

**UNDERSTANDING THE TERRORISTS: WHERE THEY ARE AND HOW THEY BREED** – United States of America White House/President Barack Obama and His Legal Counsel/Advisor Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz – **LOOKING AT THEIR CRIMINAL PRODIGY(S) and VICTIMS** Of Their **TERRORIST CRIMES!**



**James Eagan Holmes**  
07/20/12 Colorado Shooter



**George Zimmerman**  
02/26/12 Shooter/Killer of Trayvon Martin

*IF United States of America President Barack Obama had a son, mostly likely they would look and act like James Eagan Holmes and George Zimmerman and Obama would **CONDONE** and attempt to **COVER UP** their **CRIMES!***



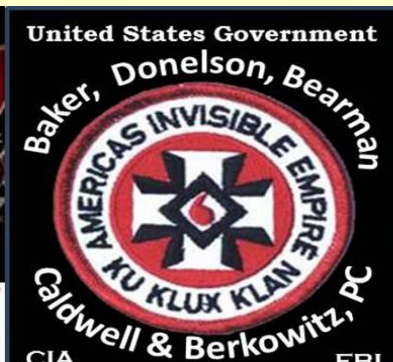
09/11/01 World Trade Center Attacks



Trayvon Martin



07/20/12 Colorado Shootings



Howard Henry Baker Jr. and Lance B. Leggitt – Attorneys For United States of America President Barack Obama

While the laws **CLEARLY PROHIBIT MONOPOLIES**, the following information regarding the **WHITE SUPREMACIST Organization – KU KLUX KLAN** – may provide additional light on how it appears a **WHITE SUPREMACIST Organization as Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz has HIJACKED the United States of America Government to bring about their WHITE SUPREMACY Agenda – ONE World Bank, ONE World ORDER, ONE World GOVERNMENT (i.e. with Baker Donelson at the “Helm of the Ship,” ONE World HEALTH System (i.e. masking their GENOCIDE Practices) . . . . Hopefully, the COLLAPSE of the GLOBAL Economy and FINANCIAL Markets . . . will provide the PUBLIC/WORLD with additional information as to why such TERRORISTS Regimes (as the United States of America) are EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!** Furthermore, what can be further expected from the United States of America under its **CURRENT TERRORISTS Regime** if the **PEOPLE/CITIZENS** of the United States of America allow Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz and its **TERRORISTS Conspirators to STAY IN POWER.** Here are only a FEW of the **GOVERNMENT POSITIONS Baker Donelson CONTROL/RUN:**

- Chief of Staff to the President of the United States
- **United States Secretary of State**
- United States **Senate Majority** Leader
- **Members of the United States Senate**
- **Members of the United States House of Representatives**
- Director of the *Office of Foreign Assets Control* for United States
- **Department of Treasury**
- **Director** of the *Administrative Office* of the United States
- Chief Counsel, Acting Director, and Acting Deputy Director of United States **Citizenship & Immigration Services** within the *United States Department of Homeland Security*
- **Majority and Minority Staff Director** of the *Senate Committee on Appropriations*
- *Member of United States President’s Domestic Policy Council*
- Counselor to the Deputy Secretary for the United States Department of **HHS**
- Chief of Staff of the *Supreme Court* of the United States
- **Administrative Assistant** to the *Chief Justice* of the United States
- Deputy under Secretary of International Trade for the United States Department of Commerce
- *Ambassador* to Japan
- *Ambassador* to Turkey
- *Ambassador* to Saudi Arabia
- *Ambassador* to the Sultanate of Oman
- Governor of Tennessee
- Governor of Mississippi
- Deputy Governor and Chief of Staff for the Governor of Tennessee
- Commissioner of Finance & Administration (Chief Operating Officer) - State of Tennessee
- Special Counselor to the Governor of Virginia
- United States **Circuit Court of Appeals Judge**
- United States **District Court Judges**
- **United States Attorneys**
- Presidents of State and Local Bar Associations

See Baker Donelson's website at: [http://www.oilfieldpatents.com/about\\_the\\_firm/](http://www.oilfieldpatents.com/about_the_firm/)  
 Should they attempt to scrub this information, a copy may be obtained at the following links as well:  
<http://www.slideshare.net/VogelDenise/bd-oilfield-patents>  
<https://secure.filesanywhere.com/fs/v.aspx?v=8a706b8c5c6770baa867>



July 27, 2009 United States Department of Justice PRESS RELEASE: "*Seven Charged With Terrorism Violations. . .*" Seven individuals have been charged with **CONSPIRING** to provide **MATERIAL SUPPORT** to **TERRORISTS** and **CONSPIRING to murder, kidnap, maim and injure persons abroad. . .**

The indictment alleges that . . . a **VETERAN of TERRORIST training camps in PAKISTAN and AFGHANISTAN** who, over the past **THREE** years, *has CONSPIRED with others in THIS COUNTRY to RECRUIT and help young men TRAVEL OVERSEAS in order to KILL. . .*"

"These charges hammer home the point that **TERRORISTS** and their **SUPPORTERS** are not confined to the remote regions of some far away land but can **GROW** and **FESTER** right here at **HOME**. **TERRORISTS** and their **SUPPORTERS** are **RELENTLESS** and constant in their efforts to **HURT** and **KILL INNOCENT** people across the globe. . . <http://www.slideshare.net/VogelDenise/072709-doj-seven-charged-with-terrorism-violations-11651101>

It appears that such **TERRORIST Groups as the Ku Klux Klan** used their TIES/CONNECTIONS to the United States of America **WHITE HOUSE**, United States of America **CONGRESS**, other Government Agencies and **CONSPIRATORS** to pull off the **911 Attacks on the World Trade Center Buildings** and other targets on September 11, 2001. Not only that, it appears used the United States of America Military to further their TERRORISTS Attacks on foreign – i.e. TRAINING them to ENLIST in the military and create FALSE/MISLEADING reasons for wars (i.e. as the **“DOMESTIC” Attacks – this is when a Government carries out attacks on its OWN Citizens, etc.** - on the World Trade Center Buildings and the CREATION of FALSE/MISLEADING Iran Reports, etc. After the soldiers commit such HIDEOUS KILLINGS/MURDERS, the KLAN sneaks them out of the country (as with Afghanistan Shooter Robert Bales) so that they ESCAPE EXECUTION!

United States of America’s President Barack Obama and United State Congress/Government needs to know that these are “NO LAUGHING MATTERS” and their Leaders need to be brought to JUSTICE!



**UNDERSTANDING THE EVIL/WICKED FORCES  
THAT MAY BE BEHIND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S  
"KILL LIST!"**



**These appear to be VICTIMS on United States of America President Barack Obama's KILL List who may have known the TRUTH behind the May 1, 2011 LIE President Barack Obama and his Administration told about the "KILLING/MURDER" of Osama Bin Laden**

<http://www.slideshare.net/VogelDenise/obama-secret-kill-list-13166139>

United States of America President Barack Obama did NOT tell the PUBLIC/WORLD that the Military Branch (NAVY) allegedly used in the attacks on Osama Bin Laden is headed by BAKER DONELSON'S employer Raymond Edwin Mabus, Jr. (i.e. who serves as the United States Secretary of Navy). Hopefully, one can may get a better understanding as to WHY so many DIFFERENT versions (LIES) were told about the Killing/Murder of Osama Bin Laden, why footage of the attack was COMPUTER generated and WHY there was **NO** body, **NO** PHOTOGRAPHS released under the "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT" as well as CONTINUED attempts to keep Vogel Denise Newsome's Lawsuit from being filed in the Supreme Court of the United States as they STRUGGLE to get United States of America President Barack Obama to the November 2012 Elections!



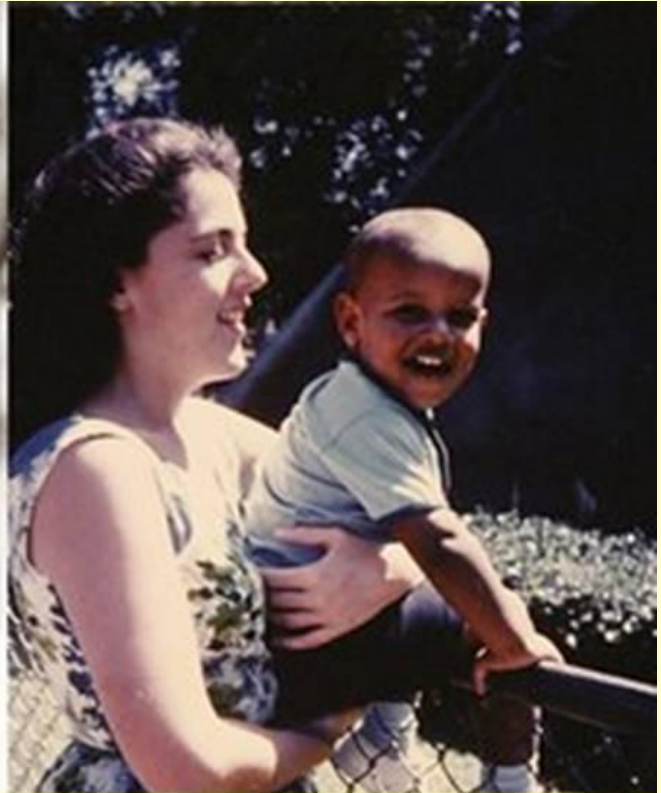
Secretary of Navy Raymond Mabus, U.S President Barack & Michelle Obama



<http://www.slideshare.net/VogelDenise/baker-donelson-wikipedia-info>

<http://www.slideshare.net/VogelDenise/mabus-raymondemploy-ties>

<http://www.slideshare.net/VogelDenise/mabus-raymondwiki-info>



United States of America President **Barack Obama's** Parents

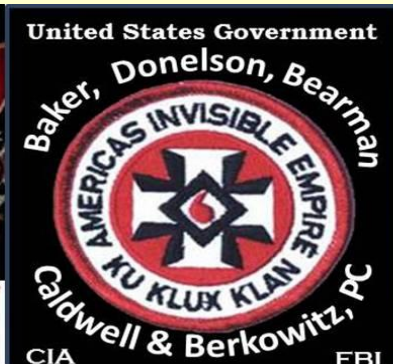


What did United States of America President Barack Obama's parents **KNOW**?  
Did they **KNOW** perhaps that one day he would bring **SHAME** and  
**DISGRACE** to the United States of America?

