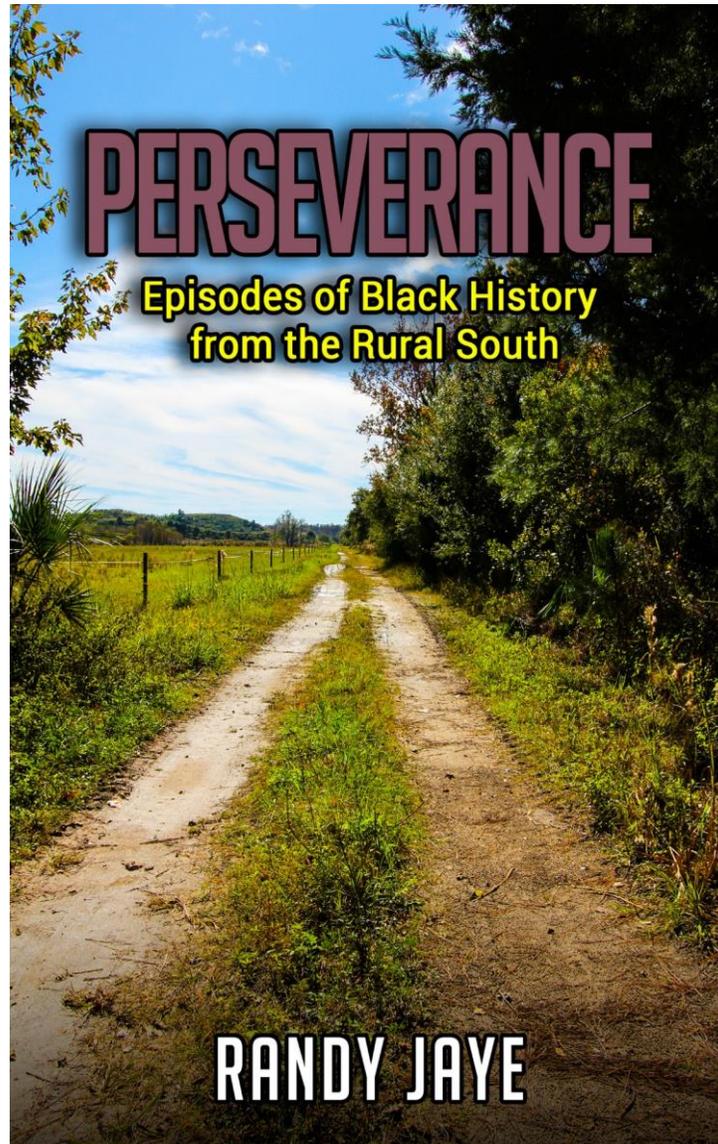


This article is an excerpt from chapter 6 - **The Ku Klux Klan in Flagler County** -  
in the book:

***Perseverance: Episodes of Black History from the Rural South***

by Randy Jaye



[The book is available for purchase on Amazon:](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1655315617)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1655315617>

## The Ku Klux Klan in Flagler County

### The National Context: A Brief History of the Ku Klux Klan

The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is a white supremacist organization that has been active in the United States in three different periods (referred to as the first Klan, second Klan and third Klan). The first Klan existed from 1865 to 1871 (number of members is unknown), the second Klan from 1915 to 1944 (3,000,000 to 6,000,000 members) and the third Klan began in 1946 and is currently active (estimated at 5,000 to 8,000 members). The KKK has been in a constant battle against progressive and changing society throughout its existence, and is classified as a hate group by organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League<sup>1</sup> and the Southern Poverty Law Center.<sup>2</sup>

#### The first Klan (1866-1871)

After the North's victory in the American Civil War, six Confederate veterans created the KKK as a social organization on December 24, 1865 in Pulaski, Tennessee. From its beginning, the KKK has been a secret social fraternity with a doctrine of white racial superiority, and that has established a legacy of violence in defense of white supremacy. The first national leader (Grand Wizard)<sup>3</sup> of the KKK was Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest<sup>4</sup> (*fig. 6.1*) who was an extreme racist that made a fortune dealing in the slave trade prior to 1860.

During the Reconstruction of the South, the first Klan quickly began using paramilitary tactics, including excessive violence, in an attempt to reverse the federal government's progressive Reconstruction-era policies, which enforced the rights of African Americans (their main target). The violence perpetrated by the KKK against African Americans and white Republicans included terroristic night raids of intimidation, property destruction, assault and murder. This violence was intended to maintain white control and suppress voting rights over newly enfranchised former African American slaves. By the early 1870s, the first Klan began to fade away due to several factors including the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871,<sup>5</sup> federal law enforcement, state militias organized by Republicans, military force authorized by President Ulysses S. Grant<sup>6</sup> and martial law that resulted in the arrests of thousands of Klan members.

### **The second Klan (1915-1944)**

In 1915, the second Klan was founded in Georgia by William Joseph Simmons,<sup>7</sup> which started on a small scale. The silent film *The Birth of a Nation* (fig. 6.2), released in 1915, glorified the endeavors of the first Klan and invigorated the rebirth of the KKK. A false endorsement of this film attributed to President Woodrow Wilson<sup>8</sup> was publicized which helped popularize and promote the KKK. President Wilson actually disliked the film, and denied any endorsement of it. The film also inspired many of the modern KKK's traditional imagery and symbols including the burning of crosses, the white robe and hooded uniform (fig. 6.3) and insignia (fig. 6.4). Conduct expected of KKK members was published in the 1915 booklet *The Practice of Klanishness* (fig. 6.5), which includes the following introduction of Imperial Instructions, "To each and every citizen of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, my cordial imperial greetings: To you I speak, oh, noble Klansmen!"

