

DELTA KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY

Delta Chi Chapter at Cornell University

Office of the Alumni Historian

ΔX of ΔKE Special Study #18: Early Histories of the Chapter

Transcriptions of four early histories of the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Cornell University are presented. The 1893 Corner-Stone Address, the 1894 Early History and the 1910 Catalogue preface are the works of Brother John Dewitt Warner '72. These writings span the Chapter's founding, the erection of the 13 South Avenue lodge and the 1910 addition to that structure.

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Figure 1: Postcard depicting the Lodge of the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon, 13 South Avenue, Ithaca NY 14850. Copyright 1905 by the Rotograph Co.

1893 Corner-Stone Ceremony, Address and Chapter Sketch

Anon. "Delta Chi: The Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New Chapter House and Sketch of the Chapter." *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*, XII, #1 (January 1894), pp. 15-21. An abridged form of the address proper was reprinted in *Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity Membership Directory*, 1971.

DELTA CHI

The Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New Chapter House

On the 18th of November the ceremonies incident to the unveiling of the corner-stone of the new chapter house took place. It was the intention of the chapter on that day to place the cornerstone in position, but it was found necessary, in order not to delay the work, to have this done earlier in the week.

The weather during the morning seemed impropitious, but, later in the day, cleared up, and, just as the exercises commenced, the sun broke through a cloud and shone directly upon the group of interested spectators. Brother Gillette, '73, acted as master of ceremonies, and shortly after 3 o'clock he arose and, in announcing the order of exercises, explained the absence of Brother Chambers, '70, who was prevented from being present by severe illness. After a song by members of the present chapter, Brother Gillette introduced the speaker of the occasion, Hon. John DeWitt Warner, '72, who delivered a well-prepared oration in an earnest and forcible manner. The sentiments expressed were evidently appreciated by the audience, for he was frequently interrupted by bursts of approval; and the power of the orator was displayed in the vividness of his portrayal of the various scenes of fraternity life.

When the applause succeeding the close of the oration had died away, Brother Gillette stepped to the front of the platform and loosened the flag which had been draped over the corner-stone.

As the banner fell and disclosed the stone, in which had been placed many articles of interest to future generations, the applause became general and was followed by the Δ K E cheer given by members of the Fraternity.

An earnest and eloquent prayer was then delivered by the Rev. Charles Mellon Tyler, Yale, '54, and the exercises closed with many congratulations to the members of the chapter. In the evening a banquet was given at the present home of the chapter, at which many alumni were present. After the menu had received careful attention, Brother Tyler, as toast master, called the brothers to order and introduced the various speakers. With mirth and song the hours sped away until the mystic circle had been formed, and the company dispersed.

The following is the address of Brother Warner in full:

CORNER-STONE ADDRESS

Delta Chi of Delta Kappa Epsilon Chapter House, Ithaca, November 18, 1893.

Brothers in Δ K E:

I am peculiarly glad to be here to-day. Not merely is it a pleasure to meet again with the boys, old and new, of the old chapter, which was new in my college days, but as some of the older brethren will hotly testify, I have for many years had chapter house on the brain, or, as they might say, chapter house where my brain ought to be.

I feel, therefore, somewhat as did the lady who was married late in life; who, when consulted as to the music that should be rendered while the wedding procession passed to the altar, suggested that good old hymn:

"This is the way I long have sought,
And mourned because I found it not,"¹

all of which I feel free to say, because, since the era of talk has ceased and that of actual work has commenced, I am happily without deserts of my own, and free to exalt the horn of the brethren at Ithaca, both in and outside of the chapter, who have carried the matter so far toward success.

The Greek letter fraternity is the solution offered by the American college student of the question how the world-old educational methods are to be adapted to the needs of American universities and the temper of American student youth; and in this connection it is as significant as it is characteristic, that at Cornell, the most advanced type of an American university, should be found the most extensive system of Greek letter fraternities, and that here, as elsewhere, Δ K E is in the front rank.

It was not by mere chance that Δ K E and her sisters became known at "Greek letter" fraternities; it was still less so that, striving toward the ideal thus suggested, so much of success has already been achieved. The peculiarity of Attic culture was the attrition of mind with mind in personal intercourse, under which, without conscious effort, the faculties of each, were drawn out —educated. The Greek Academia was a meeting of congenial minds, each developing the others in the most effectual of ways; a tourney of wits, each sharpening the other to a keener edge. The thinker was constantly recalled from abstract wandering, and his conclusions tested by the touchstone of the cultured instinct of those about him. As a result, his mental development, unlike too much of the pedantry of to-day, was no growth of the darkness, shut in from the breezes, moistened by damp from below, uncanny and useless. It was rather the flower of a plant warmed by the sunshine, kissed by the wind, and wet by the dew, joyous and vigorous. The office of the Greek letter society is to add the exercises of the Academia to the training of the University, to supplement the culture of books by the culture of congenial intercourse, to fire the logic and learning of the lecture-room and library with sparks struck off white hot in animated debate and earnest discussion. Its mission, in short, is to ensure that the culture of live men by live men and for live men shall ever find a home among our college youths.

¹ "Southern Harmony No. 11 —Jerusalem" by William Walker (1853). *Baptist Harmony*, p. 73. Other attributions exist.

So thoroughly has the college corporation resigned many of what it used to consider its responsibilities, that the chapter establishment must now be calculated to meet the wants of an association of young men, subject to no regulations except the law of the land, gathered to enjoy the instruction provided by the college, which concerns itself mainly to provide it. At most of the colleges the chapters are already land-owning corporations, each with its hall, dormitories and library. These corporations must continually increase in wealth, these halls become more rich with filial decoration, these cloisters more extended and populous, these libraries more complete and valuable. Each year will enable the prosperous chapter to be a greater and more beneficent factor in the life of its members; and thus it will become more and more the object of their thoughtful generosity. It needs not the eye of a prophet to see that the characteristic of the American university will be the aggregation, not of the thank and peace offerings of prosperous Christian and anxious sinner—the clustering colleges of Oxford and Cambridge—but rather of Greek temples and hearths, which have slowly risen by the labor of loving hands, each consecrated not more truly to the memory of those spirits that spurned their clay before leaving its walls than to the influences which live on in many a noble life still unfinished.

So much—too much perhaps—for the Greek letter system as such. Greek letter societies there are: there is for us but one fraternity. It is no pantheon that we are building here, but a temple dedicated to Δ K E alone.

In her opportunities Δ K E was most fortunate; in her use of them she justified herself. It was her good fortune to have been organized at the one college in America that in the number and maturity of its students, in the vigor of her student life; in the national character of its student body, far surpassed every competitor, and among students so mature in heart, though young in years, as at once to choose the one guiding principle that should prove most effective and give her that Catholic spirit which helped her to become the first really national collage fraternity.