# WHO IS THE **KU KLUX KLAN** and HOW DOES ITS MEMBERS OPERATE?



**BAKER DONELSON**  
BEARMAN, CALDWELL & BERKOWITZ, PC



Howard Henry Baker Jr. and Lance B. Leggitt –  
Attorneys For United States of America President Barack Obama

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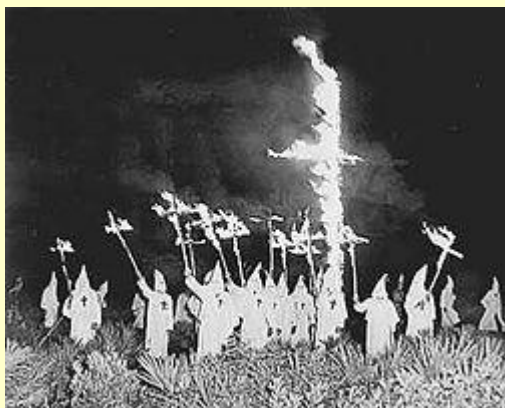
## Ku Klux Klan

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"KKK" redirects here. For other uses, see [KKK \(disambiguation\)](#).

Ku Klux Klan



Ku Klux Klan rally, Gainesville, Florida, December 31, 1922.

### In existence

<b>1st Klan</b>	1865–1870s
<b>2nd Klan</b>	1915–1944
<b>3rd Klan<sup>1</sup></b>	since 1946

### Members

<b>1st Klan</b>	550,000
<b>2nd Klan</b>	3,000,000–6,000,000 <sup>[U]</sup> (peaked in 1920–1925 period)
<b>3rd Klan</b>	5,000–6,000

### Properties

<b>Origin</b>	United States of America
<b>Political</b>	<a href="#">White supremacy</a>



<b>ideology</b>	<a href="#">White nationalism</a> <a href="#">Nativism</a> <a href="#">Anti-communism</a> <a href="#">Christian terrorism</a> <sup>[2][3]</sup> <a href="#">Neo-Confederate</a> <a href="#">Anti-Catholicism</a> <a href="#">Antisemitism</a> <a href="#">Homophobia</a>
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<b>Political position</b>	<a href="#">Far-right</a>
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<b>Religion</b>	<a href="#">Protestant Christianity</a>
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<sup>1</sup>The current version had some 152 independent chapters as of 2010.<sup>[4]</sup>

**Ku Klux Klan**, often abbreviated **KKK** and informally known as **the Klan**, is the name of three distinct past and present [far-right](#)<sup>[5][6][7][8]</sup> organizations in the United States, which have advocated extremist [reactionary](#) currents such as [white supremacy](#), [white nationalism](#), and [anti-immigration](#), historically expressed through [terrorism](#).<sup>[9]</sup> Since the mid-20th century, the KKK has also been [anti-communist](#).<sup>[9]</sup> The current manifestation is splintered into several chapters with no connections between each other; it is classified as a [hate group](#).<sup>[10]</sup> It is estimated to have between 3,000 and 5,000 members as of 2012.<sup>[11]</sup>

The first Klan flourished in the [Southern United States](#) in the late 1860s, then died out by the early 1870s. Members adopted white costumes: robes, masks, and [conical hats](#), designed to be outlandish and terrifying, and to hide their identities.<sup>[12]</sup> The second KKK flourished nationwide in the early and mid 1920s, and adopted the same costumes and code words as the first Klan, while introducing [cross burnings](#).<sup>[13]</sup> The third KKK emerged after World War II and was associated with opposing the [Civil Rights Movement](#) and progress among minorities. The second and third incarnations of the Ku Klux Klan made frequent reference to the USA's "[Anglo-Saxon](#)" and "[Celtic](#)" blood, harking back to 19th-century nativism and claiming descent from the original 18th-century [British colonial revolutionaries](#).<sup>[14]</sup> The first and third incarnations of the Klan have well-established records of engaging in terrorism and political violence, though historians debate whether or not the tactic was supported by the second KKK.

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## Three Klans

### First KKK

The first Klan was founded in 1865 in [Pulaski, Tennessee](#), by six veterans of the [Confederate Army](#).<sup>[15]</sup> The name is probably from the [Greek](#) word *kuklos* ([κύκλος](#)) which means circle, suggesting a circle or band of brothers.<sup>[16]</sup>

Although there was no organizational structure above the local level, similar groups arose across the South, adopting the name and methods.<sup>[17]</sup> Klan groups spread throughout the South as an insurgent movement during the [Reconstruction era in the United States](#). As a secret [vigilante](#) group, the Klan targeted freedmen and their allies; it sought to restore [white supremacy](#) by threats and violence, including murder, against [black](#) and white [Republicans](#). In 1870 and 1871, the federal government passed the [Force Acts](#), which were used to prosecute Klan crimes.<sup>[18]</sup> Prosecution of Klan crimes and enforcement of the Force Acts suppressed Klan activity. In 1874 and later, however, newly organized and openly active [paramilitary](#) organizations, such as the [White League](#) and the [Red Shirts](#), started a fresh round of violence aimed at suppressing blacks' voting and running Republicans out of office. These contributed to segregationist white Democrats regaining political power in all the Southern states by 1877.

### Second KKK

In 1915, the second Klan was founded in Georgia. Starting in 1921, it adopted a modern business system of recruiting (which paid most of the initiation fee and costume charges to the organizers) and grew rapidly nationwide at a time of prosperity. Reflecting the social tensions of urban industrialization and vastly increased immigration, its membership grew most rapidly in cities, and spread to the [Midwest](#) and West out of the South. The second KKK preached "One Hundred Percent Americanism" and demanded the purification of politics, calling for strict morality and better enforcement of [prohibition](#). Its official rhetoric focused on the threat of the Catholic Church, using [anti-Catholicism](#) and [nativism](#).<sup>[19]</sup> Its appeal was directed exclusively at white Protestants.<sup>[20]</sup> Some local groups took part in attacks on private houses and carried out other violent activities. The violent episodes were generally in the South.<sup>[21]</sup>

The second Klan was a formal [fraternal organization](#), with a national and state structure. At its peak in the mid-1920s, the organization claimed to include about 15% of the nation's eligible population, approximately 4–5 million men. Internal divisions, criminal behavior by leaders, and external opposition brought about a collapse in membership, which had dropped to about 30,000 by 1930. It finally faded away in the 1940s.<sup>[22]</sup> Klan organizers also operated in Canada, especially in [Saskatchewan](#) in 1926-28, where it attacked immigrants from Eastern Europe.<sup>[23]</sup>

### Third KKK

The "Ku Klux Klan" name was used by many independent local groups opposing the [Civil Rights Movement](#) and [desegregation](#), especially in the 1950s and 1960s. During this period, they often forged alliances with Southern police departments, as in [Birmingham, Alabama](#); or with governor's offices, as with [George Wallace](#) of Alabama.<sup>[24]</sup> Several

members of KKK groups were convicted of murder in the deaths of civil rights workers and children in the [bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham](#). Today, researchers estimate that there may be approximately 150 Klan chapters with upwards of 5,000 members nationwide.<sup>[25]</sup>

Today, a large majority of sources consider the Klan to be a "subversive or terrorist organization".<sup>[25][26][27][28]</sup> In April 1997, [FBI](#) agents arrested four members of the True Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Dallas for conspiracy to commit robbery and to blow up a natural gas processing plant.<sup>[29]</sup> In 1999, the city council of [Charleston, South Carolina](#) passed a resolution declaring the Klan to be a terrorist organization.<sup>[30]</sup> A similar effort was made in 2004 when a professor at the [University of Louisville](#) began a campaign to have the Klan declared a terrorist organization so it could be banned from campus.<sup>[31]</sup>

## First Klan 1865–1874

### Creation and naming



A cartoon threatening that the KKK would [lynch carpetbaggers](#). From the *Independent Monitor*, [Tuscaloosa, Alabama](#), 1868.

