

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ABILENE CONGREGATION:
Records and Related Materials, 1912-1943

Accession: A02-14
Processed by: HP
Date Completed: May 2002

The records of the Abilene Congregation of the Jehovah's Witnesses and related materials were donated to the Eisenhower Library in 2002 by Mr. Richard A. McIntyre, a circuit overseer for the Jehovah's Witnesses from Topeka, Kansas.

Linear feet shelf space occupied: .5
Approximate number of pages: 230
Approximate number of items: 5

This collection contains electrostatic copies and a scanned copy of the original documents which remain in the hands of the Abilene and Manhattan Congregations of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection provides documentation on the religious practices and beliefs of David and Ida Eisenhower, the parents of Dwight D. Eisenhower. The records indicate that Ida Eisenhower was a regular and faithful participant in the activities of the Abilene Ecclesia of the International Bible Students Association (later Jehovah's Witnesses) from 1920 to 1937. There is only one entry in the minutes of the Abilene congregation for this period that mentions D. J. Eisenhower and that is in December 1921.

This particular aspect of the life of David and Ida Eisenhower has provoked considerable speculation, rumor, and conflicting accounts in the past. The opening of these new materials should shed some light on the subject and provide a better understanding of the religious affiliation of Dwight D. Eisenhower's parents. There are no closed or restricted materials in this collection.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

- 1 Abilene Congregation, Minutes of Meetings, 1920-1942 (1)-(4) [list of references to Mrs. D. J. Eisenhower in minutes of meetings; minutes of meetings, including annual, quarterly, special, and regular meetings, of the Abilene Ecclesia of the International Bible Students Association (known as the Jehovah's Witnesses after 1931); 12-31-20 Sister Eisenhower elected as organist; 6-29-21 motion by Sr. Eisenhower; 12-22-21 Sr. Eisenhower elected as musician; 12-29-21 Bro. and Sr. Eisenhower passed V. D. M. questions and Sr. Eisenhower elected as musician; 9-29-22 Sr. Eisenhower made two motions; 12-20-22 Sr. Eisenhower nominated as organist; 12-27-22 Sr. Eisenhower elected as organist and made three motions; p. 35 note Sr. Eisenhower on a committee; 12-27-23 Sr. Eisenhower selected as organist; 12-22-24 Sr. Eisenhower elected as organist; 9-30-25 Sr. Eisenhower chosen as leader for children's class; 12-31-25 Sr. Eisenhower elected as organist and children's class leader; 12-22-26 Sr. Eisenhower chosen as organist; 12-28-27 Sr. Eisenhower elected as organist; 12-26-28 Sr. Eisenhower selected as organist; 12-29-29 Sr. Eisenhower elected as organist; 10-8-30 Sr. Eisenhower elected as organist; 10-8-31 Eisenhower chosen as organist; 7-11-33 Sr. Eisenhower elected as Asst. Treasurer; 10-5-33 Sr. Eisenhower elected Assistant Service Treasurer; 10-2-35 Sr. Eisenhower chosen as treasurer; 10-22-37 Sr. Eisenhower in charge of Abilene 3rd Ward for season witness; 4th folder duplicates contents of first three folders]

Manhattan Congregation, Autograph Book, 1912-1929 [copies of excerpts from Daily Heavenly Manna for the Household of Faith, a daily devotional guide and autograph book from the Manhattan Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses; contains signatures with dates running from 1912 to 1929; visitors to the Manhattan Congregation signed their names on the page for the day of their birth; D. J. Eisenhower's signature is on the page for September 23; copied excerpts include only pages with entries of people from Abilene; Charles T. Russell, the founder of the International Bible Students Assoc., signed on February 16]

Memoir and Clipping re 1943 Jehovah's Witnesses Assembly, 2-19-02 [Ida Eisenhower attended a Jehovah's Witnesses Assembly in April 1943; memoir contains brief anecdote re Ida Eisenhower identifying herself; clipping reveals front-page news story in Wichita Beacon with photo of Ida and reference to her opposition to war]

END OF CONTAINER LIST