

Collection #  
BV 5218

## WHITE RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY LEDGER 1930-1948

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Morgan Lee Wilson  
December 2016

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: 1 bound volume, 1 folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1930-1948

PROVENANCE: Brad Gougeon, Midland, Michigan

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:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2016.0261

NOTES:

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Thomas and Samuel Kingan came from Belfast, Ireland, in 1848. In 1863, they moved to Indianapolis and built a five-story plant on the west side of the White River. Though a fire put a brief hold on operations the following May, the brothers rebuilt and success followed. The business grew quickly, profiting both from sales to the Union Army and shipments back to England. In 1873, the Kingan brothers bought a competing pork-house on the other side of the railroad tracks and connected it to their plant with a tunnel. Two years later, they merged with the Belfast firm of J&T Sinclair to form Kingan & Company. By the end of the 19th century, the Kingans' Indianapolis plant spanned 27 acres along both sides of the White River just south of Washington Street in the area that is now the Indianapolis Zoo and Victory Field. Kingan & Company was one of the largest meat-packing companies in the world, a position it would hold for nearly a century.

The White River Railroad Company owned and controlled two lines of railway with two miles of track which ran parallel to each other and began on the private grounds of Kingan & Company. These lines connected with all railroads and with the 250 refrigerator cars owned by Kingan & Co., were used for the shipment of meats. On October 29, 1948, the company was liquidated and all its assets were transferred to Kingan & Co. as its parent corporation.

Sources:

Collection

[historicindianapolis.com](http://historicindianapolis.com)

The Northeastern Reporter, Volume 16, West Publishing Company, 1888

Indianapolis of to-day, Consolidated Illustrating Co., 1896

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection includes one ledger of meeting minutes from November 15, 1930 to November 15, 1935. There are also loose typed papers of meeting minutes from 1934-1936, an affidavit of publication from Nov. 16, 1934, and minutes from the company's liquidation in 1948.

## **CONTENTS**

CONTENTS

Ledger

Meeting Minutes

CONTAINER

BV 5218

Folder 1