

Collection #  
M 1023  
OMB 0129  
BV 3786–3813  
CT 2154–2155  
F 1817

## INDIANA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION ADDITION, 1829–2000

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	24 manuscript boxes, 6 OMB boxes, 1 OVC graphics box, 1 box of black and white photographs, 1 box of color photographs, 28 bound volumes, 1 slide box, 2 cassette tapes, 1 reel of microfilm, 2 printed items, 19 artifacts
COLLECTION DATES:	1829–2000
PROVENANCE:	Indiana Jewish Historical Society, 124 West Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802, 28 September 1999
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	IJHS (M 0743); IJHS Addition (M 1016); Jewish Welfare Federation (M 0463); B'nai B'rith Abraham Lodge No. 58, Indianapolis (M 0362); Congregation Ezras Achim Minute Book, Indianapolis (BV 1975–1976); Jewish Community Center Records, Indianapolis (M 0349); JFGI (M 1017); Einstandig (M 1015); Beth-El Zedeck (M 1013); Congregation Beth Israel (M 1010)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1999.0551
NOTES:	<p>This forms part of the collection of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society.</p> <p>Researchers should cite the collection as: Indiana Jewish Historical Society Collection of the Indiana Historical Society.</p> <p>This is an active collection and additions will be made periodically.</p>

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indiana Jewish Historical Society was founded in 1972 to collect, preserve and publish material involving two hundred years of Jewish life in Indiana. The organization aims to gather and preserve the records of synagogues, temples and societies; Jewish life cycle demonstrations, such as Bar Mitzvah certificates, Confirmation certificates, Katubbot (marriage contracts); personal memorabilia, scrapbooks and diaries; burial and cemetery records; government documents such as naturalization records; newspaper and magazine articles; and photographs.

Another goal of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society is to provide data not always available to historians, scholars and authors, thus helping to provide an awareness of the role played by Jews and Jewish communities in the creation of the religious climate of Indiana.

The IJHS founders ensured that the Jewish experience throughout the state would be preserved and conveyed. They began an annual publication, *Indiana Jewish History*, which recorded:

- settlers in Richmond and Terre Haute in 1818
- the beginning of the Fort Wayne congregation in 1848 and the dedication of the Madison synagogue in 1855
- stores founded more than 100 years ago in Plymouth, Wabash, Huntington, and North Manchester
- the role of the Lafayette congregation in the Reform movement in the late 19th century and the history of self-help organization in the community, beginning in 1907
- a forum which brought W.E.B. Du Bois of the NAACP and other speakers to Hammond during the heyday of the Ku Klux Klan life in Muncie and Columbia City in the 20th century

Sources: Preface and Introduction from *A Users Guide to the Indianapolis Holdings of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society*.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the records of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society. It has been received by the Indiana Historical Society in multiple accessions. When it was received the collection included the unprocessed archives of the IJHS, which contained materials from across the state, as well as from Henderson, Kentucky, which related to all aspects of Jewish life in Indiana. The collection also includes the administrative records of the IJHS organization. Former IJHS president and primary archivist Joseph Levine is represented throughout the collection in hand-written notes, donation information, correspondence and personal papers. Where possible, original order has been maintained in the IJHS administrative records. Order has been imposed on the archival materials, which were received in no particular order when accessioned. This order is primarily geographical, and chronological within series and subseries.

This collection is divided into four major series. The first series includes records from the Fort Wayne Jewish community (boxes 1–7); series two is from the Indianapolis community (boxes 7–10); series three represents all other Indiana cities and towns that have contributed information to the Indiana Jewish Historical Society (boxes 11–20), along with Jewish community materials from Henderson, Kentucky; and series four contains records from statewide organizations (boxes 20–24). Future additions and donations will be added as received and will be retained by towns and communities. There will be no attempt to interfile additions with the original collection.

**Series 1: Fort Wayne, 1838–2000:** Among the Fort Wayne materials are records and publications of the city's two primary congregations, Congregation B'nai Jacob (1952–2000) and Congregation Acduth Vesholom (1848–1998). B'nai Jacob material includes files and records for men's and women's organizations, temple information, newsletters, and activities. Acduth Vesholom files contain information on anniversaries, temple construction, sisterhood and brotherhood meetings, newsletters, historical information, and two sets of slides from events in 1975. Other Fort Wayne groups include the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, B'nai B'rith, and Hadassah. Records of these groups include minutes, newsletters, membership information and activities. Additional Fort Wayne material includes photographs, a small collection of artifacts, one videotape, four bound volumes, individual and family files and genealogies, and general historical information.

**Series 2: Indianapolis, 1917–2000:** Indianapolis items include records, correspondence, minutes, and the religious, social, and political activities of several congregations including Congregation B'nai Torah, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, and Etz Chaim (1922–96). The section also comprises the records of numerous Indianapolis Jewish organizations including B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, the Jewish Community Center, among others. There also are biographical and genealogical files for prominent individuals, families and rabbis. Also included are photographs and one artifact.

**Series 3: Indiana Cities and Towns, 1829–2000:** The records also contain information on the Jewish presence in 54 other Indiana cities and towns. Included in this section are materials related to Congregation Adas Israel of Henderson, Kentucky. Some of the more prominent areas with a substantial amount of material include Elkhart, Evansville, Gary, Hammond, Lafayette, Ligonier, Michigan City, Marion, Muncie, South Bend and Terre Haute. Materials include congregational records and activities, fraternal and charitable organizations, and the files of individuals.

**Series 4: Statewide, 1905–1997:** Records for state organizations include B'nai B'rith (district grand lodge and women's divisions). The bulk of this series contains the operational and organizational records of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society and their archives. Archival materials include black and white photographs and artifacts. Indiana Jewish Historical Society records include meeting minutes and related materials, correspondence, annual meeting materials, financial information, organizational documents and newsletters (1969–97). A subseries is dedicated to the personal and organizational records of former IJHS president and primary archivist, Joseph Levin (1977–92).

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