By the 1920s, the second Klan expanded their targets based on social issues and a recent influx of immigrants as their ideologies now included anti-immigration, anti-communism, anti-Catholicism, anti-Semitism and support for Prohibition. The KKK's membership during the mid-1920s rapidly grew and expanded from the South to urban areas of the Midwest and West due to a multi-level national marketing plan, which presented the Klan as a fraternal, nativist and a patriotic organization with Christian morality. The Klan now included a woman's auxiliary, and Democratic and Republican voters, as it did not align itself with one political party. By the mid-1920s, its membership reached its historic peak when between 4 and 15% of the eligible national population of adult whites were members.

Violence perpetrated by the Klan was not limited to African Americans as many whipping victims were white men who were suspected of gambling or crimes against their wives, which included the refusal to pay child support, adultery, physical abuse and abandonment. Both white and African American women who were accused of fornication or adultery were also whipped.

In 1923, a national scandal decimated the Klan's publicly projected image when D. C. Stephenson,<sup>9</sup> Grand Dragon of Indiana and 22 Northern states, was convicted of the abduction, rape and murder of a young white woman. His conviction along with many additional indictments destroyed the Klan's political strength in Indiana as many indictments followed. By the end of the 1920s, the Klan lost tens of thousands of members nationally. The rapid decline of the second Klan after its 1920s heyday is often attributed to the ramifications of Stephenson's conviction. By the end of World War II, the second Klan had completely faded away.

### **The third Klan (1946 to present)**

In 1946, scattered independent local and detached white supremacist groups began to emerge around the country that used the KKK mystique and name to recruit new members. This incarnation of the KKK

is known as the third Klan, and was initiated as opposition to the post-World War II Civil Rights Movement and is still currently active. This third Klan is neo-fascist, neo-Nazi, anti-Islamic and anti-LGBT.

During the Civil Rights era, (1948 through the 1960s) third Klan members were still preaching that all races and religions should be separate and violently opposed the Civil Rights Movement and the desegregation of public schools and facilities. Many murders, brutal attacks and bombings during the Civil Rights era are attributed to the KKK including the infamous 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, which killed four young girls on September 15, 1963.

Today, the KKK is made up of small independent chapters without a central national organization. The formation of the many small independent chapters primarily consisting of close-knit assemblages make these KKK groups more difficult to infiltrate, so membership numbers are estimates. Although there has been an increase of hate and antigovernment groups within the United States in recent years, there has been a decline in the number of young racist activists who are willing to join KKK chapters.

### **The State Context: The KKK in the State of Florida**

During the Reconstruction era following the American Civil War, Florida became a hotbed of KKK activity. Although Klansmen were few in numbers compared to the overall population, they were successful in leading vigilante resistance and terrorism against unionists, immigrants, the Republican Party and new legislative rights for African Americans. For the most part, the white community did little to protest acts of terrorism, including murder, if they were associated with maintaining or restoring white supremacy in the South. The KKK's infiltration of law enforcement and elected officials in Florida often prevented arrests and convictions for crimes ranging from vandalism and assault to murder and the destruction of communities.

Although the KKK declined nationally in the late 1920s due to scandals and economic hardships, it survived in Florida as the largest realm in the country in the 1930s. Florida had no major scandals to discredit local Klan leaders and many acts of violence were ignored or suppressed by Klan-influenced local media, law enforcement and governmental officials (including many elected politicians).

Florida had active and organized klaverns (local units or chapters of the KKK) especially during the second Klan's heyday during the 1920s into the 1930s. These klaverns included: Stonewall Jackson No. 1 (Jacksonville), John B. Gordon No. 24 (Miami), Olustee No. 20 (St. Petersburg), Alachua Klan No. 46 (Gainesville), George B. Baker Klan No. 70 (Lake Worth) and Cherokee Klan No. 9 (Orlando). However, most, if not all, of these klaverns were closed when the second Klan faded away during World War II.

During the Civil Rights era, the Klan in Florida, and elsewhere around the country, finally lost its guerilla war against African Americans as they pledged a defense of nonviolence and would not run and hide and remain silent. The national government was forced to recognize equal rights and protection under the law for all citizens. With the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965

community support for the KKK waned and law enforcement and government cooperation for the organization disappeared.

Today, Florida's KKK groups are few, fragmented and marginalized. However, their fight for white supremacy continues.

### **The KKK in Flagler County**

The Ku Klux Klan chapter that was known to be active during the second Klan era in Flagler County was named the I. I. Moody Klan, No. 14, Realm of Florida.<sup>10</sup> The *Flagler Tribune*<sup>11</sup> newspaper also referred to this chapter, in several published articles, as the Bunnell Ku Klux Klan and the Klan of Flagler County. An elected official with the title of Exalted Cyclops<sup>12</sup> was this chapter's leader. Obviously, since the KKK is a secret organization few of the I. I. Moody Klan, No. 14, Realm of Florida's activities were reported in local media. However, letters to the editor of the *Flagler Tribune*, public threats and intimidation through mailings and posters, street marches, speaking events, acts of violence and a full dress funeral procession were reported in Flagler County that are directly associated to the KKK, or are consistent with known Klan activity in other parts of Florida and around the country.

