

Collection #
P 0346

**ASHLEY WARMOTH
COLLECTION, 1920, 1923**

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28 December 2018

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1920, 1923

PROVENANCE: Purchased from Barry Tulloss of Danville, Ind., 2011

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 2011.0201, 2011.0365

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ashley H. Warmoth was born 10 September 1868 to William (1844–1916) and Marilda Hubbard (1844–1921) Warmoth. The family lived in Morgan County, Indiana. William was a farm worker from Kentucky. Warmoth had two older brothers (Marion and James), a younger brother (Vurl), and two younger sisters (Murtie and Hattie).

Ashley Warmoth married Martha Belle Wheeler (1876–1944) in 1896 in Morgan County. They had two daughters: Opal (1898–1972) and Dorcas (1908–1963).

At the time of the 1900 census, Warmoth, his wife, and daughter Opal lived in Adams Township, Morgan County, where he was a farm worker. By 1910, the family had moved to Indianapolis, where Warmoth worked as a core maker at a foundry and where his daughter Dorcas was born. The 1920 census shows the family still living in Indianapolis with Warmoth still working as a core maker at a foundry. His wife and two daughters—as well as Opal’s husband, Sylvester Strong, and their two young children—lived in the household as well.

Ashley Warmoth died 25 October 1923 in Indianapolis. His death certificate lists his name as Asher H. Warmoth. Ashley and Martha were buried in Maple Hill Cemetery in Plainfield, Indiana.

Sources:

Find a Grave <findagrave.com>. Accessed 26 December 2018.

Indiana Death Certificates, 1899–2011 <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 26 December 2018.

Indiana Marriages, 1810–2001 <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 26 December 2018.

U.S. Census, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 26 December 2018.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s was part of a national movement of white Protestant Americanism that was popular in Indiana. It is estimated that approximately one-quarter or more of Indiana's native-born white men joined the KKK, as did thousands of Hoosier women. Many joined because of fear of what they saw as dangerous social forces at the time – alcohol, sex, jazz, and declining family values. Members included white people from a variety of walks of life, and from cities, towns, and farms – more from northern and central Indiana than from the southern part of the state. Klan symbols included the cross and the American flag, and members wore white robes and hooded masks. The Klan considered white, native-born Protestants to be the only true Americans and stood against racial or ethnic diversity. Protestant ministers were among the chief recruiters for the Klan. The Klan urged boycotting of Catholic- and Jewish-owned businesses and used intimidation in the form of burning a cross in someone's front yard. The Klan favored big public events such as rallies and parades to show its strength. The Klan moved into state and local politics, but due to corruption and scandals it lost its influence in Indiana by the end of the 1920s.

Source:

Madison, James H. and Lee Ann Sandweiss. "A Klan State?" In *Hoosiers and the American Story*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 2014: 201–207. General Collection: F526.3 .M34 2014

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one copy photograph of Ashley Warmoth with his wife and two daughters [ca. 1920] and nine small photographs of the crowd gathered for Ashley Warmoth's funeral on 28 October 1923 in Plainfield, Indiana, with many white-hooded Ku Klux Klan members in attendance.

Captions written on the 4 ¼ x 3 ¼ funeral photos spell his last name as "Warmouth." Some of the captions appear backwards, indicating that those photos were printed in reverse. On the back of one of these photos it is indicated that Ashley Warmoth is buried in block 6, section 4 of Maple Hill Cemetery in Plainfield, and that Forrest Tucker is "buried in front." This likely refers to Forrest A. Tucker (1896–1925), father of the well-known actor Forrest Tucker (1919–1986), who is buried in California. Most of the funeral photos are in a torn and tattered condition.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Warmoth Family

CONTENTS

Ashley Warmoth with his wife Martha Belle Wheeler Warmoth and two daughters: Opal Warmoth Strong and Dorcas Mary Warmoth (Orr) [photo taken ca. 1920; copy photo].

CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

Series 2: Funeral of Ashley Warmoth

CONTENTS

Nine 4 ¼ x 3 ¼ photographs of the funeral on 28 October 1923 in Plainfield, Ind., that show processions and large crowds including many in Ku Klux Klan white robes and hoods. Some may have been taken at Maple Hill Cemetery; some appear to be in a residential area. The photos have captions, and some show that the photos were printed backwards. The captions spell the last name as “Warmouth.” The photos are numbered at the bottom, ranging from 2 to 17. One photo shows a double line of KKK members facing each other with the photographer shooting from between them. Many of the photos have torn or tattered edges and some creases.

CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1