

REV. M.E.N. LINDSAY PAPERS, 1931-2012 (bulk 1937-1938)
2015.33.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
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Descriptive summary

Title: Rev. M.E.N. Lindsay papers

Dates: 1931-1940 (bulk, 1937-1938)

Accession number: 2015.33.1

Creator: Lindsay, M.E.N. (Mark Edgar Newson)

Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear foot)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: Consists of correspondence, leaflets, fliers, news clippings, and other material related to the 1937 protest by the citizens of the town of Southbury, Connecticut against the planned construction of a nearby camp by the German-American Bund. The protest, led by Rev. M.E.N. Lindsay of the South Britain Congregational Church, is documented in clippings and correspondence sent to Lindsay, a typescript text of a sermon that he gave in his church protesting against Nazism, fliers distributed to citizens of the town encouraging them to support the protest, and the typewriter used by Lindsay to type his sermon on.

Languages: English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), M.E.N. Lindsay papers (2015.33.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Donated by Lois Lindsay Brown, Carol Lindsay Hagy and Joan Lindsay Redford, daughters of M.E.N. Lindsay, in 2014.

Custodial history: Items in this collection were inherited by the daughters of Rev. M.E.N. Lindsay, who loaned them to the South Britain Congregational Church, who in turn transferred them to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2014.

Existence and location of originals: Originals of some of the copied items in this collection are held at the Southbury Historical Society, PO Box 124, Southbury, CT 06488.

Related materials: The typewriter that Rev. M.E.N. Lindsay used to type his sermons, including the one he delivered in November 1937 titled "Nazism: an anti-Christian menace," was also donated at the same time as his papers, along with the typewriter case and ribbon, and is cataloged separately from the papers (accession number 2015.33.2 and 2015.33.3).

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Processed by Brad Bauer, 2014.

Biographical note

Mark Edgar Newson Lindsay was originally from western Maryland, and received a bachelor's degree from Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. He then decided to pursue a masters of divinity degree, and graduated from Yale Divinity School in the 1930s, and was ordained as a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His first pulpit was that of a Congregational church in South Britain, Connecticut, where he, along with other town leaders, mobilized to prevent the establishment of a training camp for members of the German American Bund in 1937. Around 1940, he and his family (his wife and three daughters) moved to Virginia, where he had been assigned as pastor of a Disciples of Christ congregation in Tazewell, where he served for most of the remainder of his ministry, during the 1940s and 1950s.

Scope and content of collection

The M.E.N. Lindsay papers consist largely of correspondence that he received in the aftermath of the publicity that was generated by the anti-Nazi protest in Southbury, Connecticut in November 1937. While most of the correspondence originated from either Connecticut or New York, letters received from as far away as Tennessee, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and California showed that the story of the Southbury protest had been picked up by newspaper wire services and published around the country. Some correspondents simply sent letters or postcards expressing either their support or opposition to the actions in Southbury. Others, however, included newspaper clippings, as well as fliers, leaflets, and other printed material illustrating political viewpoints that ranged across the spectrum, from liberal mainline Protestantism, labor unions, and progressive political organizations; to anti-Communist and pro-American organizations, as well as groups that promoted anti-Semitism and segregationist views. Most of this material came unsolicited to Lindsay, and he apparently did not respond to most of those who sent him such materials. In one case, though, he responded to a letter writer who repeatedly sent

him the anti-Semitic and racist publication *The New Liberation*, attempting to reason with this person and help him question the views espoused by this publication (see file 1:2, Anderson, Ebba).

In addition to the correspondence and printed material received by Lindsay, the collection contains the typescript of a sermon that Lindsay delivered from the pulpit of the South Britain Congregational Church in November 1937, titled "Nazism: An Anti-Christian Menace." Also included is a flier, signed "The Kettletowners," that was placed in the mailbox of every resident of Southbury, along with a reprint of a magazine article about the German-American Bund, as an incentive to get residents to turn out for the town hall meeting of November 1937, at which Reverend Lindsay and other town leaders urged residents to mobilize in opposition to the planned Bund camp. A photocopy of a master's thesis, written by Lillian Hicock, the niece of Judge Harold Hicock of Southbury, examining the events surrounding the Southbury protests, is also included (the original is located at the University of Virginia).

