

**Guide to the Diaries of the Rev. Frederick H.  
Krecker  
1838- 1888**



## Diaries of the Rev. Frederick H. Kreckler

1838- 1888

0.5 cubic feet

gcah.ms.4632

The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers, followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection.

To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

### Biographical Note

The subject was the third child of John Philip Kreckler and Margaret (Dischinger) Kreckler. He was born on May 31, 1816 in Philadelphia. Kreckler was married twice, first to Isabella Weidenoyer (1819-1876), and then to Salina Schultz for the last six years of his life. He fathered seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood.

Rev. Kreckler's life work was as an itinerant pastor who was converted into the Evangelical belief around the age of sixteen. He began preaching in 1837 in both German and English, continuing for almost fifty years mostly in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania.. His personal diaries mention his travels in service to his church in the following towns: Bethlehem; 1850-52, Fairville; 1866, Hazelton; 1875, Orwigsburgh; 1887-89. All were in eastern Pennsylvania. He was deceased on Dec. 27, 1889 and buried in Cressona, Pennsylvania. "Hallelulah" was the last word he uttered.

### Scope Note

The diaries of the Reverend Frederick Kreckler cover a span of almost fifty years (1838-1886). There are twenty-five (25) individual volumes. They reveal in a very personal manner the lifetime experiences of an itinerant evangelical preacher in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. Among the topics discussed are the conversion numbers of prospective new members to his congregations; a highly detailed record of the seasonal weather patterns; a recounting of the challenges in traveling from one small town to another on very basic roads in the worst of weather conditions, as well as a heartfelt description of the utter loneliness he must cope with in his service to God.

The earliest volumes in these journals were written in German, but Kreckler switched to English when his wife, Isabella, complained to him that she could not read German, their native language, well enough to comprehend his writings. The English use started in the sixth volume in 1848.

The diaries of Kreckler record the ordinary work of an itinerant preacher who pastors to his congregations and the experiences of life in mid 19th century Pennsylvania in a way not too dissimilar to many of his contemporaries.

### Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. The diaries are arranged by date.

### Related Material

See "The Years of My Parents" by the Rev. Frederick H. Kreckler (1843-1883). He was their son and a missionary to Japan. This paper is part of the Archival Reference Collection.

## **Access Restrictions**

There are no access restrictions regarding these papers

## **Restrictions on Use**

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

## **Preferred Citation**

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Diaries of the Reverend Frederick Kreckler, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor

## **Subject Terms**

### ***Subject Names - Corporate***

Evangelical Association of North America

### ***Subject Topics***

Church meetings  
Circuit riders  
Civil War  
Clergy  
Immigrants  
Ministry  
Pastoral Care.

### ***Subject Geographic***

Pennsylvania.

### ***Genre***

Diaries.

## Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1602-2-1:1	Diary 6/16/1838-12/23/1839 volume 2 (German)	1838-1839
1602-2-1:2	Diary 12/24/1839-2/17/1842 volume 3 (German)	1839-1842
1602-2-1:3	Diary 2/28/1842-10/23/1845 volume 4 (German)	1842-1845
1602-2-1:4	Diary 10/24/1845-8/9/1848 volume 5 (German)	1845-1848
1602-2-1:5	Diary 8/10/1848-1/12/1852 volume 6	1848-1852
1602-2-1:6	Diary 1/12/1852-3/31/1856 volume 7	1852-1856
1602-2-2:1	Diary 4/4/1856-10/18/1862 volume 8	1856-1862
1602-2-2:2	Diary 11/1/1862-9/16/1863 volume 9	1862-1863
1602-2-2:3	Diary 1/1/1863-12/22/1863 volume 10	1863
1602-2-2:4	Diary 1/1/1864-12/31/1864 volume 11	1864
1602-2-2:5	Diary 1/1/1868-12/3/1868 volume 12	1868
1602-2-2:6	Diary 1/1/1874-12/31/1874 volume 13	1874
1602-2-2:7	Diary 1/1/1875-12/31/1875 volume 14	1875
1602-2-3:1	Diary 1/1/1876-12/31/1876 volume 15	1876
1602-2-3:2	Diary 1/1/1877-12/31/1877 volume 16	1877
1602-2-3:3	Diary 1/1/1878-12/31/1878 volume 17	1878
1602-2-3:4	Diary 1/1/1880-12/31/1880 volume 18	1880
1602-2-3:5	Diary 1/19/1882-12/31/1882 volume 20	1882
1602-2-3:6	Diary 1/1/1883-12/31/1883 volume 21	1883
1602-2-3:7	Diary 1/19/1881-12/31/1881 volume 19	1881
1602-2-3:8	Diary 1/1/1884-12/31/1884 volume 22	1884
1602-2-4:1	Diary 2/19/1885-12/31/1885 volume 23	1885
1602-2-4:2	Diary 1/1/1886-2/10/1886 volume 24	1886
1602-2-4:3	Diary 2/26/1886-4/7/1888 volume 25	1886-1888