

DELTA KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY

Delta Chi Chapter at Cornell University

Office of the Alumni Historian

The Deke House at Cornell

A Concise History of the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon, 1870-1949

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Foreword—

The American college fraternity, that unique and hide-bound institution peculiar to this continent, was founded in times distant and utterly different from our own day. Firmly anchored in Victorian clay, an age certain of its destiny and trusting in its fortune, the old frat seems at odds with the rootless, ruthless high-tech steam roller of the atom bomb century. Often short of ready cash, sometimes shabby, disdained by outsiders, envied and always vulnerable, the fraternity is extravagantly endowed with that precious gold of youth: vitality, secrecy and great expectations.

The nation booms, fights wars, endures hardships and grinds forward with a relentless disinterest in yesterday. Everything new is at odds with the past. Yet this one durable relic persists, struggles on, transforms, reverts, triumphs, flounders, learns, lapses... and sometimes, like the elderly brother, comfortably alone in his club chair by a tended fire, remembers.

The list of necessities for a great university is long indeed: a spirited, if not brilliant faculty, a comfortable library, well equipped laboratories, a mighty football team, and even a few odd students. And let us not leave out the fraternity on this list of collegiate essentials. The earnest undergraduate may study many subjects in the great temple of learning on the hill, but he will not find an academic department giving practical instruction on the art of “getting along” in the world of men, on the science of friendship, or on the burdens of leadership. These things, great and small, will be learned at the dinner table or in the bar, on road trips to Aurora, while scrubbing floors and painting walls, in the warm twilight of a spring party, often with foolery and sometimes circumstance.

This volume represents the current text covering the chapter’s history from 1870 to 1949. Circumstances permitting, the Alumni Historian hopes to someday extend the narrative to the Nineteen-nineties.

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Publication Abbreviations

CAN Cornell Alumni News.

CDS Cornell Daily Sun.

CMM Chapter Meeting Minutes (Ithaca NY: Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon).

DKEQ Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly.

DXD Delta Chi Deke.

NYT New York Times.

Chapter I: 1870-1889

Founding

The story of the Delta Chi chapter must be preceded by some mention of the Fraternity's general state at the end of the Civil War. Up until that great national schism, ΔKE had enjoyed years of prosperity and rapid expansion since its founding at Yale on 22 June 1844. By 1860, ten colonies were established in the south and nineteen in the north. The war was to disrupt college life throughout the fractured union as students were drained from academia to fill the ranks of the embattled armies and many institutions simply closed their doors for the duration. These chaotic conditions arrested the growth of the Fraternity during the war years, but recovery was prompt and during the early years of the Reconstruction we find charters being granted to Psi Phi (DePauw) in 1866, Gamma Phi (Wesleyan), Eta Alpha (Washington and Lee) and Psi Omega (Rensselaer) in 1867, and Beta Chi (Western Reserve) in 1868.¹

Cornell University had barely been opened when the first discussion of expanding the Fraternity to Ithaca took place in October 1868 at the 22nd ΔKE Convention hosted by the Sigma (Amherst) chapter. Brother John James McCook Λ1866, serving as the president of the convention, introduced a motion "that a committee be appointed by the Phi Chapter to ascertain the facilities for the establishment of a chapter of ΔKE in Cornell University and to report at the next annual convention or at such time as may seem fit." The motion carried, but we know nothing about the composition of that first committee or its activities.² Alas, the records of Mother Phi have been lost.

Then a conservative policy towards expansion then took hold within ΔKE and the next convention, the 23rd at Theta (Bowdoin) held during October 1869, rejected three applications for charters, a trend that was to continue with rare exceptions until the end of the century. Nevertheless, the Cornell question was again raised and Brothers Edwin Forrest Sweet Φ1871, Charles Hopkins Clark Φ1871, and William Hill Sloan, ΒΦ1870, were appointed to investigate the situation in Ithaca.³ The Convention further authorized Phi to grant a charter pending a favorable report from this committee.⁴

Several of the old line fraternities had already established themselves at Cornell by this time. Zeta Psi, Chi Phi and the Kappa Alpha Society arrived in 1868, and Alpha Delta Phi, Chi Psi, Phi Kappa Psi and Delta Upsilon followed in 1869.⁵ Cornell President Andrew D. White, himself an

¹ W. J. Maxwell, ed. *General Catalogue of Delta Kappa Epsilon, 1918* (New York: Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, 1918), pp. xxii-xxxvii: "History of Delta Kappa Epsilon" by James Anderson Hawes Φ1894 and Adelbert H. Van Duzer ΒX1901.

² Minutes of the Twenty-Second Annual Convention of Delta Kappa Epsilon, Hall of Sigma, 7 October 1868, p. xxii-12. The original is held by the Delta Kappa Epsilon International Fraternity (*HQΔKE*), Ann Arbor MI.

³ *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly (DKEQ)*, XII, #3 (November 1884), pp. 191-204: "Early History of Delta Chi Chapter" by John DeWitt Warner ΔX1872. Hereafter, "Warner (1884)."

⁴ Minutes of the Twenty-Third Annual Convention of Delta Kappa Epsilon, Hall of Theta, 6-7 October 1869, pp. xxiii-6, 7. *HQΔKE*.

⁵ T. A. Leemon, ed., *Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities*, Eighteenth Edition (Menasha WI: The Collegiate Press, George Banta Company, Inc., 1968).

enthusiastic member of Psi Upsilon (Yale 1853), played a part in making the fledgling University hospitable to the Greek letter society movement.⁶ Opposition to fraternities, often heated, developed immediately, but the Independents, as they called themselves, could not stem the tide of the secret societies.⁷

Clark and Sloan arrived in Ithaca during the first week of 1870 and found just the material that they were looking for in the new student body.⁸ Aided by two older brothers, Professor Eli Whitney Blake, Jr., Φ1857 of the Cornell faculty, and Thomas Morris Strong, ΦX1868, at that time a medical student, they promptly recruited five men as the nucleus of the new chapter: James Julius Chambers 1870, Sidney Howard Soule 1871, John Milton McNair 1871, John DeWitt Warner 1872 and Llewellyn Elsbree 1873.⁹ The earliest chapter records have it that Clark and Sloan “gave to these men aforesaid the oath and made them members of the Fraternity. Mr. Sweet came a short time afterwards and succeeded, with the aid of the gentlemen mentioned” in adding Patrick William Cullinan 1872, Frank DeElwin Nash 1872, Darius Adams Ogden, Jr. 1872, Charles Victor Parsell 1872 and Ambrose Clothier Pike 1872 as pledges.

On 10 Jan 1870, Brother Sweet gave “to the ten men mentioned above the oath, [the] grip of the Fraternity, and declared them to be members of the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon.” This action by a representative of the Phi chapter formally chartered the Delta Chi Chapter. This new outpost of ΔKE immediately organized itself, elected officers (Chambers, McNair, Soule, Cullinan and Warner) and prepared for further recruits. The record is somewhat ambiguous, but the first president of the chapter was almost certainly Chambers, the only senior in the group.

The first formal business meeting of the Delta Chi chapter took place on the following day at the Ithaca House on State Street where many of the charter members resided. The chapter’s finances were put in order by declaring a substantial initiation fee of \$26 per member and a committee was formed to pledge, among others, William McKenzie Hughes 1873, Henry Alonzo Monfort 1873 and Ebenezer Barton Kellogg 1873.¹⁰

But just what was the business of this little society? The answer was to be found in the openly declared Objects of Delta Kappa Epsilon: “...the cultivation of general literature and social culture, the advancement and encouragement of intellectual excellence, the promotion of honorable friendship and useful citizenship, the maintenance of gentlemanly dignity, self respect and morality

⁶ *The Forum*, III (May 1887), pp. 243-53: “College Fraternities” by Andrew D. White (Psi Upsilon). *DKEQ*, V, #3 (April 1887), pp. 218-222: reprint, “College Fraternities” by Andrew D. White (Psi Upsilon).

⁷ *The College Fraternity*, II, #1 (April 1893), pp. 3-18: “Fraternities at Cornell University” by Williard Austin.

⁸ *Delta Chi Chapter Meeting Minutes (CMM)*, 10 January 1870. Originals are located in the ΔKE Depository (Collection 37-4-1535), Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections (CU-DRMC), Carl A. Kroch Library, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853.

⁹ Kenneth Rood, Instructor Emeritus, Hopkins Grammar School, New Haven CT, letter to HWF, 21 January 1987. Blake, a graduate of Hopkins, was Professor of Physics and Industrial Mechanics at Cornell.

¹⁰ *CMM*, 11 January 1870.

in all circumstances, and the union of stout hearts and kindred interests to secure to merit its due reward.”

In 1870 words meant what they said, and the “cultivation of general literature” became the order of the day. The “Objects“ said nothing about housing, feeding, drinking or carousing. The young Cornellians who gathered for these first chapter meetings were serious and ambitious students out to make a name for themselves at Cornell and in the world beyond. So the Fraternity was essentially a literary society with a side agenda of convivial social intercourse. There would be time for baseball and oyster dinners, but the important issue at hand was to master the University’s publications. Thus we find that the chapter’s second meeting on 25 January was devoted to coming to terms with Alpha Delta Phi concerning a role for ΔKE on the board of *The Cornellian* and then taking steps to control the Irving Society, a Cornell literary association.¹¹

Of the charter members, two stand out in this vein. Julius Chambers 1870 would soon achieve the distinction of becoming the class Senior Essayist and go on to a distinguished career in journalism of which we will hear more.¹² And John DeWitt Warner, a most serious student of classics, would later make his mark in law, politics and the arts. More than any of the other early Dekes, he would guide the chapter on its course to distinction at Cornell.¹³

The founding of Delta Chi was celebrated on 11 February 1870, the date that the chapter officially “swung out,” with an elegant inaugural dinner held at the Clinton House, 116 North Cayuga Street.¹⁴ The affair was timed to follow the annual contest between Cornell’s two open literary clubs, an event the Dekes were keenly interested in since Chambers was the Senior Essayist for the Irving Society. In later years, the House would celebrate this date with great feasts also held in the Clinton House.¹⁵ Finally, it might be noted that 11 February 1870 is sometimes taken as the issue date for the chapter’s charter. This is certainly not the case, but one would not substantively incorrect in saying that the charter took force “at precisely eight o’clock” on this festive February evening.

A dash of cold water came but ten days later when McNair, the chapter’s vice-president, and Elsbree tendered their resignations.¹⁶ These defections were due to the active counter-recruiting of the other established fraternities on the hill; McNair threw his lot in with Pi Kappa Psi and Ellsbree joined Chi Phi.¹⁷ The following fall would see the treachery of Cullinan quitting ΔKE in favor of

¹¹ *CMM*, 25 January 1870.

¹² *DKEQ*, XL, #1 (April 1922), pp. 94-6: “Julius Chambers’ Last Book: *News Hunting on Three Continents*.” *New York Times (NYT)*, Friday, 13 February 1920, p. 11, c. 3: “Julius Chambers Dies of Pneumonia.”

¹³ *NYT* (28 May 1925), p. 21, col. 5: “J. DeWitt Warner Dies From Stroke.”

¹⁴ Warner (1884), p. 192.

¹⁵ Scrapbook of John Dewitt Warner containing a banquet program for 11 February 1876. Deceased Alumni files, #41-2-877. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

¹⁶ *CMM*, 22 February 1870.

¹⁷ Gould P. Colman, University Archivist, Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cornell University, letter to HWF dated 12 January 1989.

her chief rival, Alpha Delta Phi.¹⁸ His abjuration, though the last to trouble the chapter, would spoil Delta Chi's first attempt to form an alliance within the Greek community. There were no guarantees that Delta Kappa Epsilon would survive the competitive social climate of the new University.

The First Hall of ΔKE

The fraternity conducted its early meetings in the rooms of members, many of whom resided in the Ithaca House, a local hotel on State Street. Thus the early records indicate meetings held in the rooms of Chambers, Kellogg, Sabin, Warner, et al. This arrangement soon found to be cumbersome and a committee was formed to find a proper meeting hall in June of 1870.¹⁹ The Dekes considered sharing rooms with the Masons in a new building that was being erected by one Colonel Charles Farrar Blood (1826-98), but the price was dear: one thousand dollars.²⁰ The chapter came closer in the following fall academic term when negotiations with a Mr. Babcock offered the use of a room in the new Sprague block for four hundred dollars per annum. The chapter counter-offered with \$330 and eventually settled on the sum of \$350. The brothers obtained the use of this room from 3 June 1871 until 30 April 1873.²¹

From the beginning the chapter kept detailed accounts of every meeting in large leather bound minute books. Our detailed knowledge of Delta Chi's history comes largely from these records. In a period covering over one hundred and forty years, only a few short intervals are omitted from this substantial manuscript. The Historian blesses the good fortune of the chapter to secure the Sprague block meeting hall when it did for the Ithaca House burned to the ground on 28 August 1871 and we might otherwise have lost the first precious volume of minutes.

Cornell's Greek Community

Delta Chi quickly realized that the rivalry between competing fraternities could become unmanageable. In October of 1870, a motion "to form a league in conjunction with Alpha Delta Phi, Delta Upsilon, Phi Kappa Psi, and Theta Delta Chi" carried.²² Negotiations stumbled when Delta Chi resolved to break off the combination if Alpha Delta Phi "put up Mr. Cullinan." The Alpha Delts did not blink and the alliance did not coalesce. Some years later Delta Chi would explore the possibility of combining with Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, and Kappa Alpha to issue a secret society publication.²³ This would eventually lead to the formation of a strong and enduring

¹⁸ *CMM*, 15 October 1870.

¹⁹ *CMM*, 3 June 1870.

²⁰ *CMM*, 10 June 1870. Carol U. Sisler. *Enterprising Families: Ithaca NY* (Ithaca NY: Enterprise Publishing, 1986, Library of Congress #86-81672), pp. 96-98.

²¹ Warner (1884), p. 192.

²² *CMM*, 28 October 1870 and 30 November 1870.

²³ *CMM*, 5 December 1878.

cartel named the Star League, and Delta Kappa Epsilon would take its place along with Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, Kappa Alpha, and Zeta Psi as one of the commanding powers at Cornell.²⁴

Delta Chi's influence on the hill was noteworthy in the early years. The members deliberately strove for student honors and class offices. In this they achieved much success. *The Cornellian*, at that time exclusively a fraternity publication, became a Delta Chi fiefdom.²⁵ This was not accomplished without ruffling the feathers of the sister fraternities.²⁶ The editorial board of *The Cornell Era* also bore the stamp of ΔKE. Dekes held office, often the presidency, in the Irving, the Adelphi, the Orpheus, the Natural History Society, and the Historical Society. Several brothers obtained leading positions in the Cadet Brigade.

The chapter members were more than prominent in athletics.²⁷ The University's first boat was manned with a crew of four Dekes who later founded the Cornell Navy, the predecessor of today's crew team, and built the first boat house. The Baseball Club was captained and largely composed of brothers in ΔKE. This could also be said of the Cricket Club. However the crowning achievement was the establishment of a Cornell Athletic Association led by three Dekes (Warner 1872, Charles Addison Wheeler 1874 and Earnest Grey Sawyer 1874) and the erection of a new gymnasium that was funded entirely by a campaign run by Brother Wilbray James Thompson 1874.

Fraternity Affairs

The chapter was determined to become active in the Fraternity's affairs beyond the bounds of Ithaca. The Delta Chi delegation to the 24th ΔKE Convention hosted by Upsilon (Brown University) was instructed "to try to have the next Convention at Cornell" and to their credit, they succeeded.²⁸ On 25 October 1871, the Delta Chi Chapter welcomed brothers from all over the country who descended upon Cascadilla Hall for the 25th ΔKE Convention. The arrangements for this occasion were elaborate and carried off with considerable style.²⁹ Furthermore, the Cornell Dekes led the effort to establish a new colony of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Syracuse University: the Phi Gamma Chapter.

²⁴ James Anderson Hawes, "Private and Personal Report to the Delta Kappa Epsilon Council on Conditions with the Chapters and Alumni Organizations as of June 1930: II, DKE Chapters in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania," dated June 1930. *HQAKE*.

²⁵ *CMM*, 7 December 1877.

²⁶ *CMM*, 18 January 1878, 25 January 1878 and 15 February 1878.

²⁷ Warner (1884), pp. 194-98.

²⁸ *CMM*, 11 November 1870.

²⁹ *CMM*, 19 and 23 October 1871.

Literary Exercises

The Literary Exercise as a permanent aspect of the chapter's meetings was born in February of 1871 and would continue in good health up until World War II.³⁰ These exhibitions could take many forms: the reading of an essay or poem, a recitation, a discussion of a current news topic, or very often, a debate. These exercises were taken seriously and often became the principal justification for the meeting. Debate topics were assigned in advance and covered a broad range of social and academic matters. Thus we have the brothers vigorously engaged over issues such as, "The Question of Polygamy in reference to the U. S. Government," and "That the United States should declare war against Spain on account of the Cuban affair."

Chapter Organization and Life

The organization of the chapter was simple and not unlike that of other fraternities. From the beginning, the elected officers were conventionally titled as president, vice-president, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, treasurer, orator, poet, essayist and guide.³¹ The position of registrar was added in 1871. Ad hoc committees were appointed to handle specific tasks such as renting a meeting hall or purchasing furniture. In 1872, the titles for the principal officers changed: the president became Pater Primus, the vice-president became Pater Secundus, the corresponding secretary became Scriptor, the recording secretary became Scriba and the treasurer became known as Custos.³² The functionary positions of Chorister, Chaplain and Literary Exercise Critic were also added shortly thereafter. The House officers would continue to use these titles until 1885 when the new centralized ΔKE organization effectively standardized ritual throughout the Fraternity.

The Hayes Legacy

The chapter had in its earliest days set upon a policy that it was destined to reverse before the end of its first decade, and in doing so, obtained a great distinction for itself and the Fraternity at large. The policy in question concerned "honorary members," and Delta Chi took the position in 1873 that Delta Kappa Epsilon should not tolerate the custom of bestowing honorary memberships on dignitaries or friends even though it was a common practice in other fraternity and academic societies.³³ Thus, Delta Chi instructed Brother Frederick Baker 1874, her delegate to the forthcoming 26th ΔKE Convention, "to vote against all applications for new chapters [and] proposals for Honorary Members" and to encourage an amendment to the Fraternity Constitution requiring a unanimous vote to pass such resolutions. It is somewhat ironic that the chapter took such a strong

³⁰ *CMM*, 4 February and 8 December 1871.

³¹ *CMM*, 25 January, 19 April, 10 November and 11 November 1870.

³² *CMM*, 23 February 2 November and 12 April 1872.

³³ *CMM*, 9 May and 10 October 1873.

position in light of the fact that Cornell Professor Bayard Taylor, an honorary Deke from the Omicron chapter, was a devoted friend and advisor to the brotherhood.³⁴

The reputation and accomplishments of the Delta Chi chapter was such that it could selectively choose its members from the top tier of the University's freshmen class. Thus it is not surprising that, after a determined rush in the fall of 1873, the chapter recruited a certain Birchard Austin Hayes 1874 who later rose to be twice elected as the House's Pater Primus.³⁵ Birchard was soon followed into ΔKE by his younger brother, Webb Cook Hayes 1876.³⁶ In time the two youngest Hayes brothers, Rutherford Platt 1880 and Scott Russell 1892, and a cousin, Walter Justin Sherman 1877 would become Cornell Dekes. Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Kenyon 1842, the father of the brothers who bore his name, would also bequeath a grandson, Walter Sherman Hayes 1818, to the Delta Chi chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon. The Hayes family is perhaps the most distinguished of the House's many legacy groups.

Understandably, the end of Delta Chi's opposition to honorary members came with the disputed election of Rutherford Hayes as the nation's 19th president in 1876. The following year saw Delta Chi petitioning the 31st ΔKE Convention to bestow the honor of membership in Delta Kappa Epsilon to the nation's new chief executive. Brother George Pierre Erhard, ΓB1879, speaking as the Chairman of the Committee on Honorary Members, reported "favorably on this name" on 11 October 1877.³⁷ Several days later, Brother William Lesley Schaefer, P1878, the convention's secretary, wrote to Rutherford Platt Hayes asking him to give an enclosed letter tendering the honorary membership to his father during the coming Christmas holiday.³⁸ A second letter from Schaefer, nervously asking if the offer was accepted, survives.³⁹ His anxiety was unnecessary; the elder Hayes had been a staunch advocate of his son's membership in ΔKE at Cornell, personally paying the House fees for Birchard and Webb. Thus, Rutherford Birchard Hayes became the first president with the distinction of membership in an American College fraternity.

The Second Hall of ΔKE

The brotherhood soon decided that the appointments of the Sprague Block room were inferior to the needs of a society that busied itself with such fancy literary work. A committee was appointed to investigate new rooms in March of 1873 and a decision to obtain same was made in the

³⁴ *CMM*, 19 April 1870 and 27 May 1875.

³⁵ *CMM*, 24 Sep 1873, 30 January 1874 and 17 April 1874.

³⁶ Emily Apt Geer. *First Lady —The Life of Lucy Webb Hayes* (Kent OH: Kent State University Press, 1984). Cornell University Library E682.1.H41 G29.

³⁷ Minutes of the Thirty-First Annual Convention of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity Held With the Mu Chapter of Madison University, October 10 and 11, 1877. *HQΔKE*.

³⁸ William Lesley Schaefer, Easton PA, letter to Rutherford Platt Hayes, 19 October 1877 (Rutherford Platt Hayes Papers, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Spiegel Grove, Fremont OH 43420-2796, microfilm roll 268).

³⁹ William Lesley Schaefer, Easton PA, letter to Rutherford Platt Hayes, 29 December 1877.

following month.⁴⁰ A contract for the construction and subsequent lease of a meeting hall on the third floor of a commercial building located on the northeast corner of Tioga and West State Streets was filed and recorded on 8 July 1873. The agreement, covering a term of five years beginning on 1 September 1873, was between Mr. James T. Morrison, an Ithaca merchant and owner of the building and fourteen members of Delta Kappa Epsilon.⁴¹ The terms of the lease called for the grantor to receive the sum of \$225 annually. In return, Delta Chi obtained the use of a main hall measuring 30' x 10.5' and an antechamber measuring 15.5' x 12', both with specified finish and fittings. The building became known as the Morrison Block after its owner.⁴²

The Leggett Affair

At about this time, the Cornell fraternity community suffered a blow when Mortimer M. Leggett, a Kappa Alpha Society pledge, came to his death between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock on 10 October 1873 by accidentally falling over a cliff on the south side of Six Mile Creek during the course of initiation ceremonies.⁴³ This nationally publicized incident unleashed a virulent attack upon "secret societies" at Cornell. Delta Chi passed a motion "to draw up Resolutions of Sympathy" regarding the unfortunate Leggett and send same to Kappa Alpha, but the chapter was not disposed to change its own initiation plans despite the unpleasant political climate in town.⁴⁴ It is thus recorded "that ΔKE appalled friends and foes alike by holding her initiations, followed by the usual dinner and midnight walking—and waking—of the town."⁴⁵

Kappa Alpha was found to be without blame for poor Leggett's death, but Cornell officialdom felt the need to placate a hostile community. On 24 October 1873 the Delta Alpha Society of Cornell University, a freshman secret organization having several Dekes in membership, was thus "suppressed by the Faculty." Several members of Delta Chi were previously brothers in Delta Alpha.⁴⁶ There is no evidence that Delta Alpha was anything more than a harmless dining club, but a victim was needed and the Cornell administration demonstrated that it could react blindly and destructively when provoked. Like all "liberal" institutions, universities are, at heart, totalitarian.

⁴⁰ *CMM*, 14 March 1873 and 25 April 1873.

⁴¹ AGREEMENT dated 26 June 1873, "James T. Morrison to L. G. Boies and others, Delta Kappa Epsilon Society, Lease and Agreement," Tompkins County *Liber #7 (Deeds)*, pp. 274-6 (8 July 1873).

⁴² Daniel R. Snodderly. *Ithaca and Its Past: The History and Architecture of the Downtown* (Ithaca NY: DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County NY, 1984), p. 29. Cornell University Libraries F129.I8 S67 1984.

⁴³ *The Cornell Era*, 24 October 1873, p. 53: "Testimony in the Case of M. M. Leggett."

⁴⁴ *CMM*, 25 October 1873.

⁴⁵ Warner (1884), p. 199.

⁴⁶ Delta Alpha Society Record Book, ΔKE Depository, *CU-DRMC*. Waterman Thomas Hewett, *Cornell University: A History* (New York: University Publishing Society, 1905), v. III: "Among others established in 1870 was the Delta Alpha, a freshman society, which also continued until 1873-74."

Delta Chi did not altogether avoid troubles of its own during these formative years. A few members who dishonored themselves and their fraternity discovered that the brotherhood could dispense justice with a firm hand.⁴⁷ Brother Eaton LaRue Moses 1875 obtained the distinction of being the first member to be expelled from the chapter when the brothers judged him guilty of “dishonorable action and unworthy conduct” in 1874.

The First ΔKE Lodge

The matter of finding a proper lodge for the Cornell Dekes was a pressing issue. Delta Chi could not hope to vie with her sister fraternities without a suitable residential establishment. The problem was resolved in the late spring of 1877 when the brotherhood made arrangements to exclusively occupy a suitable building located at 111 Ozmun Place.⁴⁸ This prominent two story structure, owned by John O. Marsh and Edwin M. Hall, would become the first Deke House.⁴⁹ Although the rooms were leased individually by the brothers, and not all were needed, the chapter voted to rent the empty spaces as well to keep outsiders away and further resolved “that the house be considered a fraternity house.” The Dekes wasted no time in celebrating with an elegant party on 29 May 1877 for alumni and Cornell ΔKE faculty members in their new abode.⁵⁰

The new House, though not an architectural achievement, was comfortable and conveniently located on a corner lot near the campus. It would suffice until a permanent lodge could be built. The establishment provided individual rooms and a common area, but not a dining hall. There was also no provision for a lodge room. Thus, the ΔKE Hall in the Morrison block down town would continue to be used for meetings of the brotherhood until it was given up in the summer of 1879.⁵¹

The Ozmun Street Deke House was arguably the first fraternity lodge at Cornell, a distinction usually accorded to the Alpha Delta Phi house built nearby a year later, in 1878, on the southeast corner of East Buffalo and Spring Streets, halfway up the hill.⁵² Admittedly, the Alpha Delts did own their fine brick building which was fully appointed for the needs of gentlemanly Greek life. In 1883, Delta Chi would claim that theirs was the second best fraternity house on the hill, the Alpha Delta Phi house being the acknowledged best, the Psi Upsilon ranking third, and the Zeta Psi fourth.⁵³ All of the other fraternities were housed in “business blocks” at the time.

⁴⁷ H. W. Fogle (HWF). *Articles of Governance: Effective and in Force on 29 January 2009* (Ithaca NY: Delta Chi Association, 2009). Cornell eCommons: <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/11800>. Cf. “Expulsions, Suspensions and Censures.”

⁴⁸ *CMM*, 13 April 1877.

⁴⁹ Tompkins County NY, *Liber 11 (Deeds)*, p. 37.

⁵⁰ *CMM*, 29 May 1877.

⁵¹ *CMM*, 14 January 1879 and 16 May 1879.

⁵² Hewett (1905), III, p. 20. Murray Edward Poole, *A Story Historical of Cornell University with Biographies of Distinguished Cornellians* (Ithaca NY: The Cayuga Press, 1916), p. lvi.

⁵³ *DKEQ*, I, #1 (April 1883), p. 169: “Chapter Letters.”

By the end of the eighteen-seventies Delta Chi had initiated or affiliated some ninety-six men. Of those, four died before the coming of 1880 and one had been expelled. By any measure, the chapter had established itself at Cornell as a major fraternity.

