
The Collective Works of Lloyd Burgess Sharp:
Pioneer of the Outdoor Education Movement in the
United States

Books

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

Dr. Lloyd Burgess Sharp was born in 1895 on a farm in Carbondale, Kansas, a frontier community along the Old Santa Fe Trail. His parents settled there, arriving by covered wagon from New Jersey. As an older teenager, L.B. began his career in education when he taught in a one-room schoolhouse while his teacher was on leave. He studied at Emporia State College, got married, served in the U.S. Navy on Lake Michigan, and entered graduate studies at Columbia University - Teacher College. While completing his doctoral studies under John Dewey and William H. Kilpatrick and other "New Educators", Sharp was hired by New York City welfare agency representatives to restructure Life Magazine's Fresh Air Farms. L.B.'s handwritten autobiography that covers his early years up to 1936 is available here in transcribed format: ["A Certain Kansas Lad"](#).

L.B. transformed the militaristic, punitive farms into Fresh Air Camps that provided nurturing, learner-centered, small group outdoor learning experiences. During the decades of 1920 - early 1960s, he led an endeavor so strong that it came to be referred to as the "outdoor education movement". Throughout his career, L.B. was a professor, master program and facility designer, and director/founder of the National Outdoor Education Association. He designed over 100 outdoor education facilities throughout the U.S., many of which are still in operation. L.B. had a profound influence on his campers, students, employees, and colleagues. Many of his students went on to become renowned outdoor leaders and educators themselves. An extensive history of his career and leadership is available in "Never Finished...Just Begun: A Narrative History of L.B. Sharp and Outdoor Education," a book I published in 2009 based on my dissertation research.

L.B. was a prolific writer, speechmaker, poet, interviewee, and tenacious advocate of outdoor education. An associate once explained, "He lived and breathed outdoor education." Over my many years of research into his career history and leadership, I amassed many of his publications, speeches, and other published works, and desired always to organize them into some kind of edited book that would be available for

free to the public. Advances in technology and the availability of an electronic digital commons (Cornerstone) through my university finally allowed this "collective works" project to become a reality. Each of the following chapters provide L.B.'s published words in chronological order. Click the blue hyperlinks to directly access each document. Although the original version was published online in 2016, periodic updates are intended as more of L.B.'s works are located, resulting in a fluid eBook that will lengthen over time. ~~ Julie A. Carlson, Ed.D.