

Collection #
SC 3635
OM 0749

**ACTON CAMPGROUND
COLLECTION, 1864-1969**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript folders, 1 OVA photograph folder, 1 oversized manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1864-1969

PROVENANCE: Gift from Francis Weibel on September 16, 2019

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *The story of Acton Camp Ground.* BX8476.A23 H46 1970

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2019.0242

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The first meeting at the Acton Campground was on June 16, 1859, when a group of Methodist ministers and laymen founded a camp in the Indianapolis District of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The original meeting was in a grove of trees outside London, Indiana, but the permanent home outside Farmersville (now the town of Acton) was chosen at the second meeting a week later on June 23. The campground was a twenty-acre tract of land that was purchased from Reverend J.V.R. Miller for \$35 an acre. The site was used for religious camp meetings where people would come and worship and hear sermons.

In 1864, use was offered of the campground as a hospital for wounded Union soldiers, especially those from Indiana. There was outrage at this decision from members of the community, and soon after, on August 14, 1864, the camp was destroyed in a fire. Camp officials claimed that "enemies of the county" started the fire, but no evidence was found that it was anything but an accidental fire. After the fire, the camp was completely rebuilt, as everything was burned to the ground.

The campground returned to normal use in 1866, and Acton Campground flourished, boasting 123 cottage owners in 1895 from twenty-four different towns. Unfortunately, on November 12, 1905, another fire destroyed the camp again. Sparks from a locomotive passing on the nearby railway ignited dry leaves and spread throughout the camp, burning the cottages and pavilion in half an hour. Plans to rebuild the camp were underway soon, but not enough camp goers invested in rebuilding and the grounds were sold after 1906.

Sources:

Materials in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains a black and white photograph of camp attendees and the pavilion that was the center of activities. The collection also contains a broadside of the Rules for the Government of the Acton Park Association, as well as a handwritten version of these rules. There is also a carbon copy of *A Good and Profitable Occasion: The Story of the Acton Camp Grounds* by Sylvia C. Henricks. There is a map of the camp with the names of cottage owners written in on the appropriate cottages on the map, in addition to a handwritten list of cottage owners. There are also articles of association of the Acton Campground, and other business papers like meeting minutes, finance reports, checks, receipts, and a Confederate States borrow note. The collection also contains correspondence, both from camp staff and attendees, as well as from Sylvia Henricks to Claude Brenton about a material packet.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Camp Business Papers, 1864-1906	Folder 1 of 2
Manuscript and Related Correspondence, <i>A Good and Profitable Occasion: The Story of the Acton Camp Grounds</i> , 1965-1969	Folder 2 of 2
Broadside, Rules for the Government of the Acton Park Association, n.d.	OM 0749 Folder 1 of 1
Acton Campground group photo in front of pavilion, ca. 1890s	OVA Photographs, Folder 1 of 1