

## Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON # 132 - THE LEGACY OF FIVE ORANGE PIPS IN THE DECLINE OF THE KKK - SEPTEMBER, 2023



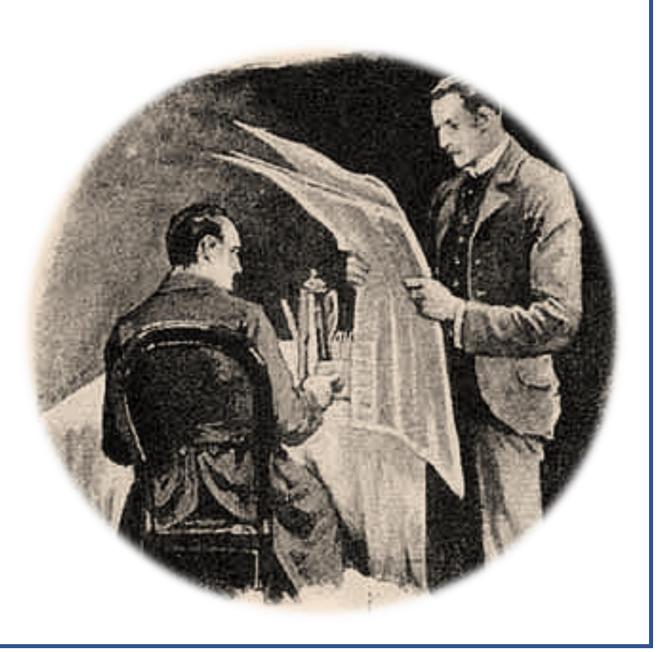
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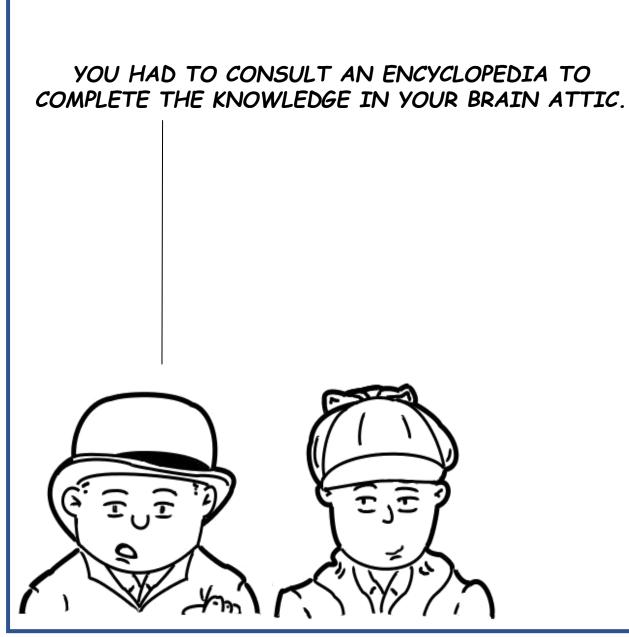
WELCOME TO TOPIC NUMBER # 132... TODAY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE ROLE OF THE KU KLUX KLAN DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.







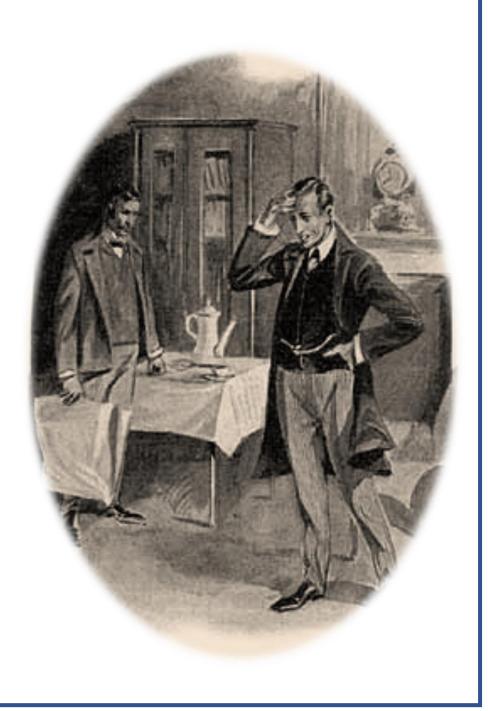






THE ENTRY DESCRIBES THE ORGANIZATION'S CREATION, ITS SPHERES OF INFLUENCE, AND ITS SUDDEN DEMISE IN 1869... COINCIDING WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ELIAS OPENSHAW FROM THE US.

