Civilian Conservation Corps

A Guide to Civilian Conservation Corps Camp and Enrollee Records, in the Holdings of the National Archives at Atlanta
Abstract:
This finding aid is a guide to records relating to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the custody of the National Archives at Atlanta. The records are found within four main record groups; RG 75 Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 95 U.S. Forest Service, RG 114 Soil Conservation Service and RG 142 Tennessee Valley Authority. The records include maps, photographs, and textual records.

Descriptive Summary:

Title:
Civilian Conservation Corps

Dates:
1933-1948

Languages Represented in Collection:
English

Repository:
The National Archives at Atlanta

Finding Aid Created by:
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Note:
Level of arrangement varies due to the amount of related items within each series of records.

Historical Note:
The Civilian Conservation Corps began as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal on March 31, 1933. The CCC, also known as the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Act, was established to combat two growing problems in the United States in the 1930’s; increasing numbers of unemployed young men and declining natural resources. The CCC would become one of the most successful and remembered experiment of the New Deal, employing over three million young men.

On April 5, 1933, Robert Fechner, a union vice-president, was hand-picked by Roosevelt to be the National Director of the ECW. In addition, an Advisory Council composed of representatives of the Secretaries of Labor, Agriculture, War and Interior, was established. By April 7, 1933, only 37 days after Roosevelt signed the bill, the first enrollee was inducted into the CCC. A separate division of the CCC, initially known as the Indian Emergency Conservation Work (ICEW), was approved by Roosevelt on April 27, 1933. After 1937, it was known as the
Civilian Conservation Corps – Indian Division (CCC-ID) and worked in conjunction with the Soil Conservation Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The first hurdle the CCC had to overcome was transporting thousands of men, supplies and equipment from the eastern U.S., where the majority of the unemployed men were, to the western U.S., where most of the work needed to be done. This challenge was met through the cooperation and efforts of four U.S. government organizations, the Army, the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior. Together, they selected and enrolled applicants, moved thousands of enrollees from induction centers to working camps, and planned work projects to be completed.

By 1935, over 2,650 camps had been established in all states, as well as, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; and more than 600,000 people were working for the CCC. In national and state parks, the enrollees built roads and bridges, constructed fire breaks and drainage ditches, cleared campgrounds, planted trees and tried to control insect populations. Despite the success of the CCC, on September 25, 1935, President Roosevelt instructed Fechner to gradually reduce the number of men and camps in order to cut costs. Over the next several years, attempts were made by Roosevelt and his supporters to make the CCC a permanent federal agency; however, his attempts failed.

Another blow came in 1939, when CCC Director Robert Fechner submitted his resignation and shortly thereafter, died of a heart attack. James L. McEntee, the executive assistant director of the CCC, replaced Fechner as the Director. By mid-year 1941, due to desertion, lack of applicants and poor public opinion, the CCC was in a serious decline. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, focus shifted away from the CCC’s domestic improvement projects to national security issues. As a result, on July 1, 1942, Congress abolished the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Organization of Finding Aid:
Government agencies connected to the CCC generated financial records, correspondence, enrollee information reports and other various items, such as project proposals and land maps. These government agencies included the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Many of the archived records for the aforementioned agencies are held by the National Archives at Atlanta. Items related to CCC business affairs at the Archives were located and detailed in this finding aid. A brief history of each agency and their relationship with the CCC is provided, followed by the location and description of the CCC records.

Record Group: 75
Bureau of Indian Affairs
The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which is now a part of the Department of the Interior, was established by the Continental Congress in 1775. The primary functions of the BIA were to negotiate treaties and occasionally obtain tribal neutrality. After Congress approved the bill to appoint a Commissioner of Indian Affairs on July 9, 1821, the agency and its agents gained influence and began to replace traditional tribal governments. The BIA became
responsible for the majority of government business on reservations, including operating schools and dispensing justice. BIA agents organized and supervised much of the work done by the Civilian Conservation Corps-Indian Division (CCC-ID) on Native American reservations, such as in Cherokee, North Carolina and the Navajo Reservations in Arizona.

