

# 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) (<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.

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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  
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General Subject File  
Legislation  
Organizations Related to CBLL  
Publications about Agricultural Legislation and Farmers' Rights

*Part II: Writings and Research Files of Lynnita Sommer*

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Research Files  
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Interviews and Related Materials  
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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**

Agricultural Conference, Washington, D.C., held Feb. 1-2, 1939  
 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 Adjustment Act of 1938, 1938-39, 1942, 1947  
 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

Kramer, Dale. *Truth About the Farm Bureau*, rev. ed. Minneapolis: Farmers Book Store, 1937

*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 Aldridge. "Illinois Farmers in Revolt: The Corn Belt Liberty League." *Illinois Historical Journal* 88:4 (Winter 1995) - offprint, original manuscript, reader reviews, administrative correspondence, editorial comments, 1990-95

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 CBLI President Tilden J. Burg) -  
Interview Transcript, Mar. 31, 1990

Finley Foster (founding member of the CBLI)

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  
CBLI) - 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 CBLI 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

Stanley F. Morse Papers, U. South Carolina

***On Publications***

On *The Gallup Poll*, v. 1, 1935-1971

Publications related to CBLL and New Deal Legislation

Book Excerpts re Corn Belt Liberty League, 1956, 1982, 1986

*Indiana Newspaper Directory and Rate Books, 1988*. Indianapolis:  
The Hoosier State Press Association

Saloutos, Theodore. "New Deal Agricultural Policy: An  
Evaluation." *Journal of American History* LXI: 2 (Sept. 1974),  
394-416