

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 215

Title: Burning Bush Movement

Extent: 1 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 2000

Language: English

Geographic Location: Waukesha, Wisconsin

Abstract: The collection consists of an article and notes.

Historical Notes: Around the turn of the twentieth century, a group of Chicago Methodists, caught up in the enthusiasm of the growing Holiness movement and its new Pentecostal wing, organized a reform organization called the Metropolitan Church Association. In 1902, members of the group began moving toward giving up their private property and founding an intentional community. In the winter of 1905-06, members began to move to a huge resort hotel the movement had purchased in Waukesha, Wisconsin. By 1912, over 500 persons were living there. At that point, the movement decided to spread its message in a new part of the country and purchased 1,520 acres of land with a large house near Bullard in eastern Texas. In 1913, some 375 church members arrived to build a colony, and soon erected homes and a large tabernacle. The members were by and large not prosperous, and even with outside support the colony struggled to survive. Daily life was somber, in the Holiness tradition of avoiding worldly amusement, but the worship services were joyous Pentecostal events. When the business fortunes of a chief benefactor, Duke Farson, turned and he was unable to provide further subsidies, a local creditor acquired the Texas land and the colonists dispersed in 1919. Economic pressures also forced many members to leave the Waukesha property, and as the membership aged, the whole MCA organization declined. The Waukesha resort was sold in 1956. **Sources:** Miller, Timothy. *The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities*. 2nd ed. Richard W. Couper Press, 2015. pg. 61.

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Commune; Holiness movement; Metropolitan Church Association--History

Administrative Information

Copyright Status: Digital Image Copyright ©2020 University of Southern Indiana Library. All Rights Reserved. Personnel, student records, and other personal information in the records are restricted. All other material is open to the public without restrictions. Copyright laws of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) govern the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Access: Personnel and students records and other personal information in these records are restricted. All other material is open to the public without restrictions. Copyright laws of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) govern the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
Article and Notes	2000	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 13-A