Title: CCC-ID Related Records Enrollee Cost Report
Location: CU023104
Series: 18
Boxes 1-3, LTA-R

Box 1:
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Cherokee Indian Agency (financial records)
CCC –ID Related Records, 1936-43 (affidavits, letters, reports and enrollee records)

Folder 1: 1939, Sworn legal affidavits related to the Forestry Department of the Cherokee Indian Agency. The Carolina Wood Turning Company is mentioned in more than one affidavit

Folder 2: 1939-42, Correspondence between the United States Department of the Interior Office of Indian Affairs and the Cherokee Agency in Cherokee, North Carolina regarding business transactions and CCC–ID enrollees. Also included are, payment vouchers, project and payroll reports

Folders 3-5: 1939-42, CCC-ID Enrollees’ Cumulative Record Forms Arranged alphabetically

Folder 6: 1938-39, Weekly CCC-ID camp reports, project updates

Folder 7: 1940-41, Weekly CCC-ID camp reports, project updates

Box 2:
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Cherokee Indian Agency
CCC –ID Related Records, 1936-42 (funds and appropriated accounts, compensation)

Folder 1: 1941-42, Operating expense reports, supply lists, balance sheets

Folder 2: 1940-42, Correspondence between the BIA and the Cherokee Agency regarding funds appropriations and project proposals

Folder 3: 1937-39, Correspondence between the BIA and the Cherokee Agency regarding funds appropriations and project proposals

Folder 4: 1940-41, CCC-ID general accounts ledgers, correspondence, payroll ledgers and invoices
Folder 5: 1942-43, Records of the liquidation of CCC-ID equipment and property inventories

Noteworthy items:
1. Letter dated December 2, 1942 from the National Archives, Washington D.C. to the Department of the Interior regarding the historical value and destruction of CCC-ID records.

2. Memorandum from the BIA for superintendents and district offices of the CCC-ID regarding the termination of the CCC-ID on July 10, 1942.

Folder 6: 1942, CCC-ID employee compensation, disability and injury claims

Noteworthy item:
1. Eye witnesses’ accounts of a man catching on fire while operating a tractor

Box 3:
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Cherokee Indian Agency (financial records)

CCC –ID Related Records

Contents of box: 1937-43, CCC-ID enrollee record cards, project authorization records and project cost reports

Record Group 95
Forest Service

The Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which began with the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. This act allowed the president to establish forest reserves and create national parks. Presidents dedicated to preserving U.S. natural resources, such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, ensured the success of the Forest Service by encouraging Congress to fund scientific research and agencies like the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Forest Service, along with the CCC preserved countless acres of land and built national parks across the country.

Title: CCC General Correspondence
Location: CU024003-Cu024007
Boxes 1-66, LTA-R

Boxes 1-66:
General Correspondence related to CCC plans, work projects, personnel, enrollment, inspections, supervision, policies and special state agreements. The correspondence includes items from Region 8. 1933-42
(A box list is available as a separate document)
Box 1:
CCC inspection reports for AL, AR, FL, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC and TN. 1922-48
A typical inspection report includes evaluations of each CCC Camp for that particular state. The CCC camp inspection reports consisted of the camp location, descriptions of the grounds and buildings, enrollees and their salaries, labor distribution charts, and equipment operation and expense reports. Additionally, the inspections included a materials list, gas and oil consumption report, work project details and the camp’s safety plan. In this box, inspection reports from FL, LA, NC, SC and TN contain photos of work projects, equipment, enrollees and automobiles.

Box 2:
CCC inspection reports for TX and state CCC maintenance reports from AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS and NC. A typical maintenance report consisted of information on the current status of improvements made in a particular area. Also included in the maintenance reports, was the use of the improvements by either the State Service or by other individuals and agencies. Descriptions of truck trails, telephone lines, work projects, firebreaks, buildings and equipment were typical areas of interest throughout the maintenance reports. This box contains Farm Forestry inspections, Washington Office Inspections, correspondence (typically generated by the Forest Service and sent to Camp supervisors) and account examinations. Most folders contain photographs. 1937-47

Box 3:
CCC Maintenance inspection forms and p-inspections from AL, AR, OK, SC and TX. A p-inspection, which was compiled by regional foresters and submitted to state foresters, was an inspection of a CCC camp located on private land. The p-inspections summarized the daily activities and costs of CCC camp operations. Some of the p-inspections focused on fire protection; detailing fire protection methods and equipment, the number of forest fires in a particular area and the amount of acreage burned in forest fires. Photos are included in the reports from TX, OK, SC and AL. Additionally, a Forest Service history report, written in 1972-73, is contained in this box. 1935-73

Title: CCC Camp Occupancy and Camp Lease, History Cards
Location: CU024007
Boxes 1-2, PHO-J

Box 1:
CCC camp occupancy and camp lease history files, AL-MS. 1933-43
The CCC history cards are organized alphabetically by state and serve as an index to individual CCC camps. Each history card has the name, number, location and ownership information of a CCC camp. In addition, the closest railhead, the work area and seasons, the type of structures, and the dates of occupancy and evacuation of the camps are on the history cards.