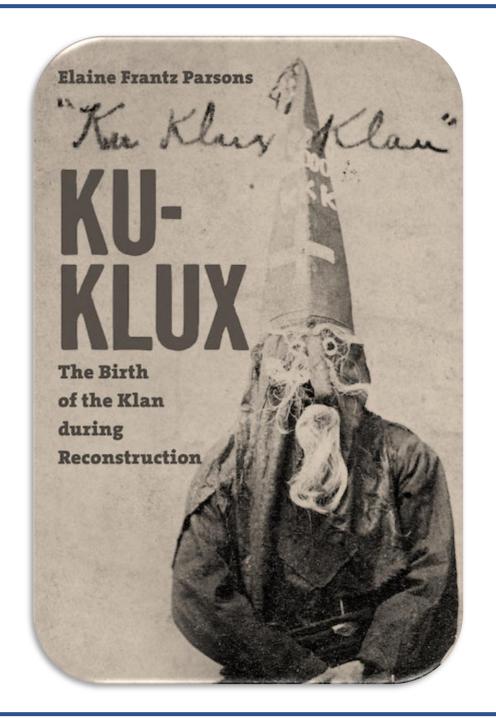




WHILE MOST OF YOUR RESEARCH APPEARS TO CORRESPOND WITH OTHER HISTORICAL RECORDS, YOU DO PROVIDE SOME INSIGHTS NOT WELL-KNOWN AMONG OTHER CHRONICLERS.







MY ENCYCLOPEDIA NOTES THE KLAN FORMED AFTER THE CIVIL WAR AND OPERATED PRIMARILY IN TENNESSEE, LOUISIANA, THE CAROLINAS, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA.



KLANSMEN THEMSELVES, HOWEVER, CLAIMED A MUCH OLDER PEDIGREE—ASSERTING THE ORGANIZATION HELD SCOTTISH ROOTS... GIVEN THE NUMBER OF SCOTS WHO IMMIGRATED TO THE COLONIES, A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONS COULD BE ESTABLISHED.





THE OFFER OF LAND AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES CREATED AN 'EMIGRATION MANIA' WITH 95,000 SCOTS LEAVING FOR AMERICA BETWEEN 1700 AND 1815, WITH MANY SETTLING IN THE SOUTH.



YOUR RESEARCH ALSO PROVIDED THE GROUP'S WELL-KNOWN AIM OF REGAINING POLITICAL POWER FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR BY MENACING THOSE AGAINST THEM (BOTH AFRICAN-AMERICAN VOTERS AND OTHERS).





THE GROUP BEGAN AS A SOCIAL CLUB IN PULASKI, TENNESSEE IN 1865, BUT SOON SPREAD AS BRANCHES FORMED IN MOST OF THE FORMER CONFEDERATE STATES.





THEY FORMALLY ORGANIZED IN 1867 AND DEDICATED THEIR EFFORTS TO REVERSING THE REFORMS CREATED UNDER THE RECONSTRUCTION ACT WHICH STIMULATED THE ELECTION OF BLACKS AS STATE AND US GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.





MY ENCYCLOPEDIA ALSO INDICATED THAT THEIR THREATS TO THOSE OPPOSING THEIR VIEWS WOULD OFTEN BE ACCOMPANIED BY A 'SPRIG OF OAK-LEAVES, MELON SEEDS, OR ORANGE PIPS.'





THE ENTRY DID NOT MENTION THE WARNING MANY NOW ASSOCIATE WITH THIS GROUP— CROSS-BURNING—DESPITE THE PRACTICE'S SCOTTISH ROOTS.





IN MEDIEVAL TIMES, SCOTTISH CLANS BURNED CROSSES TO RALLY THEIR MEN ON THE WAY TO WAR AND AS A WARNING OF ENEMY INVASION, BUT THIS RITUAL DID NOT APPEAR AS PART OF THE KLAN'S ACTIVITIES UNTIL AFTER 1905.



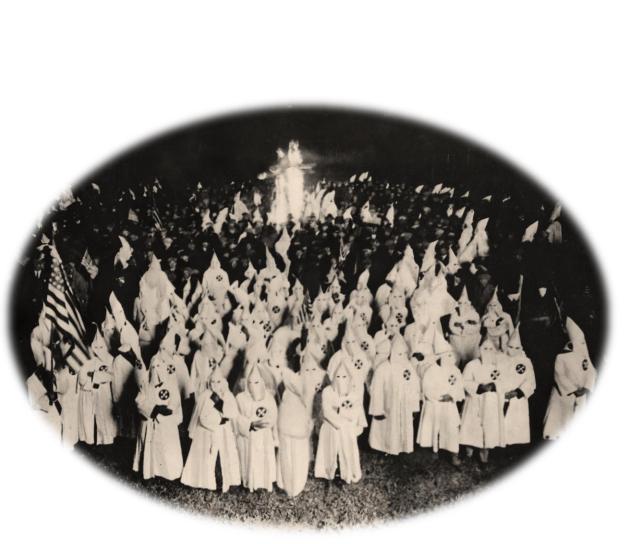


THE PRACTICE APPEARED DURING A REVIVAL OF THE ORGANIZATION AFTER THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.



