Manuscript Collection Inventory
Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Note: Unless otherwise specified, documents and other materials listed on the following pages are available for research at the Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections, located in the Main Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additional background information about the manuscript collection inventoried is recorded in the Manuscript Collections Database (http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php) under the collection title; search by the name listed at the top of the inventory to locate the corresponding collection record in the database.
Corn Belt Liberty League
Papers, 1935-95.

Part I: Contemporary Documents Related to the CBLL

Corn Belt Liberty League
   Administrative Documents
   American Liberty magazine
   Correspondence - By State
   Correspondence - General
General Subject File
Legislation
Organizations Related to CBLL
Publications about Agricultural Legislation and Farmers’ Rights

Part II: Writings and Research Files of Lynnita Sommer

Writings
Research Files
   Correspondence
   Interviews and Related Materials
   Photographs
Notes
   General Notes
   On Manuscript Collections
   On Publications
   Publications related to CBLL and New Deal Legislation

Box 1:

Part I: Contemporary Documents Related to the CBLL

Corn Belt Liberty League

Administrative Documents

Incorporation Documents (stored in oversize cabinet), 1938
Certificate of Dissolution, 1946

Administrative Files: Includes purposes of the organization, example of a membership application, scattered records of Illinois meetings, lists of Illinois county chapter leaders, and form letters to membership, ca. 1938-46
Annual Reports (stored in oversize cabinet), 1939-41

Finances, 1938-39

Form Letter – Withdrawal from the Farm Bureau, 1938

Membership Lists, 1938-39

Membership Receipts (unused), ca. 1938-46

American Liberty magazine

Publications and correspondence, 1938-39

Correspondence – By State

Alabama, 1938
Arkansas, 1940
Arizona, 1938
California, 1938
Colorado, 1938
Connecticut, 1938
Florida, 1938
Illinois, 1938-41 (14 folders)
Indiana, 1938-40
Iowa, 1938-41
Kansas, 1938-39
Kentucky, 1938
Louisiana, 1938
Maryland, 1939
Massachusetts, 1938
Michigan, 1938-39
Minnesota, 1936-39
Missouri, 1938-39
Montana, 1938
Nebraska, 1938-40
New Jersey, 1938
New Mexico, 1938
New York, 1938-39
North Dakota, 1938
Ohio, 1938-40
Oklahoma, 1938
Pennsylvania, 1938-39
South Dakota, 1938
Tennessee, 1938
Texas, 1939
Virginia, 1938
Wisconsin, 1938-39
Washington, D.C., 1938-40
Address Unknown, 1940

Correspondence - General

On Frank Gannett and America’s Future, Inc. (includes a speech by Gannett), 1939

Legislators (members of U.S. Congress), 1938-42

McDonald, J. E. – Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, 1939

Media (Newspapers, Radio Stations, Magazines), 1939

Missouri Farmer magazine, 1938-39

Morse, Stanley F. (Stateburg, So. Car.; obtained from University of South Carolina Library) – Executive Vice-President, Farmers’ Independence Council of America, 1936-41

Niebergall, Philip (Paw Paw, Ill.), 1938-40

General Subject File

Corn Belt Farm Dailies (Newspapers), 1938
National Basic Income Plan of John S. Winter, 1938
Poems inspired by the Agricultural Adjustment Act
Speeches and Written Statements regarding Farmers’ Rights and the Agricultural Adjustment Act, 1938
University of Illinois – Reaction to Agricultural Adjustment Act, 1936-37

Legislation

Subcommittee Hearing on Agricultural Adjustment Act, 1937
Agricultural Equality Act, 1939
Organizations Related to Corn Belt Liberty League

Associated Cotton Growers of California (Waldo H. Marquis) – Correspondence, 1938

Associated Farmers – Administrative and Legal Documents, 1938

Associated Farmers of Pacific Coast (Fred Goodcell, Secretary-Treasurer) – Correspondence and Clippings, 1938

Clearinghouse for National Interests (Mrs. Richard W. Mead, New York City) – Correspondence, 1939-40

Farm Bureau (American Farm Bureau Federation) – Background Information

Farm Holiday Association – Background Information

Farmers’ Freedom League of America – Petition to Repeal the Compulsory Crop Act of 1938 (blank)

Farmers’ Independence Council of America – Addresses by Stanley F. Morse, Membership Forms and Background Information, 1935-37, 1991

Farmers’ National Committee for Action – Background Information

Kansas Farmers Liberty League – Correspondence, 1938-40

Box 2:

Publications about Agricultural Legislation and Farmers’ Rights

Congressional Record, 1938

Farm Bureau News (excerpts), 1937-41

Illinois Agricultural Association Record, 1936-39


The Prairie Farmer (excerpts), 1937-38; and Evans, James F. Prairie Farmer and WLS. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1969 (excerpts)
Contemporary Writings on Farmers’ Rights, New Deal Policies, and the Great Depression, ca. 1936-42

Magazine Articles about Corn Belt Liberty League, Agricultural Adjustment Act, 1938

News Clippings on Corn Belt Liberty League, Agricultural Adjustment Act (General), ca. 1938-41

News Clippings on Corn Belt Liberty League, Agricultural Adjustment Act (Indiana), 1938

News Clippings, Broadsides, Form Letters, dealing with Contemporary Protests, 1938-39

Part II: Writings and Research Files of Lynnita Sommer

Writings


Sommer, Lynnita. “Illinois Farmers’ Reaction to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938: Anger, Not Acquiescence” – Term Paper for Mark Leff’s “U.S. History After 1932” course, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 1990; also includes instructor’s comments.

Letters to the Editor (stored in gray oversize cabinet), 1990

Research Files

Correspondence

To and From Lynnita Sommer, 1990-94. All correspondence pertains to Sommer’s research for the articles listed above in the “Writings” section.

Addresses and Phone Numbers of Contacts/Interviewees
Interviews and Related Materials

Eileen Christy (daughter of CBLL President Tilden J. Burg) – Interview Transcript, Mar. 31, 1990

Finley Foster (founding member of the CBLL)

   Interview Transcript, Mar. 21, 1990 (and brief Macomb Journal article about him, June 26, 1986)

   “The Life and Times of Finley Foster (as written by him on February 25, 1988)”

   Obituary, ca. 1990

Hilda Ruebush (wife of Carl Ruebush, a founding member of the CBLL) – Interview Transcript and related documents, Mar. 31, 1990

Photographs

Photographs (4), including the Boardman family, 1939, and the Barnes home, 1991

Box 3:

Notes

General Notes

Includes a list of 14 Illinois counties which had CBLL chapters (according to Business Week, June 4, 1938) and a list of Illinois newspapers to which Sommer wrote letters to the editor in her attempt to learn more about the League, ca. 1990

On Manuscript Collections

Dan D. Casement Papers, Kansas State University Archives (includes photocopies from and correspondence about the collection), 1938-39, 1990-92

Grange Records, Earl W. Hayter Regional History Center, Northern Illinois University
On Publications


Publications related to CBLL and New Deal Legislation