Box 2: CCC camp occupancy and camp lease history files NC-VA. 1933-43
Forest Service, CCC Maps
Title: CCC Maps
Location: DX181991-DX182211

CCC Timber Type Maps - 10 tubes, 1933-42
CCC Long Time Progress Maps - 14 tubes, 1933-42
CCC Progress Maps - 9 tubes, 1937-41
CCC Florida Fire Control Maps - 1 tube, 1933-42
CCC Activities Puerto Rico - 1 tube, 1933-42
CCC Camp Locations - 1 tube, 1933-42
CCC Timber Condition Overlay Maps - 1 tube, 1933-42
CCC Timber Type Progress Maps - 1 tube, 1933-42
CCC Basic Reappraisal Tables - 1 tube, 1945
West Gulf Region – 33 sheets
South Atlantic Region – 23 sheets

Work Project Maps, North Carolina - 1 tube
Energy Conservation Work Plan - 1 tube, 1936 & 1938

Tower Maps, Arkansas - 1 tube

Southeast Region - 1 tube, 1960
Post-war Planning Atlas

CCC Work Plan Maps - 1 tube, 1933-42

U.S. Camp Locations & - Southeast States Camp Locations 1 tube, 1933, 1941 & 1942
Record Group 114
Soil Conservation Service

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS), originally known as the Soil Erosion Service, began on August 25, 1933 under the Secretary of the Interior. In 1935, the SCS was placed under the Department of Agriculture and remained as such, until its abolition on October 13, 1994. After its abolition, the Natural Resources Conservation Service assumed the functions of the SCS.

The SCS, along with organizations like the CCC, Bureau of Land Management, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, worked together to conserve water and soil and thus created soil maps and surveys, land development plans and research data. The collected efforts of these agencies and their employees helped prevent flood damage and soil erosion throughout the United States.

Title: CCC Camp Records
Location: CU030604-CU030606
Boxes 1-28, LTA-R

Boxes 1-28:
Records of the Civilian Conservation Camps, Camp No. 13, which was located 1 mile NE of Cartersville, GA. These boxes contain cooperative agreements for camp 13. A typical cooperative agreement was a work order agreement between the individual who will perform the work and the SCS or the CCC. Each agreement contained details about the work to be performed, such as the date and location of the work project, a cost estimate and lists of estimated labor hours, needed materials and equipment usage. All agreements are arranged alphabetically according to the individuals’ last names, beginning with A-B in box 1. 1933-42

Title: CCC Camp Records
Location: CU030506-CU030507
Boxes 1-17, LTA-R

Boxes 1-17:
Records of the CCC camp 7 in Clanton, AL; including cooperative agreements, inspection reports, work progress reports, job orders, and job cost reports and daily records of oil and gas usage. 1933-42

Title: CCC Consolidated Camp Records
Location: CU030505-CU030506
Boxes 1-2, 4-7, & 10-18 LTA-R

Boxes 1-2, 4-7 & 10-18:
Records of the Civilian Conservation Camps, including cooperative agreements, engineering field notebooks, inspection reports and weekly progress reports. Each box contains only records for one state in the southeast region. 1933-42

Consolidated files that contain selected documents from the files of various camps and the units supervising the camps. A type list is available, enumerating the documents in most the files, and
the following is merely a summary by states: (Box 1) Alabama, 1937-42, cooperative agreements, annual reports, minutes of meetings, and correspondence on technical matters; (Box 2) Mississippi, 1933-41, special reports, reports of visits, minutes of staff meetings, and fire control reports; (Boxes 4-7) Kentucky, 1935-42, cooperative agreements, progress reports, press releases and clippings, radio scripts, work programs, survey records, records of technical operations, and general records; (Boxes 10-15) North Carolina, 1934-42, cooperative agreements, narrative reports, press releases, work plans, reports of accomplishments, and engineer notebooks; (Boxes 16-17) South Carolina, 1935-42, cooperative agreements, narrative reports and other reports, work plans, press releases, newspaper clippings, and other records

Record Group 142
Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), was created as part of President Franklin Roosevelt’s First New Deal in 1933. Roosevelt intended for the TVA to lower the unemployment rate in the Tennessee Valley, one of the poorest regions in the country at that time, control flooding, improve farming practices, and bring modern amenities such as electricity to the region.