Fraternity Affairs

The most significant event in the eighteen-eighties was the emergence of a centralized Fraternity organization as proposed by the Sigma (Amherst) chapter in 1881.⁵⁴ This plan, adopted by the 35th ΔKE Convention established the Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon, led to a formal constitution for the Fraternity, legal incorporation of the various chapters, and within two years, the launch of *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly* as the organization's serial publication.⁵⁵ Other consequences included the creation of the unique ΔKE system of heraldry with each chapter having a distinctive coat of arms based on that of the Fraternity's, and a standardized ritual.

Delta Chi can rightfully claim to have contributed much to this movement for the first Secretary of the Council was none other than Brother John DeWitt Warner 1872 who labored with great intensity to set the organization's legal and constitutional affairs in order, research the society's history, organize the heraldic scheme and publish the first issues of the *Quarterly*.

The legal status of the chapter was put to order when the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at Cornell University was formally established as a New York State corporation on 5 November 1883 "for the purpose of mental, moral and social improvement."⁵⁶ Within five years, the Delta Chi Association would be established on a similar basis to facilitate the property title and transfer transactions attendant to construction of the 13 South Avenue lodge.⁵⁷ The second entity would evolve to become the chapter's alumni association as we know it today.

The new centralized ΔKE organization brought changes to the chapter's bureaucracy as well. The old titles gave way to new Greek letter appellations circa 1884. The chapter president was now addressed as Brother Beta during the society's meetings. Similarly, the vice-president became Sigma, and so on for the recording secretary (Rho), the corresponding secretary (Iota), the treasurer (Kappa), the registrar (Alpha), the master-of-ceremonies and pledgemaster (Pi), the orator (Eta), and the poet (Epsilon). These changes were matters more of form than substance.

⁵⁴ *CMM*, 14 January 1881.

⁵⁵ Hawes & Van Duzer (1918).

⁵⁶ Certificate of Incorporation, "The Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at Cornell University," dated 5 November 1883, recorded 20 November 1883, Secretary of State, Albany NY.

⁵⁷ Certificate of Incorporation, "The Delta Chi Association," dated 9 March 1888, recorded 22 March 1888, Secretary of State, Albany NY.

Literary Exercises

Literary Exercises continued without abate during the chapter's second decade under the supervision of a Literary Committee and were considered to be an important aspect of fraternity life since they provided the brothers with excellent opportunities to practice public speaking and composition. In 1886, Delta Chi resolved "to devote still more time and energy to the literary exercises which have been so beneficial to us in the past."⁵⁸ Nevertheless, a system of summary fines became necessary to insure that the scheduled performers were properly prepared.⁵⁹ Impositions of fifty cents per offense were not uncommon.⁶⁰

Debates were, by far, the favored form of exercise, and the record indicates that they were conducted with great spirit. The brotherhood wrestled with issues great and small as indicated from this brief sample of topics recorded in the Delta Chi Chapter Meeting Minutes: "Resolved, that secret societies should be abolished in colleges," "Resolved, that the electoral college be abolished and the popular vote substituted," and "Resolved, that an attempt on the life of the president be treason punishable with death."⁶¹ Occasionally, the schedule of deliberations was interrupted to permit the reading of a poem or essay.

Chapter Discipline

No vital society lives without sin and we can be assured that the early Deke House was not immune from the ordinary temptations of the day. Curiously, it was gambling and not drinking that concerned the brotherhood. In 1880, a motion "that it be the sense of this chapter that after this term there be no card playing for money" carried.⁶² After three years, this prohibition was further refined to read "that we impose a fine of \$10.00 (ten dollars) upon any member of the Fraternity who shall be guilty of gambling for money, or for more than one cigar, or one package of cigarettes at a time, and further, that this article be adopted into the by-laws of the Fraternity."⁶³ With these restraints, card playing and the attendant use of tobacco were taken up with enthusiasm. Accordingly, in 1889, the Curator was instructed to buy four cuspidors.⁶⁴

The remedy for vice is salvation and Brother Charles Mellen Tyler Φ 1855, the pastor of the Congregational Church in Ithaca, made clear his expectations that all Cornell Dekes would attend services regularly.⁶⁵ In 1884, Delta Chi appointed a committee of three "to see about selecting a

⁵⁸ *DKEQ*, V, #1 (October 1886), p. 83: "Chapter Letters."

⁵⁹ *CMM*, 28 January 1881.

⁶⁰ *CMM*, 10 March 1881, 8 April 1881 and 29 September 1882.

⁶¹ *CMM*, 20 May 1881, 27 January 1882 and 12 February 1882.

⁶² *CMM*, 3 December 1880.

⁶³ *CMM*, 13 January 1883.

⁶⁴ *CMM*, 19 January 1889.

⁶⁵ Morris Bishop. *A History of Cornell* (Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 1962), p. 277.

pew in Dr. Tyler's church and learn [the] cost."⁶⁶ Obtaining a pew was one thing; coaxing brothers to fill it was another. Within a year Brother John Bartlett Dennis 1887 found himself urging his brothers to attend if for no reason other than to avoid offending Tyler who was an influential friend of the House.

The chapter was confronted with several disciplinary problems in the eighteen-eighties.⁶⁷ Lewis G. Fay 1882 was expelled for unknown reasons with a simple motion to that effect in a special chapter meeting convened on 30 January 1882. Within a week, Brother John Henry Humphries 1883, noted for his sarcasm and disrespect for the chapter's proceedings, resigned from Delta Chi. The disposal of these miscreants marked the beginning of a five year interval of fraternal tranquility.

This pleasant interlude came to an abrupt end in January 1887 when a House committee drew up charges against Brother William Frederic Rackemann 1889 who was promptly tried, found guilty of "bringing discredit on the chapter" and expelled. Two years later, the House found itself compelled to render a similar verdict upon Brother Clinton Bacus Struble 1891 who was judged for his "dishonorable and unworthy conduct" and sent to pack his bags.

Finances

Fraternity life has always been somewhat expensive and its pleasures are attractive to men regardless of their means to pay for them. The Custos, later Brother Kappa, soon learned that income had a nasty habit of not keeping up with expenses. Thus we find that in 1881, a reading of the House financial report "causes some pale faces."⁶⁸ The fiscal difficulties largely sprang from two causes that would prove to be lasting characteristics of the Delta Chi chapter: a taste for good living and a propensity to tolerate the accumulation of substantial unsettled house bills run up by brothers with liberal attitudes towards personal debt. Chasing down the accounts receivable from delinquent alumni would become a burden for House treasurers well into the next century.

The situation became acute in the in the early spring of 1885. A winter coal bill for \$155 could not be paid and the chapter fell into arrears on the rents due to Marsh and Hall.⁶⁹ The landlords demanded a mortgage for \$500 secured by the House's furniture and the coal bill was placed "in the hands of a lawyer." If this was not embarrassing enough, the chapter was also severely reprimanded by Brother Warner 1872 for failing to pay its subscription fees for *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*. The Custos, Brother John Bartlett Dennis 1887, who could not even settle a six dollar bill from a local merchant, estimated that the brotherhood owed some eight hundred dollars to the House accounts.⁷⁰

⁶⁶ *CMM*, 22 November 1884 and 24 October 1885.

⁶⁷ HWF. *Articles of Governance: Effective and in Force on 29 January 2009* (Ithaca NY: Delta Chi Association, 2009). Cornell eCommons: <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/11800>. Cf. "Expulsions, Suspensions and Censures."

⁶⁸ *CMM*, 12 November 1881.

⁶⁹ *CMM*, 7 March 1885 and 13 April 1885.

⁷⁰ *CMM*, 18 April 1885.

These troubles were eventually dealt with, but not without considerable strain. By June, the House accounts were only six hundred dollars in the red, some debt was retired, and a moderate lien (\$276) on the House furniture had satisfied Marsh and Hall.⁷¹ The chapter forwarded “a list of all the alumni who are indebted to the chapter” to Brother Warner who presumably used his powers of persuasion to extract cash or promissory notes from same. By the fall of 1885, the Custos could report that “a note due at the bank was paid in full.” Financial health had returned to the chapter—for the time being.

Plans for a Permanent Lodge

Serious planning for the erection of a permanent chapter lodge began in June of 1884 when the alumni met in Ithaca and resolved to raise funds “to build an ideal chapter house” and “to secure if possible, some desirable location not on, but near the campus.”⁷² The undergraduates organized a committee to solicit contributions for a house in the spring of 1885.⁷³ Shortly thereafter the ever enthusiastic Brother Warner 1872 employed the proceeds of this effort to purchase a large lot on the corner of Buffalo and Eddy Streets in the district now called Collegetown for two thousand dollars from the Psi Upsilon Association.⁷⁴

This property situated just south of the University’s estate was certainly considered as a potential site for the new ΔKE lodge. In any event its value was bound to increase as Cornell expanded and Ithaca prospered. As the funds to build a suitable lodge were not yet available, the land was destined to stand idle until 1889 when the brotherhood erected two tennis courts thereon for the chapter’s use.⁷⁵

In the interim, cash gifts from the alumni continued to amass at a substantial rate.⁷⁶ Much was done by very few if one considers that in 1888 the alumni could not have numbered more than one hundred and fifty men while the undergraduate complement of the Fraternity was typically thirty or so. Nevertheless, there was no shortage of activity. The alumni organized The Delta Chi Association, Inc., as a membership body on 22 March 1888 “to render titles valid” and support the building plans.⁷⁷

As funding became more certain, the problem of finding a proper site for the new Hall of ΔKE became less so. Collegetown, rapidly becoming a commercial appendage of the University, was

⁷¹ *CMM*, 6 June, 26 September and 24 October 1885.

⁷² *CMM*, June 1884.

⁷³ *CMM*, 13 April 1884.

⁷⁴ INDENTURE dated 1 July 1885, “The Psi Upsilon Association of Ithaca NY to John DeWitt Warner of New York NY,” Tompkins County NY *Liber 15 (Deeds)*, p. 219, recorded 17 October 1885.

⁷⁵ *CMM*, 9 March 1889. *The Ithaca Journal*, 6 May 1889, p. 3: “Town Talk.”

⁷⁶ *DKEQ*, V, 1 (3 April 1887), p. 241: “Chapter Letters.”

⁷⁷ *The Ithaca Journal*, 24 March 1888, p. 3: “Campus Notes.”

increasingly viewed as an unsuitable environment for the inherently reclusive Greek letter societies. More importantly, the University was favorably disposed towards the fraternity system as a means to provide undergraduate housing. Thus, the policy of providing campus lots for faculty residences was extended to the secret societies. Accordingly, the DeKes decided to consider alternative sites on the Cornell estate for their lodge. Although an undergraduate committee appointed on 19 January 1889 to examine potential lots on campus reported finding none that were considered acceptable, the search would continue.⁷⁸

The second decade of Delta Chi closed with the chapter prosperous and expectant. The undergraduates had learned, not without some difficulty, to manage their affairs and run a comfortable gentleman's club in a competitive environment. But the great achievement was as much political as economic; the undergraduates had cultivated a loyal alumni body who cared greatly for the chapter's future and who were willing to sacrifice as needed to build a lodge second to none.

⁷⁸ *CMM*, 19 January 1889 and 26 January 1889.

Chapter II: 1890-1899

The next decade of Delta Chi would prove to be exciting and demanding for all. The brothers would find themselves concerned with matters of finance, architecture, war and politics. The beginning of Delta Chi in the eighteen-seventies was largely a story of events in Ithaca; the world beyond mattered little. But as Dekes left the University to become loyal alumni, their careers and fortunes would come to bear upon the chapter of ΔKE at Cornell.

The Lodge

The central event of this period was the building of the great Hall of ΔKE as the lodge was to be officially named.¹ Some mention has already been made of the brothers' plans to find a site for the House and finance this ambitious construction. A word must be said about the aesthetic planning that accompanied this enterprise.

Brother John DeWitt Warner 1872 had been thinking about the design of a ΔKE lodge for some time when, in the fall of 1885, he wrote a letter to the House's Registrar requesting that descriptions of the Alpha Delta Phi lodge (erected in 1878 at 503 East Buffalo Street) and the Psi Upsilon chapter house (erected in 1885 on Central Avenue) be sent to him in New York City.² Both of these fine buildings had been designed by William Henry Miller (1848-1922), the talented and successful Ithaca architect who had already left his mark on the University with his plan for President Andrew Dickson White's house (1871-3).

It is probable that Warner and Brother Edwin Gillette 1873, who had by then established himself in Ithaca as a merchant, had no trouble in agreeing between themselves that Miller was just the man to take on the assignment of designing an ideal Deke House. The architect may have been retained for this task as early as 1888 when the following report was published in *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly* by the undergraduates.³

Much enthusiasm has been aroused within the Fraternity by the prospects of a new Chapter house being built during the coming year. Our alumni have been very active during the year just past, and have succeeded in perfecting plans which will insure us the handsomest fraternity house in Ithaca. We already have the most desirable site and await only the house to be acknowledged unapproachable by other Fraternities at Cornell.

Alas, no record survives of the communications that were undoubtedly exchanged between the key figures concerned with the design and erection of the 1893 Deke House. Miller, doubtlessly guided by Warner, conceived a form that owes much to the Romanesque Revival of Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886). As an example of this style, the Deke House is unique for its simplicity and noticeable lack of decorative detail. This was clearly intended so as to give the building an

¹ *CMM*, 6 October 1894.

² *CMM*, 21 November 1885. Bonny J. Wilkinson, Map: "The Work of William H. Miller, Architect, Ithaca NY," prepared for Historic Ithaca and Tompkins County NY, Inc.

³ *DKEQ*, VII, #1 (October 1888), p. 76: "Chapter Letter."

element of remoteness and mystery as befitting the lodge of a secret society. The prominent hip roofed dormer windows were artfully devised to look ever so much like cowed figures when seen in the twilight. The general motif of the building and its appointments are medieval.

The key project decision involved the tradeoff between size and quality. Warner, Gillette and Miller must have jointly arrived at a preference for the latter; the building featured spacious accommodations for only sixteen men, but it was constructed throughout with premium materials. In particular, the west and north facades were finished with an exceptionally fine marble furnished by the now defunct St. Lawrence Marble Company of Gouverneur NY.

The deficiency in capacity was to be remedied by a master plan for expansion of the House that was especially fitting given its role in an academic community. Thus, in 1910 when the east wing was under construction, Warner would record the intent underlying this scheme.⁴

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 other 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.

This conception of the Fraternity chapter as an independent residential college explicitly developed in the Oxbridge tradition is unique to the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Cornell University. In future years, the Fraternity would go to great pains to insure that the architectural integrity of the lodge was preserved as the physical plant was expanded. Thus, the 1906 south porch and the large 1910 addition would both be finished with the same St. Lawrence marble as employed in the 1893 edifice.

The most fascinating aspect of Miller’s design is to be found by examining the building’s proportions. The use of the ancient Golden Section Ratio ($\phi = 1.618\dots$) of Marcus Vitruvius Pollio (Roman, c. 75–15 BC) and Fra Luca Bartolomeo de Pacioli (Italian, c. 1446–1517) as a layout rule governs the placement of features throughout the west and north facades of the building.⁵ One concludes that, by this vehicle, the physical design of the lodge was intended to symbolize the classical and mystical foundations of the Fraternity. The visual result is a building that is both stately and striking.

On 6 December 1890, the chapter formed a House Committee to begin detailed planning for building. Brother Gillette 1873 accepted the task of administering the financing for the forthcoming construction. The nucleus of the required capital materialized when the Collegetown property was

⁴ *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Catalogue of 1910* (New York NY: Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon, 1910), pp. 1001-1004: “Delta Chi” by John Dewitt Warner ΔX1872. Hereafter, Warner (1910),

⁵ HWF PETITION to list the lodge of the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at Cornell University on the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, 20 August 1988. Marcus P. Grant letter to HWF, 7 November 1988.

sold for five thousand dollars on 2 May 1891.⁶ Miller was probably asked to prepare formal drawings shortly thereafter as we know that architectural plans were submitted to the fraternity on 5 December 1891 for discussion and approval.⁷

Three years of determined fund raising followed. The University loaned the chapter another five thousand dollars in 1894, and a final five thousand dollars was obtained with a mortgage from the Ithaca banking community.⁸ The service of this debt was secured by pledges of the alumni and the active chapter's anticipated revenues.

In 1891 the Fraternity had made tentative plans to build its lodge on a Cornell University campus lot situated on the northeast corner of West and University Avenues.⁹ However, by 1893 when the financing plan was beginning to take shape, a campus site previously granted by the University to the Sigma Chi Society became available and was subsequently released to Delta Kappa Epsilon on 26 September by action of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.¹⁰ The parcel, a rectangle with sides 70 feet along South Avenue and 125 feet along West Avenue, was thus secured by the Fraternity as a leasehold estate on 1 October 1893.¹¹

Construction commenced forthwith and the cornerstone was dedicated in a ceremony on 18 November 1893.¹² The name of the building contractor has never been determined, but the secret is not lost; his business card is still in the hollow of that stone.¹³ The work progressed smoothly and

⁶ INDENTURE dated 13 May 1891, "John DeWitt Warner and Lillian, his wife, of New York NY to Edwin Gillette of Ithaca NY," Tompkins County NY *Liber 138 (Deeds)*, p. 367, recorded 18 August 1891.

⁷ *CMM*, 5 December 1891. See microfilm series 4719-33-03, Cornell University Libraries, Ithaca NY, for a nearly complete set of the W. H. Miller drawings identified as "Plan Number 428."

⁸ "Executive Committee Minutes," *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 22 May 1894, Cornell University, Ithaca NY. INDENTURE dated 21 May 1894, The Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity of Cornell University in Ithaca NY to Cornell University," Tompkins County NY *Liber 92 (Mortgages)*, p. 131, recorded 25 May 1894. INDENTURE dated 1 August 1894, Delta Chi Association of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity to Charles W. Gay and Charles W. Major, Trustees," Tompkins County NY *Liber 86 (Mortgages)*, pp. 439-41, recorded 6 August 1894.

⁹ "Executive Committee Minutes," *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 28 April 1891, Cornell University, Ithaca NY. "Building Notes: The D.K.E's. have leased a lot of the University at the corner of Stewart and University Avenues, whereon they will erect a fine chapter house," *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, 27 July 1891, p. 3, col. 2.

¹⁰ "Executive Committee Minutes," *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 26 September 1893, Cornell University, Ithaca NY.

¹¹ INDENTURE dated 1 October 1893, "Cornell University to D.K.E. Fraternity," Tompkins County NY *Liber 141 (Deeds)*, pp. 386-8, recorded 25 October 1893.

¹² *Cornell Daily Sun (CDS)*, Monday, 1 October 1894, p. 1: "The D.K.E. Lodge." *The Cornell Era*, 18 November 1893, p. 92: "The D.K.E. Chapter House."

¹³ *CMM*, 11 November 1893: the materials to be placed within the corner stone are decided upon: (1) a parchment bearing the names of the active members of the chapter, the names of the chapters in DKE, and the names of the charter members, (2) a Columbian half dollar, (3) a '93 half dollar, (4) the May issue of the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*, (5) an issue of the *Cornell Daily Sun*, (6) an issue of *The Cornell Era*, (7) an issue of *The New York Tribune*, and (8) a contractor's card.

elegant edifice was ready for occupation by September 1894. A formal opening ceremony was conducted on Thanksgiving evening, 29 November 1894.¹⁴

The new lodge was a complete success. It was distinctive in appearance, handsomely situated and far more comfortable than almost any other building on campus. It soon became clear, particularly after Chi Psi took over the Fiske-McGraw mansion in the following year (1895), that the Cornell fraternities were more luxuriously housed than any of the University's academic departments.¹⁵

The old Ozmun Place Deke House was given up in the fall of 1893 when the chapter temporarily installed itself at 131 East Buffalo Street in a building "totally unfit for fraternity uses" to await the opening of the new 13 South Avenue lodge.¹⁶ The Gamma chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity took over the Ozmun Place building and used it as their lodge until 1903.¹⁷

Finances

Paying for the new lodge put a noticeable crimp into the chapter's finances. The pain began in 1893 as evidenced by a motion "to send a letter to the [47th] ΔKE Convention [held in Minneapolis MN] stating our inability to be represented this year on account of the heavy expenses to which the chapter has been put."¹⁸ The money problems did not quickly depart. In 1895, the brotherhood was still so pressed that the Scriptor was directed to send a communication to "excuse Delta Chi from furnishing punch for the [forthcoming 49th ΔKE] Convention [to be held in Syracuse NY] on account of the present state of financial embarrassment of the chapter"¹⁹. Things were bad indeed when the Cornell Dekes could not spring for fraternal drinks.

Despite the "cash flow" problems as they would now be labeled, the brothers endeavored to thank the one brother who had labored with such diligence to make the new House possible: Edwin

¹⁴ *The Cornell Era*, 25 November 1893, p. 105: "The new Delta Kappa Epsilon House on South Avenue was dedicated Saturday with appropriate exercises. Many distinguished alumni were present." *The Cornell Era*, 1 December 1894, p. 116: "Cornelliana: Thursday evening the Delta Kappa Epsilon opened its new chapter house with a dance. Nearly all the guests were from out of town. The occasion was a brilliant and enjoyable one." *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 18 November 1893, p. 3, col. 4. "Campus Notes: The Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity laid the corner stone of its new chapter house with appropriate ceremony this afternoon. This evening a fraternity banquet will be held." *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 20 November 1893, p. 3, col. 4: "Corner Stone Exercises." *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 27 October 1894, p. 3, col. 2: "Events in Society: The new Delta Kappa Epsilon Hall will be formally opened on Thanksgiving evening (November 29) with a dance given by the members for their many friends, both in and out of town."

¹⁵ *CMM*, 6 November 1895: a motion "that the chapter congratulate Chi Psi on obtaining the Fiske-McGraw mansion for their chapter house" carries.

¹⁶ *DKEQ*, XXII, 1 (January 1894), p. 61: "Chapter Letter."

¹⁷ Mr. Tim Vojtasko, Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity, 8777 Purdue Road, Suite 102, Indianapolis IN 46268 letter to HWF, dated 12 May 1987. *The Signet*, I, 5 (15 January 1897), p. 5. *The Signet*, II, 2 (15 May 1910): "Gamma Sketch" by George J. Vogel.

¹⁸ *CMM*, 10 October 1893.

¹⁹ *CMM*, 19 October 1895.

Gillette 1873.²⁰ They unveiled an “enlarged and framed picture” of the admired alumnus at the lodge’s opening ceremony in 1894 and later tendered a vote of thanks to Gillette “for his efficient work in the building of our hall.” In time, Brother Henry Reuben Ickelheimer 1888 was appointed “to confer with New York brothers in regard to procuring some present for Brother Gillette 1873 as a testimonial of our esteem.”

Gillette was not the only brother to be remembered. The Cornell Dekes conceived a memorial to all of those brothers who had died before the great lodge was erected. This took the form of two elaborate stained glass windows that were installed in the House’s main stair gallery circa 1898. These artworks by Frederick Stymetz Lamb (1863–1928), a noted practitioner in the medium of stained glass, were almost certainly commissioned by Brother Warner.²¹ The south window’s depiction of Achilles mourning over the body of his slain friend, Petroclus, is taken from Homer’s *Iliad* (Book XIX) and is closely related to the theme of a poem by Warner that was published in the 1883 inaugural issue of *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*.²²

The Star League

By the end of 1890 there were nineteen fraternities at Cornell and an established pecking order amongst them was in place.²³ The top five Houses combined to form the Star League, nominally an athletic combine, but really a social cartel that exerted varying degrees of control over the various student publications and the important arena of rushing.²⁴ The members of this organization were, in the order of their arrival at Cornell, Zeta Psi {1868}, Kappa Alpha Society {1868}, Alpha Delta Phi {1869}, Delta Kappa Epsilon {1870} and Psi Upsilon {1876}. This group would be expanded to include Chi Psi {1869} and be called the Big Six in later years.²⁵

The University apparently made an attempt to ban this admittedly elitist alliance of fraternities, but it is clear that the coalition carried on in secret, and in the minds of its members, for many years.

²⁰ *CMM*, 13 October 1894, 12 January 1895 and 18 May 1885.

²¹ Dr. David Adams, Assistant Professor of Art History, Division of the Humanities, University of Minnesota, Morris MN 56267, letter to HWF, 20 May 1988.

²² *DKEQ*, I, #1 (1883), pp. 3-7: “Our Aegis” by John DeWitt Warner ΔX1872.

²³ T. A. Leemon, ed., *Baird’s Manual of American College Fraternities*, 18th Edition (Menasha WI: The Collegiate Press, George Banta Company, 1968.).

²⁴ *DKEQ*, XIII, 2 (June 1885), p. 133: “Chapter Letter. The Star League baseball games are now on, and DKE has won two and has a good show for victory. The league consists of five of the oldest fraternities at Cornell, namely, Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, Kappa Alpha, Zeta Psi and Delta Kappa Epsilon.” *CMM*, 5 April 1890. *CMM*, 18 October 1890. *DKEQ*, XVII, 2 (June 1899), pp. 154-5: “Chapter Letter. By defeating Alpha Delta Phi early in May, Delta Chi won the championship of the Star League —composed of the five leading fraternities— and incidentally a banner valued at twenty-five dollars.”

²⁵ *CMM*, 4 December 1910.

Brother James Anderson Hawes, Φ1894, the Executive Secretary of the Council of ΔKE, would eventually describe the Star League as a “social mafia.”²⁶

Chapter Life

The day-to-day life of the chapter continued without abate throughout this period. The brothers were actively involved in campus affairs, publications and athletics. There were Dekes on the Cornell baseball, football and lacrosse teams. Delta Chi won the championship of the Interfraternity Football League in 1893 and battled its way to the top rank in the Star League baseball series in 1899. *The Cornell Widow*, the famous college humor magazine was founded by Dekes in the fall of 1894 and would continue to be a ΔKE preserve for many years.²⁷

Politics is in the blood of Dekes. This is, after all, a Fraternity that has sent four men to the White House and has produced far more jurists, legislators and public leaders than any other Greek letter society. The Delta Chi chapter was no exception to this tradition. Thus we are not surprised to find Brothers Ernest Vail Stebbins 1893, James Roscoe Davy 1894 and Frank Nelson Jewett 1893 serving on a chapter committee to organize a reception for Brother Whitelaw Reid K'56, formerly the U. S. Minister to France and the current Republican nominee for Vice President.²⁸ It is not certain, but this event may have occurred at 13 South Avenue. Alas, Reid shared the ticket with President Benjamin Harrison who lost the election to Grover Cleveland and Adlai E. Stevenson on 8 November 1892. He should have known better than to run with a non-Greek.

With the sale of the Collegetown property in 1891, the chapter lost the pleasure of its tennis court. This deficiency was rectified in 1895 when the University granted use of the land immediately to the east of the new lodge for a tennis court with the condition that Professor P. Irving Church, the Fraternity's neighbor at 9 South Avenue, approve.²⁹ This consent was obtained and a “Tennis Court Committee” was formed in due course to manage the building and maintenance of this facility.³⁰ The court was finished in the spring of the following year and was used until the land was excavated for the 1910 addition to the lodge.³¹

Discipline in the House was enforced much as in the earlier years. The odd brother who failed to conform was dealt an economical form of due process and punished accordingly. John Archibald

²⁶ James Anderson Hawes, “DKE Chapters in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania,” Private and Personal Report to the Delta Kappa Epsilon Council on Conditions with the Chapters and Alumni Organizations, June 1930, Office of the Executive Director.

²⁷ *DKEQ*, XII, 3 (November 1894), p. 277: “Chapter Letters.” *DKEQ*, XVII, 1 (February 1899), p. 71: “Chapter Letters.”

²⁸ *CMM*, 29 October 1892.

²⁹ “Executive Committee Minutes,” *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 19 March 1895, Cornell University, Ithaca NY.

³⁰ *CMM*, 18 May 1895.

³¹ *CMM*, 11 April 1896 and 13 April 1896.

