

George and Grace Brewer Collection

**Papers, 1903-1968
(Predominantly, 1906-1916)**

2 linear feet

Accession #218

The papers of George and Grace Brewer were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs between 1967 and 1969 by Grace Brewer and were opened for research in June of 1970. Additional papers were placed in the archives in by Ms. Brewer's niece, Ruth Garrison in 1977 and opened for research in April of 1982.

George Brewer was born in Braddock City, Pennsylvania. Later, his parents moved to Kansas, and he was educated in the public schools of Marion, Kansas. He attended Avalon College in Trenton, Missouri where he met Grace Babbit, whom he married in 1903. He soon became one of the chief local spokesmen for the Socialist Party. From 1909 to 1917 he worked for the *Appeal to Reason* in Girard, Kansas, the principal socialist publication in the country at that time. In addition to his articles and news stories, he lectured under the auspices of the Appeal Lecture Bureau. He also served as manager, traveling companion, and secretary to Eugene V. Debs on Debs's Appeal lecture tours. For two years, George Brewer edited and published the *Worker's Chronicle* in Pittsburgh, Kansas. He served a two year term, 1914-1916, as the only Socialist member in the Kansas state legislature. From 1918 to ca. 1924 he lectured for the Non-Partisan League in Minnesota and North Dakota. In 1924 he went to the Pacific Northwest to work for the Railroad Brotherhood Banks and in 1927 went into private business in Los Angeles, California. He died in January, 1967.

Grace Babbit Brewer was born in Livingston, Iowa in 1881, graduated from East High School in Des Moines and also attended Avalon College. She worked for the *Appeal to Reason* as a secretary to the managing editor, Fred D. Warren. She was also the paper's women's editor and edited its Army column. From ca. 1907 to 1913 she was secretary to Eugene V. Debs and managed the Appeal Lecture Bureau. In 1912 Ms. Brewer was elected trustee of the Crawford County, Kansas High School Board of Education on the Socialist ticket and ca. 1915-1916 served as a member of the Women's National Committee of the Socialist Party. She later worked for the Non-Partisan League in Minnesota, managing its speakers' bureau. She died in January, 1976.

The George and Grace Brewer Collection documents the lives and careers of the Brewers as well as the activities of socialists in southeastern Kansas, particularly Crawford County, which was largely a mining region with a considerable immigrant population.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Debs, Eugene V.
Mine strikes and accidents
Non-Partisan League
Socialism and Socialist Party activities
Southeast Kansas politics
Wayland, J. A.
Women in politics
World War I pacifism, profiteering

Among the important correspondents are:

Eugene V. Debs
Katherine Debs

Contents

4 manuscript boxes

Series I, Papers and Publications, 1905-1978, Box 1

Correspondence, clippings and pamphlets relating to the work of George and Grace Brewer with Eugene V. Debs and the Socialist Party, primarily in the decades prior to World War I.

Series II, Scrapbooks, c. 1909-1916, Boxes 2-4

Newspapers and magazine clippings, primarily concerning socialism, reports of speeches and writings of George Brewer and Eugene Debs, articles relating to George Brewer and his term in the Kansas state legislature.

Non-manuscript material:

Approximately 45 photographs, primarily of George and Grace Brewer, Eugene V. Debs, staff members of the *Appeal to Reason* and members of the Non-Partisan League, and 25 postcards have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection.

Series I
Papers and Publications
Box 1

Correspondence, speeches and lectures, clippings, documents, pamphlets and brochures. The bulk of the correspondence is from Eugene Debs to Grace Brewer (1908-1911) regarding lecture tours. The pamphlets are primarily socialist publications. Files are arranged alphabetically, with those relating to the Brewers and Debses placed first.

Box 1

1. Brewer, George; biographical sketch
2. Brewer, George; certificate, union cards, 1916-1943
3. Brewer, George; correspondence, 1926, 1943
4. Brewer, George; letters of introduction, 1919, 1923-24
5. Brewer, George; notes on Karl Marx, 1956
6. Brewer, George; notes, speeches on Eugene V. Debs
7. Brewer, George; pamphlets, lectures
8. Brewer, George; poems
9. Brewer, George; State of Minnesota vs. George Brewer
10. Brewer, George; Brewer, Grace; biographical sketch
11. Brewer, George; certificates, union cards, 1909, 1912, 1918
12. Brewer, George; clippings
13. Brewer, George; notes on Eugene V. and Katherine Debs
- 14-16. Debs, Eugene V.; correspondence, n.d., 1908-1912, 1919
17. Debs, Eugene V.; "Debs at Home," n.d.
18. Debs, Katherine; correspondence, 1910-1911, 1921
19. Eugene V. Debs Foundation; pamphlets
20. Clippings; miscellaneous, c. 1913-1968
21. Correspondence; miscellaneous, 1968, 1910, n.d.
22. Ghent, W. J.; "The Appeal Almanac and Arsenal of Facts for 1915"
23. Holdeman, Julius E.; "My Second 25 Years," 1949
24. Ricker, A. W.; "Socialism in Action," 1912
25. Wayland, J. A.; "Leaves of Life," 1912

**Series II
Scrapbooks
Boxes 2-4**

These scrapbooks contain newspaper and magazine clippings relating to socialism, reports of speeches, writings of George Brewer and Eugene Debs, and articles relating to George Brewer and his term (1915-1916) in the Kansas State legislature as well as poems and essays.

Box 2

Scrapbooks, nos. 1-3 Clippings of poems, miscellanea. A few of the items are by George Brewer, Grace Brewer and Eugene Debs

Box 3

Scrapbooks, nos. 4-5 Newspaper clippings, primarily from Kansas papers, of state legislative actions and issues, January-March, 1915

Box 4

- Scrapbook, no. 6 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, primarily concerned with issues such as women, child labor, socialism, c. 1908-1910
- Scrapbook, no. 7 Newspaper clippings of lectures and speeches of Eugene Debs and George Brewer, primarily 1912-1913. Includes some clippings relating to anti-papacy in Detroit, Chicago and Pennsylvania.