CAMP CHESTERFIELD TRAIL OF RELIGION PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1950S

Collection Information 1
Historical Sketch 2
Scope and Content Note 3
Contents 3

Processed by
Barbara Quigley
22 February 2019

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>VOLUME OF COLLECTION:</strong></th>
<th>1 folder of photographs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLLECTION DATES:</strong></td>
<td>Ca. 1950s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROVENANCE:</strong></td>
<td>Purchased from Joan Hostetler, Indianapolis, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESTRICTIONS:</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COPYRIGHT:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:</strong></td>
<td>Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALTERNATE FORMATS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RELATED HOLDINGS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCESSION NUMBER:</strong></td>
<td>1998.0153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOTES:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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, Vardhammana [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:
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.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

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

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

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

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

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

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1