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KU KLUX KLAN

(Paper prepared for the Hartsville Chapter U. D. C. by Mrs H. Lide Law, and published in the Hartsville Messenger.)

The War between the States terminated in the Spring of 1865. Two months after Lee's surrender there was not a Confederate Soldier under arms through the South. The surrender was universal and in a way sincere; there was no desire to continue the struggle. Complete submission was given to the true authority of the United States. Notwithstanding this, Davis was thrust into prison and other prominent leaders of the Confederacy and prominent citizens were arrested or forced to become exile.

The condition of the South was deplorable. The track of desolation and devastation, without parallel in history especially, extended over five miles wide from the Tennessee line, through Georgia to Savannah, through South Carolina into North Carolina, and the greatest desolatation through Virginia. Four million slaves suddenly emancipated with no realization of their responsibility. Many of them conceived the idea that freedom meant cessation from labor, so they left the fields, crowded to the Cities expecting the Government to support them.

To the general awful confusion was added a flood of adventures from the North, called Carpet Baggers, who were not soldiers, but only camp followers of the Northern army. Men imbued with the passion of the lowest type. These men hated everything Southern and inflamed the negroes against the whites and especially their former masters who had escaped the four years war with their lives. Also [illegible] native born Southerners, but low miserable traitors to the South, the lowest of the low and hated even by the negroes. It is impossible to portray in language how these Scalawags were detested and dispised. The Irish orator and patriot, Emmett, once declared "The meanest of all mean things is an anti-Irish Irshman". If he had lived during the Reconstruction, he would have said "That the meanest of all mean things, was an anti-Southerner Southerner." These dangerous leaders were the organizers of the fearful Black League, the negroes being used simply as means to an end. The Black and Tan Government composed of Carpet Baggers, Scalawags, and brutal negroes, now held full sway. In this demoralized state, private property was seized in the name of the United States Government. This was the situation, the South, overpowered, exhausted, prostrated, but not degraded. Hope remained in the hearts of the noble heroes who were willing to give their lives and to bleed afresh for their loved ones. This condition of affairs brought into existence the Ku-Klux Klan, and this organization provided the solution of the dark problem.

The Ku Klux Klan had its birth in the town of Pulaski, Tenn., during the winter of 1865 and 1866. There were six charter members, all honorableConfederate soldiers. The word Ku Klux was really coined by them, being in a way formed from the Greek word Ku Klos, meaning a circle. They added Klan, thus making the name at once unique mysterious and fascinating. The Klan was also termed the Invisible Empire. The Klan spread rapidly and in a year had reached such larged numbers, it was found necessary to have some experienced leader, so General Nathan Bedford Forrest, a distinguished Cavalry leader of the Confederacy, was selected. He took the solemn oath in No. 10 of the Maxwell House, Nashville, Tenn., in the fall of '66 and was made Grand Wizard of the Invisible Empire. Gen. Geo. W. Gordan, of Tennessee, prepared the rituals and oath of the Klan, which are as follows:

CONSTITUTION.

This is an institution of Chivalry, Humanity, Mercy and Patriotism, embodying in conduct noble in sentiment, generous in manhood, and patriotic in purpose. Its peculiar objects being 1st: to protect the weak, the innocent and defenceless from indignities, wrongs and outrages of the lawless violent, and the brutal; to relieve the injured and oppressed; to succor the suffering and unfortunate, especially the widows and orphans of Confederate soldiers. 2nd: to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and all laws passed in conformity thereto and protect the States and the people thereof from all invasions from any source whatever. 3rd: to aid and assist in the executior of all Constitutional laws and to protect the people from unlawful seizure and from trials, except by their peers. In conformity to he laws of the land.

CREED.

We, the order of Klu Klux Klan, reverentially acknowledge the Majesty and Supremacy of the Divine Being, and recognize the goodness and providence of same. We recognize our relation to the United States Government, the supremacy of the Constitution, the Constitutional laws thereof and the union of States thereunder.

Most solemn of all, was the oath, always given under the most awe inspiring circumstances possible. Thus, I, before the great immaculate God of heaven and earth, do take and subscribe/to the following sacred, binding oath and obligation. I promise and swear that I will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, as it was handed down by our forefathers in its original purity. I promise and swear that I will reject and oppose the principle of the Radical party in all its forms and forever maintain and contend that intelligent men shall govern the country. I promise and pledge myself to assist according to my pecuniary circumstances all brothers in distress. Females, widows, and their households shall ever be especially in my care and protection. I promise and swear that I will obey all instructions given by my chief, and should I ever divulge or cause to be divulged any secrets, signs, or pass words of the Invisible Empire, the just penalty of the traitor, which is death, death, death, at the hands of my brethren.

