

## Collection Summary

**ID Number:** CS 501

**Title:** Ruskin (Tennessee)

**Extent:** 2 Folder(s)

**Span Dates:** 1956-1988

**Language:** English

**Geographic Location:** Ruskin, Tennessee

**Abstract:** This collection consists of articles about the community.

**Historical Notes:** J.A. Wayland was the founding editor of the *Coming Nation*, which in the 1890s became the country's largest-circulating socialist newspaper. In 1894 he announced that if supporters would help his circulation reach 100,000, he would use the proceeds to start a colony that would demonstrate the advantages of socialism. Soon he located a 1,000-acre tract of land west of Nashville, Tennessee, and began to build the community he envisioned. One hundred or so members were there in Ruskin's early days. Early on, Wayland acquired a printing press and began producing his paper there. He soon fell into disputes with other colonists, however, and he left in 1893. The *Coming Nation* was left with the colony, but Wayland soon founded the *Appeal to Reason*, which eventually far surpassed the *Coming Nation* with a circulation that reached 750,000. Ruskin did well for a time without Wayland, even moving a few miles to acquire better farmland, but internal disputes gnawed at the community. Many members left; community property was sold at auction. Those who wanted to continue moved to Georgia where they joined the existing Duke Colony, which was then renamed Ruskin. But the difficulties continued, and the Georgia Ruskin closed in 1902. In the meantime, it had inspired two offshoot colonies, Niksur and Kinder Lou. **Sources:** Miller, Timothy. *The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015, pgs. 382-383.

## Selected Search Terms

**Subjects:** Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune; Socialism; Press, Socialist; Wayland, J. A. (Julius Augustus), 1854-1912; Ruskin, John, 1819-1900; Utopian socialism

## Administrative Information

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Container</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Brundage, W. Fritzhuugh. "A Utopian Frontier in the New South?" (2 Documents with this Title but Different Content; Only One has Brundage's Name Appended)</b>	n.d.	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 16-B
<b>Shor, Francis. "Contradictory Tendencies in the Emergence of American Socialism and the Utopian Ruskin Colony of Tennessee." Paper Presented at New Lanark, Scotland: International Conference of Utopian Thought and Communal Experience, July 18-21, 1988.</b>	1988	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 16-B
<b>"Historical Sketch of Ruskin"</b>	n.d.	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 16-B
<b>Reference Notes and Map from Dr. Don Janzen</b>	n.d.	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 16-B
<b>Chronology of Community</b>	n.d.	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 16-B
<b>Ruskin Cooperative Association Records, 1896-1963. Manuscript Division Tennessee State library and Archives. Accession Numbers 1008, 1138</b>	1963	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 16-B
<b>Corlew, Robert. A History of Dickson County Tennessee. Tennessee Historical Commission. 1956: pgs. 137-152</b>	1956	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 16-B