

## Collection Summary

**ID Number:** CS 044

**Title:** Aurora Colony Collection

**Extent:** 4 Folders

**Span Dates:** 1960s - 2000s

**Language:** English

**Geographic Location:** Oregon

**Abstract:** The Aurora Colony Collection consists of newsletters, events, and other items about the Aurora Colony in Aurora, Oregon from 1967 to 2009.

**Historical Notes:** The Bethel Colony was established in northeastern Missouri in 1844 by followers of Wilhelm Keil. Many of its original members had previously been member of the Harmony Society. Bethel reached a population of some 650 by 1855 when some 150 of them, including Keil, let in a wagon train to establish a satellite colony in the Pacific Northwest. After a brief stop at Willapa, Washington, the group founded the Aurora Colony in Oregon. More made the migration in later years, and by 1867 the colony at Aurora was larger than Bethel, although both colonies continued under Keil's leadership. The Aurora Colony became prosperous, with many buildings, and excellent hotel, and a large church structure. A community band provided frequent entertainment. Kiel's death in 1877 left both communities leaderless, and they soon dissolved, Bethel in 1880 and Aurora in 1881, with communal property disturbed to members in each case. **Sources:** Miller, Timothy. *The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities*. 2nd ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015. pg. 30.

## Selected Search Terms

**Subjects:** Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune

## Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
<b>Old Aurora Colony. Aurora, OR: Aurora Colony Historical Society. (2005 Spring) – (2005 Fall), (2005 November/December) – (2006 January/February), (2006 Spring), (2006 June/July) – (2006 August/October), (2009 Fall)</b>	2005 - 2009	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 11-C
<b>Publications, Brochures, and Correspondences</b>	1972 - 1993	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 11-C
<b>Will, Clark. The Story of Old Aurora in Picture and Prose 1856-1883. 1972</b>	1972	Filing Cabinet	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 11-C
<b>Articles and Clippings</b>	1967 - 1994	Filing Cabinet	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 11-C
<b>Aurora Map</b>	1972	Map Case	Folder 1	Map Case 9-A