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WITTER

WITTER, REVEREND RAY I. (OH-5) 41 pages Open

Relative of Dwight D. Eisenhower (his mother and Dwight D. Eisenhower's father were brother and sister).

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Comments re founding of Brethren in Christ Church and the origins of the nickname "River Brethren." Discussion of the revival movement of the late 18th century and its influence on the Brethren in Christ Church; basic beliefs and practices of the church including pacifism, trine immersion, and prayer veiling. Expansion of the church; the 1843 split between the "Yorkers" and the "River Brethren" and the 1855 split of the "River Brethren" and the "Brenzerites." Emigration of the "River Brethren" to Kansas from Pennsylvania. Reflections on his early memories of his cousin DDE; Ida Eisenhower and her interest in the Jehovah's Witnesses; David Eisenhower's work at the Belle Springs Creamery; DDE's choice of a military career.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interview by Walter V. Barbash, 1964]