

M-0055

Friedrich Conrad Dietrich WYNEKEN (1810–1876) Family Collection, 1839–1941

0.7 l.f. : manuscripts, books

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken was born 13 May 1810 in Verden, Hannover, one of nine pastor's children. He studied at the Gymnasium in Verden and at the universities in Göttingen and Halle before he emigrated to the United States in 1838. His purpose was to be a missionary among the German settlers in America. He became the pastor of a Lutheran church in Baltimore, Maryland, before taking a call to a Lutheran congregation in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he served from 1838 to 1841 and 1843 to 1845, traveling from his home in Fort Wayne to seek out the scattered German immigrants in the surrounding territory. He returned to Germany in 1841 and wrote his most famous work, *Das Noth der deutschen Lutheraner in Nord-Amerika* (The Distress of the German Lutherans in North America), which drew the attention of many Lutherans in Germany, most notably Pastor Wilhelm Loehe in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria.

Wyneken returned to Fort Wayne and in 1845 accepted a call to the congregation in Baltimore. He was affiliated at the time with the Pennsylvania Synod, which was part of the General Synod. He soon left this body, however, convinced that it was straying from solid Lutheranism. He contacted the Saxons in Missouri and with other Loehe men, worked towards forming the Missouri Synod in 1847. His congregation joined the synod in 1848, and Wyneken served as president of this body from 1850 to 1864.

During his tenure as synodical president, Wyneken served as assistant pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis until 1860, when he returned to Fort Wayne to devote his full time to his office as president. In 1864 he accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Cleveland, Ohio, where he served until 1875. Due to ill health, he traveled to San Francisco, California, to live with his daughter, the wife of Pastor J. M. Buehler. Wyneken died in San Francisco on 4 May 1876. His body was brought back through the Midwest by train, and he is buried in Cleveland.

Wyneken married Marie Sophie Wilhelmine Buuck on 31 August 1841. From this union came thirteen children. Two sons died in infancy, and two sons—Martin and Henry Wyneken—became pastors in the Missouri Synod. (Two of his brothers became pastors in Germany, and one sister was the mother of Dr. Heinrich Christian Schwan.) Many of his daughters married Missouri Synod pastors. Wyneken is honored by being called the Father of Lutheran Home Missions in America.

Heinrich C. Wyneken was born 15 December 1844 in Fort Wayne, the youngest of F. C. D. Wyneken's twin boys (the other was Martin). Henry began his theological education at the Gymnasium in Saint Louis and after a short time at the

school in Fort Wayne, he returned to Saint Louis in 1860 with his brother Martin. He entered the seminary in St. Louis in 1865 and graduated in 1868. As he was traveling through Germany in 1869, Friedrich Brunn in Steeden asked whether he could serve as assistant lecturer, which he did. He soon returned to his father's side in Cleveland as assistant pastor. In 1876 he received a call to be professor at the Missouri Synod's practical seminary in Springfield, Illinois. He carried out his duties there until he resigned in 1890. He died on 21 June 1899 in Springfield.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists primarily of documents and other materials from and about F. C. D. Wyneken. There are also documents related to the ministry of his son Henry Wyneken.

Box 1 contains of documents; **Box 2** contains books that were owned by Friedrich and Henry Wyneken. Friedrich Wyneken's handwritten sermon notes are contained in two notebook located in Box 2.

Some of Friedrich Wyneken's correspondence has only been preserved in printed or copied form. A **correspondence list** identifies letters that are found in this collection in original form, those that are located in other collections at Concordia Historical Institute and those that are found only in published sources. Letters from donors and other materials documenting how the collection was assembled are in the last folder of Box 1.

One folder contains a few letters from Henry Wyneken, as well as his **diploma** from Concordia Seminary dated 1868 and signed by C. F. W. Walther. This is the oldest known diploma from the seminary in the Institute's collection. His call documents are also included in this folder.

Documents pertaining to the descendants of F. C. D. and Henry Wyneken are preserved in the Institute's general biographical collection.

FOLDER LIST

Box 1

1. General and Biographical Information
2. Lindemann, J. C. W. "A Biographical Sketch of the Honorable American Evangelist Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken to the Lutheran People of America in Grateful Love." Translated by James P. Lanning. Annotated and edited by Robert E. Smith. First Draft. Fort Wayne, Indiana: Walther Library, Concordia Theological Seminary, 1995.
3. Wyneken Genealogy
4. 1877 *Amerikanische Kalender* with annotations of the Wyneken family
5. Henry Wyneken folder
6. Friedrich Wyneken's Residence in Ft. Wayne
7. Wyneken Correspondence — Originals

8. Wyneken Correspondence — Copies, Transcriptions and Translations
9. Newspapers with Obituaries of Friedrich Wyneken, 1876–1877
10. Writings about Wyneken's Life and Work
11. Wyneken Centennial (1938) and Wyneken Convention (1941)
12. Miscellaneous Documents during Wyneken's Lifetime
13. Miscellaneous Documents after Wyneken's Lifetime
14. Documents pertaining to the Wyneken Collection

Box 2

1. *Martin Luther's Worte von der heiligen Taufe*, by Wilhelm Loehe, Nuernburg, 1839 (written in front cover: F. Wyneken, Ft. Wayne, 1843)
2. *De Servo Arbitrio*, by M. Luther, Norembergae, 1526 (with note: From Wyneken to Walther on his birthday, 1854)
3. Notebook — Church History, 1600s–1700s; poems, 1830s–1840s, all handwritten (not Friedrich Wyneken's)
4. Catalogue of Students entering the St. Louis Seminary, 1860–1874.
5. Sermons, 1865–1871
6. Sermons, 1871–1876
7. Class notes of Henry Wyneken in Springfield (Genesis, Psalms, Romans, Pauline Epistles), handwritten

DONOR INFORMATION

This collection has been assembled from many sources over many years. Some information about its provenance is found in Folder 14, Box 1.

Revised, 11 August 2009, MAH