
Is Your Neighbor A Kluxer?

*A complete exposure of the Chicago Ku Klux Klan,
with Official Documents of that Order and the Names of All Ku Kluxers*

1923

The American Unity League was an anti-Klan organization founded in 1922 in Chicago. In contrast to the KKK, the AUL celebrated both immigrants and the multicultural history of the United States, opposing bigotry of all types, including racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, and anti-Catholicism. Their most notable contribution to "smashing the Invisible Empire" was infiltrating Klan organizations, copying their membership rolls, and then publishing the members' names in their newspaper, called *Tolerance*. They hoped that revealing Klan members' identities would put pressure on members to leave the Klan and would also discourage potential members from joining.

The AUL published this edition of the pamphlet *Is Your Neighbor a Kluxer* in 1923; it lists the names of Chicago Klan members and intersperses them with essays and other information about the Klan. (They also published similar pamphlets for other cities.)

Some of the essays found in the Chicago edition are reproduced below, as well as a few of the names from their list. (Our editorial additions are in italics.) Cameron T. Mills (HC 2022) transcribed the essays. The information provided with the names comes from research by Hanover students in His312 "Doing Genealogy as a Historian" (Fall 2019 and Winter 2022) and in His234 "Studies in American Cultural History: The Middle Class" (Winter 2021), all taught by Sarah McNair Vosmeier. For more information on the American Unity League, see David J. Goldberg, "Unmasking the Ku Klux Klan: The Northern Movement against the KKK, 1920-1925," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 15, no. 4 (Summer, 1996), 32-48.

Where The Names Come From

"WHERE do you get 'em?"

This is the question most frequently asked of TOLERANCE. It refers to the names of Ku Kluxers which are published weekly.

The answer is that TOLERANCE gets them from the official records of the Ku Klux Klan.

When some individual has passed all of the preliminary investigations made by the Klan and has been found to be a "white, Gentile, native-born Protestant," he is favored with a questionnaire, a facsimile of which has been printed in TOLERANCE.

If he answers this questionnaire satisfactorily, he is solicited for \$10 as a preliminary fee to admission to the Invisible Empire. If he turns over the \$10, he is given a receipt which acts as his pass to the "klonklave" which has been selected for his "naturalization." He presents this receipt, takes the infamous Ku Klux oath, and becomes a subject of Imperial Emperor William Joseph Simmons. Then his name is inscribed on the official role of the Klan.

TOLERANCE prints only names which are on this official roll. It is prepared at any time, if the situation warrants the expense and trouble involved, to produce the original questionnaire and receipt. It has done this in a number of instances, and will do it in any others when it is necessary.

There is one thing, however, on which readers of TOLERANCE and all for which it stands may rely. This is that when any person is listed as a member of the Ku Klux Klan he is so listed on the official records of that organization.

TOLERANCE cannot afford to make mistakes, and TOLERANCE does not make mistakes.

TOLERANCE acts only when IT KNOWS.

The American Unity League

THE American Unity League is a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization of American citizens devoted to the preservation of religious, racial, and social liberty.

Its directorate and membership is composed of freedom-loving citizens from all races and from all religious affiliations. It is not owned or controlled by any sect or organization, and it is not going to be.

TOLERANCE is the official publication of the American Unity League. What TOLERANCE stands for, the American Unity League stands for. Briefly, these principles are:

