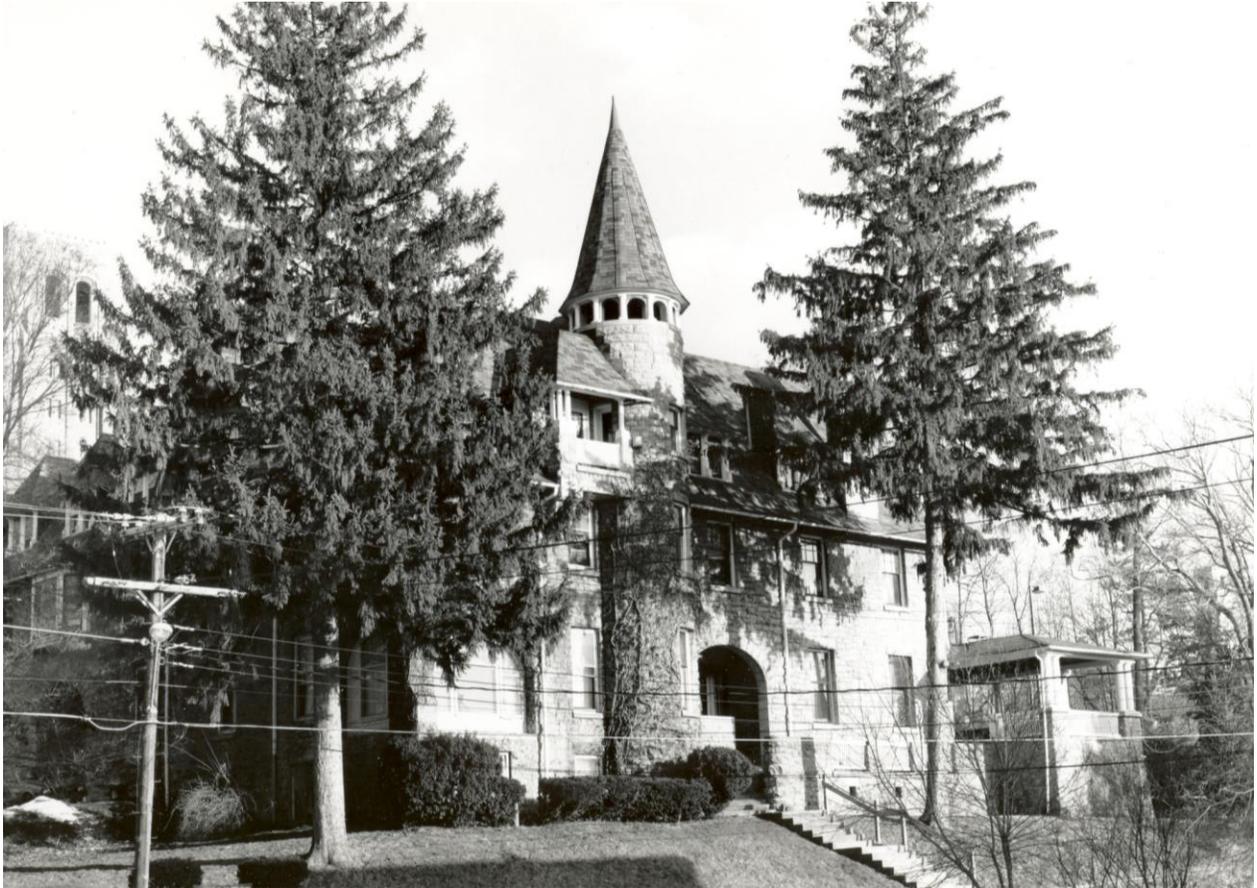


DELTA KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY

Delta Chi Chapter at Cornell University
Office of the Alumni Historian

ΔX of ΔKE Special Study #04: The Roosevelt Spruce Trees

The stories of ΔKE Brother Clifton Beckwith Brown, ΔX '00, at the Battle of San Juan Hill and the subsequent dedication of the Norway spruce trees as a memorial to the fallen soldier are related.¹



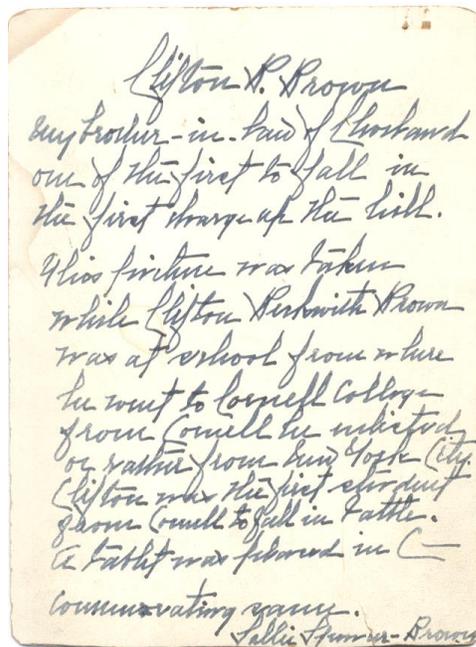
On 29 September 1987, a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation committee agreed to list the two Norway Spruce trees standing on the west lawn of the Cornell

¹Previous renditions of this story are found in (1) Fogle, "Roosevelt Spruce Trees Recognized by New York State," *The Delta Chi Deke*, May 1988, pp. 2 and 5, and (2) Fogle, *The Cornell Deke House — A History of the 1893 Lodge* (Ithaca NY: The Delta Chi Association, 1993), "Chapter IV: The Roosevelt Spruce Trees," pp. 33-38. The 1993 volume is found in the Cornell University Library (LJ75 .D315 1993z +), the DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County (728.4 7655, accession #1994.9.1) and the Library of Congress (LJ75 .D315, 1993).