Lockard 1892 was expelled in 1893 for failing to pay his long overdue initiation fee. Edgar Fay Whitney 1894 was expelled in 1896 for leaving Ithaca without troubling to pay his House bill. The brotherhood initiated a civil suit against Whitney in the following year. And Brother James Edwin Coursen 1897 was suspended from membership in 1896 after he became engaged in a drunken brawl in a down town bar.³²

Fraternity Affairs

The chapter continued with its active involvement in Fraternity affairs. Brother Maurice Francis Connolly 1897 obtained the presidency of the 50th ΔKE Convention hosted by the Gamma Chapter in Nashville TN during 1896.³³ Delta Chi continued to take strong stands on the admission of new chapters to the Fraternity and the maintenance of standards throughout the existing organization.

Certainly one of the great controversies in the Fraternity was the status of Alpha at Harvard College.³⁴ The 42nd ΔKE Convention had dealt at length with the “anomalous state” of this chapter, known in Cambridge as the Dickie Club, that took in members of other rival fraternities.³⁵ Delta Chi considered the matter in the fall of 1890 and instructed its delegates to the 44th ΔKE Convention, Brothers George White Haynes 1892 and Charles Foster Camp 1892, to vote for the expulsion of her errant sister chapter.³⁶ By the spring of 1891, the deed was done and Alpha was stricken from the rolls of ΔKE.³⁷

This excision of the Harvard chapter was traumatic for the Fraternity and would not soon be forgotten. Delta Chi’s memory of these events was refreshed in 1900 when Brother Erwin Marx 1900 spoke on “The History of the Expulsion of the Alpha Chapter” for his Literary Exercise.³⁸ The break with the Harvard Dekes was so complete and bitter that in 1909 the Delta Chi chapter felt obliged to send a letter to Brother Francis Brooks Chadwick A1871, “telling him that it would be impossible for his son to go Deke.”³⁹ This would not be the last time in the chapter’s history that a legacy was denied entry to the brotherhood.

³² HWF. *Articles of Governance: Effective and in Force on 29 January 2009* (Ithaca NY: Delta Chi Association, 2009). Cornell eCommons: <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/11800>. Cf. “Expulsions, Suspensions and Censures.”

³³ *CMM*, 21 November 1896.

³⁴ Hawes & Van Duzer (1918).

³⁵ For example, Theodore Roosevelt, Alpha ‘80, was also a member of Alpha Delta Phi.

³⁶ *CMM*, 25 October 1890.

³⁷ *CMM*, 16 October 1891: the expulsion of Alpha is endorsed by the chapter.

³⁸ *CMM*, 8 December 1900.

³⁹ *CMM*, 27 February 1909.

Cornell Greek Affairs

The issue of collateral membership in social and professional clubs was taken up with great seriousness in the Halls of Delta Chi. It was strictly taboo for a Deke to become a member of any other Greek letter society. In 1891, the Cornell chapter of Phi Delta Phi, the international legal fraternity, created some considerable controversy by recruiting members from Cornell's Greek community.⁴⁰ Brother Daniel Sanford Tuttle '92 suddenly found himself in hot water with the brotherhood when the *Cornell Daily Sun* reported that he was a new initiate in Phi Delta Phi.⁴¹ This may have been a matter of erroneous reporting on the part of the student paper, or it might have been the result of carelessness on the part of Tuttle. In any event, the hapless Tuttle took steps to expunge his name from the rolls of Conkling Inn, as the local chapter of Phi Delta Phi was called.⁴² This act preserved the honor of ΔKE on the hill. Sadly, the loyal Tuttle would die of organic heart disease in Watkins Glen NY at the age of thirty after establishing a successful practice there as a lawyer.⁴³

The policy of remaining aloof from other quasi-fraternal organizations was reinforced in 1896 when the chapter passed a motion prohibiting any member from joining the Theta Nu Epsilon society after hearing testimony that this organization was “no place for Deke.”⁴⁴ The matter was again considered in 1898 and voted down.⁴⁵ In 1899, Delta Chi resolved that no member of the chapter may join any class club other than one recognized as an honorary society.⁴⁶

Tragedy of Clinton Eugene Strong

The Delta Chi chapter of ΔKE has never known a day more tragic than that of 12 June 1892 when Brothers Herbert William Strong '94 and Clinton Eugene Strong '93 elected to go for a swim in one of the deep pools in Fall Creek with a party fellow Dekes. The next day's local newspaper gave a chilling account of what transpired.⁴⁷

Young Strong, after swimming for some time, remarked to his brother that he was exhausted. The older brother said to Clinton, “Put your hand on my shoulder and I'll

⁴⁰ *CMM*, 21 January 1891: Delta Chi debates the current “Phi Delta Phi controversy” during a chapter meeting.

⁴¹ *Cornell Daily Sun*, XI, 61, Thursday, 29 January 1891, p. 1, col. 1: “Cornell's New Greeks.”

⁴² *CMM*, 31 January 1891: Delta Chi holds a special meeting “to discuss the best means of denying the report which appeared in the [*Cornell Daily*] *Sun* a few days previous as to Brother [Daniel Sanford] Tuttle '92 being a member of Phi Delta Phi. After various discussions pro and con it was decided to leave the matter in Brother Tuttle's hands.”

⁴³ *Cornell Alumni News*, 29 September 1899. *The Watkins Democrat*, 17 August 1899: “Death of Daniel S. Tuttle.”

⁴⁴ *CMM*, 9 May 1896.

⁴⁵ *CMM*, 16 April 1898: a proposed by-law amendment, “that all DKE men be allowed to go Theta Nu Epsilon (Θ.N.E.),” is discussed. *CMM*, 7 May 1898.

⁴⁶ *CMM*, 3 June 1899.

⁴⁷ *Ithaca Journal*, 13 June 1892: “Clinton E. Strong Drowned.”

swim in with you.” In this position, the two brothers started for the shore, but when the older looked around as he neared the bank, expecting to see Clinton swimming after him, he was nowhere to be seen. His hand had slipped from his would be rescuer’s and without a sound or a struggle he had gone down. The party immediately began diving in search of Strong, but time quickly ran out; it took over four hours before the body was recovered. The remains were brought back to the Ozmun Place Deke House where various means of revival were tried with no real hope of success. An escort of six brothers brought the body back to Strong’s family in Cleveland OH on the following day. The chapter went into a thirty day period of mourning and accepted the kind offer of the Chi Phi Fraternity to take over the DKE box at the Senior Ball and escort their guests.

The Steward’s Department

Now, with the new lodge finished, the chapter finally had facilities for dining in. But the brothers would soon discover that the management of kitchen, cook, pantry and serving staff was not so easy a task. They had no past experience with such affairs and so we are not surprised to learn that the enterprise got off to a bumpy start. On 8 December 1894, the House resolved to consider plans for dining in the lodge, but the chapter’s immediate financial situation did not permit action to be taken.⁴⁸

In February of 1896, the matter was brought up again and a committee of three brothers was appointed to “investigate the question of eating in the house.”⁴⁹ A limited breakfast service was instituted and by the end of the year action was taken to add luncheon and dinner offerings.⁵⁰ The office of steward with the entitlement of its holder to board without charge was created on 6 January 1897 and Brother John Nelson Stockwell, Jr. ‘97 was elected as the first steward of Delta Chi.⁵¹

Stockwell hired a full time cook who offered to reduce her salary by \$1.70 per week if she were allowed to live in the House. The steward saw the logic in this arrangement and suggested partitioning off a room in the kitchen for this purpose.⁵² This was presumably done. Within a few days of his election, he proposed some practical rules governing the dining room that were subsequently enacted by the chapter:

- Doors will close weekdays at 9 AM and on Sundays at 10 AM.
- Bills [are] not to run behind more than two weeks except by vote of the chapter.

⁴⁸ *CMM*, 8 December 1894 and 19 October 1895.

⁴⁹ *CMM*, 22 February 1896.

⁵⁰ *CMM*, 28 November 1896 and 3 December 1896.

⁵¹ *CMM*, 6 January 1897.

⁵² *CMM*, 9 and 16 January 1897.

- An extra charge of twenty-five cents will be made for each guest.
- No allowance will be made for absence unless the brother will be gone for more than three days.
- The price of board shall be four dollars a week to begin with and if [costs] amount to more, a per capita assessment will be made.

By mid-February, Stockwell discovered that his accounts were out of balance.⁵³ The first four weeks of operation had already resulted in a deficit of \$95 with an average expense of \$4.30 per brother per week. The situation worsened quickly in the following three weeks. Stockwell, discouraged and probably sick of the entire affair, announced that he would resign at the next chapter meeting. On 13 March, he reported that costs had risen to an alarming \$16.50 per week for each boarder and submitted his resignation. The brotherhood wisely refused to accept it. Instead, they reinforced the management of the Steward's Department by creating the office of Assistant Steward and electing Brother Philip Henry Bradley '98 to serve in this position.

With this additional help, the accounts soon stabilized and the dining operation no longer threatened to bankrupt the House. Bradley was elected to the office of Steward on 15 May 1897, assumed the duties of that office on the following month, and ran a successful kitchen throughout his term.⁵⁴

The next administration was less competent. Brothers Philip Brundage Windsor 1900 and Frank Scouller Porter 1900 were elected as Steward and Assistant Steward, respectively, on 19 April 1898.⁵⁵ By December, they reported that the active chapter owed some two hundred dollars to their department.⁵⁶ The uncollected board bills amounted to three hundred dollars by April of 1899.⁵⁷ Eventually these debts would be settled, but the Steward learned that putting food on the table was only half of the battle. Getting the brothers to pay for it was just as great a challenge.

Alumni Accomplishments

Delta Chi alumni were pursuing distinction in their chosen careers with as much fervor as the undergraduates were displaying at Cornell. Julius Chambers 1870, the senior charter member of Delta Chi, took up journalism with the *New York Tribune* under Horace Greeley (1811–1872) and became famous almost immediately when he explored the headwaters of the Mississippi River by canoe in 1872 and discovered the true source of the mighty river: Lake Elk.⁵⁸ For this exploit, he was made a member of the Royal Geographical Society and the creek draining Lake Elk was named

⁵³ *CMM*, 13 February, 6 March, 13 March and 20 March 1897.

⁵⁴ *CMM*, 15 May 1897 and 16 April 1899.

⁵⁵ *CMM*, 19 April 1898.

⁵⁶ *CMM*, 17 December 1899.

⁵⁷ *CMM*, 10 April 1899 and 16 April 1899.

⁵⁸ *Dictionary of American Biography* (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1930), II: "Julius Chambers."

after him. Returning to New York, he investigated allegations of patient abuse in Bloomington Asylum by having himself committed as an insane patient. By 1886, he was the managing editor of the *New York Herald* and in the following year he left for Europe to launch the *Paris Herald* which, of course, was the antecedent of the *Paris Herald Tribune*. He wrote many books, stories and two plays which were produced in New York.

This remarkable career had an equally remarkable beginning. This is the story of how Chambers landed that first critical job with Greeley's paper.⁵⁹

Graduated from Cornell in 1870, he at once came to New York and applied for a position on the Tribune staff. He started out with only thirty dollars in his pocket, no letter of introduction, and no family friends to whom he could have delivered them. It was typical equipment for a typical young American of that time. But he had his diploma (he had worked his way through college to get it) and a DKE fraternity pin. Curiously enough—or perhaps naturally, for the fraternal spirit is not a mere matter of form—the pin was an amulet that brought good fortune at the moment of need; for the would-be journalist had been rebuffed rather unceremoniously by Horace Greeley and other editors, and the prospect did not seem bright when he came back to the Tribune office (he had the great gift of coming back without delay) to make another attempt to get what he wanted. This time he saw Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the managing editor, and the little story of his reception was worth quoting. “Here was a very different type of man from any I had met. The grave tolerance with which he heard me say I wanted to learn the newspaper business was without encouragement. He explained that the staff was already too large and that all reporters who could be spared were ‘let go’ in summer. I remember the phrase ‘let go’ for I had never heard it before... I rose to leave, when ‘W.R.’ saw upon my waistcoat a DKE Fraternity pin. He sprang to his feet—how tall he was!— and extended his right hand...”

It is hard to say where this lucky ΔKE pin might be today, but in 1931 it turned up at the Cornell Club of New York on Madison Avenue.⁶⁰

The name of John Dewitt Warner 1872 is ubiquitous throughout the history of Delta Chi. His name was no less well known to Cornellians and to men of affairs in the world beyond. For this account we will only remind the reader that he was a prominent New York City lawyer who was vigorously interested in the arts, free trade, education and the organization of societies. The following list does not do justice to the career of this remarkable brother:

- First Editor of *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*;
- First Secretary of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Council, 1882-83;
- Member of 52nd and 53rd U. S. Congresses, 1891-95;

⁵⁹ *DKEQ*, XL, 1 (April 1922), pp. 94-6: “Julius Chambers’ Last Book: *News Hunting on Three Continents*.”

⁶⁰ Tom Ludlam, Manager, Cornell Club of New York, letter dated 23 November 1931, in student file of Julius Chambers, CU-DRMC.

- Alumni Trustee of Cornell University, 1882-87, 1893-98, and 1903-08;
- President, Art Commission of New York City, 1902-05;
- President, American Free Trade League, 1905-09; and
- Special Counsel, New York City Dock Department, 1911-12.

The slow disintegration of Spain as a world power would have a profound impact on the Cornell Dekes. Brother Mario Garcia Menocal '88, an aristocratic Cuban by birth, fought with distinction in the Cuban War of Independence (1895-98). He would later find himself allied with ΔKE Brothers Theodore Roosevelt, A1880, Webb Cook Hayes 1876, Milton Cheney Miller and 1899, Clifton Beckwith Brown 1900, who entered the conflict when the United States entered the war against Spain with an invasion of Cuba.⁶¹

Menocal quickly rose to prominence as a military leader even though he had been trained as an engineer at Cornell. On 30 August 1897, he distinguished himself at the Battle of Victoria de las Tunas.⁶² On this occasion, “he made such skillful disposition of men and guns that competent witnesses have said that the conduct of this battle stands out in the entire record of the Revolution as the one combat in which the Cuban forces were disposed and directed in accordance with the principles of military science. Not only did General Menocal direct the operations in pursuance of a well-considered plan, but he is said to have led his soldiers in the assault with intrepid courage.” In time, Menocal would display similar political talents and become the third president of the Republic of Cuba.

Brother Webb Cook Hayes 1876, son of Brother Rutherford Birchard Hayes, joined the 1st Ohio Calvary and fought with Brother Theodore Roosevelt in Cuba during the American Intervention of the Spanish American War. He was wounded and a horse was shot out from under him during the assault up San Juan Hill, the same engagement that cost the life of Brother Clifton Beckwith Brown 1900 1900. Major Hayes carried on despite his injuries to serve as acting adjutant- general, quartermaster and commissary officer. One could argue that the Spanish hold on Cuba was undone by Dekes with some help from others.

Hayes then accepted a posting with the 31st U. S. Volunteer Army in northern Luzon to fight against the Filipino insurrectionists. On 4 December 1899 an American force encamped near the village of Vigan found itself completely surrounded and besieged by the enemy. That night Colonel Hayes conducted a lone penetration the of enemy’s lines to assess the situation and coordinate the insertion of a relieving force. For this act of gallantry, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

⁶¹ *CMM*, 11 February 1899: Brother Milton Cheney Miller '99 “gives a very interesting talk on DKE and [the] Cornell spirit he saw while he was in the Astor Battery.”

⁶² William Belmont Parker. *Cubans of Today* (G. P. Putnam’s Sons, New York, 1919). Willis Fletcher Johnson. *The History of Cuba* (B. F. Buck & Company, Inc., New York, 1920), IV.

The sad loss of Brother Clifton Beckwith Brown at the battle of San Juan Hill on 1 July 1898 is a story told elsewhere.⁶³ The chapter rebuilt the library mantle as a memorial to this highly regarded brother just as the century was coming to its end⁶⁴. Brown's heroic sacrifice also led to a historic visit by Brother Roosevelt to the Cornell Deke House on 20 June 1899. The famous Rough Rider planted two Norway Spruce trees on the west lawn in memory of the fallen soldier. On 11 February 1989, the New York State Department of Environmental Preservation officially recognized these stately conifers by placing them on *The New York State Registry of Famous and Historic Trees*.

The undergraduates were perhaps closer to the alumni during this era than at any other time in the society's history. To be sure, the common goal of building a lodge was a factor, but there is little doubt that this relationship was sincere and strong. The death of an alumnus was a matter for grief in Ithaca and the record shows that the active members took careful note of each loss.⁶⁵ Often a formal period of mourning was observed and resolutions were published frequently in *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly* as when Brother William Root Everett '91 passed away on 22 November 1891.

WHEREAS it has pleased Almighty God in his infinite wisdom to take from us
Brother William Root Everett '91, and

WHEREAS in his death we lose a brother ever noble and true,

RESOLVED that we tender to his bereaved parents our most heartfelt sympathy in
this their great affliction, and be it

RESOLVED that the Delta Chi chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon, as a token of their
esteem and affection, go into mourning for a period of thirty days, and be it

RESOLVED that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the parents, and a copy
be spread upon the minutes.

House Rules

The House retained its prohibitions against poker and other card games, and in 1897 ruled "that no intoxicating liquors be brought into the Hall (except by consent of the chapter or for medicinal purposes) and that these rules apply to brothers living out of the House."⁶⁶ However, the brothers were not abstemious. There was moderate drinking at parties, and the local college bars provided

⁶³ HWF, "The Roosevelt Spruce Trees," *The Cornell Deke House — A History of the 1893 Lodge* (Ithaca NY: The Delta Chi Association, 1993), Chapter IV, pp. 33-38. Cornell University Libraries LJ75 .D315 1993z +.

⁶⁴ *DKEQ*, XVII, 2 (June 1899), p. 155: "Chapter Letters."

⁶⁵ *CMM*, 23 November 1891. *CMM*, 18 January 1893: [Special Meeting] Motions "to appoint a committee to draw up resolutions on the death of ex-president and Brother, R. Hayes," and "for [the] chapter to go into mourning for [a period of] thirty days" carry. Former President Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Hon., died on the previous day.

⁶⁶ *CMM*, 14 February 1891: the Brotherhood resolves "that no poker playing or other gambling card game be allowed in this or any other chapter house of Delta Chi of D.K.E." *CMM*, 9 January 1897.

refreshments for those so inclined. The House did see an occasional keg of beer enter its doors from time to time.⁶⁷

The brotherhood has never been an egalitarian society. Upperclassmen ruled, underclassmen submitted, and order was generally preserved. This order was often embodied in the form of House Rules that were enforced with uncompromising efficiency. In 1893, the chapter formally adopted the following policy and took steps to insure that the freshmen were well taught in the expectations of the brotherhood.⁶⁸

“In accordance with the traditions of the chapter and in pursuance of what is deemed best for its welfare, the following regulations for initiates are read to you with the idea of showing the attitudes which the chapter maintains towards certain practices which are prevalent amongst students. It is to be understood that no freshman shall frequent saloons, and that such practice is in direct violation of the sentiment of the chapter. It is also required that during his first year, every member of Delta Chi shall refrain from gambling, gross immorality or any act which shall tend to bring the chapter into discredit. It being conceded that Upperclassmen having been long in the university and being men of larger experience, it is expected that underclassmen will defer to them, seek their counsel and be guided by it in all matters of common interest.”

In 1896, Brother John Nelson Stockwell, Jr., BX'97, drew up, and the chapter enacted, the following rules governing the conduct of freshmen members.⁶⁹

- 1) No freshman shall be allowed to become a member of the freshman eating club known as ‘Sruigs.’
- 2) No freshman shall be allowed to partake of intoxicating liquors in any place where such liquors are sold —excepting such freshmen be accompanied by another member of the Fraternity of at least one year standing.
- 3) It is the unwritten law of the chapter that freshmen shall at all times both in the hall and outside of it conduct themselves as is fitting to their rank and experience, that they shall willingly attend to such minor tasks as the occasion may demand, that they shall accept the suggestions of upperclassmen in the spirit in which these suggestions are given [and] whose advice at all times they shall solicit and follow thus insuring each to the other helpfulness and congeniality.

In time there would be other constraints imposed on the underclassmen. For example, in 1898 Brother Beta would feel obliged to remind the freshmen of “the rule that no freshman go into any place where liquor is sold unless accompanied by an upper classman of this Fraternity.”⁷⁰

⁶⁷ *CMM*, 12 Feb 1898: Brother Kendall asks what is to be done concerning a certain keg of beer which was purchased without authority during the Thanksgiving vacation.

⁶⁸ *CMM*, 10 October 1893.

⁶⁹ *CMM*, 2 October 1896.

Rushing

Rushing at Cornell was fiercely competitive and occasionally chaotic. The Dekes expended great efforts in picking through the entering freshman class and bidding those men who were the most promising. Occasionally an injustice was done, but the intended result of assembling a highly congenial body of men was accomplished on a steady and consistent basis during these years. A freshman who was talented in both sports and literary pursuits was likely to be considered worth looking over. Legacies, those men having a relative in Delta Kappa Epsilon, were prized. On the other hand, it did not help to be poor, arrogant, politically liberal, or in some cases, Jewish, if one wished to gain admittance to the Halls of ΔKE.⁷¹

Anti-coedism

The fraternity system was hostile to the very idea of co-educational students.⁷² This was particularly true of the conservative societies in the Star League —and Delta Kappa Epsilon was decidedly a conservative House. It was considered absolutely taboo for a brother even to be seen with a co-ed, and these young ladies were not to enter the Halls of ΔKE under any circumstances. A relaxed form of this prohibition (applying only to freshmen) continued at the Deke House until 1939.⁷³

This tradition of Anti-coedism as it was called did not imply misogyny on the part of the brotherhood. The Dekes established a reputation for having the finest House parties that were well attended by ladies of the “proper” sort. The ballroom (parlor) of the new lodge saw many pleasant dances.⁷⁴ However, when the brothers were “urged to get girls here for Junior Week,” the message was understood to mean ladies from out of town.⁷⁵

Literary Exercises

Literary Exercises had fallen into decline by 1890 and largely took the form of reciting the ΔKE Chapter Roll, the blazon of the Fraternity coat of arms or the Admonition Oath during chapter meetings.⁷⁶ By 1895, we read of the Critic complaining “that Literary Exercises should be of a more

⁷⁰ *CMM*, 22 October 1898.

⁷¹ *CMM*, 16 January 1897: Mr. “H. M. Stein’s name is proposed [for membership] by Brother Pi, but as some of the brothers thought that he was of Semitic origin and was not especially desirable. Anyway, his name was dropped.”

⁷² Bishop (1962), p. 347. The author refers to a sensational article “on the ostracism of coeds, especially by the better fraternities” that appeared in the 24 June 1894 issue of *The New York Herald*.

⁷³ *Delta Chi Deke*, VI, #1, p. 2, col. 1: “Dekes Resolve to Enforce Tradition of Anti-coedism.”

⁷⁴ *CMM*, 18 May 1895 and 29 January 1896.

⁷⁵ *CMM*, 17 January 1897.

⁷⁶ *CMM*, 26 April 1890. *CMM*, 10 January 1891: The Literary Committee submits a “list of exercises for January” that includes Beta’s Charge, Chapter Roll, Escutcheon, Catechism, News of the Week, Essay and Recitation as the assignments. *CMM*, 2 February 1895. *CMM*, 25 May 1895.

literary nature.”⁷⁷ The brotherhood responded somewhat glacially to this observation, but by the end of the decade the exercises regained much of their former quality. Readings of essays and short stories became more frequent. The brotherhood was favored with an occasional poem and sometimes a returning alumnus would give an entertaining talk on his experiences in the world beyond. As always, the Critic would conclude the session by assessing the performer’s subject material and delivery. The subjects covered the usual wide range —from Brother Lester Norton Cobb’s paper on “The Division of China by the Powers” to an informal talk on “Life at Yale by Brother John Vincent Miller, Phi ‘97.”⁷⁸

ΔKE Pin

The familiar ΔKE pin or badge did not achieve a standardized design throughout the Fraternity until 1897 when the 51st ΔKE Convention hosted in Chicago IL by the Delta Delta chapter and the ΔKE Northwestern Alumni Association adopted “a new official badge.”⁷⁹ However, the Delta Chi chapter had been wrestling with the problem for several years before. To be certain, there had been ΔKE pins of various designs from the earliest days of the Fraternity and the Ithaca chapter had made the procurement of pins a priority issue from its very inception in 1870.⁸⁰ In 1890, Brother Warner donated a pin from that era, possibly his own, to be worn by “the oldest active member” of the chapter —at that time, Brother Charles Locke Etheridge ‘90.⁸¹ Sadly, this treasured artifact is among the missing.

In 1891, Delta Chi adopted a modification of the pin designed by the Alpha Chi chapter (Trinity College) as their choice for a “standard D.K.E. pin.”⁸² Three years later, the brotherhood resolved that “that every brother must have a regulation ΔKE pin” and “that all new members must buy their pins from a regulation jeweler.”⁸³ However, the design for this badge was still very much up in the air. In 1896, Brother Robert Julius Thorne ‘97 proposed “that we adopt the pin, Yale design, submitted by Brother [Harold Herbert] Hill ‘97.”⁸⁴ The brotherhood accepted this plan with the provisos that the inscription “Cornell” appear beneath the scroll and “that all DKE pins be worn

⁷⁷ *CMM*, 13 April 1895.

⁷⁸ *CMM*, 22 January 1898.

⁷⁹ Hawes & Van Duzer (1918), p. xxx.

⁸⁰ *CMM*, 11 January 1870.

⁸¹ *CMM*, 8 November 1890.

⁸² *CMM*, 21 February 1891: the chapter also selected the colors of the D.K.E. flag over those of the escutcheon as the official colors of the chapter.

⁸³ *CMM*, 29 October 1894.

⁸⁴ *CMM*, 14 September 1896.

over the heart.”⁸⁵ The Fraternity eventually did away with the secondary inscription of the college name, but all else remains as it was at the turn of the century.

As the century came to a close, the brotherhood had good cause to be pleased with the progress of their society. It had achieved distinction at Cornell and in the world. The lodge at 13 South Avenue was a monument to the Fraternity’s noble principles. It embodied thrift, camaraderie, discipline and a keen aesthetic awareness. The Dekes had found their place in the sun.

⁸⁵ *CMM*, 4 October 1896: a motion that “this pin or the regulation [DKE Fraternity pin] be worn by the brothers except on full dress when they may wear a small pin of the same shape and style as the pin adopted if they wish” carries. A motion “that all DKE pins be worn over the heart” carries.

Chapter III: 1900-1912

The first years of the twentieth century were ones of prosperity and relentless development for the Cornell Deke House. The 1893 lodge was luxurious by any standard of the day and the brotherhood found itself busy with the tasks of keeping up their property and adapted it to the needs of a vigorous and demanding clientele. Chapter life at 13 South Avenue was convivial by any measure. In 1900, a motion “that brothers assemble every evening after dinner to spend fifteen minutes singing songs” carried and the brotherhood promptly procured song books to facilitate this activity.¹ Friday evenings were declared to be Fraternity Nights and the brothers were expected to remain in the House until midnight “unless excused by Brother Beta.”² This custom was modified slightly in 1904 by designating Saturday evening as Fraternity Night.³

The ΔKE social life was festive and elegant as indicated by this account of plans for the 1906 Junior Week.⁴

Contrary to the usual custom, from Wednesday, February 1st, to Sunday, February 5th, has been set apart for a Junior Week, so that hereafter we may not have the pleasure of cutting classes for a whole week while our girls are here. We expect to have here in the House about fifteen girls, counting chaperons. On Tuesday night, January 31st, the Ice Carnival is held on Beebe Lake, provided the warm weather doesn't get in ahead of us and melt the lake. Wednesday night the Masque gives its annual Junior Week play, “The President of Oolong,” at the Lyceum. Brother Baird is Property Manager this year, and Bartholomay is on the cast. Following this comes the Sophomore Cotillion. Thursday night the Musical Clubs give a concert in which Brothers Earle and Peavy participate and following this several fraternities give their dances. We give ours that night and consider it the best of all. Friday night the Junior Prom is held in the Armory, and we expect to dance all night. Saturday is Registration Day for the second term and the girls leave, and we lose ourselves in sleep for a whole day in order to go up on the hill Monday morning with smiling faces and joy in our hearts.

