

Chapter One

THE BEGINNING

The Story of Kappa Alpha Psi is to a large extent the story of black students everywhere, whether organized or not, who attended predominantly white colleges or universities in America prior to World War II. It is also the story, though to a lesser extent, of their situation to the present day. These colleges and universities have sometimes been paradoxical in offering opportunity unduly bridled by restraint.

In spite of this condition, blacks have attended certain institutions of higher education principally for Caucasians since early in the nineteenth century. The first graduate is said to have been John Russwurm who received a degree from Bowdoin College in 1828. William Fletcher Penn and George McMechen were respectively awarded the M.D. and L.B. degree by Yale University in 1895, and in that same year, R. R. Taylor was valedictorian in architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There were others, even in the Middle West, but these instances were few, so few as to preclude the formation of an undergraduate fraternity of black students.

The accomplishments of these first black students are all the more noteworthy because typically they worked their way through college. Their determination in the face of seemingly insurmountable social and economic odds is a source of inspiration to less than full privileged students at white institutions of learning throughout America. To understand

this is to understand the birth of college fraternities among blacks.

Black-sponsored Greek-letter organizations on the Indiana campus might well have begun in 1903, but there were too few registrants to assure continuing organization. In that year a club was formed called Alpha Kappa Nu with the purpose of strengthening the blacks' voice at the University and in the city of Bloomington. The reason for choosing the Greek letter name is not known, but it is known that the club expired within a short time. There is no record of any similar organization at Indiana until the chartering of Kappa Alpha Nu, a forerunner of Kappa Alpha Psi, in 1911.

The Prologue of this *Story* relates how Byron Kenneth Armstrong formed the acquaintance of Elder Watson Diggs, both Indianians, at Howard University in 1910, and journeyed with him to the Indiana campus in the fall of that year. Their presence along with eight other black men was almost completely ignored by white students. To make matters worse, one black might be on campus for weeks without seeing another. Under these circumstances, assimilation into the life of the school was impossible. The administration maintained an attitude of indifference as blacks were slowly matriculated and swiftly forgotten. They were denied use of entertainment and recreational facilities, and only in field and track were they permitted to display their athletic prowess. Participation in contact sports was emphatically denied them. Something had to be done to alleviate this condition, and something was done. Nine young men gathered at the home of Miss Mollie Spaulding, lodging place of Byron Armstrong and Marcus Blakemore, to form an organization. Diggs presided, and Edward Irvin acted as the temporary secretary. The other participants were Paul Caine, Blakemore, Byron K. Armstrong, Henry T. Asher, Ezra D. Alexander, Guy L. Grant and John M. Lee. The temporary organization was given the name Alpha Omega with the purpose of holding the group together until the details of a Greek letter society could be developed.

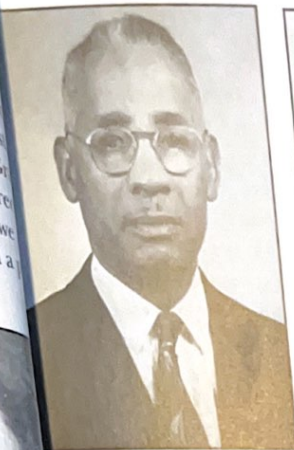
The very thought of a fraternity provided common interest. The members of Alpha Omega sought one another's company between classes and dropped by one another's lodging place to discuss this new approach to an old problem. The depressing isolation earlier experienced was relieved as friendships solidified. Most of the men knew



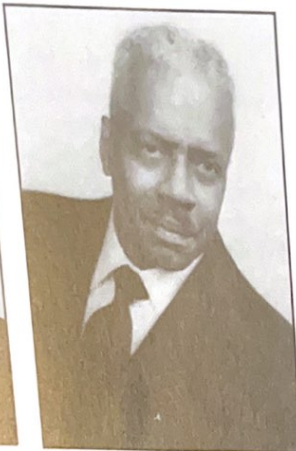
THE ALPHA KAPPA NU GREEK SOCIETY OF 1903... formed at Indiana University to strengthen the blacks' voice. Seated are James Knight, Howard Thompson, E. B. Keemer, and Fred Williamson. Standing are John Hodge, Thomas Reynolds, Mr. Hill, R. A. Roberts, and Gordon Merrill.