Deke House on the New York State Famous and Historic Trees Register.² These stately conifers were planted by Governor Theodore Roosevelt on Cornell Day, 20 June 1899, in memory of Brother Clifton Beckwith Brown '00 who was killed in action during the Spanish American War. This official recognition of the Roosevelt Spruce Trees came in response to a petition submitted by the Delta Chi Association on 22 July 1987.³

Although the story that Roosevelt had once visited 13 South Avenue and planted the two Norway Spruce trees that now stand on either side of the lodge's main entrance had been handed down by word of mouth from one generation of brothers to the next, and many regarded the tale as pure myth, it was not until the Delta Chi Chapter History Program was launched that a serious investigation began. The inquiry, one of many aimed at fleshing out the origins and evolution of the chapter, was elevated to the highest priority when Mrs. Florence Lansdowne, the much revered Deke House cook of twenty-four years, discovered that the State of New York had initiated a project aimed at registering trees having a documented historic significance.⁴

The tale of the trees begins on 3 May 1898, when Brother Clifton Beckwith Brown '00 broke off from his studies and left Cornell to enlist in the 71st New York Regiment as a private. On 10 May he mustered with Company "M" of that infantry regiment at Camp Black NY and began his short career in the military.⁵



²Carl P. Wiedemann, Associate Forester, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), letter to HWF, 10 August 1987. Peter C. Innes, Associate Forester, NYSDEC, letter to HWF, 9 May 1988. ΔKE Catalog Image: ΔKE2-005.

³HWF petition letter to Mr. Henry G. Williams, Commissioner, NYSDEC, 22 July 1987.

⁴Carl P. Wiedemann, "New York's Famous and Historic Trees," *The Conservationist*, March-April 1987, pp. 32-37.

⁵Clifton B. Brown, Enlistment Records; Washington National Records Center, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC 20408. Dickson H. Spencer (Staunton VA) e-mail to HWF, 11 February 2006, forwarding picture of CBB before matriculation at Cornell University. Inscription on obverse is by Ms. Sallie Spencer Brown, wife of CBB's brother, John Hartness Brown.

The United States had declared war on Spain a few days before in April and almost immediately scored a major victory on 1 May when Commodore George Dewey defeated the Spanish Pacific Squadron in Manila Bay.⁶ After some initial uncertainty about where next to strike, President McKinley decided to neutralize the Spanish expeditionary forces in Cuba that were already under fire from a vigorous local insurgency. The American plan initially contemplated a massive direct offensive against the main enemy army and seizure of Havana, but the arrival of the Spanish Atlantic Squadron in Caribbean waters led to a change in strategic thinking; if a naval engagement could be forced on the high seas, the Americans could reasonably expect to destroy the Spanish Caribbean fleet as in the Philippines, and then simply let the enemy's island bound army wither on the vine.

Major General William R. Shafter USA was assigned the mission of landing U. S. forces in the vicinity of Santiago de Cuba with the ultimate aim of forcing the Spanish naval force to depart that deep water harbor and meet its fate on the high seas. Shafter's V Corps command was composed of both regular U. S. Army troops and state National Guard units. Thus we find that Brother Brown was not the only Deke to answer the call to arms and take part in the forthcoming amphibious operation. Brother Webb Cook Hayes, Delta Chi '76, a legacy by virtue of the fact that his father, Rutherford B. Hayes, was an Honorary Member of the Cornell DKE chapter, served as a major in the First Ohio Regiment, and the irrepressible Brother Theodore Roosevelt, Alpha '80, commanded his own First Volunteer Calvary of "Rough Riders" who were destined to fight without their mounts when the moment of battle came.⁷ Finally, Brother Milton Cheney Miller, Delta Chi '99 served in Cuba with the famed Astor Battery.⁸

The unfortunate recruits in these hastily assembled National Guard formations were to receive little in the way of military training before they were shipped to the embarkation ports in Florida. Brown had time for his photograph to be taken, and to enjoy at least one forced march since he was treated for "abrasions of feet" on 20 May and was not declared to be fit for duty until three days later.⁹ In addition to glaring deficiencies in training, the 71st Regiment was ill equipped for modern warfare, particularly in the tropics. Brown's weapon was most certainly an aging and outdated single shot Model 1884 or 1888 militia Springfield that fired a smoky black powder round. The photograph of Brown, most probably taken in New York during his initial recruit training, depicted him carrying a weapon of this type. The enemy that he was to face was mostly equipped with clip-fed,



⁶Graham A. Cosmas, "San Juan Hill and El Caney, 1-2 July 1898," *America's First Battles, 1776-1965* (Charles E. Heller and William A. Stofft, eds., University Press of Kansas, 1986), pp. 109-148.

⁷"Volunteer Army Officers," *The New York Times*, 15 July 1899, p. 5, col. 2.

⁸*Delta Chi Chapter Meeting Minutes (CMM)*, 11 February 1899. Originals are located in the ΔKE Depository (Collection 37-4-1535), Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections (CU-DRMC), Carl A. Kroch Library, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853.

