

Collection #  
SC 3351  
DVD 1184-1188

**ROBERT DION  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW AND TRANSCRIPT, 2016**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Melanie Hankins  
September 2017

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder; 5 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 2016

PROVENANCE: Indiana LGBT Oral History Project

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2017.0254

NOTES: Forms part of the Indiana LGBT Oral History Project.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

In 2014 the Indiana Historical Society began the Indiana LGBT Collecting Initiative to collect, preserve, and make accessible materials that document the rich history, tradition, and culture of Indiana's LGBT communities. Part of the collecting initiative includes the Indiana LGBT Oral History Project. During this time period of 2014-2016, interviews were conducted of individuals, couples and families from all walks of life Indiana. This collection centers around the oral history interview of Robert Dion conducted by Mark Lee on February 26, 2016.

Robert Dion was born in Florida and grew up in Elkhart, Indiana. He teaches Political Science at the University of Evansville, where he is also the Chairperson of the Department of Law, Politics, and Society. Since coming out as gay in college, Dion has attended a number of rallies and marches of LGBT and other groups' civil right. He is active member of the Democratic Party and was appointed to the Civil Rights Commission (now Human Relations Commission) by former Evansville mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, serving as the Commission's Chair since 2004. He currently resides in Evansville, Indiana.

Sources:

Information found in the collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The interview was transcribed from one video recorded interview with Robert Dion conducted in February 26, 2016 by Mark Lee, lead project manager for the Indiana LGBT Oral History Project. The interview, which includes the video recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The video recorded interview is approximately an hour and a half and is recorded on two DVDs. The collection includes one folder of the interview transcription.

The following is an index to the oral history transcript listing the topics discussed and the pages on which they can be found.

### TRANSCRIPT

#### Interview

Introduction to Robert Dion.....	3
Coming out to his parents after college.....	5
Graduate school experience at Indiana University-Bloomington.....	7
Attending various LGBT rallies and Marches on Washington.....	9
Appointment as Chairman of the Evansville Civil Rights Commission.....	10
Working on various LGBT and Democratic organizations.....	12
Experience during the AIDS crisis.....	14-15
Participation in the Democratic Party.....	16
Democratic Party supporting gay rights/Interacting with Julia Carson.....	17
Leaders in Indiana LGBT activist groups in Indiana.....	22-24
National legalization of same sex marriage.....	25

## **CONTENTS**

### CONTENTS

Interview Transcription

Dion Oral History Interview Disc 1, user copy

Dion Oral History Interview Disc 2, user copy

Dion Oral History Interview Disc 1, master copy

Dion Oral History Interview Disc 2, master copy

Digital Transcription and Photographs

### CONTAINER

Folder 1

DVD 1184

DVD 1185

DVD1186

DVD 1187

DVD 1188