BANNER.

The Banner or Ensign of the K. K. K. was a tringle in shape, five feet long and three wide at staff. The material was yellow with red inverted scalloped border. On this banner was painted a black flying dragon and the following motto in Latin: "What always, what every where, what by all is held to be true."

The Invisible Empire extended from Virginia to Texas, covering fourteen States. The Empire was subdivided into Realms, Realms into Dominions, Dominions into Provinces, and Provinces into Deans. Each department had its head officer, their duties being definitely designated, except those of the Grand Wizard, whose control was supreme. The following is the list of officers and their departments in assisted by his ten Genii; the Grand Dragon of the Realm and his eight Hydra, the Grand Giant of the Province the Grand Giant of the Province and his four Goblins; the Grand Cyclops of the Den and his two Night Hawks. A Grand Turk, Grand Monk Grand Exchequer, Grand Scrib, Grand Sentinel were officers of the local Dens. The Genii, Hydras, Furies, Goblins, and Night Hawks were staff officers and the private members were called Ghouls. The Dens of places of rendezvous were generally in dark dismal places, caves, etc. Their appearance was always sudden, as if they rose from the earth, disappearance was quite as mysterious. These mysterious maneuvers were always born in the brain of the Ku Klux, and the weird, unearthly and ghostly always predominated.

The costumes were intended to work upon the superstitious fears of the negroes. No special instructions were given as to the color or the makeup of these costumes. However, the robes were nearly always white with a cross of fiery red, a mask, and high conical hat. The horses were also covered with a sheet. These costumes were all made by the women of the South, those noble women who during the war made clothing, etc., counting no sacrifice too great to aid their protectors. A note to a Mother, Sister or Sweetheart always met with a prompt reply. There being no special uniform adopted, accounts for the different colors used. Of course, beneath this disguised, the men were heavily armed. A favorite device was to wear false heads and arms. In this instance, the robe was pulled over their own heads and the false head placed on top with some device to hold it They often road up to a Church or meeting house of some description, where negroes were assembled, seemingly for water A Ku Klux would say, Here, Sambo, hold my head while I drink. On handing the negro the skull, the superstitious creature with a scream of fright would take to the woods. When a false hand was used, the Ku Klux would offer to shake hands, leaving the false one in the hands of the negro as a souvenir.

You will ask, why all this mystery? We all know the supersitition of the negro and also of the uneducated white. The negroes were made to believe their old masters had risen from their graves in this ghostly garb and under the conviction that if they did wrong, spirits from the other world would visit them, hence the negroes became much subdued.

It must not be understood that this noble band that took their lives into their own hands, were ever unkind or cruel to an innocent negro. Far from it; many instances could be related where they protected the just right of the faithful ones. Mercy was always uppermost in the heart of a true K. K.

The Klan's watch words were, the cunning of the fox, the bravery of the lion. The sign to distinguish a brother was thus: (described by the reader.)

There was at all times perfect cooperation between the Klans. It was often necessary to secure the assistance of a brother Klan and a member of the Klan was sent. This was considered an honor as only those of unquestionable bravery were selected. As soon as the neighboring Klan was located, the message was delivered, the Grand Cyclops blew his whistle, their sign of command. In a few minutes every horse and man was disguised, and at the second sound of the whistle, they silently moved away not a word was spoken. They are on a mission of stern duty; a deed of justice is about to be performed and woe to the guilty wretch that falls under the condemnation of the Klan.

The sworn secrecy and binding oath made a bulwark of defense as strong as Gibraltar.

In February 1869, Gen. Forrest, Grand Wizard of the Invisible Empire issued a proclamation to his subjects to disband and this strange and mysterious order, having accomplished its great mission in relieving the South of Carpet-bag rule, passed out of existence forever. They marched silently through Nashville though it was crowded with the militia and police, whose orders were to take them dead or alive, but who were overawed by the brave, mysterious band as not to make the slightest movement of arrest, but allowed them to silently march up Capitol Hill, then down and out of the city into the forest to the meeting place, where the chaplain led in prayer for the last time. The men disrobed, drew from their horses the disguise and solemnly buried the regalia, sprinkling them with the ashes of the burned ritual. This weird ceremony ended the most remarkable revolution in many respects. in history. The Ku Klux Klan was born in mystery, lived in mystery, and mystery will ever shroud its grave. and The Invisible Empire vanished in a night and has been seen no more by mortal man.

