

A Revitalized Klan.

Immigration restriction was not the only visible symptom of **nativism**—discrimination by native born whites against immigrants--during the 1920s.

The decade also witnessed the revival of the long-dormant **Ku Klux Klan**, a secret organization founded during Reconstruction to intimidate African Americans newly freed from slavery.

In 1915 William J. Simmons reorganized the fraternal order in Atlanta, Georgia, and hailed its mission as the defense of "comprehensive Americanism."

Following World War I the newly organized Klan spread across the United States. Membership increased rapidly, mushrooming to 4.5 million in 1924, when the organization reached its zenith.

Unlike the nineteenth-century Ku Klux Klan, which targeted blacks, the resurgent Klan of the 1920s broadened its geographical scope and expanded its list of enemies. The Anglo-Saxon-glorifying, white supremacist organization lashed out at immigrants,...



The Ku Klux Klan

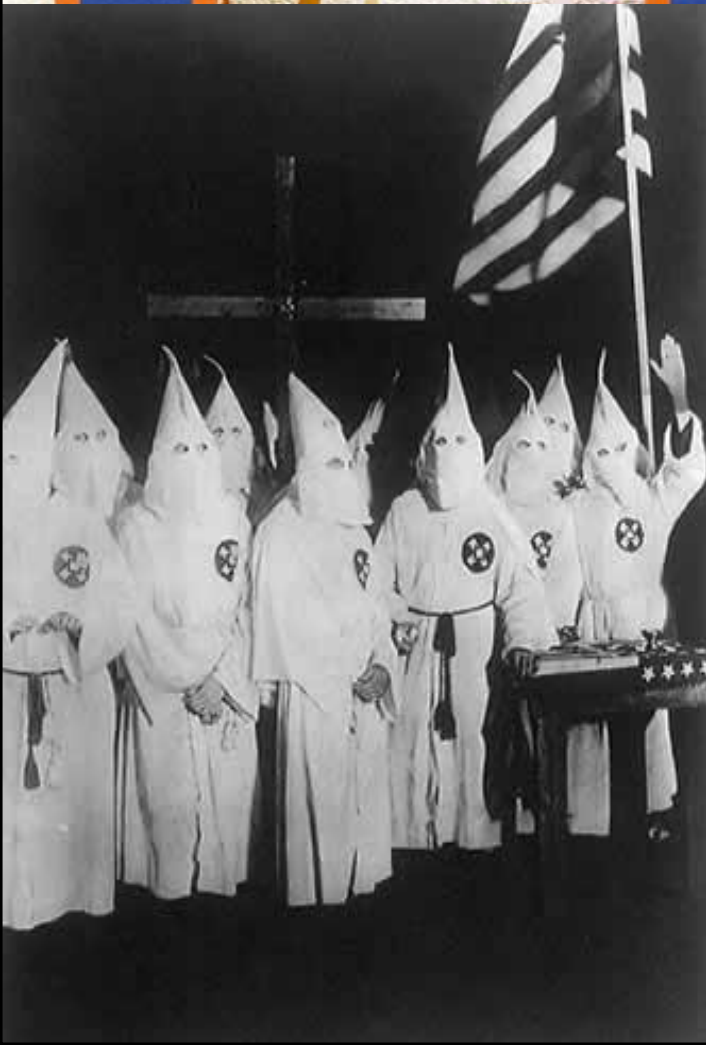
The Ku Klux Klan had many different aims. These include:

- 1) To 'save' the USA from all those who were not **WASP's** (White Anglo Saxon Protestants)
- 2) To condemn non WASPs (Foreigners, Catholics, Jews, Blacks etc) to achieve white supremacy.

Torture and Violence were used against those who were not 'true' Americans. Black people suffered the most. Victims were beaten, whipped, tarred and feathered, homes burned, murdered

Members of the Klan were often poor Southern farmers who felt that their jobs were threatened by Black people who were willing to work for less pay. However, policemen, judges, and politicians were also members of the KKK and this allowed crimes to go unpunished.

Membership declined in the late 1920s because of a series of scandals affecting Klan leaders.



ANNOUNCING A TREMENDOUS KU KLUX KLAN CELEBRATION

- AT -

KOKOMO, INDIANA

Saturday, June 30, July 1, 2, 3 & 4

OTHER REALMS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

**Greatest gathering of National and State Speakers
ever assembled together before speaking on vital
subjects of the conditions of our country.**

**Continuous program, best of band music and many
surprise features.**

MELFALFA PARK

FOUR MILES WEST OF KOKOMO. GO WEST ON SYCAMORE STREET FIVE THREE MILES (Look for Cross Road Marker.) TURN SOUTH
ONE MILE TO WILD CAT CREEK BRIDGE.

