Finding Aid to the William Sherman
Ku Klux Klan and Anti Garb Law Research Collection

Sherman, William, 1927-
William Sherman Ku Klux Klan and Anti Garb Law Research Collection, 1923-2009
0.5 linear foot
MSS 2932

OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the NDSU Archives.

Provenance: Donated by William Sherman in 2010. (Acc. 2932)

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Citation: [Identification of item]. William Sherman KKK and Anti Garb Research Collection (MSS 2932), NDSU Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

William C. Sherman was born on July 8, 1927 in Detroit, Michigan. He attended school in Oregon, Hankinson, N.D. and Lidgerwood, N.D., and graduated from St. John’s University, Collegeville, M.N. He then attended St. John’s School of Theology and graduated in 1955. He served parishes in Verona, Grand Forks, and Enderlin, N.D., and also the Newman Center at North Dakota State University as a Catholic priest. In 1965 he received a master’s degree in sociology from the University of North Dakota and also
studied at North Dakota State University from 1966 to 1968. He began teaching at NDSU in 1970 in the area of rural sociology. He retired from NDSU as professor emeritus. He now lives in Grand Forks, N.D.

Father Sherman has done extensive research and writing on the ethnic dimensions of the Northern Great Plains as well as the KKK in North Dakota and the Anti-Garb laws directed towards nuns teaching in public schools. Among his major works are Prairie Mosaic: An Ethnic Atlas of Rural North Dakota (1983); Plains Folk, co-edited with Playford Thorson (1988); Scattered Steeples: Historical Essays Concerning the Diocese of Fargo, co-edited with Jerry Lamb and Jerry Ruff (1988 and 2006); African-Americans in North Dakota, with Thomas Newgard (1994); Prairie Peddlers: the Syrian-Lebanese in North Dakota, with Paul Whitney and John Guerrero (2002); Valerian Paczek: Priest, Soldier, Quiet Hero, with John Guerrero (2004), and Wagons North: Minnesota to Oregon, with John Guerrero (2009).

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection contains research complied by William C. Sherman from the 1970’s through the early 2000’s. The collection contains oral histories from priests and North Dakotans about cross burnings, harassment, KKK meetings from when the KKK was active in the early to mid-1920’s in North Dakota. The Collection also contains research on the Anti-Garb law, which did not allow nuns to wear habits while they taught in public schools, a law that was supported by the KKK.

FOLDER LIST

Folder   Content

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1/2       Research of KKK activity in North Dakota, 1956-1982
1/3       Personal Accounts of cross burnings and KKK activity from Catholic Priests, 1977-1982
1/4       Personal Accounts of cross burnings and KKK activity in various counties, 1974-2006
1/5       KKK publications, 1923-1977
1/6       Newspaper Articles, 1983-2009
1/7       Anti-Garb, 1936-1982
1         The Ku Klux in the City, 1915-1930 by Kenneth Jackson
1         North Dakota Quarterly, “Norwegians in North Dakota”