### **Threats against African American voters in Flagler County**

On November 4, 1920, the *Flagler Tribune* printed a letter that was mailed to many registered voters in the African American community the prior week. The title of the article was "The Famous Christmas Letter to Flagler's Colored Voters."

"To the Colored People: If you want to eat another Christmas dinner you had better not go to the polls to vote for County Commissioners on November 2<sup>nd</sup> [November 2, 1920]. Your boss may be able to protect you while you are voting, but he won't be with you at night while you are going from one place to another."

"We will get you sooner or later if you try to mix in the voting for commissioner. You are just looking for trouble if you mix with this affair, and you will find all the trouble you are looking for."

"The white people started the commissioner fight and you had better let them settle it. The Negroes have always gotten along fine in this county and they can continue to do so if they will just look after their own affairs. We will not stand for a bunch of turpentine Negroes to run the affairs of this county. You had better let well enough alone. You will not be allowed to stay in this county if you mess with this thing and you may have to be hauled out."

"The only thing you will get out of a vote for commissioner is trouble and a lot of it. We have an organization of 100 white people to stand behind this letter. This is warning enough. We will keep a list of the voters."

The article reported that this letter, "...created almost a panic among the Negro population wherever received, and, it is said kept many of them from going to the polls."<sup>13</sup>

### **KKK Marches in Flagler County**

On January 9, 1922, the KKK staged a march (*fig. 6.6*) through the streets of Bunnell with one hundred fifty Klansmen participating. The *Flagler Tribune* described it in an article on January 12, 1922 saying the "parade":

“With a large silk American Flag and the flaming cross in the lead, a body guard for that emblem arranged in the shape of an arrow head aiming true and unerringly for the right, with banners interspersed along the line of marches in single file, the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan marched thru the streets of Bunnell Monday night to the music of their own steady tread – one hundred and fifty-five strong.”

This article also reported that the townspeople remained mostly orderly during the march:

“Never before in the history of Bunnell has such an immense throng assembled in her streets, and be it said to the credit of the town and her people there was but one flurry of disorder and that was crushed out before it was noticed except by those nearest the actual scene.”

This march included a fiery cross and banners with KKK mottos:

“As stated before the fiery cross led the way, accompanied by the American flag, the robed figures followed in single file, keeping perfect step. At regular intervals along the line banners were carried reading as follows:

‘We are Red Blooded 100 Percent Americans.’  
‘Flagler County Must Be Made Safe for Our Mothers and Children.’  
‘We Protect the Home and the Chastity of Womanhood.’  
‘We Hear All and See All.’  
‘WE Were Here Yesterday, Today, and Will Be Here Tomorrow.’  
‘Gamblers, Loafers and Rude Women. Beware.’”<sup>14</sup>

On May 7, 1925, the KKK staged another march through Bunnell. This march was advertised by handbills and posters that were distributed to the homes of residents during the night. It was reported that 100 marchers stretched for several blocks. The *Flagler Tribune* described this march in a May 14, 1925 article as:

“...coming up south Bay Street, headed by a truck on which was mounted diminutive church. On the church was inscribed, “One Church” and “One Bible.” Immediately behind the church came another truck on which a reproduction of a schoolhouse had been mounted with the inscription “One School” and “One Government.” Then two horsemen bearing an electrically lighted cross (*fig. 6.7*), the national colors. After these came the marchers on foot, interspersed with horsemen. The line of march covered practically all the principle streets of town.”

The *Flagler Tribune* referred to this particular march as impressive and well attended:

“The Klan has paraded here in the past, but it is believed that this was by far the largest and most impressive. It was stated that a number of other towns were represented in the parade as scores of automobiles from out of town were present.”<sup>15</sup>

The *Flagler Tribune* estimated the crowd attending this march to be at least 2,000. Considering that Flagler County’s population in 1925 was less than 2,500 one could infer that this march was more than just a local curiosity.

When KKK marches and parades occurred in Flagler County, residents were able to identify some of the local hooded KKK members because they recognized the horses they were riding and their cars and trucks.<sup>16</sup>

### **The KKK Speaks in Flagler County**

On April 23, 1923, a nationally known speaker on the subject of Klanism (the beliefs and practices of the Ku Klux Klan and its members) spoke in Bunnell. The *Flagler Tribune*, in an April 12, 1923 article, described the intensions of this speech as:

“This meeting will be characteristic of the organization – conducted peacefully and with decorum. The speaker is not here to create bitterness, but to dispel some of the prejudices of the organization due to bitter antagonism. Every citizen of the county is invited to be present.”<sup>17</sup>

### **The KKK Thanked for their Generosity in Flagler County**

In a May 10, 1923 article in the *Flagler Tribune* it was reported that Mrs. C. A. Towne, resident of Bunnell, received a gift of groceries and money with the following note:

“One of the prime motives of the Ku Klux Klan is to assist in every way possible those who it deems worthy of assistance. Knowing you as we do we know you to be worthy, and it affords us great pleasure to be able to hand you herewith a small token of our esteem and good wishes.

