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AA MS 09 Flynn Seal Presses Finding Aid

Christina E. Walker

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**FLYNN SEAL PRESSES
AA MS 9**

**Total Boxes: 1
Linear Feet: 1**

**By
Christina E. Walker**

**Portland, Maine
May 2014**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The Flynn Seal Presses were donated by Stephen Flynn in 2003. He recovered the presses from the structural remains of the Silver Sands Hotel on Higgins Beach in Scarborough, Maine, following a storm in 1978.

Ownership and Literary Rights: The Flynn Seal Presses are the physical property of the University of Southern Maine Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the creator or his/her legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Head of Special Collections.

Cite as: Flynn Seal Presses, African American Collection of Maine, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on access: This collection is open for research.

Historical Note

Although the dates of production and usage of the seal presses are unknown, there is documentation of the presence of the WKKK in Maine, variously known as the Women of the Ku Klux Klan or Women's Ku Klux Klan. The WKKK was organized in September 1923 by the leader of the Maine division of the KKK, F. Eugene Farnsworth. Many cities and towns throughout the state quickly established their own Klan. During the early years of its formation, WKKK activities were published on the society pages of town newspapers, but in the late 1920s support for the organization dropped and membership rates rapidly declined.

Reference: Maine Memory Network, Maine History Online, The Nativist Klan.

Description of the Collection

The Flynn Seal Presses (undated) are from the Women of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKK) chapters of Augusta and Bath, Maine. One seal reads: "Women of the Ku Klux Klan; Capital City Klan; Klan No 11 Augusta, Maine." In the center there is a shield with a cross and the letters W, K, K, K, at the top, bottom, and sides of the cross. The other seal reads: "Women of the Ku Klux Klan; Bath Klan; Klan No 15 Bath, Maine." There is also an image of a shield in its center (but no cross) with the letters W, K, K, and K.