

Collection #
M 1481

**KU KLUX KLAN, HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA
RECORDS, CA. 1923-1926**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

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

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1923-1926

PROVENANCE: Hamilton County Historical Society, Noblesville, Indiana, February, 2020

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2020.0038

NOTES:

SKETCH

The Indiana Branch of the Ku Klux Klan was started in 1915 to combat what it considered social evils such as alcohol, morality, and political corruption. It also believed in the supremacy of the white race and opposed immigrants, blacks, foreign born, Jews, and Catholics. The Klan's rise occurred primarily in the early 1920s in opposition to an increase in immigration from countries in southern and eastern Europe. Thanks in part to its grand dragon, D. C. Stephenson, Indiana had the largest number of Klan members in the country and from 1922-1923 it averaged over 2,000 new members per week, peaking at approximately 250,000 in 1925. Among the members were over half of the members of the Indiana General Assembly and Governor Edward Jackson. The organization's popularity declined with the murder of Madge Oberholtzer by Stephenson and his subsequent conviction. This was followed by the expose published by the Indianapolis *Times* detailing the extent of the Klan's corruption with information supplied by Stephenson. By the end of the decade, membership in the Indiana Klan had dropped below 4,000.

Wikipedia, accessed 24 March 2020

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of membership records including oaths stating they were native born Americans, dues cards, delinquent notices, reinstatements and membership lists for the Hamilton County, Indiana, of the Ku Klux Klan, 1923-1926. Also included are transcripts compiled from these cards by Hamilton County Historian, Joe H. Burgess.

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Native Born Loyalty Oath Cards, n.d.	Box 1
Membership Dues Cards, n.d.	Box 2
Transcript, Dues Receipts, 1923-1924	Box 3, Folder 1
Delinquent Member List, 1926	Box 3, Folder 2
Transcript, Cicero and Arcadia Units, Voted for Reinstatement, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 3
Transcript, Native Born Loyalty Oath List, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 4
Transcript, Naturalized Dues Information, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 5