

Collection #  
P 0505

**INDIANAPOLIS CITY CONTROLLERS PORTRAITS  
CA. 1891–CA. 1963**

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Processed by

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21 May 2018

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 OVA box of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1891–ca. 1963

PROVENANCE: Unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0000.1225v0025

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Appointed by the Mayor of Indianapolis, the City Controller manages the city's finances, prepares the city's budget, controls all purchasing by city agencies, invests city funds, and compiles accounting data to prepare the annual financial reports. The position is part of the Office of Finance and Management.

Before the governments of Indianapolis and Marion County were consolidated in 1970 as what is known as "unigov," the Controller was considered the top assistant to the Mayor of Indianapolis, and by law, moved into that position if the Mayor left office before the end of his term for any reason.

William Wesley Woollen (1828–1902) was the first City Controller of Indianapolis, serving from 9 March 1891 until 31 August 1893. Opal Kremer appears to have been the first woman to serve as Controller (ca. 1967), and Alf Green was the first African American to serve in that position, appointed by Mayor Richard Lugar in 1973.

### Sources:

City of Indianapolis and Marion County. Office of Finance and Management <<http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/OFM/Pages/home.aspx>>. Accessed 21 May 2018.

Obituary for William Wesley Woollen in *Indianapolis Journal*, vol. 52, no. 268, p. 10, 25 September 1902. *Hoosier State Chronicles* <<https://newspapers.library.in.gov/cgi-bin/indiana?a=d&d=IJ19020925.1.10>>. Accessed 21 May 2018.

Rutledge, Hugh. "Green Escaped Ghetto In Rise to Controller." In *Indianapolis News*, 12 October 1973. Biographical clipping file for Alf Green at the Indiana State Library.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of twenty-seven black-and-white photographic portraits of most of Indianapolis's city controllers from the time period of 1891 to 1969. Most of the portraits have been identified; two are unidentified and are of men who likely served in the position briefly. The portraits are arranged alphabetically by last name. A chronological list may be of interest, with dates of service in the city controller position:

### **Chronological list of Indianapolis City Controllers through 1990:**

William Wesley Woollen, 9 March 1891–31 August 1893  
Preston C. Trusler, 1 September 1893–31 December 1894  
Endoras M. Johnson, 1 January 1895–30 June 1901  
George T. Breunig, ca. 1902–1903  
Jacob Piatt Dunn, ca. 1904–1906  
George T. Breunig, ca. 1907–1909  
Howard Kimball, 3 January 1910–2 January 1911  
Harry R. Wallace, 2 January 1911–28 November 1913  
Fred B. Akin, 28 November 1913–5 January 1914  
Jacob Piatt Dunn, ca. 1914–1916  
Reginald H. Sullivan, 14 July 1916–7 January 1918  
Robert H. Bryson, 7 January 1918–2 January 1922  
Joseph L. Hogue, 2 January 1922–4 January 1926  
William C. Buser, 4 January 1926–15 November 1927  
Sterling R. Holt, 15 November 1927–11 March 1930  
William L. Elder, 11 March 1930–2 June 1933  
Evans Woollen, Jr., 2 June 1933–1 January 1935  
Walter C. Boetcher, 1 January 1935–2 September 1937  
H. Nathan Swaim, ca. 1937–1938  
James E. Derry, ca. 1939–1942  
Roy E. Hickman, 1 January 1943–2 April 1947  
Phillip L. Bayt, ca. 1948–1949  
Patrick J. Barton, ca. 1950–1951  
John R. Barney, ca. 1952–1955  
Charles Henry Boswell, ca. 1956–1958  
Albert H. Losche, ca. 1959–August 1962  
Carl C. Beck, ca. 1963–1965  
\*Don L. Robinson, ca. 1966  
\*Opal Kremer, ca. 1967  
Not named in city directory, 1968  
\*William I. Spencer, ca. 1969  
\*Sam W. McWilliams, ca. 1970–1971  
\*Fred Armstrong, ca. 1972–1973  
\*Alf Green, ca. October 1973–1975  
\*Fred Armstrong, ca. 1976–1990

\*Portraits not in the collection, or they are unidentified.

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**Fred B. Akin**, served 28 November 1913–5 January 1914

**John R. Barney**, served ca. 1952–1955

**Patrick J. Barton**, served ca. 1950–1951

**Phillip L. Bayt**, served ca. 1948–1949

**Carl C. Beck**, served ca. 1963–1965

**Walter C. Boetcher**, served 1 January 1935–2 September 1937

**Charles Henry Boswell**, served ca. 1956–1958  
(photograph by Kindred)

**George T. Breunig**, served ca. 1902–1903, 1907–1909

**Robert H. Bryson**, served 7 January 1918–2 January 1922 (photograph by Bretzman, 1921)

**William C. Buser**, served 4 January 1926–15 November 1927 (photograph by Voorhis)

**James E. Derry**, served 1939–1942 (signed "James E. Derry / 1939–1942")

**Jacob Piatt Dunn**, served ca. 1904–1906, 1914–1916

**William L. Elder**, served 11 March 1930–2 June 1933 (photograph by Bretzman)

**Roy E. Hickman**, served 1 January 1943–2 April 1947 (signed "Roy E. Hickman / Jan 1, 1943 to April 2, 1947")

### CONTAINER

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Joseph L. Hogue</b> , served 2 January 1922–4 January 1926 (photograph by Voorhis)                             | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 15 |
| <b>Sterling R. Holt</b> , served 15 November 1927–11 March 1930   | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 16 |
| <b>Endoras M. Johnson</b> , served 1 January 1895–30 June 1901  | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 17 |
| <b>Howard Kimball</b> , served 3 January 1910–2 January 1911  | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 18 |
| <b>Albert H. Losche</b> , served ca. 1959–1961 (photograph by Bill Ehrics [?])                                    | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 19 |
| <b>Reginald H. Sullivan</b> , served 14 July 1916–7 January 1918  | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 20 |
| <b>H. [Hardses] Nathan Swaim</b> , served ca. 1937–1938   | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 21 |
| <b>Preston C. Trusler</b> , served 1 September 1893–31 December 1894  | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 22 |
| <b>Harry R. Wallace</b> , served 2 January 1911–28 November 1913 (photograph by Bretzman)                         | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 23 |
| <b>Evans Woollen, Jr.</b> , served 2 June 1933–1 January 1935   | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 24 |
| <b>William Wesley Woollen</b> , served 9 March 1891–31 August 1893  | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 25 |
| <b>Unidentified</b> [older man with glasses] (photograph by Foster Photos, date stamped on back: Dec 15, 1947)    | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 26 |
| <b>Unidentified</b> [man with receded hairline] (photograph by Foster Photos, date stamped on back: Feb 22, 1955) | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 27 |