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school. Guy entered Indiana University and graduated with the bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1915. In 1920, he received the D.D.S. degree from the school of dentistry. Many played their roles in the making of this history, but it was left to a few to see that it would be told. Dr. Guy L. Grant was involved in both the making of the history and the telling of the *Story*. He was a constant source of inspiration in the preparation of this document. He collected and guarded the precious source material which eventually became the actual, supportive base for the history. He was named Grand Historian Emeritus.

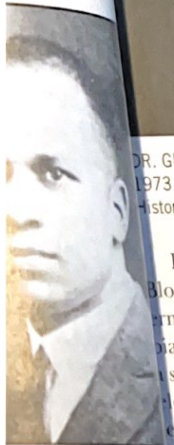


DR. GUY LEVIS GRANT 1891-1973 . . . Founder and Grand Historian, Emeritus.



DR. EZRA D. ALEXANDER 1892-1971 . . . Founder.

EZRA D. ALEXANDER. Ezra D. Alexander was a native of Bloomington. Having been born and reared in that southern Indiana town, Ezra had first hand acquaintance with the bias that led to the establishment of Kappa Alpha Nu. Being a student at the University, from which he received his bachelor's and M.D. degrees in 1917 and 1919, he knew and learned to live with the existing social conditions. He was the convoking member of the Grand Board of Directors until his death on September 29, 1971.



BYRON KENNETH ARMISTEAD, 1890-1980 . . . Founder and Laurel Wreath Holder.

EDWARD G. IRVIN. Edward G. Irvin was born in Spencer, Indiana and graduated from Kokomo High School in 1910. In the fall of that year, he entered the University, became a founder of Kappa Alpha Nu, and served on the Fraternity's Incorporation Committee. After leaving Indiana, Irvin pursued a journalistic career. After World War I, he served on the staff of the *Indianapolis Freeman*. In March of 1922, he established *The Shining Star*, a weekly newspaper in Anderson, Indiana. Within less than five years, he enlarged the paper without capital from a leaflet to an eight page, six column newspaper. The success of this venture brought a bid from the *Gary Sun* for Irvin's services as its editor. He accepted, but later resigned to become sports editor with the *Chicago Daily Bulletin*. Irvin became the most beloved Kappa man of the seventies and eighties. He wore the Laurel Wreath.



EDWARD G. IRVIN 1893-1982 . . . Founder and Laurel Wreath Holder.



PAUL W. CAINE, 1891-1922 . . . Founder.

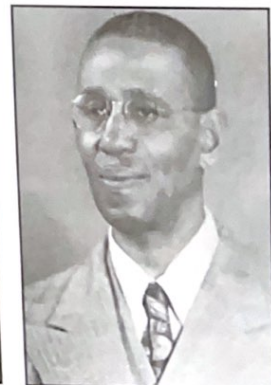
PAUL W. CAINE. Paul W. Caine entered the University from Green castle, Indiana. His pleasant disposition soon won him many friends in the Greek letter houses where he worked as a cook or housekeeper. These friendships enabled him to gain information that contributed to the organization of Kappa Alpha Nu. In later years, Caine operated his own catering service in Evanston, Illinois. He died in 1922.

MARCUS PETER BLAKEMORE. Marcus Peter Blakemore was born in Franklin, Indiana, and attended the public schools of Anderson. He was graduated in 1909 and entered the University in the fall of 1910. A rugged individual, Blakemore was determined to make a place in life for himself. As a roommate of Byron Armstrong, he became enthusiastic about the new Fraternity and contributed significantly to Kappa Alpha Nu. After leaving the University in 1911, Blakemore organized the Electric Engineering Company which he operated until he enlisted in World War I. He received his D.D.S. degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1923 and practiced until his death on October 9, 1959.

HENRY T. ASHER. Henry T. Asher was born in Woodburn, Kentucky, June 29, 1890, and moved to Bloomington where



DR. MARCUS PETER BLAKEMORE, 1889-1959 . . . Founder.