Six well-educated [Confederate](#) veterans from [Pulaski, Tennessee](#), created the original Ku Klux Klan on December 24, 1865, during [Reconstruction](#) of the South after the Civil War.<sup>[32][33]</sup> The name was formed by combining the Greek *kyklos* (*κύκλος*, *circle*) with *clan*.<sup>[34]</sup> The group was known for a short time as the "Kuklux Clan." The Ku Klux Klan was one among a number of secret, oath-bound organizations using violence, including the Southern Cross in [New Orleans](#) (1865) and the [Knights of the White Camelia](#) (1867) in [Louisiana](#).<sup>[35]</sup>

Historians generally see the KKK as part of the post Civil War [insurgent](#) violence related not only to the high number of veterans in the population, but also to their effort to control the dramatically changed social situation by using extrajudicial means to restore white supremacy. In 1866, [Mississippi](#) Governor [William L. Sharkey](#) reported that disorder, lack of control and lawlessness were widespread; in some states armed bands of Confederate soldiers roamed at will. The Klan used public violence against blacks as intimidation. They burned houses, and attacked and killed blacks, leaving their bodies on the roads.<sup>[36]</sup>



A political cartoon depicting the KKK and the Democratic Party as continuations of the Confederacy

At an 1867 meeting in [Nashville, Tennessee](#), Klan members gathered to try to create a hierarchical organization with local chapters eventually reporting up to a national headquarters. Since most of the Klan's members were veterans, they were used to the hierarchical structure of the organization, but the Klan never operated under this centralized structure. Local chapters and bands were highly independent.

Former Confederate Brigadier General [George Gordon](#) developed the *Prescript*, or Klan [dogma](#). The Prescript suggested elements of white supremacist belief. For instance, an applicant should be asked if he was in favor of "a white man's government", "the reenfranchisement and emancipation of the white men of the South, and the restitution of the Southern people to all their rights."<sup>[37]</sup> The latter is a reference to the [Ironclad Oath](#), which stripped the vote from white persons who refused to swear that they had not borne arms against the Union. Confederate General [Nathan Bedford Forrest](#) became [Grand Wizard](#), claiming to be the Klan's national leader.<sup>[15][38]</sup>



[Nathan Bedford Forrest](#)

In an 1868 newspaper interview, Forrest stated that the Klan's primary opposition was to the [Loyal Leagues](#), [Republican](#) state governments, people like Tennessee governor [Brownlow](#) and other [carpetbaggers](#) and [scalawags](#). He argued that many southerners believed that blacks were voting for the Republican Party because they were being hoodwinked by the Loyal Leagues.<sup>[39]</sup> One Alabama newspaper editor declared "The League is nothing more than a nigger Ku Klux Klan."<sup>[40]</sup>

Despite Gordon's and Forrest's work, local Klan units never accepted the Prescript and continued to operate autonomously. There were never hierarchical levels or state headquarters. Klan members used violence to settle old

feuds and local grudges, as they worked to restore white dominance in the disrupted postwar society. The historian Elaine Frantz Parsons describes the membership:

Lifting the Klan mask revealed a chaotic multitude of antiblack [vigilante](#) groups, disgruntled poor white farmers, wartime [guerrilla](#) bands, displaced Democratic politicians, [illegal whiskey distillers](#), [coercive](#) moral reformers, [sadists](#), [rapists](#), white workmen fearful of black competition, employers trying to enforce labor discipline, common thieves, neighbors with decades-old grudges, and even a few [freedmen](#) and white Republicans who allied with Democratic whites or had criminal agendas of their own. Indeed, all they had in common, besides being overwhelmingly white, southern, and Democratic, was that they called themselves, or were called, Klansmen.<sup>[41]</sup>

Historian [Eric Foner](#) observed:

In effect, the Klan was a military force serving the interests of the [Democratic party](#), the planter class, and all those who desired restoration of white supremacy. Its purposes were political, but political in the broadest sense, for it sought to affect power relations, both public and private, throughout Southern society. It aimed to reverse the interlocking changes sweeping over the South during Reconstruction: to destroy the Republican party's infrastructure, undermine the Reconstruction state, reestablish control of the black labor force, and restore racial subordination in every aspect of Southern life.<sup>[42]</sup>

To that end they worked to curb the education, economic advancement, [voting rights](#), and [right to keep and bear arms](#) of blacks.<sup>[42]</sup> The Ku Klux Klan soon spread into nearly every southern state, launching a "[reign of terror](#) against [Republican](#) leaders both black and white. Those political leaders assassinated during the campaign included [Arkansas](#) Congressman [James M. Hinds](#), three members of the [South Carolina](#) legislature, and several men who served in constitutional conventions."<sup>[43]</sup>

## Activities



Three Ku Klux Klan members arrested in [Tishomingo County, Mississippi](#), September 1871, for the attempted murder of an entire family.

Klan members adopted masks and robes that hid their identities and added to the drama of their night rides, their chosen time for attacks. Many of them operated in small towns and rural areas where people otherwise knew each other's faces, and sometimes still recognized the attackers. "The kind of thing that men are afraid or ashamed to do openly, and by day, they accomplish secretly, masked, and at night." With this method both the high and the low could be attacked.<sup>[44]</sup> The Ku Klux Klan night riders "sometimes claimed to be ghosts of Confederate soldiers so, as they claimed, to frighten superstitious blacks. Few freedmen took such nonsense seriously."<sup>[45]</sup>

The Klan attacked black members of the [Loyal Leagues](#) and intimidated southern Republicans and [Freedmen's Bureau](#) workers. When they killed black political leaders, they also took heads of families, along with the leaders of churches and community groups, because these people had many roles in society. Agents of the Freedmen's Bureau reported weekly assaults and murders of blacks. "Armed guerrilla warfare killed thousands of Negroes; political riots were staged; their causes or occasions were always obscure, their results always certain: ten to one hundred times as

many Negroes were killed as whites." Masked men shot into houses and burned them, sometimes with the occupants still inside. They drove successful black farmers off their land. "Generally, it can be reported that in North and South Carolina, in 18 months ending in June 1867, there were 197 murders and 548 cases of aggravated assault."<sup>[46]</sup>



[George W. Ashburn](#) assassinated for his pro-black sentiments.

Klan violence worked to suppress black voting. More than 2,000 persons were killed, wounded and otherwise injured in [Louisiana](#) within a few weeks prior to the Presidential election of November 1868. Although [St. Landry Parish](#) had a registered Republican majority of 1,071, after the murders, no Republicans voted in the fall elections. White Democrats cast the full vote of the parish for Grant's opponent. The KKK killed and wounded more than 200 black Republicans, hunting and chasing them through the woods. Thirteen captives were taken from jail and shot; a half-buried pile of 25 bodies was found in the woods. The KKK made people vote Democratic and gave them certificates of the fact.<sup>[47]</sup>

In the April 1868 [Georgia](#) gubernatorial election, [Columbia County](#) cast 1,222 votes for Republican [Rufus Bullock](#). By the [November presidential election](#), however, Klan intimidation led to suppression of the Republican vote and only one person voted for [Ulysses S. Grant](#).<sup>[48]</sup>

Klansmen killed more than 150 African Americans in a county in [Florida](#), and hundreds more in other counties. Freedmen's Bureau records provided a detailed recounting of Klansmen's beatings and murders of freedmen and their white allies.<sup>[49]</sup>

Milder encounters also occurred. In [Mississippi](#), according to the Congressional inquiry:<sup>[50]</sup>

One of these teachers (Miss Allen of [Illinois](#)), whose school was at Cotton Gin Port in [Monroe County](#), was visited ... between one and two o'clock in the morning on March 1871, by about fifty men mounted and disguised. Each man wore a long white robe and his face was covered by a loose mask with scarlet stripes. She was ordered to get up and dress which she did at once and then admitted to her room the captain and lieutenant who in addition to the usual disguise had long horns on their heads and a sort of device in front. The lieutenant had a [pistol](#) in his hand and he and the captain sat down while eight or ten men stood inside the door and the porch was full. They treated her "gentlemanly and quietly" but complained of the heavy school-tax, said she must stop teaching and go away and warned her that they never gave a second notice. She heeded the warning and left the county.

By 1868, two years after the Klan's creation, its activity was beginning to decrease.<sup>[51]</sup> Members were hiding behind Klan masks and robes as a way to avoid prosecution for freelance violence. Many influential southern Democrats feared that Klan lawlessness provided an excuse for the federal government to retain its power over the South, and they began to turn against it.<sup>[52]</sup> There were outlandish claims made, such as Georgian [B. H. Hill](#) stating "that some of these outrages were actually perpetrated by the political friends of the parties slain."<sup>[51]</sup>


## Resistance

Union Army veterans in mountainous [Blount County, Alabama](#), organized "the anti-Ku Klux". They put an end to violence by threatening Klansmen with reprisals unless they stopped whipping Unionists and burning black churches and schools. Armed blacks formed their own defense in [Bennettsville, South Carolina](#) and patrolled the streets to protect their homes.<sup>[53]</sup>

National sentiment gathered to crack down on the Klan, even though some Democrats at the national level questioned whether the Klan really existed or believed that it was just a creation of nervous Southern Republican governors.<sup>[54]</sup> Many southern states began to pass anti-Klan legislation.

