal of the Boarding School for Girls. When he was called as a member of the Provincial Helpers' Conference and as administrator of the Unity possessions, he resigned as principal. While attending General Synod in Herrnhut in 1825 he was ordained in Herrnhut as a Senior Civilis and on August 18, 1825 (Ludwig was the last person to ever hold this position in the Moravian Church). In 1827 he became president of the PHC. Outside of his church work, Louis David pursued a career in botany and mycology and is referred to by many as the "Father of Mycology in North America." As a result of this work, Schweinitz received a Honorary PhD degree from the University of Kiel in Botany in 1817 and a new species of mushroom, polypore Phaeolus Schweinitzii, was named in his honor. Louis's herbarium was the largest private collection of plants and was donated upon his death to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Louis David and his wife had four boys, all of whom would continue their father's work in the church. L.D. de Schweinitz died on February 8, 1834 at the age of 54 and is buried in God's Acre at Bethlehem. His birthplace, the Gemeinhaus, became a National Historic Landmark because of him.

2.3 Archival History
Most of these papers were removed from the "de Schweinitz Family Collection" donated by Dorothea de Schweinitz on December 26, 1974, however some of the material was removed from the SPG records in May, 2008 by another cataloger. This collection was organized by Katey Fardelmann in June, 2011.

2.4 Immediate source of acquisition or transfer
See above, 2.3

3.1 Scope and content
This collection includes school notebooks (Latin) written by L.D. de Schweinitz, creative writing pieces (fictional biography, the "First Room Repository," and "Briefe an Auguste") and poetry written by L.D. de Schweinitz, travel journals (Germany to Salem, N.C.; from Salem to Baltimore; from Bethlehem to Indiana), notes and publications about his work in botany, personal correspondence, and publications and remembrances upon L.D. de Schweinitz's death in 1834 (including the last will of his wife, Louisa Amalia Ledoux).

3.2 Appraisal, desctruction and scheduling information
n/a

3.3 Accruals
Some small finds in other places of the archives are possible

3.4 System of Arrangement

4.1 Conditions governing access
unrestricted

4.2 Conditions governing reproduction
See general rules of Moravian Archives

4.3 Language/ scripts of material
German (German script), English, Latin

4.4 Physical characteristics and technical requirements

4.5 Finding aids
part of "De Schweinitz Family Finding Aid", no. 20; printed in reading room, PDF on website, online finding aid

5.1 Existence and location of originals

5.2 Existence and location of copies
5.3 Related units of description
See records at Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (Philadelphia)

5.4 Publication Note
By L.D. de Schweinitz:

About L.D. de Schweinitz:

6.1 Note

7.1 Archivist’s Note
Organized by Katey Fardelmann; finding aid compiled by Paul Peucker

7.2 Rules or Conventions

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DACS

7.3 Date(s) of descriptions
June, 2011; finding aid compiled 12/22/2016
3. **Notes and published pieces on L. D. de Schweinitz's work as a botanist/mycologist, without date.**

Includes:
- Notes - "American Plants," "Schoenus (Cladium)," note on private herbarium
- Pennell, Frances W. "The Botanist Schweinitz and his Herbarium" Bartonia, No. 16, 1934

1 Folder

English; Latin; German

1. **School Exercise Notebooks - Latin Tasks For Louis D. de Schweinitz, Nazareth Hall, 1789 - 1798.**

- 2 notebooks
- Latin; English

5. **Poetry and "First Room Repository", 1794 - 1814.**

Includes:
- "First Room Repository" - a fictional newspaper documenting a two week examination period in April 1794
- Most poetry undated
- "The First Room Repository" most likely refers to the rooms where the elder male students stayed at Nazareth Hall; the date correspond to the time L.D. was a student there --> the piece is numbered indicating there were several edition to this "newspaper"

1 folder

English; German

4. **"Friedheim" - a fictional biography written by L.D. de Schweinitz, 1807 - 1808.**

Copied by Ludwig von Schweinitz, archivist in Herrnhut (1841).

1 book

German; Latin

9. **Personal correspondence, 1808 - 1833.**

Includes:

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Received by L.D. de Schweinitz from
- Bishop L. Reichel, Gnadenfrei (July 11, 1808)
- Johannes Plitt, Neuwied (Sept. 15, 1808)
- Gottlieb Herrmann, Fulneck (March 26, 1811)
- Herbst, (April 21, 1812) - concerning Amalia Ledoux intention to accept L.D. de Schweinitz's proposal for marriage
- Gottfried Haga, Philadelphia (Sept. 18, 1812) - concerning the de Schweinitz's arrival in Salem, N.C.
- John Fr. Stadiger, Bethlehem (August 3, 1814)
- [Front side] Karl Bernhard Garve, Berlin (Oct. 22, 1815)
- Jacob von Vleck, Salem (Dec. 4, 1817)
- Chris. Fr. Dencke, New Fairfield (Dec. 8, 1817)
- J.E. Bechler, Nazareth Hall (March 3, 1818)
- Jacob von Vleck, Salem (July 15, 1818)
- C. G. Hüffel, Bethlehem (July 2, 1819)
- L.F. Lambert, Schoeneck (May 9, 1823)
- Em. Rondthaler, Nazareth (June 17, 1823)
- "G.M.S.," Bethel, June 3, 1824
- Jacob Rauschenberger, Gnadenhuetten (Sept. 19, 1824)
- John P. Kluge, Graceham (Oct. 8, 1824)
- Wm. Fredr. Sautter, Basseterre, St. Kitts (Feb. 12, 1825)
- Gotthold B. Reichel, Salem (March 1, 1825)
- J.D. Anders, Herrnhut (Sept. 19, 1827)

Sent by L.D. de Schweinitz
- to Abraham Levering, Bethlehem (October 14, 1822)
- to Br. Anders, Bethlehem (May 31, 1833)

Organized in chronological order
1 folder
several of the letters frayed and ripped
German; English

6 "Briefe an Auguste - Ein Angebinde zum 4th May von ihrem liebenden Bruder", 1809.
- written by L.D. de Schweinitz most likely on the occasion of his sister Auguste's reception into the sisters' choir
1 book
German
7  **Travel Journals, 1812 - 1831.**
Includes: trip from Herrnhut, Germany to Salem, NC (fragment) in 1812, Bishop Huffel's diary of his voyage across the Atlantic with L. D. de Schweinitz - 1818; Notes of Journey from Salem as far as Baltimore - 1821; Trip to Indiana - 1831; Notes from Milwaukee - undated
1 folder
German; English

8  **Birthday congratulations addressed to L. D. de Schweinitz and wife, 1813 - 1828.**
1 Folder
German; English

2  **Diplomas, 1817, 1927.**
Includes: original copy of Honorary PhD received by L.D. de Schweinitz from the University of Kiel issued June 22, 1817; a copy of Honorary Phd issued to L.D. de Schweinitz on June 22, 1817 (copy was received by Paul de Schweinitz upon request of F. Otto Schrader on December 16, 1927 -- letter of correspondence included with copy of diploma);
The original diploma is the first diploma given to an American by a European University
1 folder
English; Latin

10  **Remembrances of L.D. de Schweinitz and his wife, Louisa Amelia Ledoux, 1834, 1949.**
Includes:
- "Zum Gedächtnis des am 8ten Februar 1834, in Bethlehem, selig entschlafenen Bruders: Ludwig David von Schweinitz"
- Sunday bulletin with biography of L.D. de Schweinitz, 1949
- Last will and testament of Lewis David von Schweinitz
- Last will and testament of Louisa Dorothea de Schweinitz (L.D.'s wife)
1 folder
German; English