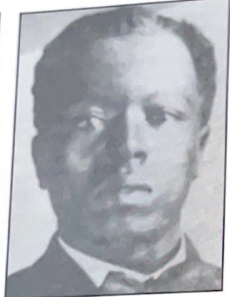


ATTY. HENRY T. ASHER, 1890-1963 . . . Founder

he graduated from high school in the spring of 1910. In June of 1914, he was granted the Bachelor of Arts degree by Indiana University. After one year of teaching at Lincoln Institute, Jefferson City, Missouri, Asher entered the graduate school at the University of Illinois for the 1915-1916 school year, but received the Master of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1917. In 1928, he was awarded the LL.B. degree by the Detroit College of Law. Asher died March 5, 1963.



JOHN MILTON LEE, 1890-1958 . . . Founder.



GEORGE EDMONDS, 1890-1962 . . . Founder

JOHN MILTON LEE. John Milton Lee, a personable, confident graduate from the Danville, Indiana high school entered the University in 1910 where he completed three years of pre-medical study. As told elsewhere in this *Story*, Lee was from the beginning an active and interested participant in the founding of Kappa Alpha Nu. In 1915, he attended Temple University. In 1918, he enlisted in the 349th Field Artillery and served overseas as a sergeant first class and gunner. His was the first all-black battery to open fire on an enemy. John Milton Lee was associate editor of *Modern Artillerymen*, the official record of Battery F, 349th Artillery. He died January 8, 1958.

GEORGE EDMONDS. Little was known of the Fraternity's tenth Founder, George Edmonds, other than he was from Vanderburgh County near Evansville, Indiana, and entered Indiana University in the fall of 1910, until his family and grave were discovered in Evansville, Indiana in 1978. (See pages 199-200.)

The First Grand Chapter And House Party

The young Fraternity held its First Grand Chapter or convention May 19, 20, and 21, 1911. It was highlighted by a three-day house party. Diggs was elected to the office of Grand Polemarch; Irven Armstrong, to the office of Grand Keeper of the Records; and Lee, to the office of Grand Keeper of the Exchequer

The group took this opportunity to sponsor the function, patterned somewhat after parties given by one of Indiana's most affluent and best known organizations.

The party introduced black students to the highest order and provided dramatic means for young people to the University. But the Grand was called primarily to transact business, the most of which was the establishment of a sovereign body in scope

The home of Mr. and Mrs William E. Proffert engaged for the May date, and Mrs Mollie Armstrong, Byron's mother, and Mrs. Emma DuValle, Mrs. Sylvester DuValle, served as chaperones. Guests came from Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri and places throughout and among them were several prospective male members. Mrs. Proctor entertained with a banquet at the Columbus Hall in Bloomington. On Sunday, members and their guests attended church in a following which they engaged in sight-seeing. All rental cars, including a carryall, were obtained and the young men and women enjoyed their first visit to Arbutus Hill, a trusty place of white students. As the guests left for they proclaimed the house party the most extraordinary entertainment ever held in the Middle West.

One of the immediate effects of the party was announced in the *Daily Student*, the school's newspaper. Here is the story as it appeared on Monday, May 22, 1911:

KAPPA ALPHA NU HOSTS: COLORED FRATERNITY ENTERTAINS AT WEEKEND HOUSE PARTY

The members of Kappa Alpha Nu, the fraternity organized recently by colored students, have been hosts at a party given at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Proffert, West Kirkwood Avenue. The party started Saturday and ended yesterday at three o'clock. Among the features of the party were a banquet given Friday night, and a dance Saturday night. Many out-of-town guests were present, including Misses Evans of Franklin; Miss Barness, Miss Baptist, Miss Henderson of Indianapolis; Miss Ritchess of Columbus and Miss Bopps of Crawfordsville. Men guests from Bloomington were Mr. Bryant and Mr. DuValle of Indianapolis. The local girls who attended were: Eagleston, Hallie Burnett, Ravena Todd, Addie Thomas, Mayme Young, Ethel Robinson and Celesto Chavers.

This was the first publicity given Kappa Alpha Nu.