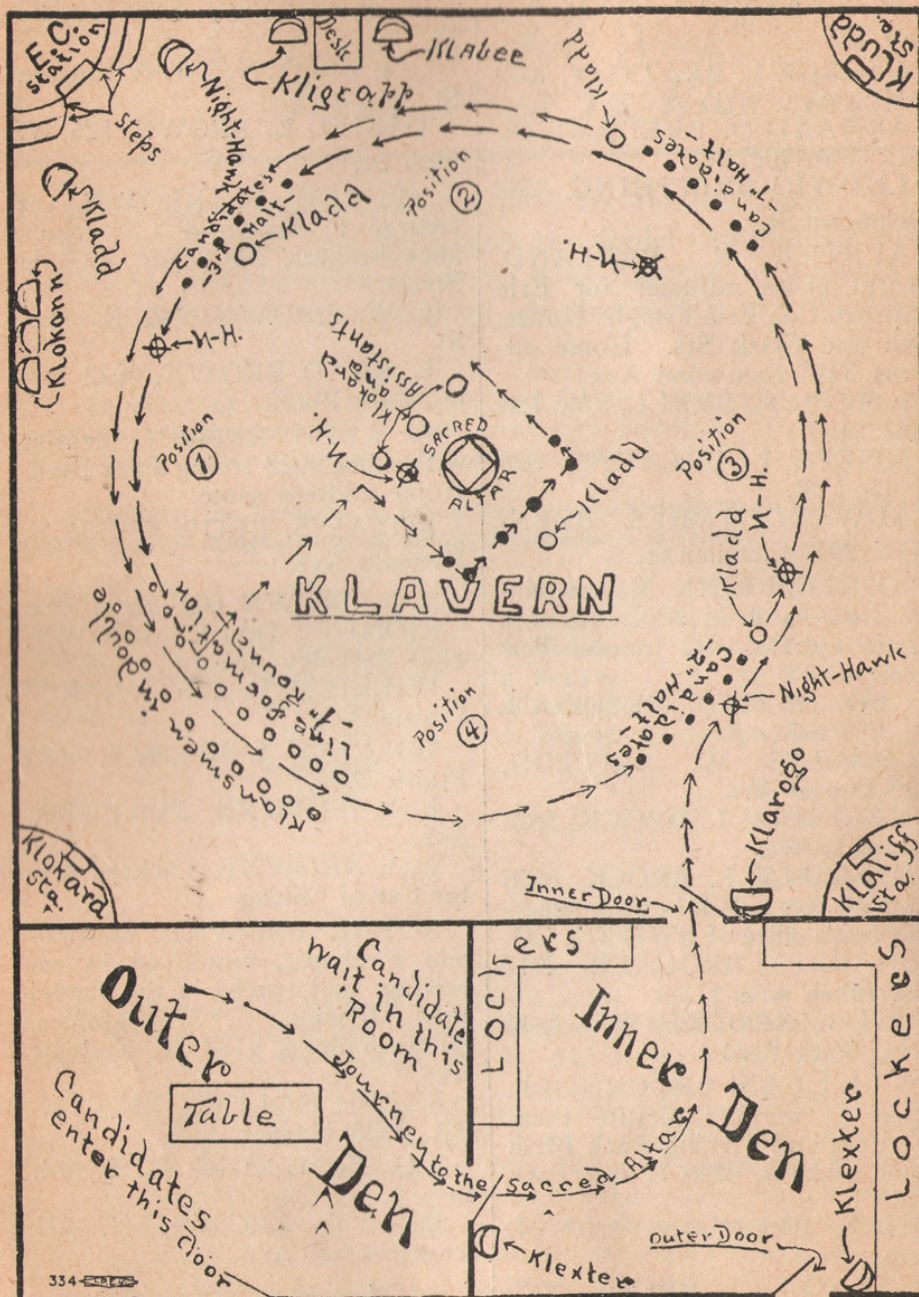
- The right of any person to worship as he pleases.
- The right of any person NOT to worship IF he pleases.
- Racial equality in keeping with that principle as outlined in the Constitution of the United States.
- Free speech, as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.
- The abolition of the Ku Klux Klan and all similar organizations which preach or practice racial and religious discrimination.
- The equality of all persons before the law.
- Individual liberty in the exercise of rights which do not conflict with the welfare of the nation.
- Complete separation of the public school and all religion.
- Abolition of the system which has resulted in the domination of fanatical minorities.
- Abolition of all censorship except that which is dictated by personal taste or voluntary affiliation with some body of censorship which makes no attempt to incorporate its principles in the law of the land.
- Liberalism in thought and action in keeping with the principles of liberty of speech and action guaranteed by the Constitution.
- Complete freedom of the press.

TOLERANCE regards the preservation of these principles as the only means by which the United States can be saved from the growing spirit of intolerance which has manifested itself in such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan.

It is directing its fight against the Ku Klux Klan at present because, from the Ku Klux Klan, comes the greatest present threat against religious, racial, and social liberty. But it will continue long after the Ku Klux Klan has been sent back to the oblivion from which it was resurrected, to continue its battle against all organizations which strike at the right of American citizens to worship, to speak, to write, to work, and to vote as they please.

Puzzle? Nope a "Klavern"

The adjoining chart of a "Klavern" or Ku Klux headquarters is from the Kloran, the "sacred" book of the Ku Klux Klan, and was drawn by no less a hand than that of the re-discoverer of the order, William Joseph Simmons, now "Imperial Emperor" for life. It is supposed not to be seen by "alien" eyes, but here it is anyhow.



