

Historic Trappe

P.O. Box 26686 • Trappe, PA 19426 • Phone: (610) 489-7560 • [info@historictrappe.org](mailto:info@historictrappe.org) •  
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# Dr. John H. Cressman Genealogy Research Files Collection

Object ID #2020.002.0017

Finding Aid

Prepared by Sheila Joy  
May 2022

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## SUMMARY INFORMATION

- Repository:** Historic Trappe, Trappe, PA
- Creator:** Cressman, John H.
- Title:** Dr. John H. Cressman Genealogical Research Files Collection
- Object ID:** #2020.002.0017
- Date:** 1971-2000 [inclusive]
- Extent:** The total extent of the collection is 5.8 linear feet (10 document cases plus 1 oversize drop-front document case.)
- Processors:** Sheila Joy
- Language:** English, German
- Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.
- Custodial History:** This collection was received by Historic Trappe as a gift from the family of Dr. John H. Cressman, circa 1998.
- Abstract:** Dr. John H. Cressman (1936-1998) was a teacher, active member of the Lutheran Church, and genealogist. He was president of the Cressman Family Association and editor of its quarterly genealogical newsletter. Around the time of Dr. Cressman's death, the Cressman Family Association had approximately 600 members. The bulk of the Dr. John H. Cressman genealogy research files, 1971-2000, is research notes and correspondence, photocopies of primary and secondary sources, and printed narrative genealogies. There are also a few scrapbooks about family reunions, tours to meet German relations, and family history research.

## PROVENANCE & ACQUISITION

This collection was donated to the Trappe Historical Society (now Historic Trappe) by the family of Dr. Cressman following his death in April 1998. Prior to his death, Dr. Cressman expressed his wishes to his family for his collection to be donated to the Trappe Historical Society. Additional material was received in April 2009: Ms. Mary Whitmer Brandis of Florence, SC donated a photograph to be added to the Cressman Collection. According to correspondence dated October 15, 2000, from Gem Nelson of the Cressman Family Association, newsletters were donated to be added to the collection.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Dr. John H. Cressman (1936-1998) was a computer and math teacher, active member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Easton, Pennsylvania, and genealogist. He was president of the Cressman Family Association and editor of its quarterly genealogical newsletter. He wrote extensively on the history of the Cressman family, including "A Partial History of the Crossman-Kressman-Cressman-Crissman- Crisman family: Supplement 6 Joh. Georg Crossman (1705-1785) 'The Carpenter'" in 1992. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Easton, PA, whose clergy and parishioners supported him during his last illness. He passed away on April 25, 1998.

The Cressman Family Association deals with the descendants of immigrants from Pfungstadt, Hessa, Germany (near Darmstadt). Recognized spellings include: Croessmann, Chrisman, Creasman, Cresman, Cressman, Criesman, Crisman, Crissman, and Kressman. Around the time of Dr. Cressman's death, the Cressman Family Association had approximately 600 members.

### Sources Consulted:

Chrisman, Lonnie. "Chrisman Families Associations." 1999. Accessed March 30, 2012. <http://chrisman.org/societies.htm>.

"John H. Cressman, 62, Computer, Math Teacher." The Morning Call, April 27, 1998. Accessed March 30, 2012.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES**

The bulk of this collection is genealogical research files on Cressman family members, including research notes and correspondence, photocopies of primary and secondary sources, and several printed narrative genealogies. There are also a number of scrapbooks about family reunions, tours to meet German relations, and family history research.

The records are arranged in 4 series. Series include Series 1: Family Files; Series 2: Topical Files; Series 3: Writings and Publications; Series 4: Scrapbooks, Photographs, Books, Certificates, and Memorabilia. The contents of each series are arranged alphabetically, and chronologically.

## **RESTRICTIONS**

This collection is open for research. Contact Historic Trappe for information about accessing this collection.

## **REPRODUCTION**

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured by Historic Trappe. Contact the archivist for more information.

## **PREFERRED CITATION**

Identification of specific item, Date (if known), [Name of collection], Historic Trappe, Trappe, PA.

## **PROCESSING NOTE**

A preliminary finding aid was prepared in November 2012 by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Michael Gubicza through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The collection was fully processed by Sheila Joy in May 2022 along with the preparation of this finding aid. The original folder names for the contents of Series 1: Family Files assigned by the creator were retained by the processor. Any changes/additions made by the processor are indicated with brackets. Photographs and certificates were unframed. Scrapbooks were originally in photo albums and contents were removed for long-term preservation. Some large objects were photographed, and the images were printed and added to the collection. The physical items were separated from the collection.

