

Mennonite Library and Archives
Bethel College
North Newton, Kansas
Manuscript Collections

Hermann Thiessen

An Inventory of His Papers

Overview of the Collection

Series number: MLA.MS.485
Creator: Hermann Thiessen, 1919-
Title: Papers.
Quantity: 7.2 cu. ft.
Location:

Biography of Hermann Thiessen

Born 29 May 1919 at Stutthof-Störbuderkampe, West Prussia. His parents were Hermann Thiessen and Katharina Bench. Married Liesbeth Maekelborger on 23 December 1942. Fled from Prussia in April 1945 via the Baltic to Denmark. They have 3 children. He worked in various agricultural marketing occupations. At the time of his genealogical work, he lived in Burgdorf, Germany. See p. 127 of the Martin Thieshen genealogy for more detail.

His interest for the archives is his work concerning family history. He was the compiler of five family histories:

Martin Thieshen [sic] und seine Nachkommen 1737-1977 (1977)
Bartholomäus Tiessen: 350 Jahre Familientradition (1986)
Familiengeschichte der Familie Bench (1989)
Peter Heydebrecht und seine Nachkommen (1990)
Die Familie Mekelburger (1992)

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The collection consists of Thiessen's genealogical correspondence and various materials he collected while compiling his books. In addition to files of correspondence and notes, there are three card files: male Thiessens (and variant spellings), female Thiessens, and a "Suchindex" which apparently all Mennonites he found who were born before 1820 or baptized before 1840. The first file folder contains some introductory and explanatory notes by Hermann Thiessen.

There is also some correspondence addressed to Hermann Schirmacher, so it is not quite clear where Thiessen's material ends and how much of Schirmacher's is included. Information on Schirmacher can be found in folders 785 and 786.

It appears that the papers of Katharina Thiessen (MLA.MS.486), Fritz van Bergen (MLA.MS.487), and Anna Andres (MLA.MS.488) also passed through the hands of Hermann Thiessen before going to Schirmacher and subsequently to the MLA.