Life in the House was the epitome of student comfort. Dekes lived better than most of the University's poorly paid faculty. They dined well at table, enjoyed cigars from the House Smoke Shop and let the House servants tend to their numerous tasks. The Smoke Shop, as its name implied was a concession established to stock and sell tobacco products to the brothers.⁵ It started as an independent entity in 1908, ran modest deficits during its first year, was placed into a form of receivership under the supervision of the Steward, and, finally in 1910, was taken over by the

¹ *CMM*, 13 January 1900 and 18 February 1900.

² *CMM*, 20 January 1900.

³ *CMM*, 1 October 1904.

⁴ *DKEQ*, XXIV, 1 (February 1906), pp. 83-4: “Chapter Letters.”

⁵ *CMM*, 20 October 1907.

House and administered by the Finance Committee.⁶ The business became profitable when tennis balls were added to the Smoke Shop's range of merchandize.⁷

There were, altogether, five House servants.⁸ The head retainer was the loyal Houseman, Mr. James H. Taylor, who undertook all repair and maintenance chores. He was assisted by a "second man" who tended the coal furnaces and kept the grounds presentable. The Steward's Department employed the remaining three: two cooks and a waiter.

Lodge Room

The lodge room of the 1893 Deke House located in the basement beneath the parlor pleased no one.⁹ The chamber, lacking heat, ventilation and proper furnishing, soon fell into disuse.¹⁰ A Heating Committee, formed in 1901 to determine the feasibility of adding steam heating, concluded that this improvement was inadvisable.¹¹ Thus we read of a motion "that literary exercises be held upstairs owing to the cold" carrying in 1905.¹² The brothers voiced similar complaints about the air, the ceiling and the general state of disrepair of the room. Committees were duly appointed to attend to these matters in 1907 and 1908, but these efforts were piecemeal and largely ineffectual.¹³

Finally, in the spring of 1909, Brother Coleman Clark Keeler, BX1910, led a team of freshmen in a major renovation of the lodge room.¹⁴ The result of this labor was admired by the brotherhood, but the lack of adequate seating capacity and the stubborn problem of ventilation remained at year's end.¹⁵ The space never had the makings of an adequate lodge room and the brotherhood would not miss it when a proper solution arrived in 1910.

⁶ *CMM*, 13 February 1910.

⁷ *CMM*, 21 April 1912.

⁸ *CMM*, 13 December 1908.

⁹ Miller's floor plan for the basement is missing (perhaps by design to maintain secrecy). The original arrangement of access stairs, passages and chambers may have been different than today's plan.

¹⁰ *CMM*, 27 April 1901: Brother Stewart Burchard 1902 "objects to non-use of lodge room."

¹¹ *CMM*, 18 May 1901.

¹² *CMM*, 15 January 1905.

¹³ *CMM*, 12 October 1907: Brother Beta appoints a committee "to look into the ventilation of the [lodge] room." *CMM*, 18 April 1908: A motion "that a committee be appointed to attend to the ceiling of the lodge room" carries. *CMM*, 9 May 1908: Brother Coleman Clark Keeler, Beta Chi 1910, suggests "that repair of the Lodge Room be attended to immediately."

¹⁴ *CMM*, 27 February 1909: The Lodge Room Committee "asks that no meeting be held for two weeks" in order that renovations to the lodge room might be made. 248. *CMM*, 25 April 1909: Motions that a "vote of thanks" be extended to Brother Keeler and the freshmen who assisted him in renovating the Lodge Room carry.

¹⁵ *CMM*, 3 October 1909: "A discussion on [the] size of the present chapter" takes place during a chapter meeting. A motion "that a committee be appointed by the Beta to look into seating capacity of Lodge Room with power to enlarge it" carries. *CMM*, 12 December 1909: A motion "that a committee be appointed by the chair to look into the ventilation

Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings continued to serve as the key Fraternity forum even if the lodge room was not as comfortable as some would have liked. The schedule was somewhat erratic, but there were generally two meetings in any given month. Guides pulled the curtains and locked the street doors while the brothers repaired to the cramped and stuffy lodge room.¹⁶ Brothers dressed formally beneath their robes for these proceedings and answered the roll call by snapping their fingers.¹⁷ Freshmen were finally granted the right to wear fraternal gowns in 1904.¹⁸ The brotherhood might then open the meeting with a song before launching into the serious business of the evening.¹⁹

Literary Exercises

Literary Exercises, generally the last scheduled event in the course of a chapter meeting, became increasingly popular as the range of acceptable material was expanded as indicated by the following sample.

8 March 1902. Readings on “Marine Engineering by Brother William Robert Couch 1902 and “Extracts from the Eulogy by Secretary Hay on Ex-President McKinley” by Brother John Leland Mothershead, Jr. 1903 are given. Brother Howard Sawyer Harrington, Gamma Beta, “speaks on Fraternity life at Columbia.”

25 April 1903. A talk on “Caricatures and Cartoonists of Past and Present” by Brother August Marx 1903 and a reading from “Billy Baxter” by Brother Stanley Sellman Oberrender 1906 are presented.

10 May 1903. A “reading of [the] deed between Cornell University and DKE Fraternity,” by an unidentified brother, “an informal talk on motor drives” by Brother John Leland Mothershead, Jr. 1903, and a reading of a “selection from the Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly on [the] laying of [the] cornerstone of [the] present chapter house” by Brother Erle Lochrane Austell 1904 are given.

29 February 1908. Brother Joseph Benson Turner, Jr. 1909 gives “a talk on the financial situation” and Brother George Frederick Hewitt, Jr. 1910 gives “a reading from Tennyson.”

of the Lodge Room” carries. *CMM*, 19 December 1909: Brother Alan Graeme Darling 1911, speaking “for the lodge room committee, reports on [the] progress of the ventilating scheme.”

¹⁶ *CMM*, 17 May 1903: Motions “that guides shall not answer [the] door bell” and “to pull down curtains” during chapter meetings carry.

¹⁷ *CMM*, 5 October 1901: A motion introduced by Brother John Leland Mothershead, Jr. 1903 that “the Brothers snap their fingers hereafter in answering to the roll call” carries. *CMM*, 10 May 1903.

¹⁸ *CMM*, 4 December 1904: a motion “that the freshmen be allowed to wear robes at the meetings” carries.

¹⁹ *CMM*, 21 November 1908: the chapter meeting opens with the song, “In Yankee Land There Lives a Maid.”

16 October 1910. Exercises include a reading from Bliss Perry's Study of Prose Fiction by Brother Franklin Hiram Smith 1911, and talks on "Submarine Boats" by Brother William Ayers Bordon 1912 and "Production of Gold in Colorado" by Brother Halsey Vanderlieth Welles 1913.

20 November 1910. Brother Adolph Reutlinger 1913 talks on "The Filtering Plant in Louisville" and Brother William Ryves Casparis 1913 describes "Quarrying Stone".

15 January 1911. Talks on "The Disposition of the Negro in the United States" by Brother George Edmoude Saunders, Theta Zeta 1912, and "The Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis" by Brother Donald McGraw 1913 are given.

The Literary Exercise was infused with a modest amount of ΔKE dogma in 1904 when it was ruled "that at every meeting hereafter, some part of the Constitution of the Fraternity [will] be read as a part of [the] literary exercises."²⁰ Extemporaneous speaking became so popular that by 1911 chapter meetings were often begun with a short address in addition to the scheduled literary event.²¹

House Rules and Discipline

Anything that affected the brotherhood or the reputation of the House was worthy of discussion during chapter meetings. Underclassmen were frequently admonished to behave in a manner that would reflect favorably on the Fraternity.²²

In 1900, Brother Erwin Marx 1900 proposed four important House Rules that were enacted by the brotherhood after debate and amendment.²³

- I. That all seniors that are more than one term's dues in arrears be given three days to show sufficient cause why they should not be suspended for the non- payment of dues.
- II. That any member of the chapter [who] at the end of his Junior year being more than \$25 in arrears stand suspended until such dues be paid unless extension of time be granted by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the active chapter.
- III. That no man who is not in the University can continue to be an active member of the chapter.

²⁰ *CMM*, 4 December 1904.

²¹ *CMM*, 15 January 1911: A motion "that one of the brothers be appointed each week just before the meeting to give an extemporaneous address" carries.

²² *CMM*, 24 February 1900: brothers speak "on drinking, ...on freshmen going in student's resorts with underclassmen, [and] on swearing." *CMM*, 18 October 1902: Brother John Leland Mothershead, Jr. 1903 "speaks to [the] freshmen regarding their position in the house, on the streets and in the University."

²³ *CMM*, 27 May 1900, 2 June 1900 and 9 June 1900.

- IV. That no member of the Delta Chi Chapter of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity be allowed to join any underclassmen society —be it social or otherwise— without the consent of a majority of the upperclassmen.

These rules were not only put on the books, but they were also enforced, and this strict enforcement contributed much to the chapter's fiscal wellbeing and amity.²⁴ The prohibitions against joining other Greek letter societies such as the Delta Chi Law Fraternity and social clubs such as Undine were also spelled out formally in House Rules.²⁵ And the Cornell Dekes were not above chiding their brothers in the Lambda chapter for “taking in a man of another fraternity” when the issue came up.²⁶

Alcohol presented problems, then as now. The chapter was not particularly abstemious, but there was some desire to regulate consumption in the best interests of the community. In 1904, the following amendment to the by-laws was proposed and then “laid on the table indefinitely, or until such occasion arises to bring it up.”²⁷

Resolved, that if a member of this chapter shall bring into the Hall at night a quantity of intoxicating liquor without the permission of the chapter, the Beta shall, within two days, suspend the brother for one week. During this suspension, the brother cannot eat, sleep or remain in the Hall.

The House was kept in order, in part, by a committee of four brothers who policed the ball room (parlor), library and main hall, and confiscated any items of apparel found lying about. Brothers recovered their property by paying a fine of five cents per item.²⁸

In fact, many House Rules called for monetary fines to be levied against the offenders, and the Beta was broadly empowered to summarily fine errant brothers for their transgressions.²⁹ The gravity of the offense was often indicated by the severity of the fine. For example, the penalty for harboring an uninvited house guest in the lodge overnight cost the brother \$1.00, but “any brother not back the day rushing opens” was destined to pay a fine of \$5.00 for each day that he was absent. The guilty parties could appeal to the brotherhood for remission, but this was generally an exercise in futility.

There were no expulsions and only one short term suspension during this era. However, two Brothers, Charles Remsen Robinson 1911 and Coleman Clark Keeler 1910, were censured joy riding about the campus. The age of the automobile had arrived.

²⁴ Note the case of Brother Hayward Hutchinson Kendall 1900 herein.

²⁵ *CMM*, 28 Mar 1903, 18 April 1903, 29 October 1905 and 24 November 1905.

²⁶ *CMM*, 11 January 1902: A motion introduced by Brother Stewart Burchard 1902 that “the Scriptor write a letter to the Kenyon chapter of DKE to the effect that we thoroughly disapprove of taking in a man of another fraternity” carries.

²⁷ *CMM*, 16 April 1904 and 30 April 1904.

²⁸ *CMM*, 17 November 1907.

²⁹ *CMM*, 16 and 26 May 1901.

Finances

The general financial condition of the House was quite strong in the first decade of the twentieth century despite the burdens of paying for a first class lodge and undertaking an ambitious program of improvements to the building. Much of the credit for this happy state of affairs must be given to Brother Edwin Gillette 1873 who, acting as the brotherhood's principal advisor, wrote in 1902 to urge the "brothers to keep in good financial condition during the coming year."³⁰ The chapter responded by raising the room rent to \$40 per term and dues to \$20 per term so that all expenses were adequately covered.³¹ This did not forestall a modest cash shortfall in the spring of 1904 when the Custos reported deficits of \$800. But the problem was promptly dealt with by dismissing one of the House servants (leaving poor Taylor to "do all the work after this") and the chapter was soon back on sound footings.³²

One important factor in maintaining solvency was the chapter's intolerance for debtors. In 1900, Brother Hayward Hutchinson Kendall 1900 fell into arrears with his House bill.³³ The brotherhood promptly passed a motion "that Kendall be suspended for six months or until the payments be made." Kendall soon liquidated his indebtedness to the House and all was forgiven.

In 1905, Delta Chi enacted an amendment to the chapter bylaws stating that "There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of Beta, Curator and Custos to consider all House expenses. Its duty shall be to consider all suggestions made by others or thought of by itself on House improvements and to report its work and its advice concerning these improvements to the fraternity in formal meetings."³⁴ This institutional arrangement proved to be not only durable, but effective. The Finance Committee controlled the chapter's purse strings with an iron hand and even managed to give the patient Taylor a modest raise in time.³⁵

Town and Gown

The residents of 13 South Avenue probably never gave the municipality of Ithaca a second thought. Chapter, Fraternity and University were more than sufficient to occupy the minds of the undergraduates. However, this happy state came to an end in 1912 when the local civic leaders decided to enact a tax on the fraternities to support the building of a new town high school.³⁶ The

³⁰ *CMM*, 18 October 1902.

³¹ *CMM*, 14 February 1903.

³² *CMM*, 9 January 1904, 13 February 1904, 16 February 1904, 20 February 1904 and 22 May 1904.

³³ *CMM*, 9 June and 29 September 1900.

³⁴ *CMM*, 8 January 1905.

³⁵ *CMM*, 2 May 1909: A motion "that if finances of the House can stand it, that it is sentimental [sic] of the House that Taylor's salary be raised" carries. The matter is put in the hands of the Finance Committee. *CMM*, 9 May 1909: A motion "that [the] recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted and Taylor be given \$50 per month during University year and \$25 during summer months" carries.

³⁶ *CMM*, 27 October 1912.

matter came up before the new IFC, there was little that could be done.³⁷ The Dekes were stuck with an unexpected tax bill of \$437.50 and were forced to postpone payment on the mortgage bonds for the new wing.

Curiously, this issue of city taxes would come up again fifty years later with disastrous effect to Delta Chi.

Steward's Department

The financial performance of the Steward's Department continued to be somewhat bumpy throughout this period. The expenditures for food service had a disturbing propensity to exceed revenues and the brotherhood briefly considered closing the dining room in 1903.³⁸ A separate board billing plan was devised so that deficits incurred in the kitchen would not immediately drag the House accounts down to ruin. This artifice allowed dining to continue, but did nothing to correct the fundamental cause of the problem: the prevailing delinquency in the payment of weekly board bills.

In 1904 the Steward's Department would report having a current debt of "over \$1000" and published the names of those brothers who were in arrears.³⁹ True to form, the next year saw some improvement. In fact, the Steward's Department was affluent enough to purchase a set of dishes decorated with the Delta Kappa Epsilon escutcheon.⁴⁰ Some of this prosperity was doubtlessly due to the vigorous enforcement of "the two weeks limit rule" that called for the exclusion of brothers from the House table if they were more than two weeks in arrears.⁴¹ However, the up and down cycle would continue.

In 1907, a special committee charged with investigating the Steward's Department delivered a detailed and critical report on the accumulated indebtedness and general mismanagement of the House food service operations.⁴² A program of corrective actions was soon proposed and successfully carried out by the chapter.

³⁷ *CMM*, 3 November 1912.

³⁸ *CMM*, 21 February 1903: [Informal Meeting] Delta Chi considers "closing the dining room," but after some deliberation, a motion "that the dining room be kept open and that brothers present should pay for the meals themselves, but that the entire active chapter should pay for the servant's salary" carries.

³⁹ *CMM*, 13 February 1904: Custos "reports that the brothers [still] owe over \$500 from last term" and the Steward's Department reports a current debt of "over \$1000." *CMM*, 30 April 1904.

⁴⁰ *CMM*, 8 October 1904 and 15 January 1905.

⁴¹ *CMM*, 14 May 1905.

⁴² *CMM*, 3 November, 23 November and 7 December 1907.

Fraternity Affairs

Delta Chi's relationship with her sister chapters and the Fraternity at large was uneventful during this period. The brotherhood endorsed the expansion of ΔKE to Leland Stanford University and resisted the establishment of a chapter at McGill University in 1900.⁴³ The delegates to the 55th ΔKE Convention (Washington DC, 1901) were instructed not to act "too hastily in regard to expelling the smaller chapters" when the issue was raised. A stronger stand was taken two years later when the Delta Chi delegates to the 57th ΔKE Convention (Syracuse, 1903) were instructed to vote against any measures to expand the Fraternity, but in the following year the chapter's representatives to the 58th ΔKE Convention (Chicago, 1904) were allowed to "use their own judgment in regard to action to be taken on the application for a new chapter at the University of Illinois and be guided by the opinions of the Chicago Dekes and the Brothers of Delta Delta."⁴⁴

As time went on, there was a noticeable hardening in Delta Chi's heart. Delegates to the 64th ΔKE Convention (Detroit, 1910) were instructed "to vote for the abolishing the chapters in Rutgers (Phi Chi), DePauw (Psi Phi) and City College of New York (Nu)," but given discretionary power in passing upon removal of the chapter at R.P.I."⁴⁵ The next year again saw Delta Chi voting to strip the Phi Chi and Nu of their charters at the 65th ΔKE Convention (Chicago, 1911).⁴⁶ Delta Chi delivered one last attack against Nu in 1912 and then called it quits.⁴⁷

A minor tradition of exchanging House gifts between chapters of Delta Kappa Epsilon had evolved in the nineteenth century. Thus we find Delta Chi exchanging lodge pictures with the Theta and Alpha Chi chapters of ΔKE in 1902.⁴⁸ Later that year the brothers sent a Cornell flag to the Rho chapter in exchange for a Lafayette flag.

One tragic event marred these otherwise placid years for the Fraternity. On 28 October 1905, Mr. Stuart L. Pierson 1909, a candidate for membership in the Lambda chapter of ΔKE, was accidentally killed by a train during initiation exercises at Kenyon College in Gambier OH.⁴⁹ Damaging press reports that young Pierson had been tied to the tracks proved to be without foundation. The inevitable national outcry against fraternities blew throughout the land, but in the end nothing came of it.

⁴³ *CMM*, 10 November 1900 and 28 October 1901.

⁴⁴ *CMM*, 24 October 1903 and 13 November 1904.

⁴⁵ *CMM*, 23 October 1910.

⁴⁶ *CMM*, 26 November 1911.

⁴⁷ *CMM*, 24 November 1912. *CMM*, 2 December 1912: Delta Chi instructs its delegate "to vote for the expulsion of the Nu chapter" at the Memphis convention.

⁴⁸ *CMM*, 18 January and 6 December 1902.

⁴⁹ *DKEQ*, XXIV, 1 (February 1906), pp. 32-44: "The Kenyon Accident." *Sigma Chi Quarterly*, XXV (1905-06), pp. 231-235.

Alumni Relations

Delta Chi's competence at managing relations with her alumni cannot be disputed. The key to this endeavor was simply maintaining a steady flow of chapter communications from Ithaca to the widely disbursed alumni. Firstly, a "Delta Chi Chapter Letter" was published in most issues of *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*. This short epistle covered a wide range of topics: news of Dekes making Cornell athletic teams, names of new members, mention of House renovation projects, visits of alumni, etc. Secondly, the chapter published an annual "alumni letter" that was mailed directly to all Delta Chi graduates.⁵⁰ This little booklet was more formal and carried a complete summary of the year's events and an address list of the membership.

These regular and formal communications were supplemented by other activities aimed at tightening the fraternal bonds between the undergraduates and the alumni. For example, in 1902, Brother August Marx 1903 sent pictures of the lodge's public rooms to interested alumni, and later in the spring Brother Clarence Gearhart Crispin 1902 organized an alumni "reunion boat ride" on Lake Cayuga.⁵¹ And the continuing obligation of the Scriptor, Brother Iota, was to faithfully answer every alumnus letter. In turn, the alumni responded with gifts and assistance to the chapter. These ranged from short term loans, decorative gifts to the House and once even a stuffed deer's head.⁵²

Rushing and Legacies

In 1908, President Schurman proposed "to arrange a better rushing system" to replace the procedures that had grown increasingly chaotic over the years.⁵³ The Cornell fraternities, after considerable debate, voted to carry out a series of reforms.⁵⁴ The Star League cartel had broken down by this time and Δ KE was compelled to compete on a somewhat more level playing field with the other houses.⁵⁵ Nevertheless, the Dekes were able to maintain their standards and

⁵⁰ *CMM*, 9 November 1901: A motion that "a committee be appointed to look after the alumni letter" carries. *CMM*, 25 April 1902: Brother August Marx 1903 "reports that all articles for the alumni letter have been handed in." *CMM*, 10 May 1902. *CMM*, 7 December 1907: The Librarian "reports that the Chapter Letters to date have been bound and that they are now in the library." *CMM*, 18 April 1908: The Chapter Letter Committee "announces that arrangements for printing have been made, and requests that all material be handed in promptly."

⁵¹ *CMM*, 25 January 1902 and 31 May 1902.

⁵² *CMM*, 3 February 1900: "Brother Beta speaks of letter from Brother [Henry Rueben] Ickelheimer '88 in regard to \$500 loan." *CMM*, 1 Mar 1902 The chapter declines to pay freight charges for transporting to Ithaca a deer's head that was given to the house by an alumnus.

⁵³ *CMM*, 9 May 1908.

⁵⁴ *CMM*, 16 May 1908: Brother Lindsley reports that the Cornell fraternities voted 19 for and 12 against the newly proposed rushing rules. Delta Chi proposes a modification to the rules to be submitted if the opportunity occurs.

⁵⁵ *CMM*, 8 April 1905: Brother Anton Vonnegut 1905 speaks of his talk with Mr. Saleskey concerning revival of the Star League and advises secrecy concerning the matter.

preferences for admitting new men. The House was unquestionably an Anglo-Saxon-Protestant preserve.⁵⁶

The rushing competition between fraternities became intense by 1910. The Star League (Zeta Psi, Alpha Delta Phi, Kappa Alpha Society, Psi Upsilon and Delta Kappa Epsilon) revived and expanded with the addition of Chi Psi to form the Big Six.⁵⁷ This loose cartel preferred late or second term rush of the freshmen.⁵⁸ Naturally, this policy was at odds with the smaller houses who sought to pick over the freshman class early in their somewhat desperate attempt to survive. President Schurman again embroiled himself in this controversy in 1912 and, with compromise, a rough harmony was reached.⁵⁹

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) was born of this dispute and its eventual settlement.⁶⁰ The association might have easily disappeared, but Brother Albert Carlton Miller 1912 first pressed the brotherhood to pass a motion “that it be the sentiment of this chapter to enlarge [the] power of [the] rushing association to deal with other fraternity matters” and then worked with the fledgling IFC to make this a reality⁶¹. However, this was not the end of the Star League. Deke continued throughout this period to organize an inner coalition with these powerful houses and much of the IFC policy was made in secret “meetings of the five.”⁶²

The bonds of blood between the undergraduates and the alumni were astonishingly abundant. Legacies abounded in the Deke House. The following tabulation lists but a few examples of family groups within the Delta Chi chapter.

⁵⁶ *CMM*, 25 April 1903: Delta Chi decides “to ask Mr. Lehman around” after hearing of letters “relative to reconsideration of election” from Brothers Erwin Marx 1900 and Clark. *CMM*, 10 May 1903: The chapter decides “to have him [Mr. Lehman] around for dinner.”

⁵⁷ *CMM*, 4 December 1910.

⁵⁸ *CMM*, 26 February 1911: A motion introduced by Brother Saunders “that the details about rushing be left to the Committee of Five on Rushing Rules and be framed according to the sentiment expressed in chapter meeting[s]” carries. *CMM*, 26 Mar 1911: A motion “that chapter go into agreement to postpone initiation of freshmen until second term provided these fraternities are included: namely, Psi Upsilon, Kappa Alpha [Society], Alpha Delta Phi, and Chi Psi” carries.

⁵⁹ *DKEQ*, XXX, 4 (December 1912), pp. 316-7: “Chapter Letters.”

⁶⁰ *CMM*, 24 Mar 1912: A motion introduced by Brother Albert Carlton Miller 1912 “that it be the sentiment of this chapter to enlarge [the] power of [the] rushing association to deal with other fraternity matters” carries.

⁶¹ *CMM*, 31 Mar 1912: Brother Albert Carlton Miller 1912, speaking about a newly formed organization to govern fraternity affairs, reports “that rushing will not be put off ‘till the second term, [and that the] name of the organization is the Inter-Fraternity Association.”

⁶² *CMM*, 21 April 1912. *CMM*, 28 April 1912: A motion “that [Delta Chi] delegates [to the alliance of five fraternities] be instructed to make, if possible, a majority of four instead of three at the meeting of the five” carries. *CMM*, 30 April 1912.

Progenitor/Legacies —Relationship

Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Hon.

Birchard Austin Hayes 1874 —son
Webb Cook Hayes 1876 —son
Walter Justin Sherman 1877 —nephew
Rutherford Platt Hayes '80 —son
Scott Russell Hayes '92 —son
Walter Sherman Hayes 1918 —grandson

John DeWitt Warner

Joseph DeWitt Warner 1902 —son
John DeWitt Warner III 1931 —grandson

Edwin Gillette 1873

Douglas Graves Gillette 1912 —son
Edwin Spence Gillette 1914 —son
Paul Gillette 1919 —son

Mario Garcia Menocal '88

Aldopho Jose Menocal '88 —cousin
Mario Garcia Menocal III [y de Almagro] 1944 —grandson
Christopher Thomas DeAlmagro 1908 —1st cousin (once removed) to MGM III
1944

Frank Warren Cool '95

Charles Leroy Cool 1903 —brother
Willard Cameron Cool 1916 —brother
Benjamin Dorrance Beyea 1910 —second cousin
Benjamin Dorrance Beyea, Jr. 1944 —son of BDB 1910
Frank Harrington McCormick 1910 —uncle to BDB, Jr. 1944
Robert Lockhart McCormick 1946 —son of FHM. 1910

Library

The Librarian had frequent cause to report during chapter meetings. This officer procured books for the library shelves and managed the continuous inflow of periodicals that the brotherhood subscribed to. The brothers' taste in newspapers was oddly fickle and they kept the librarian busy with various directives to start, stop and change subscriptions.⁶³ Books were generally obtained in sets after formal approval of the membership was given.⁶⁴ These volumes were imprinted with the

⁶³ *CMM*, 15 January 1905.

⁶⁴ *CMM*, 22 Mar 1902: A motion "that the house buy the ten volumes of after dinner speeches by the most illustrious men of the day" carries.

chapter seal and frequently referred to for Literary Exercise material. The Librarian was also put in charge of maintaining the House scrapbook and photography album.⁶⁵

Grounds

The grounds were also improved throughout this era. The lawns were regularly sodded and tended by the House and Grounds Committee.⁶⁶ In 1903, Brother Warner developed a landscaping plan for the House that called for adding new trees to the north and south lawns. These were duly planted throughout the spring.⁶⁷ And in 1908, we read of the House Tennis Committee reporting that renovations costing some \$80 to the court were “well underway.”⁶⁸

The Student Committee

Dekes took pride in their University studies and instituted several institutional procedures to insure that all members kept their grades up. An *ad hoc* Student Committee to oversee the academic work of underclassmen was in operation as early as 1908.⁶⁹ In 1910, the Scriptor was instructed to maintain a Prelim File that contained University examination papers for every course (except law) that the brothers and pledges were registered in.⁷⁰ More importantly, the House enacted a bylaw that formally established the Student Committee and spelled out the duties of this standing body.⁷¹

- I. The University scholarship of the freshmen shall be under the supervision of a Student Committee to be composed of a senior and a junior, the senior member acting as chairman.
- II. This committee must obtain on the first of each month a report on the condition of the university work of each freshman and sophomore in each subject pursued by him during the previous month.
- III. This committee has the power to control the conduct of each member of the underclasses where they, in their judgment, believe that other university activities

⁶⁵ *CMM*, 12 May 1908: A motion “that the Librarian take charge of stunt picture book and collect all pictures he can” carries.

