

Collection	HCHS Manuscript Collection	Status	Processed
Object ID	3.001.294	Accessn/Loan	2015.526
Object Name	Print, Photographic	Source	Found in Collection
Other Name		Catalog Date	04/05/2026
Other No		Cataloged by	Robinson, Dave
Old No		Date	
Title	Camp Echo Hill Collection	Year Range	1921-1957
Location	Archives Building: A: 24		



Description This collection consists of one box of photographs and ephemera related to Camp Echo Hill, which opened in 1936 and later became Echo Hill Park in Clinton Township NJ, and its founders, Hermia and Bob Lechner. The majority of the photographs are images of early camp participants and visitors, circa 1936-1937, as well as the stone house in which the Lechners took residence year-round starting in 1942.

In addition, the collection contains a 1991 newspaper article about the camp, and a handwritten letter from young camper, William Prichett, to Bob Lechner.

Identity Statement & Context

Name of Creator	Reference Code	NJFLH15380
Other Creators		
Creator Added Entry		
Dates of Creation		

Administrative Biographical History

The Echo Hill Park property was once a farm, established in 1836, and was purchased in 1936 by Hermia and Bob Lechner, who created a summer camp for boys and, one year later, a separate camp for girls. Hermia Lechner (1912-1994) was also a member of the Clinton Township Committee in the 1970s and served as Mayor from 1976 to 1982 and again from 1987 to 1990. In 1982 Gov. Kean appointed her as Administrator of the New Jersey Green Acres Program.

Dates of Accumulation

Archival History

Extent and Medium of The Unit of Description Site

1 box; .25 linear feet

Event

Structure & Conditions of Access

**Appraisal
Destruction &
Scheduling
Information**

Accruals

**Conditions
Governing
Access**

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Governing
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**System of
Arrangement**

Subject

**Disposition date
Disposition**

**Physical Characteristics
& Technical
Requirements**

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Language

English

Finding Aids

In vertical file

Allied Materials & Description Control

Existence and Location of Originals

Archives Building

Existence and Location of Copies

Archivist's Name

Riedeburg, Karen

Archivist's Notes

Related Units of Description in this Repository

Associated Materials in other Repositories

Rules or Conventions

Date(s) of Descriptions

December 2025

Container List

Location	Container	Folder	Title	Description	Date
A	01	01	Hunterdon Review Echo Hill Article	Two photocopies of Hunterdon Review newspaper article from May 29, 1991, detailing the founding of Camp Echo Hill in the 1930s.	n.d.
A	01	02	William Prichett letter to Mr. Lechner	Letter from William Prichet as a boy writing to Mr. Lechner. Letter discusses William's summer and references photographs taken by his father.	n.d.
A	01	03	Boys Camp Portrait by Pond - Black and White Photograph	Group portrait of 8 boys with their camp counselor. Posed by side of Camp Echo Hill's Pond.	n.d.

