

## Collection Summary

**ID Number:** CS 374

**Title:** Live Ever, Die Never Society (Temple of the Gospel of the Kingdom)

**Extent:** 1 Folder(s)

**Span Dates:** 1987

**Language:** English

**Geographic Location:** Harlem, New York

**Abstract:** This collection consists of a brief description of the community.

## Selected Search Terms

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

**Historical Notes:** In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, some African-Americans, searching for an identity not embedded in American slavery, embraced innovative religions that identified themselves as Jewish. The Temple of the Gospel of the Kingdom emerged about 1900 in Virginia, when Warren Roberson began his career as a revival preacher. By 1910 he was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with a growing following, and in 1912 he began to teach a communal faith that embraced many Jewish features, including the Yiddish language. He also directed that his followers be celibate. In 1917 Roberson moved his congregation to New York City's Harlem, from which base it established dozens of communal households. Roberson said that his followers would live forever, leading his detractors to call the movement the "Live Ever, Die Never Society." In 1926, however, Roberson was charged with taking women across state lines for sexual purposes related to his alleged operation of a "baby farm" in New Jersey, and after a guilty plea was sentenced to prison. His movement quickly dissolved. (Miller, Timothy. *The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015, p. 439.)

## Administrative Information

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Container</b>	<b>Location</b>
Landing, James. "The "Live Ever, Die Never" Society: A Black, Urban Communal Society in Harlem."	1987	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 15-A

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