

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 100

Title: Christian Commonwealth Colony

Extent: 2 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1973-1993

Language: English

Geographic Location: Muscogee County, Georgia

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

Historical Notes: In 1896, a group of Christian socialists formed the Christian Commonwealth Colony in Muscogee County. Organized by George Howard Gibson of the Christian Corporation in Nebraska and Ralph Albertson of the Willard Colony in North Carolina, the members were drawn together by a sense of Christian brotherhood, a belief in practical Christianity, and a desire to live their convictions fully in a communal setting. The group purchased a failing cotton plantation near Columbus in November 1896, and by 1899, membership had reached ninety-five. Although their cotton mill and towel production venture failed, the colonists successfully printed a periodical called *The Social Gospel*, which reached at least 2,000 readers. This was not enough, however, to rescue the colony from abysmal living conditions. By 1900, after a typhoid epidemic killed several members, the property was sold, and the proceeds were used to settle debts. The Christian Commonwealth Colony existed as a utopian experiment from 1896 to 1900. The group of Christian socialists sought to live by the tenets of Jesus Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Members gave up their possessions and entered a communal style of living. The CCC, extant during the Social Gospel movement, exemplifies an alternative to that movement's missionary societies and inner city preaching. Instead of working to alleviate hunger and want, the men and women of the Christian Commonwealth Colony sought by their efforts to create a model of godly society, an example for the rest of the world to follow. **Sources:** [Christian Commonwealth Colony](#)

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune; Social gospel; Utopian socialism--United States--History--19th century

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
Article: "A Community Out of Print: The Organization and Dissemination of Knowledge at the Christian Commonwealth, 1896-1900." Ted Kallman	1993	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 11-E
Article: "The Christian Commonwealth Colony: A Georgia Experiment, 1896-1900. Georgia Quarterly, Vol. 67, No. 2, 1973. John O. Fish	1973	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 11-E