MSS0084. M.S. Ross collection finding aid

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### M.S. Ross collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>M.S. Ross collection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection No:</td>
<td>MSS.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent:</td>
<td>0.25 cubic feet</td>
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<td>Inclusive Dates:</td>
<td>1917-1957</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Abstract:** The collection comprises documents and publications belonging to M.S. Ross, mostly referring to the Invisible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s.

**Processed by:** Gerald Chaudron, December 2023.

**Access:** Open to all researchers.

**Language:** English

**Preferred Citation:** M.S. Ross collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** 2023 December
Biographical information

Montague Sutton Ross was born in Savannah, Tennessee on August 12, 1880. Ross graduated from the University of Nashville in 1903 with an A.B. degree and became superintendent of public schools in Greenfield, Tennessee, in 1904. He then entered George Washington University to study law, graduating in 1907. He joined the Pitts & McConico law firm in Nashville, Tennessee, but also was involved with the Lincoln Fire Insurance Company and, with his two brothers, in the Montague Realty Company. Ross was involved with various organizations including the Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Business Men’s Association (later Chamber of Commerce), Tennessee National Guard, as well as being a mason and member and officer of the Ku Klux Klan. He died in Nashville in October 1972.

Scope and contents

The collection comprises documents and publications belonging to M.S. Ross, mostly referring to the Invisible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s.

Subject terms

Ku Klux Klan (1915-)—Tennessee.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

Correspondence:

1 Letter: Signed M.S. Ross, head of Knights of Ku Klux Klan in Tennessee, undated. Claims his organization is law abiding and does not support flogging.

2 Letter: M.S. Ross, Grand Dragon, Realm of Tennessee, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, to Editor, Lawrence Democrat-Union, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., undated. Replies to editorial “The Time to Unmask” (October 19, 19??) which requests the local Klan to publish a list of its members. Ross declares there is no requirement to do so and refutes any suggestion the Klan supports unlawful behavior.

Form letter: H.W. Evans, Imperial Wizard, Invisible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Atlanta, Ga., to officers and members, 1926 31 July. Announcement that third biennial Imperial Klonvokation will not take place in Philadelphia in September but will be held in Washington, D.C., instead.

Knights of the Ku Klux Klan materials:
3 Konklave minutes, Nolensville Klan #75, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Nolensville, Tenn., 1924 January 1-1925 July 1.
4 Program: Second Klorero, Realm of Tennessee, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Knoxville, 1928 February 12.
Financial report, Realm of Tennessee, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, 1926-1927.

Publications: Knights of the Ku Klux Klan:
7 Untitled, undated. Admission procedures for new Knights of the Great Forest. (2) ABC of the Invisible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Atlanta, Ga., 1917.
Constitution and Laws of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (Inc.), Atlanta, Ga., 1921.
Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Kloran of the Knights of the Great Forest: K-Trio, 1928.
8 Pamphlet: “Dr. W. Earl Hotalen, Imperial Lecturer of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Answers Clarence Darrow”. Excerpt of speech by Hotalen at Labor Temple, Mobile, Ala., March 7, 1927, replying to a speech by Clarence Darrow at the Negro Industrial School, Daphne, Ala, February 10, 1927.

Publications: Other:
“Catholic Marriage Contract”, circa 1925. Contains facsimile of contract and states the Roman Catholic Church is a pseudo-political organization.
Ross, M.S., “Know Tennessee”, Address to Chamber of Commerce, Nashville, 1926 March 12.

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“Catholic Marriage Contract”, circa 1925. Contains facsimile of contract and states the Roman Catholic Church is a pseudo-political organization.
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OS1 Common Sense: The Nation’s Anti-Communist Newspaper, Union, N.J., No. 281, 1957
August 1. Refers to links between NAACP leaders and Communist-front organizations. Copy mailed to Ross by unknown sender.