Signed: I. I. Moody Klan, No. 14, Realm of Florida”

This article continued in the tone of a public relations release for the KKK:

“Probably no one would have ever been the wiser for this little bit of charity so worthily bestowed except that Mrs. Towne brought the matter to the attention of the [*Flagler*] *Tribune* with the request that we give it the publicity it seems to deserve and to say for her that she fully and truly appreciates the gift, coming as it did from those whom she last expected succor or consideration; that her appreciation cannot be expressed in words, but that her heart is full of love and gratitude for the band of men who watch over the destinies of deserving people wherever a band of such brothers exists; that she is proud of the name that the Bunnell Klan bears, because it is for a good man that lived for others and not for self alone, and that in the hearts of such men there cannot exist the evil that is reputed to them by their enemies.”<sup>18</sup>

Another public thank you for the KKK, this one from the Baptist Church of Bunnell, originated from a March 7, 1926 meeting:

“...the Ku Klux Klan donated a purse containing \$234...There were fifty members of the order present at this meeting...about thirty dollars was contributed by Klansmen who were present from Deland, Crescent City and Daytona Beach realms...Appropriate to the occasion, Rev. Long used as the subject for his discourse, ‘Citizenship’ at this meeting...”<sup>19</sup>

“The Baptists of Bunnell desire to extend thanks to the Order of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of this city and other cities represented at the school auditorium Sunday evening, March 7, [1926] for the generous gift to the church and pastor.”<sup>20</sup>

These types of gifts were not unique to Flagler County as the KKK often gave gifts and money to people who they deemed “deserving”, and to specific churches or their pastors in the communities where their chapters were active.

### **Acts of Mob Violence Reported in Flagler County**

There were some acts of mob violence in Flagler County in the early twentieth century; the following are two that were reported in the *Flagler Tribune*.

On January 9, 1921, an African American man named Pridgen was taken from his home in western Flagler County by a mob of men, tied to a tree and severely lashed with a whip. The mob then warned him not to repeat his offenses, which were not disclosed. Pridgen told the *Flagler Tribune*, "...[I] don't want them to return and will correct all faults complained of."<sup>21</sup>

Another act of mob violence occurred in Bunnell on July 28, 1921 when a small band of men abducted S. R. Fields, a white man and an appointed Flagler County Commissioner, right in front of his house.

"S. R. Fields, Real Estate Man and New Appointee to Succeed Moody, Resigned, as County Commissioner from First District, the Victim."

"Upon his return to town Mr. Fields made a speech from his front porch in which he stated that he had been flogged pretty severely and had been given 48 hours in which to leave Flagler County."<sup>22</sup>

This flogging promoted an Indignation Meeting of citizens at the Flagler County Court House to protest such acts of violence within the borders of Flagler County.

On August 1, 1921, letters were sent to three Bunnell citizens: George Moody, Z. G. Holland and Fulton F. Smith stating, "...one more job like Fields and death will be your portion – nough said."<sup>23</sup>

Fortunately, no major acts of KKK mob violence such as riots or lynchings<sup>24</sup> were ever reported in Flagler County.

### **A Large KKK Funeral Procession in Flagler County**

On August 27, 1927, several hundred white-clad KKK members attended the funeral (*fig. 6.8*) for George W. Durrance, Flagler County Deputy Sheriff. Durrance was shot and killed in the line of duty in Greenland, Florida on August 24, 1927 while on a manhunt for the murderer of Perry Hall<sup>25</sup>, the late Flagler County Sheriff.

In a September 1, 1927 article in the *Flagler Tribune* it was reported that several hundred Klansmen took part in the burial ceremony for George W. Durrance:

"Several hundred Klansmen met the funeral cortege, which, it was said, was the longest ever seen in this territory."

"Inside the burying ground the Klansmen formed in ranks about the grave. Everything was still, the members of the Klan observed perfect silence, except when they sang. Afterwards the leader read the Klan ritual for the dead, which was most impressive."

"When the service was over, the galaxy of white-clad Klansmen dispersed as quickly as they had assembled, and within a few minutes none were to be seen."<sup>26</sup>

### **Decline of the KKK in Flagler County**

After the KKK's heyday during the 1920s and into the 1930s, it is known that the organization steadily, and dramatically, lost members and political and public support. Articles in the *Flagler Tribune* and reports of public sightings of KKK activity steadily vanished from Flagler County after this time as well. It is likely, but it has never been physically confirmed, that Flagler County's I. I. Moody Klan, No. 14, Realm of Florida chapter dissolved several decades ago.

### **Recent KKK Recruitment Efforts**

On April 4, 2010, Ku Klux Klan recruitment flyers were distributed around Palm Coast, FL under the cover of darkness. A three-page packet was titled, "Twenty reasons WHY you (if qualified) should join, and Support the United Northern & Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan." This packet also included a Happy Easter message and a full-page criticism of undocumented immigrants that was titled, "Illegal Immigration Is a Crime!"<sup>27</sup>

On April 18, 2010, *FlaglerLive* contacted Cole Thornton, Imperial Wizard of the United Northern and Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan who is based in Englewood, FL, for his comments. Thornton said, "It's not just in Palm Coast... We have people from the Keys up to Fort Walton, to Tallahassee, Gainesville, Orlando – all over Florida." Thornton added that, "...results [of the recruitment] are 'wonderful' including in Flagler County." Thornton also acknowledged that his branch of the Ku Klux Klan has many politically active members around the state, but none active in Flagler County. He also said that no rallies are planned for the Flagler County area or in the state of Florida, and that the drive had produced new members.<sup>28</sup>

On November 6, 2017, fliers promoting the Ku Klux Klan were distributed around lawns and driveways in Flagler Beach. The fliers featured a hand drawn cartoon titled, "Attention White America!" with a train on tracks. Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, was depicted as the engineer, which was pulling five cars. The first car was full of cash followed by four box cars labeled United Klans of America, Tom Metzger (White Aryan Resistance founder), John Metzger (Tom Metzger's son) and the last was labeled "Reserved for You." The caption read, "All Aboard... You're all invited to take a ride on the [Jew and Liberal] Railroad ... Join conductor Morris Dees for a trip you'll never forget... Destination: White Extinction!" The fliers also included a website (no longer active), and phone number (which was answered by a recorded message).