⁹*Cf.* Brown's enlistment file. Photograph ΔKE1-039, ΔKE Depository, CU-DRMC. Private Clifton Beckwith Brown is depicted in field dress shortly before he was killed in action (1898).

bolt-action Mauser rifles that fired smokeless cartridges. On 14 June 1898, Brown's regiment departed Tampa Bay and headed for the southeast coast of Cuba in crowded merchant steamers that were hastily pressed into service as troop ships.¹⁰

Shafter's amphibious force landed on the beaches of Daiquiri and Siboney to the east of Santiago in late June. After a short period of consolidation and reconnaissance, the attack against enemy positions at El Caney and San Juan Hill commenced on Friday, 1 July. The 71st New York was assigned to seize the low ridge of San Juan by advancing up a narrow trail hemmed in by heavy brush¹¹. Brown's regiment came under heavy artillery and small arms fire, fell into panic and disarray, totally disintegrated as an effective unit, and was herded off of the trail by the regulars to make way for other formations pushing their way through. The 71st as a fighting unit was out of action for the remainder of the battle, but brave individuals, Clifton Brown amongst them, appropriated the superior Krag-Jörgenson rifles from regular casualties and joined other units to continue the fight.

It was at this point that Brother Brown's luck ran out. It is recorded that he "was ordered to lead a detachment in an attempt to take a block house. Brown had cut two strands of barbed wire and was busy with a third when a bullet passed through his head." He succumbed several hours later in a field hospital.¹² Later, after the battle was won by the U. S. forces and the Spanish holding Santiago capitulated, the young soldier's body was buried in an unnumbered grave by the San Juan River.¹³ His stint of military service had lasted but sixty days.

The Deke House declared a full term of mourning for Brown when the members returned to Ithaca in September.¹⁴ Letters of sympathy were sent to Brown's family in Cleveland and printed death announcements were sent "to the different chapters of Delta Kappa Epsilon and to the different fraternities at Cornell." Brother William Hiram Brown '93, Clifton's older brother, informed the chapter later in September that the fallen soldier had willed his estate to the chapter, and on 5 October the brotherhood resolved to build a lasting memorial to Brown.¹⁵ It took little time for Delta Chi to decide on the form of this honor; by November a "Mantle Committee" was busy considering various designs for reconstructing the then somewhat plain fireplace in the library of 13 South Avenue.¹⁶ In addition, the Class of '00 moved to have a memorial tablet emplaced in the University Library.¹⁷

As it happens, the chapter had another project underway at the time: collecting photographs of famous Dekes for display throughout the House. It was this activity that occasioned a letter from

¹⁰Scrapbook of Willard D. Straight '01, CU-DRMC.

¹¹John E. Elmendorf, ed., *Memorial Souvenir: The 71st Regiment New York Volunteers in Cuba* (New York, 1899, pp. 40-54. A copy is held by the U. S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks PA 17013-5008. *History of the Empire State Regiments* (State Historian, Argus Company, printers, Albany 1903).

¹²Cf. unidentified newspaper clipping, Willard D. Straight scrapbook, DMUA.

¹³Elmendorf (1899), p.191: "Brown, Clifton B. —Age, 21 years. Enlisted May 2, 1898, at New York City, to serve two years; mustered in as private, Co. M, May 10, 1898; killed in action, July 1, 1898, at San Juan Hill, Cuba, and buried near San Juan River." Note: CBB, b. 25 September 1876, i. 28 October 1896, d. 1 July 1898.

¹⁴*CMM*, 24 September 1898.

¹⁵*CMM*, 5 and 8 October 1898.

¹⁶*CMM*, 5 November 1898.

¹⁷"Clifton Beckwith Brown Memorial," *The Cornell Era*, 21 October 1899, p. 28.

Brother Hayward Hutchinson Kendall '00 to Brother Roosevelt, now Governor of New York, asking for a picture.¹⁸ Roosevelt promptly replied on 11 January 1899, promising to send the photograph as soon as possible.¹⁹

At some later time in the spring, the chapter became aware of Roosevelt's plans to visit Cornell in June and Brother Kendall again wrote the Governor, this time inviting him to visit the House and perhaps also to take part in a dedication of the Brown memorial that was advanced in planning if not in construction by that point. Kendall's letter is lost, but Roosevelt's reply of 15 May 1899, survives.²⁰ The Governor made no commitment, but it is clear that he was looking forward to his trip and the opportunity to see old friends at Cornell.

On Tuesday, 20 June 1899, Governor Theodore Roosevelt arrived in Ithaca on a Lehigh Valley train at 8:17 AM, ate breakfast at the Chi Psi house (the old McGraw-Fiske mansion), and then delivered an address to the graduating class of Cornell in the armory.²¹ Significantly, his speech, entitled "The Educated Man," embraced both the war in Cuba and a vignette concerning a Delta Chi Deke: Lieutenant Colonel Webb Hayes. Roosevelt's opening remarks follow.

"Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: Almost exactly a year ago—that is, a year, allowing for the necessary additional time to get the news from the States down to Santiago, —just after the San Juan fight, I had been talking over with some of the men in my regiment who represented the three colleges, Harvard, Yale and Cornell, as to what the probable outcome of the boat race had been. I regret to state that owing to long experience, I knew what the probable outcome had been as regards my own college. But we decided that the victors should have a day off when the news came down who was victor. I should say it was about the Fourth of July, just at the time of the truce. I suddenly received a message from Col. Webb Hayes, who was a Cornell Man, saying, 'My dear Col. Roosevelt: Cornell won, Harvard third. I should like the loan of a few students to celebrate.' So I at once told Jack Greenway, who was a Yale man and a football man, that as long as I was suffering, he should suffer too, and I ordered him to go over and celebrate with Major Hayes. (Laughter and applause).²²

Newspaper accounts mention another speech given at Dewitt Park downtown and a short boat trip taken by the gubernatorial party in the vicinity of Ithaca.²³ Nevertheless, Roosevelt did manage to work a visit to the Deke House into this crowded day. The evidence is as clear as the photograph of the ebullient Rough Rider standing on the Delta Chi lodge front steps with a

¹⁸*CMM*, 7 January 1899.

