

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 069

Title: Brook Farm

Extent: 1 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1941-1994

Language: English

Geographic Location: Boston, Massachusetts

Abstract: This collection consists of newspaper clippings, event announcements, exhibition catalogs, and a conference paper.

Historical Notes: The Transcendental Club, meeting in the 1830's in the Boston area, was an arena for new ideas. One member, George Ripley, with his wife Sophia Ripley, became enamored of utopian communal life, and in 1840 began to organize what become Brook Farm. They secured a 170-acre farm on the Charles River in West Roxbury, then eight miles from Boston. In April 1841, the first 15 to 20 residents moved in and soon set up the school for which the community would later be renowned. Others arrived later; the population eventually exceeded 100, and several residential and other buildings were erected. In 1843, when Fourierism was attracting many followers in America, Brook Farm reorganized as a Fourierist phalanx. Members began building the phalanstery, or unitary residence, that such a system required; but just as it was being completed it burned to the ground on March 3, 1846. The community never recovered, disbanding in 1847. **Sources:** Miller, Timothy. The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities. 2nd ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015. pg. 55.

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune; Transcendentalism; United States--Church history--19th century

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
(General Information) Harvard Excavations at Brook Farm; Newspaper Clippings; "Fourier's Alternative to Marriage" (Presented by Joan Roelofs at the National Historic Communal Societies Association conference, 1986); Columbia University Libraries Exhibition Notes No. 1, Second Edition (Brook Farm, 1941-1847: An Exhibition to Commemorate the Centenary of Its Founding); Brook Farm: A Retrospective and Celebration (exhibition catalog from Villanova University, Falvey Memorial Library); Correspondence about Villanova exhibition	1941 - 1994	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 11-D
Pendery, Steven. "The Architecture of Brook Farm." Communal Studies Association Conference. Oneida, NY, 1994	1994	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 11-D