

Collection #
M 1360

**CLAUDE G. BOWERS
UNPUBLISHED DIARY AND RESEARCH, 1964-1986**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes; 1 half-size manuscript box; 2 card boxes

COLLECTION DATES: 1964-1986

PROVENANCE: Peter Sehlinger, Indianapolis, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Claude Gernade Bowers Letters, SC 1809; Sybil M. and Claude G. Bowers Letters, M 0767; *Indianapolis in the "Gay Nineties": High School Diaries of Claude G. Bowers*, E748.B724 A33 1964; *My Life: The Memoirs of Claude Bowers*, E748.B724 A3 1962; *Spokesman for Democracy: Claude G. Bowers, 1878-1958*, E748.B724 S44 2000

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.0143

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Claude Gernade Bowers was born 20 November 1878 in Westfield, Indiana, to Lewis Bowers and Julia Etta Bowers. Lewis Bowers operated general stores in Jolietville (Hamilton County) and in Whitestown (Boone County). Lewis and Julia Bowers divorced in 1888, after which Claude lived with Julia in Lebanon (Boone County). They moved to Indianapolis in 1891. Claude graduated from Indianapolis High School in 1898 but could not afford to attend college. He became an editorial writer for the *Indiana State Sentinel*, and later the *Terre Haute Gazette* and the *Terre Haute Star*.

Claude was a Democratic congressional candidate in 1904 and 1906, and in 1911 moved to Washington D.C. to serve as secretary to Senator John W. Kern. Before moving he married Sybil McCaslin in Marion County, Indiana, on 28 November 1911. Their daughter Patricia was born in 1915. By 1919 they were back in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Claude was an editorial writer for *The Journal Gazette*. The family lived in New York from 1923 to 1933, where Claude was an editorial writer for the *New York World* and a political columnist for the *New York Journal*.

Claude was Temporary Chairman of the 1928 Democratic National Convention where he delivered a keynote address. He campaigned for Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. Roosevelt appointed Claude Bowers as ambassador to Spain in 1933 and ambassador to Chile in 1939. After 1953 Claude and Sybil lived in New York where Claude worked with Eleanor Roosevelt and Adlai Stevenson.

Claude G. Bowers died on 21 January 1958 in New York, New York and was buried in Highland Lawn Cemetery in Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana.

Sources:

Material in collection

Collection guide for Sybil M. and Claude G. Bowers Letters (M 0767)

My Life: The Memoirs of Claude Bowers, E748.B724 A3 1962

Ancestry.com

Thomas T. Spencer. "'Old' Democrats and New Deal Politics: Claude G. Bowers, James A. Farley, and the Changing Democratic Party, 1933-1940" *Indiana Magazine of History* (1996) 92.1, page 26-45.

The New York Times, June 26-27, 1928.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

In 1964 Indiana Historical Society editor Gayle Thornbrough and historical author Holman Hamilton published the high school diaries of Claude Bowers. They then began editing Bowers' New York diaries from 1923 to 1933, but they were never published. This collection contains material from their editing and research of the New York diaries—mostly transcripts and research for footnotes.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
4 November 1923 – 19 February 1925 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 1, Folder 1
4 September 1926 – 23 December 1926 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 1, Folder 2
January 1927 – January 1928 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 1, Folder 3
January-June 1928 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 1, Folder 4
July 1928 – January 1930 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 1, Folder 5
January-March 1930 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 1, Folder 6
March-July 1930 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 2, Folder 1
July 1930 – August 1931 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 2, Folder 2
August 1931 – December 1932 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 2, Folder 3
December 1932 – 3 May 1933 Diary Transcript and Notes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 2, Folder 4
1923-1933 Diary Transcript, ca. 1979 (1 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 5
1923-1933 Diary Transcript, ca. 1979 (2 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 6
1923-1933 Diary Transcript, ca. 1979 (3 of 3)	Box 3, Folder 1
5 November 1923 – 19 February 1925 Footnotes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 3, Folder 2
4 September 1926 – December 1926	Box 3, Folder 3
January 1927 – January 1928 Footnotes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 3, Folder 4

January-June 1928 Footnotes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 3, Folder 5
July 1928 – December 1929 Footnotes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 3, Folder 6
January 1930 – 3 May 1933 Footnotes Draft, ca. 1979	Box 3, Folder 7
Footnotes for 1927-1928 entries, 1979	Box 3, Folder 8
Introduction and Gayle Thornbrough/Holman Hamilton Correspondence, 1964-1980	Box 3, Folder 9
Name Index 1	Box 5
Name Index 2	Box 6
Notes for Footnotes, 1978-1980	Box 4, Folder 1
Research from Kentucky Historical Society, 1986	Box 4, Folder 2
Research Notes, 1978-1979	Box 4, Folder 3
Rough Footnotes, 1978	Box 4, Folder 4