It is characteristic of Δ K E that she is so thoroughly alive. She is so because her life is the life of to-day, or rather that part of the life of every to-day which is ever more and more the best part of its to-morrow. Our brotherhood was not the oldest of the Greeks, and other ideals had been tried before hers. Scholarship had proved a good test for the classroom, but grew very lame as it went further. Exterior culture had done well so far as concerned the preliminary parade of life, but failed when confronted with the world's work, which is mainly battles and marches. But Δ K E seized upon the one element in the youthful character that gave an index of the future man. With the same inspiration that so well guided one of her poets, she felt not only that,

"The bravest are the tenderest,
The loving, are the daring";²

but that the stronger the healthy brain, the truer its intelligent thought; the more sturdy the robust body, the warmer the loyal heart. Her one guiding principle was that true friendship as shown in the boy was the index of true manliness to be developed in the man. And she was right. Every year shows more and more, that in her choice she touched the one chord that always awakens a responsive echo in every noble heart, that she adopted the principle which is becoming more and more dominant in this world as it grows better and better. It was believed by the ancients that to

²"The Song of the Camp," Bayard Taylor (1825-78). Taylor was an honorary member of Delta Kappa Epsilon (Omicron Chapter) and a member of the Cornell University faculty.

every household were allotted guardian spirits, who loved to bask in the warmth of the hearth; who guarded over the weal of the family; who, when one after another had crossed the dark river, welcomed back his visiting spirit; who, in the mind of him musing by the fireside, stirred the traditions with which the family home became more crowded as time went on. Yon have now planned an abode for the memories, a resting place for the *lares* of Delta Chi. Hereafter as the chapter shall recount the triumphs that it has celebrated, in their places shall still hang the trophies that were placed there when victory was new. In your banquet hall the Δ K E doxology shall be so often sung that, like the wood of an old violin, the very ceiling will learn the Δ K E music, and with every echo we shall hear, not merely the songs or cheers of those who stand present in the flesh, but the resurrected mirth and music of earlier festivals. Henceforth, when yon shall sit about the chapter hearth and recall those who have been the leaders of chapter life, you will say, "Here is the corner where he used to sit; these are the books he used to pore over; this is the memorial that his classmates left" —till the chapter house will be populous with those who are gone, and hospitable with the fraternal greetings of those who have long since departed. As year after year the alumni at Commencement join hands in the mystic circle, each will feel the touch of those who stood by him in former years; then will chord with his voice that of one after another of his absent classmates, until the reality to him will be, not the occasion at which he happens to be present, but the whole life of the chapter and the revived memories that inhabit it.

May the house here dedicated to Δ K E long be the true home of ever dearer associations, and ever nobler inspiration; may it ever continue the best center of student life of the most nearly ideal of American universities; may Δ K E's motto, " Friends from the Heart Forever," rule more and more absolutely about your fireside as the years ripen and fall—

“Till the sun grows cold,
And the stars are old,
And the leaves of the judgment book unfold.”³

SKETCH OF THE CHAPTER

At the Convention of Delta Kappa Epsilon, held with the Bowdoin Chapter in the year 1869, it was resolved to establish a chapter of the Fraternity in Cornell University as soon as possible. Accordingly Messrs. Clark and Sweet of the Yale Chapter, and Mr. Sloan of the Rochester Chapter, were appointed delegates to attend to the founding of a chapter. Messrs. Clark and Sloan were at the University during the first week of January and, with Mr. Sweet, pledged and initiated the following men: James Julius Chambers, '70; S. H. Soule, '70; John DeW. Warner, '71; Frank De Elwin Nash, '72; Darius A. Ogden, Jr., '72; Charles V. Parsell, '72; Ambrose Clothier Pike, '72. Although the chapter is comparatively young, it will be seen that many of her alumni have gained positions of treat and eminence. Following is a list of some of her graduates of whom Delta Chi may be proud:

³ “Bedouin Song” by Bayard Taylor.

James Julius Chambers, '70, journalist, with *New York Tribune* from, 1870-73. From, 1873-77, he was the correspondent of the *Herald*. Later he published "A Mad World," and in 1877 was the city editor of the *Herald*. In 1884 he wrote "On a Margin," and two years later "Lovers Four and Maidens Five." Since that time Brother Chambers has been connected with various newspaper enterprises and at present is editor of the *New York Recorder*.

John DeWitt Warner, '72, was admitted to the New York Bar in 1876 and became a member of the law firm of Iselin & Warner during the same year. Brother Iselin was a member of the same class and previous to this time had shown himself an author of no slight ability and power in his "Memoirs of Mlle. de les Valliers." In 1885 Brother Warner became a member of the firm of Warner & Frayer, lawyers, and shortly afterwards became the author of "The Spanish Treaty Opposed to Tariff Reform," and many other articles, both political and otherwise. Lately Brother Warner has been elected a member of Congress, which position he has filled with great satisfaction to his constituents.

William McKenzie Hughes, '73, has gained considerable note as an engineer, and recently filled an important position with the City of Chicago.

Fred. Baker, '74, after graduating in medicine at University of Michigan, became the Assistant Professor there in Ophthalmology and Otology.

Charles Edward Manning, '78, graduated at the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1880, and was Assistant Engineer, U. S. N., in China and Japan for the next two years.

Edmund Judson Moffatt, '79, has served for some time in the United States Civil Service, having been appointed Assistant Solicitor for the Department of State in 1881. Since then he has held various civil appointments, at one time being Deputy Consul-General to London.

Charles Edwin Atwood, '80, after taking a post-graduate course at Cornell, was graduated in medicine at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College in 1883. After serving as physician in various lunatic asylums, he became associate editor of the *America Journal of Insanity*.

Leon Orlando Bailey, '80, was a member of the Indiana Senate for four years, and in 1887 became United States Assistant Attorney for the State of Indiana.

Besides the few above noted, many more of her sons have achieved success in commercial and professional enterprises, and the wish of the present chapter is that it may be able to as successfully meet and cope with the difficulties of life.

The chapter at present consists of twenty-seven men, all of whom are prominent in some branch of University life. Following is a list of the members: C. S. Horner, Junior Law, Cleveland, O.; A. H. Place, '94, Cortland, N.Y.; E. V. Stebbins, '94, Ithaca, N.Y.; J. R. Davy, Senior Law, Rochester, N.Y.; H. W. Strong, '94, Cleveland, O.; B. G. Wray, '94, New York City; M. De F. Sample, '94, Washington, D.C.; J. R. Aikenhead, '95, Rochester, N.Y.; F. F. Jewett, '95, Elmira, N.Y.; L. G. Smith, '95, Pittston, Pa.; F. W. Cool, '95, Pittston, Pa.; F. D. Mullan, '95, San Francisco, Cal.; J. Holbrook, '95, New York City; R. H. McCord, Senior Law, St. Joseph, Mo.; G. L. McCord, Junior Law, St. Joseph, Mo.; S. Rhodes, '96, Cleveland, O.; L. J. Osborn, '96, Chicago, Ill.; H. B. Squires, '96, Chicago, Ill.; W. A. Baldwin, '96, Elmira, N.Y.; R. J. Thorne, Junior Law, Chicago, Ill.; O. Hunter, '96, Chicago, Ill.; L. M. Cobb, '97, Cleveland, O.; J. E. Coursen, '97, Chicago, Ill.; D. M. Place, '97, Waterloo, Ia.; W. F. Ohl, '97, New York City; H. O. Cobb, '97, Buffalo, N.Y.; J. W. McCulloh, '96.