## **CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS**

### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Cressman Family Association.

### **Family Name(s)**

- Crossman family

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Germany
- Montgomery County (Pa.)
- Trappe (Pa.)

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Cressman, John H.

### **Subject(s)**

- Family reunions
- Genealogy

## SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Family Files

Box Folder

1	1	Adams, Harry (Bedminster, PA)
1	2	Atkinson (Sylvania, OH)
1	3	Barekman, June B.
1	4	Bauerle (Eric, PA)
1	5	Behrens (Oak Park, IL)
1	6	Boettger (Allentown, PA)
1	7	Brode - Wallace
1	8	Büttel
1	9	Cannavd, Judith (Richmond, PA)
1	10	Cashatt - Dietz
1	11	Cass, Margaret (Lafayette Hill, PA)
1	12	Chappell (Gaithersburg, MD)
1	13	Chrisman, Harry (Denver, CO)
1	14	Creasman (McCook, NE)
1	15	Cressman, Abraham, 1785-1864 (Durham, Springfield)
1	16	Cressman, Alberta
1	17	Cressman, Almond (St. Johns, MI)
1	18	Cressman, Alton (Port Huron, MI)
1	19	Cressman - Alton - Paul H. - Norman
1	20	Cressman, Bill (Philadelphia, PA)
1	21	Cressman, Calvin (Pottstown, PA)
1	22	Cressman - Canada
1	23	Cressman, Carlton (Rydal, PA) (1 of 2)
1	24	Cressman, Carlton (Rydal, PA) (2 of 2)
1	25	Cressman, Carlton, Iva, Geo
1	26	Cressman, Carolyn (Jacksonville, FL)
1	27	Cressman - Christian Charts

Box Folder

2	1	Cressman, David (Lebanon, PA)
2	2	Cressman, David (Norristown, PA)
2	3	Cressman, Donald (Dunedin, FL)
2	4	Cressman, Edith
2	5	Cressman Family Correspondence
2	6	Cressman, Frank (Allentown, PA)
2	7	Cressman, Fred

2	8	Cressman, Geo, 1745
2	9	Cressman, George (1790-1873) (Springfield)
2	10	Cressman, George - New Corrections
2	11	Cressman, George (Franconia, PA)
2	12	Cressman, George (Port Orchard, WA)
2	13	Cressman, Harry (Austin, TX)
2	14	Cressman, Rev. Harry W.
2	15	Cressman, J. Jacobs (Durham), 1746
2	16	Cressman, Jacob (Springfield), 1798
2	17	Cressman, John (1781), Christian (1782) - Lower Mt. Bethel, PA)
2	18	[Cressman] 4 John - New Corrections
2	19	Cressman, John and Majorie Beth
2	20	Cressman, Jonas (1787-1859), Springfield Township, PA
2	21	Cressman, Kaye (Washington, NJ)
2	22	Cressman, Louis and Howard
2	23	Crissman, Mary
2	24	Cressman - Montgomery County
2	25	Cressman, Rev. N.M. (Whiting, NJ)
2	26	Cressman, Paul L. Correspondence
2	27	Cressman, Peter (Akron, OH)
2	28	Cressman, Rob. E. (Perkasie, PA)
2	29	Cressman, Robert (Ft. Washington)
2	30	Cressman, Vincent (Pasadena, CA)
2	31	Cressmans - Hess Book
2	32	Crisman, John H. (Beaumont, TX)
2	33	Crisman, Leroy (San Francisco, CA)

Box Folder

3	1	Crissman, Charles L. (NC) 5 Line
3	2	Crissman, Glen (Lewistown, PA)
3	3	Crissman, Fred (Pittsburgh, PA)
3	4	Crössman, Christian (Germany)
3	5	Crossman, Johan George (George the Saddler)
3	6	Crössman, Johannes
3	7	Cruessman
3	8	Cunningham (New Brunswick)
3	9	Davis, Betty (Yorbalinda, CA)
3	10	Deemer (Saltsburg, PA)
3	11	Devore (High Point, NC)
3	12	Diely (Red Bank, NJ)
3	13	Dimmick
3	14	Dorffler, Michael (Canon City, CO)
3	15	Ducellier, Betty (Quakertown)

3	16	Egolf
3	17	Eike (Sacramento, CA)
3	18	Fetters, Robert (Chillicothe, OH)
3	19	Funston (Houston, TX)
3	20	Filler
3	21	Gehris (Fort Myers, FL)
3	22	George?
3	23	George (Dunedin, FL)
3	24	George, Max
3	25	Harris (West Point, VA)
3	26	Graves (Redwood City, CA)
3	27	Guydes, Frank (Fayetteville, NC)
3	28	Harman - Heitzman
3	29	Hawkins (1 of 3)

Box Folder

4	1	Hawkins (2 of 3)
4	2	Hawkins (3 of 3)
4	3	Hoestine
4	4	Hopkins
4	5	Jacob
4	6	Jans, Arleen (Grove City, MN)
4	7	Kressman
4	8	Kressman, Christian (1805-1878), Ferndale
4	9	Kressman (France)
4	10	Kressman, John (Easton, PA)
4	11	Kressman, William (1818-1884), Nockamixon, PA
4	12	Krueger, Aunt Sue Cressman
4	13	Kleppinger
4	14	Livingston (Pittsburgh)
4	15	Massman (Gary, IL)
4	16	Marx, Larua
4	17	McVitty, Lawrence (Mechanicsburg, PA)
4	18	McQuillin (Whispering Pines, NC)
4	19	Meyers Family
4	20	Mitchell (San Antonio, TX)
4	21	Moses, Robert
4	22	Myers (Holmdel, NJ)

Box Folder

5	1	Neis (Doylestown, PA)
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5	2	Nicholas
5	3	Van Norman (Riegelsville, PA)
5	4	Ship Lists
5	5	Petrini (San Francisco, CA)
5	6	Potts (Sturgis, MI)
5	7	Prentice (Anchorage, AK)
5	8	Price
5	9	Puckett (Cincinnati, OK)
5	10	Ricketts (Plainfield, IN)
5	11	Sautter (Allentown, PA)
5	12	Schaeffer (Mechanicsburg, PA)
5	13	Scheidenhelm (Mendota, IL)
5	14	Schrack
5	15	Showers
5	16	Smiland (Austin, TX)
5	17	Staub, Kathleen (Newburg, PA)
5	18	Steinman, Addie
5	19	Stone (Washington, D.C.)
5	20	Stopp (Saylorsburg, PA)
5	21	Taxis, Judge and Mrs.
5	22	Taxis (Norristown, PA)
5	23	Trotman, Jane (1 of 2)
5	24	Trotman, Jane (2 of 2)
5	25	Walker, Mildred
5	26	Welty, Janet (Wooster, OH)
5	27	Wolf (Telford)
5	28	Worthington (Gypsum, CO)
5	29	Zimmer (Fort Myers, FL)

## Series 2: Topical Files

Box Folder

6	1	Family Charts
6	2	Family Chart - American Line
6	3	Family Trees
6	4	Family Tree - Source Material
6	5	Ahnentafal/Charts prepared by John Harman Kressman, May 1997
6	6	Family Meetings, 1971-1974
6	7	Cressman Family History
6	8	History of Early Cressmans
6	9	Crössman Family in Pfungstadt
6	10	Cressman Corners
6	11	History - Schrack, Croessman, Marsteller

6	12	Cressman Newsletter, 1972-1995
6	13	Cressman Newsletter, 1996-2008
6	14	Family Reunion - Journal/Diary Photocopy

Box Folder

7	1	GenealogDat[a]
7	2	History Letters
7	3	An AID
7	4	Book Correction
7	5	Bucks County History
7	6	California
7	7	Case Study - Historical Accuracy
7	8	Cressman Poster and Book Inventory
7	9	FLA
7	10	Hatfield - California - Hawaii
7	11	Historical Timelines, Trappe History
7	12	Indiana
7	13	Index Study
7	14	Mailing Lists
7	15	Maps/Property
7	16	Miscellaneous
7	17	Nebraska
7	18	New Jersey
7	19	Newspaper - Richardson Family Researcher and Historical News, June 1978
7	20	Pennsylvania Counties
7	21	Revolutionary War
7	22	Texas
7	23	Newspaper Clippings re: Pfungstadt (in German)

### Series 3: Writings & Publications

Box Folder

8	1	<i>A Partial History of the Crössman-Kressman-Cressman-Crissman-Crisman Family, 1972 (2 copies)</i>
8	2	<i>Development of Comprehensive Secondary Schools (Gesamtschulen) in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1976</i>
8	3	<i>Our Roots in Trappe: A Collection of Papers on the History of Trappe, Pennsylvania as it relates to H.M. Muhlenberg and the Crössman, Schrack, and Marsteller Families, August 1993</i>
8	4	<i>Our Roots in Trappe..., May 1994 (2 copies)</i>
8	5	<i>Our Roots in Trappe..., May 1995</i>

8	6	<i>Our Roots in Trappe...</i> , September 1998
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#### Series 4: Scrapbooks, Photographs, Books, Certificates, and Memorabilia

This series includes scrapbooks documenting family trips and tours to Pfungstadt, Germany.

Box Folder

9	1	Scrapbook - Family Tour, 1975
9	2	Scrapbook - Family Tour, 1977
9	3	Scrapbook - Family Tour, 1980
9	4	Scrapbook - Family Tour to Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria, 1983
9	5	Scrapbook - Historical Timeline
9	6	Photographs, 1982
9	7	Photograph - John Cressman?
9	8	1950 Family Reunion at Melrose Park, Perkasie, PA <i>Includes list of individuals identified in photo</i>
9	9	Photographs - Pfungstadt
9	10	University Certificates Lehigh University - Eta Kappa ? Association, 1955 Rutgers State University, Master of Education, 1966 George Peabody College, Phi Delta Kappa, 1973 George Peabody College, Doctor of Philosophy, 1976
9	11	Copyright Registration for <i>Development of Comprehensive Secondary Schools (Gesamtschulen) in the Federal Republic of Germany</i> , 1976
9	12	Letter of Honor from the State of Hessen, Germany to Wilhem Crössman, 1978
9	13	Crössman Coat of Arms
9	14	German Postcards, one containing Correspondence from William to Jack, 1990
9	15	Map/Poster of Pfungstadt
9	16	Photographs - Germany
9	17	Oversized Objects (images only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wooden Plaque of Crössman Coat of Arms, Inscription reads: "Erinnerung an Pfungstadt Deutschland-Besuch März 1977. <i>Familien-Wappen:der Crössmänner</i>"</li> <li>● Wooden Plaque of Hessen Coat of Arms. Inscription reads: "Deutschland-Besuch Aug. 1983, Stiftung von Vetter W. Crössman u. Frau"</li> <li>● Wooden Plaque of Crössman Coat of Arms. Inscription reads: "Deutschland-Besuch Aug. 1983, Stiftung von Vetter W. Crössman u. Frau"</li> <li>● Wooden Plaque of Pfungstadt Coat of Arms. Inscription reads: "Deutschland-Besuch Aug. 1983, Stiftung von Vetter W. Crössman u. Frau"</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Print of Darmstadt</li> </ul>
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### Box 10: Books

Box Folder

10	1	<i>Pfungstadt in alten Ansichten</i> by Valentin Liebig, 1990
10	2	<i>Pfungstadt in alten Ansichten Band 2</i> by Valentin Liebig, 1993
10	3	<i>Pfungstädter Mundart Ausdrücke u. Redewendungen</i> by Karl Hechlerand Heimat- und Verkehrsverein Pfungstadt, 1980
10	4	<i>Pfungstadt Informationen für Gäste und Bürger</i> , 1993
10	5	<i>Pfungstadt : Vergangenheit und Gegenwart</i> , 1965
10	6	<i>Kreisfeuerwehrtag 1985 des Landkreises Darmstadt-Dieburg vom 27. Juni bis 1. Juli 1985</i> , 1985
10	7	<i>Pfungstadt vom fränkischen Mühlendorf zur modernen Stadt</i> , 1985

### Box 11: Oversize Certificates and Memorabilia

Box Folder

11	1	Lehigh University Graduation Certificates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Science, 1957</li> <li>• Master of Science, 1959</li> </ul>
11	2	Photographic Print of Pfungstadt (Aerial View), Matted with Text “Unsere Heimat-Stadt im Jahre 1910” (Our home town in 1910)
11	3	Small Banner - RSV Germania 03 Pfungstadt (German Sports Club) Commemorating 75 Years
11	4	Wooden Commemorative Plate - “75 Jahre - RSV Germania, Mai 1978” with image of Rathaus (Old Town Hall) built 1614-1618
11	5	Commemorative Metal Plaque with Inscription “Besuch im Juni 1980 E.U.W. Emmi and Wilhelm Crössmann” with image of Rathaus (Old Town Hall)
11	6	Wooden Plaque - “Pfungstadt” with Coat of Arms
11	7	Geleyte Brief Poster, 1974

## RELATED COLLECTIONS

Cressman Family Vertical Files - Consult with archivist for more information.

## **FEEDBACK**

If you would like to submit feedback, corrections, or additional information to improve this finding aid, please contact us at [info@historictrappe.org](mailto:info@historictrappe.org).