¹⁹Theodore Roosevelt letter to Brother Hayward H. Kendall, D.K.E Hall, Ithaca NY, 11 January 1899. Held by Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington DC 20540.

²⁰*Ibid.*, 15 May 1899.

²¹"Governor Roosevelt; His Arrival Here This Morning from New York," *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, Tuesday, 20 June 1899, p. 3, col. 4.

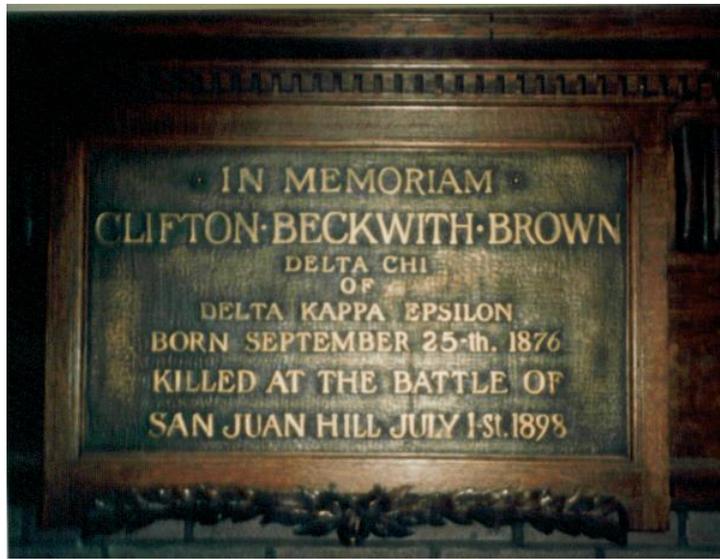
²²"The Educated Man; Governor Roosevelt's Class Day Address at Cornell," *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, Wednesday, 21 June 1899, p. 3, col. 4.

²³"Governor Roosevelt at Cornell," *The New York Times*, 21 June 1899, p. 5, col. 1.



freshly planted Norway Spruce sapling (*picea abies*) just behind him.²⁴ It is probable that the Governor inspected the plans for the mantle at that time as the final design had been approved by the brotherhood on 13 May.²⁵

Our story concludes in the fall of the following year when the mantle was completed. On 6 October 1900 the Delta Chi chapter meeting minutes record that “Brother Beta appoints a committee to take a picture of the mantle, to be sent to Mrs. Brown,” the surviving sister of Brother Brown, and two weeks later on 20 October we find that “Custos reports on the receipt of \$960.00 which was left [to] the chapter by Brother Clifton Beckwith Brown in his will.”²⁶ On that date, the Delta Chi chapter resolved to place roses at the beginning of each year in September on the University Library tablet erected in memory of their lost brother.



²⁴Photograph ΔKE1-040, ΔKE Depository, CU-DRMC. Governor Theodore Roosevelt is depicted visiting the Deke House on 20 June 1899. The gentleman standing to the left of Roosevelt on the landing is his personal secretary, Mr. William J. Youngs, Cornell Class of 1872 and member of Chi Psi Fraternity.

²⁵CMM, 13 May 1899.

²⁶CMM, 6 and 20 October 1900.

The memorial to Brown in the library of the Cornell Deke House still stands. The tablet erected by his class in the University Library, now Uris Undergraduate Library, had been in storage in the Level #2 stacks of that building for many years. In 2013 it was returned to public display in the entry foyer of East Sibley Hall.²⁷



²⁷ *AX of AKE Research Note #35: CBB Committee Notes and Message Log.*

Final Note

Relying on the 1899 Elmendorf document, the Chapter long believed that Brown's body had remained in Cuba, but new information came to light when Mr. Dickson H. Spencer, a descendant of the Brown family investigated and discovered that the fallen soldier had been disinterred and his remains repatriated. Brother Brown's grave can be found in the family plot (Section 1, lot #90) of Lake View Cemetery, Euclid Avenue, Cleveland OH.²⁸



The following pages reproduce the 1962 ΔX ΔKE Rush Booklet donated by ΔKE Brother Rudolph Andrew Mateka, ΔX '63, in 2016. The booklet, measuring 3.75 x 5.24 inches, contains the only version of the Roosevelt photograph discovered so far.

The booklet contained a tissue paper note by ΔKE Brother Anderson Craig, Jr., ΔX '62 (1938-2005). Craig was elected to serve as Rush Chairman on 18 March 1961 and Pledgemaster on 21 May 1962.

See Cornell University Library, RMC Collection 37-4-1535 (Delta Kappa Epsilon Depository), Item ΔKE3-025 for the only other specimen of this booklet found to date.

²⁸ Dickson H. Spencer e-mail to HWF, 10 April 2006.

1962 ΔX of ΔKE Rush Booklet

DELTA KAPPA EPSILON

Industry's flesh merchants shy off from "the bookworm," "the man who lacks forcefulness," "the author of 'shotgun' (vaguely worded) applications" and "the odd ball." "We'd rather have A Deke than a Phi Beta Kappa," they repeat "let the freaks go into research."

NEWSWEEK, June 18, 1956
(page 95)



"Deke"



The objects of Delta Kappa Epsilon are the cultivation of general literature and social culture, the advancement and encouragement of intellectual excellence, the promotion of honorable friendship and useful citizenship, the maintenance of gentlemanly dignity, self respect, and morality in all circumstances, and the union of stout hearts and kindred interests to secure to merit its due reward.

DELTA CHI
OF
DELTA KAPPA EPSILON



13 SOUTH AVENUE
ITHACA, N. Y.

ALUMNI

Delta Kappa Epsilon can probably claim more distinguished and loyal members throughout the years than any other national Greek-letter fraternity. It is through the generous support of our alumni that Deke at Cornell exists now as it was founded and with the same ideals.

