

Collection #
M 0409
F 1700–1702

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

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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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.

Stanley Frost, *The Challenge of the Klan* (Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1924) pp. 286–297.

James H. Madison, *Indiana Through Tradition and Change: A History of the Hoosier State and Its People 1920–1945*, v. 5 (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1982) pp. 45, 49.

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 “Official Order on Klabee,” 1925–31. The Klabee acted as treasurer of the Klan.

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 Courier*, 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 Courier* 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	CONTAINER
Political Officers’/ Candidates’ Papers, 1923, 1930, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence, 1926, 1928–32, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence of J. A. Colescott, Indiana Imperial Representative, 1929–32, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 3

Series 2: Bulletins, 1929–32

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Bulletins/Notices from J. A. Colescott, 1929–30	Box 1, Folder 4
Bulletins/Notices from J. A. Colescott, 1931	Box 1, Folder 5
Bulletins/Notices from J. A. Colescott, 1932	Box 1, Folder 6
Educational Bulletins, Nos.1–3, from J. A. Colescott, 1929–30	Box 1, Folder 7
Bulletins/Notices from John A. Tabor; Knights of Ku Klux Klan; Executive Committee in Hammond, IN; E. R. Waddington, 1929–30	Box 1, Folder 8

Series 3: Minutes, 1925–32

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Minutes, Klan No. 72 at Crown Point, IN, May 1925–Sept. 1929	Box 1, Folder 9
Minutes, Fifth Imperial Klonvokation, 18–19 Aug. 1930; 3 rd Klonvers, 1 st Province, 6 Sept. 1931	Box 1, Folder 10
Minutes, Lake County Council, 1930–32, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 11

Series 4: Financial Records, 1923–32

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Dues Records, 1923–30

Box 1, Folder 12

Dues Records, 1924–31, Lake Klan # 72, Unit # 7,
Crown Point

Box 1, Folder 13

Checks; Kligrapp's Cash Book, 1925–28

Box 1, Folder 14

General Ledger, Crown Point, 23 April, 1925

Box 1, Folder 15

Kligrapp's Quarterly Report, 1925–32

Box 1, Folder 16

Lease for use of the Independent Order of Foresters
Lodge Room in Crown Point, IN, Jan. 1926

Box 1, Folder 17

Annual Balances, 31 Dec. 1926–31 Dec. 1930

Box 1, Folder 18

Klabee's Official Receipts; Official Order on Klabee, 1925–
31

Box 1, Folder 19

Series 5: Membership Lists

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Membership Dues, 1926–31

Box 2, Folder 1

Miscellaneous Receipts, May 1925–31, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 2

Membership Books, 1923–27

Box 2, Folder 3

Membership Listings, Robinson Klan No. 72

Box 2, Folder 4

Membership Records, Officers, Robinson Klan No.
72, Crown Point, 1929, 1930, 1932/ Province No. 6,
1931

Box 2, Folder 5

Membership Records, Member Listings, those with
"Special Markings," (Dead, transferred, delinquent,
etc.) Robinson Klan No. 72, Crown Point, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 6

Crown Point Numerical List, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 7

Membership Records, Klan No. 72, Listings, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 8

Recommended Membership Listings, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 9
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Series 6: Applications

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CONTAINER

Applications and Petitions for Citizenship in KKK,
1924–25, n.d.; Transfers, 1925, 1926, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 10

Applications for Membership with Personal Files, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 11

Applications/Reference Cards, n.d.

Box 3, Folder 1

Official Forms/Applications/Receipts Forms, 1931, n.d.

Box 3, Folder 2

Series 7: Miscellaneous and Printed Material

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Miscellaneous, 1924–31, n.d.

Box 3, Folder 3

Ephemera, 1913, 1929, 1932, n.d.

Box 3, Folder 4

Newsletters, “Official Document,” 1926, 1930–Jan. 1932

Box 3, Folder 5

The Kourier, 1927

Box 3, Folder 6

The Kourier, 1928–29

Box 3, Folder 7

Celebration Poster, 1930; Questionnaire Responses, n.d.

Box 3, Folder 8

Promotional Material, 1931, 1932, n.d. for *The Kourier*

Box 3, Folder 9

Newspaper clippings, 29 June, 1977, n.d.

Box 3, Folder 10

Series 8: Microfilm of Collection

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CONTAINER

Contents of Box 1, Folders 1–13

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Contents of Box 1, Folder 14–Box 3, Folder 5

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Contents of Box 3, Folder 6–Box 3, Folder 10

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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.