Bethel Community (Shelby County, Mo.) Song Books
(C3876)

Collection Number: C3876

Collection Title: Bethel Community (Shelby County, Mo.) Song Books


Creator: Culler, Virgil, collector

Abstract: Four song books containing only the words of German songs, including folk songs and hymns (two are published and two are handwritten).

Collection Size: 0.15 cubic feet, 1 roll of microfilm
(2 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in German.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Bethel Community (Shelby County, Mo.) Song Books (C3876); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The song books were loaned to the University of Missouri for microfilming by Marion (Mrs. Virgil) Culler through Adolf E. Schroeder on June 9, 1992 (Accession No. CA5184). The originals and an additional song book were later donated by Rebecca Schroeder in April 2013.

Alternate Forms Available: The three songbooks in folder 1 are available on 1 roll of microfilm.

Historical Note:

The Bethel Community was a communistic, agricultural experiment established by William Keil, a German immigrant, in 1844. His followers were mostly Germans and Pennsylvania Dutch from Ohio and areas around Pittsburgh.

The colonists lived under a loosely governed but sternly moral patriarchy and subscribed to no particular religious tenet. Property and labor were shared and the group prospered and was self-sufficient. Keil founded the Aurora Community, which followed the same ideals, in Aurora, Oregon, in 1855.

Both communities flourished until after Keil’s death in 1877. Shortly thereafter they disbanded, Bethel in 1879 and Aurora in 1881.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains four song books containing only the words of German songs, including folk songs and hymns (two are published and two are handwritten).

Container List:

f. 1  Song books, 1859-1863
f. 2  Song book, undated
Roll 1  Song books, 1859-1863

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