

Collection #
P0355

JOHN GOODWIN HILL COLLECTION, 1914–1932

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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

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box of photographs, 1 oversize photograph folder in flat file storage, 1 oversize framed photograph in hanging storage
COLLECTION DATES:	1914–1932

PROVENANCE: Karl Theilig, Indianapolis, Indiana, July 1996

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1996.0556

NOTES: The family of Bessie May Hill Theilig, 1908–1996, donated these pictures in memory of her father, John Goodwin Hill.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born at Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada, in 1880, John Goodwin Hill immigrated to the United States ca. 1889. He traveled with an itinerant photography company and later moved to St. Joseph, Missouri. There he studied how to hand-color photographs. While in St. Joseph he met and married Bessie A. Musgrove. The couple moved to Indianapolis ca. 1907. Polk's Indianapolis Directory for 1907 lists a painter, John G. Hill, residing at 1018 West 30th Avenue. The 1908 city directory refers to an artist, John G. Hill, at 711 King Avenue. Hill's neighbor at that time was a salesman, A. Burton Dodd. The 1910 city directory includes an entry for "Dodd and Hill, Artists," at 1848 West Michigan Avenue. Alvin B. Dodd resided at that address, while John G. Hill lived at 1922 ½ West Michigan Avenue. The 1913 city directory lists John G. Hill as a photographer living at 1924 West Michigan Avenue.

Hill operated Hill's Studio on Michigan Avenue until circa 1932, when the family moved and he established Hill's Fountain Square Studio at 110 ½ Prospect Avenue. Hill died in 1951.

Sources:

Landsem, Helen A. Note included with donation, 3 July 1996.

Polk's Indianapolis City Directory, Taylor Mich.: R. L. Polk and Co.
General Collection: F534.I55 A18

United States Bureau of the Census. *Census of Indiana, 1920*

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains forty-three black-and-white photographs made by Hill's Studio in Indianapolis. Most images are group portraits. The subjects include children, family reunions, work crews, and community organizations. In most instances Hill posed his subjects in orderly rows, or beside objects significant to the organization that they represent.

Of particular interest are the group portraits of the *Indianapolis News* Glee Club and eighth grade graduating students from Indianapolis Public Schools. The Glee Club images consist of a framed 1914 composite photograph and four matted photographs of the "*Indianapolis News* Glee Club Entertainers, 1917." The school groups show images of graduating eighth grade students from schools 16, 30, 34, and 52, between 1918 and 1932.

The processor created folder titles based on the subjects of the photographs and wrote descriptions in square brackets [].

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Rosalind Orr English [daughter of Senator William English, portrait]

Bill Ellis [portraits with family and memorial card with poem for “Fifty Years of Service with the Indianapolis News 1876–1926”]

[Fire Station No. 3 with motorized fire trucks and crew, ca. 1920s]

East Park Basketball Team
[group in uniform with basketball, n.d.]

Indianapolis IOOF Band, 1931
[group with instruments]

“*Indianapolis News* Glee Club, organized 1914”
[composite group portrait with names, framed]

“*Indianapolis News* Glee Club Entertainers, 1917”
[4 mounted photographs : formal group portrait in tuxedos, two groups of minstrels in black face, and the Interlocutor Ed. A. Snyder]

Shank Golf Club [clubhouse, n.d.]

[Crew of the Akron, Clinton, & Youngstown Railroad posed with Engine 354, n.d.]

United Automobile Service, 2318 W. Michigan St.
[decorated automobile and employees in front of company building, ca. 1930]

Groups:
[Girls dancing in a garden]
[Students with diplomas]
[Bridal party]
[Ladies group in costume]
Dunn Eden Fruit Farm 1928 [family group]

Brinkmann’s Reunion [family group at a park]

School 52: [Graduation groups posed on front steps]
June Class 1918
January Class 1919

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

Hanging Storage:
14A, Section 6

Oversize Photographs:
Folder 1, Flat File 2-g

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 8

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 10

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 11

June Class 1919
January Class 1920
January Class 1921
Jan Class 1922
Jan Class 1923
June Class 1923
January Class 1924
June Class 1924
January Class 1926
January Class 1927
June Class 1927
January Class 1930
June Class 1931

School 16: Graduation Class June 1931
School 30: Graduation Class June 1932
School 34 Graduation Class 1932

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0355).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.