For an event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Southbury protest in 2012, a group of local residents researched these events, and made photocopies of documents that are held by the Southbury Historical Society in South Britain, Connecticut. These documents include correspondence sent to local leaders, including Judge Hicock and Jennie Hinman, as well as additional correspondence sent to Reverend Lindsay, as well as newspaper clippings. Although these photocopies were not a part of the M.E.N. Lindsay collection, they have been added to this collection because of their topical relevance.

System of arrangement

[Brief list of the component series in the collection, as well as a statement of how each series is arranged (e.g., alphabetic, chronological, etc.); DACS 3.2, MARC 351].

Indexing terms

Corporate headings:

German American Bund.

South Britain Congregational Church (Southbury, Conn.)

Topical headings:

South Britain Congregational Church (Southbury, Conn.)--Clergy.

Anti-Nazi movement--United States--Connecticut--History.

Congregational churches--Connecticut--Clergy.

Geographical headings:

Southbury (Conn. : Town)

South Britain (Southbury, Conn.)

CONTAINER LIST

I. CORRESPONDENCE, Received by M.E.N. Lindsay

- | | | |
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| 1 | 1 | Adelman, Meyer. Milwaukee County Industrial Union Council, Milwaukee, WI.
20 December 1937 |
| 1 | 2 | Anderson, Ebba. Waterbury, CT, 30 November 1937 to 4 March 1938 (4 letters from
Anderson, one copy of reply from Lindsay, plus news clipping) |
| 1 | 3 | Anonymous. Note cards, New York, November 26 1937. |
| 1 | 4 | Anonymous. Note with enclosed newspaper clipping, New York, 28 January 1938. |
| 1 | 5 | Anonymous. Note from a letter writer signed "A Minority Citizen," Bridgeport, CT,
24 November 1937 |
| 1 | 6 | Anonymous. Note signed "A young man from Canton, Ohio," 16 December 1937. |
| 1 | 7 | Babcock, James. Tacoma, WA; 16 December 1937. |
| 1 | 8 | Baker, D.S. Postcard sent from Havana, Cuba; 21 December 1937. |
| 1 | 9 | Barber, Edna C. Woodbury, CT; letter with newspaper clippings, 1 December 1937. |
| 1 | 10 | Baxter, Othel. Arlington, NJ; letter, undated, with mimeographed text, and second
note typed on news clippings, 23 November 1937. |
| 1 | 11 | Brassell, R.G. Bridgeport, CT; 24 November 1937 |
| 1 | 12 | Bristol, George W. New York, NY. Letter with news clipping, 24 November 1937. |
| 1 | 13 | Chase, George C. Mountain Home, TN. 10 December 1937 |
| 1 | 14 | Clarke, Rev. Merrill F. Congregational Church of New Canaan, CT. 23 November 1937. |
| 1 | 15 | Crowley [?], Helen. Cleveland, OH, undated. |
| 1 | 16 | Grosby, Samuel. Grosby Press, Inc., New York, NY; 24 November 1937. |
| 1 | 17 | Hadley, Helene. New York, NY, 1 December 1937. |
| 1 | 18 | Henson, Francis. United Automobile Workers, Detroit, MI; 5 January 1938. |
| 1 | 19 | Hickcox, Rev. Edward S. Bradford, VT; 26 November 1937. |
| 1 | 20 | Hill, John. Broadman Press, Nashville, TN; 29 November 1937. |
| 1 | 21 | Holmes, George. The United Americans, Southbury, CT; 21 January 1938. |
| 1 | 22 | Illegible signature. Letter, with newspaper clipping, New York, NY; 24 November 1937. |
| 1 | 23 | Jacobson, A. George. Jamaica, NY; 24 November 1937. |
| 1 | 24 | James, Fleming, et. al., Connecticut Conference on Social and Labor Legislation, New
Haven, CT; letter along with mimeographed statement, 3 March 1938. |
| 1 | 25 | Kimball, Chase. Connecticut Branch, League of Nations Association, Inc., Waterbury, CT.
Letter with several leaflets and brochures, 1 December 1937. |
| 1 | 26 | Kohn, Jerome. New York, NY; 26 November 1937. |
| 1 | 27 | Kunze, G. Wilhelm. German-American Bund, New York, NY; 6 December 1937 and
20 December 1937. |
| 1 | 28 | Major, Kathryn. New York, NY; 18 December 1937. |
| 1 | 29 | Mathias, Joseph G. Cincinnati, OH; 16 December 1937. |
| 1 | 30 | Munson, Frank. Newington, CT; 26 November 1937. |
| 1 | 31 | Philips, Charles, M.D. East Greenwich, RI; 23 November 1937. |
| 1 | 32 | Potter, Edwin. New York, NY; 24 November 1937. |