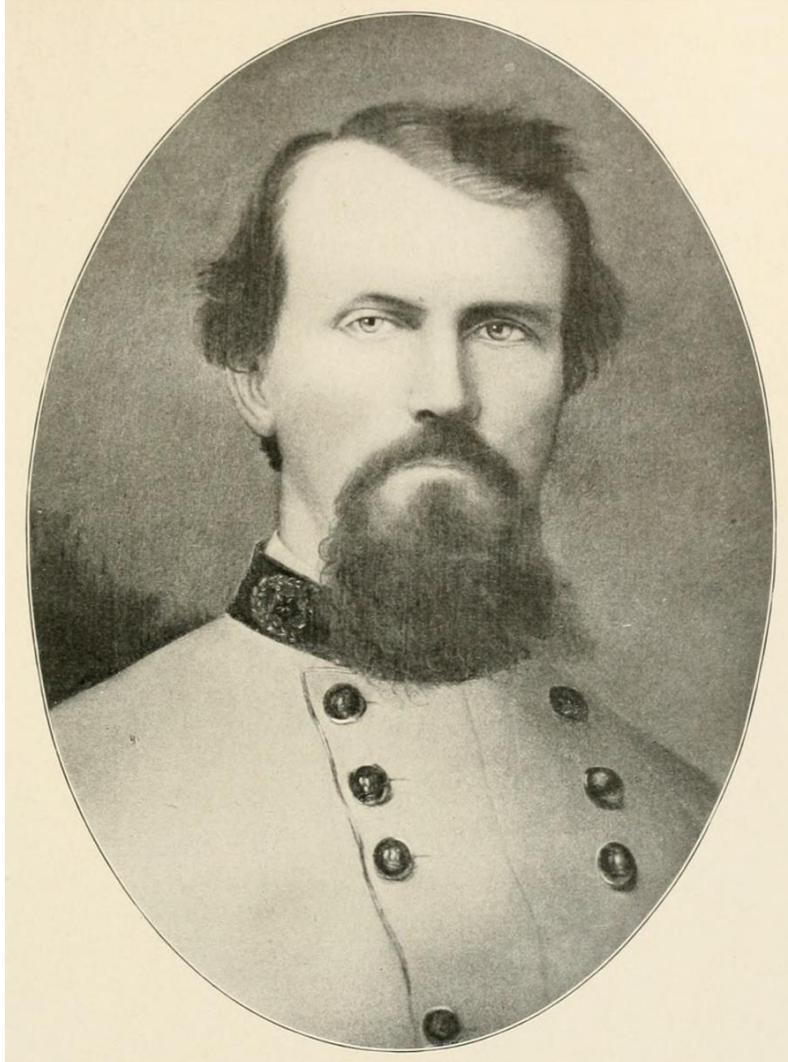
Chris Barker, Imperial Wizard of the Loyal Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, stated that these fliers were distributed over the weekend of November 5 & 6, 2017 at a rally in Danville, VA, and those in attendance were encouraged to take them back to their local communities for distribution. Barker also reported that he heard from newspapers in Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina and Florida confirming the fliers were distributed around several states. Barker referred to the KKK as a civil rights organization and stated that it is not the same as it was in the past. He also stated that these fliers were aimed at recruitment for the KKK.<sup>29</sup>

As of 2020, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center's Hate Map of Florida,<sup>30</sup> there are no reported Ku Klux Klan chapters active in Flagler County.