In January 1871, [Pennsylvania](#) Republican Senator [John Scott](#) convened a Congressional committee which took testimony from 52 witnesses about Klan atrocities. They accumulated 12 volumes of horrifying testimony. In February, former Union General and Congressman [Benjamin Franklin Butler](#) of [Massachusetts](#) introduced the [Civil Rights Act of 1871](#) (Ku Klux Klan Act). This added to the enmity that southern white Democrats bore toward him.<sup>[55]</sup> While the bill was being considered, further violence in the South swung support for its passage. The [Governor of South Carolina](#) appealed for federal troops to assist his efforts in keeping control of the state. A [riot and massacre](#) in a [Meridian, Mississippi](#), courthouse were reported, from which a black state representative escaped only by taking to the woods.<sup>[56]</sup> The 1871 Civil Rights Act allowed President [Ulysses S. Grant](#) to suspend [Habeas Corpus](#).<sup>[57]</sup>



 [Benjamin Franklin Butler](#) wrote the [Civil Rights Act of 1871](#) (Klan Act)

In 1871, President [Ulysses S. Grant](#) signed Butler's legislation. The Ku Klux Klan Act was used by the Federal government together with the 1870 Force Act, another act that President Grant signed, to enforce the civil rights provisions for individuals under the constitution. Under the 1871 Klan Act, after the Klan refused to voluntarily dissolve, President Grant issued a suspension of [Habeas Corpus](#), and sent Federal troops into 9 [South Carolina](#) counties. The Klansmen were arrested and prosecuted in Federal court. More African Americans served on juries in Federal court than were selected for local or state juries, so they had a chance to participate in the process.<sup>[57][58]</sup> In the crackdown, hundreds of Klan members were fined or imprisoned.


## The Klan declines and is superseded by other groups

Although Forrest boasted that the Klan was a nationwide organization of 550,000 men and that he could muster 40,000 Klansmen within five days' notice, as a secret or "[invisible](#)" group, it had no membership rosters, no chapters, and no local officers. It was difficult for observers to judge its actual membership. It had created a sensation by the dramatic nature of its masked forays and because of its many murders.

In 1870 a federal grand jury determined that the Klan was a "[terrorist](#) organization".<sup>[59]</sup> It issued hundreds of indictments for crimes of violence and terrorism. Klan members were prosecuted, and many fled from areas that were under federal government jurisdiction, particularly in South Carolina.<sup>[60]</sup> Many people not formally inducted into the

Klan had used the Klan's costume for anonymity, to hide their identities when carrying out acts of violence. Forrest ordered the Klan to disband in 1869, stating that it was "being perverted from its original honorable and patriotic purposes, becoming injurious instead of subservient to the public peace".<sup>[61]</sup> Historian [Stanley Horn](#) writes "generally speaking, the Klan's end was more in the form of spotty, slow, and gradual disintegration than a formal and decisive disbandment".<sup>[62]</sup> A reporter in Georgia wrote in January 1870, "A true statement of the case is not that the Ku Klux are an organized band of licensed criminals, but that men who commit crimes call themselves Ku Klux".<sup>[63]</sup>



 Gov. [William Holden](#) of North Carolina.

While people used the Klan as a mask for nonpolitical crimes, state and local governments seldom acted against them. African Americans were kept off juries. In lynching cases, all-white juries almost never indicted Ku Klux Klan members. When there was a rare indictment, juries were unlikely to vote for a conviction. In part, jury members feared reprisals from local Klansmen.

Others may have agreed with lynching as a way of keeping dominance over black men. In many states, officials were reluctant to use black militia against the Klan out of fear that racial tensions would be raised.<sup>[58]</sup> When Republican [Governor of North Carolina William Woods Holden](#) called out the militia against the Klan in 1870, it added to his unpopularity. Combined with violence and fraud at the polls, the Republicans lost their majority in the state legislature. Disaffection with Holden's actions led to white Democratic legislators' impeaching Holden and removing him from office, but their reasons were numerous.<sup>[64]</sup>

The Klan was destroyed in South Carolina<sup>[65]</sup> and decimated throughout the rest of the South, where it had already been in decline. Attorney General [Amos Tappan Ackerman](#) led the prosecutions.<sup>[66]</sup>

In some areas, other local paramilitary organizations such as the [White League](#), [Red Shirts](#), saber clubs, and rifle clubs continued to intimidate and murder black voters.<sup>[67]</sup>

In 1874, organized white [paramilitary](#) groups were formed in the Deep South to replace the faltering Klan: the [White League](#) in [Louisiana](#) and the [Red Shirts](#) in [Mississippi](#), [North](#) and [South Carolina](#). They campaigned openly to turn Republicans out of office, intimidated and killed black voters, tried to disrupt organizing and suppressed black voting. They were out in force during the campaigns and elections of 1874 and 1876, contributing to the conservative Democrats regaining power in 1876, against a background of electoral violence.

Shortly after, in [United States v. Cruikshank](#) (1875), the Supreme Court ruled that the Force Act of 1870 did not give the Federal government power to regulate private actions, but only those by state governments. The result was that as the century went on, African Americans were at the mercy of hostile state governments that refused to intervene against private violence and paramilitary groups.

Whereas the number of indictments across the South was large, the number of cases leading to prosecution and sentencing was relatively small. The overloaded federal courts were not able to meet the demands of trying such a



tremendous number of cases, a situation that led to selective pardoning. By late 1873 and 1874, most of the charges against Klansmen were dropped although new cases continued to be prosecuted for several more years. Most of those sentenced had either served their terms or had been pardoned by 1875. The [Supreme Court of the United States](#) eviscerated the Ku Klux Act in 1876 by ruling that the federal government could no longer prosecute individuals although states would be forced to comply with federal civil rights provisions. Republicans passed a second civil rights act (the Civil Rights Act of 1875) to grant equal access to public facilities and other housing accommodations regardless of race. Ironically, the Klan during this period served to further Northern reconstruction efforts, as Ku Klux violence provided the political climate needed to pass civil rights protections for blacks. Although the Ku Klux Act of 1871 dismantled the first Klan, Southern whites formed other, similar groups that kept blacks away from the polls through intimidation and physical violence. Reconstruction ended with the election of President Rutherford B. Hayes, who suspended the federal military occupation of the South; yet blacks still found themselves without the basic civil liberties that Congressional Republicans had sought to secure.<sup>[68]</sup>

In 1882, the Supreme Court ruled in [United States v. Harris](#) that the Klan Act was partially [unconstitutional](#). It ruled that Congress's power under the [Fourteenth Amendment](#) did not extend to the right to regulate against private conspiracies.<sup>[69]</sup>

Klan costumes, also called "[regalia](#)", disappeared by the early 1870s (Wade 1987, p. 109). The fact that the Klan did not exist for decades was shown when Simmons's 1915 recreation of the Klan attracted only two aging "former Reconstruction Klansmen." All other members were new.<sup>[70]</sup> By 1872, the Klan was broken as an organization.<sup>[71]</sup> Nonetheless, the goals that the Klan had failed to achieve itself, such as suppressing [suffrage](#) for Southern blacks and driving a wedge between poor whites and blacks, were largely accomplished by the 1890s by militant Southern whites. Lynchings of African Americans, far from being ended by the Klan's disintegration, instead peaked in 1892 with 161 deaths.<sup>[72]</sup>

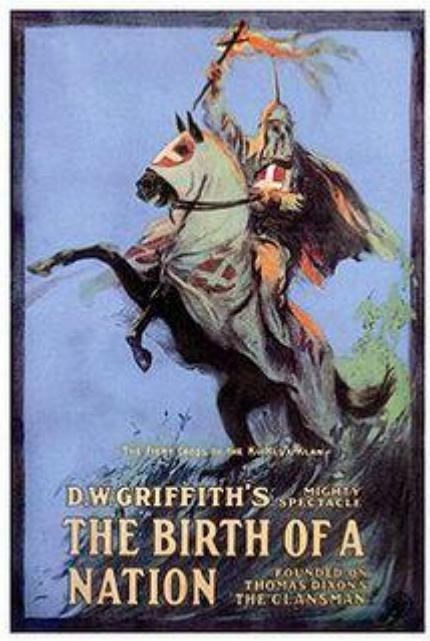
## The second Klan: 1915–1944

### Refounding in 1915

Three events in 1915 acted as catalysts to the revival of the Klan:

- The film [The Birth of a Nation](#) was released, mythologizing and glorifying the first Klan.
- Jewish businessman [Leo Frank](#) was lynched near Atlanta after the Georgia governor commuted his death sentence to life in prison. Frank had been convicted in 1913 and sentenced to death for the rape and murder of a young white factory worker named [Mary Phagan](#), in a trial marked by intimidation of the jury and media frenzy. His legal appeals had been exhausted.
- The second Ku Klux Klan was founded by [William J. Simmons](#) at [Stone Mountain](#), outside Atlanta. It added to the original anti-black ideology with a new anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic, [prohibitionist](#) and antisemitic agenda. Most of the founders were from an Atlanta-area organization calling itself the Knights of Mary Phagan, which had organized around Leo Frank's trial. The new organization emulated the fictionalized version of the Klan presented in *The Birth of a Nation*.

## *The Birth of a Nation*



Movie poster for [The Birth of a Nation](#). It has been widely noted for reviving the Ku Klux Klan.

