

Collection #
M 1173

**INDIANAPOLIS CALEDONIAN CLUB AND THE
SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF INDIANAPOLIS
RECORDS, 1915–2008**

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 half size manuscript box

COLLECTION
DATES: 1915–2008

PROVENANCE: Carson C. Smith, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 2010

RESTRICTIONS: None

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HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2010.0276

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Caledonian Club of Indianapolis was created in 1879 by six men, among whom were W.W. Howie, William Wallace, John & R.L. Jenkins (brothers), and John McGaw (who became the first president of the club). Although the club itself was created for men, a Ladies Auxiliary was added later. The original name of the club, "Caledonian Quoiting Club," was chosen because many of the men in the club enjoyed playing quoits, a game played with flat discs tossed over an iron pin or stake set into the ground (similar to horseshoes).

The first meeting was called on January 29, 1879. The club honored Scottish heritage and kept memories of Scotland in the hearts of those who had left it. Two of the ways in which club members honored their Scottish heritage were playing Scottish games and singing traditional Scottish songs.

Quoiting was dropped from the club name by William MacBeth, one of the club's presidents, because members wanted to broaden the club's purpose. The club held Scottish Concerts, including one to celebrate the club's fiftieth anniversary in 1929. Accounts vary as to whether the club was dissolved in the 1930s or as late as the 1970's (the Club was mentioned in a 1974 letter, so it may have been the 1970s).

The dissolution of the Indianapolis Caledonian Club left a void in Indianapolis because of the lack of Scottish social clubs. The Scottish Society of Indianapolis was created by founder and president, Carter Carlisle Keith, on December 31, 1983. The first board meeting was held on April 23, 1984; most of the first Board of Trustees consisted of Carter Keith's family members. The society was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation on August 23, 1984. On February 21, 1985, the society was granted membership in the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations.

The society meets monthly and holds special events to promote education about Scottish culture and heritage. They sponsor the Indianapolis Scottish Foundation, a tax exempt charity formed to support education in Scottish arts, history, culture, and genealogy. The society also hands out the Thomas H. (Tommy) Thompson Award for excellence in service to the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. Currently the society has about 200 members.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

The Scottish Society of Indianapolis. "About Us." <http://indyscot.org/about-us/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is arranged in chronological order. Folder one contains documents about the Caledonian Club, an early Indianapolis Scottish club. The Caledonian Club materials include lists of members, correspondence, poems, programs, and obituaries of former club members.

The balance of the collection pertains to the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. The founding documents folder contains articles of incorporation, a certificate of incorporation, correspondence, drawings of crests and flags, a membership application, an International Festival '84 program, an informational pamphlet, and stationery. There is also a Scottish Society of Indianapolis confederation agreement with Clan Na Gael Pipe Band.

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Correspondence and club documents, 1986–87.	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence and club documents, 1988–89.	Box 1, Folder 5
SSI Clan listing, 2002.	Box 1, Folder 6
Kirkin' of the Tartan, 2003.	Box 1, Folder 7
History of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, 2008.	Box 1, Folder 8
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Scottish Society of Indianapolis confederation agreement with Clan Na Gael Pipe Band, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 10

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://opac.indianahistory.org/>
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 1173).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.