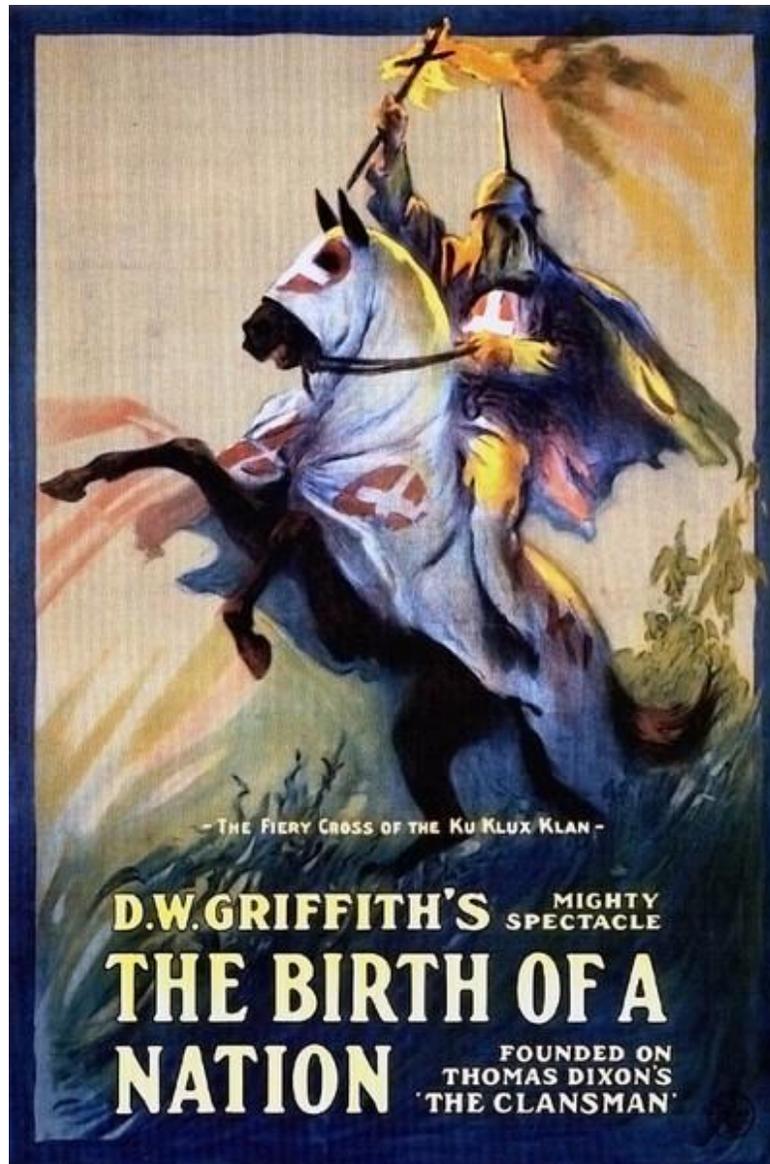
The Ku Klux Klan played a key role in the denying of rights to blacks in the South for many decades. Perseverance, federal laws and a more tolerant and changing society has created a country that legally enforces equality for all races, which has pushed the KKK into the shadows. However, the organization still exists and is occasionally heard and seen in public.

## Figures

### 6 – The Ku Klux Klan in Flagler County



*Fig. 6.1.* Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest – ca. 1865. Source: Public Domain.



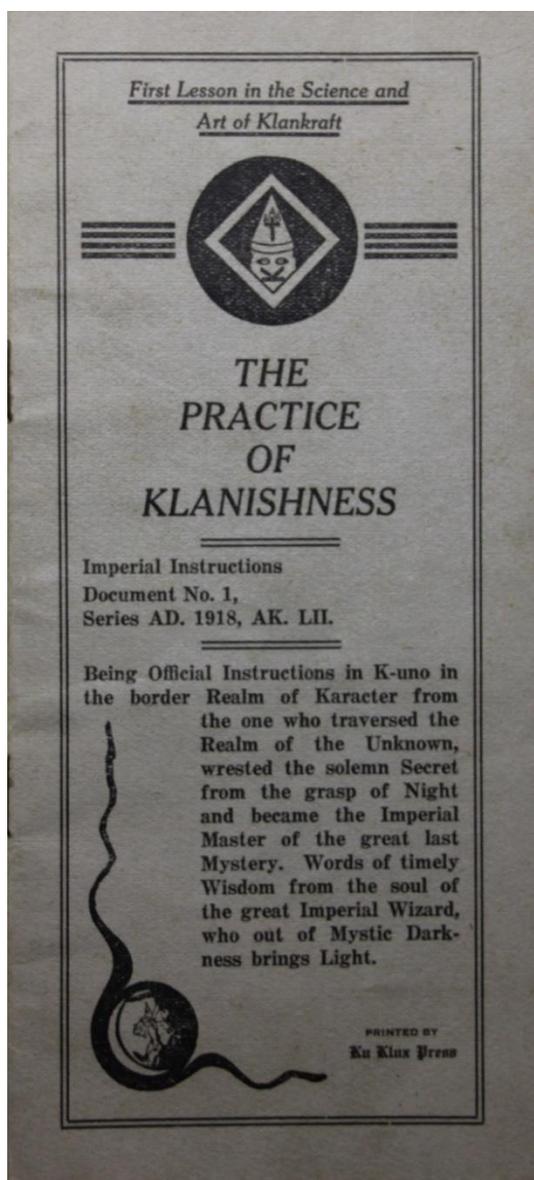
*Fig. 6.2.* Movie Poster for the Silent Film: *The Birth of a Nation* – ca. 1915. Source: Public Domain.



**Fig. 6.3.** Ku Klux Klan uniform (white robe with hood and KKK insignia). Source: Exhibit at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama. Photograph by Author (February 2019).



*Fig. 6.4.* The Ku Klux Klan insignia is a round red patch usually worn over the left breast of a Klansmen's robe, which includes a cross with a drop of blood in the middle of it, which represents Christianity and the white supremacist belief in the purity of the white race. Source: Exhibit at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama. Photograph by Author (February 2019).