⁶⁶ *CMM*, 3 May 1902.

⁶⁷ *CMM*, 4 October 1902: A motion “that trees be planted at the south of house provided the expense is reasonable” carries. *CMM*, 21 Mar 1903 Brother Warner’s plan for planting trees is approved by the chapter with the work to be completed by the end of the month.

⁶⁸ *CMM*, 18 April 1908.

⁶⁹ *CMM*, 26 October 1907: The Student Committee “requests freshmen to hand in a list of their studies and professors.” *CMM*, 10 October 1908.

⁷⁰ *CMM*, 16 October 1910.

⁷¹ *CMM*, 23 October 1910.

interfere with the proper execution of said underclassman's university subjects. Where the case demands, this committee may, in its discretion, require an underclassman deficient in his university work to report to an upperclassman, and under his supervision in the house, devote a certain time per day to his university work. Final action to be made after appeal to the chapter.

- IV. Each underclassman must report at each meeting under the head of 'general criticism' the marks received in a preliminary examination in any course in the university taken the previous week, or mark given out in [the] previous week.

Expansion and Renovation

By 1900, the chapter's membership had expanded far beyond the capacity of the small 12 x 15 foot dining room. It was quite impossible for the entire brotherhood (roughly forty-five men) to sit down together for a common meal. Accordingly, the House Committee was reconstituted in the fall of that year and Architect Miller was invited to plan an extension to the refectory.⁷²

There were only two realistic alternatives open to Miller: he could either extend the room to the east by sacrificing the pantry or to the west by enclosing the northwest loggia. Practicality and the pantry won out; the brothers approved his plans on 15 December 1900 and resigned themselves to the loss of the loggia and its delightful view of West Hill.⁷³ On the positive side, the new five hundred square foot refectory allowed comfortable seating for all who wished to dine in the House.

Other renovations to the parlor were carried out at the same time.⁷⁴ The most important was the addition of bracing to the floor so that it would not collapse into the lodge room beneath during the course of a crowded dance party.⁷⁵ The extent and effect of these projects was reported in a Chapter Letter published in *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*.⁷⁶

"The chapter house is being extensively improved. The ballroom has been done over in red and gold, the ceiling being covered with heavy ingrain paper, while the walls are adorned with painted can vas. The dining-room will be finished in hardwood, with wainscoting seven feet high and a beam ceiling formed of heavy oaken panels and beams. This room will cost \$1,500, \$1,000 of which was

⁷² *CMM*, 17 November 1900: Brother Chatillon 1901 "reports for the House Committee and says that Mr. [William Henry] Miller, the architect, has looked over the house." *CMM*, 8 December 1900: Brother Warner 1902 "reports on Mr. Miller's plan for fixing up the dining room."

⁷³ *CMM*, 15 December 1900: Also, "Brother Warner 1902 speaks on the plans for the new dining room." A motion "that the plans be accepted as they are" carries.

⁷⁴ *CMM*, 6 January 1901: [Special Meeting] Brother Warner 1902 reports on improvements recently made to the House Ball Room.

⁷⁵ *CMM*, 26 January 1901 A motion by Brother David Rader Thomas 01 "that floors in [the] ballroom and dining room be braced at the expense of the house" carries.

⁷⁶ *DKEQ*, XIX, 1 (February 1901), p. 56: "Chapter Letters."

bequeathed to the chapter by Brother Brown (a loyal Deke and a true soldier) who was killed in the battle of Santiago.”

Another embellishment to the building’s interior came with the 1902 gift of a third stained glass window from Brother Sigmund Meyer Lehman 1879, a member of the distinguished New York merchant banking family. This art work was installed in the main stair gallery at the third floor level.⁷⁷

The next major addition to the house fell clearly into the category of luxury: the 1906 south porch.⁷⁸ The intent was to create a large out-door extension to the parlor that could “be used for dancing during the spring and fall.”⁷⁹ This required that the lodge’s building lot be expanded. Accordingly, on 1 June 1906, a five foot wide strip of land was added to the south border of the original property rectangle to accommodate the new porch with its accompanying west facade walkway leading to the hall’s main entry.⁸⁰ The leasehold estate would now measure 70 x 130 feet.

The construction work, accomplished by the Ithaca Contracting Company, was completed just before the University opened for the fall term.⁸¹ The architect, possibly William Miller again, maintained the stylistic integrity of House by employing the same St. Lawrence marble as was used for the lodge’s principal facades and using paired Tuscan columns to support the large hipped roof. The result was pleasing to the eye and vastly improved the appearance of the lodge’s south facade.

Other improvements to the House accompanied the porch project. The basement level “tower room” was handsomely refurbished to serve as a billiards room.⁸² The father of Brother Roscoe James Hackney 1908 donated a fine billiard table for this purpose.⁸³ The parlor’s plaster ceiling was torn out and replaced with “elaborately carved” oak panels that have since been painted over. Finally, the library’s oak beam ceiling was installed to complete the dignified decor of that room.⁸⁴

⁷⁷ *CMM*, 10 May 1902 and 17 May 1902.

⁷⁸ *DKEQ*, XXIV, 2 (June 1906), p. 144: “Chapter Letter. A stone porch will also be added to the House.”

⁷⁹ *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 15 August 1906, p. 6, col. 6: “Dekes to Have Handsome Porch; Fitting a Commodious Billiard Room Below Stairs.”

⁸⁰ “Executive Committee Minutes: The application of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity for permission to build a porch on the south side of their house, partially beyond the limits of their lease, was referred to Trustee Blood to report on it, and all fraternity leases and holdings upon the campus.” *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 21 April 1906. “Executive Committee Minutes: “That a strip of land five feet wide south of and adjacent to the south line of the land leased to the D.K.E. Fraternity on October 1, 1893, be leased to the D.K.E. Fraternity of Cornell University upon the same terms and conditions as those specified in the above named lease, the time of expiration to be co-temporaneous with the time of expiration specified in the original lease.” *Ibid.*, 29 May 1906.

⁸¹ *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 15 August 1906, p. 6, col. 6. Ms. Margaret Hobbie, Director, DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County, 116 North Cayuga Street, Ithaca NY 14850, letter to HWF, 3 August 1988.

⁸² *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 15 August 1906, p. 6, col. 6.

⁸³ *DKEQ*, XXIV, 2 (June 1906), p. 144.

⁸⁴ *DKEQ*, XXIV, 3 (November 1906), p. 219: “Chapter Letters.”

Fire

Tragedy struck Cornell's Greek community on 7 December 1906 when the elegant Chi Psi Fraternity House, the former McGraw-Fiske "chateau" designed by William Henry Miller, tragically burned to the ground in a fire claiming the lives of four students and three Ithaca firemen.⁸⁵ The impact of this loss was immediate and profound on the Delta Chi chapter of ΔKE. The lodge's wiring was inspected, found to be suspect and largely replaced.⁸⁶ An automatic fire alarm system was installed and steel fire escapes were added to permit emergency egress from the third floor.

More importantly, the brotherhood established the House Fire Protection Committee as a permanent organizational fixture.⁸⁷ This body, appointed by the Beta and chaired by the House Fire Warden, was charged with the responsibility of maintaining all fire prevention, alarm and related safety systems. Brother Joseph Benson Turner, Jr. 1909 was chosen to be the first Fire Warden of the Delta Chi.⁸⁸ The work was taken seriously and every chapter meeting included a report from this officer and his successors.⁸⁹

The 1910 East Wing

The climax to this productive decade was the addition of the 1910 east wing. The need for expanding a building that could only house sixteen men had been apparent for some time. The thought of crowding more brothers into the same space had been briefly considered and quickly dismissed in 1902.⁹⁰ The Dekes were not going to do without their comforts.

On 11 October 1909, Delta Chi established a Building Committee consisting of one senior and two juniors "to work with Brother Gillette 1873 to have plans drawn up for [an] addition."⁹¹ The informal planning for this step must have been going on for some time since in the same meeting, the brotherhood selected the architectural firm of Gibb and Waltz of Ithaca NY to carry out this assignment, and extensively discussed the form that this new structure might take, "especially [the] position of the Lodge Room."

⁸⁵ Kermit Carlyle Parsons. *The Cornell Campus* (Cornell University Press, Ithaca NY, 1968).

⁸⁶ *DKEQ*, XXV, 1 (February 1907): "The terrible disaster which recently befell the Chi Psi Fraternity has caused us to make several improvements in our house as a prevention against fire."

⁸⁷ *CMM*, 28 September 1907.

⁸⁸ *CMM*, 12 October 1907.

⁸⁹ *CMM*, 6 March 1910: The chapter Fire Warden "reports everything in good shape [and] warns against tampering with [the] apparatus." *CMM*, 17 April 1910: "The Fire Warden reports the purchase of fire extinguishers for \$27.00."

⁹⁰ *CMM*, 27 September 1902: The brotherhood decides "that only two men shall room in all rooms except the two north rooms where three shall room."

⁹¹ *CMM*, 11 October 1909. The architects were Arthur Norman Gibb (d. 1949) and Ornan H. Waltz (d. 1927).

Progress followed rapidly. Within a week, Gibb had visited the House “to look over the ground” and convinced the Building Committee that the best way to solve the lodge room problem was to design the wing with a prominent carriage portal: “the arch.”⁹² Gibb drew up rough plans and the Building Committee solicited suggestions and comments from the membership.⁹³ Gibb’s “final” plans were ready by Thanksgiving when they were forwarded on to the Executive Committee of the Cornell University Board of Trustees for approval.⁹⁴ That body promptly referred the matter to a committee.

A snag quickly developed.⁹⁵ The new wing would require expansion of the ΔKE building lot over the ground currently taken up by the ΔKE tennis court. This would bring the building considerably closer the chapter’s immediate neighbor to the east: Professor P. Irving Church who resided at 9 South Avenue. On 5 December, Brother Henry Howard Bennett 1910, speaking for the Building Committee, reported “that erection as planned is impossible because of objections raised by Professor Church.” Two days later, the University’s Executive Committee referred the matter back to its committee “to investigate and report.”⁹⁶

By January of 1910, a compromise was soon worked out. The University allowed the ΔKE lot to be augmented with a seventy-five foot wide strip of land on the eastern border to accommodate the addition.⁹⁷ This grant carried the stipulation that “the east wall of said extension to be of brick or stone and to contain no windows except such as may be stationary and glazed with cathedral or prism glass or otherwise so that the interior may be invisible from the outside.”⁹⁸ This restriction presumably placated Professor Church.

The revised building plans were ready in February.⁹⁹ The addition included six new studies, seven bedrooms, an accommodation suite for visiting alumni, and a large chapter room.¹⁰⁰ The Elmira NY firm of J. Allington & Son, Inc., was selected to be the building contractor.¹⁰¹ Construction

⁹² *CMM*, 17 October 1909: the Building Committee reports “that the architect, Mr. [Arthur N.] Gibbs [sic], has been up to look over the ground... and that the arch is the only feasible plan in the addition.”

⁹³ *CMM*, 31 October 1909.

⁹⁴ Executive Committee Minutes, *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 30 November 1909, p. 50: “The approval of plans for additions to the D.K.E. Lodge was referred to a committee consisting of the Chairman of the Committee on Buildings and the Chairman of the Committee on Grounds.”

⁹⁵ *CMM*, 5 December 1909.

⁹⁶ Executive Committee Minutes, *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 7 December 1909, p. 53.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 4 January 1910, p. 62.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 18 January 1910, p. 67.

⁹⁹ *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 24 January 1910, p. 6, col 4: “Fraternity Home to be Enlarged.” *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 25 February 1910, p. 5, col. 3: “Terse Tales. The plans for the addition to the Delta Kappa Epsilon lodge have been completed by Gibb & Waltz and have been turned over to the contractors so that the latter can prepare their estimates.”

¹⁰⁰ *DKEQ*, XXVIII, 2 (June 1910), p. 117: “Chapter Letters.”

¹⁰¹ *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 14 March 1910, p. 6, col. 5: “Elmira Firm Gets Contract; J. Allington & Son, of Elmira, to Rebuild Frat House.”

commenced in March and was completed in the fall.¹⁰² The cost of the addition was approximately \$25,000, that sum being financed with bank loans that were secured by pledges of the alumni and revenues from the active chapter.¹⁰³

The new lodge room in the addition was officially opened on 12 November 1910 with an elegant ceremony.¹⁰⁴ Many alumni attended including Brother Julius Chambers 1870, the first Delta Chi Deke. They saw much to admire. Gibb had dutifully expanded William Henry Miller's great ΔKE lodge without compromising the architectural integrity of the original building.¹⁰⁵ This must have been deeply satisfying to the older alumni who revered tradition.

One casualty of the new wing was the House's tennis court. However, the brotherhood was not about to do without this amenity. The Dekes petitioned the University for permission to rebuild the court to the south so that it sprawled beyond the border of the ΔKE lot.¹⁰⁶ This allowance was duly given and the brotherhood enjoyed their tennis court until 1984 when the University tore it down to put in a parking lot.¹⁰⁷

In Memoriam

Some had luck and others not a whit. This decade would see some of the Chapter's most heartbreaking losses.¹⁰⁸

Brother Franz Victor von Marbach Provost 1900 died at Brooklyn NY of unknown causes on 24 May 1901, less than a year after completing his course in law and taking a wife. He was said to leave New York City for Ithaca, "coming here only for an occasional exam." A classmate celebrated his custom with the couplet, "V stand for Victor, or constant vacation."

There is no story sadder than that of Brother Tallmadge Hepburn Brereton 1900 who attended the New York Military Academy at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson with none other than Brother Clifton Beckwith Brown 1900.¹⁰⁹ Brereton and Brown then came to Cornell, joined Deke, and when the

¹⁰² *CAN*, XII, 25 (23 March 1910), p. 292: "Enlarging the D.K.E. House." *CAN*, XIII, 4 (19 October 1910), p. 37: "New Fraternity Houses; Buildings in the Fall Creek and West Avenue Sections." *Ithaca Daily Journal*, 4 March 1910, p. 3, col 3: "Building Records May All Be Broken; Present Indications are for Much Construction Work."

¹⁰³ *CDS*, 27 September 1910, p. 6, col. 2, continued from p. 3: "Campus Improvements During the Summer."

¹⁰⁴ *CMM*, 12 November 1910. *DKEQ*, XXX, 1 (February 1912), pp. 56-7: "The New Home of Delta Chi"

¹⁰⁵ William S. Downing, William Dowing Associates, Architects, Ithaca NY, letter to HWF, 15 February 1988: "Unfortunately, the Gibb & Waltz drawings were destroyed by Mrs. Gibb after the death of her husband."

¹⁰⁶ "Executive Committee Minutes," *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 17 May 1910, p. 62.

¹⁰⁷ "Executive Committee Minutes," *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 31 May 1910, p. 119. *CMM*, 16 April 1911: Brother Welles, speaking for the Grounds Committee, reports that the cost of repairs for the tennis court will be approximately \$206.65.

¹⁰⁸ ΔX of ΔKE Research Note #29: Tragic Early Deaths of Cornell Dekes.

¹⁰⁹ ΔX of ΔKE Research Note #36: Brother Tallmadge Hepburn Brereton 1900 (1878-1906).

Spanish American War broke out enlisted as corporal and private, respectively, in Company M, 71st Regiment, N.Y. Volunteer Infantry. Both fought in the assault on San Juan Hill where Brown was killed on 1 July 1900. Brereton survived. Later he obtained a commission in the U.S. Army, met a young woman in Idaho whom he married and in 1906 took her pregnant to his posting in the Philippines. Their son was stillborn and on 1 July 1906, the eighth anniversary of Brown's death, the doctors told the young lieutenant that she would not survive. Distraught, he retired to his quarters in Manila and killed himself with a single pistol shot to his head. His wife recovered and brought her dead husband back to the States for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. The story of Brereton's tragic death was unknown to Cornell and the Chapter until 2011.

Medical care was every bit as dangerous as disease. Brother Franklin Smith Macomber 1899 died, age 31, following a surgical operation on 10 December 1908. For a young man, he had accumulated a remarkable record of civic achievement in his hometown, Toledo OH.¹¹⁰ The Chapter marked his passing with a formal resolution.¹¹¹

HALL OF DELTA CHI OF DELTA KAPPA EPSILON

December 15, 1908.

WHEREAS, It has pleased God, in his wise Providence, to remove from our number our beloved brother, Franklin Smith Macomber, of the Class of Eighteen hundred and ninety-nine; and

WHEREAS, we wish to express our deep sorrow at the loss of this respected brother; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, of the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon, extend our most heartfelt sympathy to his family in their hour of bereavement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of these Resolutions be sent to the family of our departed brother, and that a copy be spread upon the Records of the chapter, and that a copy be forwarded to the Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly.

A. V. S. LINDSLEY 1909
HENRY HOWARD BENNETT 1910
A. GRAEME DARLING 1911
"Committee for Delta Chi"

Painful news continued. Brother Fritz Lillian Mergenthaler 1905 was killed with his wife when their automobile was struck by a train near Cape May NJ on 9 August 1910. Brother Arthur Peter Braun 1906, a promising mining engineer, died, age 26, at Mexico City, Mexico, of unknown cause on 17 May 1910. Brother Charles Remsen Robinson 1911 was killed, age 24, in crash of his racing car at Brighton Beach Race Track, Coney Island, on 2 July 1911. The reader might recall his 1908 censure for driving about Ithaca in his automobile, presumably at high speed.

¹¹⁰ *CAN*, XIII, #29 (April 26, 1911), p. 340: "An Exemplar of Citizenship: Franklin Smith Macomber."

¹¹¹ *DKEQ*, XXVIII, #4 (February 1909): Resolutions.

We close this account by taking note of a chapter tradition that took effect in 1912. Brother Willfred Karl Krauss 1913 introduced a motion “that a brass plate with brother’s name and class on it be placed on their study room door sills, [the expense] to be paid [by the brother] in the first regular quarterly bill.”¹¹² The brotherhood adopted the measure and further decreed that “nick names” would be engraved on the plates.

These were proud men, rightfully so, and they left their mark on one of Cornell’s staunchest institutions.

¹¹² *CMM*, 17 March 1912.

Chapter IV: 1913-1919

Finances

The years preceding the outbreak of World War I were undeniably halcyon for the affluent Dekes. Life in the enlarged lodge could be described as nothing less than comfortable. The brotherhood had ready cash for both amenities and largess. There was money enough for the purchase of a House dog (Whiz II for \$35), new doors for the refectory, lighting fixtures for the card room, oriental rugs for the public rooms and to support the interscholastic track meet.¹ Indeed, “the business capacity and strong position of this chapter” was widely known and acknowledged throughout the Fraternity.²

In 1913, the Finance Committee was able to report a surplus of \$700, a committee was formed “to decide upon the advisability of an endowment fund,” and the bylaws were promptly amended to establish both Endowment and Sinking funds.³ Although these funds were eventually absorbed into the House operating budget, their establishment was clear evidence of prosperous times and a conservative management style.⁴ Even the Steward’s Department could announce that it was in the black.⁵

The House servants, sincerely appreciated by the brotherhood, benefited from these conditions and were generously treated. The Houseman, James H. Taylor, received the munificent salary of sixty dollars per month in 1913.⁶ Later, when Taylor fell sick and was confined to bed, the chapter voted to grant him a sick leave benefit of five dollars a week, pay for his winter coal bill and also for the services of a physician (a certain Dr. Coville) to treat the stricken man.⁷ On 3 October 1915, the brothers enacted a resolution that fairly reflected the sentiments of the House:

WHEREAS on account of poor health it has become necessary for James H. Taylor to discontinue his duties in the chapter house of Delta Chi of Delta Kappa Epsilon, [be it RESOLVED] that the chapter express to the said James H. Taylor its appreciation of his many years of faithful service and its earnest hope for his speedy recovery.

Happily, Taylor regained his health and by 1919 his compensation was increased to seventy dollars per month plus two meals a day.⁸ The chapter also hired an extra man to help him with heavy chores once a month.

¹ *CMM*, 19 January 1913, 2 March 1913, 9 March 1913 and 20 April 1913.

² *DKEQ*, XXXIII, 2, pp. 151-53: “On Chapter Publications.”

³ *CMM*, 9 March 1913 and 30 March 1913.

⁴ *CMM*, 7 March 1915.

⁵ *CMM*, 16 March 1913.

⁶ *CMM*, 12 January 1913.

⁷ *CMM*, 3 October 1915 and 18 January 1916.

⁸ *CMM*, 13 April 1919.

Fraternity Affairs

Delta Chi maintained its historically conservative position of opposing expansion of the Fraternity by supporting a provision that required a four-fifths affirmative vote by the ΔKE Convention delegates to grant charters and then flatly refusing to vote for expansion during the 67th ΔKE Convention of 1913 held in Boston.⁹ This policy was reaffirmed in 1916.¹⁰ This attitude was not an exception within the Fraternity. The most recent charter had been granted to Omega Chi (University of Texas, Austin) in 1912 and there would not be another granted until 1925 when ΔKE established Alpha Tau (University of Manitoba).

One field of clear and acknowledged excellence for Delta Chi was the publication of annual missives to her alumni.¹¹ The Cornell Dekes began the Fraternity tradition of issuing a carefully printed pamphlet for dispatch to all graduate members and, by 1915, this practice had been taken up by no fewer than fourteen of her sister chapters in ΔKE. The pamphlets contained photographs, short articles on the accomplishments of the House, memorial notices for deceased brothers, a financial statement summarizing the chapter's business operations, and a complete directory of alumni with addresses. The intent of this considerable effort was to tighten the bond between the alumni and the undergraduates who, of course, hoped that contributions would result.

This was not the only activity designed to tightly cement the bonds of brotherhood. Wednesday luncheon at the House was open to all Dekes in Ithaca, both those who were involved in business at the foot of the hill and those who numbered amongst the University faculty atop.¹² These gatherings proved to be exceedingly popular and well attended. Delta Chi Dekes would proudly report sitting at table with their brothers from “Phi, Alpha, Mu, Tau, Theta, Alpha Alpha, Delta Delta, Sigma Tau and Beta Phi.”

University Climate

The relative power of the secret society movement at Cornell grew significantly throughout this period. By the beginning of 1913, there were thirty-seven fraternities on the hill. Seven more would arrive before the end of the decade.¹³ Social life centered around these satellite institutions and there were few pleasures for those who did not gain entry to one house or another.

This imposing assemblage of fraternities was by no means a gathering of equals. There were clearly two tiers. The “old line” societies ruled and the newer houses accepted, generally without complaint, their lesser rank. The barrier between these two groupings was carefully observed and

⁹ *CMM*, 27 May 1913 and 23 November 1913.

¹⁰ *CMM*, 26 November 1916.

¹¹ *DKEQ*, XXXIII, 2, pp. 151-53: “On Chapter Publications.”

¹² *DKEQ*, XXXIII, 2 (May 1915), pp. 216-17: “Chapter Letters.”

¹³ *Baird's Manual*. Tau Epsilon Phi, Lambda Chi Alpha and Kappa Delta Rho in 1913, Alpha Gamma Rho in 1914 and Sigma Pi, Pi Kappa Alpha and Alpha Epsilon Phi in 1917.

only rarely violated. The Star League, that confederation of the leading houses (Zeta Psi, Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, Kappa Alpha and Delta Kappa Epsilon) previously disbanded, was reorganized and formed the top rung of Cornell's fraternity hierarchy.¹⁴ Thus we find Dekes having close relations with members of their colleagues in the other Star League houses while having no discernable contact with the remainder of Cornell's Greek community. Without doubt, this stratified ordering of University life seemed entirely right and proper to the residents of 13 South Avenue.

The growing strength and elitism of the fraternities would not please everybody. By the end of the decade, President Schurman would declare, "The Fraternities have become socially obnoxious, undermining the student's will to work and study and turning their loyalty to the fraternity, not the Alma Mater."¹⁵ He went on to propose that the fraternities take on some of the trappings and responsibilities of the Oxford and Cambridge colleges that he believed sprang from lodging houses. As always, the Delta Chi Dekes were ahead of Schurman for this very concept was first expressed by Brother John Dewitt Warner in 1910.¹⁶

As this 1910 edition of the catalogue goes to press, and Delta Chi 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."

Rushing

Rushing continued to be a contentious and unsettled activity at Cornell. No formula obtained lasting endorsement or compliance from the fraternities on the hill. By early 1916, Delta Chi reported the following.¹⁷

Realizing the defects of first term rushing which has long been in vogue at Cornell for a number of years, a few of the fraternities last June, at the close of the University work, made an agreement and formed an association to rush second term. Later on the majority of the other fraternities joined the association. Due to the anxiety of some of the large rival fraternities and the forming of cliques among the members of the entering class, violations to the rules of the association were

¹⁴ *CMM*, 30 March 1913 and 13 April 1913.

¹⁵ Bishop (1962), p. 435: summaries of the Presidents annual reports of 1918 and 1919.

¹⁶ Warner (1910).

¹⁷ *DKEQ*, XXXIV, 1 (1916), p. 239: "Chapter Letters."

reported often. These conditions grew worse as the rushing period progressed, and two days before the time set for pledging all the rules were set aside by the Executive Committee and a wild scramble for freshmen followed. Delta Chi is pleased to report that from the scramble was secured a delegation well up to the standard of the chapter. A return to first term rushing next fall will probably be the case.

The chapter gave considerable thought to the problem and proposed a number of guidelines for the next year's rush.¹⁸ These were adopted by the other fraternities and some semblance of order was reestablished in the following fall term.¹⁹

As was prophesied in our last letter, the fraternities of Cornell have returned to the old system of rushing at the beginning of the first term. We are glad to report that the rushing was, with a few minor exceptions, free from the disgraceful incidents which occurred during the second term rushing last year., and we are also pleased to report that Delta Chi was very successful in pledging two sophomores and nine freshmen who undoubtedly measure up to the high standard set by DKE.

Life in the House

Dekes paid particular attention to their dress, both in the House and on the hill. The proper attire for an upper class American gentleman included a stiff and generally uncomfortable white collar. Deke House rules left little room for discretion concerning collars, but it was not uncommon for the brotherhood to pass motions calling for short periods of "soft collar" dress.²⁰ Seniors, having accorded themselves the exclusive right to wear blazers, were particularly natty.²¹

If there was one distinctive talent of the brotherhood, it was most certainly that of devising entertainments. Rabbits (stand-up cocktail parties) and Deke faculty smokers were favored diver-

¹⁸ *CMM*, 26 March 1916: A motion introduced by Brother Richard John Foster, Jr. 1916 and seconded by Brother Richard Averill Parke 1916 "that the sentiment of this chapter be expressed in favor of" the following observations and remedies carries: "Firstly, [that] first term rushing to begin approximately ten days after the beginning of the fall term and to cover the period from the following Sunday exclusive of Saturday evening, making in all twelve dates. Secondly, that the period intervening between the last date of the first period and the first date of the second period be made as short as possible. Thirdly, that the requirement of a bond would be impracticable. Fourthly, that the matter of requiring a freshman to pass twelve hours of University work before he can be initiated into a fraternity be left to the discretion of the individual fraternity. Fifthly, that an advisory alumni committee to act with the executive committee of the rushing committee would be impracticable. Sixthly, that the reasons for the failure of the second term rushing this year were (a) the formation of cliques among certain members of the freshman class and (b) the over anxiousness of the fraternities as a whole due to the long period intervening between the opening of the college and the time set for fraternity pledging."

