The records of Boys Republic were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in increments between 1979 and 1987 by former superintendent and chair of the Boys Republic Historical Committee, Clyde L. Reed, and others and were opened for research in May of 1998.

Boys Republic was originally incorporated in 1890 as the Home of Industry with the express purpose of providing food, clothing, shelter and employment to prisoners discharged from Michigan correctional institutions. In 1906, after the state took responsibility for assisting these men, the Home formalized what had become a growing emphasis on preventative work among “wayward and criminally inclined” boys and first offenders by changing its name to Boys’ Home and d’Arcambal Association and beginning to accept neglected and delinquent boys referred by the courts and other agencies.

Around 1909, the Home acquired the unofficial name, Ford Republic, reflecting both the generosity of Mrs. E. L. Ford and her daughters, who provided money for a dormitory, power plant and water and sewage systems at the Home’s new 70-acre farm northwest of Detroit, and the treatment theories of its new superintendent, Homer T. Lane, a proponent of self-government and character-building in the institutionalized care of problem boys. It was officially renamed Boys Republic in 1944. By the 1960s, the Republic had changed from a self-governing family and work-training facility for wards of the court to a residential, clinically-oriented treatment facility for boys with more serious emotional disturbances.

The records of Boys Republic document the history of Homer T. Lane’s innovative approach to the institutional care of anti-social and emotionally disturbed children. They also provide insight into the social and moral issues raised by the debate, especially among members of the social welfare establishment, over the cause and treatment of juvenile delinquency.
Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Child care--Psychological aspects--Michigan
Child welfare--Michigan
Children--Institutional care--Michigan
Detroit (Mich.)--Social problems
Drug abuse--Michigan
Family services--Michigan
Juvenile delinquency--Michigan
Lane, Homer T.
Poor--Michigan--Detroit
Reformatories--Michigan
Social work with youth
Student government--Michigan
Wayne County (Mich.) Juvenile Court
Youth--Services for--Michigan

Among the important correspondents are:

Boring, Gordon K.
Butzel, Fred M.
Colebank, Ruth
Henry, Charles E.
Huber, Milton
Hulbert, Henry S.
Lane, Homer T.
McIndoo, J. M.
Reed, Clyde L.
Contents

9 manuscript boxes
1 half manuscript box
2 clamshell boxes

Series I, Correspondence, 1906-1973, Boxes 1-2:
Administrative correspondence and reports related primarily to daily business operations and secondarily to board and professional matters.

Series II, Minutes, 1896-1978, Boxes 2-5:
Primarily board and executive committee meeting minutes and attachments.

Series III, Financial Records, 1898-1976, Boxes 6-7:
Data compiled as part of the United Community Services budgetary process and for auditing purposes.

Series IV, General Files, 1890-1980, Boxes 8-10:
Files on a wide range of subjects and organizations relating to the organization and administration of Boys Republic and to the care and treatment of neglected and delinquent youth in general.

Series V, Historical Files, 1902-1983, Boxes 10-12:
Newspaper clippings, magazine articles, unpublished studies and theses, and speeches and draft manuscripts describing the historical development of Boys Republic and its programs.

Non-manuscript Material:
A large number of photographic negatives and prints, filmstrips of Dedication Day ceremonies in 1957, 6 reels of 16mm film, and miscellaneous other material have been transferred to the Archives Audiovisual Collection. A copy of W. David Wills’s biography of Homer Lane has been placed in the Archives Library.
Series I
Correspondence, 1906-1973
Boxes 1-2

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1. Correspondence, n. d.
2. , 1906-07
3. , 1908
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15-21. , Jan-Aug 1910
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1. Correspondence, 1966-67
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8. ; [re] fiftieth anniversary, Sep 1957
9. ; foreign visitors, 1952, 1954-55
10-11. ; [re] Lovejoy, E. P., Memorial Fund, 1953-54
12-15. ; [re] residents, 1909-11, 1954-57
16. ; United Community Services [UCS], 1962-68
Boys Republic Collection

Series II
Minutes, 1896-1978
Boxes 2-5

Box 2

20. Minutes; Home of Industry board, Apr 1896-Apr 1901
21. Proceedings; board meeting, 12 Aug 1943

Box 3

Bound volume  Minutes; board & executive committee meetings,
               Jul 1909-Feb 1928
Bound volume  Minutes; board & executive committee meetings,
               Mar 1928-Jun 1950