1894 Early History by John DeWitt Warner

Warner, John DeWitt. "Early History of Delta Chi Chapter." *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*, XII, 3 (November 1894), pp. 191-204.

EARLY HISTORY OF DELTA CHI CHAPTER

At its Twenty-third Convention, held at Bowdoin College, October 6 and 7, 1869, the Δ K E Fraternity discussed Cornell University as a site for a chapter. A number of applications for charters from students at other colleges were summarily tabled, and then was considered a petition from Cornell. The Convention resolved to grant it conditionally, and appointed Edwin Forrest Sweet and Charles Hopkins Clark, Phi, '71, and Will Hill Sloan, Beta Phi, '70, a committee to visit Ithaca and select charter members from the petitioners and such other students as they might approve, with power to Phi, acting upon their report, to issue the charter. This action was memorable as the last occasion of the kind. In the case of every chapter that since has been established, it was to an organization which had already well-worn its spurs as a local fraternity that Δ K E committed her charter.

Cornell University had been opened less than fifteen months before and some five hundred students were in attendance. Zeta Psi, Chi Phi, Kappa Alpha, Alpha Delta Phi, Phi Kappa Psi, Chi Psi, and Delta Upsilon had already been established there with chapters of about twenty each, and, with their attachés, practically managed student politics and controlled student enterprises—all as yet in a somewhat embryonic condition. It was at the Christmas holidays when Sweet and Sloan arrived at Ithaca. They remained several days in town, quietly making inquiry as to prominent students not connected with fraternities. They found the student body a decidedly democratic one. Of dandies who were not dudes, and poverty-laden boys who were not "digs," there was never greater a proportion in a student body; and in classroom and on gate eve, at celebrations and in escapades, all met on a footing of good-natured equality. The result was that when the committee had come to its conclusions and sent each favored student an invitation to meet it at the Clinton House, though the little crowd of a dozen ranged from the dandy of the Junior class to a Sophomore waiter at student commons, and from the youngest Senior to one of the most mature Freshmen, it was found that each was favorably known to all the others, and creditably prominent in student enterprise.

It took but little time to arrange preliminaries. Each agreed that a strong chapter could be started if the others present would co-operate. About half were fairly well-informed as to Δ K E, and to the remainder were supplied such facts and references—the latter including Professor Blake, of the Faculty (Phi, '57), and Thomas Morris Strong, of Ithaca (Phi Chi, '68)—that at a second meeting held a few days later, it was formally resolved to organize as a Δ K E Chapter, and the charter members were initiated by the committee.

The charter of Delta Chi was issued January 10, 1870; and on the occasion of the first anniversary contest between the two open literary societies of the University at Library Hall, when Δ K E's sole Senior appeared as the essayist of his society, at precisely 8 o'clock P. M., February 11, 1870, Delta Chi swung out. Later in the evening the inaugural dinner was held at the Clinton House.

Meetings were held till the end of the year 1869-70 in a room in the old Ithaca Hotel (burned 1871); during the first part of 1870-71 in Sabin's room at 29 South Cayuga street; during

the latter part of that year, till June, 1871, at Warner's rooms at 36 West State street; then, until October, 1873, in a hall leased in the Sprague Block on State street; then, until September 1877, in the new hall specially built for the chapter in the Morrison Block, and for the next seventeen years at the Δ K E House on Buffalo street.

The chapter thus newly launched found itself with one Senior, one Junior, eight Sophomores and three Freshmen—thirteen in all,⁴ with the duty before it of making itself count in a student body of five hundred, and of successfully rivaling seven well-established chapters of other fraternities, each, excepting only Phi Kappa Psi with its eleven members, of a larger membership than its own. The Greeks all told numbered but one-fourth of the student body, and the older chapters had control of about everything then worth controlling. Far more distinctively characteristic than it has ever been since was the membership of each chapter. Alpha Delta Phi with a large well-selected chapter, was most nearly the general type of a Greek chapter. Strongest of all in general student esteem she stood well in town, and her membership, generally speaking, was wealthy, scholarly and popular. Kappa Alpha was hardly felt in student circles, but led in town society. Zeta Psi and Chi Phi bothered themselves little about social matters, but were popular and leaders in student affairs. Chi Psi was wealthy, exclusive and growing weak. Phi Kappa Psi was then perhaps the best type Cornell has ever had of a literary fraternity; and last, but not least, Delta Upsilon was strong in control of the Young Men's Christian Association, and actively headed an anti-secret society movement. Delta Kappa Epsilon, though her membership included those prominent in each of the directions named, had to admit that in any given line she was surpassed. Her place was yet to be won.

Deliberately was it resolved that certain members should strive for student honors (None others were awarded), and that new student enterprises should at once be set on foot by others. Determinedly was this policy carried out. The University had been opened little more than a year. Everything was in the formative state. Such was the opportunity that Delta Chi seized. The result, as we look back at it now, was a startling one. During the next year were inaugurated or put on their feet nearly all of the student organizations that have since become institutions at Cornell; and Δ K E led all along the line. So intense and exclusive was her devotion to her policy that for years it was the pride of the chapter that nobody in town knew much of her members except by repute, and that nothing in the University could succeed without them. So successful was such policy that the few occasions when lack of harmony disturbed the early councils of the chapter were due to the fact that it too frequently became a question, not of electing Δ K E's candidate, but as to which of two good men, each the only formidable rival of the other, and both Δ K E's, should be asked to give way. Launched as was Delta Chi in February, 1870, little could be accomplished before Commencement of that year, but the time was well occupied.

1869-70

The *Cornellian* for 1869-70 was gotten out by three men: Green, Chi Phi; Powers, Kappa Alpha, and Chambers, Δ K E. By the time it was issued—shortly before Commencement, 1870—Δ K E held, as shown by its pages, Essayist, Senior Class (Chambers), Corresponding

⁴J. Julius Chambers, S. Howard Soule, Patrick William Cullinan, George Adrian Iselin. Frank DeE. Nash, Charles V. Parsell, William W. Sabin, Darius Adams Ogden, Jr., Ambrose C. Pike, John DeWitt Warner, Wm. M. Hughes, E. Barstow Kellogg, Henry Alonso Monfort.

