

Collection #
P 0319

**CAMP CHESTERFIELD TRAIL OF RELIGION
PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1950S**

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Processed by

Barbara Quigley
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1950s

PROVENANCE: Purchased from Joan Hostetler, Indianapolis, 1998

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998.0153

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Camp Chesterfield opened in Madison County in 1891 as the home to the Indiana Association of Spiritualists, which had been founded in 1886. Located on the camp's grounds is a tribute to the world's religions, known as the Trail of Religion, which was dedicated on 11 July 1943. Ten busts of painted marble depict leaders of the world's religions. The busts face East and are mounted on pedestals arranged in an arc. They represent: Abraham, Mohammed, Zeus, Lao-Tse, Osiris, Zoroaster, Vardhamana [Vardhamāna], Confucius, Gautama [Buddha], and in the center front, Christ. This memorial was designed by Lindley Ornamental Stone Company of Bloomington. The sculptor was Ivan Adams. The busts each measure approximately three feet by two feet by one-and-a-half feet.

In 1843, Dr. John Westerfield began a lecture series in the new Union Hall in Anderson, Indiana, featuring topics such as phrenology, mesmerism, trance speaking, spirit contact, and clairvoyance. This led to the formation of the Indiana Association of Spiritualists, which in turn led to the founding of Camp Chesterfield. The 44-acre camp, 45 miles northeast of Indianapolis, is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It continues to be a center where belief in continuous life and communication with the spirit world are embraced. It is one of the largest communities of Spiritualists in the United States and the largest in Indiana.

Sources:

Camp Chesterfield. "A Brief History of Camp Chesterfield"

<https://www.campchesterfield.net/history>. Accessed 21 February 2019.

Camp Chesterfield. "Trail of Religions" <https://www.campchesterfield.net/trail-of-religions>. Accessed 21 February 2019.

Moment of Indiana History. "Camp Chesterfield" <https://indianapublicmedia.org/momentofindianahistory/camp-chesterfield>. Accessed 21 February 2019.

Smithsonian American Art Museum. Art Inventories Catalog. "Trail of Religion" <https://siris-artinventories.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?&profile=all&source=~!siartinventories&uri=full=3100001~!314256~!0%20-%20focus>. Accessed 21 February 2019.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of three small black-and-white photographs of sculpted busts of leaders of the world's religions and philosophies. The busts are situated in the Trail of Religion at Camp Chesterfield in Madison County, Indiana. The photographs were taken ca. 1950s.

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CONTENTS

Section of the Trail of Religion showing busts of Abraham, Mohammed, and Zeus.

Section of the Trail of Religion showing busts of Lao-Tse, Osiris, and Zoroaster.

Section of the Trail of Religion showing busts of Vardhammana, Confucius, and Gautama.

CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

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