

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 648

Title: Zion City

Extent: 2 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1970-1991

Language: English

Geographic Location: Zion, Illinois

Abstract: This collection consists of publications, brochures, clippings and a copy of a doctoral thesis.

Historical Notes: John Alexander Dowie was a Scottish-born revivalists and early faith healer who developed a following in Chicago after his arrival in the United States in 1888. In the early years he was known for his strong denunciations of medical doctors and of the Catholic Church. By the mid-1890's, he began to lay plans for an intentional community in which his followers would be insulated from degrading influences, including alcohol and tobacco. His associates purchased 6,600 acres of land north of Chicago on Lake Michigan; the first families moved into the community in 1901. The Community was strictly controlled; the ownership of all property and businesses were in Dowie's name. The population may have reached as high as 10,000 during Dowie's lifetime. Dowie's rhetorical excesses and shortcomings as a manager, however, along with financial problems, eventually began to drag the movement down. Dowie was deposed by his lieutenants in 1905, and Wilbur Glenn Voliva eventually rose to the position of leader. Gradually, Zion City has evolved into a relatively conventional town. The church at Zion City, founded by Dowie, long known as the Christian Catholic Church, changed its name to Christ Community Church in the 1990's. It remains locally strong and is the center of a far-flung fellowship of churches. Dowie's large and elaborate home, Shiloh House, now houses the local historical museum. **Sources:** Miller, Timothy. *The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities*. 2nd ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015. pgs. 491-492.

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Commune; Dowie, John Alexander, 1847-1907; Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion; Zion (Ill.)

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
Taylor, Jabez. Continuing History of Zion, 1901-1961: Wilbur Glenn Voliva, Successor to John Alexander Dowie. Zion, IL: Zion Historical Society, Series 7.	n.d.	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 17-B
Cook, Phiip L. Zion City, Illinois: John Alexander Dowie's Theocracy. Zion, IL: Zion Historical Society, Series 2, 1970	1970	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 17-B
Taylor, Jabez. A Visit to Zion's Historical Shiloh House. Zion, IL: Zion Historical Society, [1973]	c . 1973	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 17-B
Taylor, Jabez. The Development of the City of Zion. Zion, IL: Zion Historical Society, [1984]	c . 1984	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 17-B
Debevic, Jan, Connie Allen, Jo Ann Ellingson, and Alice Marshall. Zion in Focus. Zion IL: Zion Historical Society, [1979]	c . 1979	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 17-B
Cook, Philip. "Zion City: John Alexander Dowie's 20th Century Utopia." Silver City, NM.: Western New Mexico University, 1983 (unpublished)	1983	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 17-B
Duis, Perry R. and Glen E. Holt. "God in Illinois." Chicago, March 1979, pgs. 116-119.	1979	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 17-B
Miscellaneous Information; Correspondence	1991	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 17-B
Cook, Philip. Zion City: Twentieth Century Utopia. University of Colorado, 1965	1965	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 17-B