

Inventory of the

American Legion Post # 66
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 154

INTRODUCTION

The records of DeKalb American Legion Post #66 were donated to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on August 2, 1982.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1
Number of containers: 3
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 154

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records in this collection partially document the activities of the DeKalb American Legion Post #66 from 1919 to 1979. Types of records include: meeting minutes (1969-1971), membership records (1929-1942), newsletters, certificates, cemetery maps, and photographs. Due to the extensive gaps in the documentation, the research value of the collection is limited. Researchers should refer to related materials held by the Center: DeKalb Daughters of Veterans Club (RC 127); Grand Army of the Republic (RC 126); and Vertical File Manuscripts.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The American Legion traces its origins to a meeting of members of the American Expeditionary Force held in Paris in March 1919 known as the "Paris caucus." This caucus was followed in May by another meeting in St. Louis and in November by the American Legion's first national convention in Minneapolis.

Local veterans first met to discuss the formation of a DeKalb American Legion on June 6, 1919 at city hall. An organizational committee was appointed with Thomas S. Murray as chairman. With the assistance of Lieutenant William Knight of Rockford, the DeKalb American Legion was formally organized on June 20, 1919. The first chairman (later Commander) was a DeKalb physician, Captain John P. Kane; the secretary was Harris M. Fisk. Membership was open to all veterans who were in a branch of the Armed Services during wartime. By October 1919 local membership had grown to 135 members. The American Legion auxiliary was formed in 1920. The DeKalb American Legion Post #66 participates in many veteran's activities, athletic events, as well as community events. Membership in 1984 was 425 members.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

American Legion
DeKalb (Ill.)
Veterans
World War I

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	History, 1933-1935
	2	By-Laws, DeKalb County Council, 1952
	3	Meeting Minutes, 1969-1971
	4	Correspondence, 1961
	5	Newsletters, 1965-1972
	6	Financial Records, 1961, 1972
	7-8	Official Members Ledger, 1929-1942
	9	Past Commanders Club, 1972-1973
	10	Certificates, 1929-1947
	2	1
2		Portraits, Post Commanders, 1919-1969 (13)
3		Parade Photos, 1947, 1979, n.d. (5)
4		Baseball Teams, 1977, 1979, n.d. (3)
5		Miscellaneous Photographs, Unidentified, (8, 1 neg.)
6		Convention Report, 1972
7		<u>Counseling the Veteran, 1972</u>
3		Membership Cards, 1964-1967
Oversize Drawer 17	3	Certificates, Photographs, Malta Cemetery Map, Afton Cemetery Map, DeKalb Honor Roll
	4	Photographs: Co. A, 3 rd Illinois Infantry, 1917 Co. A, Illinois National Guard, June 22, 1916 Co. H or K?, 344th Infantry, Camp Grant, Illinois