Traditionally, Deke chapters have been kept from developing into large impersonal organizations with loose-knit membership necessitated by economic considerations. It is because of our active alumni support that Deke is able to operate with a small homogeneous group with advantages that ordinarily would not be available to larger organizations. We have no dormitory system, for instance. Separate bedrooms and studies are provided with a maximum of two men to a room. For another thing, there is the opportunity of coming to know all your brothers well rather than developing a nodding acquaintance with forty or fifty. The alumni are raising funds to completely rebuild and redecorate the house within the present granite walls.

Graduates of Deke form perhaps the most active and interested alumni of any Greek-letter fraternity. You may ask a man what fraternity he was in at college, and he may tell you. You will never find a man, though, who was a Deke.

MEMBERSHIP

ADVISOR

Mr. Morgan D. Hatch

SCHOLASTIC ADVISOR

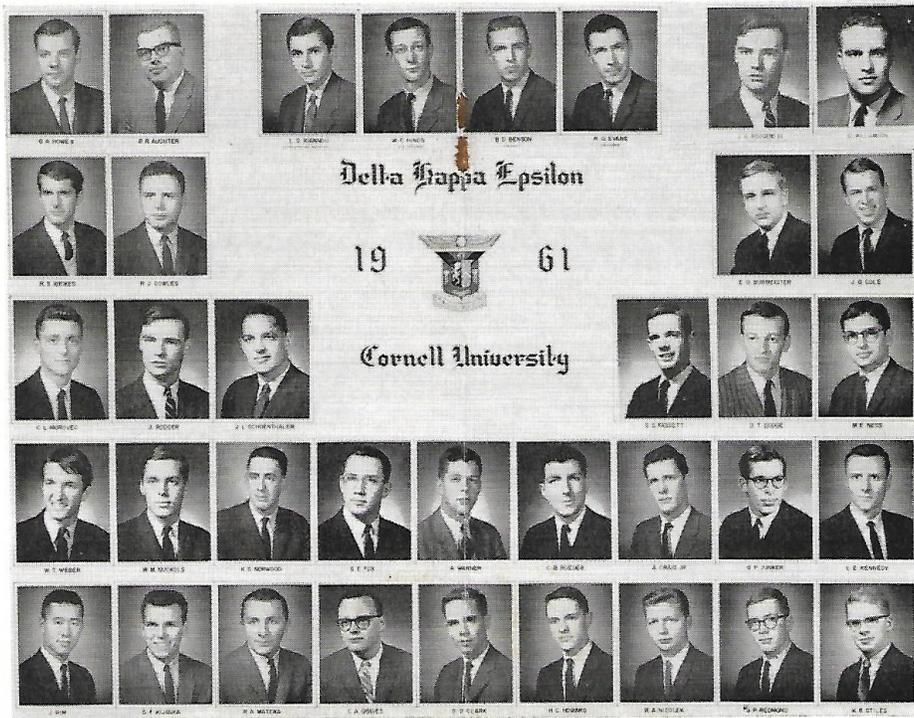
Paul R. Auchter

OFFICERS

PresidentMartin E. Ness
Vice PresidentGeorge E. Fox
TreasurerCharles A. Graves
Rushing ChairmanAnderson Craig, Jr.

MEMBERS

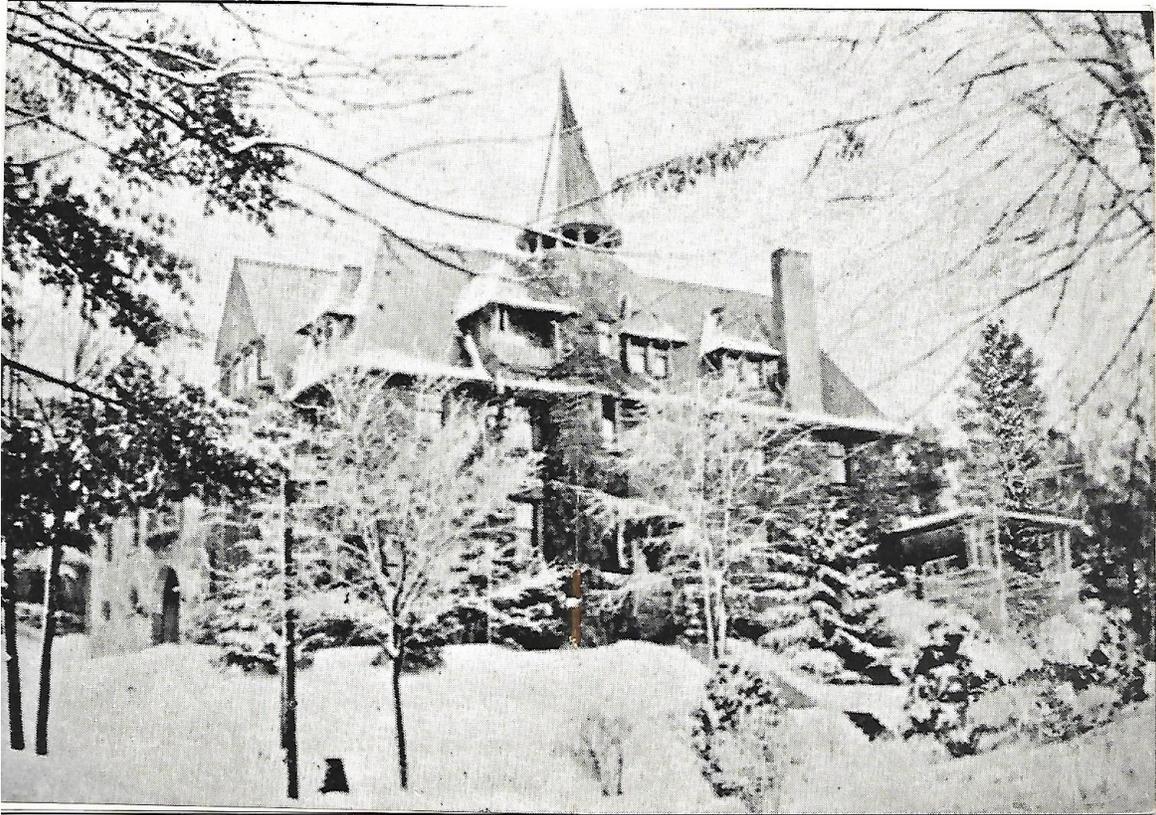
David W. Bentley, Phillipsburg, N.J.
Edwin D. Burmeister, Chicago, Ill.
Sidney D. Clark, Manhasset, N.Y.
Jonathan G. Cole, Prout's Neck, Maine
Richard J. Cowles, Port Huron, Michigan
Anderson Craig, Jr., Springfield, Mass.
David T. Dodge, Huntington, N.Y.
Robert D. Evans, Westport, Conn.
George E. Fox, Seneca, Pa.



