

Guide to Manuscript Collections | Socialism

2006.002 Ameringer, Freda and Oscar

Oscar and Freda Ameringer served as leaders in Oklahoma's early-twentieth century Socialist Party. They both published newspapers, and together operated a printing business in Oklahoma City.

Oscar Ameringer, born in Germany on August 4, 1870, was a nationally prominent member of the Socialist party. He lost a campaign for US Congress in Wisconsin. In Oklahoma he published the *Oklahoma Daily Leader* and later, with others, the *American Guardian*, which circulated nationally and internationally. A prolific writer, Oscar penned numerous pamphlets, journals, and books, as well as his newspaper commentaries. His autobiography, *If You Don't Weaken*, earned praise from his contemporary critics. Oscar Ameringer died on November 5, 1943.

Freda Ameringer, born on November 12, 1892, in Arkansas, joined the Socialist Party early in her life. Her father Dan Hogan served as a party leader, inviting orators such as Mother Jones to speak in his district. Freda absorbed their views, becoming a tireless worker for their political cause. In 1917 she joined Oscar in organizing the Oklahoma Socialists. She later published the *Oklahoma City Advertiser*, a non-political newspaper that focused on local issues. She became a civic leader, involved in the Urban League, the YWCA, the Pilot Club, and UNICEF. In 1956 she was honored as national Clubwoman of the Year. Freda Ameringer died on October 4, 1988.

The collection encompasses early correspondence between Freda and her family and Freda and Oscar. It also includes business and personal letters between 1908 and 1988, legal papers, writings and notes of Oscar, newspaper clippings, photographs, the manuscript to *If You Don't Weaken*, a handwritten autobiography of Freda's early life in Arkansas, many of the Ameringer's books, and pamphlets written by Oscar and others.

2006.016 Dunning, John

The John Dunning Political Collection is an extensive compilation of Oklahoma-related political memorabilia that spans the Territorial era through the twentieth century into the twenty-first. Amassed by Mr. Dunning, the collection contains campaign material (including posters, fliers, buttons, ribbons, cards, audio-video, letters, speeches, press releases, and newspaper clippings), correspondence, items from elected officials (invitations to inaugurations and functions, diplomas, certificates, internal memos, speeches, personal mementos, and other ephemera), newspapers, periodicals, books on Oklahoma politics and those written by Oklahoma politicians, as well as photographs that cover all of these aspects.

The collection includes an African American organization campaigning for John C. Walton during the 1922 gubernatorial election, Socialist Party material, political material from American Indian Nations, from Indian Territory, from the proposed state of Sequoyah, from the capitol relocation controversy, and from nearly every political episode in Oklahoma's history.

Individuals' papers that are contained within the Dunning material included Otis Sullivant, a long-time political writer for the *Daily Oklahoman*; Melvin Cornish, Pittsburg County lawyer, political activist, and life-long friend of William Murray; W. C. Allison, a political leader in eastern Oklahoma and Pittsburg County registrar; Gladys Gockel, a political activist in the Republican Party and delegate to the 1968 Republican National Convention; Perle Dunham, a 1922 congressional candidate; Frank Davis, a 1926 gubernatorial candidate; Ethel Adams Anderson, a close friend of Jed Johnson; and Fred Mock, 1954 candidate for the US Senate.

2002.007 Enfield, Orville E.

Contains business and personal correspondence of O. E. Enfield, other legal writing, fiction writing, and poetry. Included in the collection are Enfield's writings to his son discussing trying to reconcile Christianity with Socialism.

1981.105 Federal Writers Project Collection

Collection contains ex-slave narratives and biographies of African American individuals in Oklahoma. Collection also contains information on towns, monuments, and schools.

1982.115 Williams, R.L.

The Robert L. Williams Collection consists of professional papers accumulated during his service as Governor of the State of Oklahoma and US District Court judge. The collection is arranged into topical files, such as agriculture, conservation, and banking. The collection contains a mix of correspondence and various documents. The collection includes William's years in the governor's office and the years following.