¹⁹ *DKEQ*, XXXIV (1916), pg 481-82: "Chapter Letters."

²⁰ *CMM*, 13 April 1913, 19 October 1913, 27 September 1914 and 12 October 1919.

²¹ *DKEQ*, XXX, 2 (May 1912), p. 130: "Chapter Letters. As a senior prerogative, there has been instituted the custom of wearing blazers."

sions.²² Formal dances were religiously scheduled for Junior Week, the main event on Cornell's social calendar.²³ House boat rides on the lake during sunny spring days, always a popular recreation, were attended by every Deke in town.²⁴

The Victrola was a valued source of amusement and the chapter voted a special tax of thirty cents per month to buy new records.²⁵ And, of course, a new piano was deemed essential for a brotherhood that regularly gathered to sing Fraternity and college songs.²⁶

The House did well in academics.²⁷ Possibly the Prelim File, a carefully maintained collection of University examination papers provided the brothers with an edge not possessed by independents.²⁸ In any event, the Student Committee diligently monitored the marks of the underclassmen and encouraged a high standard of performance in their courses of study. In 1915, this committee extended its jurisdiction to the upperclassmen in an effort to raise the House's standing on the hill.²⁹

The Purloined Constitution

In 1913, the constitution of the chapter was apparently compromised when a copy fell into the hands of the Zeta Psi fraternity.³⁰ Brother Robert Irving Blodgett Inglehart 1913 was commissioned by the brotherhood to take whatever steps were required to recover this document that presumably contained chapter secrets. Protracted negotiations ensued and the constitution was finally reclaimed, but a motto —possibly the secret meaning of the Greek letters, Delta Chi— was then stricken from the tainted document.³¹ Alas, this relic has been lost, and with it the only clue to one of the great mysteries of ΔKE at Cornell.

²² *CMM*, 6 December 1913, 1 March 1914, 8 November 1914 and 21 February 1915.

²³ *CMM*, 30 January 1915.

²⁴ *CMM*, 21 March 1915 and 11 April 1915.

²⁵ *CMM*, 14 November 1915 and 5 December 1915.

²⁶ *CMM*, 28 January 1916.

²⁷ *DKEQ*, XXX, No. 2 (May 1912), p. 130. "Chapter Letter. Under the supervision of the faculty, statistics were prepared of the relative standings in scholarship of fraternity and non-fraternity men. The non-fraternity men were found to be about three per cent higher. The standing of Delta Chi, however, was above the average."

²⁸ *CMM*, 15 November 1914.

²⁹ *CMM*, 3 October 1915: A motion "that upperclassmen come under the same restriction (with the exception of reporting marks) as the underclassmen until the standard of the house is raised" carries.

³⁰ *CMM*, 2 March 1913.

³¹ *CMM*, 9 March 1913, 23 March 1913, 20 April 1913 and 27 May 1913.

Law and Order

Disciplinary events were remarkably few in this era. Only one brother was expelled, Raymond Elliot Laurence 1915, and this proceeding occurred with noteworthy dispatch in comparison to the messy and protracted trials of earlier times.³² Fines awarded by the Upperclass Committee were established for a range of offenses, but the number of impositions was scarcely worth counting.³³ Prohibitions against secret balloting for new men, removing stiff collars after dinner, bringing immoral women into the House and passing bad checks within the chapter were enacted and enforced.³⁴

Anti-coedism, for many years a House policy, was set down in Delta Chi law for the first time in 1914 when a motion that “freshmen be prohibited from entering a cafe where women can be taken and a fine of \$10 be assessed for each offence” carried.³⁵ The Dekes were not alone in this regard. “As the men of Cornell sought to equal Harvard and Yale in academic, social, and professional prestige, the presence of women, they thought, severely diminished this possibility.”³⁶ The conservative fraternities, whole-heartedly Victorian, excluded women from the social life of the University throughout this period. ΔKE policy concerning the treatment of coeds differed little from that adopted by the other Star League houses.

Alumni

Many of the alumni saw their chosen careers progress with distinction during this period, but no member’s advance quite matched that of Brother Mario Garcia Menocal ‘88 who took office as the third President of Cuba on 20 May 1913, the tenth anniversary of the independent Cuban Government.³⁷ This event did not escape the notice of 13 South Avenue; a message of congratulations was sent from Ithaca to the new incumbent who replied with a cablegram dated 21 May 1913:

“YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS HIGHLY APPRECIATED.”

—Menocal, President of the Republic of Cuba.

This precious artifact survived up until the advent of World War II.³⁸

³² *CMM*, 10 October 1915: Laurence was expelled by a unanimous vote of the brotherhood. *CMM*, 18 January 1916: Afterwards, he apparently committed some egregious act of misbehavior or slander against DKE at a social function in Cleveland. This earned him a further letter of censure.

³³ *CMM*, 7 May 1916, 5 November 1916.

³⁴ *CMM*, 9 March 1916, 19 March 1916 and 22 February 1914.

³⁵ *CMM*, 19 April 1914.

³⁶ Charlotte Williams Conable. *Women at Cornell* (Cornell University Press, Ithaca NY, 1977).

³⁷ Willis Fletcher Johnson. *The History of Cuba*, (New York: B. F. Buck & Company, 1920), IV.

³⁸ *Delta Chi Deke*, II, 4 (May 1936), p. 4, col 1: “Mario Menocal ‘88, Once Cuban Chief, Loses Island Votes.”

Menocal's administration from 1913 to 1921 was a story of initial optimism and material progress for Cuba followed by a decline into corruption and nepotism. His reelection to office in 1916 was contrived by fraud and violence and was subsequently contested when a rebellion broke out against him. This insurrection was suppressed with much bloodshed. A stylish man, Menocal appropriated \$3,750,000 in public funds, more than double the cost of the White House in Washington, to build an extravagant Presidential Palace in Havana and a further \$1,366,515 for New York's Tiffany Studios to decorate it with sumptuous appointments.³⁹ It was said, "Of unqualified denunciations of Menocal in connection with graft, bad administration, election-stealing, and dictatorial methods there is enough to fill volumes." Despite these foibles, he was highly respected and admired within the Fraternity.⁴⁰

Mario Menocal was not the only member of the Class of '88 to achieve notoriety. There was also Brother Henry Reuben Ickelheimer '88 who became a vastly successful investment banker on Wall Street and an influential member of Cornell's Board of Trustees from 1894 until his death in 1940.⁴¹ On 16 June 1915, one of Ickelheimer's many gifts to the University was unveiled on the Arts Quadrangle: a magnificent statue of President Andrew D. White by Karl Theodore Francis Bitter (1867–1915), a noted Austrian-born American sculptor.

Brother Maurice Francis Connolly '97 took his law degree at New York University after graduating from Cornell and went on to study at Balliol College, Oxford, and the University of Heidelberg. He spent a few years in private life as a businessman and then entered the public arena by winning election to the Sixty-Third U. S. Congress (1913-15) where he ably represented his constituents from Iowa.⁴² He would go on to serve with distinction as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Army Aviation Corps during World War I before dying at 44 in a tragic airplane crash in 1921 near Indian Head MD.

Robert Julius Thorne '97 rose to become the president of Montgomery Ward and Company, the prominent Chicago retailing firm. He would go on to serve the U. S. Government as a civilian aide to General Goethals in the Quartermaster Corps during the Great War and achieve considerable distinction for this work.⁴³ Despite affairs of state and commerce, he was a devoted supporter of the chapter; in June of 1919 he visited the Deke House and gave the brotherhood two thousand dollars to start a comprehensive lodge renovation project. This gift became the nucleus of a fund later named in his honor.

³⁹ Robert Koch. *Louis C. Tiffany: Rebel in Glass* (New York: Crown Publishers, 1966). Charles E. Chapman. *A History of the Cuban Republic* (MacMillan Company, New York, 1927), p. 328.

⁴⁰ *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 2 (May 1920), pp. 183-5: "General Menocal."

⁴¹ *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (New York: James T. White & Company, 1907): "Henry Rubens Ickelheimer."

⁴² *DKEQ*, XXXIX, 3 (October 1921), pp. 357-8. Biographical Directory of the United States Congress: "Maurice Connolly, Delta Chi '97."

⁴³ *Who Was Who in America* (Marquis Who's Who, Inc., Chicago IL), p. 853.

The Delta Chi Association

The formal role of the alumni underwent an important transition during this period. At that time, there were two centers of alumni authority. The first rested with the chapter's representative to the Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon. For many years this office was filled by the seemingly tireless Brother John DeWitt Warner 1872, but in 1918 the duties were taken over by Brother Herbert William Strong '94.⁴⁴ The second center was that of the one alumnus who advised the House on day to day affairs and occasionally harped for a balanced budget. This task had been ably handled by Brother Edwin Gillette 1873 in the chapter's early years.

The need for a standing alumni organization soon became apparent and Brothers Warner and Ernest Vail Stebbins '93 were commissioned to draw up bylaws for the Delta Chi Alumni Association of D.K.E. in 1915.⁴⁵ This new organization, the predecessor for what is now called the Delta Chi Association, was in full running order by the next year.⁴⁶

Down by the Border with Pancho Villa

American relations with Mexico had been anything but placid during this period. A minor scuffle occurred in 1914 when a group of U. S. sailors was detained by the forces of the General José Victoriano Huerta Márquez (1850–1916) in Tampico. President Wilson, enraged by this insult to national honor, called upon the U. S. Marines to land and seize the city of Vera Cruz which they did with their customary dispatch. A new government headed by Venustiano Carranza de la Garza (1859–1920) was installed and a period of relative peace ensued.⁴⁷

In 1916, a second irritation called Francisco (Pancho) Villa (1878–1923) surfaced in the border region. The treacherous Villa was attempting to bring down Carranza by baiting the United States into an invasion of Mexican territory. Villa went on a murderous rampage, first killing sixteen Americans who were traveling by train in Mexico and then crossing the border to attack Columbus NM where he left the town burning and another nineteen Americans slain. President Wilson responded by sending troops under the command of General John Joseph "Blackjack" Pershing (1860–1948) to hunt down Villa and restore the border. Delta Chi Dekes found their way into this conflict as a consequence of the new federal mobilization of National Guard units. Thus we find that the following brothers from Ithaca were stationed on the border with New York State formations in the U. S. Army's Sixth Division.⁴⁸

Martin Castleman Rutherford, Jr. 1910

1st Cav., Troop H, NY

⁴⁴ *DKEQ*, XXXIII, 1 (February 1915), p. iii: "The Council of DKE for 1915."

⁴⁵ Document: CONSTITUTION OF DELTA CHI ASSOCIATION OF D. K. E. *DKEQ*, XXXIII, 2 (May 1915), pp. 216-17: "Chapter Letter."

⁴⁶ *CMM*, 18 October 1916.

⁴⁷ Robert Leckie. *The Wars of America*, Revised (Harper & Row, New York, 1981), pp. 625-26.

⁴⁸ *DKEQ*, XXXIV, pp. 411-12: "Some Deke Patriots" by Charles Doyle.

Selah Van Velsor Hiscox 1915
William Hallam Gillis Murray 1916

7th Inf., NY
1st Cav., Troop D, NY

The occurrence of a minor war was not sufficient to arrest the natural social proclivities of the brethren in Delta Kappa Epsilon. In this case, the party simply moved west as recorded in the following account.

Dekes have met at odd times and at strange places, but it is doubtful if ever in all the history of Delta Kappa Epsilon dinners there was a more unusual get-together of Dekes than on the border October 14th, 1916. At the little frontier town of Pharr, Texas, 38 bronzed guardsmen from the 6th Division gathered among the palms of the tented restaurant to dine and sing the old songs after four long months on the Mexican border. Locating brothers in the army is no easy task, for khaki hides all fraternity emblems and, without knowledge of it, one's own mess-mate may be a Brother Deke. Word was quietly passed through the division two days before, and at seven o'clock the 7th Infantry men drove over in jitneys from McAllen, while the 1st Cavalry with the Signal Corps men rode their mounts. The roll call revealed men from fourteen chapters. A dinner consistent with the primitive facilities of border eating places was served and made full by song and good-fellowship of the Brothers, who for long months had heard little but detail announcements or mess kit rings. It was a happy "Come and get it." A full moon lighted the road for Major Bryant and the other cavalrymen as they rode back to camp. Songs of "Feller on the Corner Stood" or "Sons of DKE" rang out over the unappreciative cactus fields as only those songs can come from men far removed from the good old Fraternity atmosphere.

Villa was never caught and the brothers eventually returned to civilian life, but that respite was not to last.

World War I

The torment of the Great War gripped Europe in 1914, but it was not until 2 April 1917 that President Woodrow Wilson delivered his war message to Congress.⁴⁹ On 6 April 1917, the Senate passed a resolution that thrust the United States into the conflict.⁵⁰ Interestingly, President Menocal of Cuba lost no time in leading his country into the fray. That same afternoon he addressed his own congress in Havana which promptly declared war on the following day. Menocal generously volunteered a force of ten thousand Cuban troops to serve with the U. S. Expeditionary Forces.

The turnout for the war was remarkable by any measure. Cornell would see the departure of nearly nineteen hundred students, a loss of 34 percent, that was typical of the nation's collegiate institu-

⁴⁹ William L. Langer, ed. *An Encyclopedia of World History* (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1952), p. 937.

⁵⁰ Johnson (1920), p. 346.

tions.⁵¹ Fraternity men would comprise a disproportionate fraction of these numbers and Delta Kappa Epsilon would lead all other Greek letter societies as its members volunteered for duty.

By early 1918, there were at least sixty-three members of the Delta Chi chapter serving with various elements of the American forces and Brother Phillip Synyer Hill 1918 was in France with the Royal Flying Corps.⁵² This list was to grow substantially before the end of the conflict.

True to form, the Dekes could not resist setting up a ΔKE Club in the European Theater⁵³. This was done by the tireless Brother James Anderson Hawes Φ'94, later to become the Fraternity's General Secretary and, after the war on 11 December 1920, the second Honorary member of Delta Chi. A fine suite of rooms in the Grand Hotel of Paris overlooking the Place de L'Opera was obtained and many elegant dinners were enjoyed by brothers obtaining furlough to the capital. Word of this activity quickly got back to Ithaca in 1917.⁵⁴ By war's end, a number of Delta Chi brothers had gathered there for a short respite from their duties.⁵⁵

All was not a party. The Paris Deke organization did much to relieve the unpleasantness of military service for her members overseas. One letter addressed to the ΔKE Overseas Club from a Delta Chi Deke was typical of the affections that resulted.⁵⁶

I leave you this note to thank you again for your coming to see me in the hospital and for all you did for me when I visited you these last two days in Paris. It is the one home for all of us Deke boys on this side and we certainly appreciate all you and the Fraternity are doing for us.

—Delta Chi 1913

Student Army Training Corps

The U. S. War Department organized the Student Army Training Corps after Congress extended the Selective Service Law on 31 August 1918 and, in short order, requested that the activities of fraternities at S.A.T.C colleges be suspended so that the lodges could be used to house trainees.⁵⁷ Cornell was given a quota of 1700 men to train for hostilities in Europe. This order came in

⁵¹ *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 2 (May 1918), pp. 124-6: "U. S. Colleges Lose One-Third of Enrollment."

⁵² *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 1 (February 1918), pp. 446-98: "Our War Service Record" and "Military Service Lists."

⁵³ *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 3 (October 1918), pp. 175-79: "Delta Kappa Epsilon Overseas" by Frederick Dwight, Φ1894.

⁵⁴ *CMM*, 28 October 1917.

⁵⁵ *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 3 (October 1918), pp. 182-88: Brothers Charles Baskerville, Jr. 1919, Laurence Bowen 1911, Lewis Benedict 1918, Maurice Connolly '97, William H. Fritz, Jr. 1914, William W. Ricker '96, Thomas H. Sidley 1903, and Henry E. Wacker 1917 all visited the Paris DKE Club between 15 July and 15 September, 1918.

⁵⁶ *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 3 (October 1918), pp. 180-1: "Extracts From Some Letters Received by the DKE Overseas Club and Bureau From Dekes on Active Service at the Front." The author is unknown, but Brother Willfred Karl Kraus 1913 is a possibility.

⁵⁷ *NYT*, 6 October 1918 (Editorial). *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 3 (October 1918), pp. 192-3 "The War and Fraternities."

October of 1918 and was put into immediate force. The resulting conditions are best described by referring to the Chapter Letter that soon appeared in the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*.⁵⁸

Practically all of the fraternity houses here are being used as barracks for the S.A.T.C. unit at the University. According to contract with the University authorities, we are to receive the munificent sum of seven and a half cents per day for each man quartered in the House, and, at the end, to have the House turned over to us in first class condition.

The floor space in each house was estimated by representatives of the University and, allowing fifty-four square feet of floor per man for sleeping space, the number of men assigned to each house was determined. Following out this plan, seventy-five men were assigned to DKE. However, the University registration did not come up to expectations, so that we are now housing “but” sixty-two men and one lieutenant, said lieutenant occupying the Alumni room.

Then, as everything claiming Army connections must present a military appearance, all rugs had to come up and all pictures down; also, the library is now the “Orderly Room” and all books have been removed. All of the third floor rooms are filled with their “war strength” number of cots, likewise the new wing and four rooms in the old wing on the second floor. The dining room and “parlor” have degenerated into “study halls” and all beer “mugs” exiled to the billiard room for the duration of the war.

The men assigned to us are not picked men by any means and the majority of them have no consideration for property other than their own. So, even though they do “police” the barracks every day, you can imagine that the House presents anything but a finished appearance and that a considerable sum of money will be required to put it in first class condition.

Even with the temporary loss of the lodge, fraternity life did not cease entirely. The few brothers left on campus took to dining together at Mrs. Ryan’s boarding house and a committee was appointed to oversee the running of the House as circumstances allowed.⁵⁹ But the war effort dominated life. Brothers sent old magazines to France for the troops, contributed for the liberty bond campaign and chipped in to pay the new “war tax on fraternities.”⁶⁰ Even neighboring Telluride was taken over and used as the Cornell Officer’s Club. The disruptions were severe, and when it was all over the House was a minor ruin.⁶¹

⁵⁸ *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 4 (December 1918), pp. 278-9: “Chapter Letters.”

⁵⁹ *CMM*, 20 January 1918 and 17 March 1918.

⁶⁰ *CMM*, 28 April 1918.

⁶¹ Richard F. Cox, National Archives and Records Administration, letter to H. W. Fogle, File #NNMR87-3302-RFC, dated 22 June 1987. Some eleven boxes of records concerning the Cornell University SATC survive, but none of this material has been examined. “Cornell Campus Disrupted More in First World War; More Students Into Active Service; Army Ran Campus in Fall of 1918,” *The Delta Chi Deke*, April 1942, p. 2, col. 2.

After the opening of the University in January [1919], following the somewhat providential disbanding of the S.A.T.C, the halls and corridors of Delta Chi probably resembled nothing so much as “the wreck of the Hesperus.” But the return of a number of men of “before the war classes” set the chapter back upon both feet and made reasonable the hope that before the end of the year we should again see things as they used to be. At the present time we are all very nicely settled and, except for a bit of defective plumbing, a noticeable lack of paint on everything paintable, and a considerable area of wall without plaster, are able to exhibit a presentable exterior to the casual observer. However, with the next flux in the stock market, we are hoping that some kind brother will send up a check or so and then we’ll be able to show visitors more than two or three rooms.⁶²

War Exploits

World War I was a bloody affair, even for the Americans who entered the conflict well after the battles of Ypres, Verdun and the Somme. Several brothers were wounded during combat. Brother Charles Baskerville 1919 was not only shot once, but gassed twice before the war came to its conclusion.

The chapter’s one war death was that of Brother Clayton Caskey Ingersoll who was killed with the Expeditionary Force’s Aviation Service at the front.⁶³ The unhappy event occurred in France near Issoudoum during a training flight.⁶⁴ According to one account, Ingersoll crashed early on the morning of 26 April 1918 “when a fog rolled up suddenly without warning catching him in it. He tried to make a blind landing against odds that proved insurmountable.” The squadron’s brief record stated that he stalled his aircraft while turning back to land his Nieuport trainer with no mention of the weather conditions. Brother Alton “Monte” Baker 1916 was assigned to the same command and attended the funeral.⁶⁵ With this tragedy, Brother Ingersoll began an unhappy tradition that would plague future Deke aviators.

The news of Ingersoll’s death soon reached Ithaca.⁶⁶ Brother Langdon Thomas Williams 1921 briefed the brotherhood on the circumstances surrounding their loss in a special meeting held on 1 May and suggested that “a note and flowers be sent to his mother.” The chapter endorsed this proposal, enacting a special tax to cover the expense.⁶⁷ On 5 May 1918, Brother Clarkson Lewis

⁶² *DKEQ*, XXXVII, 2 (May 1919), pp. 147-8: “Chapter Letters,”

⁶³ *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 2 (May 1918), pp 122-3: “Our Record in the Great War.” Reply to Request for Information, NA Form 13047, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis MO 63132, dated 28 April 1987. No folder exists for Ingersoll.

⁶⁴ Brochure: “Greetings From the Active Chapter; Delta Chi of Delta Kappa Epsilon to Her Alumni and Sister Chapters,” May 1920, DKE Depository, *CU-DRMC*.

⁶⁵ *DXD*, December 1938, p. 4, col. 1: “With Ingersoll in France.”

⁶⁶ *CMM*, 1 May 1918.

⁶⁷ *CMM*, 5 May 1918.

Farnsworth 1921 was appointed by the chapter “to purchase a gold star for [the House’s] service flag in honor of Brother Ingersoll.”⁶⁸

Overall, Delta Kappa Epsilon made an outstanding showing in the war. Although not the largest American fraternity, Deke led all others in the award of military honors to its members and, alas, in its sacrifices on the battlefield.⁶⁹ And by this measure, Delta Chi’s contributions were by no means slight. Brothers McClary Hazelton Brown 1919 and John Milton Nazel 1918 both received the *Croix de Guerre* from the government of France and Brother Mario G. Menocal ‘88, the President of Cuba, received the *Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honor*, of the French Government on the anniversary Cuba’s entry into the war.⁷⁰ Charles Baskerville 1919 received the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action and Brother Robert Julius Thorne received the Distinguished Service Medal “for especially meritorious service in reorganization of the service of supply.”

The Fraternity, usually excellent in keeping its records in order, had much trouble in maintaining an accurate record of those who fell in the Great War. In December 1918 and again in February 1919, lists of war dead were published in the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly* that carried two entries for the Delta Chi chapter: Brothers Clayton C. Ingersoll 1918 and John Milton Nazel 1918.⁷¹ The news concerning Nazel was premature. Although wounded, he survived the war.⁷²

A similar bit of confusion attended the Fraternity’s efforts to erect a war memorial. A handsome bronze tablet listing the names of one hundred and forty-three brothers who fell in action was cast and emplaced in the ΔKE Club, at that time located at 30 West 44th Street in New York City. Two names graced the section reserved for Delta Chi: those of Brother Ingersoll 1918 and a certain William Bayer 1918.⁷³ Neither Cornell University nor the Delta Chi Dekes have ever determined just who the mysterious Bayer was.

The confusion of the Fraternity headquarters in New York City was not reflected in Ithaca. Delta Chi lost little time in creating a suitable memorial for Ingersoll.⁷⁴ Brother Charles Baskerville, who was about to embark on a long career as a painter, set about designing a commemorative fireplace

⁶⁸ *CMM*, 12 May 1918.

⁶⁹ *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 2 (May 1918), pp. 122-3: “Our Record in the Great War.”

⁷⁰ *DKEQ*, XXXIX, 2 (May 1921), pp. 155-62: “Military Honors and Decorations.” *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 1, p. 505: “DKE War Notes; Pins Cross on Menocal.”

⁷¹ *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 4 (December 1918), pp. 220-22: “Our Honor Role.” *DKEQ*, XXXVII, 1 (February 1919), p. 11: “Our Honor Role.”

⁷² Statement of Service, case of John M. Nazel, NA Form 1341, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis MO 63132, dated 16 April 1987. Nazel was wounded in action on 12 June 1918 and received the Purple Heart.

⁷³ *DKEQ*, XXXIX, 2 (May 1921), pp. 149- 54: “Our War Memorial.” The present location of the War Memorial is unknown.

⁷⁴ *CMM*, 13 April 1919: A motion introduced by Brother Byron Earle Wrigley, Jr. 1919 and seconded by Brother Charles Baskerville, Jr. 1919 “that [a] committee be appointed to look after a memorial for Brother [Clayton Caskey] Ingersoll 1918 and [John Milton] Nazel 1918” carries. Brothers George Swiggart Miles 1917, Alan Lenoir McGill 1918, Julius T. Schaezel 1917 and Lawrence William Breck 1918 are appointed to serve.

in the lodge's main hall to honor the fallen aviator. This work was completed in 1920.⁷⁵ And Ingersoll's family also donated a considerable sum, \$6000, to endow a room in the Cornell War Memorial that was dedicated to the young pilot's memory in 1923.⁷⁶

Literary Exercises

Curiously, Literary Exercises fared poorly before the war, but resumed with greater regularity after the House was rid of the S.A.T.C and back on a peacetime footing. The topics were increasingly international in scope—a consequence of the war having opened American eyes to a wider world than could no longer be ignored—as typified by the following two programs.

23 November 1919. A reading by Brother Benjamin Palmetter Carpenter 1922 on “Mexico,” a prepared speech by Brother Langdon Thomas Williams 1921 on “The Turkish Problem,” and an extemporaneous speech by Brother Archibald Cyrus Edson Gregory 1919 on “Arbitration.”

30 November 1919. A reading by Brother Ross Stockbridge Anderson 1922 on “America as a Peace Obstructor,” an extemporaneous speech by Brother Lawrence William Breck 1918 on “Artillery Proving Grounds,” and a reading of the Chapter By-laws by Brother Beta, Brother Lewis Benedict, Jr. 1918.

In Memoriam

The decade came to an end with sadness as 1919 became a year marked by loss. Brother Eugene Mergenthaler 1919 died in Baltimore on 4 January from influenza in an epidemic that ravaged the city.⁷⁷ Brother Theodore Roosevelt, Alpha 80, passed away on 6 January at his lovely home at Oyster Bay, Long Island.⁷⁸ Brother Deyoe Lohnas Ashton 1919 died tragically of influenza and pneumonia at his father's home in Saratoga Springs NY on 31 March before taking his degree.⁷⁹ And finally, the revered Emilius Oviatt Randall died on 18 December after a long and distinguished career with the Supreme Court of Ohio.⁸⁰

The war had ended, and with it a sensibility; the old Victorians would gasp when they saw what came next.

⁷⁵ *CMM*, 18 January 1920.

⁷⁶ *CAN*, 16 December 1926.

⁷⁷ Student file, Eugene Mergenthaler 1919, CU-DRMC.

⁷⁸ *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 1 (February 1920), pp. 46-7: “Theodore Roosevelt.”

⁷⁹ *DKEQ*, XXXVII, 2 (May 1919): “In Memoriam; Hall of Delta Chi of Delta Kappa Epsilon.”

⁸⁰ *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 1 (February 1920), pp. 135-6: “In Memoriam; Hall of Delta Chi of Delta Kappa Epsilon.” *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 3 (October 1920), p. 356: “Emilius Oviatt Randall; A Memorial by Daniel J. Ryan,”

Chapter V: 1920-1929

The 76th ΔKE Convention

The Fraternity's annual conventions played a critical role in binding the diverse institution together, reinforcing the distinctive ΔKE philosophy amongst the membership and charting a course for the future. Each chapter dispatched a delegation that was often augmented by the presence of alumni members. The proceedings were, as one might expect, a festive mix of business and pleasure. Although New York City was a frequent site, ΔKE conventions had convened at various locations throughout the American East, Midwest and South by 1920.