Box 4

Bound volume  Minutes, board meetings, Sep 1950-Oct 1959

Box 5

1. Minutes; Ford Sunday School, Sep 1910-Mar 1912
2. ; mtg. [re] care of children under new Juvenile Court Act, Dec 1907
3. ; miscellaneous committees, 1974
4. ; UCS-sponsored meeting [re] future of Boys Republic, Jan 1954
5. Minutes & reports; board meetings, 1966-67
6-10. , 1969-Nov 1972
14. , Jan-May 1975
15. , Jul-Nov 1975
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17. , Jul-Nov 1976
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21. Minutes & reports; executive committee mtgs., 1908, 1910, 1919-21, 1924
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Series III
Financial Records, 1898-1976
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1. Financial records, 1898-1912
2. Financial records; statements, 1919-30, 1940s
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12. Financial records; budget & statements, 1959
13. ; Metropolitan Detroit Building Fund application, 1959
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15. ; budget & statements, 1961
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1. Financial records; statements, 1964
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12. ; United Foundation Capital Fund application, 1970
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Series IV
General Files, 1890-1980
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Box 8

2. Articles of Association & Amended Articles, 7 May 1890, 12 May 1906
3. Bequest; Baldwin, Gertrude H., 1921, 1944
   -; Hickok, Arthur S., 1963-67
   -; McGraw, Arthur, Memorial Fund, 1924-56
   -; Radford, John, 1902
4. Board member lists, c. 1909, 1969-72
5. By-laws, c. 1890-1954
6. Citizen self-government; Citizens’ Court, c. 1906-10, 1941
   - committee reports to the board, n. d.
   - constitution & laws, 1925
   - Diploma of Citizenship, 1950
   - House of Representatives meeting minutes, Jul-Aug 1961
   - laws, 1916, c. 1950s-1960s
7. Mushroom Club meeting minutes, Sep-Oct 1920
8. State meeting minutes, Mar-Jul 1909
9. State meeting minutes, Apr 1920-Oct 1921
11. Discharge reports, 1912-24
13. Hypnosis as treatment method at Boys Republic, c. 1958
14. Intake policy & classification systems, c. 1960s
15. Juvenile delinquency; articles & other publications [re], 1907, 1948, 1950s
16. - newspaper clippings, 1950s
18. - Saturday Evening Post series, 1955
20. Legislation; Michigan House Bill 22, 1956

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1. Legislation; Michigan Senate Bill 165, 1965
2. Menus, 1972
10. Ohio programs for treatment of juvenile delinquents, 1956
14-15. Property matters, 1940s-1950s, 1963
16. Reports to Board of Directors Planning Committee, 1963-64
17. Staff meeting minutes & memos, n. d., 1959-69
18. Starr Commonwealth for Boys, 1950s
19. Statistical reports on residents, 1902-10, 1929, 1933, 1938

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testimony in court hearing [re] drug use at Boys Republic, 1955
21. Title I program requests, 1967-68
22. UCS Executives of Child Care Institutions’ Self-Study of Rejected Applications, 1962-64

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2. Wayne Co. Juvenile Court; capital needs survey, 1928-30
3. services provided & reimbursement, 1908-10
4. services provided & reimbursement, 1961-63
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10. White House Conference on Children & Youth - Region XI, 1959
11. Youth Anonymous; board corres., reports & meeting minutes, 1956-59
14. Camp Brighton Group meeting reports, 1956
15. executive director’s report, 1957
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Series V
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   ; annual reports & monthly work summaries, 1902-11, 1928
23. ; fiftieth anniversary filmscript, 1957

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1. Boys Republic; clippings [re], c. 1905-c. 1912
2-7. ; clippings, 1920s-1963
8. ; guides & manuals, misc., 1940s-1950s
9. ; newsletters, 1940s
10. ; program descriptions & short histories, 1929, 1940s-1950s, 1961
11. ; promotional brochures, n. d., 1940s-1950s
12. ; publicity, n. d., 1908, 1940s-1950s
16. Colebank, Ruth; history of Boys Republic (draft manuscript), c. 1956
18. “Ford Republic” by William J. Norton, Jr. in Children’s Institutions, 1941

Box 12

1. Ford Republic; field work report & student visitors’ observations, 1937
2. Graduates’ accounts of their experiences at Boys Republic, n. d.
3. Lane, Homer T.; articles [re], 1982-83
4. Meredith, Esther; remarks on Boys Republic to Methodist church study group, c. 1960
5. “Self-Government As a Character Builder” in Woman’s Bulletin, 1929
6. “Self-Government for Problem Boys” by Clyde Reed in Delinquency News Letter, 1936
7. “A Statistical Study of One Thousand Consecutive Admissions to the Ford Republic” by Courtlandt Van Vechten, Jr., 1930
   (dissertation), 1935
10. “Survey of the Boys’ Home and d’Arcambal Association” by the Child Welfare League, 1941