Too long have we of the South remained silent and perhaps our silence has been construed as an acknowledgement of shame of being connected with the K. K. K. and its history, whereas, it should be our proudest boast that it was organized and kept up by our bravest men. Gladstone writes, "No greater calamity can befall a people than to break utterly with her past and if we forget our ancestors, we ourselves are unworthy to be remembered.

Many of the secrets were locked up in the breasts of the Ku Klux and never given to the world. The Ku Klux warnings to offenders were in keeping with their mode of carrying on affairs, mysterious and terrifying, often by a figure dangling from a tree or some such gruesome emblem with a warning to a negro or Scalawag, to Beware.

The Ku Klux were opposed to shedding of blood and violence was never used except in extreme cases. Many violent deeds were put upon the shoulders of the Klan of which they were entirely innocent. They did only their stern duty and silently stole away.

The Invisible Army gave back to its beloved land much that she lost during four years of bloody carnival of death. Restored in a measure the grandeur and majesty that was the envy of all the world in days gone by. No nobler or grander men ever gathered on the earth than those assembled in the meeting places of the Klan. No humane hearts were ever moved with nobler impulses. The love of law and order, the protection of virtue of the noblest womanhood in all annals of time moved these men to action.

In the words of another who knew so well the fearful struggle of the faithful Klan [illegible] let the younger generation know the true history of the Ku Klux Klan [illegible] what did so much for [illegible] and in her darkest days. [illegible] the truth [illegible] the abuse [illegible] minds or raise things concerning it. Our Southland was so firm in her belief, that she was constitutionally right; so proud of her heroes that she has not felt the necessity of indicating her acts, but it behooves us now to turn the search light of truth on her past in the war and let the world know the true history. Some day when she comes to her own and the tale is all told, no brighter chain in her history, no fairer page will ever be read than that which tells of the illustrious and glorious organization called the Ku Klux Klan. Its history is a precious heritage. It indeed formed a circle of protection around the homes of the south, a great circle of light illumined with deeds of love and patriotism.

In our dire extremity and darkest days, the Ku Klux Klan, the great silent, mysterious organization, appeared upon the scene, and relieved the dreadful and humiliating distress.

The Ku Klux Klan has justly been called the Salvation of the South and its history should be written in letters of light.

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New Postmasters.

Washington, March 10.—New postmasters in South Carolina were appointed today as follows: Allard D. Flagg, at LaBruce Springs, a new office in Georgetown county; Jacob D. Zimmerman, at Burcel, Horry county; Lottie G. Meyers, at Pamlico, Florence County.

Give us your orders for printing.

COURT HOUST ITEMS.

All is quiet since Court adjourned. Those convicted have entered upon the service of their sentences.

Sheriff Douglass and deputy sheriff Abbott are kept busy these days trailing down violators of the law.

Magistrate Watson's court has been busy several days quite recently. Mr. Watson is becoming familiar with the duties of his office.

Rev. James Russell, who was at one time pastor of the Chesterfield group of Presbyterian churches, is in town this week and is the guest of Mr. C. C. Douglass. Mr. Russell's great number of friends in the town are glad to see him looking so well. He lectured last night in the Baptist church on the "war in Europe," and a large number enjoyed his masterly address.

Even now the school children can lift the veil and see "the good old summertime" and vacation days.

Your correspondent has recently made a trip through one or two of the lower counties of the State, and the conditions, generally speaking, are more favorable in Chesterfield county than in any county visited. In every section, however, it seems that the cotton acreage will be materially reduced and "something" to eat will be given a prominent place on the farm this year.

The County Equilization Board will meet on Tuesday, March 23rd.

There is no doubt that taxes are high, but there is nothing to do but pay up. It does seem that we are taxed toe heavily and in many cases, it is a fact that people are unable to [illegible] ment is costing a great deal, and every year the Legislature creates new offices. This year an extra appropriation of $2,000.00 was allowed to fee a special attorney for Governor Manning. We would like for some one to define the duties of the attorney general of South Carolina. He should be the legal adviser of all the State officers.