[Note: The following reproduces the application blank sent to prospects for Klan membership.]

TO His Majesty the Imperial Wizard, Emperor of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (Inc.):

I, the undersigned, a native born 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, the practice of an honorable clanishness and the principles of a "pure Americanism," do voluntarily, most respectfully, seriously and unselfishly petition you for citizenship in the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and be a CHARTER MEMBER of a Klan to be located at _____, State 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, and all regulations and usages of the fraternity. The required "donation" accompanies this petition.

Signed —

Date _____, 192 __, _____, Petitioner.

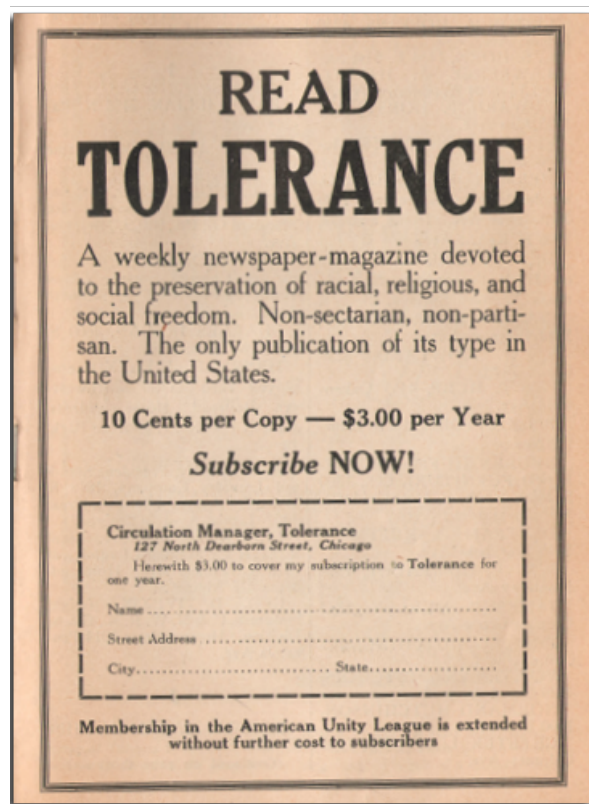
Endorser will sign on other side:

Residence Address _____

Business Address _____

Occupation _____

NOTICE: Check the address to which mail may be sent.



TOLERANCE herewith reprints names of all Ku Kluxers in Chicago and the surrounding district which it published during the year 1922.

In a few cases where TOLERANCE has ascertained that persons have joined the "Empire" without realizing its true nature, have taken no active part in its program of persecution, and have sent in bona-fide resignations, the notation "Resigned" is made.

Is Your Neighbor a Kluxer? lists about 1500 Klan members living in Chicago in 1922. The Hanover College history department is using the 1920 census to learn more about a sampling of those men. The results of our research is below, and we will update this document as we continue.

The following have contributed details below: students in His312 “Doing Genealogy as a Historian” (Fall 2019 and Winter 2022); students in His234 “Studies in American Cultural History” (Winter 2021); and Sarah McNair Vosmeier.

GROVER O. ALLEN was listed in the 1922 KKK membership rolls as a railroad brakeman living at 4138 N. Kedzie Ave.

He was 30 years old and working as a brakeman in 1920. His wife worked as a cashier in a candy shop.

EUGENE V. ALLEN was listed in the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 5559 Drexel Blvd.

He had been living there in 1920 as well. He was 31 years old then and working as a painter (interiors). He was a naturalized citizen, having been born in Canada, and he lived with his wife and elderly mother-in-law (who had been born in Denmark). His wife worked as a clerk and his mother-in-law had a dressmaking business.

CHESTER I. ARGO was listed in the 1922 KKK membership rolls as chief electrician for Riverview Park, living at 3400 Sunnyside Ave.

He had been assistant superintendent at Riverview Park in 1920. He was 36 years old then, married without children.

FREDERICK BRUCE AYRES, was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 6208 University Place, but we could not locate him in the 1920 census because there was more than one person in Chicago named Frederick Ayres.

CHARLES H. BADDELY was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 5522 South Park Ave.

He is listed in the 1920 census as renting a home at 4308 Langly Ave. He had a wife and three children, and we worked as a “traffic manager” at a publishing company. We can place him in the working class according to the assigned category of homeownership, but it’s hard to know how to assign him by occupation.

JOHN BAIRD was in the 1922 KKK rolls as living in 1018 N. Crawford Ave.