Some of the male guests pledged to the new Fraternity looking forward to entering Indiana the following fall. Among them were Sylvester DuValle, George A. John, Glodie Gahn, Frank Summers, Howard Lewis and Bryant. All but Lewis and Bryant matriculated as planned. The townspeople appreciated what the Fraternity was doing to give students a more complete education than previously been possible, and were proud of their help in helping to make the party a success. The students were

Beginning



FIRST ANNUAL HOUSE PARTY . . . at Indiana University, May 19-21, 1911

appreciative and responded in kind to the townspeople. They attended church more frequently, sang in the church, and taught Sunday School classes. At the close of school in June 1911, Byron Armstrong remained for the summer term, but others sought employment. Diggs worked as a waiter at a hotel in Cape May, New Jersey, where he heard an aria from *The Student Prince* and enjoyed the melody of "The Heidelberg Song" so much he wrote lyrics appropriate to the Fraternity and called it the Kappa Alpha Nu Hymn. Many years later when records were made, copyright difficulties were encountered, and the hymn was adopted that was written by Kenneth Bill St. Louis Alumni Chapter.

The beginning of the fall term of 1911 found some new members in Fraternity ranks. George Edmonds, Paul Caiward Irvin did not return. The membership now consisted of Diggs, Byron K. Armstrong, Grant, Asher, Aleckemore, Lee and Irven Armstrong. Four new students, Paul Morgan of Jeffersonville, Indiana; Frank Summers, Glodie Gahn, and Elmer Mosee of Louisville, Kentucky; and George Johnson of Bloomington, Indiana—matriculated that year and were formally pledged. Having attended a house party in May, some of them knew of the Fraternity's contribution to black college life on the Indiana campus. The members who did not return to Indiana kept in touch with one another. Meanwhile, Indiana University was becoming more attractive to black students. The organization was beginning to be known and to be accorded some respect, though distant respect that gave no promise that the "Fraternity of Negroes" would ever completely acceptance.

Asher, Alexander, Byron Armstrong, Guy Morgan, Irven Armstrong and John Lee were active in the fall term of 1912. Irven was the Alumni Polemarch; Morgan, the Keeper of Records and the Grand Polemarch; the new students in 1912 were William V. Glodie Gahn, Frank Summers, Howard Lewis and Bryant. All but Lewis and Bryant matriculated as planned. The townspeople appreciated what the Fraternity was doing to give students a more complete education than previously been possible, and were proud of their help in helping to make the party a success. The students were



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Scarce and inadequate housing for black students was not yet overcome. The desire for some semblance of a house for the group led four members to occupy a single room equipped with one bed. A high order of scholarship was maintained, however, and the chapter made creditable strides in extra-curricular activities.

Instruments of Kappa Alpha Nu

At the close of school in June 1912, Diggs, Byron Armstrong and Irven Armstrong worked as waiters at Ft. Wayne, Indiana and roomed together in order to perfect instruments of fraternity. Diggs put the Constitution into acceptable English and completed the initiation ceremony, using *Homer* and the *Life of Attica* as the guide. They designed the Coat-of-Arms and had one engraved by a local jeweler.

Byron worked on the motto and emblems. The devotion to detail and the painstaking care these men put into this labor of love are noteworthy. The Greek letters that appear so prominently in the Fraternity mystics were scrutinized and debated before being accepted. Byron submitted the motto for translation into Greek to the professors of Greek at Indiana and Valparaiso Universities and at Concordia College. The Concordia version was finally accepted.

The first badges, flat and without distinction, were made in Bloomington. Discovering that the appearance of the badge could be enhanced by elevating the scroll above the surface, Byron had one produced by a Ft. Wayne jeweler. He also suggested that the Fraternity reward members' outstanding achievement with a Laurel Wreath. Both ideas were accepted by the group. Although one person was assigned a principal responsibility, each final idea was a product of group thinking. This was to be true throughout the lifetime of Kappa Alpha Psi.

Grim Interlude For Diggs

The summer of 1912 was a momentous one for Diggs. He left Ft. Wayne earlier than the others to marry his childhood sweetheart, Clara Bell Smith, a teacher in the public schools of Rising Sun, Indiana. Taking place in Lexington, Kentucky, the marriage was kept secret because married women were not permitted to teach in Indiana.