Secretary, Orator and Prophet of the Sophomore Class (Pike, Cullinan, Warner), Adjutant of the Cadet Battalion (Chambers), Vice-President of the Irving (Cullinan), and Secretary of the Adelphi (Parcell); had furnished the Irving essayist at the first annual contest between the open literary societies (Chambers); had one (Warner) of the five founders, and the largest representation in the Sophomore society, Kappa Delta, which for years controlled class elections, and the Presidency of the baseball club (Cullinan); was represented in the Orpheus (Ogden) and in the leading chess clubs, and had organized and put in practice the first "four" that Cornell had seen —Kellogg, stroke; Hughes, Cullinan and Iselin.

1870-71

The next year (1870-71) Delta Chi had a membership of eighteen in a student body of six hundred and eighteen. The *Cornellian* was this year published by a board of editors, one from each of the now seven secret societies (Warner representing Δ K E). Class politics had evidently become insipid, for the Sophomore Essayist (Moses) was the only Δ K E holding a class office. Conklin was Ordnance Sergeant on the brigade staff, and Iselin a Sergeant of Cadets, and here her military distinction was limited. In the open literary societies, too, though Δ K E names graced the roll of each, no responsibilities of office rested on Delta Chi's shoulders. The Secretary (Gillette) and Treasurer (Moses) of the Natural History Society were, however, Δ K E's, as was the President of the Historical Society and the "Tyrant" of Kappa Delta. But, as we turn the pages, we soon see what Δ K E has been doing.

For the first time Cornell's baseball record was a proud one, winning six of the seven games played, scoring 239 runs to their opponents 109. Δ K E had the President of the Club (Concklin) and the catcher (Concklin) and short stop (Gillette) of the first nine; the center fielder (Nash) and the left fielder (Wheeler) of the second nine; the center fielder (Hayes) of the third nine; four men on the Class nines: and the champion fraternity nine of the University.

A cricket club had been formed, and the captain (Sawyer) and two other members (Gillette and Moses) of the eleven were Δ K E's.

The Cornell Navy had been organized, a boat house built, five boats (two of them shells) purchased, and, with a Δ K E Commodore and Δ K E Senior Director (Warner) had well entered upon an unparalleled career.

An Athletic Association had been founded, and in its commodious rooms on State street had fitted up Cornell's first gymnasium, and with a Δ K E president (Warner), secretary (Wheeler) and treasurer (Sawyer), had fifty-six active members and trained the athletes, who appeared a little later in public on behalf of the Navy; while Warner, one of the *Era* board of five, was the first of the longest line of editors that any Cornell Chapter has ever had.

In fraternity matters, also, Delta Chi took a prominent part at once. In the autumn of 1870, less than eight months from the organization of the chapter, the Convention was held at Providence. The little chapter sent two of its active members (Pike and Ogden) as delegates. They were in attendance throughout the Convention, and ended their full and enthusiastic report to the chapter of its proceedings by announcing that they had invited the Convention to meet next year with Delta Chi, and that the invitation had been accepted. In preparation for the event, the chapter hired and furnished the most spacious hall used for Greek society purposes at Ithaca. Some of the Cornell Δ K E's being acquainted with members of the "Mystic Seven" of Syracuse University, the result of their conferences was that Delta Chi sent a committee thoroughly to

investigate the personnel of the "Mystics" and the prospects of Syracuse University. So favorable was their report that Delta Chi resolved to support their application for a Δ K E charter. The Convention convened at Ithaca, October 26 and 27, 1871, and proved the most important Δ K E had ever had. By unanimous vote, the Syracuse "Mystics" were constituted our Phi Gamma Chapter. A revision of the fraternity constitution was effected; and the Convention was marked by one of those touching episodes, which, impressing itself on the memory and feelings of every one present, vindicated at once the sternness of fraternity discipline and the strength of the fraternal bond. The Convention closed with the public literary exercises, to which were invited and came *en masse* the rival chapters at Cornell, to be carried off their feet by Hunt's address, and Andrews' poem, "Green," still remembered as the wittiest ever delivered before a Δ K E convention, and to which listened also the fair and the brave of the university town; while the Convention dinner, held in the great hall of the Cascadilla, was the congenial birthplace of that now classic phrase, "A regular Δ X E of a time."

1871-1872

In the following year —1871-72— the record was well kept up. This time Iselin represented Δ K E in the *Cornellian*, and with a membership of twenty-one, out of five hundred and eighty-eight in the University, Δ K E had the Junior Secretary (Gillette), and Prophet (Moses), the Sophomore Vice-President (Sawyer) and Treasurer (Wheeler), the Freshman Treasurer (Wilmot), and Prophet (Bennitt), the Quartermaster of the Brigade (Conklin), and a Captain (Pike), and a 1st Lieutenant (Nash) of the Cadets, as well as the Treasurer of the Johnsonian (Iselin), the Chairman of the Standing Committee of Philalatheian (Pike), and the Treasurer of the Classical Association (Beatty).

The President of the Baseball Club was a Δ K E (Conklin), who was also captain and catcher of the ever-victorious "Nine," of which the short stop (Gillette) was also a Δ K E. On the second nine were three Δ K E's (Nash, Sawyer and Wheeler). The captains of the class nines (Senior, Conklin; Junior, Gillette; Sophomore, Sawyer, and Freshman, Johnson) were all Δ K E's, while Nash was on the Senior, and Wheeler on the Sophomore, nine, and Δ K E again had the champion fraternity nine; and of the cricket eleven the captain (Sawyer) and three other members (Gillette, Wheeler and Moses) were Δ K E's.

Of the "Navy," which this year trained the first Cornell crew, Pike was again Commodore, Randall coxswain of the University crew, and Wheeler stroke of the barge crew, Moses was on the Junior, Baker on the Sophomore, and H. B. Knight on the Freshmen, crew; while the *Era* succession was kept up in Moses.

Meanwhile, securing the co-operation of the athletic association, with its trained gymnasts, and the Glee Club with its practiced singers, a Δ K E (Pike) had organized the "Cornellian Minstrels," who, first taking Ithaca by storm by their excellent combination of an athletic and minstrel performance, were successively billed at numerous surrounding cities to the lasting repute of the "Combination," and great financial gain of the Navy. Another Δ K E (Warner) had undertaken the struggle with the Tom Hughes Boat Club, then a hostile rival of the Navy, for the proceeds of the Lowell lectures. This ended in a formal argument before the acting president of the University between the Navy's Δ K E counsel and the Tom Hughes' representative, which lasted until one o'clock on a summer morning, and a decision awarding the whole of the fund to the Navy, thus establishing it financially, and ending the rivalry of the Tom

Hughes, which soon entered the Navy as a subordinate club.

