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Chute-Kellman Maine Militia papers, 1995-2018, undated

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library

University of New England

716 Stevens Avenue

Portland, Maine 04103

mwwc@une.edu

URL: <https://library.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 |
| ID [aspace_uri]: | /repositories/3/resources/865 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1995-2018, undated |
| Physical Description: | 2 linear feet 53 folders |
| 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 1995-2018. 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

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

Revision Description

New material donated by Kellman was added to the papers by Jefferson Navicky. 2019

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, Michael
 - Kellman, Peter, 1946-
-

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1995-2018

Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet

Language of the Material: English.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Peter Kellman to Carolyn and Michael Chute, 1995-1998 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 1 | Folder 001 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 1995 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 1 | Folder 002 |
| | Box 1 | Folder 003 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 1996 January-February <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 1 | Folder 004 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 1996 March-April <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 1 | Folder 005 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 1996 May-October <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 1 | Folder 006 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 1996 November-December <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 1 | Folder 007 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 1997 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 1 | Folder 008 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 1998 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 1 | Folder 009 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 1999 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 1 | Folder 010 |

Chute-Kellman Maine Militia papers, 1995-2018, undated

| | | |
|---|-------|------------|
| | Box 1 | Folder 011 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2000 January-April <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 1 | Folder 012 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2000 May-August <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 1 | Folder 013 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2000 October-December <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 1 | Folder 014 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2000-2001 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 1 | Folder 015 |
| | Box 1 | Folder 016 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2001 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 1 | Folder 017 |
| | Box 1 | Folder 018 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2002 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 019 |
| | Box 2 | Folder 020 |
| | Box 2 | Folder 021 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2003 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 022 |
| | Box 2 | Folder 023 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2003-2004 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 024 |
| | Box 2 | Folder 025 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2004 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 026 |
| | Box 2 | Folder 027 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2005 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 028 |
| | Box 2 | Folder 029 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2006 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 030 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2007 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 031 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2008 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 032 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2009 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 033 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2010 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 034 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2011 | Box 2 | Folder 035 |

Chute-Kellman Maine Militia papers, 1995-2018, undated

Language of the Material: English.

| | | |
|--|-------|------------|
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2012 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 036 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2013-2014 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 037 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2015 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 038 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2016 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 039 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2017 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 040 |
| Carolyn Chute letters, 2018 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 041 |

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Chute clippings and articles, 1984-2017, undated

Language of the Material: English.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Articles and clippings, 1984-2017, undated <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 001 |
| Carolyn Chute articles, 1997-2015, undated <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 002 |
| Carolyn Chute "Totally Rich", 2001 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 003 |
| MWWC blog post on Chute written by Cathleen Miller, undated <u>Language of the Material</u> : English. | Box 2 | Folder 004 |

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Maine Militia, 1995-1998, undated

Language of the Material: English.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Press--2nd Maine Militia, 1995-1996 | Box 2 | Folder 001 |

Chute-Kellman Maine Militia papers, 1995-2018, undated

Language of the Material: English.

| | | |
|--|-------|------------|
| 2nd Maine Militia clippings, 1995-1996 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 002 |
| MM2, 1995-1996, undated <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 003 |
| 2nd Maine Militia documents, 1996 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 004 |
| 2nd Maine Militia--General, 1997, undated <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | Box 2 | Folder 005 |
| Border Mountain Militia, 1998, undated <u>Language of the Material:</u> English. | 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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