He appears on the 1920 census with the same address. He was born in Wisconsin. He worked as a mechanic, which would be a relatively high paying labor job that would have required some skills. He owned his own house which would assign him to middle class status. He lived with his wife Bertha Baird, who was 32 years old, and his son John Baird, who was 2 years old. He would have been middle class or upper working class.

CASTON S. BAKER was in the 1922 KKK rolls as Kladd of the Woodlawn Klan (an officer responsible for prospective members and the Klan's property); he was living at 6200 S. Park Ave.

A "Coston Baker" appears in the 1920 census on Indiana Ave, which according to the ward map is right by Indiana Ave. He was married to Blanche Baker. He rented his home, which would make him working class. The census lists his occupation as auto trimmer (in a body shop), which would be a working-class job.

HARRY H. BALDWIN was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 4838 Warner Ave.

The 1920 census shows him living at the same address, in a house he owned. At 47 years old, he was living with his wife and mother-in-law, and the family also had two lodgers. (His mother-in-law was an immigrant from France.) He was an office manager at a telephone company. Based on his homeownership and occupation, we place him in the middle class.

ALLEN V. BALLANTINE was on the 1922 KKK rolls and lived at 5311 Prairie Ave., but we were unable to locate him in the 1920 census.

RALPH W. BALLARD was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 4527 Oakenwald Ave.

In 1920, Ralph, 20 years old, lived at the same address along with his parents, two adult brothers, and his niece. His mother was from New York and his father was from Indiana. His brothers and niece were all from Vermont, and he was from Illinois. His brothers also had the last name Lewis, so they must be half-siblings. His parents rented their home. His father, brother, and he worked in the railroad industry as wage earners. Ralph was an electrician, his father a commissary man, and his brother a mail handler. Based on the family's occupations and home ownership status, they appear to be working class.

HENRY F. BALTERMAN was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 4734 London Ave, but we were unable to locate him on the 1920 census.

ELDEN L. BELT was listed in the 1922 KKK membership rolls as working for Schulte Optical Co., and living at 3535 Archer Ave.

He had been working as a commercial trader in 1920. He was 24 years old then, single and living with his father, stepmother, siblings, and step-siblings.

CLARENCE J. BERKSHIRE was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 756 Bowen Avenue.

In 1920, a Clarence Berkschire was 29 years old, and he was living with his parents, wife, and children at a house on Woodlawn Avenue. His wife, Alma immigrated from Sweden to the United States in 1912, and his parents immigrated from England. Clarence worked as a clerk in the stockyard and earned a wage, the same as his father. Clarence seems to be a member of the middle class based on his occupation, but his living in a rented home suggests that he could be a member of the working class.

JOSEPH BERMING was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 5041 Sunnyside Ave., but we were unable to locate him on the 1920 census.

ARTHUR A. BERNAHL was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 5314 Winthrop Ave.

He appears on the 1920 census several miles away at 3344 Marshfield Ave, a home that he rented. Aged 25 years old, he was a wage earner, working as a book clerk. He was not listed as having a wife or children. His father was an immigrant from Germany. We classify him as middle class based on the assigned category of occupation, because his work used his knowledge rather than labor.

HAROLD BERRY was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 11347 Calumet Avenue.

A Harold Berry appears in the 1920 census on Calumet Avenue, where he rented his house, though the census record has no indication of the house number. He was a yard master employed at a railroad company. He was 27 years old and had been born in New York around 1893. He had a wife named Grace Berry. According to the assigned categories of occupation and homeownership, he can be considered part of the working class.

CHESTER H. BIGELOW was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 155 N. Laramie Ave.

Two years earlier, the census listed him at the same address, where he owned his home (with a mortgage). He had a job as a foreman in a rubber company, supporting a wife and daughter and providing a home to his aunt. He was 26 years old and had been born in Illinois, with both of his parents having been born in Iowa. His class status isn't clear – his occupation was working class, but his income was probably higher than other factory workers, and he was a homeowner.

RICHARD S. BLAISDELL was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 5619 Prairie Ave.

A "Richard Blaisdell" appears on the 1920 census as living at 1605 Center Ave, Chicago Heights, a suburb of Chicago. We are assuming that this is the same man who was later a KKK member in Chicago. He is listed as the head of the household, which consisted of himself, his wife, Elma, and their four children – two sons and two daughters. He was a wage worker and is listed on the census as an "all-around man" and laborer. At the time of the census he was 35 years old. He rented his home. Based on this information, we classify Richard Blaisdell as a member of the working class, based on the assigned categories of home ownership and occupation.