The 69th ΔKE Convention held in 1915 broke with tradition and set an important precedent. A band of one hundred undergraduates and alumni undertook a great 9000 mile journey by train, boat and automobile that began in New York City and wound up in San Francisco for the formal proceedings hosted by the Theta Zeta chapter.¹ This memorable two week adventure included stops at Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Denver, the Grand Canyon, San Diego, Los Angeles, Glacier National Park, Portland and Seattle. The expedition was met and entertained by ΔKE chapters and alumni brothers all along the course of this great trip. Delta Chi played a prominent role; Brother Richard J. Foster, Jr., 1916 served at the President of the Convention!

The idea for holding a ΔKE convention in Cuba was first raised in 1917 by Brother Menocal '88, then in the first year of his second term as President of the Cuban Republic.² His generous offer was declined at that time only because plans for the forthcoming 1918 convention were well advanced, but the 76th ΔKE Convention scheduled for 1920 was open and the Fraternity seized upon Menocal's invitation as a unique opportunity.

There was some muted criticism of this plan amongst ΔKE's envious rivals in the Greek community, their view being that this fraternal voyage from "a vast and arid desert bounded on the south by an oasis called Havana and on the north by one called Montrael" was merely an attempt to escape the new strictures of Prohibition. The rebuttal to this claim was an article published in *Life* "demonstrating that the proposed expedition of the Dekes to Havana was entirely constitutional!"³

On Sunday, 26 December 1920 a party of 125 Dekes departed Pennsylvania Station in New York City in a special chartered ΔKE train destined for Key West FL. The band of brothers and their ladies increased in numbers as groups were picked up at scheduled stops in Philadelphia and points south. In Savannah GA, the expedition paused to join up with a large contingent of brothers from the South and Midwest who had already arrived at this rendezvous. A full night, day and another night of partying ensued beginning with the train's arrival at the railroad station and climaxing with an elegant barbecue held at the Savannah Country Club.

By Wednesday, the train reached Key West. The brothers boarded the coastal steamer "Governor Cobb," raised the ΔKE flag on the ship's masthead and set off for Cuba. At sunrise on the following day, they found themselves passing before the old Morro Castle that guarded the harbor

¹ Hawes & Van Duzer (1918), pp. xxxv-vi.

² *DKEQ*, XXXIX, 1 (February 1921), pp. 1-25: "The Convention in Havana" by John Clair Minot ©'96.

³ *Life*, 23 December 1920.

of Havana. Shortly after landing, a delegation of some fifty brothers presented themselves at the Presidential Palace to pay respects to their host. Brother Menocal made a speech of welcome and thus officially began the 76th ΔKE Convention, one of the most memorable in the history of the Fraternity.

The preparations for the convention were personally arranged by the Cuban chief executive with the result that the brothers were afforded red carpet treatment wherever they went. They were given privileges in the city's most prestigious clubs. Diversions included tours of the island, a ΔKE vs. Cuban Athletic Club basketball contest, jai-alai games, gambling and a wild New Year's Eve celebration. The international press covered the proceedings in detail and the local papers reported the arrival of ΔKE as a lead story.⁴ Witness the following editorial from the Havana Post.⁵

Havana greets today representatives of one of the most illustrious organizations in all the length and breadth of young American manhood. It is a Fraternity in which splendid, promising college youths learn to live up to the manly traditions of their elder Brothers; a Fraternity in which Alumni, as they grow old in body, learn to keep a youthful gleam in the eye and a boy's song in the heart. It is the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. The DKE needs no recommendation. What American college man does not know the long line of distinguished patriots graduated from the ranks of the Fraternity? Were the long, golden roll called, the solemn answers from the Brothers who have gone would ring down from the famed pedestals of every state in the Union. The Fraternity thrives vigorously today. It is still recruiting from colleges and universities the flower of the country's young manhood. The organization, even if it tried, could find for its convention no community where the DKE is without the highest honors. It chanced this year that the Fraternity has come to Cuba for the seventy-sixth annual convention. Here, as everywhere, DKE will find its faithful members upholding the lofty standards of the brotherhood in the forefront of civic life. His Excellency Mario G. Menocal, President of the Republic, as a DKE, is the highest host of all --and none is more hospitable. A hearty welcome to every brother and more power to the Fraternity!

Admittedly, this was laying it on a bit thick, and the Cuban writer probably knew the political value of giving his President's fraternity a good plug, but nonetheless ΔKE stock was at an all time high in the Caribbean and this made the 76th Convention special in many ways. Delta Chi played a most prominent role throughout these events. Altogether, there were fifteen brothers from the Cornell chapter who attended.⁶ Brother Horace Alfred Taveira 1904, a resident of Havana and a member of

⁴ *NYT*, 1 January 1921, p. 5, col. 4: "D.K.E.'s Elect Officers."

⁵ *Havana Post*, Thursday, 30 December 1920, editorial page.

⁶ *DKEQ*, XXXIX, #1 (February 1921), pp. 54-7: "Convention Attendance." The following brothers from the Delta Chi Chapter attended the 76th DKE Convention: George Washington Graham '76, Horace Alfred Taveira 1904, Robert Howland Coit 1906, Hermann Charles Mergenthaler 1911, Willfred Karl Krauss 1913, Edwin Spence Gillett 1914, George Blaine Howell 1917, Franklin Chamberlin Moore 1917, Philip B. Windsor 1919, Harland Franklin Beardslee 1922, John Thomas Shaw 1923, George B. Davidson 1924, Sheldon Bailey Wright 1924 and Stephen Byrd Horrell 1921.

the ΔKE Local Committee, handled many of the social and administrative matters that made the occasion a success. When the time came to elect a Convention President, Delta Chi's Stephen Byrd Horrell 1921 was chosen by the Fraternity to preside in this office. And when the business of choosing the site for the 77th Convention, the Fraternity unanimously voted to accept the invitation to hold the gathering in Chicago that was tendered by Delta Chi's Brother George Washington Graham 1876, Vice President of the ΔKE Northwestern Alumni Association.

The Convention Banquet held at the Valdado Tennis Club was the *Grand Finale*. "The Delta Chi table had the place of honor just in front of the long head table." The feast was served amid many eloquent toasts and the reading of telegrams conveying greeting from brothers throughout the world. At this stage of the proceedings the waiters brought in the convention souvenir —a happy surprise for all those at the tables. It was no less than a beautifully inlaid box containing twenty-five of the best cigars made in Cuba. These boxes, 300 in all, had been made as one of President Menocal's personal contributions to the success of the convention. On the outside of the cover of the box was the ΔKE pin, inlaid in woods of different colors, while on the inside of the cover was the Cuban coat-of-arms, similarly inlaid, and beneath it an inscription from the donor. When these boxes had been opened and admired, and renewed cheers given for Brother Menocal, the speech making of the evening was in order.

Happily, one of these fine cigar cases has survived. In 1990, Mrs. Sarah J. Gillette, the widow of Edwin Spence Gillette 1914, gave her husband's case, a memento that had been treasured for seventy years, to the Delta Chi Chapter. It is now in the safekeeping of the Cornell University Department of Manuscripts and University Archives.

All too soon, the convocation concluded and the brothers departed the Caribbean. Brother John Clair Minot, Theta '96, captured the moment and the sentiment in his Convention poem, "The Dekes in Cuba."⁷

A toast to fair Havana,
Proud daughter of old Castile!
When we are back in the Northland
It is hither our hearts will steal.
For never more regal a hostess
Gave a welcome to DKE;
And never more gracious a hostess
In all of the world could be.
So here's a health to Havana,
And a health to the Cubans all,
In the name of El Presidente,
Our Brother Menocal.

⁷ *DKEQ*, XXXIX, #1 (February 1921), pp. 37-9: "The Dekes in Cuba" by John Clair Minot ©1896.

Fraternity Affairs

The relationship between Delta Chi and her sister chapters in Delta Kappa Epsilon was cordial though distant throughout the Twenties. The Cornell Dekes hosted a New York State ΔKE Alumni Reunion on 13 November 1920 and, some years later, considered a plan to strengthen the bonds between the Cornell, Syracuse, Colgate and Hamilton chapters, but aside for these activities, there was little effort made to strengthen ties within the Fraternity.⁸ The longstanding bonds between Delta Chi and the Beta Phi chapter at the University Rochester also began to slip during this era.

Delta Chi began the decade with the firmest resolve to block expansion of the Fraternity. On 12 December 1920, the chapter instructed her delegate to the forthcoming 76th ΔKE Convention to “consistently oppose by every means at his command” attempts to extend the Fraternity or reactivate defunct chapters of ΔKE.⁹ However, this policy was softened in the following year when the delegate was instructed “to act as he saw fit in regard to the matter of extension which is to come up before the Council.”¹⁰ By 1922, a full circle had been completed when Brother David Aloysius Munns 1923, the Delta Chi representative to the 78th ΔKE Convention, was directed to vote in favor of reviving the 1858 charter of the Zeta Zeta chapter at Louisiana State University (previously Centenary College).¹¹ The Convention concurred and Zeta Zeta returned to the ΔKE chapter roll —the first addition in eleven years. Finally, in 1927 Delta Chi led the successful campaign to re-establish the 1850 Chi chapter at the University of Mississippi.¹²

Perhaps the most politic action taken by the Cornell Dekes was the 1920 initiation of Brother James Anderson Hawes, Φ’94, into the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon as her second Honorary Member.¹³ Hawes was the General Secretary of the Fraternity and, by any measure, the life’s blood of the organization. He was particularly fond of the Ithaca colony and returned to visit the brotherhood with great frequency during the following years.¹⁴

The Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon became the principal forum for conducting Fraternity business during this period. Delta Chi was represented by Brothers Richard John Foster, Jr. 1916, Charles Baskerville, Jr. 1919, William Wood Ricker ‘96, and Joseph DeWitt Warner 1902 (in that order) during this period.¹⁵

⁸ *CMM*, 31 October 1920 and 25 May 1924.

⁹ *CMM*, 12 December 1920.

¹⁰ *CMM*, 5 October 1921.

¹¹ *CMM*, 10 December 1922. *Handbook for Pledges* (Delta Kappa Epsilon, 1971), p. 43. The new Zeta Zeta was formed from the LSU Friars Club which had petitioned DKE for fourteen years to be admitted as a chapter in DKE.

¹² *CMM*, 22 January 1928.

¹³ *CMM*, 11 December 1920.

¹⁴ *CMM*, 24 October 1924 and 15 November 1925.

¹⁵ *CMM*, 29 January 1922, 14 January 1923, 6 December 1925 and 10 December 1929.

Finances

The House began the decade in reasonably sound financial condition despite the large amount of debt that was being serviced. There was even a modest surplus that was directed into the chapter's Endowment Fund in 1920.¹⁶ More ambitious plans such as endowing a Delta Kappa Epsilon chair in the University were considered and encouraged by the alumni, but proved to be beyond the means of the brotherhood.

This happy state of affairs did not persist. By the fall of 1924 it became clear that income was not in balance with expense. The problem and the solution were presented by Brother Herbert Dana Schenck '82, then the president of the Alumni Association.¹⁷

Due to the failure of the chapter to manage its financial affairs during the school year of 1923-4, the Alumni Association had decided to take over all money matters except those relating to the Steward Department. The Association requires a contract in triplicate to be signed for by the brothers and their parents for the use of rooms in the House. All room rent and dues to go to the Association who agree to run the House exclusive of the Steward Department.

Recovery did not come quickly. By October 1925, Brother Kappa submitted the gloomy report "that the House is without funds" which was largely explained as the result of Brother Schenck's efforts to accelerate retirement of the chapter's debt.¹⁸ The situation worsened in the following months as expected revenues fell behind schedule. Those brothers who were delinquent in their House bills were compelled to leave the lodge. Things were no better in the Steward's Department where \$2100 in unpaid bills had accumulated.

The first sign that the House was climbing out of the hole appeared in the spring of 1926 when the Steward's Department began to pay off its indebtedness.¹⁹ By the following fall the situation was much improved. The operating accounts were back in balance and a significant chunk of debt had been retired.²⁰ The House still owed \$7500 in long term obligations, but the service on this sum was well within the means of the chapter. Delta Chi's state of receivership at the hands of the Alumni Association came to an end and the undergraduates were again entrusted with the management of their enterprise.

Tragic Early Deaths

The Twenties turned out to be an unlucky decade for the younger Dekes. The chapter was still sorting out the consequences of Clayton Caskey Ingersoll's untimely death when Brother Henry

¹⁶ *CMM*, 9 May 1920.

¹⁷ *CMM*, 28 September 1924.

¹⁸ *CMM*, 4 October 1925., 22 November 1925, 6 December 1925 and 28 February 1926.

¹⁹ *CMM*, 19 April 1926.

²⁰ *CMM*, 9 October 1926.

Howard “Cotton” Cissel 1922 died in the Cornell infirmary on 9 March from acute tonsillitis —alas, penicillin would not become available until the next war.²¹

On 16 September 1920, a substantial bomb secreted in a horse drawn wagon exploded in front of the J. P. Morgan Building located in New York’s Wall Street district.²² The blast was lethal: thirty-three were killed and some three hundred were injured. Brother Franklin G. Miller 1921, by then employed by the Elliott-Fisher Adding Machine Company, was among those slain.²³ Back in Ithaca, the chapter was shocked and outraged. Somber resolutions were enacted and subsequently published in the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*.²⁴ The perpetrator of this misdeed was never identified despite the frenzied efforts of the FBI.²⁵

After many years of affliction, Clarkson Lewis Farnsworth fell victim to the ravages of Bright’s Disease and died at the age of 25 in his parent’s residence, “Glen Laurel,” in Huntington NY on 7 January 1921.²⁶ Brother Robert Straun Bloomer 1924 apparently came so close to death that Delta Chi sent a letter of condolence to his family, but Bloomer would recover and live until he was sixty.²⁷

Rushing

Rushing proved to be frenzied, chaotic, frustrating and occasionally disappointing in the Twenties. By 1923 there were forty-seven fraternities on the hill, the elitist Star League cartel had faded from memory and competition for new members was intense. Two basic issues emerged during this period: “Would rushing be organized with an institutional structure?” and “Would formal rushing take place in the first or second term of the year?”

Much of the discussion within Delta Chi focused on these matters. As with any political debate, the stand taken by any particular house was largely a function of where it stood in the social pecking

²¹ *CMM*, 11 April 1920: “Brother Iota reads [to the brotherhood the] resolution to be sent to the [Delta Kappa Epsilon] Council and family of the deceased in regard to the death of Brother Cissel.” “Greetings From the Active Chapter, Delta Chi of Delta Kappa Epsilon, To Her Alumni and Sister Chapters,” May 1920, DKE Depository, CU-DMUA.

²² *NYT*, 17 September 1920, p. 1, col. 1: “Wall Street Explosion Kills 30, Injures 300. Frank Miller. 700 West 179th Street. Died in Broad Street Hospital.” *Chronicle of the 20th Century* (Chronicle Publications, Mount Kisco NY, 1987): “Bomb Kills 30, Injures 300 on Wall Street.”

²³ *Ithaca Journal*, 23 September 1920: “Cornellian Killed in N. Y. Explosion.”

²⁴ *CMM*, 3 October 1920: Brother William Emil Kugeman, Jr. 1922 reports “that resolutions regarding the death of Brother [Franklin G.] Miller 1921 have been completed and sent.” *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 3 (October 1920), p. 355.

²⁵ James Truslow Adams, ed.. *Dictionary of American History* (Charles Scribner’s Sons, New York, 1940), V, p. 393: “Wall Street Explosion.”

²⁶ *The Long Islander*, 14 January 1921.

²⁷ *CMM*, 5 March 1922: Delta Chi instructs Brother Iota “to write a letter of condolence to the family of Brother [Robert Straun] Bloomer 1924.” Robert Strawn Bloomer: b: 4 December 1901, d. 29 April 1962. This corrects the 2005 edition.

order. The older established houses generally favored second term rushing as long as the “lesser” fraternities could be kept from poaching on the relatively naive freshmen during the first term. They were skeptical of any University-wide Rushing Association that would put them on the same footing as the second and third tier “secret” societies that had spread their colonies to Cornell in the post 1880 era. But second term rushing could only work if there was a working enforcement mechanism, and this seemed to require a rushing association. The post-war competition would eventually drive the oldest houses into an uncomfortable congress of fraternities that recognized none of the traditional distinctions and prerogatives that the Star League had once commanded.

The first “normal year after the war” saw first term rushing in the fall of 1919 and a semblance of order.²⁸ Delta Chi recruited eleven freshmen and seemed sufficiently happy with the result to recommend that it be tried for another year.²⁹ The Dekes also introduced two proposals intended to strengthen the Rushing Association:

- Firstly, “that a bond be put up by each fraternity in the association,” and
- Secondly, that a board of arbitration “composed of business men in town who are fraternity members [be formed] to decide on any infraction of rushing rules which might occur during rushing season.”

These measures clearly favored the minority block of old guard houses that were all financially sound and possessed many alumni members in the Ithaca community. As such we can be reasonably certain that they were successfully opposed by the democratically constituted Rushing Association.

Despite this rebuff, Delta Chi fought throughout 1921 to preserve the Rushing Association and to shape its policies.³⁰ The next two years saw increasing numbers of rushing violations. By the spring of 1923, the Dekes again pressed for a forfeit bond system to enforce adherence to the Association’s rulings and establishment of a formal Violations Committee, this time to be headed by President Livingston Farrand.³¹

The chapter also took the position that the misfortune of first term rush might be mitigated by insisting that initiations not occur until the second term. No doubt, the second tier houses resisted this measure as it represented both a deferment of revenues and a concession to the older societies. It was not until 1925 that second term initiation became an accepted practice at Cornell. This came about largely because of a formal secret agreement amongst the Big Six (Zeta Psi, Kappa Alpha Society, Chi Psi, Alpha Delta Phi, Delta Kappa Epsilon and Psi Upsilon) that left the smaller houses with little choice but to go along.³²

²⁸ *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 1 (February 1920), pp. 110-1: “Chapter Letters.”

²⁹ *CMM*, 18 April 1920.

³⁰ *CMM*, 27 February 1921, 27 March 1921 and 8 May 1921.

³¹ *CMM*, 13 May 1923 and 6 May 1923.

³² *CMM*, 9 November 1924.

The fall rush of 1923 was more of a struggle than a triumph for Delta Chi.³³ Twelve good men were taken, but this “unsatisfactory” rush signaled a trend towards smaller pledge classes that would continue until the end of the decade. After 1925, the Rush Association ceased to be a concern of Delta Chi as attention turned to dealing with her sisters in the Big Six. As always, cartels were more to the liking of secret societies.

We have the following 1926 account that says much about the situation at Cornell and of the manner in which Delta Chi coped.³⁴

In spite of our strong endeavor to inaugurate second-term rushing at Cornell, the wishes of the smaller houses prevailed and Delta Chi commenced its fifty-sixth year confronted by the serious problem of “cut-throat” rushing. We cannot overly express our gratitude for the aid rendered us by the alumni and members of other chapters in recommending to us many incoming freshmen. One of the glaring defects of the present system of rushing is that, since all the men recommended cannot be entertained on the opening day, many possible rushees fall by the wayside before we get the chance of seeing them. Thanks to the untiring activity of the rushing committee and the full cooperation of the House, we regard with considerable pride the delegation that was pledged.

The technique of using alumni supplied intelligence to screen the Freshman Class was assiduously perfected in the following years and came to be recognized as “the only way, under the system of cut-throat rushing, that we are sure of continuing Deke to the highest power of Dekeism.”³⁵ Doubtlessly, the high “legacy” content of pledge classes in this era was due in part to this practice.

Life in the House —Raising Hell!

Prohibition arrived in 1919 and its effect on American social life quickly took hold. The mystique associated with speakeasies, bootleg liquor and pulling a fast one on the local gendarmes was an attraction to young college men, particularly those who fancied themselves at the top of the University’s social pecking order. It was probably inevitable that the Cornell Dekes obtained a reputation for fast living and heavy drinking. As with all legends, there was some substance beneath the myth.

Obtaining liquor was never a problem. Ithaca was well serviced by a legion of petty rum runners and illegal tavern keepers. The Deke House was most frequently supplied by Thomas Alfred

³³ *DKEQ*, XLI, 4 (December 1923), pp. 418-9: “Chapter Letters.”

³⁴ *DKEQ*, XLIV, 3 (May 1926), pp. 223-4: “Chapter Letters.”

³⁵ *DKEQ*, XLV, 2 (May 1927), pp. 197-9: “Chapter Letters.” *DKEQ*, XLV, 4 (December 1927), pp. 401-2: “Chapter Letters.”

Gelchenor Herson (1878–1959), the proprietor of the Lehigh Valley House on West Buffalo Street.³⁶

Securing drinkable hooch was another matter.³⁷ On one memorable occasion in 1923, Pledge Brother Harold Roland “Chick” Labonte 1926, acting on the instructions of Brother Andrew John Biemiller 1926, purchased a case of whiskey from Herson and brought it back to 13 South Avenue in anticipation of a House “rabbit.” On the day before the party, the brothers decided to test the liquor. Pledge Labonte was called up to Biemiller’s room and offered a drink —Chick later considered this to be “a real complement” since in those days such familiarity between a pledge and a brother was unheard of. For some reason, the brothers left the room and Labonte settled down by himself to sample the whiskey. He tried one drink and felt sick immediately; “This was no ordinary booze!”

Labonte left the room to find the brothers and advise them that they had purchased a case of poison. Unfortunately, in his absence Brother Enos Eldridge Pennock 1928 wandered in and helped himself to several generous tugs on the bottle. He quickly fell sick, stumbled down to the library and “waited to go blind,” the common result of drinking bad bootleg. There, unconscious, he was soon found by the brothers who urgently dispatched Pledge Labonte to Klein’s Pharmacy for an antidote. Pennock eventually recovered after several touch-and-go days. Later, Labonte successfully pressed Herson for a refund on the case.

Road trips were another diversion. The most notable of that era was the expedition of Brothers Ralph S. “Bobo” Blazy 1926, Harold Roland “Chick” Labonte 1926 and William Burke, Jr. 1926 to Hanover NH for the Cornell-Dartmouth football game of 1924. This illustrious trio set off from Ithaca in “Bobo’s Buick” with wager money of their own, \$250 chipped in by Brother John Frederick “Jack” Nixon 1924 and another large sum from John Francis “Jack” Barrett 1925.

This intrepid band of ΔKE gamblers was halted temporarily in upstate New York when a wheel flew off of the car at high speed. After a long search, it was located in a field. The wheel was remounted with the aid of a friendly farmer and the brothers resumed their journey. Somewhere near Saratoga Springs NY, they encountered a road “like a washboard.” This resulted in a broken spring, a hefty bill and a long stay in the garage for the venerable Buick. Undeterred, Brothers Blazy, Labonte and Burke hired a cab and made their way to Hanover in good order. There they stayed at the Pi Chapter ΔKE lodge.

A bet for \$1000 was placed at the Hanover Inn; “Ten on Cornell would get you eight.” The next day saw a victory for the Big Red and the Delta Chi Dekes celebrated with complete abandon. Labonte and Burke awoke late the next morning to find that Blazy had already spent \$500 of the winnings on a plush 1919 Cadillac touring car.

³⁶The Lehigh Valley House still stands at its original location, 801 West Buffalo Street, at the intersection with Taughannock Boulevard.

³⁷Transcript of a conversation over cocktails with Brothers Caesar Augustin Grasselli, II 1922, Harold Roland “Chick” Labonte 1926, Thomas Washburn Hopper 1928, Homer Hartmen “Bud” Bishop 1936, unidentified (probably Norman Lindsley Davidson, Jr.) ‘71, and Henry Chesnel Llop ‘72. 12:15 PM, 12 June 1971, Ithaca NY.

The trip back was only somewhat less eventful. The returning Dekes made good progress until they struck Rutland VT where a blown tire required replacement. The next stop was Saratoga Springs to pick up Bobo's Buick from the garage. This done, the two car caravan set out for Ithaca, but it was not long before the Buick broke all of its remaining springs and was sold for \$35. The three Dekes finally reached South Avenue, sold the Cadillac to Brother Barrett as his share in the winnings and used that money to pay off Brother Nixon.

Of course, there were other road trips with similar misadventures. Two years later, the next ΔKE excursion to Dartmouth broke all of the springs in a Studebaker on the road between White River Junction VT and Rutland. And then there was the time that Brothers Labonte and David Aloysius Munns 1923 lost a wheel while speeding down Newfield Hill in a Model T Ford owned by Brother Rollin Henry White, Jr. 1926.

If life on the road was a bit rough, there were also times when life in the House was exciting—or at least dangerous. There was one brother who had the peculiar habit of sleeping with a .45 caliber automatic pistol under his pillow at night. One day the House was visited by a local chimney sweep who had a pet crow that would follow him about town by wing. The sweep set to work cleaning out one of the chimney flues and the crow settled onto a branch of the northern Roosevelt spruce tree. The unnamed brother calmly opened a window of the lodge's northwest study, aimed his weapon and dispatched the crow with a single shot. The chimney sweep was heartbroken.

Sometimes liquor could be more trouble than it was worth. In December 1921 the Cornell Student Council, never an ally of the secret societies, demanded “the enforcement of anti-liquor rules in fraternities, the abolition of uncontrolled fraternity dances, and the persuasion of visiting alumni to keep sober and abate their generosity.”³⁸ This call was prompted by a rumor that the Deke lodge was the storehouse for several cases of spirits being held in readiness for the forthcoming Junior Week festivities.³⁹ The word went out from the University President's office to Emmet J. Murphy, Chairman of the Prom Committee, that unless the contraband was sequestered (as far as use at the Prom) the ball would be canceled. The matter was discussed at length by the brotherhood and, a few days later, Chairman Murphy was able to report that the problem had been resolved.⁴⁰ It was Prohibition then, even if the Dekes did not approve.

All in all, it was an age of riotous parties and good times for the Cornell Dekes. The fraternities of the Big Six, forming a tight and virtually impenetrable social circle, established their own well funded Entertainment Committee in 1921.⁴¹ As a result, the Delta Chi Dekes partied almost exclusively with Chi Psi, Kappa Alpha and Alpha Delta Phi during this period.⁴² One of the few

³⁸ Bishop (1962), p. 490.

³⁹ Robert J. Kane, Dean Emeritus, Cornell University, letter to HWF dated 2 March 1987.

⁴⁰ *CMM*, 4 December 1921: Brother William Emil Kugeman, Jr. 1922 “reports [to the brotherhood] on [the] liquor question.”

⁴¹ *CMM*, 3 April 1921.

⁴² *CMM*, 10 October 1920, 12 January 1921, 22 January 1922 and 14 October 1929.

ΔKE social affairs allowing outsiders was the annual Faculty Tea, an event noted for the absence of any tea in the cups of attendees.⁴³

Law and Order

Discipline in the House was maintained by a strong committee system that enforced quiet hours for study, fined improperly dressed brothers and tubbed those who committed a major breach of the rules such as dating a coed —the Anti-coedism policy was formally put on the books as a House Rule in 1921.⁴⁴ The only expulsion was that of Oscar Pierson Vate 1928 who was struck from the rolls for unknown reasons.⁴⁵ All said, there was little law making and very little law breaking during this period.

House and Grounds

There were no significant alterations to the facilities at 13 South Avenue during the Twenties. 1920 saw the addition of a flagpole that projected westward at an oblique angle from the lodge's round tower.⁴⁶ This form was quite different than the vertical shaft envisioned by the architect, William Miller. Four years later, the brothers were able to renovate the tennis court thanks to a generous gift from the wife of Edwin Gillette 1873.⁴⁷ Within the lodge itself, there was little more to do save for hanging the pictures of famous Dekes and Cornell lettermen.⁴⁸

Alumni

One of the more peculiar incidents of this era was the moderate storm raised by Brother Hayward Hutchinson Kendall 1900 in 1928 when he published what can only be called a spirited open letter to Cornell's President Livingston Farrand in *The World*.⁴⁹

I am being pressed to become a member of the M. Club of Cornell and donate \$1,000 a year to university maintenance. I strip to the waist to make reply. Even with the will I couldn't help comfortably while paying for a winter home in Florida out of income. I don't mean a duchy or principality with a kingly villa in the centre, like the great Khan Teagle's estate, but a few humble acres on the Gulf and a simple

⁴³ *CMM*, 29 April 1923, 28 April 1924 and 15 November 1925.