Come on Saturday and Camp. Plenty of cold spring water. Toilet facilities for both men and women.

Bring your Drum Corps, Bands and Glee Clubs. Bring your bathing Suits. Swimming pool in operation FREE to everyone. Pool lighted at
night. Plan now to charter a Car, a Bus or come on an Auto Caravan.

Ground well lighted at night for those ar-
riving during the night.

Those intending to camp are invited to
have their mail addressed to R. R. 1, Box 60,
Kokomo, Indiana, and it will be delivered to
the grounds daily.

Canteen Stand in operation day and
night. Don't bother taking lunch. Plenty of
eats at the right price.

Come one and all! This celebration open to public!

GENERAL ADMISSION 25c FOR ALL FIVE DAYS. FREE PARKING AND CAMPING PRIVILEGES. (Under Twelve Years Admission Free)

FOR ADDITIONAL BILLS OR INFORMATION: ADDRESS R. R. NO. 1, BOX 60, KOKOMO, INDIANA



1924
Hartford City, Indiana





APPLICATION FOR CITIZENSHIP

IN THE
INVISIBLE EMPIRE**Knights of the Ku Klux Klan**

(INCORPORATED)



To His Majesty the Imperial Wizard, Emperor of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan:

I, the undersigned, a native born, true and loyal citizen of the United States of America, being a white male Gentile person of temperate habits, sound in mind and a believer in the tenets of the Christian religion, the maintenance of White Supremacy and the principles of a "pure Americanism," do most respectfully apply for membership in the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan through

Klan No. _____, Realm of _____

I guarantee on my honor to conform strictly to all rules and requirements regulating my "naturalization" and the continuance of my membership, and at all times a strict and loyal obedience to your constitutional authority and the constitution and laws of the fraternity, not in conflict with the constitution and constitutional laws of the United States of America and the states thereof. If I prove untrue as a Klansman I will willingly accept as my portion whatever penalty your authority may impose.

The required "klectokon" accompanies this application.

Signed _____ Applicant

Endorsed by

Kl. _____ Residence Address _____

Kl. _____ Business Address _____

Date _____, 192_____

The person securing this application must sign on top line above. NOTICE—Check the address to which mail may be sent.

NOTICE

The sum of this donation MUST accompany application, if possible. Upon payment of same by applicant this certificate is made out and signed by person securing application, then detached and given to applicant, who will keep same and bring it with him when he is called, and then turn it in on demand in lieu of the cash.

DO NOT detach if donation is not paid in advance.

OFFICIAL
CERTIFICATE OF DONATION*This certifies that*

has donated the sum of TEN DOLLARS to the propagating fund of the

Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (Inc.)

and same is accepted as such and as full sum of "KLECTOKON" entitling him to be received, on the acceptance of his application, under the laws, regulations and requirements of the Order, duly naturalized and to have and to hold all the rights, titles, honors and protection as a citizen of the Invisible Empire. He enters through the portal of



Klan No. _____, Realm of _____

Date _____, 192_____

Received in trust for the
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, (INC.)

By Kl. _____

Primary Source Document on the KKK

The 20th Century Ku Klux Klan in Alabama

1. Racism and the bitter memory of Reconstruction figured prominently in the 1920s Klan movement in Alabama:

I am a very old lady, lived over my three score years; born and reared in the Deep South. I am an admirer of the Ku-Klux Klan because my Father was one of the great many who cleansed our public offices of Negroes, carpetbaggers, and scalawags. I can very well remember the Reconstruction Days when the White people of the South were oppressed and mistreated by this ungodly corruptible group. And it was this same group who hated the Ku Klux Klan of that time. . . . I have watched the Ku-Klux Klan in its ups and downs; I have also watched those who so bitterly hate this great organization; have found the haters always had something in mind they wanted to keep covered up, but they know each time when the Klan rises their evils will be uncovered. . . . I can remember my Father saying the Ku-Klux Klan will never die. "It was here yesterday, today, and forever." And I firmly believe God has a working hand through this great organization, for if it wasn't for the Ku-Klux Klan in the Reconstruction Days, America would long have been a mongrelized nation. So today God sees the need of a Ku-Klux Klan as never before a nation as full of corruptible filth as America has. . . . Instead of carpetbaggers and scalawags of years past, America has become infiltrated with worse. . . . [I]n the last thirty years Communism began to grow in America. It has set up fronts such as the N.A.A.C.P and other Jewish controlled organizations as peddlers to create hate and brainwash the minds of the American people [to]. . . just about destroy our Christian faith, our freedom of rights, and the American Way of Life. . . . [W]hen you find a hater of the Ku-Klux Klan check his record; watch him; he is full of corruption; he has something in store for himself and not for others. . . America needs cleaning. The evil ones are in power, as it was in the carpetbagger and scalawag days. Your Father and mine had the guts to clean America. Where are your guts? . . . The Ku-Klux Klan will never die and my prayer is this: O God, bless the Klansman that he may fight to keep America free from ungodly things forever more, and their race as pure as the Lily of the Valley. . . . God bless the Klansman, his home, his family, and his country. Above all, God, bless those who hate the Klan, for they know not what they are doing with their brainwashed minds, Amen.