1872-73

In 1872-73 Delta Chi was represented in the *Cornellian* by Boies, and its pages showed only fourteen Δ K E's, all told, to keep up the prestige of the chapter among the five hundred and twenty-five students of the University. The outlook at the Commencement of 1872 had been a gloomy one. Only seven men were left in the active chapter, no one of the charter members remained in college, and as the Δ K E's of '72 left, they wondered what would become of the "kids" who were to return. But, like little Willie in the song—

"There was not a single minute
That the chapter wasn't in it,
For it knew just what to do."

The Senior and Ivy orator (Boies) and the Sophomore orator and poet (Tompkins and Cunningham) were a full quota of class honors for the small chapter; and on the *Era* Randall followed Moses.

In baseball, Hayes was the catcher of the Junior nine, and third base on the second University nine, and Δ K E had the champion fraternity nine of the University.

In Navy matters, which now dominated student athletics, Delta Chi was in control as usual. The Signal Officer (Wilmot), two (Randall and Wilmot) of the twelve Directors, one (Moses) of Cornell's three delegates to the annual Convention of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association, the President and Treasurer (Randall and Hayes) of the Junior Club, and one of the two Directors of the Sophomore Club; No. 2 (Knight) in the second University crew; stroke, No. 3 and coxswain (Baker, Hayes and Randall) of the Barge crew, and one (Negley) of the Sophomore double scull crew were all Δ K E's; while every member but three were included in the practicing crews, and Delta Chi alone of all the chapters at Cornell kept a full six-oared crew of her own. This year for the first time Cornell sent a University crew to the Intercollegiate Regatta; and at Springfield from the course in the eel grass to which fate had condemned them, they had a fine chance to see Yale win, and were fourth of the eleven contestants.

But of this year the new Gym was Δ K E's crowning feat. The old one, founded by Δ K E, which had done such good work, had grown too cramped. The growing interest in the Navy was such that, from the time baseball stopped in the autumn till the lake was clear of ice in the spring, there were hundreds seeking gymnasium facilities, which at that time the University did not pretend to furnish. Thompson proposed that this should be remedied. The Trustees laughed when he petitioned to have a site allotted on the campus, but good naturedly referred it to a local committee, and "W. J." started out. In season and out of season his importunities knew neither sleep nor sabbath. The thoughtless Senior who stopped was made to ransom himself by a subscription, and the student who once signed was given no peace until he paid the one obligation that Thompson made more pressing than his board bill. As his subscription list grew portly Thompson grew thin, till his health and the progress of the Gym became the burden of student bulletins. But the weaker he got, the more irresistible grew his voice, and though the issue was an uncertain one, the last-dollar was raised while Thompson yet survived, and he waxed strong and buoyant as the structure rose just in front of where the Sigma Phi House now

stands. A well-equipped gymnasium was now at the service of the crews.

1873-74

In 1873-74 Randall was Δ K E *Cornellian* Editor, and had every reason to be proud of the record of Delta Chi. Of the four hundred and ninety-six students in the University but fifteen were Δ K E's; but among them were the Historian of the Senior class (Randall), the President (Stevens), and the Historian (Barto) of the Freshman class, the *Adelphi* Editor (Tompkins) and an *Era* Editor (Bennitt).

In football the President of the Association (Bausch) and in baseball the Treasurer and most active Director (Thompson) were Δ K E's, and Hayes was captain of the Senior nine. But the Navy was still the chapter's tutelar goddess. Randall was Commodore; Thompson, Bennitt and Barto were three of the ten Directors. Randall was one of the three Delegates to the Intercollegiate Association; while, of the '74 Club, Hayes was Secretary and one of the two Directors; on the Freshmen crew, Barto was stroke, and Sherman (W. J.) No. 3; and the University crew had already commenced the training that was to tell in 1875 and 1876.

Indeed, Navy matters were so pushed under Randall as to recall the traditions of Pike. For the first nine a complete equipment of racing and practice boats was secured. When funds grew low Thompson levied "aids" from every quarter, finally organized a lecture course, and then, to save the expense of a speaker, delivered a lecture himself on "Faculties and Students" to the uproarious applause of all and the salvation of the Navy treasury; so that a well trained crew was sent to Saratoga where, though but two of its members were fit to be out of bed, it made a fight as plucky as hopeless.

It was during this year at the very crisis of the excitement caused by Leggett's death during initiation by a rival fraternity, when the other Cornell Greeks were panic-stricken by the excitement of the public which seemed likely at any moment to turn into a mob and sack the Fraternity halls, that Δ K E appalled friends and foes alike by holding her initiations, followed by the usual dinner and midnight "walking" —and waking— of the town.

1874-75

In 1874-75 Tompkins was Δ K E's *Cornellian* representative, and there were only fourteen Δ K E's out of five hundred and twenty-three students. But Tompkins was second of the Woodford prize orators, receiving the "Honorable Mention." Barto was the Sophomore orator, and Raun Toastmaster of the same class; while Manning was the Freshman Marshall, and Stevens was *Era* Editor, and W. J. Sherman the Register of *Adelphi* of Literary Society.

All these, however, were as dust in the balance, for this was the year when under Δ K E control the Cornell Navy swept all before it.

Barto was Commodore, Hayes was Secretary, and both were Directors of the Navy; while, as to the two sub-clubs into which its personnel was divided, Hayes was Vice-President, W. J. Sherman Secretary, and Barto one of the two Directors of the Sprague. Barto's administration was well up to Δ K E precedent. The training of the crews was pushed as never before. In the winter was held the first Navy ball, which not merely proved a great social and financial success, but helped to increase the general interest in Navy affairs. At Watkins in September, 1875, Cornell won her first victory in a regatta, outside of Ithaca, with Thompson

and Barto in the University crew; and at Saratoga, with Barto on the crew, it led Yale, Harvard and seven other college crews down the water lanes and past the winning post; while Warner ('72) was a Marshall of the procession that made historic the Cornell yell, then two hours old, and author of the boating song—

"'Twas on a sunny summer morn,
By Saratoga's waters born,"

that was never worse rendered or more enthusiastically received than when first sung by the hoarse boys in answer to the congratulations of the Aurora girls.⁵

1875-76

This year of the five hundred and forty-one students in the University nineteen were Δ K E's. E. D. Sherman was their *Cornellian* editor, and the year was a great one for Delta Chi.

Sherman (E. D.) was Secretary of the leading literary society, and Tompkins represented Cornell and took second prize at the Intercollegiate Oratorical Contest.

