



Concerned Citizens for St. Charles Collection (S0257)

Collection Number: S0257

Collection Title: Concerned Citizens of Greater St. Charles Collection

Dates: 1972-1973

Creator: Muir, Ruth

Abstract: The Concerned Citizens for St. Charles Collection contains correspondence, interview transcripts, and a term paper, primarily documenting the group's efforts, led by Laura Rogers to ban controversial textbooks from schools and establish a private Christian school in St. Charles, Missouri.

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. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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] *Concerned Citizens for St. Charles Collection* (S0257); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Ruth Muir on May 28, 1974 (Accession No. SA0405).

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock and Remy Cognac, September 2023.

Historical Note:

In 1972, parents of children attending T.L. Hardin Jr. High in St. Charles, Missouri, raised complaints about a textbook entitled *Promise of America*. The book was written by Larry Cuban and Phillip Roden in 1971, intended for use by undereducated youth and in inner-city schools. The book attempts to take an approach to learning more focused on critical thinking and problem solving than memorization. Opponents claimed that the textbook was attempting to “change attitudes” and teach morals conflicting with those taught at home. Parents like Mrs. Laura Rogers pushed for the book's removal from the school's curriculum. The issue was discussed at school board meetings before the district decided not to remove the book, but instead to offer an alternative history course using a different textbook. Dissatisfied with the outcome, Mrs. Rogers and several other parents pulled their children out of St. Charles public school and opened a new Christian private school in a one-room schoolhouse.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into one folder.

Scope and Content:

The Concerned Citizens for St. Charles Collection contains articles, correspondence, interview transcripts, and a term paper detailing the efforts of Concerned Citizens of St. Charles to remove a textbook series known as “Promise of America” from the 8th grade curriculum in the St. Charles school district. The citizens' complaints primarily relate to the “unpatriotic” nature of the book series. This includes discussion of controversial topics such as abortion, class struggle, drugs, and socialism. Included in the collection is a transcript from an interview on *The Today Show* with Mrs. Lara Rogers, one of the concerned parents. Additionally, there is a transcript of a speech Mrs. Rogers gave in 1972 in Florissant, Missouri and letters from both Concerned Citizens for St. Charles and the principal of Hardin Junior High to parents. An analysis of the material included is provided by the collection creator, Ruth Muir. The materials in this collection date from 1972-1973.

Container List:

- f. 1 Articles, correspondence, interview transcripts, and a term paper,
1972-1973

Index:

Index Terms	Folders
Bayse, Ben C.	1
Censorship--Missouri--Saint Charles	1
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Hardin Middle School (Saint Charles, Mo.)	1
Public schools--Curricula--Censorship--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Rogers, Jim	1
Rogers, Laura	1

Index Terms	Folders
St. Charles Christian School	1
Textbooks--Censorship--Missouri--Saint Charles	1
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