Director [D. W. Griffith](#)'s *The Birth of a Nation* glorified the original Klan. His film was based on the book and play [The Clansman](#) and the book [The Leopard's Spots](#), both by [Thomas Dixon, Jr.](#) Dixon said his purpose was "to revolutionize northern sentiment by a presentation of history that would transform every man in my audience into a good [Democrat](#)!" The film created a nationwide Klan craze. At the official premier in Atlanta, members of the Klan rode up and down the street in front of the theater.<sup>[73]</sup>

Much of the modern Klan's iconography, including the standardized white costume and the lighted cross, are derived from the film. Its imagery was based on Dixon's romanticized concept of old England and Scotland, as portrayed in the novels and poetry of Sir [Walter Scott](#). The film's influence and popularity were enhanced by a widely reported endorsement by historian and U.S. President [Woodrow Wilson](#). A Hollywood press agent claimed that after seeing the film Wilson said, "It is like writing history with lightning, and my only regret is that it is all so terribly true." Historians doubt he said it.<sup>[74]</sup> Wilson's remarks immediately became controversial. Wilson tried to remain aloof, but finally, on April 30, his staff issued a denial. Wilson's aide, [Joseph Tumulty](#) said, "the President was entirely unaware of the nature of the play before it was presented and at no time has expressed his approbation of it."<sup>[75]</sup>

The new Klan was inaugurated in 1915 by [William J. Simmons](#) on top of [Stone Mountain](#). It was a small local organization until 1921.

Simmons stated that he had been inspired by the original Klan's Prescripts, written in 1867 by Confederate veteran George Gordon in an attempt to create a national organization. These were never adopted by the Klan, however.<sup>[76]</sup> The Prescript stated the Klan's purposes in idealistic terms, hiding the fact that its members committed acts of vigilante violence and murder from behind masks.

## Social factors



Ku Klux Klan members march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. in 1928

The Second Klan saw threats from every direction. A religious tone was apparent in all of its activities; indeed, "two-thirds of the national Klan lecturers were Protestant ministers," says historian Brian R. Farmer.<sup>[77]</sup> Much of the Klan's energy went to guarding the home, in its view, says historian Kathleen Blee, to protect "the interests of white womanhood."<sup>[78]</sup>

The second Klan arose during the [nadir of American race relations](#), in response to [urbanization](#) and [industrialization](#). Massive immigration of Catholics and Jews from [eastern](#) and [southern](#) Europe led to fears among Protestants. The [Great Migration](#) of African Americans to the [North](#) stoked racism by whites in Northern industrial cities; thus the second Klan would achieve its greatest political power not in any Southern state, but in [Indiana](#). The migration of African Americans and whites from rural areas to Southern cities further increased tensions. The Klan grew most rapidly in urbanizing cities which had high growth rates between 1910 and 1930, such as [Detroit](#), [Memphis](#), [Dayton](#), [Atlanta](#), [Dallas](#), and [Houston](#). In [Michigan](#), more than half of the members lived in Detroit and were concerned about urban issues: limited housing, rapid social change, competition for jobs.<sup>[79]</sup> [Stanley Horn](#), a Southern historian sympathetic to the first Klan, was careful in an oral interview to distinguish it from the later "spurious Ku Klux organization which was in ill-repute—and, of course, had no connection whatsoever with the Klan of Reconstruction days".<sup>[80]</sup>

In an era without [Social Security](#) or widely available [life insurance](#), it was common for men to join [fraternal organizations](#) such as the [Elks](#) or the [Woodmen of the World](#) to provide for their families in case they died or were unable to work. The founder of the new Klan, [William J. Simmons](#), was a member of twelve different fraternal organizations. He [recruited for the Klan](#) with his chest covered with fraternal badges, and consciously modeled the Klan after those organizations.<sup>[81]</sup>

Klan organizers, called "[Kleagles](#)", signed up hundreds of new members, who paid initiation fees and bought KKK costumes. The organizer kept half the money and sent the rest to state or national officials. When the organizer was done with an area, he organized a huge rally, often with burning crosses and perhaps presented a [Bible](#) to a local Protestant minister. He then left town with the money. The local units operated like many fraternal organizations and occasionally brought in speakers.

The Klan's growth was also affected by mobilization for [World War I](#) and postwar tensions, especially in the cities where strangers came up against each other more often. Southern whites resented the arming of black soldiers. Black veterans did not want to go back to second-class status in the United States. Some were lynched, still in uniform, upon returning from overseas service.<sup>[82]</sup>

## Activities

Simmons initially met with little success in either recruiting members or in raising money, and the Klan remained a small operation in the Atlanta area until 1920, when he handed its day-to-day activities over to two professional publicists, [Elizabeth Tyler](#) and [Edward Young Clarke](#).<sup>[83]</sup> The Klan now expanded exponentially, reaching a mass national base by 1925. The remodeled Klan downplayed the old issues left over from Reconstruction, and focused on [anti-Jewish](#), [anti-Catholic](#), [anti-Communist](#) and [anti-immigrant](#) appeals. It now sold itself as a nativist and strenuously patriotic organization, and it emphasized its support for vigorous enforcement of prohibition laws. Most of its members lived in the North and West.

## Prohibition

Historians agree that the Klan's resurgence in the 1920s was aided by the national debate over prohibition.<sup>[84]</sup> Thus Prendergast contends that the KKK's "support for [Prohibition](#) represented the single most important bond between Klansmen throughout the nation".<sup>[85]</sup> The Klan opposed bootleggers, sometimes with violence. In 1922, two hundred Klan members set fire to saloons in [Union County, Arkansas](#). The national Klan office was finally established in [Dallas, Texas](#), but [Little Rock, Arkansas](#) was the home of the [Women of the Ku Klux Klan](#). The first head of this [auxiliary](#) was a former president of the [Arkansas WCTU](#).<sup>[86]</sup><sup>[verification needed]</sup> Membership in the Klan and in other prohibition groups overlapped, and they often coordinated activities.<sup>[87]</sup>

## Labor and anti-unionism

In southern cities such as [Birmingham, Alabama](#), Klan members kept control of access to the better-paying industrial jobs but opposed unions. During the 1930s and 1940s, Klan leaders urged members to disrupt the [Congress of Industrial Organizations](#) (CIO), which advocated industrial unions and was open to African-American members. With access to dynamite and using the skills from their jobs in mining and steel, in the late 1940s some Klan members in Birmingham began to perpetrate bombings in order to intimidate upwardly mobile blacks who moved into middle-class neighborhoods. "By mid-1949, there were so many charred house carcasses that the area [College Hills] was informally named Dynamite Hill."<sup>[88]</sup> Independent Klan groups remained active in Birmingham and were deeply engaged in violent opposition to the Civil Rights Movement.<sup>[88]</sup>

## Urbanization



"The End" Referring to the end of Catholic influence in the US. [Klansmen: Guardians of Liberty](#) 1926

A significant characteristic of the second Klan was that it was an organization based in urban areas, reflecting the major shifts of population to cities in both the North and the South. In Michigan, for instance, 40,000 members lived in Detroit, where they made up more than half of the state's membership. Most Klansmen were lower- to middle-class whites who were trying to protect their jobs and housing from the waves of newcomers to the industrial cities: immigrants from southern and eastern Europe, who tended to be Catholic and Jewish in numbers higher than earlier groups of immigrants; and black and white migrants from the South. As new populations poured into cities, rapidly changing neighborhoods created social tensions. Because of the rapid pace of population growth in industrializing

cities such as Detroit and Chicago, the Klan grew rapidly in the U.S. [Midwest](#). The Klan also grew in booming Southern cities such as Dallas and Houston.<sup>[89]</sup>

In the medium-size industrial city of [Worcester, Massachusetts](#) in the 1920s, the Klan ascended to power quickly but diminished as a result of opposition from the Catholic Church. There was no violence and the local newspaper ridiculed Klansmen as "night-shirt knights". Half of the members were [Swedish American](#), including some first-generation immigrants. The ethnic and religious conflicts between Worcester residents is discussed. Swedish Protestants fought against Irish Catholics for political and ideological control of the city.<sup>[90]</sup>

For some states, historians have obtained membership rosters of some local units and matched the names against city directory and local records to create statistical profiles of the membership. Big city newspapers were often hostile and ridiculed Klansmen as ignorant farmers. Detailed analysis from [Indiana](#) showed the rural stereotype was false for that state:

Indiana's Klansmen represented a wide cross section of society: they were not disproportionately urban or rural, nor were they significantly more or less likely than other members of society to be from the working class, middle class, or professional ranks. Klansmen were [Protestants](#), of course, but they cannot be described exclusively or even predominantly as [fundamentalists](#). In reality, their religious affiliations mirrored the whole of white Protestant society, including those who did not belong to any church.<sup>[91]</sup>

The Klan attracted people but most of them did not remain in the organization for long. Membership in the Klan turned over rapidly as people found out that it was not the group they wanted. Millions joined, and at its peak in the 1920s, the organization included about 15% of the nation's eligible population. The lessening of social tensions contributed to the Klan's decline.

## The burning cross



[Cross burning](#) is said to have been introduced by [William J. Simmons](#), the founder of the second Klan in 1915.