Soon after Diggs returned to college, his wife was taken seriously ill. He immediately withdrew and returned to Rising Sun to care for her and assume her teaching responsibilities. Mrs. Diggs died in March of 1913.

To know Diggs was to understand the effect of this blow. A man of deep feelings, he had given his first love the ultimate of his emotions. Desolate, he asked John Lee to come to Rising Sun for the funeral. Afterward as they sat alone in the cemetery, Diggs poured out his heart as he searched his life for some sin of his that might have accounted for God's punishment. In this highly emotional atmosphere, Lee was impressed by the closeness between Diggs and himself engendered by the Fraternity. That Diggs should turn to him

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The beginning of the fall term of 1911 found some depletion in Fraternity ranks. George Edmonds, Paul Caine and Edward Irvin did not return. The membership now consisted of Diggs, Byron K. Armstrong, Grant, Asher, Alexander, Lakemore, Lee and Irven Armstrong. Four new students—Julius Morgan of Jeffersonville, Indiana; Frank Summers, Lodie Gahn, and Elmer Mosee of Louisville, Kentucky; and George Johnson of Bloomington, Indiana—matriculated that year and were formally pledged. Having attended the house party in May, some of them knew of the Fraternity's contribution to black college life on the Indiana campus. The members who did not return to Indiana kept in touch with one another. Meanwhile, Indiana University was becoming more attractive to black students. The organization was coming to be known and to be accorded some respect, although distant respect that gave no promise that the Fraternity of Negroes would ever completely gain social acceptance.

Asher, Alexander, Byron Armstrong, Guy Grant, Julius Morgan, Irven Armstrong and John Lee were in school for the fall term of 1912. Irven was the Alpha Chapter chairman; Morgan, the Keeper of Records and Exchequer. Valle, George A. Johnson, Howard Lewis and Smith, George McClellon, James McKnight and W. Ellis matriculated as planned. Valle in the graduate school. Stewart was among the later complete education than the well-known men invited to the organization's second house party. At that time, he pledged to the Fraternity. He was initiated in 1912.

in this his greatest crisis gave new insight into the meaning of brotherhood.

Toward Expansion

Although Diggs was principal of the high school at Vincennes, Indiana, in 1913 and 1914, the Fraternity was never far from his thoughts. He was anxious that black students in other universities should enjoy the benefits the Fraternity brought them at Indiana University. To learn something of the situation elsewhere, Diggs sought through correspondence to learn the attitudes of universities toward Greek-letter organizations, the number of black students attending, and whether or not those students were organized. He sought the names of such students and visited mid-western campuses. Communications were sent to the Universities of Iowa, Kansas and Illinois.

The Second Chapter Is Formed

At Illinois, black students had formed an organization called the Illio Club, with Earl B. Dickerson as president. When approached, the Club looked favorably upon the prospect of becoming the second chapter of a national fraternity, but money was an obstacle until Diggs gave assurance of initiation without cost.

On February 6, 1913, Byron and Irven Armstrong, Guy Grant, John Lee, Frank Summers and Elmer Mosee journeyed to Urbana, Illinois, where they joined Elder Diggs, Ellis Stewart and Paul Caine, to establish the Beta of Kappa Alpha Nu. Introductions were made at the home of the Brewers, widely known and respected townspeople. Chartered on February 8, 1913, the chapter consisted of Earl B. Dickerson, George C. Ellis, Byron K. Kenner, Frank Lunsford Williams, Elmer A. Brown, William J. Prince, H. L. Burnam, T. H. Harpole and C. L. M. Cooper. Dickerson became the chapter's first Polemarch; Prince, the first Keeper of the Records; and Ellis, the first Keeper of the Exchequer. A banquet at Wheeler's Cafe followed the installation ceremony. The visiting members pooled or borrowed money to pay the return fare to Bloomington.