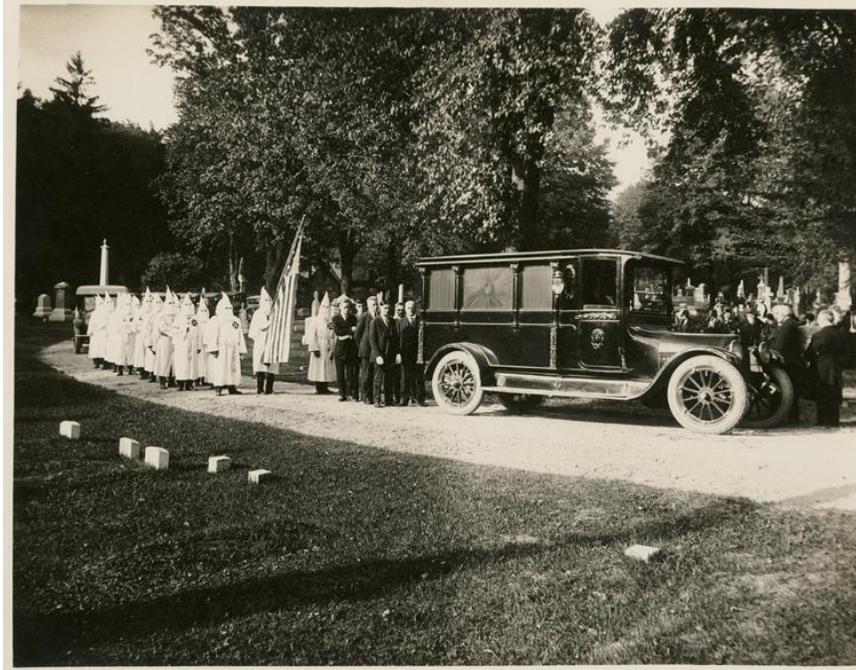
**Fig. 6.5.** The Practice of Klanishness – First Lesson in the Science and Art of Klankraft – is a booklet that was published in 1915 by the second Klan that describes the conduct expected of KKK members. (This booklet is Series AD. 1918, AK. LII – Printed by *Ku Klux Press*.) Source: Flagler County Historical Society.



**Fig. 6.6.** A Ku Klux Klan march in downtown Brooksville, Florida - ca. 1922.  
Source: State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.  
(A similar KKK march occurred on the streets of Bunnell on January 9, 1922.)



*Fig. 6.7.* Ku Klux Klan rally with an electrically lighted cross - Tampa, Florida - ca. 1923. Source: State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. (A Similar KKK event with an electrically lighted cross occurred in Bunnell on May 7, 1925.)



**Fig. 6.8.** Full dress Klan funeral procession for a KKK member, which was held in Cold Spring, Putnam County, New York - circa 1920s. Source: New York Public Library.  
(A similar funeral procession occurred in Flagler County on August 27, 1927.)

## Notes

### 6 - The Ku Klux Klan in Flagler County

<sup>1</sup>The **Anti-Defamation League** (ADL) was founded in September of 1913 as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. It is an international Jewish non-governmental organization based in New York, United States. The ADL's stated mission is to fight anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, defend democratic ideals, and defend civil rights for all, doing so through "information, education, legislation, and advocacy."

<sup>2</sup>The **Southern Poverty Law Center** was founded in August 1971 and is based in Montgomery, Alabama. It is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization specializing in civil rights, monitoring hate groups and promoting tolerance educational programs.

<sup>3</sup>The **Grand Wizard** of the Ku Klux Klan is the national leader. An Imperial Wizard, depending on specific KKK organizations, is also a national leader.

<sup>4</sup>**Nathan Bedford Forrest** (July 13, 1821 – October 29, 1877) was a Confederate Army general during the American Civil War. Without any formal military training, he was promoted from the rank of private to general during the war. Known as "The Wizard of the Saddle" he was an expert cavalry leader who established new mobile forces tactics that were studied and utilized by future generations of military strategists. In April 1864, Confederate troops under his command massacred Union troops, mostly blacks and some white Southern Tennesseans who were fighting for the Union, who had surrendered. Forrest joined the KKK sometime around 1867 and was elected its first Grand Wizard. In 1869, he became disillusioned with the KKK's lack of organization and its violence. He unsuccessfully ordered the dissolution of the KKK and the destruction of its costumes before resigning from the organization. Near the end of his life, he publically denounced the KKK's violence and racism and claimed he was never an actual member.

<sup>5</sup>The **Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871** was approved by the U.S. Congress on April 20, 1871. This Bill was intended to enforce the Provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It authorized the President of the United States to intervene in the former Confederate states if they attempted to deny "any person or any class of persons of the equal protection of the laws, or of equal privileges or immunities under the laws." It also authorized the President to take action against this newly defined federal crime as habeas corpus could be suspended, the U.S. military could be deployed and the use of other means as deemed necessary. In 1882, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the Ku Klux Klan Act unconstitutional, but by that time, Reconstruction had ended, and the first Klan had faded away.

<sup>6</sup>**Ulysses S. Grant** (April 27, 1822 – July 23, 1885) was born **Hiram Ulysses Grant** and was an American soldier, politician, and international statesman. During the American Civil War, he was the Commanding General of the Union Army and led the North to victory over the Confederacy. During the Reconstruction of the South, he led the Republicans in their efforts to remove the vestiges of Confederate nationalism, racism, and slavery. He served as the 18<sup>th</sup> President of the United States from 1869 to 1877.

<sup>7</sup>**William Joseph Simmons** (May 6, 1880 – May 18, 1945) founded the second Klan in 1915, and was the second Grand Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan from 1915 to 1922.