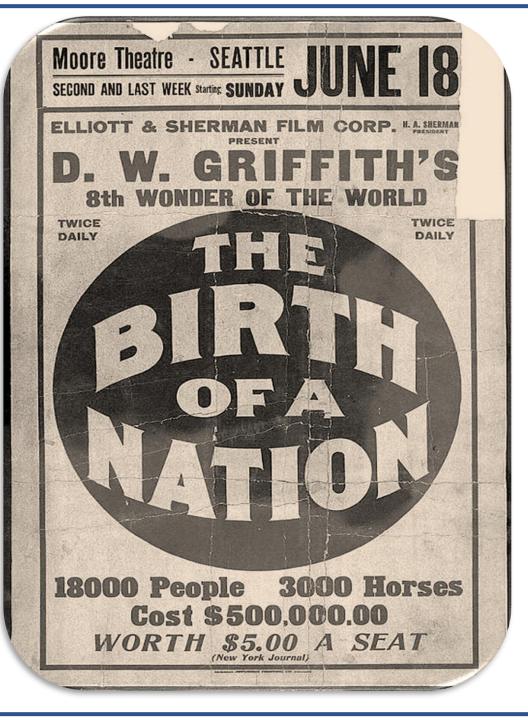
AN INCREASE IN IMMIGRANTS ENTERING THE US, A STRONG POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CREATED BY THE PEOPLE'S PARTY, AND THE INCREASE IN NATIONALISM IN EUROPE AND THE SOUTH FOLLOWING WWI ALL LED TO INCREASED UNEASE BY CERTAIN GROUPS FEARING A LOSS OF POWER.





THE ORGANIZATION WAS ALSO MADE POPULAR BY A BESTSELLING NOVEL, THE CLANSMAN BY THOMAS DIXON JR. IN IT, A CROSS IS BURNED AS A WARNING. THE BOOK WAS ADAPTED INTO A MOVIE, BIRTH OF A NATION, WHICH ALSO SHOWED THE ACT.





CAPITALIZING ON THE MOOD IN THE SOUTH AND THE MOVIE'S POPULARITY, WILLIAM JOSEPH SIMMONS BURNED A CROSS ON TOP OF STONE MOUNTAIN OUTSIDE OF ATLANTA WHEN THE FILM PREMIERED AND RECRUITED MEMBERS DURING THE SHOWING.





THROUGH THESE AND OTHER ACTIONS, HE WAS ABLE TO REVITALIZE THE MORIBUND ORGANIZATION, REACHING A MEMBERSHIP OF FOUR MILLION BY THE 1920S.



### THE CLANSMAN

AN HISTORICAL ROMANCE OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

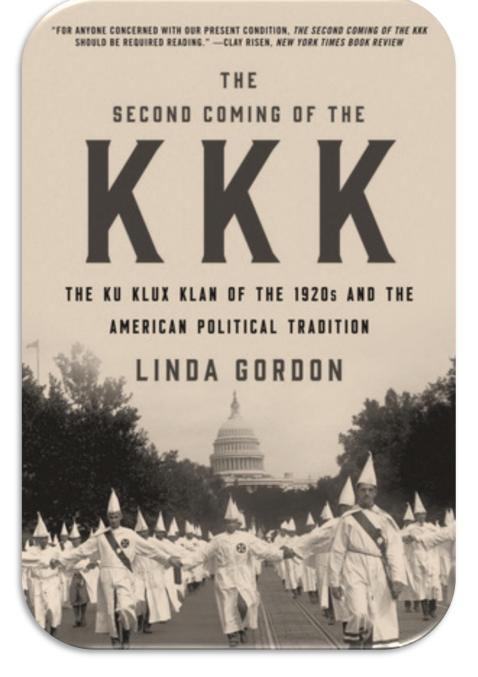
by THOMAS DIXON, Jr.

