



ArchivesSpace

Chute-Kellman Maine Militia papers, 1995-2009, undated

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Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
716 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
cmiller10@une.edu
URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Creator:	Chute, Carolyn
Creator:	2nd Maine Militia
Title:	Chute-Kellman Maine Militia papers
ID:	0061
Date [inclusive]:	1995-2009, undated
Physical Description:	2 linear feet
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Chute-Kellman Maine Militia papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

The 2nd Maine Militia was founded by author Carolyn Chute, labor activist Peter Kellman and artist Michael Chute in 1995. The Militia met periodically until Carolyn Chute disbanded the group in 2009 to focus on her writing. The goals of the 2nd Maine Militia were focused on eliminating the influence of corporations on government, and to educate citizens that their rights were being eroded by the concept of "corporate personhood." Kellman authored the Militia's "First Document," which demanded the passage of a law limiting the rights of citizenship to flesh and blood persons. The 2nd Maine Militia was a populist organization, with a focus on working class people's rights. The organization drew its membership from a wide group of citizens--working class Mainers, college educated professionals, liberals and conservatives, libertarians, environmentalists, labor activists, and many others. The 2nd Maine Militia emphasized direct citizen action as a way to preserve democracy. They held rallies in the State House, meetings at members' homes and public venues where people could discuss issues of importance to the group, and informal events that brought people together socially. Chute referred to her militia movement as the "No-Wing Militia" to differentiate it from militias that were viewed by some as hate groups.

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Collection Scope and Content

The majority of the collection is composed of correspondence from Carolyn Chute to Peter Kellman, spanning the years of 1995-2009. Chute's correspondence is wide-ranging in its subject matter--from personal reflections on writing and the politics of publishing to political discussions about corporate personhood and the work of the 2nd Maine Militia. Chute discusses the media portrayal of the 2nd Maine Militia and working class people in general. Chute's letters are open--exposing personal and family struggles surrounding health, finances and finding the time and space to write. Though much of the subject matter concerns politics and organizing the 2nd Maine Militia, the letters are also tender and illustrate Chute's use of humor as a mode of connection and tool for activism. There are drawings by Michael Chute, photocopied cartoons and artwork, and original writings throughout the letters, along with birthday and holiday greetings. In addition to Chute's correspondence, there is one folder of letters from Peter Kellman to Carolyn and Michael Chute that help to contextualize some of the conversations and references in Chute's letters. Kellman admits in his first letter that he prefers the telephone, so it seems that much of the conversation between the two likely happened in person. There is a small group of clippings about Carolyn Chute, along with some articles she sent to Kellman and some articles that she authored. There are also a number of folders with documents produced by Chute and Kellman for the 2nd Maine Militia, including "The Document" and "Revolutionary Abby", and goals of the 2nd Maine Militia.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized into three series: I. Correspondence; II. Chute clippings and articles; III. Maine Militia. When possible, folder titles and dates were copied from Peter Kellman's files. All series are organized chronologically. Duplicates over three copies were removed from the collection.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Maine Women Writers Collection

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Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

For permission to reproduce or publish, please contact the Curator of the Maine Women Writers Collection.

Custodial History

Peter Kellman donated the papers in 2011. (2011.004)

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Carolyn Chute collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Controlled Access Headings

- Working class
- Maine
- Correspondence
- Clippings
- Chute, Carolyn
- Chute, Carolyn
- Chute, Michael
- Kellman, Peter, 1946-
- 2nd Maine Militia

General

Processed by:

Cathleen Miller

Date Completed:

2013

Encoded by:

Laura Taylor

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Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1995-2009

Title/Description	Instances	
Peter Kellman to Carolyn and Michael Chute, 1995-1998	Box 1	Folder 001
Carolyn Chute letters, 1995	Box 1	Folder 002
	Box 1	Folder 003
Carolyn Chute letters, 1996 January-February	Box 1	Folder 004
Carolyn Chute letters, 1996 March-April	Box 1	Folder 005
Carolyn Chute letters, 1996 May-October	Box 1	Folder 006
Carolyn Chute letters, 1996 November-December	Box 1	Folder 007

Carolyn Chute letters, 1997	Box 1	Folder 008
Carolyn Chute letters, 1998	Box 1	Folder 009
Carolyn Chute letters, 1999	Box 1	Folder 010
	Box 1	Folder 011
Carolyn Chute letters, 2000 January-April	Box 1	Folder 012
Carolyn Chute letters, 2000 May-August	Box 1	Folder 013
Carolyn Chute letters, 2000 October-December	Box 1	Folder 014
Carolyn Chute letters, 2000-2001	Box 1	Folder 015
	Box 1	Folder 016
Carolyn Chute letters, 2001	Box 1	Folder 017
	Box 1	Folder 018
Carolyn Chute letters, 2002	Box 2	Folder 019
	Box 2	Folder 020
	Box 2	Folder 021
Carolyn Chute letters, 2003	Box 2	Folder 022
	Box 2	Folder 023
Carolyn Chute letters, 2003-2004	Box 2	Folder 024
	Box 2	Folder 025
Carolyn Chute letters, 2004	Box 2	Folder 026
	Box 2	Folder 027
Carolyn Chute letters, 2005	Box 2	Folder 028
	Box 2	Folder 029
Carolyn Chute letters, 2006	Box 2	Folder 030
Carolyn Chute letters, 2007	Box 2	Folder 031
Carolyn Chute letters, 2008	Box 2	Folder 032
Carolyn Chute letters, 2009	Box 2	Folder 033

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Chute clippings and articles, (1984-2001, undated)

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles and clippings, 1984-1998, undated	Box 2	Folder 001
Carolyn Chute articles, 1997-1998, undated	Box 2	Folder 002

Carolyn Chute "Totally Rich", 2001

Box 2

Folder 003

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Title/Description	Instances	
Press--2nd Maine Militia, 1995-1996	Box 2	Folder 001
2nd Maine Militia clippings, 1995-1996	Box 2	Folder 002
MM2, 1995-1996, undated	Box 2	Folder 003
2nd Maine Militia documents, 1996	Box 2	Folder 004
2nd Maine Militia--General, 1997, undated	Box 2	Folder 005
Border Mountain Militia, 1998, undated	Box 2	Folder 006
Goals of the 2nd Maine Militia, undated	Box 2	Folder 007
Revolutionary Abby, undated	Box 2	Folder 008

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