Claiming the University of Illinois as their chief attraction, the twin cities of Champaign and Urbana harbored the same



THE BETA OF KAPPA ALPHA NU ... established at the University of Illinois in 1913. This is the earliest known picture taken of the group in 1914. Top row: E. A. Brown, H. R. Duke, H. H. Harris, G. A. Ferguson, W. H. Sutton, B. F. Moseley, and A. A. Dyer. Bottom row: J. N. Green, W. J. Prince, B. K. Kenner, O. C. Ellis, J. A. Gordon, and C. W. Stewart.

prejudices as Bloomington and the Indiana campus where they could eat, and only one in Urbana. The Beta Chapter soon gained recognition on the campus as part of a national group and straightway planning for a chapter home. Prince won a place on the University's debating team; and after graduation in 1916, Dickerson accepted a professorship at the Institute, Alabama. Prince succeeded Dickerson as

Third Annual House Party at Indiana

Young men and women from all over Indiana gathered for the third annual house party in the spring. Separated from the Grand Chapter because the time was not a convenient one for that meeting, the party was restricted to a prom in the Student Building. The Fraternity's first social affair on school property. As in the past, a large number of attractive prospective male students came from the surrounding area. The decorum was said to be superior to that witnessed at similar campus affairs. College officials, perhaps had come to be amused, were so impressed by the decorum of the occasion that they rushed away to summer dates that they, too, might marvel.

The Schottische, a popular dance, was performed for the first time on Indiana's campus, and the spectators were thrilled by nearly two hundred young people dancing in perfect unison. This first opportunity for college students to witness black students at a social affair added respect for the young Fraternity, which more than compensated for the party's depletion of chapter funds.

The Summer and Fall of 1913

Diggs and the Armstrongs, Byron and Irven, returned to Ft. Wayne in the summer of 1913 for employment. Diggs discussed prospects for expansion and the initiation of new members, the latter as a means of meeting the rising demand for operation. True to the ideal of the Fraternity, they sought to improve the cultural atmosphere among blacks at Ft. Wayne.

To this end, Diggs staged debates between the students of Howard University and the Indiana University representatives of Kappa Alpha Nu. A permanent club was formed and the profits from the appearances were donated to churches for church use. Until that time, no black boy had ever graduated from the Ft. Wayne High School and only two had been graduated within the preceding half century. The debates served to open new vistas for young people who had previously believed that time spent in college was time wasted.

Of the Founders, only Grant, Asher and Armstrong were at Indiana in the fall of 1913. Byron Armstrong

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graduated in June. After three years as a pre-law student at Indiana, Lee had gone to Philadelphia and then to the University of Pennsylvania. Julius Morgan had graduated to Purdue. The new students that year included Franklin P. Smith, the brother of Diggs' late wife from Indianapolis, Indiana; Everett Colbert from Washington, D. C.; Clarence Marshall, Robert Skelton, Walter Proctor, and Frank Loring from Indianapolis. These men, together with Frank Summers Glodie Gahn, George Johnson, and Armstrong, and the three Founders earlier mentioned, completed the membership in 1913.

Skelton frequently played chess at the home of the university professor. More and more, students participated in the activities of black townspeople. The Fraternity sponsored weekly debates and other cultural programs in the churches. Under the captaincy of Frank Summers, the Chapter's football team successfully performed in Indianapolis and Wilberforce Ohio. Athletics required of freshmen placed few members below the varsity level.

Progress of the organization can best be measured by the achievements of its members. The Alpha and Beta chapters were moving ahead. Of the Beta members, Dickerson was at Tuskegee as professor of English at Illinois, was again on the University's debating team. George Dickson was at Harvard on a scholarship. The Fraternity secured a nine-room house in the summer of 1913. The chapter sought to increase its numbers and was doing creditably. The role of Kappa Alpha Nu.

The Third Grand Chapter And The Local Chapter Of Kappa Alpha Nu

The Third Grand Chapter was held at Indianapolis on December 29th through the 31st, 1913. This final meeting had been decreed by the Grand Polemarch to accommodate undergraduates and graduates alike. Twenty-five participants elected a full roster of officers, including a Grand Board of Directors charged with the successful operation between Grand Chapter and local chapters. Diggs was retained as Grand Polemarch. Earl B. Burnam made the Grand Vice Polemarch; William J. Prince, Grand Keeper of the Records; Byron K. Kenner, Grand Strategus; and Elmer A. Brown, the Grand Treasurer. Elected to membership on the Grand Chapter were Diggs, George C. Ellis, Prince, Frank Lunsford Williams, Armstrong, Stewart, Morgan, George Dickson, and Joseph H. Ward.

