

Hist. Mss. 1-423 – Claude M. and Naomi D. Shisler Collection

****Also see Finland Mennonite Church Collection ****

Claude M. Shisler (1907-2000) was the son of Wilmer F. and Martha Moyer Shisler of the Souderton Mennonite Congregation. His paternal grandfather was undertaker Henry B. Shisler of Harleysville. He was married first to Susanna Derstine of Souderton and second to her sister Naomi. Susanna Shisler suffered from multiple sclerosis and died in 1950. Claude then married Naomi, who had been caring for the family before her sister's death. Claude and Naomi enjoyed nearly 50 years together until his death on February 22, 2000.

At age 14, Claude Shisler left school to enter the printing trade, working for the *Souderton Independent*. After 25 years as a printer, Claude worked a few odd jobs in the late 1940s until he was asked to succeed J. Silas Graybill as manager of Herald Book Store in Souderton. He held this position until retirement age after which he continued to work at the bookstore as a clerk until his 80th birthday.

Claude was ordained to the ministry in the rural Finland Mennonite Mission on November 22, 1938. Before this he had been visiting homes in the Finland Community and contributing leadership to the Sunday School at the Mennonite Mission. Claude provided excellent pastoral leadership for the growing Finland congregation over the next 30 years until he felt the need to retire in 1970. A decade earlier, he and Naomi had bought land and built a home next to the church, so that they could live in the community to which they were ministering. They lived in that house until they moved in 1976 to Souderton Mennonite Homes.

For Claude Shisler's personal account of his life, see his *Shisler and Derstine Genealogy* in the library shelving—Call # 929 Shi.

Naomi Derstine Shisler (1916-2004) was the third daughter of James B. Derstine, songleader at Rockhill Mennonite Church, and his wife Katie M. Schmidt. In 1942 Naomi quit her job to care for her ailing sister Susanna and the Shisler family. In 1951 she married Claude Shisler, and for the next twenty years she contributed greatly to his ministry in the Finland Mennonite Church and Community.

Forrest L. Moyer
August 24, 2004

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Inventory:

1. Small black book of miscellaneous notes
2. Finland Mennonite congregational address book
3. Claude and Naomi Shisler account book (1986-97)
4. Claude Shisler sermon record book (1938-53)
5. Claude Shisler sermon record book (1938-91) (includes miscellany)
6. Wilmer F.-Claude M. Shisler scrapbook of newspaper clippings
7. Henry S. Landes' *History of Souderton* (1930)
8. Bulletin--*Historical Pageant of Franconia Township* (1932)
9. *Daily Intelligencer* article featuring Samuel Gottschall bookplate (1979)
10. Binder—Ministerial Counseling Conference, April 23, 1962
11. Claude Shisler sermons and outlines
12. Claude Shisler funeral and wedding sermons (1949-89) some in 2 small black books
13. Claude Shisler papers, letters sent
14. Claude Shisler "pastoral" letters received
15. Mary Rybak letters to Claude Shisler
16. Shisler family photographs
17. Finland Mennonite Church photographs
18. Finland Sunday School photograph; photograph of Annie (Mrs. Mahlon) Swartley
19. Herald and Provident Book Store photos and memorabilia
20. European Heritage Tour—1973; MHEP Big Valley Tour—1984
21. Shisler-Derstine genealogy (compiled by Claude and Naomi Shisler)
22. John O. Clemens manuscript genealogy
23. Franconia Conference mission workers' meetings, 1937-39
24. Finland Mennonite Church—miscellaneous papers, directories, etc.
25. Finland Mennonite Church pastors—Dave Benner, Steve Landis, Wilbur Bauman
26. Marriage licenses for weddings officiated by Claude Shisler, 1946-87;
Clergyman's records for funerals officiated by Claude Shisler, 1945-80
27. Wedding programs and announcements, 1966-90
28. Obituaries and funeral notices, 1898-1997 (2 folders)
29. Persons assisted—Mundt/Wimmer case, Steich collateral bond, Onichenko family
30. Mrs. Cameron property donated to Finland Mennonite Church
31. Howard Harbert estate
32. Raymond Heitz (d. 1991)-papers, records, and comments-by Claude Shisler, trustee
33. Raymond Heitz papers—diaries, guestbooks, etc.
34. Katharina Mueller—immigration and assistance
35. Helena H. Seiberlich (d. 1969) estate—bequest to Claude Shisler
36. Various estates in Finland community
—John Setzer, Henry Heitz, Max Schreiner, Emilie Weingartner
37. Chart and map—"God and His People"
38. Journal articles—footwashing, prophecy, women in ministry, etc.
39. *Souderton News and Notes* 1995-98