

Stories of Hate and Resistance: An Annotated Bibliography of Newspaper Articles Documenting the Ku Klux Klan in Colorado

The Ku Klux Klan came to Colorado in 1921, and took advantage of existing prejudices in its rapid rise to prominence. At the height of its influence, the white supremacist organization had more than 35,000 members. Across the state, newspapers documented the KKK's rapid rise, its seizure of state and local political offices, and its equally rapid decline.

Even as some writers welcomed the KKK and encouraged new members, others condemned the Klan's vile presence. Newspapers from marginalized and disenfranchised communities around the state offered organized resistance to the KKK and their discriminatory messaging. *The Colorado Statesman*, an African American newspaper in Denver, joined other publications like *The Denver Jewish News* and Spanish-language newspaper *El Demócrata del Condado de Costilla* in offering an alternative voice to the Klan's dominant narrative.

These newspapers, and others like them, are a powerful record of racism and resistance from a time of hate and division in Colorado's past. The articles you see here are primary sources from the time. They show us how Coloradans reacted to the KKK, and offer an invitation for us to consider the lessons from that time.

History Colorado is proud to present this curated collection of historic newspaper articles to help us better understand the conditions that pushed so many Coloradans over the line separating private prejudice and organized hate.

Please note: All links will take you to a digital version of the article on the [Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection website](#).

Denver County

["Ask President Harding For Probe of Ku Klux Klan."](#) *The Colorado Statesman*. September 24, 1921.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People made an appeal to President Harding for congressional action against the KKK.

["Colored Advance Society Polls on Ku Klux Klan."](#) *The Colorado Statesman*. October 22, 1921.

Congressmen denounce the KKK.

["Disarmament Debated: Ku Klux Klan Condemned."](#) *The Brown and Gold - Regis University*. November 1, 1921.

Loyola Debating Society resolved the KKK should be “legislated against as a public menace” in a count of 56-22.

[“Endorse Ryan Bill- Aimed at Ku Klux Klan.”](#) *The Colorado Statesman*. April 8, 1922.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People endorsed Representative Thomas J. Ryan's Bill to require KKK orgs to file membership names to the post office.

[“European Anti-Semites Seek Aid of Ku Klux Klan.”](#) *Denver Jewish News*. September 28, 1921.

European anti-semitic group wanted an ally in the KKK.

[“Jews Open War on Ku Klux Klan.”](#) *The Colorado Statesman*. December 9, 1922.

New York Judge hoped to enlist Jewish fraternal organizations against the KKK. KKK doctrines were being circulated through the city and to school children.

[“Ku Klux Klan Condemned By Church.”](#) *Denver Jewish News*. November 8, 1922.

States racial prejudices are not consistent with christianity; KKK does not fit within ideals of church or patriotism.

[“N.A.A.C.P. Backs Denver Branch In Fight Against Ku Klux Klan.”](#) *The Colorado Statesman*. March 25, 1922.

NAACP will have Denver branch national office support the fight against the KKK.

[“N.A.A.C.P. Fights Ku Klux Klan.”](#) *The Colorado Statesman*. January 1, 1921.

Called out for violating the US constitution, lists efforts to mitigate and penalize KKK through post office restrictions.

[“National Association For the Advancement of Colored People Assists New York World in Ku Klux Klan Expose.”](#) *The Colorado Statesman*. September 24, 1921.

A collaborative effort to expose the KKK.

[“Questions and Answers. From the Fellowship Forum.”](#) *Protestant Herald*. August 27, 1926.

The question on where the KKK started was asked. The answer was on Stone Mountain, Georgia.

[“The Ku Klux Klan Stamping Out A Reptile.”](#) *Denver Jewish News*. August 23, 1922.

States Ku Klux Klan is not representative of the American spirit, the nature of their presence is terrorist; Supports American unity league, an anti-KKK movement.

["The Torch- Ku Klux Klan Paper Friendly To Jews."](#) *Denver Jewish News*. December 19, 1922.

"The Torch" newspaper in Missouri, noted for anti-catholic propaganda, released an editorial that the KKK is not anti-Jewish and is both friendly and tolerant.

