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**JEAN BYERS SAMPSON CENTER FOR DIVERSITY IN MAINE
AFRICAN AMERICAN COLLECTION OF MAINE**

**KU KLUX KLAN PHOTOGRAPH
AA MS 10**

**Total Containers: 1 folder in File Cabinet
Linear Feet: 0.10 ft**

**By
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**Portland, Maine
May 2014**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The Ku Klux Klan Photograph was donated by Stephen R. Aucoin in 2001.

Ownership and Literary Rights: The Ku Klux Klan Photograph is 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: Ku Klux Klan Photograph, 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

Shortly after the end of the Civil War, ex-Confederate soldiers and other Southerners formed the Ku Klux Klan to oppose Reconstruction. As efforts to advance educational, political and economic opportunities for African Americans declined, so did the first wave of the KKK.

In 1915, Klan membership experienced a resurgence as their rhetoric broadened to include Jews, Catholics, immigrants, urbanites and intellectuals. As America's population concentrated in urban centers and its economy became more dependent upon industry, the KKK advocated a return to rural living and an agricultural lifestyle. Their message of white supremacy appealed to many white Americans, with membership in this clandestine society peaking in the mid-1920s with estimates for national membership ranging from three million to eight million. In the late 1920s support for the organization dropped and membership rates rapidly declined.

References: Maine Memory Network, Maine History Online, The Nativist Klan; pbs.org

Description of the Collection

The Ku Klux Klan Photograph is a black-and-white image of a KKK march that took place in Lincoln, Maine in 1927. The print measures 8 inches by 9.5 inches, and contains a typescript entitled "An Effort to Reveal History: The African-American Experience in Rural New England: 1780-1850." It is located in File Cabinet Drawer 22.