The second Klan adopted a burning [Latin cross](#) as its symbol. No such crosses had been used by the first Klan, but the burning cross was used as a symbol of intimidation by the second Klan.<sup>[92]</sup> The burning of the cross was also used by the second Klan as a symbol of Christian fellowship, and its lighting during meetings was steeped in Christian prayer, the singing of hymns, and other overtly religious symbolism.<sup>[13]</sup>

The practice of cross burning had been loosely based on ancient Scottish clans' burning a [St. Andrew's cross](#) (an X-shaped cross) as a beacon to muster forces for war. In *The Clansman* (see above), Dixon had falsely claimed that the first Klan had used fiery crosses when rallying to fight against Reconstruction. Griffith brought this image to the screen in *The Birth of a Nation*; he portrayed the burning cross as an upright [Latin cross](#) rather than the St. Andrew's cross. Simmons adopted the symbol wholesale from the movie, prominently displaying it at the 1915 Stone Mountain meeting. The symbol has been associated with the Klan ever since.<sup>[93]</sup>

## Education

In 1921, in an attempt to gain a foothold in education, the Klan bought [Lanier University](#), a struggling Baptist university in [Atlanta](#). Nathan Bedford Forrest, grandson of the [confederate general by the same name](#), was appointed business manager, and the school would teach "pure, 100 percent Americanism". Enrollment was dismal and the school closed after its first year of Klan ownership. <sup>[94]</sup>

## Political role



Sheet music to "We Are All Loyal Klansmen", 1923

The Klan had numerous members in every part of the United States. At its peak, claimed Klan membership exceeded four million and comprised 20% of the adult white male population in many broad geographic regions, and 40% in some areas. <sup>[95]</sup> The Klan also moved north into Canada, especially Saskatchewan, where it opposed Catholics. <sup>[96]</sup>

The Klan issue played a significant role at the bitterly divisive [1924 Democratic National Convention](#) in New York City. The leading candidates were Protestant [William Gibbs McAdoo](#), with a base in areas where the Klan was strong, and Catholic New York Governor [Al Smith](#), with a base in the large cities. After weeks of stalemate, both candidates withdrew in favor of a compromise. Anti-Klan delegates proposed a resolution indirectly attacking the Klan; it was narrowly defeated. <sup>[97][98]</sup>

In some states, such as Alabama and California, the KKK worked for political reform. In 1924, the Klan became active in local politics in [Anaheim, California](#). The city had been controlled by an entrenched commercial-civic elite that was mostly [German American](#). The elite gave little support to the prohibition laws—the mayor, for example, had been a saloon keeper. The Klan, led by the minister of the First Christian Church, represented a rising group of politically oriented non-German citizens who had been shut out of influence and who denounced the elite as corrupt, undemocratic and self-serving. Cocoltchos says the Klansmen sought to create a model orderly community. There were about 1200 Klan members in orange County, and Cocoltchos tracked them through local records, comparing them to 300 prominent anti-Klan activists. The economic and occupational profile of the pro and anti-Klan groups shows the two were similar and about equally prosperous. Cocoltchos finds no evidence of status anxiety. The Klansmen were all Protestants, as were most of the antis, but the antis also enlisted many Catholic Germans. The Klansmen had a much higher rate of voting and joining nonpartisan civic groups (such as the Chamber of Commerce) than the others *before* they joined the Klan, suggesting to Cocoltchos it was a high sense of civic activism that led to joining the KKK in the first place. The Klan easily won the hotly contested local election in Anaheim in April 1924. They systematically fired Catholic city employees and replaced them with Klansmen. The new city council tried to strictly enforce prohibition, and the Klan held large rallies and initiation ceremonies over the summer. The opposition organized, bribed a Klansman for the secret membership list, exposed the Klansmen running in the primaries and

defeated most of them. The antis stepped up the campaign in 1925 and succeeded in a hotly contested election in voting to recall the Klansmen who had been elected in April 1924. The Klan in Anaheim quickly collapsed, its newspaper closed after losing a libel suit, and the minister who led the local Klavern moved to Kansas.<sup>[99]</sup>

In Alabama the Klansmen were among the foremost advocates of better public schools, effective [prohibition](#) enforcement, expanded road construction, and other political measures which benefited lower-class white people. By 1925, the Klan was a political force in the state, as leaders such as [J. Thomas Heflin](#), [David Bibb Graves](#), and [Hugo Black](#) manipulated the KKK membership to try to build political power against the Black Belt planters, who had long dominated the state.<sup>[100]</sup> Black was elected US senator in 1926; President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) appointed Black to the Supreme Court not knowing he had been active in the Klan in the 1920s. In 1926, with Klan support, [Bibb Graves](#) won the Alabama governor's office. He was a former Klan chapter head. He pushed for increased education funding, better public health, new highway construction, and pro-labor legislation. Because the Alabama state legislature refused to redistrict until 1972, however, even the Klan was unable to break the planters' and rural areas' hold on legislative power.

Its predecessor had been an exclusively partisan Democratic organization in the South. The second Klan grew in the Midwest, where for a time, its members were courted by both Republicans and Democrats. The KKK state organizations endorsed candidates from either party that supported its goals; Prohibition in particular helped the Klan and some Republicans to make common cause in the Midwest. In the South, however, the southern Klan remained Democratic, closely allied with Democratic police, sheriffs, and other functionaries of local government. With continuing disfranchisement of most African Americans and many poor whites, the only political activity took place within the Democratic Party.

## Resistance and decline



[D. C. Stephenson](#), Grand Dragon of the [Indiana Klan](#). His conviction for murdering a young white schoolteacher in 1925 devastated the Indiana Klan.

The [Ku Klux Klan rose to prominence in Indiana](#) politics and society after World War I. It was made up of American-born, white Protestants of many income and social levels. Nationally, in the 1920s, Indiana had the most powerful Ku Klux Klan. Though it counted a high number of members statewide (over 30% of its white male citizens<sup>[101]</sup>), its importance peaked with the 1924 election of [Edward Jackson](#) for governor. A short time later, the scandal surrounding the murder trial of [D.C. Stephenson](#) destroyed the image of the Ku Klux Klan as upholders of law and order. By 1926 the Ku Klux Klan was "crippled and discredited."<sup>[102]</sup> [D. C. Stephenson](#) was the [Grand Dragon](#) of Indiana and 22 northern states. He led the states under his control to separate from the national KKK organization in 1923. In his 1925 trial, he was convicted for second degree murder for his part in the rape and subsequent death<sup>[103]</sup> of [Madge Oberholtzer](#). After Stephenson's conviction in a sensational trial, the Klan declined dramatically in Indiana. Historian [Leonard Moore](#) concluded that a failure in leadership caused the Klan's collapse:

Stephenson and the other salesmen and office seekers who maneuvered for control of Indiana's Invisible Empire lacked both the ability and the desire to use the political system to carry out the Klan's stated goals. They were uninterested in, or perhaps even unaware of, grass roots concerns within the movement. For them, the Klan had been nothing more than a means for gaining wealth and power. These marginal men had risen to the top of the hooded order because, until it became a political force, the Klan had never required strong, dedicated leadership. More established and experienced politicians who endorsed the Klan, or who pursued some of the interests of their Klan constituents, also accomplished little. Factionalism created one barrier, but many politicians had supported the Klan simply out of expedience. When charges of crime and corruption began to taint the movement, those concerned about their political futures had even less reason to work on the Klan's behalf.<sup>[104]</sup>

Many groups and leaders, including prominent Protestant ministers such as [Reinhold Niebuhr](#) in Detroit, spoke out against the Klan. In response to blunt attacks against Jewish Americans and the Klan's campaign to outlaw private schools, the Jewish [Anti-Defamation League](#) was formed after the lynching of Leo Frank. When one civic group began to publish Klan membership lists, the number of members quickly declined. The [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#) carried on public education campaigns in order to inform people about Klan activities and lobbied against Klan abuses in Congress. After its peak in 1925, Klan membership in most areas of the Midwest began to decline rapidly.<sup>[89]</sup>

In [Alabama](#), KKK vigilantes, thinking that they had governmental protection, launched a wave of physical terror in 1927. They targeted both blacks and whites for violation of racial norms and for perceived moral lapses.<sup>[105]</sup> This led however to a large backlash beginning in the media. [Grover C. Hall](#), Sr., editor of the [Montgomery Advertiser](#), began publishing a series of editorials and articles that attacked the Klan for its "racial and religious intolerance". Hall won a [Pulitzer Prize](#) for his crusade.<sup>[106]</sup> Other newspapers kept up a steady, loud attack on the Klan, referring to the organization as violent and "un-American". Sheriffs cracked down. In the [1928 presidential election](#), the state voted for the Democratic candidate Al Smith, although he was Catholic.

Klan membership in Alabama dropped to less than 6,000 by 1930. Small independent units continued to be active in Birmingham, where in the late 1940s, members launched a reign of terror by bombing the homes of upwardly mobile African Americans. Activism by such independent KKK groups increased as a reaction against the [Civil Rights Movement](#) of the 1950s and 1960s.

[Imperial Wizard Hiram Wesley Evans](#) sold the organization in 1939 to [James Colescott](#), an Indiana [veterinarian](#), and [Samuel Green](#), an Atlanta [obstetrician](#). They were unable to staunch the declining membership. In 1944, the [IRS](#) filed a lien for \$685,000 in back taxes against the Klan, and Colescott was forced to dissolve the organization in 1944. Local Klan groups closed over the following years.<sup>[107]</sup>

Due in part to the Klan terror directed at them, five million blacks left the South for northern, midwestern and western cities from 1940 to 1970.

