Socialist Party of the USA. Dover, New Hampshire Local; Records

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Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title: Socialist Party of The United States of America Dover, New Hampshire Local Records
ID: mss113
Date [inclusive]: 1894-1923
Physical Description: 0.20 cubic ft.
Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material: English.
Abstract: The Socialist Party of the United States of America Dover, New Hampshire Local Records contain records that document the range of activities of the Local. Records include correspondence that highlight the contacts of the local and its place within the broader Socialist Party movement in the United States.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Socialist Party of The United States of America Dover, New Hampshire Local Records, 1894-1923. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Socialist Party of The United States of America Dover, New Hampshire Local Records).

Organizational Sketch

The Dover, New Hampshire Local of the Socialist Party was first chartered in 1895 as an affiliate of the Socialist Labor Party. Twenty Dover residents, mostly skilled tradesmen and unskilled laborers, signed the initial charter of affiliation. Benjamin T. Whitehouse was the organizer. The Local held rallies, ran candidates for local, state and national office and distributed copies of The People, the Socialist Labor Party's national newspaper, to local labor organizations.
At the national level, the Socialist Labor Party was in turmoil during the years 1895-1900 as a faction supporting party boss Daniel De Leon fought with a faction supporting Morris Hillquit. In 1901 Hillquit's organization broke with the Socialist Labor Party and established itself as the Socialist Party of America. The Dover Local sided with this new party and became its local branch. The Local continued to exist throughout World War I and the early 1920s, when Socialists were persecuted for their opposition to the war. The last documented activity in this collection dates from 1923.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the records of the Dover, New Hampshire Local of the Socialist Party. The majority of records date from the years 1895-1901, when the Local was affiliated with the Socialist Labor Party. A smaller quantity of records documents the years after 1901, when the Local was affiliated with the Socialist Party of America.

The collection includes a wide variety of records which document the various activities of the Local. An extensive file of letters to and from chapter organizer Benjamin T. Whitehouse documents the routine business of the Local, its contacts with other labor organizations and its participation in the factional conflicts within the Socialist Labor Party. Numerous fliers and posters document the Local's political campaigns and public rallies, and a file of pamphlets explains the Socialist political platform in detail. Invoices and receipts record the financial transactions of the Local, while its social makeup is suggested by its 1895 and 1901 charters, in which members are listed by occupation.

The later activity of the local is documented by a record book for the years 1916-1923 which contains meeting minutes and other records of official business.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized by the format of the records.
Administrative Information

Publication Statement
M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description
Encoded in EAD by Blair Williams 2014

Processing Information
Processed in 2009 by Nicholas Webb.

Access
Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright
The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

Acquisition Information
The provenance of this collection is unknown.

Controlled Access Headings

- Public Servants
- Socialism--United States
- Political parades & rallies
- Political parties
- Intra-party disagreements (Political parties)
- personal correspondence
- Fliers
- Political posters
- invoices
- receipts
- Whitehouse, Benjamin T.
- Socialist Party of the United States of America. Dover Local
- Socialist Labor Party
- Socialist Party of the United States of America

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**Collection Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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| Correspondence to Benjamin T. Whitehouse, 1894-1903           | Box 1  
(Socialist Party of The United States of America  
Do)                                                                   |
| Correspondence from Benjamin T. Whitehouse, 1896-1899         | Box 1  
(Socialist Party of The United States of America  
Do)                                                                   |
| Record Book, 1916-1923                                       | Box 1  
(Socialist Party of The United States of America  
Do)                                                                   |
| Charters, 1895 and 1901                                      | Box 1  
(Socialist Party of The United States of America  
Do)                                                                   |
| Socialist Party of Dover, N.H. Business Correspondence, 1896-1898 | Box 1  
(Socialist Party of The United States of America  
Do)                                                                   |
| Resolutions, 1902                                             | Box 1  
(Socialist Party of The United States  
)                                                                               |
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<td>Flyers and Posters, 1897-1904</td>
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<td>Pamphlets, ca. 1896</td>
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<td>Socialist Party national publications, 1896-1901</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clippings, 1896-1898</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poem, Undated</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photograph, Undated</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Documents, 1895-1901</td>
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