
Guide to the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), Realm of California Records

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Title: Ku Klux Klan (KKK), Realm of California Records

Creator: Ku Klux Klan

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Extent: 0.21 linear feet

Date (inclusive): 1921-1947

Abstract: During the 1910s, the Klan, which had been defunct since the concluding decades of the 19th century, was revived in Atlanta, Georgia and spread across the country within a decade. The Klan's revival was due in part to urbanization and industrialization. Many Klansmen in the 1920s - 1940s were lower to middle class whites who sought to protect their jobs and neighborhoods, both from black migrants moving out of the South and new immigrants arriving in industrial cities, particularly those from Southern and Eastern Europe who tended to be Catholic and Jewish. This collection of materials from the Realm of California primarily includes by-laws, correspondence, and publications.

Language of Material: English

Historical Note:

The Ku Klux Klan is a far-right organization which advocates extremist reactionary currents such as white supremacy and white nationalism, and is opposed to immigration. The first Ku Klux Klan, founded in 1865 in Pulaski, Tennessee, was primarily made up of Confederate veterans of the American Civil War and operated under a decentralized structure in which local chapters and bands were highly independent. The first Klan was essentially defunct by the late 19th century. In 1915, the second Ku Klux Klan was founded by William J. Simmons in Atlanta, Georgia. By the 1920s, social tensions brought on by rapid industrialization and increased immigration in urban areas had set the stage for the Klan's expanding popularity. Unlike the first Klan, the second Klan was a centralized fraternal organization, with a national and state structure, which had rapidly spread from the South to the Midwest and Western states. The purification of politics, anti-Catholicism, the enforcement of prohibition, and nativism formed the nucleus of the second Klan's objectives and goals, summed up by their credo, "One Hundred Percent Americanism." Membership in the second Klan appealed to lower, working, and middle class white Protestants from urban areas, whose fears and concerns over jobs and housing played into the Klan's philosophies.

By 1924, at the height of the second Klan's popularity, membership rose to 6,000,000, but by 1930 it had dropped to 30,000. Throughout the early 1940s financial difficulties, chronic internal conflicts, external opposition, and the exposure of criminal behavior had diminished the organization's power and appeal. In 1944, the Internal Revenue Service filed a lien for \$685,000 against the Klan, which led to the closure of the organization's home office and subsequent dissolution of its national charter.

Scope and Contents

The *Ku Klux Klan (KKK), Realm of California Records* includes correspondence and membership cards from Fresno and Los Angeles, newspaper and pamphlet literature, and Ku Klux Klan or related publications. In many cases, individuals named in the correspondence and membership cards have been blacked or cut out. The collection is arranged alphabetically.

Related Materials:

This collection is part of the [California Collection](#).

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For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Documents

Box 1, Folder 1

By-Laws of The Ku Klux Klan, ca. 1921

Box 1, Folder 2

C.E. Snelson, Grand Dragon - Correspondence, 1939

Box 1, Folder 3	C.W. Taylor, State Commander - Correspondence.
Box 1, Folder 4	California Fiery Cross, Vol. 1, No. 10, 1924 April 21
Box 1, Folder 5	Citizenship - Robert Burnett
Box 1, Folder 6	Constitution and Laws of the Ku Klux Klan, Constitution and Laws of the Women of the Ku Klux Klan, 1921
Box 1, Folder 7	Dr. Samuel Green, Grand Dragon - Correspondence, 1947
Box 1, Folder 8	Edward Young Clarke, Imperial Wizard Pro-Tem - Correspondence, ca. 1922
Box 1, Folder 9	G.W. Price, Imperial Representative, Realm of California - Correspondence, 1923-1924
Box 1, Folder 10	James M. Harvey, Imperial Night Hawk - Correspondence, 1941
Box 1, Folder 11	Junior Order United American Mechanics, Los Angeles
Box 1, Folder 12	Kourier Magazine, Vol. 2, Nos. 11, 12, October 1926, November 1926
Box 1, Folder 13	Ku Klux Klan Literature
Box 1, Folder 14	Naturalization Ceremony
Box 1, Folder 15	Oath of Allegiance
Box 1, Folder 16	T.C. Moore, Fresno Klan - Correspondence
Box 1, Folder 17	To All Klansmen - Greeting
Box 1, Folder 18	Western Citizen, Vol. 1, No. 6, 1924 March 24