<sup>8</sup>**Thomas Woodrow Wilson** (December 28, 1856 – February 3, 1924) served as the 28<sup>th</sup> President of the United States from 1913 to 1921. He was a political leader, lawyer, academic and member of the Democratic Party who served as the 34<sup>th</sup> Governor of New Jersey, and was the President of Princeton University. During World War I he led the United States with an activist foreign policy that is now known as "Wilsonianism."

<sup>9</sup>**David Curtiss "Steve" Stephenson** (August 21, 1891 – June 28, 1966) was appointed Grand Dragon of the Indiana branch of the Ku Klux Klan in 1923, and was in charge of Klan recruiting for seven other states. His conviction for abduction, rape and murder of a young white woman led to a rapid nationwide decline of the second Klan.

<sup>10</sup> The KKK often named chapters after nationally known or local figures. The I. I. Moody Klan, No. 14, Realm of Florida named their chapter after **Isaac I. Moody** (October 27, 1874 – December 17, 1918). I. I. Moody moved to St.

Johns County, Florida in the early 1890s and first worked in the turpentine business near present-day Bunnell. He ventured into various businesses including turpentine, shingle milling, real estate and banking. As a politician he gained influence and local and statewide respect and was instrumental in the establishment of Flagler County, Florida in 1917. Today, he is remembered as the “Father of Flagler County.”

<sup>11</sup> The *Flagler Tribune* originally named the *St. Johns Tribune*, was a rural weekly newspaper that was established in 1913. In 1917, when Flagler County was incorporated the newspaper changed its name to the *Flagler Tribune*. In 1981, the News-Journal Corporation purchased the *Flagler Tribune*. The News-Journal Corporation then merged the *Flagler Tribune* and the *Palm Coast News* newspapers and renamed the publications the *Flagler/Palm Coast News-Tribune*, which is currently published weekly on Wednesdays.

<sup>12</sup> The **Exalted Cyclops** is the leader of a chapter of the Ku Klux Klan and is typically elected by fellow Klansmen to serve a one-year term. Per the Prescript of the Ku Klux Klan, published in 1867, the Exalted Cyclops reports to a Grand Giant, or provincial leader; a Grand Dragon, or state director; and the Grand Wizard, or national chair.

<sup>13</sup> The Famous Christmas Dinner Letter to Flagler's Colored Voters. *Flagler Tribune*. November 4, 1920, p 1.

<sup>14</sup> Ku Klux Klan Parades Hundred Fifty-Five Strong. *Flagler Tribune*. January 12, 1922, p. 1.

<sup>15</sup> Klansmen Held Street Parade Here Thursday. *Flagler Tribune*. May 14, 1925, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> Mercer, Ray. Personal Interview. July 6, 2018.

<sup>17</sup> Klan Speaker to be in Bunnell Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. *Flagler Tribune*. April 12, 1923, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup> An Appreciated Courtesy. *Flagler Tribune*. May 10, 1923, p. 1.

<sup>19</sup> Ku Klux Klan Makes Big Gift. *Flagler Tribune*. March 11, 1926, p. 1.

<sup>20</sup> Baptists Thank K.K.K. *Flagler Tribune*. March 18, 1926, p. 1.

<sup>21</sup> Negro Pridgen Draws Severe Thrashing. *Flagler Tribune*. January 13, 1921, p. 1.

<sup>22</sup> Mob Violence Invades Peaceful Flagler Citizen taken from Home and Flogged. *Flagler Tribune*. August 4, 1921, p. 1.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>24</sup> **Lynching** is the lawless hanging of a person, causing their death, by a mob without any legal authority. After the American Civil War, some whites in the South believed that freed blacks gained too many rights and they needed to be controlled. The extreme case of control that was used by mobs was lynchings. From 1882 to 1968, 4,743 lynchings occurred in the United States. There were 3,446 blacks lynched (72.7%). Although these numbers seem large, they were certainly higher because it is known that not all lynchings were documented. Most of these lynchings took place in the South. Lynchings steadily declined after 1920.

<sup>25</sup> **Perry Edward Hall** (October 11, 1885 - August 21, 1927) moved to Flagler County with his wife Lena around 1917. He was employed by Zeb. E. Booe as a manager of Haw Creek Farms, and later purchased a family farm. In 1924, he was elected Sheriff of Flagler County and he and his family moved to Bunnell. He was struck on the head with a whiskey bottle as he attempted to make an arrest in the town of Roy, and died in the line of duty on August 21, 1927.

<sup>26</sup> Klan Funeral for G.W. Durrance Held Last Sunday. *Flagler Tribune*. September 1, 1927, p. 1.

<sup>27</sup> Is KKK Recruiting in Palm Coast? *FlaglerLive.com*. April 7, 2010. <https://flaglerlive.com/2272/kkk-recruiting-palm-coast/> Accessed October 13, 2019.

<sup>28</sup> KKK Confirms: We're Recruiting in Flagler. *FlaglerLive.com*. April 18, 2010. <https://flaglerlive.com/2894/kkk-confirms-recruiting-in-flagler/> Accessed October 13, 2019.

<sup>29</sup> Ryan, Shaun. KKK fliers distributed in Flagler Beach. *Daytona Beach News-Journal*. November 8, 2017.

<sup>30</sup> The Southern Poverty Law Center's Hate Map of Florida is accessed at: <https://www.splcenter.org/states/florida>

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