



Leland Steinkuehler German Dialect Collection (C4795)

Collection Number: C4795

Collection Title: Leland Steinkuehler German Dialect Collection

Dates: 2005-2009

Creator: Steinkuehler, Leland

Abstract: Recordings and accompanying paperwork of interviews done with Missourians of German heritage from Concordia, Loose Creek, Westphalia, and St. Elizabeth, Missouri, as well as visitors from Meerbusch, Germany. Addition of recordings of a Lutheran Church service conducted in Low German and a narration with English translations by Reverend Alfred W. Rodewald, 2009.

Collection Size: 0.1 cubic foot, 8 audio cassettes
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Leland Steinkuehler German Dialect Collection* (C4795); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Leland Steinkuehler on December 14, 2005 (Accession No. CA6096). Additions were made on September 20, 2007, September 22, 2008, and July 22, 2010 (Accession Nos. CA6096.01-.03)

Processed by: Autumn Cuddy, May 8, 2026

Historical Note:

Low German emerged as a distinct branch of German among the common people in the Low Lands around the 12th Century and appeared in Missouri circa 1840 due to an influx of immigrants from the Hanover region to the Concordia, Missouri, area. Missouri's German families primarily spoke two dialects of Low German: flatlander and Rhilander, originating from Munster and the Rhineland, respectively. These settler families spoke both Low and High German, however Low German has no written language and became increasingly endangered with each subsequent generation.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 2 series:

Records
Audiovisual Materials

Scope and Content Note:

Records

This series contains paperwork, transcriptions, and translations of recordings in the **Audiovisual Materials** series.

Audiovisual Materials

This series consists of 8 audio cassette recordings documenting the Low German dialect, including interviews with German Missouri residents, 2005-2008 and a Lutheran Church service, 2009.

Container List:

Records

f. 1 Recording paperwork, 2005-2009

Audiovisual Materials

a.c. 1 Intro to Loose Creek recording; Intro to Low German at Hubert Backes home, 2005

- a.c. 2 Low German meeting #1 at Hubert Backes family; Low German skit, 2005
- a.c. 3 Low German meeting #2, Loose Creek, 2007
- a.c. 4 Loose Creek Low German by Anna Backes Williams and Hubert Backes, 2008
- a.c. 5 Steinkuehler, Low German, 2008
- a.c. 6 Rhinelandish words and phrases, Ray Backes; Blue Ridge Mountain Girl, undated
- a.c. 7 Lutheran Church service conducted in Low German at 14th Annual Plattduusch Conference in Marysville, KS, July 19, 2009
- a.c. 8 Reverend Rodewald speaking in Low German with English translations, August 2, 2009

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