

Descriptive Summary:

Creator:	Cego German Evangelical Church, Arthur A. Miller
Title:	Cego German Evangelical Church Records
Inclusive Dates:	1930-1941, undated
Bulk Dates:	1930-1941, undated
Abstract:	These records contain the minutes of Cego German Evangelical Church produced by secretary A.A. Miller during the Great Depression.
Accession #:	3448
Extent:	0.45 linear feet (1 document box)
Language:	Collection is in English.
Repository:	The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Biographical Note:

During the last half of the 1800s, Texas experienced a flood of immigration from European nations, especially from Germany. In the 1880s, German-Americans settled in a central Texas region approximately twenty-eight miles south of Waco. These families, primarily farmers, wanted to name their community Pleasant Valley. However, since there was already a town in Texas which claimed that name, the German inhabitants chose Cego as their second option. Cego was the name of a worker who had done work at several of the family farms in the region.

The town of Cego originally had three churches: a Baptist church, a Methodist church, and an Evangelical church. The Methodist church was eventually destroyed by a violent thunderstorm. The Baptist church remains the largest church in Cego today. However, most of the German immigrants attended the Evangelical church. Early services were almost exclusively held in German into the early 1910s.

The Cego German Evangelical Church, a small country church, was relatively successful during the Great Depression in terms of membership and finances. The records in this collection describe the leadership of the church as well as important church functions. During the 1930s, there were six to seven Sunday school classes in operation, and committees were created to perform a number of tasks including Christmas decorations, Bingo, missions, Sunday School, finances, etc. Leadership passed from Reverend G. Krebs to Reverend Reichert around the summer of 1936, as noted in the church minutes.

This particular church has adapted over the years, and the changes in its name reflect that. It has been referred to as the Cego German Evangelical Church, the Cego German Church, the Cego Evangelical Church, the Cego Evangelical and Reformed Church, and, most recently, the St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Cego.

Sources:

- Maxcy, Lee. "Environmental History of Cego, Texas (Falls County)." 1977 November 30. Available in The Texas Collection Vertical File, "Cego, Texas."
- Smyrl, Vivian E. "Cego, TX." *Handbook of Texas Online*. Available at <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hnc34>. Accessed on 2012 June 27. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Webb, Paul. "The History of Cego, Texas and Its Relationship to the Land." 1979 May 2. Available in The Texas Collection Vertical File, "Cego, Texas."

Scope and Content:

These records consist exclusively of minutes produced by the Cego German Evangelical Church during the years of the Great Depression. Secretary Arthur A. Miller was the primary creator. The minutes reveal an active, thriving church. The entire collection is photocopies, which are in excellent condition.

Organization and Arrangement:

These materials were in excellent condition prior to processing. They were housed in one folder and were already organized chronologically. The only necessary changes included a limitation of 10-15 sheets per folder and a series title. Because the materials were all church minutes, the series was entitled I. Minutes.

Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Literary Rights Statement:

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Index Terms:

Cego (Tex.).
Falls County (Tex.).
German Evangelical Church -- History.

Related Materials: There is a vertical file entitled "Cego" which is located in The Texas Collection. The library record for this holding can be found at <http://bearcat.baylor.edu/record=b1079259~S7>. This file contains student term papers concerning issues directly related to Cego, Texas.

Separated Materials: None.

Custodial History:

Acquisition:	<p>These records were acquired in a transfer in 1999 January.</p> <p>Gift from Alice Miller to the Institute of Oral History, 1999 January.</p> <p>Transfer from Oral History to The Texas Collection, 1999 February 1.</p>
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Citation:	Cego German Evangelical Church Records, Accession #3448, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.
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Processing Information: Finding aid completed by Thomas A. DeShong, 2012 June 27.

Container List:

Series I: Minutes, 1930-1941, undated, 1 document box (0.45 linear feet).

Series Description: This series contains photocopies of minutes produced by the Cego German Evangelical Church. Its secretary, A.A. Miller, was the primary creator. The materials are in excellent condition and reveal that the church was thriving during the years of the Great Depression.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	1	Minutes: General	1930 December-1934 January
	2	Minutes: General	1934 June-1936 July
	3	Minutes: General	1936 September-1939 March
	4	Minutes: General	1939 July-1941 January
	5	Minutes: General	undated

Notes:

A picture of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Cego, as of 2004, can be found online at <http://www.texasescapes.com/CentralTexasTownsNorth/Cego-Texas.htm>. The essays found in The Texas Collection's vertical file also contain pictures of Cego and the church itself.