All Colorado Counties

["Aiming At The Bull's Eye."](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. April 24, 1925.

According to this article, Klan was expected to emerge as "triumphant."

["Boulder Klan Endorses Inaugural Address of President Coolidge."](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. March 6, 1925.

Discusses the free thinking American, the KKK's ideal's about the "spirit of the inquisition", states that Coolidge agrees with these ideals.

["California Klansman-Pastor Says Klan is Only Hope for USA."](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. May 15, 1925.

"The Ku Klux Klan is the only hope of America." he declared; denouncing his opponents. Three thousand members of the First Christian church rose to their feet and cheered when the pastor reached the climax of his remarks."

["Dr. Hiram Wesley Evans Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan."](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. June 26, 1925.

Imperial Wizard or National President applauded for leadership: "During his administration the Klan has grown from a weak, strife-ridden, well nigh bankrupt organization into a powerful institution with membership in every community of every State."

["Harry C. Hoffman, Grand Dragon of Colorado."](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. July 24, 1925.

"Zumbrunn declared that the national klan is "not afraid of" the Colorado controversy which broke out when approximately 40,000 klansmen assembled in the cotton mill stadium in South Denver voted last Friday night to secede from the parent body. "Altho there seems to have been a heavy defection in Denver from the klan," he declared, "over the state as a whole the defection has not been so great. I believe that at this time 85 per cent of the original klansmen have retained membership in that body, while only 15 per cent have withdrawn."

[“Head Of Independent Klan Challenges Evan To Debate.”](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. July 31, 1925.

National president of the independent Klan challenged to imperial wizard of Ku Klux Klan to debate in August in Indianapolis.

[“K.K.K Breaks Up Dance at Loveland.”](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. April 17, 1925.

50 men in KKK regalia broke up a dance. Greeley people gradually split up. Crosses were burning.

[“Klan Headed By Dr. Locke Victor in Injunction Suit.”](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. March 6, 1925.

U.S Judge J. Foster Symes granted the knights of the KKK of Georgia an injunction restraining the knights of Colorado from operating in this state. “First, the uninformed: second. the misinformed. and. third, the hopelessly ineligible.”

[“Ku-Klux-Klan.”](#) *El Democrata del Condado de Costilla*. September 27, 1924.

In english, the title of this newspaper is “The Costilla County Democrat.” It details the Klan’s discriminatory and unconstitutional designs in Colorado.

[“Labor Attacks Klans And Reds.”](#) *The Durango Klansman*. July 1, 1925.

Organized labor concerns about the KKK and communist party.

[“Officials Chosen With Klan Support Give Kansas Town Era of Prosperity.”](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. May 8, 1925.

Citizens of Douglass, Kansas are experiencing “hysteria” of KKK mayor and town rule.

[“Oklahoma Klan Made Defendant in Suit.”](#) *The Daily Times*. July 14, 1925.

“The Ku Klux Klan of Georgia brought suit in the state District court here late today against the Ku Klux Klan of Oklahoma, alleging the Oklahoma organization was improperly using the name Ku Klux Klan.”

[“Oklahoma Ku Klux Is Sued Over Name.”](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. July 17, 1925.

A suit against the KKK asking for damages, complete accounting of the organization's finances, and an injunction to bar the KKK Oklahoma from using the name KKK due to improper use.

[“Our Friends the Enemy.”](#) *The Durango Klansman*. June 1, 1925.

Enemies of the KKK are sewer rats of the country and the KKK should be regarded as a “priceless heritage.”

[“Questions & Answers.”](#) *The Durango Klansman*. July 1, 1925.

Question: “Why is the Ku Klux Klan so bitterly opposed by certain Protestants?”

[“The Klan Not Intollerant.”](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. July 3, 1925.

A defense of Klan behavior.

[“The Ku Klux Klan In Prophecy.”](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. July 10, 1925.

Ideals of merging church and state, the true american, and the good citizen.

[“Why the Klan?”](#) *The Rocky Mountain American*. January 30, 1925.

“The Klan, arising to pre-eminent power at the same time and in the midst of such conditions is a crystallization in the all pervading popular reaction.”