

James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

**Records, c. 1928-2015, of the Williams-Henson Home for Boys, Knoxville, TN.
The records of Williams-Henson Home for Boys were donated by St John's Lutheran
Church in Knoxville, TN, November 6, 2014.
Records stored at the Crumley Archives. Advanced notice for research required.**

Creator: Williams-Henson Home for Boys, 1928-2005

Extent:

18 Boxes Total:
12 Document Boxes
1 Oversize Flat File Box
3 Flat File Box
2 Bankers Boxes

Access Restrictions:

This collection is partially open for research due to the fragility of its contents. This restriction mainly applies to Series I.

Use Restrictions:

Permission to publish material from the Williams-Henson Home for Boys Collection must be obtained from the Director of the Crumley Archives, 4201 N. Main St., Columbia, SC 29203.

Processing Information:

Arrangement/preservation of material and creation of this finding aid completed by Shannon L. Smith, Rachael Acheson, Rebekah Friedman, and James Addy (2015).

Biographical Sketch:

Williams-Henson Home for Boys (WHHB) opened its doors on September 25, 1928. The home rested upon 155 acres of gifted farmland, graciously willed by Mr. Lewis E. Williams for the purpose of providing a home for “unfortunate boys”. In his will, Mr. Williams specified that the “farm is to be used for an Orphan Home forever, and is to be under the control and supervision of Holston Synod . . .”¹ Mrs. Martha Henson, a Lutheran benefactress, was instrumental in the

¹ Excerpt from the Will of Lewis Elbert Williams, April 1925, typed document detailing formation of WHHB, File A, Box 1, Records of William-Henson Home for Boys, James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, Lineberger Library, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Lenoir Rhyne University (Columbia, SC.).

formation of the home, giving a sizable endowment of \$5,000 “for the benefit of the William Henson Home for Boys”.² The home began modestly, with only three boys residing there full-time.

The mission of the WHHB was to “shelter, educate, train, protect and otherwise care for delinquent boys between the ages of six and twenty-one years and prepare mentally, morally, physically and technically for any useful business, trade, profession or calling, and to inspire them to become good and useful citizens.”³ As time passed, the Board of Directors deemed it suitable to expand the home’s scope and welcome any “dependent” youth—regardless of color, creed, or criminal history—who needed a home. The WHHB valued itself as a “[w]holesome Christian home where ‘family’ is the keyword, and the church is central in the spiritual nurture and care of the boys.”⁴ The home’s nurturing reputation spread, and at one point during the home’s early years, as many as 30 residents were documented. By its 50th anniversary, WHHB had reduced their numbers to a somewhat more manageable 12 children, though its reputation as a loving home, supported by devoted caregivers, never wavered.

Ownership of the WHHB passed from many hands and supporters throughout its tenure. Beginning with the Holston Synod, the WHHB was assumed under the Virginia Synod for a period of time, finishing out its years with the Southeastern Synod⁵ until its closure in 2005, due to financial difficulties.

² Excerpt from the Will of Martha C. Henson, 28 Sept. 1927, typed document detailing formation of WHHB, File A, Box 1, Records of William-Henson Home for Boys, James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, Lineberger Library, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Lenoir Rhyne University (Columbia, SC.).

³ “William-Henson Home Statement of Purpose”, c. 1964, File A, Box 1, Records of William-Henson Home for Boys, James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, Lineberger Library, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Lenoir Rhyne University (Columbia, SC.).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ “God’s Child-Our Child: 50 years of Loving Care”, The Williams-Henson Lutheran Home for Children 50th Anniversary invitation, 24 Sept. 1978, File A, Box 1, Records of William-Henson Home for Boys, James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, Lineberger Library, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Lenoir Rhyne University (Columbia, SC.).

Series:

I. History, Policy, Property, People	p. 4
II. Administration and Memos	p. 5
III. Minutes and Reports	p. 6
IV. Board of Trustees and Correspondence	p. 7
V. Publications	p. 8
VI. Financial Records	p. 9-10
VII. Microfilm	p. 10
VIII. Carousel Slides	p. 10
IX. Albums	p. 10-11
X. Images	p. 11-12
XI. Scrapbooks	p. 12
XII. Media	p. 12
XIII. Guest Registries	p. 12-13

History, Policy, Property, People:

Series contains material on formation of WHHB from 1925-2008.

Administration and Memos:

Series contains application materials, contracts and agreements, and memorandums and reports.

Minutes and Reports:

Minutes and agendas from 1926-1989.

Board of Trustees and Correspondence:

Board meeting minutes and correspondence from 1930-2015.

Publications:

Newsletter (publications and proofs), local newspaper clippings, and promotional materials.

Financial Records:

Records date from 1930-1995.

Microfilm:

Dates include 1959, 1964, 1967, 1978, 1980-81, 1980-1995, "Farm Development Program", "WCYR", 1996-97 "Dogwood Shops", WH-C St. Paul, Video St. John's, Undated Misc.

Carousel Slides:

Nine carousels, including some miscellaneous slides.

Albums:

Albums date from 1953-1998.

