

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 338

Title: Kaweah Co-operative Commonwealth

Extent: 3 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1979-1997

Language: English

Geographic Location: Tulare County, California

Abstract: This collection consists of two papers about the community.

Historical Notes: A group of San Francisco socialists led by Burnette G. Haskell set out in 1885 to settle along the Kaweah River in the Sierra Nevada Mountains by filing homestead claims on adjacent tracts of land. A cooperative economy was in place by 1886, and with great effort the colonists built a road to their domain. In 1890, however, just when the colony seemed to be enjoying the fruits of its efforts, the federal government decided to create Sequoia National Park and evicted the colonists without compensation, declaring their claims invalid. Although an attempt was made to regroup, the colony dispersed and was formally dissolved in 1892. The largest tree in the world, which the colonists had named the Karl Marx Tree, was renamed the General Sherman. **Sources:** Miller, Timothy. *The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities*. 2nd ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015. pg. 241.

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune; Utopian socialism; Bellamy, Edward, 1850-1898

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
Doctor, Joseph D. "Why Kaweah Failed." Conference of the California Historical Society.	1982	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 14-C
Berkove, Lawrence I. "Two Impossible Dreams: Bierce's Views on Utopia and America." Zoar: National Historic Communal Societies Association	1979	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 14-C
A Visit to the Kaweah Colony Ruins: Advance and Arcady. Keweah Land Trust. (November 2, 1996)	1996	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 14-C
The Keweah Cooperative Colony: Study Guide and Source Samples.	n.d.	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 14-C
O'Connell, Jay. Kaweah Commonwealth. (July 1995), (March 1996) (Copies)	1995 - 1996	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 14-C
O'Connell, Jay, "Kaweah! A Dream's Demise." The Californians. Vol. 12: no. 4 (1995): pg. 10-28	1995	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 14-C
O'Connell, Jay. "Kaweah! A Dream's Demise: A Film Treatment." (August 1995)	1995	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 14-C
Kaweah Commonwealth. Vol. 5: no. 40 (October 1996), Vol. 5: no. 42 (October 1996), Vol. 5: no. 48 (November 1996), Vol. 5: no. 52 (December 1996), Vol. 6: no. 6 (February 1997)	1996 - 1997	Filing Cabinet	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 14-C