LaCoste Evans, the "Good Roads Pusher," was in town a few days ago, and he is a hustler and you can count on him when he is needed to push for good roads.

Master Rufus Porter, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Porter, is quite sick this week. Hope for Master Rufus a rapid recovery.

Master Minor Hough, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Hough, has been quite sick this week. Hope Master Minor will soon be well again.

Monday, March the first, Mrs. Ellen Sowell, the wife of Willie Sowell of the Zoar section of Chesterfield county, made the fatal mistake of taking a bichloride tablet for another tablet which had been prescribed for her. In a little while the mistake was discovered. Everything possible was done to overcome the power of the deadly drug but nothing could be done. After lingering for a week life slowly ebbing away, Mrs. Sowell died early Monday morning and was buried Tuesday at Friendship Methodist cruchh, her pastor, Rev. T. B. Owen conducted the services. Mr. and Mrs. Sowell were married less than a year ago. Before her marriage to Mr. Sowell, Mrs. Sowell was a Miss McLean, of Patrick. Mr. Sowell is a member of the well known family of that name in this county.

Davis Perkins, the young man who tried to commit suicide a few days ago by shooting himself with a pistol, is fast recovering.

Court adjourned only a few days ago, and the jail is already rapidly filling up again. Stealing and blind tigering is the usual charge.

Mr. A. J. Weathersbee, a prominent merchant of Norway, S. C., is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Doctor Gardner.

Some of the women's pages continue to publish instructions about putting up jams and jellies, when, what the housekeepers want is points on auction bridge.—Gaffney Ledger.

OBSERVATIONS

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BY OUR MAN ABOUT TOWN.

When a thing is spiced up with a little dash of danger, it's oftentimes more inviting and interesting. Most folks like to take a sporting chance occasionally—that's why they play the races, buy cotton margins and—get married.

With the approach of Spring, wouldn't it be a great thing for our town if the majority of citizens would determine to do a little landscape gardening this year?

What if every home should remove any unsightly shrubbery that may have been permitted to grow in their yards or along their boulevards and replace it with really attractive plants!

All of us could do this, and we feel sure we should be glad for it after the passing of a few months had shown us the improved appearance of our streets and lawns.

The writer knows of towns where the citizens in certain blocks engage a gardener by the season, each resident in several blocks contributing a small sum toward his salary. In this way a sufficient amount can be raised to pay a man for giving his entire attention to the lawns and boulevards of that tdistrict, and when this is done, all of them are neat and clean at all times.

Two days work each month through the summer will keep almost any yard and adjoining boulevard in condition. Our civic pride should force us to give them this much attention.

If a census of boys under fifteen who smoke could be taken, we know of several parents who would not like the statistics.

We know of one man and wife, who, in settling their little difficulties, would do just as well to keep the soft pedal on their voice chords.

This old world of ours has queer people in it. They seem to get prejudiced against a fellow that has never harmed them but has really done them favors. Now we know of a young man in our home town who can never see us. He never speaks to us. He thinks we must be his enemy. The only thing that we know of doing to him was that when he was hard up and had not the money to get a suit of clothes, we gave our word to the clothier that we would see it paid. Well the fellow evidently knew a good thing when he had it and after paying a few dollars on the suit concluded to let us finish the job for him. We did. Well, that fellow has not spoken to us since. He must be of the opinion that we are his enemy. Well, we guess we are. It never helps a young fellow to pay his debts for him. He does not seem to like it and then it makes him loose his selfrespect. When this is gone the fellow is on the down grade. He must regain his self respect in some way if ever he gets on the upgrade.

It always does one good to shake hands with a man who has a heart under his coat It cheers, it encourages, and has a vitalizing effect. This is the genuine, the pure article, while occasionally we come in contact with people whose hand shake is cold and clammy as a pickled tongue, whose sticky grasp conveys to you the uncanny suggestion of a grave yard. You are not quite sure when you drop his hand whether he is dead or alive, yet you are pleased when the solemn ordeal is ended. This is the counterfeit, the spurious and the easily detected.

Mansion Ready for the Governor.

The legislative committee, which has in charge the matter of repairs to the Governor's Mansion, has completed its work and is ready to turn the Mansion over to the Governor. The committee overhauled the inside of the Mansion and did a considerable amount of needed repairing.

Ship Building in America.

Washington, March 10.—There were 55 sailing, steam and unrigged vessels, of 8 624 gross tons built in the United States and officially numbered during February, according to the department of commerce.

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