

A Guide to the George Lincoln Rockwell to Richard O'Roark Letter, July 1963 SC 0391

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July 1963



Title Statement

A Guide to the George Lincoln Rockwell to Richard O'Roark Letter, July 1963 SC 0391

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0391

Unit ID

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Unit Date

July 1963

Language

English

Abstract

Letter written by George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, to Richard O'Roark, mayor of New Market, Virginia regarding an upcoming speaking tour which included a stop in New Market.

Creator

Rockwell, George Lincoln (George Lincoln), 1918-1967

Creator

O'Roark, Richard, 1910-1996

source

Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

Extent

0.08 cubic feet 1 folder

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

Purchased September 7, 2024 from Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates, Inc. Summer Americana auction.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], George Lincoln Rockwell to Richard O'Roark Letter, July 1963, SC 0391, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Biographical / Historical

George Lincoln Rockwell (1918-1967) founded the American Nazi Party in 1959 and served as its first commander until his death in 1967.

Richard O'Roark, to whom Rockwell addressed his letter, served as a councilman and the mayor of New Market for more than 30 years. O'Roark was a WWII veteran who participated in the Normandy Invasion and was also a member of the contingency that liberated the concentration camps in Germany. O'Roark was a lifelong resident of Shenandoah County and was active in local business and community activities.

Six Shenandoah Valley locations were on the schedule for the American Nazi Party's statewide speaking tour in the summer of 1963: Luray and New Market (along with Warrenton) were scheduled for August 3, 1963 with Harrisonburg, Elkton, Waynesboro, and Staunton scheduled for the following two days. According to the *Daily News-Record*, Rockwell did not show up for his announced appearances in Luray, New Market, or Harrisonburg. Regarding Rockwell's failure to appear in Harrisonburg, the local paper wrote: "There was no disappointed crowd on the court house lawn. About the only persons who turned out were city police and county deputy sheriffs, who were on hand to keep order."

Scope and Contents

Letter written by George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, to Richard O'Roark, mayor of New Market, Virginia regarding an upcoming statewide speaking tour which included a stop in New Market. The letter, dated July 9, 1963, includes a July 8, 1963 press release listing the dates and locations on the speaking tour. Shenandoah Valley locations included Luray, New Market, Harrisonburg, Elkton, Waynesboro, and Staunton.

Both the letter and enclosed press release mention the August 28, 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and the American Nazi Party's intention to counter-demonstrate. Rockwell uses racist rhetoric and slurs in his letter to O'Roark as well as a statement quoted the press release.

The letter also references an enclosed "copy of our advance literature which explains what [the American Nazi Party] is trying to do." This item is not extant.

Keywords

Keywords

Letters (correspondence)

New Market (Va.) -- History

Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom ((1963 :)) (Washington, D.C.)

American Nazi Party

Bibliography

"Nazi Leader Fails to Turn Up Here." Daily News-Record. August 5, 1963, pg. 2. Obituary for Richard E. O'Roark, Daily News-Record, August 7, 1996.

Provenance

Per seller's description: "Property of a Shenandoah Co., VA gentleman."

Content Warning

This letter includes racist rhetoric and slurs.

Description of Subordinate Components

George Lincoln Rockwell to Richard O'Roark letter

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/30796

Unit Date July 1963

Mixed Materials [1000897461] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)