In athletics, McGill was one of the three football managers and a member of the team, and Warner ('79) was catcher of the University nine; while the Δ K E nine was strong in every position. Of the Navy, the Vice-Commodore (Sturges) and three of the Directors —Sturges, Barto and Sherman (W. J.)— were Δ K E's, as well as the Treasurers both of the Sprague and Tom Hughes (Sturges and Sherman); and Delta Chi alone kept two full six-oared crews in practice, her Freshman crew being almost a match for the University Freshmen crew, when the Δ K E Freshmen were taken from the latter. Barto was on the University crew, and Warner, '79, on the Freshman crew, both of which were victorious at Saratoga, and on the latter Dounce was a substitute; while of the gorgeous triumphal procession in which the colors of twelve universities were borne behind those of Cornell, Warner ('72) was a Marshal, as in the preceding year, and, at the reception which followed, responded for the crews to the congratulations voiced by William H. Evarts.

1876-77

Moffatt and Sherman were *Cornellian* editors. Of the five hundred and fifty-two students twenty-one were Δ K E's. Sanford was Ivy orator at Commencement and Secretary of the Curtis, and Moffatt was Sophomore Historian.

In Athletics, Warner ('79) was catcher, Pomeroy short stop, and later center field of the University nine; of the Navy, Sturges was Vice-Commodore, and Mills and Sherman Directors; and of the Sprague Welles was President, Hamilton Secretary, and Dounce one of its two Directors and the Captain of its crew. Barto was on the University crew, which had not yet appreciated how thoroughly its repeated victories had isolated Cornell, and kept itself in training and ready to meet all comers. The only chance given the Navy during the year, however, was by the Harvard Freshmen, whom the Cornell Freshmen easily defeated at Elsinore on Owasco Lake in July, 1877.

⁵ "1875," Words by John Dewitt Warner, Class of 1872, and Archibald Crosswell Weeks, Class of 1872.

1877-78

Of the five hundred and twenty-three students twenty were $\Delta K E$'s, and included the Junior Toastmaster (Moffatt), the Sophomore Prophet (Farquhar), the Vice-President and Treasurer of the Curtis (Moffatt and Farquhar), and the Treasurer of the Architectural Association (Pomeroy), while Moffatt was an *Era* editor.

In athletics, the President of the Gym (Dounce); the Vice-Commodore (Dounce) and two Directors (Dounce and Mills) of the Navy; the President (Welles), the Secretary (Hamilton) and the Captain (Dounce) of the Sprague, were all $\Delta K E$'s; while Warner ('79) was on the University crew, and, together with Dounce on the Junior crew as well. Welles and Farquhar were in the Sophomore crew, Ostrander was on the Freshman crew, and Welles won the single-scutt championship of the University; while Warner ('79) was catcher, and Farquhar first base, of the University nine.

1878-79

This year there were five hundred and five students in the University of whom sixteen were $\Delta K E$'s. Ostrander was Poet of the Sophomore class, Mills Vice-President of the Architectural Association, and Farquhar *Era* Editor; Ostrander was President, and Cramphin Treasurer, of the Hare and Hounds; Blowers was Commodore, and Tracy Secretary, of the Navy, while Tracy was President of the Sprague, and Warner, '79, Tracy and Mills Navy Directors.

The end of this college year was marked by a peculiarly $\Delta K E$ incident. From the time the chapter was founded the one of the older members of the Fraternity who most frequently visited Ithaca, whose visits were most heartily welcomed, and whose heart seemed to mellow into more of boyish warmth as the years frosted his head, was Bayard Taylor, for whose advent the jolliest supper of the year always waited. His death abroad was a shock to the whole University body and a bereavement to the Delta Chi Chapter. As Commencement drew near, and the question of a Class memorial was discussed, '79 resolved to have as their memorial a medallion bust of Taylor, and, in recognition of his $\Delta K E$ relations, selected Moffatt to make the presentation address—a production worthy the subject and the occasion.

Thus ends the record of the first ten years of Delta Chi's existence, the period during which, though for the last five years many data are lacking which should be included above, the present writer was comparatively familiar with the life of the chapter. In a sense, the college year 1878-79 closed an epoch in Delta Chi's history. For years after the charter members were no longer in college they had kept up close relations with the chapter, but the delegation of 1879 was the last in the selection and initiation of which they took a leading part, and about this time there came a change in chapter ideals and chapter activities.

It had been a tradition that $\Delta K E$ held aloof from Ithaca social matters; and so, though individual members frequently participated in them, it was not until 1879 had graduated that the chapter, as such, consented to undertake the social duties that rival Greeks had for years assumed. Meanwhile Delta Chi's policy of being everything in student life and nothing in town had become recognized by the current saying, as to Commencement rushing, that whenever ΔK

E and any other fraternity fought for a Freshman, the Δ K E Committee was as sure to secure him as was the other to get his mother and sister.

How consistently University honors were neglected is shown from the extent to which those actually won were disregarded. The memoranda now before me, from which this article is compiled are silent as to many a prize and other distinction of the first rank. The Ivy Oratorship was a student honor, and valued as such, and Boies and Sanford are crowned in the record. Commencement appointments were University honors, and, as such, comparatively uncared for—this, though of Δ K E Commencement orations which were at the time famous, the writer heard those of Chambers, Randall and Tompkins, and recalls others not less noteworthy. But in the honor-roll, kept while these very men were respectively leaders of the chapter, student and athletic honors are minutely noted and the very existence of Commencement forgotten.

When the chapter was founded, the *Era* editorships were the greatest, and about the only literary student honors, and therefore Delta Chi fought for them till her line of *Era* editors was far

longer than that of any rival. It had been determined to signalize the existence of the infant chapter by making its mark in student athletics; and not merely had Δ K E distanced all others in baseball and gymnastics, but from the founding and toilsome upbuilding of the Navy through its brilliant career, it had kept such control of Cornell boating interests, that Delta Chi had named Pike, the first Commodore, and three of his successors, and the Vice-Commodore in every remaining year except one; while, in other respects of Navy management and achievement, her leading position was not even approached by any other fraternity chapter.

Whatever may be said of Delta Chi's ideals, she attained them; and as to her most important one, good fellowship, the echoes of the University town and the cockles in the heart of every old member are resonant and warm with the proof that here, too, she succeeded. It is not hard to see now that our chapter development was somewhat one-sided; that greater attention to class-room duties and less exclusive devotion to athletics and outside student enterprises would have insured a less picturesque and more scholastic record; and that the ambitions stirred by the chapter for its own sake too often developed into emulation between members that racked the chapter. But, when it is taken into account that there never was a time when Delta Chi had not her share of the best students, the most talented literary men, the purest and most active for good of the students of the University; when it is recalled that well to know and to influence one's fellow-men is, after all, the great ideal and aim of education ; when it is remembered that the conditions the young chapter faced were those of Cornell in 1870, and not those of to-day; and finally, when—with the memory of how Δ K E always "got there " — comes back the old thrill that we used to feel as we clinched each victory, it can be understood how so generally we look back to our University life as the most valuable years of our lives; to our Δ K E experience as its most precious part, and to achievements not recorded in the annals of the Faculty as those of which each is at heart most proud.

