

# MAN WHO WAS MEMBER DENOUNCES K. K. K. AS AN INSULT TO CHRISTIANS

## THIS KLANSMAN IS NOW OUT OF KLAN

**KLEAGLE AT CHATTANOOGA  
WRITES TELLING SIMMONS  
HIS VIEWS OF ORDER.**

## WHY HE QUIT THE KLAN

**Henry P. Fry Tells Colonel Sim-  
mons That the Organization  
Is Evil Propaganda.**

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New York, Sept. 6.—More than once in their investigation of Ku Kluxism as incorporated and put on a strictly business basis by "Imperial Wizard" Simmons, financial wizard Clarke and their associate, Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler, the representatives of The News and the World have come across 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.

### Still Klansmen.

They bitterly repented having yielded to the lures and persuasions of its glib-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 insidious spread, they held back from active participation in the attack. They were still Klansmen. They had taken the oaths of the order and felt that, bad 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" of 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 had previously assumed as an officer in the Reserve Corps of the United States Army.

### About Captain Fry.

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 40 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, Ohio, made a First Lieutenant there, sent to Camp Funston, Kan., and there, under General Leonard Wood, served through the rest of the war as a rifle specialist and instructor in infantry rifle 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.

Captain Fry has been a newspaper man, publicity man and salesman, and was making a business trip through East Tennessee last winter, when at Johnson 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.

### The Captain's Letter.

Captain 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 Willard J. Simmons as "Imperial Wizard and Emperor, Invisible Klan, Inc., Atlanta, Ga." 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 and racial hatred.

...an 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 purport 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 scheme 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.

#### Defies Klan's Threats.

"In defiance of your threats of 'dishonor, disgrace and death' as contained in your ritual—written and copyrighted by yourself—I denounce your ritualistic work as an insult to all Christian people in America.

"I further charge that when in your printed literature you claim that your organization is the 'genuine original Klan,' this statement is a fraud historically. While you have—without any right whatever—appropriated to yourself the name, regalia and certain nomenclature of the original Klan, your scheme is radically different in conception, in organization and in purpose. A careful study, which I have made, of the prescript of the original Klan and all available history and literature on the subject, reveals the fact that there is little, if anything, in common between the two organizations. Your false pretenses of 'genuineness' is therefore an insult to the history, the traditions and the entire record of the South.

"Ever since your scheme has been actively propagated, there has been a wave of crime in the Southern States, consisting to a large extent of 'private regulations' of the public peace, committed by men who have gone about their respective communities wearing disguises and taking into their own hands the functions of Prosecuting Attorney, witnesses, Judge, jury and executioner, in direct contravention to the bill of rights of the Federal and State Constitutions. Men have been dragged from their beds at night, forcibly abducted on the streets and in their homes, arrested without warrant on the public streets, conveyed to secluded places, there to be flogged, tarred and feathered. In two instances helpless women, after being stripped of their clothing, have been similarly maltreated.

#### Wore Klan's Regalia.

"In nearly every reported case the perpetrators of these acts of lawlessness have worn disguises, described as 'masks and white robes,' which description corresponds convincingly with the official regalia of the 'Invisible Empire.' In three specific cases acts of lawlessness have been so openly and flagrantly committed by members of the 'Ku Klux Klan' that you have been compelled to take official cognizance. In these three instances where responsibility has been fixed, it was very evident that the illegal oath and the secret teachings of your 'Invisible Empire' were construed by your dupes as granting a license to engage in secret regulation of the peace by means of anonymous warnings, threats, intimidations, abductions, the whip and the use of tar and feathers.

"Having studied your scheme, both from the inside and the outside, I have no doubt whatever that practically all of these reported outrages were committed by members of your organization. If it were proved, however, that your 'citizens' were not prima facie responsible, at the same time there exists a moral responsibility, because when one group of people is permitted to go about in disguise it places the community at the mercy of any group which cares to adopt similar tactics.

Everywhere the promoters of your scheme have gone, they have sought to enlist as 'citizens' the white, Gentile, Protestant public officials, especially those having in charge the enforcement of the law. No matter how capable, how efficient and how conscientious a public official may be, if he chances to be a Jew or a Catholic, you not only do not want him, but your organization is now planning actively to cause all the Jews, Catholics and foreign-born naturalized Americans in this country to be removed from public life. This tampering and meddling with the law-enforcing machinery of the country—under the alleged plea of 'law and order'—is a direct blow at the entire legal machinery of the United States, a condition that, in its nature, approaches anarchy.

#### Breeding Race Hatred.

"At a time when peaceful relations are existing between the white and black races you are disrupting the industrial conditions of the South by your anti-negro propaganda and causing a state of unrest that can result only in dangerous and mischievous consequences. In your anti-Catholic and anti-Jewish propaganda your organization is scattering broadcast over this country wicked, malicious and inflammatory lies about American citizens of those religious beliefs, lies that brand your movement as being far more vicious than the insidious German propagand in this country prior to our entrance into the recent war. You are publishing, for example, the statement that the Jews are seeking to promote a race war between white people and negroes, and the intimation that the Catholic Church was responsible for the murder of President Abraham Lincoln. In public statements you and your paid speakers give expression to wordy, sanctimonious and high-sounding platitudes, while secretly your propagandists, in a sneaking and contemptible manner, are spreading poisonous and vicious lies they dare not give voice to in public.

"Your 'Invisible Empire' is furthermore a money-making scheme! All of the rituals and other printed publications of your organization are copyrighted in your name, and it is presumable 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 you have been made the head, and college presidents are usually paid salaries. While orders for robes at \$5.50 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 Kludge, is no doubt a revenue producer!

#### "Invisible Empire a Cancer."

"There is no place in America for a '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 representatives of government that Ku Klux Klan and the Ku Klux Klan be outlawed and barred forever from operating in this free Republic. Yours

"HENRY P. FRY."