The Old Lady of the South

Prattville, Alabama

Source: Boone Aiken Collection. Original in private hands; copy in possession of Glenn Feldman.

Primary Source Document on the KKK

Hiram W. Evans, *North American Review* (May, 1926)

Note: Hiram Evans became Klan's Imperial Wizard in 1922

The greatest achievement so far has been to formulate, focus, and gain recognition for an idea - the idea of preserving and developing America first and chiefly for the benefit of the children of the pioneers who made America, and only and definitely along the lines of the purpose and spirit of those pioneers. The Klan cannot claim to have created this idea - it has long been a vague stirring in the souls of the plain people. But the Klan can fairly claim to have given it purpose, method, direction, and a vehicle.

When the Klan first appeared, the nation was in the confusion of sudden awakening from the lovely dream of the melting pot, disorganized and helpless before the invasion of aliens and alien ideas. After ten years of the Klan it is in arms for defense. This is our great achievement. The second is more selfish; we have won the leadership in the movement for Americanism. Except for a few lonesome voices, almost drowned by the clamor of the alien and the alien minded "Liberal," the Klan alone faces the invader.

This is not to say that the Klan has gathered into its membership all who are ready to fight for America. The Klan is the champion, but it is not merely an organization. It is an idea, a faith, a purpose, an organized crusade. No recruit to the cause has ever been really lost. Though men and women drop from the ranks, they remain with us in purpose and can be depended on fully in any crisis. Also, there are many millions who have never joined but who think and feel and - when called on - fight with us. This is our real strength, and no one who ignores it can hope to understand America today.

Other achievements of these ten years have been the education of the millions of our own membership in citizenship, the suppression of much lawlessness and increase of good government wherever we have become strong, the restriction of immigration, and the defeat of the Catholic attempt to seize the Democratic Party. All these we have helped, and all are important.

The outstanding proof of both our influence and our service, however, has been in creating, outside our ranks as well as in them, not merely the growing national concentration on the problems of Americanism but also a growing sentiment against radicalism, cosmopolitanism, and alienism of all kinds. We have produced instead a sane and progressive conservatism along national lines. We have enlisted our racial instincts for the work of preserving and developing our American traditions and customs. This was most strikingly shown in the elections last fall when the conservative reaction amazed all politicians - especially the La Follette rout in the Northwest. This reaction added enormously to the plurality of the President, the size of which was the great surprise of the election.

The Klan, therefore, has now come to speak for the great mass of Americans of the old pioneer stock. We believe that it does fairly and faithfully represent them, and our proof lies in their support. To understand the Klan, then, it is necessary to understand the character and present mind of the mass of old-stock Americans. The mass, it must be remembered, as distinguished from the intellectually mongrelized "Liberals."

These are, in the first place, a blend of various peoples of the so-called Nordic race, the race which, with all its faults, has given the world almost the whole of modern civilization. The Klan does not try to represent any people but these.

There is no need to recount the virtues of the American pioneers; but it is too often forgotten that in the pioneer period a selective process of intense rigor went on. From the first, only hardy, adventurous, and strong men and women dared the pioneer dangers; from among these, all but the best died swiftly, so that the new Nordic blend which became the American race was bred up to a point probably the highest in history. This remarkable race character, along with the new-won continent and the new-created nation, made the inheritance of the old-stock Americans the richest ever given to a generation of men.

Directions: Complete this for the KKK letters, Flyers and Photos:

Ku Klux Klan Documents

A. Name of the letter writer:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

F. Location:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

C. Date of Letter:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

D. What does the letter tell you about the Ku Klux Klan? (activities, policies, etc.)

- 1.
- 2.

3.

4.

E. Why do you think the letter was written?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

F. What does the author want the government to do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Student Handout: How Do We Treat Others?

	Today	1920s
Catholics		
African Americans		
Jewish people		
Immigrants		

Who or What Influences How We Treat Others?

	Today	1920s
Business		
Politics		
Personal decisions		