



**Secretary of State**  
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**News Release**

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## **State Library contributes *Commonwealth* to Chronicling America**

***Site is home to 1.7 million historic newspaper pages***

**OLYMPIA...**The *Commonwealth* is among eight newspapers and more than 42,000 historic newspaper pages recently contributed to Chronicling America by the Washington State Library. Chronicling America is a project of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

First edited by O.L. Anderson, the *Commonwealth* began in 1911 in Everett, Washington and called itself the “Official paper of the Socialist Party of Washington.” Several significant figures on the national and international Socialist movement contributed to the *Commonwealth*, including Eugene V. Debs, Gordon Nye, Fred D. Warren, Maynard Shipley, Anna Agnes Maley and George D. Herron. The paper supported universal suffrage, industrial unionism, the single tax, the Industrial Workers of the World, and helped the Washington State Socialist Party to push organized labor toward the left. People can read and research issues from the *Commonwealth* and other newspapers around Washington and U.S. for free at [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov).

“These historic newspapers are a rich resource for historians, genealogists and other researchers,” said State Librarian Jan Walsh. “They provide names, dates, images and tell the story of a community or region in such a comprehensive way. They bring local history alive.”

Chronicling America provides free and open access to over 1.7 million full-text searchable pages from 212 titles published between 1880 and 1922 in 15 states and the District of Columbia. More pages from other

newspapers around Washington State will be periodically uploaded throughout 2010 as part of the [Washington State Library's National Digital Newspaper Program \(NDNP\) grant](#).

“It’s exciting to have this collection in Chronicling America. It will give researchers the ability to search across multiple collections of newspapers from various states at once,” said Deputy State Librarian Marlys Rudeen.

Part of the mission and purpose of the Washington State Library is to collect, preserve and make accessible to Washingtonians materials on the government, history, culture and natural resources of the state. [Read more about the State Library](#).

Newspapers from Washington State currently included in Chronicling America are the Colfax Gazette, 1900-1912; Colville Examiner, 1907-1922; (Everett) Commonwealth, 1911-1914; Leavenworth Echo, 1904-1922; Pullman Herald, 1888-1893, 1907-1922; (Yakima) The Ranch, 1902-1914; Seattle Republican, 1903-1913; and Washington Farmer, June 15, 1914.

For more information about Chronicling America, contact Laura Robinson, Washington’s National Digital Newspaper Program manager, at [laura.robinson@sos.wa.gov](mailto:laura.robinson@sos.wa.gov) or (360) 570-5568.

The Washington State Library is a division of the Office of Secretary of State. You can visit the library’s web site at [www.sos.wa.gov/library](http://www.sos.wa.gov/library) .

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