Location	Container	Folder	Title	Description	Date
A	01	04	Boys Camp Swimming at Pond Part 1 - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph of three camp goers in pond.	n.d.
A	01	05	Boys Camp Swimming at Pond Part 2 - Copy of Sepia Photograph	Copy of Sepia photograph of boy climbing out of pond onto dock.	n.d.
A	01	06	Boys Camp Diving at Pond - Sepia Photograph	Sepia photograph of camp diving event.	n.d.
A	01	07	Boys Camp assembled at Pond Dock - Black and White Photograph	Group of boys assembled in line of two at pond dock.	n.d.
A	01	08	Boaters in Pond - Black and White Photograph	Landscape view of two boats in pond. Stamped with date of July 27, 1938, on verso.	ca 1938
A	01	09	Boys Camp outdoor assembly - Black and White Photograph	Assembly of about 50 boys along side chaperones, speaker not in view.	n.d.
A	01	10	Event Gathering at Pond Part One - Black and White Photograph	Large group gathered around shore of pond. Appears to be some sort of official event or competition.	n.d.
A	01	11	Event Gathering at Pond Part Two - Black and White Photograph	Large group gathered around shore of pond. Closer view of row of individuals, adults in back, children in front. Appears to be some sort of official event or competition. Stamped with date of August 5, 1937, on verso.	ca 1937
A	01	12	Families relaxing by Pond - Black and White Photograph	Group of families or friends gathered around pond. Tennis court can be seen in the left bottom corner of photograph.	n.d.
A	01	13	Landscape of Pond Part One - Black and White Photograph	Landscape photograph of pond in spring or summer. Two figures can be seen standing beside each other between the trees. Possibly watching the water.	n.d.
A	01	14	Landscape of Pond Part Two - Sepia Photograph	Landscape photograph of pond from similar view as "Landscape of Pond Part One". Likely a different year as there is a small shed next to the trees that was not present in the "Landscape of Pond Part One" photograph.	n.d.
A	01	15	Echo Hill Camp Group Portrait - Sepia Photograph	Large Sepia Photograph of Camp Echo Hill Camp Goers/Students with row of Camp Counselors and staff in the back. The date 1935-1936 is written at the top of the photograph in pencil.	1935-1936
A	01	16	Boys Camp Baseball Game - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph of youth baseball game on camp grounds. The number "15" is handwritten in bottom right corner.	n.d.
A	01	17	Boys Camp Potato Sack Race	Black and white photograph of group of boys participating in a potato sack race on camp grounds. The number "866" is written on the verso in pencil.	n.d.
A	01	18	Boys Camp Bugle Troup - Sepia Photograph	Sepia photograph. Depicts close-up shot of group of boys playing the bugle in formation. Stamped with date of August 2, 1937, on verso.	ca 1937

Location	Container	Folder	Title	Description	Date
A	01	19	Boys Camp Marksmanship Class - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph depicting young boy aiming rifle from prone position on shooting bench. Instructor standing in background looking toward the ground. Stamped with date of August 2, 1937, on verso.	ca 1937
A	01	20	Boys Camp Jumping Contest - Black and White Photograph	Group of boys gathered in a line to jump off concrete porch onto the dirt. Camp Counselor sitting on porch with feet on the ground and holding a notebook. Boy shown mid-jump appears as though he might land roughly.	n.d.
A	01	21	Boys Camp Minstrel Show - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph of boys gathered in assembly to watch minstrel show. "Minstrel Show Pag. Fireman act." written on verso.	n.d.
A	01	22	Camp Counselor in Native American Costume - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph of a shirtless man wearing shorts and a feather headdress and holding a drum. The counselor is standing close to a fire pit with a row of boys in the background sitting on the grass. The photograph appears to be taken at night with the counselor at the center of the picture illuminated by the camera's flash.	n.d.
A	01	23	Boys Camp in Bunk Tent - Sepia Photograph	Sepia photograph of pair of boys relaxing in bunk tent. Boy in the back of the photograph is looking toward the camera.	n.d.
A	01	24	Boys Camp Portrait Outside Bunk Tent - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph of group of boys in camp uniforms posed for a portrait with their counselor. The group is standing in front of what appears to be their group bunk tent.	n.d.
A	01	25	Boys Camp Portrait in Uniforms - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph of group of younger boys posing for a portrait, each is dressed in the camp uniform.	n.d.
A	01	26	Boy in Field - Sepia Photograph	Sepia photograph of boy standing alone in a field dressed in shorts and shoes. The boy is smiling and pointing at the camera.	n.d.
A	01	27	Girls Camp Group Portrait - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph of adolescent girls posed for a group portrait with their camp counselor. Each is carrying their own bed roll.	n.d.
A	01	28	Laborers in Field - Black and White Photograph	Small black and white photograph depicting two African-American men doing landscaping work in one of the camp's fields. One appears to be operating an early model of a tractor.	n.d.
A	01	29	Campers at Lunch, Stone House - Black and White Photograph	Two copies of a photo of a group of campers eating lunch alongside their camp counselor outside the stone house. One photo is stamped August 6, 1937, on verso; the other is stamped August 10, 1937, on verso.	ca 1937
A	01	30	Woman outside Stone House	Black and white photograph of woman standing outside the Stone House.	n.d.
A	01	31	Stone House Back View - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph showing the front view of the Stone House. Photograph labeled "Labor Day 1932" on verso.	1932
A	01	32	Stone House Back View - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph showing back view of the Stone House. The back of the house appears to be an additional level down, with the "basement door" opening into the backyard at ground level. Photograph labeled "Labor Day, 1932" on verso.	1932
A	01	33	Stone House with Cabin - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph with view of the Stone House and nearby cabin.	n.d.

