

Collection #  
P 0599

## TERRE HAUTE KU KLUX KLAN MATERIALS, 1886-1924

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Processed by

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

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 box of photographs

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1886-1924

PROVENANCE: Michael Kramer, Ligonier, IN, 2014

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2014.0192

NOTES:

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Terre Haute, Indiana is located in Vigo County, IN along the border with Illinois. It is the county seat. Indiana State University, Saint Mary-of-the Woods College, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology and Ivy Tech Community College are all located in Terre Haute. The city is situated at a peak along the Wabash River. US Routes 40 and 41 intersect in Terre Haute (U.S. 40 runs from California to Maryland and U.S. 41 runs from Michigan to Florida). The town was home to Fort Harrison, built in 1811 and used for the War of 1812. A battle took place there in 1812 (the Siege of Fort Harrison), in which the U.S. came out victorious. It is considered the first land victory for the U.S. in the War of 1812.

The Ku Klux Klan is a white supremacy, nativist, anti-semitic, anti-catholic organization that operates primarily in the United States. It has three distinct phases of history. The first Klan was born out of the Civil War by former Confederate soldiers. They were primarily focused on white supremacy and were most prevalent in the Southern U.S. They were suppressed by the late 1870's. The second Klan grew from the popularity of the film Birth of a Nation in 1915. It reached its peak existence and popularity in the 1920's. This Klan focused mostly on nativism, focusing on Anglo-Saxon heritage. The third Klan built back up during the 1950's and 1960's. They primarily battled the Civil Rights movements of that day. They hold a similar stance today. Their estimated population in 2016 was 3,000-6,000.

The Klan in Indiana: The KKK was popular in Indiana during the 1920's. It had the largest membership of any state by 1922 and by 1925 it was estimated that 30% of white Indiana men were members, including approximately half of the General Assembly and the Governor (Edward L. Jackson). There are currently several KKK associated groups in Auburn, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Madison and Muncie.

Milda Voorhies (?-?) Little information is known about Mrs. Milda Voorhies.

S. Glenn Young (? - 24 Jan. 1925) was a rogue public official, operating mostly in Illinois. He was recruited by the Klan in the early 20's to be a Prohibition officer. He was ruthless in his arrests. In 1923 he arrested the mayor and sheriff of Herrin, IL after a Klansman's son was killed in anti-Klan riots. He took office and declared himself acting sheriff. He was indicted for parading with arms, false imprisonment, conspiracy, kidnapping, assault with attempt to murder, assault with deadly weapons, falsely assuming an office, robbery, larceny, riot and malicious intent. He was killed by a deputy in a cigar store. Over 15,000 Klansmen and their supporters attended his funeral.

Brown Harwood (? - ?) Little information is known about Brown Harwood.

Albert Pike (29 Dec. 1809 - 2 April 1891) was a Confederate Brigadier General in the Indian Territories during the Civil War, though he resigned early in the war due to issues with his commanding officer. He was also a prominent Freemason, developing many of the rituals for the Scottish Rite's Southern Jurisdiction. In addition, Pike was a journalist, lawyer and poet. He is the only Confederate officer to have an outdoor statue in Washington D.C.

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## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains:

Two Carte de Visite photographs of Mrs. Milda Voorhies (one with a signature);

Two large portraits of Brown Harwood -- each photo is signed "Sincerely Brown Harwood, one is in a portfolio display;"

One two-sided card print detailing a hospital visit for S. Glenn Young and a shooting in which he and his wife were injured (the first side shows Young in a hospital bed, hand extended and reads, "Greetings: S. Glenn Young -- St. Elizabeth's Hospital," while the reverse side shows a car with bullet holes and shattered windows and reads, "The automobile in which S. Glenn Young and wife were fired upon and wounded, Friday, May 23, 1924, near Okawville, Ill.");

One Carte de Visite print of Albert Pike with a signature below, as well as an envelope;

Five miscellaneous photographs -- one of a hooded KKK figure, one of the Tennessee law office where the first wave of the KKK was founded, one portrait of an unnamed man (a stamp on the back reads, "J.A. Murdoch Commercial Photographer 220 Courtland St. Atlanta, GA, Phone Ivy 1886") and one of an Orbell political cartoon and one of a group of ladies and gentlemen seated on a stage -- a sign in the background says 1916;

One guidebook brochure on "The Flag, How to Display It, How to Respect It" from 1923;

One book of "Papers Read at the Meeting of Grand Dragons Knights of the Ku Klux Klan At their First Annual Meeting held at Asheville, North Carolina, July 1923;" and

One book of "Proceedings of the Second Imperial Klonsvokation held in Kansas City, Missouri Sept. 23, 24, 25 and 26, 1924."

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Two Carte de Visite photographs of Mrs. Milda Voorhies, one with name

Two large portraits of Brown Harwood, one in portfolio

One two-sided card print featuring S. Glenn Young

One Carte de Visite print of Albert Pike, one envelope

Five miscellaneous photographs

One guidebook brochure on the American flag

Proceedings of papers read at the first annual meeting of the Grand Dragons book, 1923

Proceedings of the Second Imperial Klönvokation book, 1924

### 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

Photographs  
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Photographs  
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Photographs  
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