



The Communist Newsletters (S0430)

Collection Number: S0430

Collection Title: The Communist Newsletters

Dates: 1866-1877

Creator: Longley, Alcander, 1832-1918

Abstract: The Communist Newsletters collection contains original copies of *The Communist*, a monthly newsletter published in St. Louis, Missouri, with the purpose of disseminating knowledge of the principles of communism and encouraging their general adoption among Missourians.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at the [State Historical Society of Missouri – St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *The Communist Newsletters* (S0430); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers/records were donated to the University of Missouri/State Historical Society of Missouri by Barb Le Hockey on May 19, 1987 (Accession No. SA2786)

Processed by: Processed by Reilly McDonald and Ryan Hurtado, May 1, 2026.

Historical Note:

The Communist newsletter was founded in 1868 by utopian socialist Alcander Longley. Born in 1832 in Oxford, Ohio, at age twelve Longley and his family moved to the Clermont Commune in Lebanon, Indiana, where they embraced socialist communal ideals and became heavily involved in the community. In 1854 Longley married Zellie Mottier and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked for his family's printing business until 1861.

The couple then moved to the French-based commune New Icaria in Iowa, where they stayed until 1868. It was here that Longley began publishing *The Communist*, a monthly newsletter intended to disseminate knowledge of communism and encourage its general adoption. The same year, Longley arrived in St. Louis, Missouri, where he continued to publish. Two years later, Zellie and Alcander joined the Reunion Community and built on a 160-acre plot of land in Jasper County, Missouri. After the community dissolved in 1871, Longley and his family traveled east to Dallas County, Missouri. Longley worked towards creating a new commune, an idea that came to fruition in 1872 with the establishment of the Friendship Community just a few miles east of Buffalo, Missouri.

The population of the Friendship Community was reported to be eleven in 1875, although this number dwindled to six by 1876. Despite the financial and societal struggles faced by the commune, it was not until 1877 that the community officially dissolved. In the aftermath, the Longley's returned to St. Louis where Alcander continued to publish *The Communist*, which was eventually renamed *The Altruist*. The publication ceased printing in 1917, a year before Longley's death in 1918 at the age of 86.

Aside from several hard-fought battles to establish and preserve socialist communes across Missouri, Alcander Longley's legacy is documented through surviving copies of his newsletter. *The Communist* advocated for Longley's communist ideals and philosophy regarding topics such as worker cooperation, the establishment of common property, and community progress. It was also used as a tool to support local communities through subscriber contributions and advertisements.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically into one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains original copies of *the Communist* monthly newsletter. Notable topics discussed include communist ideals and philosophy on worker cooperation, a set of amendments, reports on community progress, records of subscription contribution, extracts from subscribers, poetry, and advertisements on various goods like food and home appliances. The materials in this collection are arranged chronologically, dating from 1868 to 1877.

Container List: 1 Folder

Box 001 f. 1

The Communist newsletters, 1866-1877

Index:

Index Terms	Folder
American communal societies	1
Commune	1
Communism--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Communism and society	1
Dallas County (Mo.)	1
Fundraising--Political Aspect	1
Icarian Community	1
Jasper County (Mo.)	1
Labor	1
Longley, Alcander, 1832-1918	1
Missouri--Politics and government	1
Newsletters	1
Serial publications	1
Socialism and society	1
St. Louis (Mo.)	1
St. Louis County (Mo.)	1
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