ILLUSTRATED BY

ARTHUR I. KELLER

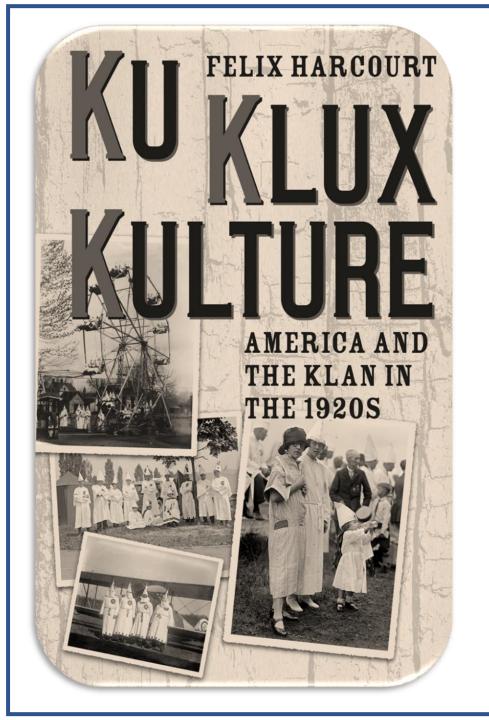


NEW YORK DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY 1905



JUST AS WITH THE FIRST ITERATION, THE ORGANIZATION DECLINED AGAIN. WHILE SOME MEMBERS LEFT BECAUSE OF THE GROUP'S VIOLENT PRACTICES, THE MAJOR FACTOR WAS ITS POOR LEADERSHIP.





THOSE IN HIGH POSITIONS WERE INVOLVED IN HIGHLY PUBLICIZED CRIMES AND POOR MONEY MANAGEMENT THAT PUSHED MEMBERS AWAY. BY 1928, THE KLAN HAD IMPLODED.



THIS SECOND DECLINE WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE FIRST, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT MADE A CONCERTED AND ACTIVE EFFORT TO SUPPRESS IT.



CONGRESS PASSED THE FORCE ACTS BETWEEN 1870 AND 1875 TO AUTHORIZE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE MILITARY, TO PROTECT BLACKS' RIGHTS UNDER THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH AMENDMENTS.



# AMENDMENT XIV

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or in immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. DESPITE THESE MEASURES, WHITE SUPREMACY GRADUALLY REGAINED CONTROL... BY THE END OF 1876, THEY ONCE AGAIN DOMINATED ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.





#### WHAT IS MISSING FROM THESE ACCOUNTS, HOWEVER, WAS ELIAS OPENSHAW'S ROLE IN THE KLAN'S DEMISE.







I OBSERVED THE DISSOLUTION COINCIDED WITH OPENSHAW'S RETURN TO ENGLAND WITH PAPERS IMPLICATING KLAN MEMBERSHIP... AND THEIR TERRORIST ACTS... FOR SOME OF THE 'FIRST MEN OF THE SOUTH.'





THESE LEADERS' FEAR OF EXPOSURE WAS ENOUGH TO DISBAND THE GROUP... I ACTUALLY SOLVED TWO MYSTERIES WITH THIS CASE: THE MURDERS OF THREE GENERATIONS OF OPENSHAWS AND THE FIRST DEATH OF THE KLAN.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 132 IN OUR SERIES ....







#### ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR FOR THIS TOPIC:

- HTTPS://WWW.AMERICANCIVILWAR.ASN.AU/MEET/2011\_10\_SCOTS\_MIGRATION\_TO\_%20ANTEBELLUM\_SO UTH.PDF
- HTTPS://WWW.BRITANNICA.COM/TOPIC/KU-KLUX-KLAN
- HTTPS://TIMELINE.COM/WHY-DOES-THE-KU-KLUX-KLAN-BURN-CROSSES-THEY-GOT-THE-IDEA-FROM-A-MOVIE-75A70F7AB135
- HTTPS://WWW.CSMONITOR.COM/2002/1213/P25S04-WONQ.HTML
- HTTPS://WWW.STUDYSMARTER.US/EXPLANATIONS/HISTORY/EMERGENCE-OF-USA-AS-A-WORLD-POWER/KU-KLUX-KLAN/
- HTTPS://WWW.HISTORY.COM/NEWS/KKK-BIRTH-OF-A-NATION-FILM
- HTTPS://BILLOFRIGHTSINSTITUTE.ORG/ESSAYS/THE-KU-KLUX-KLAN-IN-THE-1920S
- HTTPS://WWW.BRITANNICA.COM/TOPIC/FORCE-ACTS
- 10)HTTPS://WWW.HISTORY.COM/TOPICS/19TH-CENTURY/KU-KLUX-KLAN





"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

#### IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF: JOE FAY LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE RUSTY MASON & STEVE MASON