Location	Container	Folder	Title	Description	Date
A	01	34	Camp Cabins and Pavilions - Black and White Photograph	Black and white photograph of camp cabins and pavilions.	n.d.
A	01	35	Camp Pavilions - Sepia Photograph	Sepia photograph of Camp Pavilions. Stamped with date of August 1, 1936, on verso.	ca 1936
A	01	36	Campgrounds Part One - Black and White Photograph	Landscape black and white photograph of camp grounds.	n.d.
A	01	37	Campgrounds Part Two - Black and White Photograph	Landscape photograph of campgrounds.	n.d.
A	01	38	Campgrounds Part Three - Black and White Photograph	Landscape photograph of campgrounds.	n.d.
A	01	39	Camp Totem - Sepia Photograph	Sepia photograph of campground totem pole.	n.d.
A	01	40	Family Camp Gathering - Black and White Photograph	Group photograph of family sitting on logs around unlit fire pit. Stamped 1905 on verso.	n.d.
A	01	41	Forest Trail - Black and White Photograph	Black and White Photograph of non-descript forest trail. "11" written in pencil and stamp with date of May 1957 on verso.	ca 1957
A	01	42	Man by Dike - Sepia Photograph	Sepia photograph of middle aged man sitting by the side of a dike. Location is not specified.	n.d.
A	01	43	Dilapidated House - Black and White Photograph	Black and White Photograph of a dilapidated one story building, possibly a house. Picture depicts a man in overalls standing outside the structure near where a stone chimney is visible from the exterior.	n.d.
A	01	44	Decorative Totem Pole - Color Photograph	Color photograph of "Decorative" Totem Pole outside suburban family home. A light dusting of snow can be seen upon the ground.	n.d.
A	01	45	Fancy Christmas Party - Color Photograph	Color photograph depicting a man in a blue suit watching a young girl speak to someone in a Santa Claus suit. In the same room are several young women dressed in swimsuits with red ribbons around their necks and an older woman in a white shirt and dark skirt. A large Christmas tree decorated with tinsel stands in the middle of the room.	n.d.
A	01	46	Trenton Y.M.H.A. Basketball Team Group Portrait - Sepia Photograph	Sepia Photograph. Group Portrait of Trenton Y.M.H.A Basketball Team. "YMHA xcol 5 1/2 for Au 15/3 8pm" written on verso in pencil.	n.d.
A	01	47	Trenton Normal School Football Team - Group Portrait	Sepia Photograph. Group Portrait of the Trenton Normal School Football Team. Player in front row holding football upon which is written "Trenton 1921 Normal."	1921

Lexicon

Object Name

Object Name 2

Object Name 3

Object Name

Print, Photographic

Category

08: Communication Objects

Classification Documentary Objects
Sub-Classification Graphic Documents
Primary Photograph
Secondary Print, Photographic
Tertiary
Other Names

Nomenclature 2 Legacy Information

Category
Subcategory

Location

Last Inventoried by

Last Inventoried

Home Location

Building Archives Building
Room A
Wall 24
Cabinet

Shelf
Drawer
Container
Other

Latitude **Longitude** **Azimuth** **Dataset**

Location History

Type	Date	From	Until	Location	By
Home	04/06/2026 5:20 PM			Archives Building: A: 24	Karen Riedeberg
Home	11/05/2023 7:48 AM			A10.2	Unknown

People, Subjects, Classification, Search Terms

People Lechner, Hermia; Lechner, Robert **Classification** **No Data**
Subjects 20th century; Camps; Summer camps; Photographs **Search Terms** **No Data**

Source

Source Found in Collection **Received Date**
In Memory Of **Received As** Found in Collection
Credit Line **Accession Date** 09/11/2015

Entered by Cornelius, Donald **Status by** Archival Volunteer 2 **Last modified** Donald Cornelius

Entered	09/11/2015 11:00 AM	Status date	12/01/2025 6:30 PM	by	
				Last modified	04/06/2026 6:30 PM