Register of the Church of the Brethren, Brethren Service Commission, Civilian Public Service records

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Title: Church of the Brethren, Brethren Service Commission, Civilian Public Service records

Date (inclusive): 1941-1946
Date (bulk): 1943-1945
Collection Number: 69029
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 6 manuscript boxes (2.4 linear feet)

Abstract: Collection includes memoranda, bulletins, newsletters, and reports relating to compulsory non-military public service, conscientious objectors, and the work of the Church of the Brethren, Brethren Service Commission in the United States during World War II.

Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
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Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1969.

Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu/. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.

Historical Note
The Church of the Brethren is a Christian denomination whose beliefs are guided by the New Testament, with an emphasis on peace, simplicity, and involvement in the relief of suffering and charitable work. The Brethren Service Commission (originally known as the Brethren Service Committee and later renamed the Brethren Volunteer Service), which was originally formed to work on humanitarian relief projects, helped oversee the operation of Civilian Public Service (CPS) camps from 1941 to 1947 for conscientious objectors drafted during World War II.

In a joint operation between the three historic peace churches (the Church of the Brethren, the Mennonites, and the Society of Friends/Quakers) and the government, the CPS camps operated as compulsory non-military public service for conscientious objectors, fulfilling the Selective Service and Training Act of 1940's requirement that those rejecting military service complete other national service in the form of "work of national importance."

The National Service Board of Religious Objectors (created by the three historic peace churches to serve as a liaison with the government) and the Selective Service worked together to select CPS camp sites and identify service project ideas, which included serving specific government technical agencies in areas such as forestry, soil conservation, public health, fish and wildlife, and agriculture, and helping to provide social and mental health services.

Over 12,000 conscientious objectors lived in CPS camps and performed various lines of work for no wages; camp operations continued up to nineteen months after the end of World War II. Ultimately the CPS camps and the work of the conscientious objectors led to significant contributions in areas such as forest fire prevention, medical science, and the mental health system.

Scope and Content of Collection
Collection includes memoranda, bulletins, newsletters, and reports relating to compulsory non-military public service, conscientious objectors, and the work of the Brethren Service Commission in the United States during World War II from 1941 to 1946.

The first series, Civilian Public Service Camps File, provides a glimpse into the Civilian Public Service camps through newsletters and bulletins written by the conscientious objectors living and working in the camps. The
second series, **Brethren Service Commission File**, consists of memoranda and papers from the Brethren Service Commission and the National Board of Religious Objectors.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Conscientious objectors--United States.
Peace.
Service, Compulsory non-military--United States.
World War, 1939-1945--Conscientious objectors.
World War, 1939-1945--United States.

**Civilian Public Service Camps File, 1941-1946**

*Scope and Contents note*
Materials include newsletters, bulletins, and memos on the Civilian Public Service camps. Newsletters and bulletins are comprised of camp news, rosters, upcoming activities, and editorials. The conscientious objectors living within the camps wrote and assembled the materials. Titles include *The Columbian*, *Salamonie Peace Pipe*, *Manana*, *CrestViews*, *The Tide*, *Second Mile*, *View Point*, *Camp Walhalla News* *Kane Pennsylvania*, and *Dairy Diary*. The series is arranged by camp number.

Box/Folder 1 : 1
No. 6 Largo, Indiana, 1942-1946

Box/Folder 1 : 2
No. 7 Magnolia, Arkansas, 1941-1943

Box/Folder 1 : 3
No. 16 Kane, Pennsylvania, 1942-1943

Box/Folder 1 : 4
No. 21 Cascade Locks, Oregon, 1942

Box/Folder 1 : 5
No. 24 New Windsor, Maryland, undated

Box/Folder 1 : 6
No. 27 Florida, 1942-1945

Box/Folder 1 : 7
No. 29 Lyndhurst, Virginia, 1943

Box/Folder 2 : 1
No. 30 Wellston, Michigan, 1942-1943

Box/Folder 2 : 2
No. 36 Santa Barbara, California, 1942-1944

Box/Folder 2 : 3
No. 42 Wellston, Michigan, 1943-1944

Box/Folder 2 : 4
No. 43 Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, 1942-1946

Box/Folder 2 : 5
No. 47 Sykesville, Maryland, 1945

Box/Folder 2 : 6
No. 48 Marienville, Pennsylvania, 1943

Box/Folder 2 : 7
No. 51 Ft. Steilacoom, Washington, 1944-1945

Box/Folder 2 : 8
No. 56 Waldport, Oregon, 1942-1944

Box/Folder 2 : 9
No. 70 Dayton, Ohio,

Box/Folder 2 : 10
No. 80 Lyons, New Jersey, 1945

Box/Folder 3 : 1
Columbia University CPS Unit, 1943

Box/Folder 3 : 2-4
Elgin, Illinois camp, 1942-1945

Box/Folder 3 : 5
Various camp newsletters, 1943-1945

**Brethren Service Commission File, 1942-1946**

*Scope and Contents note*
Consists of memoranda, pamphlets, reports, and papers related to the Brethren Service Commission (BSC) and highlighting its activities. National Service Board for Religious Objectors memos spanning from 1943 to 1945 can also be found within this series. Memos written by Harold Row, BSC executive secretary, to camp directors addressing various administrative topics are included as well. Materials are arranged by subject and format.

Box/Folder 4 : 1-2
National Service Board for Religious Objectors memoranda, 1943-1945

Box/Folder 4 : 3-4
Reports, 1943-1946

Box/Folder 4 : 5
Pamphlets, 1942-1946

Box/Folder 5 : 1
Papers, 1943-1946

Box/Folder 5 : 2-3
Memoranda, 1943

Box/Folder 5 : 4
Memoranda, 1944

Box/Folder 6 : 1-2
Memoranda, 1945

Box/Folder 6 : 3
Memoranda, 1946