- 1 33 Rosengarten, Charles. Waterbury, CT; 22 November 1937.
- 1 34 Saher, Kurt. New York, NY, with flier from the German-American Travel House;
 25 November 1937.
- 1 35 Smith, Rep. J. Joseph. Washington, DC; 6 December 1937.
- 1 36 Unnamed German writer (name crossed out by Lindsay). Stratford, CT;
 20 November 1937.
- 1 37 Unnamed German writer (name crossed out by Lindsay). New York, NY;
 24 November 1937.
- 1 38 Uphaus, William. Religion and Labor Foundation, New Haven, CT; letter with
 leaflet, 8 December 1937.
- 1 39 Weisman, Charlotte. Waterbury chapter, Women's American ORT, Waterbury, CT;
 8 December 1937.
- 1 40 Wendel, Paul. Editor, "The American Patriot," Brooklyn, NY; 24 November 1937.

II. DOCUMENTS, General

- 1 41 "The Amerikadeutscher Volksbund as a Manifestation of German National Socialist
 Philosophy," by Lillian Frances Hicock. Photocopy of a masters thesis submitted
 to the University of Virginia, undated, circa 1938
- 1 42 "Every Citizen and Resident of Southbury, Attention!": Broadside, signed "The
 Kettletowners," and attached to a reprint of an article titled "An American
 Führer Organizes an Army," from *The American* magazine. November 1937.

III. EPHEMERA AND NEWS CLIPPINGS (unsolicited)

- 1 43 "The Federal Loot Continues," by Louis T. McFadden," brochure, 27 pages, undated.
- 1 44 *The Free American, and Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter*. Volume 5, No. 37; 7 March
 1940.
- 1 45 "God Save the German People," leaflet, 4 pages, Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League,
 New York, NY.
- 1 46 New Haven Trades Council, New Haven, CT. Circular letter and resolution, 8 December
 1937
- 1 47 *The New Liberation* (see also its alternate title, *The Weekly Liberation*). Magazines,
 Two issues, Volume VIII, numbers 3 (7 November 1937) and 4 (21 November
 1937). Sent to Lindsay by Ebba Anderson.
- 1 48 News clippings, general. 1937.
- 1 49 "Senator Smith Secedes," by William Gregg Blanchard, II. Leaflet, 4 pages, The Southern
 Publishing Society, 1937.
- 1 50 Union to Preserve American Ideals and Institutions, Freeport, NY. Brochure, 8 pages,
 membership application, undated.
- 1 51 *The Weekly Liberation* (see also its alternate title, *The New Liberation*). Magazines,
 Three issues, volume VII, numbers 9 (7 January 1938), 15 (21 February 1938)
 And 18 (14 March 1938). Sent to Lindsay by Ebba Anderson.

IV. LINDSAY, M.E.N.: General

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| 1 | 52 | Correspondence, outgoing, 18 November 1937. Letters addressed to political figures
And the press, concerning the planned German-American Bund camp in
Southbury. |
| 1 | 53 | Periodical: <i>Advance</i> , December 1938, containing article by Lindsay, "This Jesus." |
| 1 | 54 | Periodical: <i>The Congregationalist</i> , 27 August 1931, containing article by Lindsay,
"Why a Defeatist Mood?" Also contains letter from H.E. Luccock of the Yale
University Divinity School, in response to the article. |
| 1 | 55 | Photograph: M.E.N. Lindsay, portrait, undated |
| 1 | 56 | Sermon: "Nazism: An Anti-Christian Menace," typescript, 4 pages, November 1937.
Delivered at South Britain Congregational Church. |

V. RESEARCH MATERIALS: Southbury Historical Society, and other

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| 1 | 57 | Hicock, Judge Harold |
| 1 | 58 | Hinman, Jennie |
| 1 | 59 | Lindsay, Rev. M.E.N. |
| 1 | 60 | Newspaper clippings, general, 1937-2012 |