



Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aid

ACCESSION No.: HRHS-148

COLLECTION TITLE: John Stewart Collection

DATES: 1775 - 1986

SIZE: 11 boxes, 22 folders

DONOR: Nancy Stewart

PROCESSED: Processed 04/10/2015 by K. Craun, B. Hopkins, & J. Litten

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: **John Stewart** was born in Austria and came to the United States in 1938. His family left Europe as there was no possibility of living or studying there as Jewish people were not welcome by the German government in Austria. He graduated from college in 1941 and was drafted into the military, even though he was not yet a United States citizen. Once he became a citizen, the United States used his knowledge of the German language and Europe in military intelligence for the Allies. After the war, he earned his master's degree in teaching from Columbia University. Mr. Stewart moved to Harrisonburg in 1951 and became a teacher of Latin, French and history at Harrisonburg High School. In 1957, he started teaching classes at JMU.

Mr. Stewart's interest in Valley culture and tradition was shared by **Dr. Elmer Smith**, a professor of sociology at JMU. Dr. Smith was interested in the Pennsylvania German component of the Valley settlers and he enlisted Mr. Stewart to help with this project. Together they formed the Shenandoah Valley Folklore Society. Mr. Stewart wrote articles on folk topics such as art in the form of fraktur, witchcraft, language, and medicine.

Mr. Stewart has many publications from his friend **Klaus Wust**, the German-American historian, lecturer, and scholar. Mr. Wust was born in Germany in 1925 and moved to Edinburg in 1966. His work and research focused on the contributions of German immigrants to the culture of the Shenandoah Valley. Mr. Wust was instrumental in the early stages of Belle Grove's research and education programs and policies.

Mr. Stewart also has publications from another friend, **Dr. Kurt Kehr**, a noted German historian who was a German professor at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia. Many of Dr. Kehr's publications are written in the German language.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This is a collection of John Stewart's papers, publications, slides and photos concerning local folklore, which includes frakturs, folk medicine, etc.

COLLECTION INVENTORY:

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Booklet titled *Shenandoah Valley Jews* by John Stewart, 2001
Notes on Jewish peddlers of German origin in the Valley
- Folder 2: Typed copy of notes on *The Himmelsbrief*, or "letter of Jesus Christ" from 1815
- Folder 3: Interviews of local residents in 1962 and 1963 about life in the past, including a list of medicines prepared and sold by Dr. Solomon Henkel of New Market, VA
- Folder 4: Copy of pages from Zion's Church book, 1788
- Folder 5: Copy of pages from the John Wenger family bible, 1820 – 1889
- Folder 6: Copy of a page of a German spiritual book, along with a translation, donated by John Welty. Also included is genealogical information on the Welty family
- Folder 7: Notes and survey pertaining to the Pennsylvania Germans of the Shenandoah Valley
- Folder 8: File on the Stoney Creek Fraktur Artist from 1787-1823 who is identified as Christine Willy by Klaus Wust
- Folder 9: File on fraktur artist Wilhelm Weber, around 1798, Frakturs listed: 1779 Barbara Eder; 1788 Rosina Banawitz; 1810 Rosina Banawitz
- Folder 10: Broadway/Fulks Fun area fraktur genealogy, compiled by John Stewart, 1998
Copies of Bowman/Bauman frakturs, 1803-1817
Article on Jacob Strickler, fraktur artist, Shenandoah County
- Folder 11: File on Peter Bernhart, fraktur artist in the early 1800's, with articles written by John Stewart, Elmer Smith, and Klaus Wust
- Folder 12: Copy of Philip Somm fraktur, 1817
Copy of an educational fraktur for Thomas MacGahey, 1801
File on F. W. Harms, fraktur artist in the early 1800's. Copy of Bushong frakturs: 1819 John Bushong; 1821 Catharina Bushong; 1830 Andreas Bushong
File on Brock's Gap fraktur artist (not identified)
Copy of birth certificate for Jacob Huwer (1775) and Elizabeth Lam (1784) with translations
Copy of birth certificate for Michael Lindamood, 10/22/1822
- Folder 13: File on the history of German frakturs in the Valley with lists compiled by John Stewart showing the name on the fraktur and the artist if known

Box 2:

- Folder 14: File on Elmer Smith including typed articles and items purchased at his estate auction
- Folder 15: File on Klaus Wust with a list of his publications and copies of some of his articles. Some articles are in German with translations.
- Folder 16: File on Kurt Kehr with copies of some of his publications. Some articles are in German
- Folder 17: Folklore postcards
- Folder 18-20: Papers written by John Stewart's students

Box 3:

- Folder 21: Papers written by John Stewart's students
- Folder 22: Typed interviews of local people concerning folklore and life in the Valley

Box 3 (cont.): Books available in the collection with published articles by John Stewart and Elmer Smith:

- ❖ *Madison College*, February, 1963, article by Elmer L. Smith and John Stewart on page 55 *Pennsylvania German Cultural Patterns in the Shenandoah Valley*
- ❖ *Journal of American Folklore*, January-March, 1964, article by Elmer L. Smith and John Stewart on page 76 *The Mill as a Preventative of Whooping Cough*
- ❖ *Bulletin Madison College*, February, 1966, article by John Stewart on Page 97 *Shanghaiing in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia*
- ❖ *Madison College*, February, 1967, article by John Stewart on page 57 *Ambrose Henkel of New Market, Virginia (1786-1870): A Brief Analysis of His German Primers*
- ❖ *Curio Magazine*, Summer, 1984, article on page 55 about John Stewart's life
- ❖ *Arts and Crafts of the Shenandoah Valley*, 1968, compiled by Elmer L. Smith
- ❖ *American-German Review*, August-September, 1966, Bibliography lists work by Elmer L. Smith and John Stewart, *The Pennsylvania Germans of the Shenandoah Valley*, 1964
- ❖ Typed copy of *An Annotated Bibliography of Shenandoah Valley Publications by Elmer L. Smith and John G. Stewart, 1966*

Box 4: Books available in the collection with published articles by Klaus Wust:

- ❖ *Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland*, 1953, article by Klaus Wust on page 54, *German Printing in Virginia, A Check List, 1789-1834*
- ❖ *The Rockingham Recorder*, May, 1958, article by Klaus Wust on page 24 *German Books and German Printers in Virginia*
- ❖ *Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland*, 1959, article by Klaus Wust on page 36 *German Immigrants and Their Newspapers in the District of Columbia*
- ❖ *Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland*, 1963, article by Klaus Wust on page 21 *Wartburg: Dream and Reality of the New Germany in Tennessee*
- ❖ *The Report*, 1968, article by Klaus Wust on page 47 *German Settlements and Immigrants in Virginia: A Bibliography*
- ❖ *The Report*, 1970, letter from the editor Klaus Wust on page 16
- ❖ *The Report*, 1972, article by Klaus Wust on page 52 *The Saxons Who Never Came to Virginia*

- ❖ *The Report*, 1975, article by Klaus Wust on page 66 *Disaffection in the Rear: German Tories in the West Virginia Mountains*
- ❖ *American Fraktur: Graphic Folk Art, 1745-1855*, Klaus Wust is listed as Exhibition Curator
- ❖ *The Saint-Adventurers of the Virginia Frontier*, 1977, author is Klaus Wust
- ❖ *The Report*, 1978, article by Klaus Wust on page 19 *Direct German Immigration to Maryland in the 18th Century*
- ❖ *The Report*, 1984, article by Klaus Wust on page 32 *Feeding the Palatines: Shipboard Diet in the Eighteenth Century*
- ❖ *Tales from Shenandoah*, 1989, article by Klaus Wust on page 56 *The Ghosts of Longmarsh Run, The Three Wives of Christopher Beeler*
- ❖ *The Report*, 1986, article by Klaus Wust on page 21 *The Emigration Season of 1738-Year of the Destroying Angels*
- ❖ *Belle Grove*, 1968, article by Klaus Wust on page 29 *Folklore, Customs and Crafts of the Valley Settlers*
- ❖ *American-German Review Magazine*, August/September 1966 and 1967, Klaus Wust is listed in the bibliography
- ❖ *Virginia Fraktur, Penmanship as Folk Art* booklet by Klaus Wust
- ❖ *Arts in Virginia* magazine, 1971, article by Klaus Wust on page 39 *Folk Design*
- ❖ *Arts In Virginia* magazine, 1974, article by Klaus Wust on page 2 *Fraktur and the Virginia Germans*
- ❖ *The German Literature of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, 1789-1854: A Historical, Linguistic and Literary Study*, 1980, Kurt Wust is listed in the bibliography

Box 5:

Fraktur album; copies of frakturs arranged by name

Box 6:

Photo album of folklore and Henkel Press
Photo album of frakturs, barns, and furniture

Box 7 (Banker box):

Folk Life Slides:

Binder 1:

- Churches
- Tombstones
- Folk Medicine
- Superstitions
- Field Trips

Binder 2:

- Frakturs

Binder 3:

- Folk and Decorative Arts

Binder 4:

Commercial Slides:

- Austria
- England
- Germany
- Switzerland
- United States

Binder 5:

- Barns, folk architecture and out buildings

Box 8 (Banker box):

Folk Life Slides:

Binder 6:

- Henkel Press

Binder 7:

- Henkel Press

Binder 8:

- Frankturs

Binder 9:

- Henkel Negatives

Binder 10;

- List of slides, photographs and negative collection

Binder 11:

- Tape outlines from interviews

Folders:

Shenandoah Valley Folklore Society newsletters, 1982-2013

Journal of the Center for PA German Studies newsletter, 1996-2000

The Luminary newsletter, 1981-1988

Pennsylvanisch Deitsch Eck newsletter from Eastern Mennonite College, 1959-1969

Shenandoah Valley Historical Institute newsletter, 1984-1991

Boxes 9, 10 & 11:

Folk Life cassette tapes