ALBERT P. BLAKESLEE was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 5946 Indiana Avenue.

He appears in the 1920 census at the same address, where he owned his house. He was a broker working at the Board of Trade. He was 58 years old and had been born in New York around 1862. He had a wife name Nellie Blakeslee, and two stepsons and a daughter, Arthur and Sarah A Noble. Judging by the assigned categories of occupation and homeownership, he can be considered middle class.

RUDOLPH V. BOBB was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as the proprietor of Bobb's Market House that was at 1360 East 47th St.

A Rudolph Bobb listed in the 1920 census was the "owner" of a grocery store, so he must be the same person. He was not a young man – forty-five at the time of the census. He had a wife and three kids, two boys and one girl. They seem to be a middle-class family as he owns his home.

FRED J. BOLAND was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 4038 Adams St.

In the 1920 census, a Fred J Boland lived on Kilbourne Ave., and his occupation was "service man" in the car industry. He was 29 and had a wife and two sons. (Another Fred Boland lived at 3848 Fillmore St., and he was a thirty-five-year-old blacksmith with a wife and four children.)

GEORGE FLOYD BRITTIAN was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living in 201 N. Karlov Ave.

In the 1920 census, he had been living in 210 North Keeler Avenue which was just south of his residence in the 1922 rolls. He was born in Tennessee in 1886. His wife, Annie, was also born in Tennessee in 1887. They rented a house and had two daughters, named Ann E. and Juanita and both born in Illinois. George worked as an engineer and rented his house. He seems to be part of the working-class based on his job and occupation.

WILLIAM BROCKHOFF was in the 1922 KKK rolls as living on Irving Park Blvd. but we were unable to locate him in the 1920 census. (A "Willmer Brockhoff" could be the same person, but he was not living at the same address or in the same neighborhood.)

JOHN BRONSON was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 2507 N. Mozart St.

He shows up in the 1920 census at the same address, where he owned his home. He worked as a merchant. He was 46 years old and was born in Michigan. He had a wife and 2 daughters. Based on his occupation and homeownership he seems to be middle class or even upper class.

ROYAL S. BROWN was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 4133 N. Kedvale Ave.

He shows up in the 1920 census at the same address, where he rented his home. He worked as a mechanic. He was 24 years old and was born in Illinois. He had a wife and two sons. Based on the assigned categories of homeownership and occupation, he seems to be working class.

JOHN N. BRUSHINGHAM was listed in the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 5209 Ellis Ave.

He had been an insurance salesman in 1920, living as a lodger. He was then 22 years old and single.

LINDSEY CARR was listed in the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 5215 Kimbark Ave.

He appears in the 1920 census at the same address, living with his mother, who rented the house. He was 27 years old and single; he was born in Illinois, but his mother's parents were born in Ireland. He was a record clerk for the railroad, and his brother was a stenographer, also for the railroad. His class status is hard to identify. His occupation suggests that he and his brother were middle class, though probably not well paid, but his mother's renting their home fits working-class assigned categories.

PETER E. CAVINESS was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 756 Bowen Avenue.

The 1920 census shows him living at the same address, in the home that he rented, with his wife, mother-in-law, and father-in-law. In 1920 Peter was 27 years old, and he worked as a fireman for the railroad industry, where he worked for a wage. Peter's father-in-law worked as a conductor at the railroad, while his wife and mother-in-law were unemployed. Based on his job and status as a renter, we place him as part of the working class.

EDWARD C. ESAU was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 2401 Belmont Ave. and working at a soft drink parlor at same address.

In 1920, he had been living one block over on Barry Street. At 26, he and three adult brothers were still living with their parents in a rented home. He and his brothers were all born in Illinois, but their parents were from Germany. He was a wage earner then, working in a candy factory, but two of his brothers were unemployed, and his father was a contractor doing "job work." He seems to be working class, judging by the assigned categories of homeownership and occupation. The information about his father and brothers suggests the household income may have been low as well.

OREN FLUETTE was listed on the 1922 KKK membership rolls as living at 358 E. 57th St.

He appears in the 1920 census at the same address, where he rented his home. He was a wage earner, working as a mail carrier. He was 35 years old and had been born in Michigan, with both of his parents having also been born in Michigan. He had a wife and a twelve-year-old son, whom he named Lincoln. He seems to be working class, judging by the assigned categories of homeownership and occupation.

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