

Blistering Letter Repudiates Klux Oath of Allegiance

KU KLUX KLAN'S INVISIBLE EMPIRE OF HATE SCORED BY U. S. ARMY OFFICER

Was Conceived in Avarice, Sired by Ignorance and Damned in Greed and Now Being Nurtured in False Pretense, Says Prominent Southerner

(Continued from page 2) Klansmen from whose eyes the scales of false romance and patriotic bombast had dropped. They saw the Klan as what it really was, a grotesque menace and anachronism in free America.

They bitterly repented having yielded to the juries and persuasions of its slick-tongued membership peddlers and wished the investigators all success in showing the vicious enterprise up. But when it was suggested that their inside knowledge of its workings gave them special fitness to aid in the fight against its further hideous spread, they held back from active participation in the attack. They were still Klansmen. They had taken the oath of the order and felt that, had as it was, the obligations thus assumed compelled them to keep the secrets they had learned.

To this attitude, however, there has been one exception. One member of the Klan, who also served its business managers as a successful organizer, was so outraged by the realities and potentialities which came under his observation in the course of his regular work as a salesman for Simmons and Clarke that he not only gave up his position as a "Kleagle" to the order, but in a blistering letter withdrew wholly from the order and notified its head that he repudiated its oath as conflicting with a higher obligation he has previously assumed as an officer in the Reserve Corps of the United States army.

Capt. Fry Branded Klan as Public Menace

This fiery rebel was Henry P. Fry, a Southerner of many generations descent, born and reared in East Tennessee, and making his home in Chattanooga. He is forty years old. He is a graduate of that old Southern institution, the Virginia Military Institute, was once commandant of cadets at Sewanee, in the University of the South, and was for a long time a captain in the Tennessee National Guard.

At the outbreak of the war he enlisted as a private in the regular army at Camp Meade, Md., was sent to Company A, 316th Infantry, made sergeant, and transferred to the enlisted men's training school at Camp Gordon, Ga. There he was commissioned a second lieutenant, sent to Camp Perry, O., made a first lieutenant there, sent to Camp Funston, Kan., and there under Gen. Leonard Wood, served through the rest of the war as a rifle specialist and instructor in infantry practice. He was recommended for a commission as major when the war ended and he was ordered home with a commission as Captain of Infantry Reserve Corps.

Capt. Fry has been a newspaper man, publicity man and salesman, and was making a business trip through East Tennessee last winter, when at Clinton City he met a Kleagle, who approached him through the common ground of Masonry, revealed his identity, and induced him first to join the Ku Klux Klan and later to become a Kleagle of the order.

The Captain's Letter

Capt. Fry's further experiences with the order are best set forth in his own letter of withdrawal from the Klan. It is dated at Chattanooga and addressed to William J. Simmons as "Imperial Wizard and Emperor, Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia." The letter in full follows:

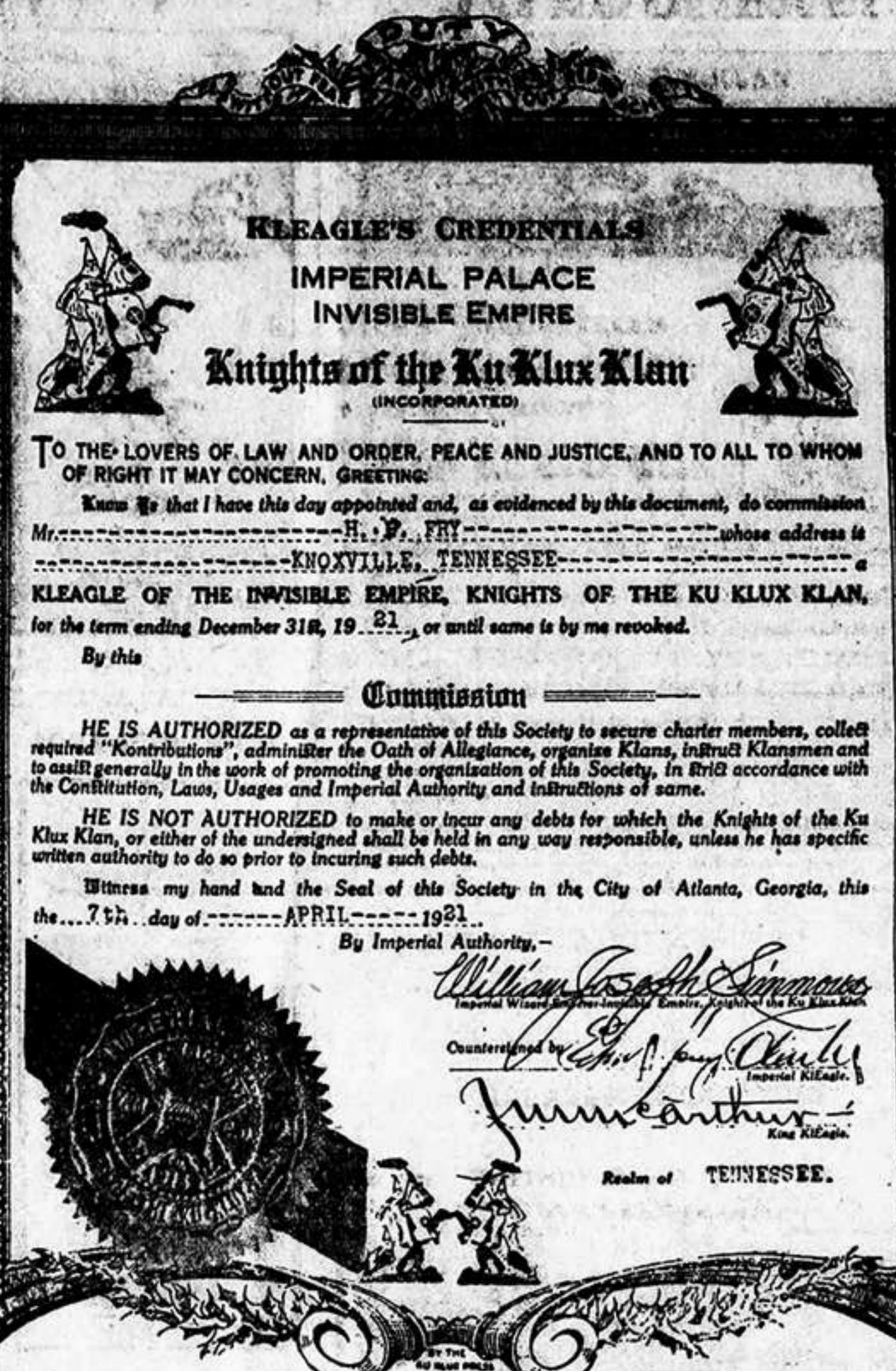
"You are hereby notified that I have this day voluntarily withdrawn as a citizen of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., and shall no longer consider myself in any way connected with the organization. After five months of citizenship in the Invisible Empire, three months of which were spent as a Kleagle, I have reached the conclusion that your proposition is a historical fraud; that it is a money making scheme run for the benefit of a few insiders; that it is engaged in an evil propaganda in promoting unwarranted religious and racial hatred against Jews, Roman Catholics, negroes and foreign-born American citizens; that your entire scheme is a dangerous public menace that will inevitably lead to bloodshed and, if successful, must result in revolution; and that, in the interest of decent Americanism, it should be suppressed by the federal and state authorities.

"I further notify you that I utterly repudiate and refuse to be bound in any way by any and all portions of the oath of allegiance to the Invisible Empire formerly taken by me, excepting that portion pledging allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and of my state, with which portion you have camouflaged the real support and meaning of the oath. The remainder of the oath conflicts with a higher obligation I have previously assumed as an officer of the Reserve Corps of the United States army.

"I therefore denounce said remaining portions of said oath as illegal, and detrimental to the fundamental principles which underlie the entire legal structure of this country. I further decline, any longer, to keep secret any part or parts of your schemes to establish in free America an Invisible Empire, fraudulent in its conception, vicious in its nature, political in its objects, and subject to the will of a self-constituted Emperor who seeks to exploit the American people for his own personal aggrandizement.

