

Landscapes of Fear: Cinema, Propaganda, and Patriotism in Northern Wisconsin, 1915-1918

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This paper will analyze a twenty-nine month period in northern Wisconsin, beginning with the showing of *Birth of a Nation* and ending with a few months of vigilante activity perpetrated by hooded men calling themselves the Knights of Liberty. Analyzing area newspaper articles, advertisements, and propaganda, I will argue that, while the excuse for the violence was the enforcement of patriotism encouraged by WWI propaganda, the models for the Knights of Liberty were derived from mass culture with key inspiration on the big screen.