After [World War II](#), folklorist and author [Stetson Kennedy](#) infiltrated the Klan and provided information to media and law enforcement agencies. He also provided secret code words to the writers of the [Superman](#) radio program, resulting in episodes in which [Superman](#) took on the KKK. Kennedy's intention to strip away the Klan's mystique and trivialize the Klan's rituals and code words may have contributed to the decline in Klan recruiting and membership.<sup>[108]</sup> In the 1950s, Kennedy wrote a bestselling book about his experiences, which further damaged the Klan.<sup>[109]</sup>

The following table shows the change in the Klan's estimated membership over time.<sup>[110]</sup> (The years given in the table represent approximate time periods.)



## Year Membership

1920	4,000,000 <sup>[111]</sup>
1924	6,000,000
1930	30,000
1980	5,000
2008	6,000

## Later Klans, 1950 through 1960s

The name "Ku Klux Klan" began to be used by several independent groups. Beginning in the 1950s, for instance, individual Klan groups in [Birmingham, Alabama](#), began to resist social change and blacks' improving their lives by bombing houses in transitional neighborhoods. There were so many bombings in Birmingham of blacks' homes by Klan groups in the 1950s that the city's nickname was "Bombingham".<sup>[24]</sup>

During the tenure of [Bull Connor](#) as police commissioner in the city, Klan groups were closely allied with the police and operated with impunity. When the [Freedom Riders](#) arrived in Birmingham, Connor gave Klan members fifteen minutes to attack the riders before sending in the police to quell the attack.<sup>[24]</sup> When local and state authorities failed to protect the Freedom Riders and activists, the federal government established effective intervention.

In states such as Alabama and [Mississippi](#), Klan members forged alliances with governors' administrations.<sup>[24]</sup> In Birmingham and elsewhere, the KKK groups bombed the houses of [civil rights](#) activists. In some cases they used physical violence, intimidation and assassination directly against individuals. Many murders went unreported and were not prosecuted by local and state authorities. Continuing [disfranchisement](#) of blacks across the South meant that most could not serve on juries, which were all white.

According to a report from the [Southern Regional Council](#) in [Atlanta](#), the homes of 40 black Southern families were bombed during 1951 and 1952. Some of the bombing victims were social activists whose work exposed them to danger, but most were either people who refused to bow to racist convention or were innocent bystanders, unsuspecting victims of random violence.<sup>[112]</sup>



Three civil rights workers abducted and murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Among the more notorious murders by Klan members:

- The 1951 Christmas Eve bombing of the home of [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#) (NAACP) activists [Harry and Harriette Moore](#) in [Mims, Florida](#), resulting in their deaths.<sup>[113]</sup>
- The 1957 murder of [Willie Edwards, Jr.](#) Klansmen forced Edwards to jump to his death from a bridge into the [Alabama River](#).<sup>[114]</sup>
- The 1963 assassination of NAACP organizer [Medgar Evers](#) in Mississippi. In 1994, former Ku Klux Klansman [Byron De La Beckwith](#) was convicted.

- The 1963 [bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church](#) in Birmingham, Alabama, which killed four [African-American](#) girls. The perpetrators were Klan members [Robert Chambliss](#), convicted in 1977, [Thomas Edwin Blanton, Jr.](#) and [Bobby Frank Cherry](#), convicted in 2001 and 2002. The fourth suspect, [Herman Cash](#), died before he was indicted.
- The 1964 murders of three civil rights workers, [Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner](#), in Mississippi. In June 2005, Klan member [Edgar Ray Killen](#) was convicted of [manslaughter](#).<sup>[115]</sup>
- The 1964 murder of two black teenagers, [Henry Hezekiah Dee](#) and [Charles Eddie Moore](#) in Mississippi. In August 2007, based on the confession of Klansman [Charles Marcus Edwards](#), [James Ford Seale](#), a reputed Ku Klux Klansman, was convicted. Seale was sentenced to serve three life sentences. Seale was a former Mississippi policeman and sheriff's deputy.<sup>[116]</sup>
- The 1965 Alabama murder of [Viola Liuzzo](#). She was a Southern-raised [Detroit](#) mother of five who was visiting the state in order to attend a civil rights march. At the time of her murder Liuzzo was transporting Civil Rights Marchers.
- The 1966 firebombing death of NAACP leader [Vernon Dahmer Sr.](#), 58, in Mississippi. In 1998 former Ku Klux Klan wizard [Sam Bowers](#) was convicted of his murder and sentenced to life. Two other Klan members were indicted with Bowers, but one died before trial, and the other's indictment was dismissed.

There was also resistance to the Klan. In 1953, newspaper publisher [W. Horace Carter](#) received a [Pulitzer prize](#) for reporting on the activities of the Klan. In a 1958 [North Carolina](#) incident, the Klan burned crosses at the homes of two [Lumbee](#) Native Americans who had associated with white people, and they threatened to return with more men. When the KKK held a nighttime rally nearby, they were quickly surrounded by hundreds of armed Lumbees. Gunfire was exchanged, and the Klan was routed at what became known as the [Battle of Hayes Pond](#).<sup>[117]</sup>

While the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) (FBI) had paid informants in the Klan, for instance in Birmingham in the early 1960s, its relations with local law enforcement agencies and the Klan were often ambiguous. The head of the FBI, [J. Edgar Hoover](#), appeared more concerned about Communist links to civil rights activists than about controlling Klan excesses against citizens. In 1964, the FBI's [COINTELPRO](#) program began attempts to infiltrate and disrupt civil rights groups.<sup>[124]</sup>

As 20th-century Supreme Court rulings extended federal enforcement of citizens' [civil rights](#), the government revived the Force Act and Klan Act from Reconstruction days. Federal prosecutors used these laws as the basis for investigations and indictments in the 1964 murders of [Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner](#);<sup>[118]</sup> and the 1965 murder of [Viola Liuzzo](#). They were also the basis for prosecution in 1991 in [Bray v. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic](#).

## Contemporary Klan: 1970s–present



☞ Violence at a Klan march in [Mobile, Alabama](#), 1977

Once African Americans secured federal legislation to protect civil and voting rights, the KKK shifted its focus to opposing court-ordered [busing to desegregate schools](#), [affirmative action](#) and more open [immigration](#). In 1971, KKK members used bombs to destroy 10 school buses in [Pontiac, Michigan](#).

## Altercation with Communist Workers Party

Main article: [Greensboro massacre](#)

On November 3, 1979, five protesters were killed by KKK and [American Nazi Party](#) members in the [Greensboro massacre](#) in [Greensboro, North Carolina](#).<sup>[119]</sup> This incident was the culmination of attempts by the [Communist Workers Party](#) to organize industrial workers, predominantly black, in the area.<sup>[120]</sup>

## Jerry Thompson infiltration

Jerry Thompson, a newspaper reporter who infiltrated the KKK in 1979, reported that the FBI's [COINTELPRO](#) efforts were highly successful. Rival KKK factions accused each other's leaders of being [FBI informants](#). [Bill Wilkinson](#) of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was revealed to have been working for the FBI.<sup>[121]</sup>

Thompson, the journalist who claimed he had infiltrated the Klan, related that KKK leaders who appeared indifferent to the threat of arrest showed great concern about a series of civil lawsuits filed by the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) for damages of millions of dollars. These were filed after KKK members shot into a group of African Americans. Klansmen curtailed activities to conserve money for defense against the lawsuits. The KKK also used lawsuits as tools; they filed a libel suit to prevent publication of a paperback edition of Thompson's book.

## Tennessee shooting

In 1980, three KKK members shot four elderly black women (Viola Ellison, Lela Evans, Opal Jackson and Katherine Johnson) in [Chattanooga, Tennessee](#), following a KKK initiation rally. A fifth woman, Fannie Crumsey, was injured by flying glass in the incident. Attempted murder charges were filed against the three KKK members, two of whom—Bill Church and Larry Payne—were acquitted by an all-white jury, and the other of whom—Marshall Thrash—was sentenced by the same jury to nine months on lesser charges. He was released after three months.<sup>[122][123][124]</sup> In 1982, a jury awarded the five women \$535,000 in a civil rights trial.<sup>[125]</sup>

## Michael Donald lynching

After [Michael Donald](#) was lynched in 1981 in [Alabama](#), the FBI investigated his death and two local KKK members were convicted of having a role, including [Henry Francis Hays](#), who was sentenced to death. With the support of attorneys [Morris Dees](#) and Joseph J. Levin of the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) (SPLC), Donald's mother, Beulah Mae Donald, sued the KKK in civil court in Alabama. Her lawsuit against the [United Klans of America](#) was tried in February 1987. The all-white jury found the Klan responsible for the lynching of Donald and ordered the Klan to pay US\$7 million. To pay the judgment, the KKK turned over all of its assets, including its national headquarters building in [Tuscaloosa](#). After exhausting the appeals process, Hays was executed for Donald's death in Alabama on June 6, 1997. It was the first time since 1913 that a white man had been executed in Alabama for a crime against an African American.