"Defend Klan's Threats
In defiance of your threats of disgrace and death as con-

COMMISSION OF KLEAGLE IN KU KLUX KLAN



FIRST DEGREE KU KLUXERS, INVISIBLE EMPIRE



William J. Simmons

This is a group of Klansmen, of the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan, taking the fourth section of the oath of the First Degree. The Klansmen are wearing the robe and helmet, the regalia of the Klan. In the background is shown the flaming cross, emblem of the order. Below is William Joseph Simmons, of Atlanta, Imperial Wizard of the Klan.

more a money-making scheme! You yourself, an individual of little, if any, means prior to your becoming an 'Emperor,' have so far received from 'friends' a \$25,000 residence completely furnished: Your connection with the organization is either bringing you large sums of money at present, or the promise of same in the future. You are allowed to appropriate to your own use all of the \$10 'donated' by any person whose application you personally solicit. All of the rituals and other printed publications of your organization are copyrighted in your name, and it is presumed that you have either received royalties for their use or a cash consideration for their sale.

"Your organization has recently bought Lanier University, of which college presidents are usually paid salaries. While orders for robes at \$6.50 are taken in your name, they are filled by the Gate City Manufacturing Company at a substantial profit, and the public has not been informed as to the disposition of this huge amount of funds. The Searchlight Publishing Company, headed by your Imperial Kleagle, is no doubt a revenue producer! Your Imperial Kleagle is also the head of the Clarke Realty Company, in whose operations I have no doubt you are also interested. These varied financial operations indicate to me that spreading religious and racial

hatred is a lucrative business for you and your associates.

"Invisible Empire a Cancer"
"Your whole 'Invisible Empire' is a cancer in the body politic. It is like some foul and loathsome thing that grows and flourishes in the dark away from the sight of honest men and women. It was conceived in avarice, sired in ignorance and damned in greed. It is now being nurtured in cunning and false pretense and fed upon an unholy lust for gold by means of passion, hatred and the prejudice of religious and racial fanaticism. And day by day, with your oily assurance, you say that these devilish devices of discord are being developed in the name of 'pure Americanism.' If this is your idea of America, you haven't the slightest conception of what pure Americanism means.

"There is no place in America for an 'Invisible Empire' of hate and venom; and there is no provision in the laws of this country for an 'Emperor.' The 'Invisible Empire' should be made visible. It should be held up to the light so that honest men can see its ugly structure and analyze its nefarious potentialities, and then, having seen this monstrosity, the people should demand of their legally constituted forces of Government that Ku Kluxism and the Ku Klux Klan be out-

lawed and barred forever from operating in this free Republic.

"Yours truly,

"HENRY P. FRY."

That is how the Simmons-Clarke brand of Ku Kluxism impressed one man who came into close and intimate business contact with it.

In succeeding articles the grounds on which Capt. Fry based the various charges in his indictment will be taken up and examined in detail.

The Star tomorrow morning will publish in detail how "Invisible Empire" salesmen used Army and Navy Club address in New York City for its membership campaign.

PRESS AGENT'S BALLYHOO FOR MOVIES CRUDE

New York Oct. 31.—When a story by somebody like Rupert Hughes or Elinor Glyn is screened the movie producer takes it for granted that everybody knows all about them.

Intelligence, however, is never presumed when the old masters are mobilized. Producers take no chances about prospective patrons possibly having an acquaintance with illustrious literary names like De Maupassant, Balzac and others.

Consider Pathé's new film version of Guy de Maupassant's "The Orderly." A 16-page booklet is issued

CONCERT IN PRISON

Newburg, N.Y.—Inmates of Campbell Prison on the Isle of Wight were entertained by the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon association with a concert. "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings" and "Dream of Paradise" were among the hymns.

THREE SPIES ESCAPE

Paris.—Police all over France are searching for Paul Courder, German spy serving ten years at Lille prison, who escaped with two other spies. Duplicate keys and a rope ladder were used.