Images:

Flat boxes include previously framed black and white images that were used for promotional purposes, according to former director Butch Fisher. Additional material includes loose pictures, some of which are digitally archived and can be found at www.crumleyarchives.org.

Scrapbooks:

Scrapbook material dates from 1953-1967 and includes photographs, letters, newspaper articles, and event programs.

Media:

Collection of three VHS's from the 1980's and 1990's, concerted to DVDs at Crumley Archives.

Guest Registries:

Registries from 1952-1987.

Contents:**I. History, Policy, Property, People****Box 1
1925-2008**

File A

1925-2008
History

File B

1927-1991
Bylaws and Constitution

File C

1991
Policy Manual

- File D
1925-1989
Property
- File E
1986
National Register Nomination
- File F
1986
Farmhouse Restoration Project
- File G
1956-1966
Information Specific to Boys
- File H
1958-1980, n.d.
Boys' Governance
- File I
1928-1930, n.d.
Searless Runyun, General Superintendent
- File J
1933-1934
Bethel Lutheran Church
- File K
1890-1986, n.d.
St John's Knoxville

II. Administration and Memos

- File A
n.d.
Children Applications
- File B
n.d.
Staff Applications
- File C
n.d.
License and Funding Applications

- File D
n.d.
Agreements and Contracts
- File E
n.d.
Evaluations and Inspections
- File F
1952-1990; n.d.
Propositions and Projections
- File G
n.d.
Outside Resources and Programs
- File H
1929-1939
Memos and Reports
- File I
1942-1959
Memos and Reports
- File J
1960-1969
Memos and Reports
- File K
1970-1979
Memos and Reports
- File L
1980-1991
Memos and Reports
- File M
n.d.
Memos and Reports

III. Minutes and Reports

- File A
1926-1931
Minutes and Agendas

- File B
1950-1959
Minutes and Agendas
- File C
1927-1965
Corporate Minutes (bound ledger)
- File D
1960-1969
Minutes and Agendas
- File E
1970-1975
Minutes and Agendas
- File F
1976-1979
Minutes and Agendas
- File G
1980-1989
Minutes and Agendas
- File H
n.d.
Minutes and Agendas

IV. Board of Trustees and Correspondence

- File A
1930-1956
Board Minutes
- File B
1960-1969
Board Minutes
- File C
1970-1979
Board Minutes
- File D
1980-1989

Board Minutes

File E

1990-1994

Board Minutes and Reports

File F

n.d.

Board Members and Mailing Lists

File G

n.d.

Board Contacts and Dates

File H

1930-1939

Correspondence

File I

1940-1949

Correspondence

File J

1950-1959

Correspondence

File K

1960-1969

Correspondence

File L

1970-1979

Correspondence

File M

1980-1989

Correspondence

File N

1990-2013; n.d.

Correspondence

V. Publications

File A

1928-1984

Newspaper articles

File B

1985-2002, n.d.

Newspaper articles

File C

1975-1996, n.d.

Newsletters

File D

1936-1978, n.d.

Bulletins, brochures, programs

VI. Financial Records

File A

1930-1959

Financial Records

File B

1960-1969

Financial Records

File C

1970-1975

Financial Records

File D

1976-1979

Financial Records

File E

1978-1980

Expansion Study

File F

1976-1989

Checkbooks

File G

1980-1989

Financial Records

File H

1983-1984

Financial Records

File I

1990-1995

Financial Records

File J

n.d.

Financial Records

File K

n.d.

Tax Information

VIIa. Microfilm

Included materials dating from 1959, 1964, 1967, 1978, 1980-81, 1980-1995

VIIb. Microfilm

Includes materials labeled as follows: "Farm Development Program", "WCYR", 1996-97 "Dogwood Shops", WH-C St. Paul, Video St. John's, Undated Misc.

VIIIa. Carousel Slides

Nine carousels, including some miscellaneous slides

VIIIb. Carousel Slides

Continued from above

IXa. Albums

File A

1953

25th Anniversary

File B

1950s

Albums

File C

1973

Albums

File D

1984, n.d.

Albums

File E

1985

Honors Banquet

File F

1991

Albums

IXb. Albums

File A

1990s

Albums

File B

1998

Myrtle Beach Retreat

File C

1993

Bound Album

File D

n.d.

Bound Album

File E

n.d.

Bound Album

IXc. Albums

Five, small, bound volumes. N.d.

Xa. Images

Framed promotional photographs

Xb. Images

Framed promotional photographs

Xc. Images

Loose photographs

Xd, Images

Loose photographs

XI. Scrapbooks

File A

1953-1967

Scrapbook

File B

1966-1967

Scrapbook

XII. Media

File A

1992, 1999, n.d.

Video cassettes and DVD transfers: "Sheriff's Youth Ranch", n.d.;
"Homecoming", 1999; "Banquet", 1992

XIII. Guest Registries

File A

1982

Memorial Book for Mrs. Anna Fischer Beall

File B

1952-1965

Guest Registry (small, dark blue)

File C

1987

Guest Registry (brown cover, first entry "Fred and Jane Buhn")

File D

1987

Guest Registry (brown cover, first entry "Gale and Barbara Teague")

File E

1986

Circular frame with applique patch, "WHCH Homecoming '86"