

## Collection Summary

**ID Number:** CS 123

**Title:** Communia

**Extent:** 1 Folder(s)

**Span Dates:** 1950

**Language:** English

**Geographic Location:** Clayton County, Iowa

**Abstract:** This collection consists of two journal articles.

## Selected Search Terms

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

**Historical Notes:** In 1847 a group of German-speaking radicals from St. Louis, Missouri, created Communia, a utopian colony in Clayton County in northeast Iowa. Many of them had participated in the earlier New Helvetia colony, which had folded when its founder died. The new colony was agrarian and economically communal. Then in 1851 German-born Wilhelm Weitling visited the colony; he quickly convinced the colonists to transform their community into a workers' cooperative that would have industries other than agriculture alone. By 1853, 79 persons including a few nonmember hired workers, were living at the colony; however, by then conditions were deteriorating, in part due to Weitling's inadequate leadership. Official dissolution came in 1864. Much of the colony's land was purchased by colonists who continued to live on private farms in the area and a strong cooperative spirit prevailed among them for some time. (Miller, Timothy. The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities. 2nd ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015. pg. 101)

## Administrative Information

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Container</b>	<b>Location</b>
"Communia, Iowa, A Nineteenth-Century German-American Utopia." George Schulz-Behrend. <u>Iowa Journal of History</u> .	n.d.	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 12-A
"Utopia at Communia." H. Roger Grant. <u>The Palimpsest</u> ; Vol. 61, No. 1 (Jan/Feb): 12-	n.d.	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 12-A

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Container</b>	<b>Location</b>
Schulz-Bebrend, George. "Communia, Iowa, a Nineteenth-Century German-American Utopia." <i>Iowa Journal of History</i> . v.48 (1950); 27-55	1950	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 12-A

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