

A Guide to the Loudoun Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties Records, 1956-1960

Loudoun Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties Records 1956-1960
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A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library SC 0025

Thomas Balch Library

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History

Processed by: Emily Hershman

Title Statement

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Collection: SC 0025

Author: Emily Hershman

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

SC 0025

Language

English

Abstract

The Loudoun Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties Records contain letters, membership cards, a Declaration of Intent, and a notebook detailing occurrences at Loudoun Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties meetings.

Collector

Unknown

Extent

7 items

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research

Use Restrictions

Physical characteristics and conditions affect use of this material. Photocopying not permitted.

Acquisition Information

Unknown

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Hershman, 19 September 2007.

Formerly catalogued as NUCMC 31

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Loudoun Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties Records (SC 0025), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA

Accruals

1998.0005X

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

None

Bibliography

Ancestry Library, <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com> James Hershman, interview with Emily Rebecca Hershman, 30 September 2007. Television News of the Civil Rights Era 1950-1970, http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/civilrightstv/wdbj/segments/WDBJ1_12.html.

Other Finding Aid

None

Historical Information

Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties was an organization formed to oppose integration after the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. It was established in Farmville, Virginia, and headed by Robert (R.B.) Crawford (app.1911-1973), who had been on the Prince Edward County School Board for 15 years. The Defenders stated their goals as preservation of segregation without violence or lawlessness. During a 1956 interview, Crawford claimed the Defenders had approximately 10,000 members across Virginia.

It was a powerful organization throughout the mid and late 1950s, but began to fade away during the early 1960s. The Virginia Conservative Party, formed in opposition to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, is widely believed to be an offshoot of the Defenders.

Scope and Content

The Loudoun Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties Records contain letters, membership cards, a Declaration of Intent, and a notebook detailing occurrences at various meetings. The collection is in overall good condition but should be handled carefully.

The first item in the collection is a carbon copy entitled "Purpose of Organization," which states that the Defenders' goals are "working for the restoration [and] enforcement of the Constitution" and "to declare null and void all rulings by members of the Supreme Court not authorized by the Constitution." The Declaration of Intent continues in the same vein, asserting that the organization will reverse the "neglect ... destroying our public school system." The next document is a letter from John W. Clemens (4 Dec 1906-1978) of Leesburg to Robert (R.B.) Crawford, which is dated June 21, 1960, and contained the 9 dollar dues necessary to remain in the organization. Also present is a letter dated May 6, 1959, from Robert (R.B.) Crawford to W.E. Turney (n.d.), thanking Turney for his dues and briefly mentioning the Perrow Commission (1959). The last item is a composition notebook containing lists of old and additional members, appointment of chapter committees, speakers who address the meetings, and contributions from members.

The carbon copies, membership card and notepad, and composition notebook are the only items in this collection.

Contents List

Folder 1: Purpose of Organization , n.d.

Folder 2: Declaration of Intent , n.d.

Folder 3: Letter from John W. Clemens to R.B. Crawford , 21 June 1960

Folder 4: Letter to W.E. Turney from R.B. Crawford , 5 May 1959

Folder 5: List of Members , n.d.

Folder 6: Membership Card , n.d.

Folder 7: Notebook of Meetings and Members , n.d.