The Fraternity's third chapter was established at Indianapolis on December 29, 1913, the first day of the third Grand Chapter meeting. It was composed of Dr. L. L. Lewis, Dr. Joseph H. Ward, Dr. M. D. Batties, Attorney Henderson, Ward Wilson, a pharmacist; Rev. H. I. Cecil Powell, a pharmacist; and George M. Royster, a teacher. Honorary membership, one of the few in

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The Third Grand Chapter And The Third Local Chapter Of Kappa Alpha Nu

The Third Grand Chapter was held at Indianapolis December 29th through the 31st, 1913. This first winter meeting had been decreed by the Grand Polemarch to accommodate undergraduates and graduates alike. About seventy-five participants elected a full roster of officers including a Grand Board of Directors charged with ensuring successful operation between Grand Chapter sessions. Diggs was retained as Grand Polemarch. Earl B. Dickerson was made the Grand Vice Polemarch; William J. Prince, the Grand Keeper of the Records; Byron K. Armstrong, the permanent Grand Strategus; and Elmer A. Brown, the Grand Lieutenant Strategus. Elected to membership on the Grand Board of Directors were Diggs, George C. Ellis, Prince, Byron and Irven Armstrong, Stewart, Morgan, George Dickson and Dr. Joseph H. Ward.

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history of Kappa Alpha Psi, was conferred upon Dr. E. N. Perkins, a highly respected citizen of Indianapolis. Dr. Lewis was the Chapter's Polemarch. A graduate of Indiana University, his was the highest grade made to that time on the Indiana State Board of Medicine examination. This was the original Gamma Chapter, composed entirely of alumni members. From the available information, it was the first organized group of alumni associated with any so-called black undergraduate Greek-letter college fraternity.

Although these men possessed some interest in the Fraternity, they had no close ties and were too far removed from the college scene to insure continuing life to the Chapter. The Chapter, therefore, was not active, and after a brief period, its recognition was withdrawn. Some of the members of this group later affiliated with the Indianapolis Alumni Chapter, chartered October 15, 1920.

Another significant accomplishment of the Third Grand Chapter was the decision to establish the *Kappa Alpha Nu Journal*. It was to be a quarterly publication designed to keep members informed about the Fraternity's progress. So far as we know, this was the first periodical of any national black college fraternity.

Diggs Publicizes The Aims of Kappa Alpha Nu

Early in 1914 the Grand Polemarch publicized Kappa Alpha Nu with an "Open Letter to Negro College Men." Following is a reprint of that letter:

For several years past, Negro students at the larger institutions of learning have felt the need for some kind of organization to protect their interests, and to afford some systematic means of providing wholesome recreation and social pleasures. To meet this need, there was organized at the University of Indiana during the winter quarter of 1911 the national Greek letter college Fraternity known and designated as Kappa Alpha Nu. The Grand Chapter of the organization was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana and empowered to grant charters to chapters at the various colleges of the country, to revoke charters so granted for cause, and to enjoy all rights and privileges which any other national college fraternity enjoys.

Moreover, the Grand Chapter at once set itself to the task of devising a constitution, a set of by-laws, a ritual, a Coat-of-Arms, and all the needed paraphernalia adequate to meet the demands of a high grade modern college brotherhood. This work extending over a period of well nigh two years is now completed and the organization has entered upon a vigorous campaign for the extension of its principles and influence among the colleges of the land.

The response which has thus far welcomed the organization at colleges, notably the universities of

the Middle West, has been such as to surpass our most sanguine expectations. We wish you could know how cordially students and school authorities of such large universities as Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa have received the Fraternity, and what a vitalizing influence it has exerted upon all of its members at those places. The organization is proving a valuable ally of institutions of learning in moulding wide-awake, efficient, manly men. Frequently, deans of the above mentioned universities confer with the representatives of the Fraternity in regard to affairs pertaining to the school life of its members. In this and in numerous other ways our men have come to feel themselves an integral part of the institution which they attend, bound by considerations of loyalty and honor to their college to maintain a manly upright bearing in all their dealings at college.