WOOD SPOILS LAWNS

Sava, Fiji.—City authorities are objecting to the practice the police have in leaving their firewood on the municipal lawns along the waterfront. The appearance of the lawns is being spoiled, they say.

advising exhibitors how to exploit the picture. Its essence is in this paragraph:

Bally-Hoo

Make a noise about De Maupassant—he is a world-famous writer of short stories that have that pep and spice!

Of course he was—prior to his death 28 years ago!

It isn't necessary, for advertising purposes, to make a noise about the fact that he spent the last year or so of his life in an insane asylum.

Viewing "The Orderly," you find both "pep and spice." You also find the role of Jeanne—the unhappy wife of a colonel who secretly loves a captain and is threatened with betrayal by a mere orderly—in the capable hands of Madame Nathalie Kovanko, the Russian actress.

An elderly colonel promises a dying friend to take care of her daughter. When the girl is old enough he suggests marriage and she consents, not for love but in gratitude.

Then she meets a handsome young captain. There are many secret meetings, but at each the omniscient Philippe, the colonel's orderly, is spying.

The orderly offers to carry her letters to her lover. Thus she puts herself in his power. And the orderly, taking advantage of this, tells the faithless wife that he loves her, too, and if she repulses him he will betray her secret to the colonel.

The wife takes the easiest way out—death. A letter of confession reaches the colonel afterwards. Immediately he sends for his orderly.

"Tell me the name of my wife's lover," he demands.

The man hesitates.

"Quietly, his name!"

A second time the orderly hesitates—and is lost!

Now what do you suppose happens then? He shoots the traitor, making everybody as happy as possible under the circumstances.

country, cottage and palace, the world over.

That is why I think the story of Lulu Bett has greater merit than Sinclair Lewis' "Main Street." The appeal of the latter is only to those whose experiences have embraced drab life in a nine o'clock town. The appeal of the Galt story is universal.

One might criticize DeMille and Miss Beranger for changing the story of Lulu Bett. However, the author did not have her stage and novel stories alike. In view of that the movie producers may be excused for attempting to paint the silly.

The supporting cast of "Miss Lulu Bett" seems to have been very happily chosen. Theodore Roberts is Dwight Deacon, the pompous dupe and Justice of the peace who makes his sister-in-law a drudge and is credited by the neighbors for supervising her.

Clarence Burton is Ninian Deacon who first brings romance into Lulu's life and then tragedy when he learns that the wife he believed dead is living.

Milton Sills is Neil Cornish, the neighbor who defends Lulu, falls in love with her and eventually marries her.

Charles Ogle, one of the screen's best character actors, is the station agent.

Coiner of 'Race Suicide' Phrase Is Now Small Family Advocate

Madison, Wis., Oct. 31.—Big families of the olden times are out of the question today.

This is the opinion of Prof. E. A. Ross, head of the University of Wisconsin sociology department, who 29

The first published photo of Lois Wilson as she appears in the title role of the film version of "Miss Lulu Bett." She looks the part.

In the play are very interesting. They show that Lulu Bett is a true Lulu Bett. She looks just like an "old maid" that you might like in your block or on your street—one of those all-wool-and-in-yard-wide souls who has romance in her heart, the odor of dish water on her hands and knotted hair on her head.

Zona Gale located her story in a small town. It might as well have



years ago, coined the expression, "race suicide."

"The nation today is gaining enough population by reduction in death rate, compared with the birth rate, to meet the situation which 20 years ago was considered alarming," says Prof. Ross.

That is why he now is in favor of small families.

"Nobody, 20 years ago, could have foreseen that life would be saved as we are saving it," Ross said. "Certain diseases that reaped a heavy death toll have been successfully controlled. As a result, the death rate has fallen off one-quarter since 1912.

"Under the circumstances large families would make our population grow so fast that starvation would eventually result."

Prof. Ross' three sons are an indication as to what he thinks is the proper sized family.



Madame Nathalie Kovanko, Russian actress, has the role of the much-loved wife in the screen version of De Maupassant's "The Orderly."



Clarence Burton as Ninian Deacon in William DeMille's film version of "Miss Lulu Bett," Zona Gale's great stage success.

been set in any city. Dishes are washed, girls grow into "old maids" and dirt souls labor for the glory of more polished relatives in city and proper sized family.

