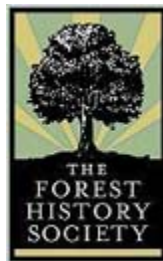


**Inventory of the
National Community Christmas
Tree Records, 1923 - 1954**



Forest History Society
Alvin J. Huss Archives
701 William Vickers Avenue
Durham, NC 27701 USA
Phone: (919) 682-9319 / Fax: (919) 682-2349

<http://foresthistor.org/ead>

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	National Community Christmas Tree Records,
Dates:	1923 - 1954
Abstract:	<p>In an American tradition dating to 1923, a large tree near the White House in Washington, D.C., is decorated and lit during the Christmas holiday season. The first National Community Christmas Tree was presented to President Calvin Coolidge by Middlebury College President Dr. Paul D. Moody in December 1923 and erected on the Ellipse south of the White House grounds. On Christmas Eve, President Coolidge participated in an official tree lighting ceremony. The lighting of the National Christmas Tree became an annual tradition, and other than during World War II has occurred each year since 1923. The tree has been located on the Ellipse, in Sherman Plaza, Lafayette Square, and on the White House lawn.</p> <p>The collection includes correspondence, programs, guest lists, reports on lighting and location, invitations, photographs, and clippings related to the National Community Christmas Tree and the planning of the grand illumination event.</p>
Extent:	0.5 linear feet(1 archival box)
Repository:	Forest History Society Library and Archives
Call Number:	3385
Language of Material:	Material in English

Historical Note

In an American tradition dating to 1923, a large tree near the White House in Washington, D.C., is decorated and lit during the Christmas holiday season. The first National Community Christmas Tree was presented to President Calvin Coolidge by Middlebury College President Dr. Paul D. Moody in December 1923 and erected on the Ellipse south of the White House grounds. On Christmas Eve, President Coolidge participated in an official tree lighting ceremony. The lighting of the National Christmas Tree became an annual tradition, and other than during World War II has occurred each year since 1923. The tree has been located on the Ellipse, in Sherman Plaza, Lafayette Square, and on the White House lawn.

Collection Overview

The collection includes correspondence, programs, guest lists, reports on lighting and location, invitations, photographs, and clippings related to the National Community Christmas Tree and the planning of the grand illumination event.

Collection Arrangement

1. Correspondence, Programs, Event Plans, and Other Materials, 1923-1954

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

Copyright Notice

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Subject Headings

Christmas trees -- United States -- History -- 20th century

Christmas trees -- Washington (D.C.) -- 20th century

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], National Community Christmas Tree Records, Library and Archives, Forest History Society, Durham, NC, USA.

Processing Information

Processed by Staff,

Encoded by Amanda Ross, June 2009

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Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Correspondence, Programs, Event Plans, and Other Materials, 1923-1954.

Box 1

Folder 1 Brief History of the National Community Christmas Tree, 1931-1945

Folder 2 Correspondence, 1923-1952

Folder 3 Photographs, 1923-1945

Folder 4 Official Programs, 1923-1954

Folder 5 General, 1925-1946

Includes committee and guest lists, committee minutes, reports on lighting and location of tree, platform plans, sample of official invitations to the ceremony, car tags, tickets, and carols.

Folder 6 Newspaper Publicity: Clippings, 1923-1945

Folder 7 Duplicate programs, 1924-1954