## Neo-Nazi alliances and Stormfront

Main article: [Stormfront \(website\)](#)

In 1995, [Don Black](#) and Chloë Hardin, former KKK Grand Wizard [David Duke](#)'s ex-wife, began a small [bulletin board system](#) (BBS) called [Stormfront](#). Today, Stormfront has become a prominent online forum for [white nationalism](#), [Neo-Nazism](#), [hate speech](#), [racism](#), and [antisemitism](#).<sup>[126][127][128]</sup> Duke has an account on Stormfront which he uses to post articles from his own website, as well as polling forum members for opinions and questions, in particular during his internet broadcasts. Duke has worked with Don Black on numerous projects including [Operation Red Dog](#) in 1980.<sup>[129][130]</sup>

## Current developments

The modern KKK is not one organization; rather it is composed of small independent chapters across the U.S.<sup>[131]</sup> The formation of independent chapters has made KKK groups more difficult to infiltrate, and researchers find it hard to estimate their numbers. Estimates are that about two-thirds of KKK members are concentrated in the [Southern United States](#), with another third situated primarily in the lower [Midwest](#).<sup>[132][133][134]</sup>

Klan splinter divisions grew substantially after the 2008 election of U.S. President [Barack Obama](#), the first [African-American](#) to hold the office.<sup>[135][136]</sup> The Klan has expanded its recruitment efforts to white supremacists at the international level.<sup>[137]</sup> But in the long run, the Klan's numbers are steadily dropping. This decline has been attributed to the Klan's lack of competence in the use of the Internet, their history of violence, a proliferation of competing hate groups, and a decline in the number of young racist activists who are willing to join groups at all.<sup>[111]</sup>

Recent membership campaigns have been based on issues such as people's anxieties about [illegal immigration](#), urban crime and [same-sex marriage](#).<sup>[138]</sup> Many KKK groups have formed strong alliances with other white supremacist groups, such as [neo-Nazis](#). Some KKK groups have become increasingly "nazified", adopting the look and emblems of [white power skinheads](#).<sup>[139]</sup>

The [American Civil Liberties Union](#) (ACLU) has provided legal support to various factions of the KKK in defense of their [First Amendment](#) rights to hold public rallies, parades, and marches, as well as their right to field political candidates.<sup>[140]</sup>

## Current Klan organizations

A list is maintained by the [Anti-Defamation League](#) (ADL):<sup>[141]</sup>

- Bayou Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, prevalent in [Texas](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Arkansas](#), [Louisiana](#) and other areas of the Southeastern U.S.
- Church of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan<sup>[132]</sup>
- [Imperial Klans of America](#)<sup>[142]</sup>
- [Knights of the White Camelia](#)<sup>[143]</sup>
- Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, headed by national director and self-claimed pastor [Thom Robb](#), and based in [Zinc, Arkansas](#).<sup>[144]</sup> It claims to be the biggest Klan organization in America today.

## Other countries

Aside from Canada, there have been various attempts to organise KKK chapters outside of the United States. In Australia in the late 1990s, former [One Nation](#) founding member Peter Coleman established branches throughout the country,<sup>[145][146]</sup> and in recent years the KKK has attempted to infiltrate other political parties such as [Australia First](#).<sup>[147]</sup> Recruitment activity has also been reported in Britain.<sup>[148][149]</sup>

## Vocabulary

Membership in the Klan is secret. Like many fraternal organizations, the Klan has signs which members can use to recognize one another. A member may use the acronym *AYAK* (Are you a Klansman?) in conversation to surreptitiously identify himself to another potential member. The response *AKIA* (A Klansman I am) completes the greeting.<sup>[150]</sup>

Throughout its varied history, the Klan has coined many words<sup>[151]</sup> beginning with "Kl" including:

- Klabee: treasurers
- Klavern: local organization
- Imperial Kleagle: recruiter
- Klecktoken: initiation fee
- Kligrapp: secretary

- Klonvocation: gathering
- [Kloran](#): ritual book
- Kloreroe: delegate
- Imperial Kludd: chaplain

All of the above terminology was created by William Simmons, as part of his 1915 revival of the Klan.<sup>[152]</sup> The Reconstruction-era Klan used different titles; the only titles to carry over were "[Wizard](#)" for the overall leader of the Klan and "Night Hawk" for the official in charge of security.

The Imperial Kludd was the chaplain of the Imperial Klonvocation and he performed "such other duties as may be required by the Imperial Wizard." The Imperial Kaliff was the second highest position after the [Imperial Wizard](#).<sup>[153]</sup>

## See also

- [History of Ku Klux Klan in New Jersey](#)
- [History of the United States \(1865–1918\)#Social Discontent](#)
- [Knights of the Golden Circle](#)
- [Ku Klux Klan regalia and insignia](#)
- [Ku Klux Klan in Inglewood, California](#)
- [Ku Klux Klan in Maine](#)
- [Ku Klux Klan members in United States politics](#)
- [Ku Klux Klan recruitment](#)
- [Leaders of the Ku Klux Klan](#)
- [List of organizations designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center as hate groups](#)
- [List of white nationalist organizations](#)
- [List of Ku Klux Klan organizations](#)
- [The Order \(group\)](#)
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- [Tulsa race riot](#)
- [White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan](#)

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  129. <sup>^</sup> [Captmike works undercover with the US Government to stop the invasion of the Island Nation of Dominica](#), manana.com.
  130. <sup>^</sup> [Operation Red Dog: Canadian neo-nazis were central to the planned invasion of Dominica in 1981](#),<sup>[[dead link](#)]</sup> canadiancontent.ca.
  131. <sup>^</sup> "[About the Ku Klux Klan – Extremism in America](#)". *Anti-Defamation League*. According to the report, the KKK's estimated size then was "No more than a few thousand, organized into slightly more than 100 units."
  132. <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> "[Church of the American Knights of the KKK](#)". *Anti-Defamation League*. October 22, 1999. Retrieved July 28, 2010.
  133. <sup>^</sup> "[Active U.S. Hate Groups](#)". *Intelligence Report*. *Southern Poverty Law Center*.
  134. <sup>^</sup> "[About the Ku Klux Klan – Extremism in America](#)". *Anti-Defamation League*. Retrieved July 28, 2010.
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  136. <sup>^</sup> "[U.S. police fear post-Obama Ku Klux Klan recruitment drive after woman is 'shot dead when she asked to leave initiation ritual'](#)". *Daily Mail* (United Kingdom). November 13, 2008.
  137. <sup>^</sup> "[Ku Klux Klan warns race war if Obama wins](#)". *Sify News*. November 3, 2008. Retrieved July 28, 2010.
  138. <sup>^</sup> Knickerbocker, Brad (February 9, 2007). "[Anti-Immigrant Sentiments Fuel Ku Klux Klan Resurgence](#)". *The Christian Science Monitor*.
  139. <sup>^</sup> "[Ku Klux Klan – Affiliations – Extremism in America](#)". *Anti-Defamation League*. Retrieved July 28, 2010.
  140. <sup>^</sup> See, e.g., "[A.C.L.U. Lawsuit Backs Klan In Seeking Permit for Cross](#)". *The New York Times*. December 16, 1993. (accessed August 2009); "[ACLU Defends KKK, Wins](#)". *Channel3000*. January 4, 1999. Retrieved July 28, 2010. The *ACLU* professes a mission to defend the constitutional rights of all groups, whether [left](#), [center](#), or right.
  141. <sup>^</sup> "[Ku Klux Klan – Extremism in America – Active Groups \(by state\)](#)". *adl.org*. *Anti-Defamation League*. 2011. Archived from [the original](#) on March 15, 2011. Retrieved March 15, 2011.
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  143. <sup>^</sup> "[White Camelia Knight of the Ku Klux Klan – Home page](#)". *wckkkk.org*. White Camelia Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. 2011. Archived from [the original](#) on March 15, 2011. Retrieved March 15, 2011.
  144. <sup>^</sup> "[Arkansas Klan Group Loses Legal Battle with North Carolina Newspaper](#)". *Anti-Defamation League*. July 9, 2009. Retrieved August 15, 2008.
  145. <sup>^</sup> "[Ku Klux Klan sets up Australian branch](#)". BBC News. 2 June 1999. Retrieved 19 July 2012.
  146. <sup>^</sup> Ansley, Greg (5 June 1999). "[Dark mystique of the KKK](#)". *The New Zealand Herald*. Retrieved 19 July 2012.
  147. <sup>^</sup> Jensen, Erik (10 July 2009). "[We have infiltrated party: KKK](#)". *Sydney Morning Herald*. Retrieved 19 July 2012.
  148. <sup>^</sup> Hosken, Andy (10 June 1999). "[KKK plans 'infiltration' of the UK](#)". BBC News. Retrieved 19 July 2012.
  149. <sup>^</sup> Parry, Ryan (19 October 2011). "[We expose vile racist biker as British leader of the Ku Klux Klan](#)". *Daily Mail*. Retrieved 19 July 2012.
  150. <sup>^</sup> "[A Visual Database of Extremist Symbols, Logos and Tattoos](#)". *Anti-Defamation League*. Retrieved 19 July 2012.
  151. <sup>^</sup> Axelrod 1997, p. 160.



152. <sup>^</sup> Wade 1987, p. 142. "It was rather difficult, sometimes, to make the two letters fit in,' he recalled later, 'but I did it somehow.'"
153. <sup>^</sup> Chester L. Quarles (1999). *The Ku Klux Klan and related American racist and antisemitic organizations*. McFarland Publishing. ISBN 0-7864-0647-X. "Imperial Kludd: Is the Chaplain of the Imperial Klondokation and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Imperial Wizard ..."

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