

Collection #
P 0325

**EZRA WINTER MURALS
IN THE GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEMORIAL
PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1941**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1941

PROVENANCE: Unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1941.0304

NOTES:

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

An act of the Indiana General Assembly 23 February 1927 established the Indiana George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission. The commission's mandate was to "acquire suitable land in Knox County to include the site of Fort Sackville, and to erect hereon . . . a structure or structures which will appropriately, adequately, fittingly, and permanently commemorate the historic expedition of George Rogers Clark culminating in the capture of Fort Sackville." One feature of the resulting park in Vincennes is the George Rogers Clark Memorial. Construction of the memorial began in September 1931.

The commission, in consultation with architect Frederic Hiron, selected Ezra Winter to paint a series of murals to be hung in the interior of the memorial. The commission requested that the paintings primarily emphasize the "winning of the Old Northwest." Winter signed a contract with the commission on 2 October 1930. The commission would pay Winter \$10,000 for his preliminary work, which would include "first and final sketches of several panels that would be submitted before 1 March 1931." Winter's final fee was not to exceed \$100,000. Winter painted seven murals depicting Clark's expedition to the Ohio Valley, and his capture of Fort Sackville. He hung his work in December 1934. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the memorial, and the park, on 14 June 1936.

Ezra Augustus Winter, born 10 March 1886 in Manistee, Michigan, studied at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts in 1908 and 1909. Winter was a specialist in life-size paintings. His works hung in the Cunard Building, the New Cotton Exchange, and Radio City Music Hall (New York); the Eastman Theater and the Rochester New York Savings Bank (Rochester, New York); reading rooms in the Library of Congress; the Birmingham, Alabama, Public Library; and other locations. Winter died 6 April 1949.

Sources:

Bearss, Edwin C. *The George Rogers Clark Memorial: Historic Structure Report, Historical Data*. Washington: United States Department of the Interior. Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Division, 1970.

Taylor, Robert, ed. *Indiana: A New Historical Guide*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1989.

Who Was Who In America, Vol. 1, 1897–1942. Chicago: A. N. Marquis Company, 1943.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains seven black-and-white photographs of paintings by Ezra Winter. The paintings depict George

Rogers Clark's expedition to the Ohio Valley, and his capture of Fort Sackville. Written in pencil on the verso of the photographs are annotations. The paintings are listed in the contents section by their titles as shown on the front of each painting.

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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, P 0325).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.