KU KLUX KLAN, CROWN POINT, INDIANA (LAKE COUNTY) RECORDS, 1913–1932

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Michael Stauffer
September 1998
Revised 2 February 2004

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: 3 manuscript boxes; 3 reels of microfilm

COLLECTION DATES: 1913–32

PROVENANCE: Ralph Gray, Indianapolis, October 1981

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1981.1019

NOTES:
HISTORICAL SKETCH

Among the Indiana Ku Klux Klans was Klan No. 72 at Crown Point in Lake County. Similar to the patterns of membership throughout Indiana, Crown Point Klan members were of various occupations. While many were farmers, some held jobs as merchants, politicians, state workers, truck drivers, clergymen, and others. Minute records from the 1920s and 1930s indicate that the Crown Point Klan usually held weekly meetings, called Klonklaves, at which activities were discussed and new applicant names were read. Like other Indiana Klans, the one in Crown Point was also active in creating appeals towards more Americanism. They were interested in government and education as suggested by the number of bulletins from J. A. Colescott, Imperial Representative for Indiana. In fact, a few Klan members ran for offices in Lake County elections. Collection material for Klan No. 72 ends with 1932, perhaps suggesting a decline in membership, which was the general pattern throughout Indiana at that time.

Sources:
Information in the collection.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Crown Point Ku Klux Klan records cover the years 1913–32. They include political
candidate listings for Crown Point and Lake County Council elections from 1923 and
1930. Much of the correspondence and bulletins came from J.A. Colescott, Imperial
Representative for Indiana and Michigan, and Grand Dragon of Ohio during the 1920s and
1930s. Many of the letters and bulletins concern the promotion of Americanism. Minutes
for Klan No. 72 go from May 1925 through September 1929. Several minutes records also
include the names of offices and officeholders for the meetings.

Much of the collection consists of financial records and receipts, 1923–31. Among the
records and receipts are those for members who paid dues to the Klan. Also included are
several records from the Kligrapp who acted as a secretary and recorder, and kept
proceedings and membership records. Among these papers are the “Klipgrapp’s Quarterly
Report” forms, May 1925–January 9, 1932, which functioned as tax reports. The “Imperial
Tax” was forty-five cents per minute per quarter and the ‘Realm Tax” was twenty-five
cents per member per quarter. Receipts consist of “Klabee’s Official Receipts,” and

A third portion of the collection contains membership records and applications. Separate
listings give names for “those in good standing” and “those with special markings,” either
deceased, transferred, or delinquent. Klan members with “special markings” were
sometimes penalized for their offenses. Frost’s The Challenge of the Klan, lists offenses
and penalties according to the Klan’s constitution. Several official blank forms, such as
those for applications and receipts, are also included as samples of the Klan’s record-
keeping methods.

A fourth part of the collection consists of publications and printed material, primarily from
1913–32. A monthly magazine, The Kourier, March 1927–February 1929, contains
numerous articles relating to Klan ideas on subjects such as patriotism and racial matters.
Similarly, a newsletter, the “Official Document,” 1925, 1930–January 1932, another
publication of the Klan, was issued from the office of the Grand Dragon, Realm of Indiana.
Several newspaper clippings make up another folder. They include a picture of Joe
Huffington, a Klan leader in Evansville during the 1920s. A number of promotional
materials for The Kourier can also be found in the collection; most are subscription cards
for the magazine, which announce special features of upcoming issues. Ephemera and
memorabilia in the collection are propaganda-type materials which proclaim Klan ideas on
patriotism, education, and Catholicism.

The collection has been microfilmed, and the microfilm now forms part of the collection as
F 1700–F 1702.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Political Papers and Correspondence, 1923–32

CONTENTS

Political Officers’/Candidates’ Papers, 1923, 1930, n.d.

Correspondence, 1926, 1928–32, n.d.

Correspondence of J. A. Colescott, Indiana Imperial Representative, 1929–32, n.d.

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Series 2: Bulletins, 1929–32

CONTENTS

Bulletins/Notices from J. A. Colescott, 1929–30

Bulletins/Notices from J. A. Colescott, 1931

Bulletins/Notices from J. A. Colescott, 1932

Educational Bulletins, Nos.1–3, from J. A. Colescott, 1929–30

Bulletins/Notices from John A. Tabor; Knights of Ku Klux Klan; Executive Committee in Hammond, IN; E. R. Waddington, 1929–30

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Series 3: Minutes, 1925–32

CONTENTS

Minutes, Klan No. 72 at Crown Point, IN, May 1925–Sept. 1929

Minutes, Fifth Imperial Klonvokation, 18–19 Aug. 1930; 3rd Klonvers, 1st Province, 6 Sept. 1931

Minutes, Lake County Council, 1930–32, n.d.

CONTAINER

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## Series 8: Microfilm of Collection

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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://157.91.92.2/
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, M 0409).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.