The University has changed—and for the better; the chapter has since grown more evenly than when the impulse of the founders guided it; and in admiration of its later career no old boy will hesitate to say that the new way is better than was ours. But if the members of to-day do more for the old chapter than did those who belonged to it in early years, it is because they are better men.

We did the best we knew how.

—John DeWitt Warner, Δ X, '72

1910 Catalogue History

Warren, Aldice G., ed. *Catalogue of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity*. New York: ΔKE Council, 1910. Library of Congress Control Number: 10026733. pp. 1001-04.

DELTA CHI
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Ithaca, N. Y.
Chartered, February 11, 1870

Of the Eastern Greek letter fraternities, Δ K E longest continued the policy all once followed—that of selecting institutions for new chapters, and then selecting the men to whom to entrust a charter; and Δ X was the last chapter Δ K E thus established. The 23rd Convention, Bowdoin, October, 1869, selected Cornell and appointed a committee, Sweet and Clark, Φ, '71, and Sloan, ΒΦ, '70, to visit Ithaca and select the men. They did this at the following Christmas holidays; and after a week of quiet inquiry and "sounding," invited a dozen to meet them and each other at the Clinton House. The group proved mutually well and favorably known, but of such varied character that it took all the tact and logic of the committee to convince its members that the basis on which it was selected was one they should accept. But when each was told just why he and the others had been chosen, all grew enthusiastic and accepted the mission set forth by the committee—to make a compact group of those who had most of "go," and then through mutual loyalty to get the most and the best out of college life.

Φ certified their charter January 10, 1870. February 11th, the Δ X pin was first worn by her single senior, Essayist at the Irving Society's "public"; and later in the evening the chapter's inaugural dinner was held at the Clinton House. Of local rivals, Α Δ Φ was creditably strong, K Α led town Germans, ΖΨ and ΧΦ were popular, ΧΨ was trying to be exclusive, Φ Κ Ψ to be literary, and ΔΥ "earnest." Δ K E's place was to be won.

The university had but lately opened. Everything was "in the jelly." This was Δ K E's opportunity. The *Cornellian*, issued in June, showed her membership of but thirteen in all four classes as including Senior Essayist, Sophomore Corresponding Secretary, Orator and Prophet, Adjutant of the Cadet Battalion, Secretary of the Adelphi, one of the three debating societies, and Vice-President of the Irving, another; the Essayist of the Irving's Public; one of the five founders and largest representative of K Δ, the leading Sophomore Society; Base Ball [sic] President, members of the Orphans and Chess Clubs, and the first "four oared" (or any other) college crew Cornell had seen.

Next year, 1870-1, of 618 students, she had 18. A *Cornellian* editor, Sophomore Essayist, Ordnance Sergeant, Secretary and Treasurer of the Natural History Society, President of the Historical Society and the "Tyrant" of K Δ were Δ K E commonplace. But Cornell's Base Ball Club had swept all before it; and Δ K E had the president, catcher and short-stop of first nine, center and left fielders of second nine, center fielder of third nine, and the champion fraternity nine of the university, the Cricket eleven's captain and two other members. The Cornell Navy had been founded and had started the glorious career with a boathouse, five boats, a Δ K E Commodore and a Δ K E Senior Director. The Athletic Association had opened Cornell's first "Gym," and, with Δ K E's for President, Secretary and Treasurer, was training athletes. On the *Era* board of five, Δ K E was represented.

Nor was this all. Within eight months from her "swing," the Δ K E Convention had accepted Δ X's invitation to hold its next session at Cornell, as it did in October, 1871. In preparation for it, the chapter got and furnished the finest fraternity hall at Cornell; secured the great University parlors for the closing banquet; organized convention "Public" exercises that were long red-lettered in fame; and had "the regular Δ K E of a time," that was first so christened.

And so it went on. For every one of the chapter's first ten years with never more than 1-25, and generally less than 1-30, of the student body in its ranks, it took the lion's share of student honors —practically the only ones at Cornell. For seven of the ten years the catcher and for the whole ten others of the first nine were Δ K E's. The Navy was largely officered and most frequently commodored by Δ K E's, while others rowed in the crews; and Cornell's great "sweeps " of 1875 and 1876 were made under a Δ K E Commodore and Vice-Commodore, with Δ K E's in the crews, Δ K E in the knot that "begat" the Cornell Yell, a Δ K E of the two marshals that led the Saratoga jubilee processions of both years, a Δ K E to respond for the crews, and a Δ K E to write the song "1875," in which the coincident birth of Cornell's "yell," and Cornell's Naval glory was celebrated. A Δ K E had planned, obtained subscriptions, built and fitted up the first gymnasium on the campus; and when the festival series of Δ X dinners, of which Bayard Taylor was the center, were closed by his death, a Δ K E of Δ X was selected to deliver the address at the unveiling of the memorial to him set up by the University.

In fraternity matters Δ X has furnished the Poet for two conventions, the President for each of three others, the Historian for Δ K E's fiftieth anniversary, and an incorporator and one of the Presidents of the Δ K E Club of N. Y. that for years served as the Δ K E capitol. When the Council was made Δ K E's central body, one of the five and its Secretary was the Δ X delegate, as was also its second President. When the Quarterly was founded Δ X had one of the two men who got out the first volume, and this one edited the next four. Next to Lines and Anderson, and working for years with each, while they rescued chapter and personal data from the wreck of war for our first biographical catalogue, was a member of Δ X.

"Nothing in town —everything on the Hill," may have serious limitations as a principle; but Δ X lived up to it. So serious were the defects of such devotion to student life that class rooms were given second place; but she lived up to that, also; and it would be hard to say who look back with most pride —those who did the impossible and led at once in scholarship and the Navy, the Nine or the Board, or those others who gave to the Navy or the Gym or to work for the chapter so much of the time scheduled for class work that they took their degree only "when they got to it."

Chapter life may have been too strenuous, but it was never tame; the idea of not taking Δ K E into account never occurred to friend or foe; and at more than one crisis members stripped themselves to save the honor of the chapter, and took a year of work outside to obtain funds again.

With the graduation of '79 closed an epoch in Δ X's history. Its delegation was the last in the selection of which the charter members were specially active; and as it passed from undergraduate life the chapter's ideals changed. Not till it had graduated did Δ X deign to undertake the social duties rival Greeks had eagerly assumed —the old status being hinted at in the current saying, that when Δ K E and any other rushed a Freshman, Δ K E got him, and the other got his sister. It was the same with faculty recognition. Δ K E's were awarded commencement honors galore, but Δ K E cared little for them, in comparison with the two Ivy

oratorships she won at student elections. The *Era* editorships were the great student literary honors and so $\Delta K E$ fought for them till her line was far longer than that of any other fraternity. She led in founding the Navy; and with the first Commodore and three of his successors, had obtained a Vice-Commodore in every other year but one.