The TVA studied power production, flood control, malaria prevention, erosion control and reforestation to determine the best solutions for the problems that faced the Tennessee Valley. During the 1930’s and 1940’s, the TVA built dams, which generated enough hydroelectric power to supply new industries in the region. In turn, the new industries created thousands of jobs for unemployed individuals in the Tennessee Valley. The TVA worked in conjunction with the CCC on many construction projects in the Tennessee Valley. CCC camps sprang up throughout the region, providing needed workers and equipment. However, unlike the CCC, the TVA exists today and continues to be involved in power production.

Title: Correspondence Files, R Code
Location: CL083107-CL083302
Boxes 1-135, LTA-R

Box 18: (CL083201)
Agricultural Development & Agricultural Relations, Correspondence 1933-47
File: General Correspondence Files, 209 C 362 Flax Growing Experiments – 211 C 186
Controlled Soil and Fertilizer Test
Folder 211 C 183: CCC Camp 13

Title: Correspondence Files (McAmis, Rommel, Fippin, Burnette & Misc.)
Location: CL082903-CL082906
Boxes 1-44, LTA-R

Box 29: (CL082905)
Agricultural Development and Agricultural Relations, Correspondence 1933-47
File: E. O. Fippin Files: 768 Land and People MSS–Plant Nutrients & Silt Data 1940-44

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Folder 792: Area Production from phosphate for CCC hearings

Title: Correspondence Files, Coded by Departmental System
Location: CL082906-CL083106
Boxes 1-197,  LTA-R

Box 10: (CL082907)
Agricultural Development & Agricultural Relations, Correspondence and Reports
1933-48, Coded by Departmental Classification System
File: Chickamauga Producer 1940-47, Cole Dr. William E. 1946-47
Folder: Civilian Conservation Corps

Title: Lilienthal Correspondence Files (same as film)
Location: CL071101-CL071207
Box 1-187,  LTA-R

Box 164: (CL071205)
Office of the General Manager, Records of the Board of Directors, David E. Lilienthal
General Correspondence 1933-46, 680.1 – 720
Folder: CCC Camps

Title: Engineering Reports & Information Staff
Location: CL091705-CL092501
Boxes 1- 701,  LTA-R

Box 70: (CL091803)
Office of Engineering, Design and Construction, Engineering project histories and reports
0-2622 Tow core drill jobs in TVA – 0-2671 Plan for disaster relief division
Folder: CCC Construct Anita Dam- Huntley Project
(Article by Irving Berg, Feb. 1938)

Box 89: (CL091804)
Office of Engineering, Design and Construction, Engineering project histories and reports
0-3209 Agreement TVA & Aluminum Co. – 0-3251 Summary/Tributary Investment
Folder: TVA & CCC Planted 61 Million Seedlings
(Newspaper article by TVA Chief Forester, Willis M. Baker)

Box 273: (CL092004)
Office of Engineering, design and construction, Engineering project histories and reports
Norris Dam (2), 2-50 Sand Plant Report 1935-1936
2-77 Big Ridge Dam-Cost TVA vs. CCC
Folder: Big Ridge Dam-Cost TVA vs. CCC
Title: Forestry Relations Administrative Correspondence
Location: CL110301-CL110605
Boxes 1- 298, LTA-R

Box 239: (CL110601)
Division of Land and Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence 1933-55
Files: CCC Project Requests, 136 B 3 Handbooks, manuals, instructions and procedures, May-Dec. 1941
   Noteworthy Item: Case study of the relationship between the Forestry Relations Department and the Civilian Conservation Corps by Richard Kilbourne, 1940

Box 240: (CL110601)
Division of Land and Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence 1933-55
Files: 136 B 3 Handbooks, manuals, instructions and procedures, July-Dec. 1940 thru 136 C 40, job proposals and job orders, 9,049-9,999

Box 241: (CL110601)
Division of Land and Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence 1933-55
Files: 136 C 40 Job proposals and job orders, 9,035-9048 thru 136 C 40, job proposals and job orders 1-6,995

Box 242: (CL110601)
Division of Land and Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence 1933-55
Files: 136 E – Use of and availability of CCC funds, proposed uses for CCC funds, July 1940-41 thru 136 J5 Transportation facilities, uses of, etc..