John L. Gillespie, Providence, R.I.
 Charles A. Graves, Gowanda, N.Y.
 Samuel V. Halligan, Greene, N.Y.
 Thomas J. Healey, Old Brooklandville, Md.
 William C. Hinds, Waterville, Me.
 H. Cabanne Howard, Tarrytown, N.Y.
 Leonidas S. Ioannou, Nicosia, Cyprus
 George P. Junker, New York City
 Laing E. Kennedy, Oxford Center, Ont., Can.
 Stephen F. Kijanka, Sarnia, Ontario, Can.
 Edgar B. Lincoln, III, Marshall, Mich.
 Thomas P. Linville, Schenectady, N.Y.
 Clayton L. Moravec, Jr., Schenectady, N.Y.
 Rudolph A. Mateka, Welland, Ontario, Can.
 Steven A. Miller, Bayside, N.Y.
 Martin E. Ness, Essex Fells, N.J.
 Richard A. Nizolek, Douglaston, N.Y.
 Kendall S. Norwood, Concord, Mass.
 William M. Nuckols, Newton, Pa.
 Geoffrey P. Redmond, New York City
 Jongwhan Rim, Seoul, Korea
 J. Otto Rogers, Syracuse, N.Y.
 Brenton C. Roeder, Topsfield, Mass.
 John L. Schoenthaler, Scarsdale, N.Y.
 James C. Stewart, Shaker Heights, Ohio
 Kenneth R. Stiles, Summit, N.J.
 Andrew Warner, Shaker Heights, Ohio
 Warren T. Weber, Greenwich, Conn.
 Robert S. Wickes, Albany, N.Y.

DELTA KAPPA EPSILON AT CORNELL





◆ Delta Chi of DKE was founded in 1870. In 1890, the present physical plant was constructed.

◆ From their earliest day, Deke has partied with leading Sororities.

◆ From the beginning, the better honoraries, such as Kappa Beta Phi have had their quota of Deke membership.

◆ Cornell's hockey stars, Goaltender (Laing Kennedy), Right Defense (Rudolph Mateka), Centre Forward (Steve Kijanka) and Goaltender Cabanne Howard are all Dekes.

◆ In other sports, Rob Wickes skied slalom and downhill for the Cornell team, Dick Cowles was All-Ivy Lacrosse, Andy Craig is an instructor for and a member of the Cornell Judo Team, Tom Linville is on the Cornell Sailing Team, Ed Burmeister represented Cornell on the Golf team, Dave Dodge is a drag racer and the Troll plays a mean tuba.

◆ On the cover of the Cornell Engineer, you will find the work of the Deke Greek.

◆ You will find an occasional remark from the Deke pen on the diatribe column of Ithaca's only morning diatribe.

◆ The Cornell Widow staff finds its ranks filled with Dekes. To name a few, Andy Craig is the Editor-in-Chief, Geoffrey Redmond and Tom Healey are on the Editorial Board, and Clayton Moravec is still the Old Man of the Business Board. Sam Halligan is the Student Advisor.

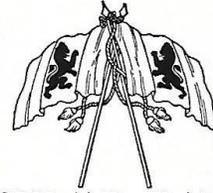
◆ The president of the Cornell Conservative Club, Ed Burmeister, plus the advisor to the president, vice-president, and treasurer are Dekes.

◆ Each meal at the Deke house begins with the traditional Christian Thanks.

◆ In all, Delta Kappa Epsilon has represented at Cornell a tradition of hearty support in social, athletic, and University activities.



◆ At Deke, instead of nine house-bills per year, there are eight. Our house-bill is one hundred thirty dollars per month.



HISTORY AND TRADITION

Our fraternity had its beginning at Yale in 1844 when George Foot Chester and fourteen other student leaders gathered together to form a new type of student society, as a protest against the injustice of the existing society system of that university. At that time two Junior societies existed at Yale, but the selection for membership in them was automatic if a man won certain campus honors.

As a result of the meeting, Delta Kappa Epsilon was founded to recognize the value of genuine scholarship, campus attainments, and good fellowship in the proper balance which forms the well rounded and companionable gentleman.

In the past 116 years DKE has compiled a roster of fifty two chapters in thirty-one States

and Provinces in the United States and Canada.

Fifteen hundred and forty-two Dekes participated in the War between the States. Altogether, thirty-nine were generals and one hundred and twenty reached the rank of full colonel.