When it is added that there never was a time when she had not her share of the best students, the most finished writers and speakers, the purest and best of the University; those who strove most stoutly for the Chapter's glory in all the lines mentioned; that Cornell students of 1870-80 may have known what they wanted as well as do those of to-day; and that the memory of how ΔX "got there" —just wherever she wanted to be— for year after year still finds a "live wire" in every live old boy —one can understand how little it takes to set his heart strings going at the concert pitch to which ΔX tuned them; and why each is at heart most proud of honors that were not recorded in faculty annals.

The chapter is now larger, its routine better established, its discipline more strict, its conservative forces steadily growing, and the great stone lodge, with its commons, its parlors, its memorials, a center for social life on the Hill, such as of late was undreamed of. But the old spirit still stirs. Even against the halo through which the golden age is seen, the lion banner that in "rush" week is flung out from the tower gives the old $\Delta K E$ new thrills; the fraternity and chapter blazons, through the glass of which the sunlight carries the $\Delta K E$ colors, are a fresh inspiration; and the lengthening list of brothers "gone before," a growing treasure of memories. Even in the chapter's heroic age one must have wandered wide to have found more of the hero spirit than lately flamed forth when ΔX sent to the Spanish war more of her sons than any other Greek chapter, and when, as the memorial of her dead at San Juan was being placed in the University Chapel, another of her sons was winning distinction as the youngest of Cuban generals —to become Military Governor of Havana and a candidate for the Cuban Presidency; and another, still young, was winning distinction in Porto Rico [sic], as he later did in the Philippines and China.

As this 1910 edition of the catalogue goes to press, and ΔX celebrates her 40th anniversary, the pending chapter enterprise that best merits note is the doubling of her chapter house accommodations so as to provide for thirty-five in residence, besides guests. Thus will be more nearly realized the "college" on the Oxford and Cambridge pattern for which more than twenty-five years ago we bought the one site more dominating the town than any on the campus; and worked out such plans for cloisters, refectory, library and great hall —grouped about a court with gateway and tower— which could be developed through generations, while used from the start. To some, present plans may seem ambitious. But they are modest compared with those we adopted when the University was but a tenth of its present size; and which, as every really "old " member believes, are yet to be realized. The fortunate undergraduates who dwell in the flesh at ΔX 's home will be ever more few as compared with the genial ghosts that will make it more homelike.

But may there long be lacking from the number of these the cheerily revered brother of Φ and the much enduring father-brother of ΔX ; both known to every member of the Chapter, to which from the beginning they have stood, one as the exemplar of all the humanities of culture, and the other as the one man who best appreciated how many elements must fuse to make a Cornell $\Delta K E$ Chapter, what a hot fire it takes to fuse them; and how All's Well that Ends Well — as it always does.

For such will ever be needed on earth — at Ithaca.

1912 Announcement of the Lodge Addition

Anon., "The New Home of Delta Chi." *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*, XXX, #1 (February 1912), pp. 56-7.

THE NEW HOME OF DELTA CHI

Delta Chi has, in the last year, built a new addition to its chapter house. The need for it had long been felt, for the spirit of competition is keen at Cornell and the chapter, feeling that it had the best crowd, wanted a house worthy of the high reputation that D K E maintains. Outside of these considerations of keeping pace with the other fraternities in the matter of houses, the need was imperative in other respects. The old house was commodious, but did not lend itself readily to changing conditions. The chapter, numbering about forty men, could not all be accommodated, a state of affairs not conducive to the best in organizing the chapter as a unit. And our facilities for entertaining were inadequate. At Junior Week, for instance, nearly everyone was compelled to move out of the house, and those who remained were forced to stay in anything but comfortable quarters.

Plans for an addition were called for and submitted. As approved, they embodied what were thought all the requisites for a fraternity house: appearance, comfort and, at the same time, necessary facilities for studying. In this last respect the men had been handicapped because of crowded quarters. Everything was worked out to the minutest details, combining the advice of the alumni with the suggestions of the active members.

The house as it stood originally was situated on a corner, the front facing West Avenue. The addition was built at right angles to the main part and facing South Avenue. The material used was the same throughout, St. Lawrence marble. As far as possible, the idea of the old part was carried out in the new. The studies, made large and with plenty of light, are all on the second floor, the top floor being used as a dormitory. We had long felt the need of a room for the use of our alumni, and to this end included in the plans an alumni suite. Two well-equipped bathrooms were added, and the living arrangements were then complete.

The new lodge room was put in the lower floors of the addition, a part of it, because of its height, being underground. The room is large, but because of its excellent proportions and decoration scheme, the size does not at first appear.

Ithaca has been the scene of more than one conflagration among the fraternity colony, so particular attention has been given to the installment of fire apparatus. On every floor there is [sic] a fire hose and hand extinguishers, and the sleeping rooms are so situated that there is easy access to the fire-escapes. Of course, even these protections do not promise us immunity from danger in this respect, but we are reasonably safe.

The method of financing needs but a word. Bonds were issued to the necessary amount and were quickly taken. All credit is due Brother E. Gillette, Delta Chi '73, for his management of this part of the work and his general supervision of the construction. Brother F. H. Smith '11, also gave a great deal of his time in working out many of the details.

The whole house as it now stands, with its towers and ivy-clad walls, is a substantial, home-like looking structure. The impression of massiveness and comfort is not dispelled by a glimpse of the interior. The house is harmonious, inside and outside.

From time to time we have added to our library until now we have our shelves filled with

books. They were selected with some care and the range of authors is very comprehensive, embracing all that is conceded to be the best in literature.

The rooms are arranged so that the men can do their university work under the most favorable conditions. Telephones have been installed in every study, adding greatly to the convenience of the brothers. In fact, the fundamental idea in building has been comfort, and the completed house attests to the success in carrying out this scheme. Delta Chi is justly proud of her house.



Figure 2: Cover Image, Pamphlet, “From the Active Chapter of Delta Chi of Delta Kappa Epsilon to Her Alumni and Sister Chapters,” June 1934.

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to Brother Matthew Todd Hyland '01 for providing the 1905 Rotograph postcard depicted in Figure 1 and to Brother Jamie Duong '06 for finding the long-lost volume, *Delta Chi Chapter Letters*, v. II (1922-34), that contained the lodge lithograph depicted in Figure 2. The editor is also deeply appreciative for the careful proof reading of the transcriptions undertaken by his wife, Irene.

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Summary/Abstract

Transcriptions of four early histories of the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Cornell University are presented. The 1893 Corner-Stone Address, the 1894 Early History and the 1910 Catalogue preface are the works of Brother John Dewitt Warner '72. These writings span the Chapter's founding, the erection of the 13 South Avenue lodge and the 1910 addition to that structure.

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