Kappa Alpha Nu has been able to evolve a system which, we believe, is unique in the history of college fraternities. One of the features of this system consists in stimulating a desire among Negro people for college training and inducing Negro youths to enter and successfully pursue college courses. This, they often fail to do. Stimulated by the campaign which Kappa Alpha Nu is carrying on, several such young men are now in college who in all probability would not otherwise have entered. In this and in numerous other ways, the organization is, through inspiration, encouragement and mutual help, rendering large service to the cause of university training among Negro people.

Every college man ought to belong to some such movement as this. It broadens his horizon and brings him into vital touch and fellowship with college men everywhere. It perpetually preserves pleasant memories of his college days and forms firm and abiding friendships that will rise to cheer him in after years when college days are done.

We desire to establish a chapter of Kappa Alpha Nu at every institution that has duly recognized college rank. We, therefore, solicit correspondence and inquiry from all college men who desire to ally themselves with this movement.

Done by order of the Grand Chapter
E. W. Diggs, Grand Polemarch
The Kappa Alpha Nu House

The Name Gamma Is Transferred

On March 7, 1914, Diggs and Caine from Alpha, and Prince from Beta represented the Grand Chapter in establishing a chapter at the University of Iowa, naming it the



THE DELTA (LATER CHANGED TO GAMMA) OF KAPPA ALPHA NU, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA. Top row: E. C. Clayton, E. E. Graves, B. L. Duke, J. N. Wills, W. H. Beshears and A. A. Keene. Bottom row: J. C. McCree, Dr. E. A. Carter, Paul W. Caine, Atty. S. Joe Brown, W. H. Crump, and F. Fields.

Delta of Kappa Alpha Nu. Since the Gamma of Iowa was defunct, the Grand Chapter decided that its only active chapters would be designated after the Greek alphabet; and alumni chapters would be named after the cities in which they are located. The name of the Iowa Chapter was changed from Delta to Gamma, and the name of the Iowa establishment of the fourth college chapter.

Diggs had earlier corresponded with "Mr. Crump" presumably J. W. Crump of the University of Iowa, who offered living quarters for most of the black students of the new chapter. The reaction was favorable, except against the same proposition as was accepted at Urbana without cost. The Chapter was established, composed of alumni and undergraduate members.

The charter alumni members were S. Joe Brown, Crump, Dr. Edward A. Carter, and W. H. McCree. The first undergraduate members were B. L. Duke, E. C. Clayton, Beshears, E. E. Graves, J. N. Wills, A. A. Keene, J. C. McCree, W. H. Lowry, Milton Fields and H. H. London. Upon his return to Iowa, was initiated within the twelve-month period immediately following the Chapter's establishment.

S. Joe Brown, Des Moines, Iowa lawyer, was typical in calibre of men composing the Chapter. The first graduate from Iowa's College of Liberal Arts, Brown was the school's first black member of Phi Beta Kappa and holder of the LL.B. and master's degrees from the University, the latter having been gained with the publication of *Constitutional View of the Abridgement of Rights of Negroes of Certain States of the Union*. This, together with his active participation in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and his concern upon cases involving the constitutional rights of Negroes reflected the prejudice and discrimination that characterized the towns and schools of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa to say other places prior to America's entrance into World War II.

Chapter Two

MAINTAINING IN STRENGTH

June 28, 1914, the American... that three shots fired in far... province of Bosnia, had... Francis Ferdinand, heir to the... his wife Sophia. Learning... Austria-Hungary ultimately de... a month, Germany and... arms with Austria-Hun... France, Great Brit...

The war profoundly aff... institutions. The cou... Labor became cri... the immigration... force had little choice... from the South. Th... was thereby in... end college and pr... for Kappa Alpha... Upon his return... er W. Diggs lived... territories and th... constituted... ve-room house... occupancy by