A Yale Deke was the first northern officer to lose his life in action, and a Princeton Deke was the last Southern Commander to surrender. Co-incidentally, the first American officer to lose his life in the Spanish American War was a Rutgers Deke. Theodore Roosevelt, a Harvard Deke, and President of the United States, led the famous charge up San Juan Hill. For the second time in a quarter of a century the Deke crest reposed above the white house fireplace, as Rutherford B. Hayes, also a Deke, was the first member of a college fraternity to assume the honor of presidency.

Delta Kappa Epsilon can probably claim more distinguished members throughout the years than can perhaps any other national Greek letter society. Such men as: Nathaniel Hawthorne, William Randolph Hearst, Dr. Harvey Cushing, Dean Acheson, Stuart Symington, Admiral Peary, and Chuck Barret, remembered as Cornell's greatest football star, have comprised the Deke roster.

Rush Book Insert by ΔKE Brother Anderson Craig, Jr., ΔX '62 (1938-2005)

To The Freshman:

It wouldn't be a Deke House if there weren't rumors about it.

Every year, traditionally, at rushing time, the old familiar rumors are rolled out, along with the new year's innovations and variations.

This year, we understand, we've hired a professional rushing chairman. This strikes me a little odd, since I'm the Deke Rushing Chairman, and if it's a paying job, I've missed out somewhere along the line.

Last year, we heard that we'd mortgaged the house, closed the doors, and gone off the Hill. This wasn't so bad, since, traditionally too, the Deke house goes off the Hill at rushing time. We recently celebrated our Seventieth year of going off the Hill.

Still, the rumors persist. So, just for the record, here are some of the things we're not:

Mortgaged,
In the red,
Folding,
Starving,
Eating poorly,
Rushing with professionals,
On pro (for movies or for anything else),
In trouble scholastically (our average is within a point of the all-fraternity)
In Dutch with the Administration (call Dean Warwick and ask him)
In debt,
About to give anyone a bid on his first date,
In the bar twenty-four hours a day,
Going off the Hill,
and so forth.

If you hear a good rumor, turn it around a little, add a little of your own, and pass it along, but take it with a bit of salt.

We're looking forward to 1962 as a red-letter year in goings-off-the-Hill.

Sincerely,
Anderson Craig, Jr.
Rushing Chairman, Delta Chi Chapter
Delta Kappa Epsilon

Transcription of the 1962 ΔX of ΔKE Rush Booklet

DELTA KAPPA EPSILON

“Deke”

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A. Graves, Gowanda, N.Y. Samuel V. Halligan, Greene, N.Y. Thomas J. Healey, Old Brooklandville, Md. William C. Hinds, Waterville, Me. H. Cabanne Howard, Tarrytown, N.Y. Leonidas S. Ioannou, Nicosia, Cyprus George P. Junker, New York City Laing E. Kennedy, Oxford Center, Ont., Can. Stephen F. Kijanka, Sarnia, Ontario, Can. Edgar B. Lincoln, III, Marshall, Mich. Thomas P. Linville, Schenectady, N.Y. Clayton L. Moravec, Jr., Schenectady, N.Y. Rudolph A. Mateka, Welland, Ontario, Can. Steven A. Miller, Bayside, N.Y. Martin E. Ness, Essex Fells, N.J. Richard A. Nizolek, Douglaston, N.Y. Kendall S. Norwood, Concord, Mass. William M. Nuckols, Newton, Pa. Geoffrey P. Redmond, New York City Jongwhan Rim, Seoul, Korea J. Otto Rogers, Syracuse, N.Y. Brenton C. Roeder, Topsfield, Mass. John L. Schoenthaler, Scarsdale, N.Y. James C. Stewart, Shaker Heights, Ohio Kenneth R. Stiles, Summit, N.J. Andrew Warner, Shaker Heights, Ohio Warren T. Weber, Greenwich, Conn. Robert S. Wickes, Albany, N.Y.

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- ◆ On the cover of the Cornell Engineer, you will find the work of the Deke Greek,
- ◆ You will find an occasional remark from the Deke pen on the diatribe column of Ithaca's only morning diatribe.
- ◆ The Cornell Widow staff finds its ranks filled with Dekes. To name a few, Andy Craig is the Editor-in-Chief, Geoffrey Redmond and Tom Healey are on the Editorial Board, and Clayton Moravec is still the Old Man of the Business Board. Sam Halligan is the Student Advisor.
- ◆ The president of the Cornell Conservative Club, Ed Burmeister, plus the advisor to the president, vice-president, and treasurer are Dekes.
- ◆ Each meal at the Deke house begins with the traditional Christian Thanks.
- ◆ In all, Delta Kappa Epsilon has represented at Cornell a tradition of hearty support in social, athletic, and University activities.
- ◆ At Deke, instead of nine house-bills per year, there are eight. Our house-bill is one hundred thirty dollars per month.

HISTORY AND TRADITION

Our fraternity had its beginning at Yale in 1844 when George Foot Chester and fourteen other student leaders gathered together to form a new type of student society, as a protest against the

injustice of the existing society system of that university. At that time two junior societies existed at Yale, but the selection for membership in them was automatic if a man won certain campus honors.

As a result of the meeting, Delta Kappa Epsilon was founded to recognize the value of genuine scholarship, campus attainments, and good fellowship in the proper balance which forms the well rounded and companionable gentleman.

In the past 116 years DKE has compiled a roster of fifty two chapters in thirty-one States and Provinces in the United States and Canada.

Fifteen hundred and forty-two Dekes participated in the War between the States. Altogether, thirty-nine were generals and one hundred and twenty reached the rank of full colonel.