Box 243: (CL110601)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 136K (TVFF) 137 – CCC Camps, General activities and accomplishments by years 1934-41, thru 136 K1 – work loads of all camps, 14th period

Box 244: (CL110601)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 136K1 – Work loads of all camps; 14th period April 1939 thru 136K6 – Work accomplishments of all camps 1938-39

Box 245: (CL110601)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 136K Work accomplishments of all camps, Jan-Sept. 1940 thru 137 A1 trailer camps

Box 246: (CL110601)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 137B TVA-CCC Camps 1941-42 thru 137B TVA-CCC Camps A-E
Box 247: (CL110601)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 137 B Lawrenceburg, TN, 1939 – Stevenson, AL, March 1940
TVA-CCC Camps

Box 248: (CL110601)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 137 B Georgia, 1940-41 – 137 B Lawrenceburg, TN, 1940-41
TVA-CCC Camps

Box 249: (CL110601)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 137 B Thorn Hill, TN – 137 C 12 / National Park Service (A-Z)
TVA-CCC Camps

Box 250: (CL110601)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 137 C 16 Soil Conservation Service (A-Z) – 146 B 1 Soil Conservation Service 1943-45

Box 269: (CL110603)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 157F Commercial Fisheries 1954 thru158 V.F. wildlife conditions in vicinity of TVA CCC camp # 16, Campbell County, TN

Box 270: (CL110603)
Division of Land & Forest Resources, Administrative Correspondence (1933-55)
Files: 158 V.F. Wildlife conditions in the vicinities of TVA CCC camps; camp #22, Maynardville, Union County, TN thru 158 B4 (Kentucky) Aug-Dec 1944

Title: Soil Erosion Control Project Files
Location: CL111501-CL111701
Boxes 1-198, LTA-R

Boxes 1-2:
Agricultural Education for the following counties: AL, Blount, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan; MS, Tishomingo; TN, Benton, Decatur, Giles, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Humphreys, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Marion, McNairy, and Wayne; KY, Marshall

Boxes 3-4:
Tree Crop Field Test Demonstrations in file folders by Valley state, county, then alphabetically by landowner.
Boxes 4-6:
TVA Land Project Records (Account binders) for Bradley County, Hamilton County, McMinn County, Meigs County, and Rhea County Tennessee

Box 6:
TVA for 182, Project Reports 1934-35, for TN, Miscellaneous projects Claiborno and Grainger Counties. File folders that read “Private Lands Bought by TVA” for AL, Jackson County, Lawrence County, Morgan County

Boxes 7-13:
“TVA Lands” by AL counties, Wheeler Reservoir, for Limestone County, Madison County, Marshall County, Lawrence County/ “TVA Reservoir Lands” – Guntersville Reservoir, AL; Pickwick Reservoir, AL; Wheeler Reservoir, AL

Box 14:
“TVA Reservoir Lands” Guntersville Reservoir, AL; & Dropped Projects

Boxes: 14-15:
“Dropped Projects” for AL, KY and TN counties, filed alphabetically

Boxes 15-16:
“Dropped Projects” for AL, KY and TN counties, filed alphabetically & “No Action” projects for Alabama counties, filed alphabetically by landowner

Box 17-20:
“No Action” projects for AL counties, KY counties, MS counties, TN counties, filed alphabetically

Boxes 20-198:
Accumulation of papers pertaining to establishment and operation of projects established between the Tennessee Valley Authority/Civilian Conservation Corps and land owners in AL, GA, KY, MS, TN, NC, SC and VA for the purpose of land improvement and soil erosion. Summaries are arranged primarily by date, then alphabetically by state, county, and landowner, and cover the period 1943-1948. The project history records for approximately 1933-1943 are filed primarily by district. Western District project histories are arranged by state, county, then by planting season, and then alphabetically by landowner. Eastern District project histories are arranged alphabetically by state, county, and land owner.

Box 20 begins with Jackson County, AL 1935 and box 198 ends with Wise County, VA 1948. Each folder contains only information for one landowner.

In addition to the signed Tennessee Valley Authority Application for Cooperation in Soil Erosion Control Work, a folder may include: Erosion Engineering Project Inspection Reports, Applications for Tree Reforestation, Planting Plans, Plot Maps, and information about the landowner.
Title: Soil Erosion Control Project Index Cards
Location: CL111701-CL111801
Boxes 1- 74, IND-C

Boxes 1-74:
The Soil Erosion Control Project Index Cards correspond to the Soil Erosion Control Project Files. The entire collection of index cards is arranged primarily by date, then alphabetically by state, county, and landowner. Each card contains basic information about TVA/CCC soil erosion land projects and the landowners, such as project location and description, dates and the name of landowner.

Sources:


