

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 634

Title: Woman's Commonwealth

Extent: 1 Folder(s)

Span Dates: n.d.

Language: English

Geographic Location: Texas; Washington, D.C.

Abstract: This collection consists of a photocopy of the Constitution and by-laws of the organization.

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune; Christian life; Woman's Commonwealth (Belton, Tex.)

Historical Notes: The Belton Woman's Commonwealth, a commune based on the doctrines of religious perfectionism, celibacy, and Wesleyan sanctificationism, grew out of a small group of middle-class Protestant women that began to form in the late 1860s under the leadership of Martha McWhirter, a prominent figure in Belton's nonsectarian Union Sunday School, who organized a women's Bible study and prayer group that met weekly in the members' homes. After she professed to have been sanctified, she urged her followers to seek divine revelations and to share them with the group. The Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin has what appears to be an extensive collection on this group. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/vib01> and <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/01489/cah-01489.html>

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Location
<i>Constitution and By-Laws of the Woman's Commonwealth of Washington D.C.</i>	n.d.	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 17-B