A Yale Deke was the first northern officer to lose his life in action, and a Princeton Deke was the last Southern Commander to surrender, Co-incidentally, the first American officer to lose his life in the Spanish American War was a Rutgers Deke. Theodore Roosevelt, a Harvard Deke, and President of the United States, led the famous charge up San Juan Hill. For the second time in a quarter of a century the Deke crest reposed above the White House fireplace, as Rutherford B. Hayes, also a Deke, was the first member of a college fraternity to assume the honor of presidency.

Delta Kappa Epsilon can probably claim more distinguished members throughout the years than can perhaps any other national Greek letter society. Such men as: Nathaniel Hawthorne, William Randolph Hearst, Dr. Harvey Gushing, Dean Acheson, Stuart Symington, Admiral Peary, and Chuck Barret, remembered as Cornell's greatest football star, have comprised the Deke roster.

Back Cover

Industry's flesh merchants shy off from "the bookworm," "the man who lacks forcefulness," "the author of shotgun' (vaguely worded) applications" and "the odd ball." "We'd rather have A Deke than a Phi Beta Kappa," they repeat "let the freaks go into research."

NEWSWEEK, June 18, 1956 (page 95)

1962 Rush Booklet Insert, tissue paper

To The Freshman:

It wouldn't be a Deke House if there weren't rumors about it.

Every year, traditionally, at rushing time, the old familiar rumors are rolled out, along with the new year's innovations and variations.

This year, we understand, we've hired a professional rushing chairman. This strikes me a little odd, since I'm the Deke Rushing Chairman, and if it's a paying job, I've missed out somewhere along the line.

Last year, we heard that we'd mortgaged the house, closed the doors, and gone off the Hill. This wasn't so bad, since, traditionally too, the Deke house goes off the Hill at rushing time. We recently celebrated our Seventieth year of going off the Hill.

Still, the rumors persist. So, just for the record, here are some of the things we're not: Mortgaged, In the red, Folding, Starving, Eating poorly, Rushing with professionals, On pro (for movies or for anything else), In trouble scholastically (our average is within a point of the all-fraternity), In Dutch with the Administration (call Dean Warwick and ask him) In debt, About to give anyone a bid on his first date, In the bar twenty-four hours a day, Going off the Hill, and so forth.

If you hear a good rumor, turn it around a little, add a little of your own, and pass it along, but take it with a bit of salt.

We're looking forward to 1962 as a red-letter year in goings-off-the-Hill.

Sincerely,

Anderson Craig, Jr.
Rushing Chairman, Delta Chi Chapter
Delta Kappa Epsilon

Author/Creator

Fogle, Homer William, Jr. 1948-

Title

ΔX of ΔKE Special Study #04: The Roosevelt Spruce Trees / H. William Fogle, Jr.

Published

Ithaca NY: Delta Chi Association, 1988, 1993, 2006

Subjects

Battlefields--Cuba--Santiago de Cuba

Brown, Clifton Beckwith, 1876-1898

College societies, Greek letter --Delta Kappa Epsilon

Cornell University, Delta Kappa Epsilon

Deke House (Ithaca N.Y.) --History

Delta Kappa Epsilon --History

Norway Spruce

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

Santiago de Cuba (Cuba) --Maps.

Spanish-American War, 1898

Summary/Abstract

The author recounts the death of Brother Clifton Beckwith Brown '00 at the Battle of San Juan Hill on 1 July 1898, the 1899 visit of Governor Theodore Roosevelt '80 to Cornell University, and the dedication of the Deke House spruce trees in memory of the fallen soldier.

Series

ΔX of ΔKE Special Study

Description

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August 2019 Addendum

Removal of the South Roosevelt Spruce Tree

After the University constructed a parking lot on the southern portion of the house grounds, a new sidewalk was built from that parking lot along the West Avenue extension. The construction of the sidewalk and the resulting regrading of the front yard changed left the South Roosevelt Spruce Tree (*Picea abies*) with some of its roots exposed. From 2014-2019, the University planned renovations to the porch on the west side of the Deke House, and the architect considered the impact upon the two Roosevelt Spruce Trees. One design alternative kept the alignment of the landscape stairs down to West Avenue aligned on the axis with the front door, and a second design relocated the stairs half-way between the two spruce trees to lessen the impact on their roots. The first design was selected. In May 2019, construction began including the landscape stair leading from the lodge's main entrance to the West Avenue sidewalk and the external "concrete bridge" walkway between the entry portico and south porch. The construction contractor, Welliver McGuire, Inc. (Montour Falls, NY), observed that roots from the south Roosevelt Spruce tree had penetrated the bed of the landscape stair and the outboard wall of the concrete bridge walkway.

Acting at the suggestion of University Landscape Architect David Merrill Cutter, Welliver McGuire's Jake Perno contracted with Dr. Christopher J. Luley, the President/Pathologist of Urban Forest Diagnostics LLC (Naples, NY) to determine if the tree should be removed. Dr. Luley's June 5, 2019 letter report back to Perno clearly identified the tree as a hazard and recommended removal of same. The June 6, 2019, construction status meeting notified the alumni association of the problem, and on June 8, the alumni association board decided to get additional opinions. After consultation with other arborists, Plant Science Department faculty, Jeanne Grace, City Forrester, Bryan McCracken, Historic Preservation Planner, and concerned alumni, the consensus was that Luley opinion was correct and that the tree should be removed. On June 27, the tree was removed and the logs transported to Lin Davidson's farm for repurposing into memorabilia.

[□](#) Luley, Christopher J., Urban Forest Diagnostics LLC (Naples, NY) letter to Jake Perno, Welliver McGuire, Inc. (Montour Falls, NY), 05 Jun 2019. RE: Norway Spruce Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Author

Homer William Fogle Jr.

Editor

Robert Platt
President, Delta Chi Association