

## **KKK**

The Ku Klux Klan has its roots in the American South after the Civil War. In the early 20th century, there was a resurgence of the Klan with strong nativist feelings in addition to racial hatred. Beyond African Americans, they fought against Jews, Catholics, labor movements, and foreigners. This Klan still exists to this day. The membership peaked in the 1920s with estimated membership around 4,000,000 nationally.

Cumberland County was not immune to this movement. The Klan was very active in south central Pennsylvania during the 1920s having events in Carlisle, Shippensburg, Harrisburg, and other local communities. While the numbers have dwindled, they still exist in the shadows. They periodically paper communities with their flyers. The Klan held a rally at the square as recent as the year 2000. This rally, however, was met with resistance from the local community. The community countered with a Unity Celebration at Dickinson College. The Celebration was attended by large crowds of community members who came together to show their peaceful resistance to the rally. Mayor Kirk Wilson was quoted in the paper stating, “[The Klan] couldn’t have done more to unite us. I’ve never seen people of such diverse backgrounds come together so quickly.”