⁴⁴ *CMM*, 8 May 1921.

⁴⁵ *CMM*, 24 October 1926, 29 October 1926 and 16 December 1926.

⁴⁶ *CMM*, 14 March 1920.

⁴⁷ *CMM*, 29 October 1923 and 9 March 1924.

⁴⁸ *CMM*, 5 December 1926.

⁴⁹ *The World*, LXVII, No. 24,407 (17 Jun 1928), p. 1, col. 1: "'Sexy' Cornell in for a Million if it Reforms."

cottage with bougainvilleas and coconut palms and poison ivy around it. My friends speak of a heritage I have gotten from Cornell University. The only legacy I am certain I received from that institution of learning was the licker habit. It took me years to get over it. And, quite frankly, I could have acquired this same habit in two years at Harvard while it took me four at Cornell. My contacts with Professor Morse Stephens, Cuthbert W. Pound and one or two others were priceless, of course. But my contacts with other members of the faculty were about as valuable and even less interesting than association with a group of Latvians or Letta. I refuse to get steamed up over Cornell. You have neither an Eastern university nor a frankly Western one. All you have is a group of rather inharmonious buildings in a glorious setting, a silly, undemocratic fraternity system and a large mall of unwelcome, misplaced women called coeds. How can you have a loyal, homogeneous, happy body of students when two-thirds of them belong to no fraternities at all and only a handful to the more prominent ones? Thousands of under graduates are annoyed, embittered or humiliated by the airs of superiority put on by those foolish fraternities composed of Arrow collar models. Not only do those swaggering Brahmins irritate the eye with their caps and Greek letter jewelry, but they throw open the windows of their ostentatious lodges, or gather on the stoops and roar out boastful fraternity songs and irk the ear. It's all swank, flapdoodle and fish, but it's taken so seriously it's fatal to university esprit de corps. And who can get the date of the Norman invasion or the French irregular verbs fixed in his mind when a bare kneed cutie, all scented up with Black Narcissus, is sitting just across the aisle? No one without the sales resistance of a Galahad! A woman's main purpose in life is to get a husband. The maternity instinct in her is as basic as it is in hens. After four academic years she understands no language but that if "If I were King" and no music but a wedding march. And perhaps its better so. It's the Cleopatras and Helens of Troy that change the geography of the world. And intellectuality is death to sex appeal. Yet if you established a separate Sage College, like Radcliffe, across Fall Creek Gorge, you would not only give the women students a better education than they now receive but you would put them on an equality with the men students and perhaps create a women's college with the prestige of Vassar, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr and Smith. Undergraduates are either deadheads or half rate or quarter rate passengers. Furthermore, though they have bass voices and vocabularies and perchance mustaches, they are just emerging from childhood. And though they have acquired a semi-World Almanac education and parlor theories of government and philosophy and economics and ethics, they are as shallow as goldfish. Therefore, it doesn't seem amiss reasonably to regulate their social lives. I refuse to contribute a dime to your present misfit university with its caste system and sexy characteristics. But to show you I am acting in good faith, I will agree to leave Cornell a million dollars if the fraternity and club system is completely abolished and the women are given a separate college of their own. I wonder if you have the imagination to see that millions would be poured into a thoroughly American institution built on the line that I have suggested? An utterly democratic institution that turned out gentlemen

and gentlewomen imbued with the spirit of scholarship and alive to the responsibilities of higher education. Graduates who grasped, though faintly, that gentleness was the end of all culture (to use Emerson) and that Jesus of Nazareth was the real gentleman after all. And if final judgment is given by your alumni and not by a group of university officials and trustees —too long under the influence of your country town noblesse— I believe they will upset the two silly systems and make Cornell a model for America. Pardon my rough and tumble entrance to your party, but a brick through the window arouses quicker interest than a dollar's worth of pansies laid lovingly on the threshold.

This letter was widely quoted in the national press and caused an uproar back in Ithaca, particularly amongst the Cornell coeds who protested, “We are not bare-kneed cuties, we’re not,” and went on to say, “He can keep his old money.”⁵⁰ And, of course, fraternity men rose to the defense of their societies.⁵¹ President Farrand, adopting silence as the best tactic, refused to make a public comment.

The story took a final twist when Brother Kendall, supposedly “one of the wealthiest men of Cleveland” died just six months after the issue of his famous letter.⁵² His estate was found to total no more than \$690,000; there was no million dollar bequest, provisional or otherwise, for the University.⁵³ Presumably the Cornell coeds were much relieved to find that Cornell had not lost a great fortune because of their “dimpled knees.”

Literary Exercises

The post war resurgence of interest in the Chapter’s informal literary presentations continued into 1920-21, but fell off thereafter as the social distractions of the new decade took sway. Brothers were still fined for being unprepared for their recitations, but there were also muttering “that literary exercises be abolished” amongst those who discovered the allure of the open road and bootleg whiskey.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ *Waterbury (CT) Republican*, 17 June 1928: “Embittered Cornell Man Offers Alma Mater Million Provisionally.” *Worcester (MA) Post*, 18 June 1928: “Blast at Co-Eds by Coal Baron Stirs Cornell.” *Cleveland Press*, 23 June 1928: “Again, Kendall and Cornell” *NYT*, 17/18 June 1928, p. 19, col. 1: “Offers Fund to End Caste at Cornell.”

⁵¹ *NYT*, 1 June 1928, p. 10, col. 3: “Cornell Graduates Back Fraternities —Gherardi, New Trustee, Denies Kendall Charge That Lack of Affiliation Handicaps Men.”

⁵² Unidentified newspaper, possibly *The Ithaca Journal*, ca. 20 November 1928: “Hayward Kendall Dies in New York —Coal Operator was Vigorous Dissenter —Cleveland Millionaire Was Critic of Cornell’s Fraternities.” *NYT*, 20 November 1928, p. 31, col. 4: “Hayward H. Kendall of Cleveland Dies —Free-Lance Writer and Retired Coal Operator Is Stricken in New York,”

⁵³ *Journal News*, 30 November 1928: “Kendall Didn’t Have Million He Offered to Give to Cornell.”

⁵⁴ *CMM*, 21 November 1920: Brother Caesar Augustin Grasselli, II 1922 is “fined for being unprepared” during chapter literary exercises. *CMM*, 5 December 1920: A motion “that literary exercises be abolished” is laid on the table for two weeks. This motion was never taken up by the chapter.

A sampling of the topics illustrates the variety in subject matter that had come to be a House tradition.

18 January 1920. Exercises include a talk by Brother Benjamin Warder Fullington 1921 on “The Value of a General College Education in Business,” and a talk by Brother George King Bishop 1919 on “[A] Trip Through Standard Parts Company of Cleveland, Ohio.”

22 February 1920. Brother Henry Howard “Cotton” Cissel 1922 reads two editorials from The American Legion and Brother Charles Russell Collins, Jr. 1922 gives a speech entitled, “Trip Through Atlanta.”

29 February 1920. Brother Caesar Augustin Grasselli, II 1922 reads an article on “Cruelty on Both Sides in Russia,” Brother Oscar Bauer, Jr. 1921 gives a prepared speech on “The Effects of Wood Alcohol,” and Brother Paul Gillette 1919 gives a speech on “American Government.”

7 March 1920. Exercises consist of a reading by Brother Kugeman on “[The] National Service Act,” a prepared speech by Brother E. Rickard on “Electric Propulsion of Ships,” and an extemporaneous speech by Brother J. MacBean on “Public Speaking.”

10 October 1920. Brother Howard Archibald Acheson 1923 gives a reading on “The Bomb Outrages in Wall Street,” Brother Ross Stockbridge Anderson 1922 gives a prepared speech on “Why America is Not Rebuilding France,” and Brother Paul Gillette 1919 gives an extemporaneous speech on “The Oil Situation.”

23 January 1921. Brother Carter Mullaly 1923 reads an article entitled “Keep it Up,” Brother Caesar Augustin Grasselli, II 1922 speaks “On the Condition of Austria After the War,” and Brother Eric Martyn Rickard 1921 speaks on a street car runaway in Ithaca.

27 February 1921. Literary Exercises include the delivery of [an unspecified] Oath by Brothers Joyce, Reeve and Thomas, a reading by Brother Mykrantz entitled “Japan as a Possible Foe,” and a speech by Brother Kugeman, “A Permanent Cure for Chinese Famine.”

8 May 1921. Brother Allan Howard Frazer, Jr. 1924 gives a reading on “Prohibition,” and Brother Anderson speaks on “The Way in Which the Government Made Concrete Ships Practical During the War” during chapter literary exercises.

20 November 1921. Exercises include a speech by Brother Acheson on “The Future of Aviation” and a speech by Brother Wood on “Cornell’s Activities and the Part DKE Plays.”

28 November 1921. Literary Exercises include speeches by Brother Thomas Cary Hennings, Jr. 1924 on “Canadian Relations and Their Bearing Upon the Conference,” by Brother Stuart Holland Hacker 1923 on “Disarmament and its

Effect Upon the Nations,” and Brother Ross Stockbridge Anderson 1922 on “The Attitude Towards the Disarmament Conference.”

8 January 1922. Literary Exercises include a talk by Brother Williams on “Egypt Under British Rule.”

9 December 1929. During Literary Exercises, Brother Albert Joseph Hoole 1932 “reads [to the brotherhood] an account of the presentation of the [alumni] memorial windows.” Brother Joseph Marquis Johnston, Jr. 1930 serves as critic.

16 December 1929. Brother Frank G. Erskine 1930 presents “a brief history of Chi chapter” during the chapter’s Literary Exercises.

In Memoriam

Deaths amongst friends, alumni and even adversaries cast their inevitable shadows from time to time. The House’s fabled architect, William Henry Miller, passed away in 1921 at his Florida home.⁵⁵ New York Supreme Court Justice Louis William Marcus ‘89 died in Buffalo in 1923.⁵⁶ John DeWitt Warner 1872, the chapter’s most important charter member, fell victim to a stroke in New York City in 1925.⁵⁷ The next year saw the death of the infamous Patrick William Cullinan 1872 who had quit ΔKE to join Alpha Delta Phi back in 1870.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Anon., “William Henry Miller [obituary],” *American Architecture*, 121 (1 March 1921), p. 168. *Cornell Daily Sun*, 11 January 1922, p. 2, col 1: “W. H. Miller ‘71 Meets Death at Miami Residence.”

⁵⁶ *NYT*, Sunday, 19 Aug 1923, p. 26, col. 5: “Justice Louis W. Marcus. Supreme Court Jurist for 18 Years Dies at His Home in Buffalo.”

⁵⁷ *NYT*, 28 May 1925, p. 21, col. 5: “J. DeWitt Warner Dies From Stroke.” Fogle. *ΔX of ΔKE Special Study #09 —John DeWitt Warner 1872*. Cornell eCommons: <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/3256>

⁵⁸ *NYT*, 30 July 1926: “P. W. Cullinan [‘72] Dead,” 73. *Oswego Palladium-Times*, ca. 30 July 1926, p. 12: “P. W. Cullinan Found Dead on Floor of Home.”

Chapter VI: 1930-1939

We now visit the Thirties: the twilight of Prohibition, the long Great Depression and the uncertain anticipation of another World War. Delta Chi, now sixty years old, was fully formed as an institution with set customs, rules, ambitions and extravagances. Above all, the relations between the alumni and the undergraduates were mutually appreciative and sanguine. The troubles of the world beyond Ithaca would little affect the young Dekes who strode the campus with enviable energy and boundless enthusiasm.

Panic of 1932

As the decade opened, the University was engaged in a multifaceted fit of campus planning that would come to worry the Cornell Dekes. In order to understand the threat we must consider the lay of the land as it was in the Nineteen-twenties. At that time South Avenue extended from Stewart Avenue as it does now and ran east, crossing the north-south running Central Avenue, and continued to Hoy Field. Central Avenue ran from behind White Hall, past the front of the Straight, over Cascadilla Creek, and into Collegetown. All of the land southwest of Willard Straight Hall was owned by the University and largely leased to professors for their residences or to fraternities for their lodges.

The Deke House was in the middle of this residential preserve. To the north of 13 South Avenue lay Delta Upsilon (6 South Avenue, built in 1890) and Telluride House (217 West Avenue, 1910). To the east along South Avenue were three professor's homes (at addresses #9, #7 and #5). Theta Delta Chi (15 South Avenue) stood across West Avenue from ΔKE where the Center for Jewish Living is now located. Next door to ΘΔΧ was Pi Kappa Alpha (17 South Avenue). To the southwest one found Phi Sigma Delta, Chi Phi and Lambda Chi Alpha (#102, #107 and #125 Edgemoor Lane, respectively). Further up the hill, southeast of ΔKE stood Psi Upsilon, Sigma Phi and Kappa Alpha Society (#1, #1½ and #2 Central Avenue, respectively).¹

One might have thought that the University was content with this scheme of land usage since each lease had been authorized and approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. Nevertheless, the "General Plan for Cornell University" unveiled in 1925 hinted that things might soon change.²

The 1928 gift of \$1.5 million by Myron Charles Taylor '94 (1874-1959), U.S. Steel's chairman and chief executive officer, for a new Cornell Law School campus led to the razing of the handsome Psi Upsilon and Sigma Phi lodges on the west side of Central Avenue and the faculty residences on South Avenue.³ This demolition meant that nothing was safe. The next campus plan by Bryant

¹ Cornell University Campus Map, 1928. Kroch Library, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections.

² Parsons (1968), fig. 192, p. 236: "General Plan for Cornell University, University Plan Commission, 1925."

³ *Cornell Daily Sun*, LI, #101 (16 February 1931), p. 1: "Masonry Work Begun On New Law Building." The building by architects Otto Reinhold Eggers (1882–1964) and Daniel Paul Higgins (1886–1953), done in collegiate gothic style, was dedicated on 15 October 1932.

Fleming 1901 (1877-1946), University Landscape Advisor, issued in 1930 depicted a campus with no Deke House or any of the other standing fraternities in the neighborhood west of the new law school.⁴ Further reports of plans for a men's dormitory complex on West Campus would ensue.⁵

Thus, we are not surprised that the Chapter's annual letter in 1932 predicted an end to ΔKE life in the South Avenue lodge.⁶

For several years many of the men in the chapter have felt uneasy and restless at times as if some event were about to take place which they knew to be inevitable and bound to occur sometime in the near future.

Early in the spring of nineteen thirty, when the houses east of us were vacated and the plans for Myron Taylor Hall completed, we finally realized that before many years Thirteen South Avenue would be no more. To those who have been associated with the chapter during the past forty years this will seem like the final parting with an old friend who has remained true and loyal all this time. Men have passed in and out with the classes, traditions have been slowly built up until they are not meaningless things to observe but an inseparable part of all of us; alumni return and roaming through the house remember events in the past which are dear to them. Every room is a shrine in itself. Soon this will be a thing of the past and the industrious law students will occupy our beloved Thirteen South Avenue, little knowing the sacred ground on which they tread.

For many years the University had more or less indefinite ideas for utilizing the area between Stewart and Central Avenues, but not until recently have any definite plans been made. Now a building program has been drawn up, a few of the proposed units finished, and the rest to follow as the necessary money is obtained. The general scheme is to devote this area bounded by Central Avenue, South Avenue, and Cascadilla Gorge to the graduate law school. The remaining tract from gorge to gorge on the north and south, University and West Avenues, on the east and west, will be used to house the entire body of men students. This will not include only university dormitories but also fraternity houses. Eighty-five percent of the tract is now owned by the University or fraternities while the remaining fifteen percent the University expects to purchase in the future. At present the details concerning the relations between the University and those fraternities which wish to occupy a site in this area has not been completely worked out, but the general plan in mind is for the University to allow the fraternities to choose any suitable site not otherwise occupied, construct a chapter house in keeping with the general

⁴ Parsons (1968), Fig. 196, p. 241. Fleming served as the first lecturer and instructor in landscape art in the Department of Landscape Art in the College of Agriculture at Cornell and head of the department from 1906-1915.

⁵ *CDS*, L, #1 (23 September 1929), "Large Building Program Marks Cornell Campus;" *LI*, #112 (28 February 1931), "Glimpses Into the Future."

⁶ ΔKE8-001. *Delta Chi Chapter Letters, Vol. II, 1922-34*. Annual Chapter Letter, June, 1932, pp. 8-10: "Delta Chi's New Address?"

architectural scheme and present the house to the University. It is hoped that eventually the whole student body will be collected in one group instead of being scattered all over the hill, as now is the case.

At first this plan seemed to offer few attractions but as it developed it appeared to be the only logical solution of a very difficult situation. In our own case it is not known exactly how long before we will be forced to give way to the graduate law school, but in any event it is only a matter of years. Thus it will become necessary for us to find a suitable building site. The only available ones left are beyond Cayuga Heights, or out toward Forest Home. The main disadvantage in both cases is the distance from the campus and the center of Ithaca. Also we would not only buy a site, and build a chapter house, but, at the same time be subject to conditions. A suitable site now might not be suitable in years to come due to commercial interests coming in and occupying adjacent property. Under the University plan we would be given a site and also be better assured of permanent surroundings. Thus it is generally believed that such a plan offers a great deal more than any present alternative, especially when one looks ahead into the future and visualizes conditions several decades from the present.

This pessimistic outlook would not be repeated. We can only surmise that, this alarm given, the ΔKE alumni made their feelings known to University administration. None of the proponents for the development of the Deke House neighborhood were fraternity men except for Fleming.⁷ His fraternity, Delta Phi, housed in Ezra Cornell's former home was safe from the ax.

Construction of the law school continued throughout the summer of 1932 and on 15 October, Brother Cuthbert Winfred Pound '87, Chief Justice of the New York State of Appeals, gave the principal address of the day, "A Modern University Law School," at the dedication of Myron Taylor Hall.⁸ This marked the crest of campus expansion to the southwest. The planner's juggernaut had been stopped for good.

Scholarship

Dekes of the Nineteen-thirties were known as athletes, student leaders and enthusiastic fraternity men, but academic prowess was not to be a forte of the brotherhood. The decade began with the president of the Delta Chi Association, alumnus Brother Joseph DeWitt Warner 1902 urging the

⁷ Evan Fay Earle 1902, Special Collections Assistant, Cornell University Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, e-mail to HWF, Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:35 AM: "None of Taylor's bio cards indicate any association with a fraternity." Laura Miriam Linke, Senior Reference Specialist, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University, e-mail to HWF, Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:45 PM: Bryant Fleming 1901 (Delta Phi & Scalp and Blade); Frederick Lee Ackerman 1901 (apparently none, according to the *Cornellian*); Richmond Harold Shreve, 1903 (Arch. 1902, Sphinx Head, Aleph Samach & Dunstan).

⁸ *The Cornellian Council Bulletin*, XVIII, No. 1 (Oct 1932), 1-3: "Myron Taylor Hall Dedicated in Impressive Ceremony."

undergraduates to improve their scholastic work and the decade would end with Brother Franklin E. Brundage 1940, head of the Student Committee doing much the same.⁹

Fraternalities, a frequent target of the *Cornell Daily Sun's* editorial board, were regularly bludgeoned for poor academic performance. Finally the Interfraternity Council moved to publish the 1936-37 fraternity rankings, perhaps hoping that embarrassment would lead to better results.¹⁰ Thus the world learned where we stood: thirty-fifth in a field of forty-seven. This sad list follows.

1. Beta Sigma Rho; 2. Alpha Epsilon Pi; 3. Alpha Gamma Rho; 4. Alpha Chi Sigma; 5. Phi Beta Delta; 6. Phi Epsilon Pi; 7. Beta Theta Pi; 8. Phi Kappa Tau; 9. Sigma Phi Epsilon; 10. Alpha Tau Omega; 11. Kappa Delta Rho; 12. Phi Gamma Delta; 13. Theta Kappa Nu; 14. Zeta Beta Tau; 15. Pi Lambda Phi; 16. Seal and Serpent; 17. Tau Delta Phi; 18. Sigma Nu; 19. Sigma Phi Sigma; 20. Sigma Phi; 21. Alpha Chi Rho; 22. Theta Xi; 23. Lambda Chi Alpha; 24. Scorpion; 25. Pi Kappa Phi; 26. Acacia; 27. Sigma Pi; 28. Delta Upsilon; 29. Delta Tau Delta; 30. Sigma Alpha Epsilon; 31. Kappa Alpha; 32. Sigma Chi; 33. Delta Phi; 34. Phi Sigma Kappa; 35. Delta Kappa Epsilon; 36. Sigma Phi; 37. Chi Psi; 38. Delta Sigma Phi; 39. Chi Phi; 40. Phi Kappa Alpha; 41. Psi Upsilon; 42. Zeta Psi; 43. Phi Kappa Sigma; 44. Kappa Sigma; 45. Delta Chi; 46. Alpha Delta Phi; and 47. Theta Delta Chi.

Of course, another way of looking at this list is to see that ΔKE ranked #2 amongst the five members of the Star League (underlined) and maintained that position when Chi Psi is added to comprise the Big Six.

The decade saw no improvement on the academic front. By 1939 even the Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon observed that the chapter's "excellent financial standing" was offset by the seriously poor scholastic standing. The House responded by passing a Chapter By-law stating "that no one shall be initiated into this chapter who is not in good standing in the University."¹¹

The Delta Chi Deke

The chapter had issued annual letters to the alumni over the years and these were often praised by the ΔKE Council, but a significant innovation was presented the spring of 1935: the first issue of a quarterly newsletter, *The Delta Chi Deke*. Brother Homer Hartman Bishop 1936 led this effort and became the newsletter's first editor, a job that would eventually be assigned to the chapter's

⁹ *CMM*, 18 Feb 1930 The chapter hears of a letter from Brother Joseph DeWitt Warner 1902 "regarding the improving of scholarship." *CMM*, 11 Oct 1938 Brother Sigma [Franklin E. Brundage 1940] talks to the brotherhood "about the poor scholastic standing of the House and [urges] better enforcement of the study hour."

¹⁰ *CDS*, LVIII, #90 (8 February 1938): "Fraternalities Rated in Scholastic List."

¹¹ *CMM*, 1 May 1939: Brother Richard Alfred Lowe 1939 reports that at the meeting of the Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon meeting that he recently attended, "that our excellent financial standing was commented on favorably, but that our scholastic standing was the lowest of any chapter represented." Brother Lowe also suggests "that the subject of 'snap courses' be dropped from House conversation." *CMM*, 15 May 1939: A motion "that no one shall be initiated into this chapter who is not in good standing in the University" carries and is accepted as a Chapter By-law.

registrar (Brother Alpha).¹² This new publication was successful by the three measures that the undergraduates set as goals: (1) heightened alumni interest in the House, (2) increased financial contributions, and (3) most importantly, recruitment recommendations. The masthead summed up the publication's purpose.

The Delta Chi Deke

Published regularly during the school year by the Delta Chi chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity for its alumni members and friends.

Editor Homer H. Bishop 1936

News material is solicited at all times. Address mail to the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Ithaca, N.Y.

A Step For Progress

Delta Chi begins a new chapter institution with the appearance of this first issue of *The Delta Chi Deke* which should reach you henceforth four times during each school year.

Frankly, the new type of publication is initiated with the plan of keeping alumni members in closer touch with each other and the chapter and better-informed regarding the health and wealth of Delta Chi, with the expectation that it will contribute to that "health and wealth."

This should be a publication such as we've never enjoyed before. Its frequent appearance will bring you timely news and serve to remind alumni more frequently of DKE loyalty. Its newspaper style should provide a maximum of news in most readable set-up. Its avowed purpose shall be to give increased emphasis to actual news of alumni members.

Every *Delta Chi Deke* must feel that this is his publication, write letters to its editor and contribute news and comments. Please let us have your suggestions before the next issue at school opening next fall.

Return the Yellow Sheet

Every alumnus is sincerely urged to fill out and return to the editor very promptly the yellow biographical sheet which is enclosed with this issue. In line with our new publication policy, it is expedient that better and more complete biographical and address records be maintained regarding each member. The receipt of your sheet not only verifies the accuracy of your present address, but furnishes the data about you that should be in the possession of the chapter's biographical records. Please fill it out today.

It is from this first issue of the *Delta Chi Deke* that we learn of the chapter's mascot.

¹² *CMM*, 11 May 1936: A motion "that Brother Alpha's duties include that of editing *The Delta Chi Deke* and writing the chapter letter to the *DKE Quarterly*" carries. This proposal was previously introduced by Brother Bishop on 27 April 1936. *CMM*, 27 Mar 1939: Brother George Lewis Kalb 1939 announces "that Brother Hazelton 1940, the new Brother Alpha, would edit the next *Delta Chi Deke*."

A DOG-ABOUT-TOWN

Popular companion to every active member and the campus at large is the chapter's latest mascot, a Newfoundland dog who answers to the name of "Fritz." He was rescued from the University's Medical School where he waited [sic] experimentation last spring by Albie Bowman 1933 who gave him to the house. Fritz has become one of the best known personages of the campus and does not miss any campus event of importance... and gets himself into any possible photograph to prove it. Members were not surprised to see him in the front row of the picture of this year's Psi Upsilon house party.

More about Fritz later. The newspaper became an important document of record. Rush results, athletic victories and honors were regularly reported. Alumni contributed news and shared memories. An early history of Delta Chi by Brother Fred Baker 1874, serialized in three parts, ran in these pages.¹³ The chapter's commitment to Anti-coedism was announced in a 1939 number.¹⁴

Finances, Maintenance and Staffing

Despite the Depression, the House finances were in good shape during the 1930s. The Chapter entered the decade with about \$25,000 in mortgage and bond debt for the lodge which was insured for \$81,000. The Steward's department also serviced a small note that was promptly retired.¹⁵ In 1936 the alumni were informed by an open letter distributed with the *Delta Chi Deke*.¹⁶

In 1923 the Chapter finances were pretty badly muddled by the undergraduates, and the Alumni Association, with its unity of purpose and organization, stepped in to help the Chapter out of their difficulties. They became landlords and ran the House, with Doug Gillette 1912, as resident manager. They have helped the Chapter through the past lean years with Doug Gillette's able assistance, and by engaging an accountant to help the undergraduates run the Steward's Department in the most economical manner, have brought about an ever decreasing debt and a solvent Chapter with a rehabilitated house.

The mortgage debts on our building have been reduced from around \$40,000 to \$19,000, and their [the Association's] plan for retiring bonds annually is now in working order. Solely through the efforts of the Alumni Association the bonded

¹³ *DXD*, (December 1936), "Baker '74 Recalls Early Deke History." *DXD*, III, #3 (March 1937), "Baker Continues History of Early Days of Delta Chi." *DXD*, III, #4 (June 1937), "Delta Chi's Early History." Cf. "ΔX of ΔKE Research Note #07: Brother Fred Baker '74 (1854-1938)" for transcription.

¹⁴ *DXD*, VI, #1 (November 1939): "Dekes Resolve to Enforce Tradition of Anti-Coedism."

¹⁵ ΔKE8-001. Delta Chi Chapter Letters, Vol. II, 1922-34: Reports of May 1930 (Steward, p. 5), June 1932 (House Manager, p. 5) and June 1934 (House Manager, p. 15). Cf. ΔX of ΔKE Special Study #21: Annual Chapter Letters, 1920-1934.

¹⁶ *DXD*, II, #4 (May 1936), Insert Two. CMM, 27 Apr 1936: Brother Gillette reports that "there is \$1500 in the [House] account with nearly all bills paid and few arrears to be collected."

indebtedness has been decreased by more than \$7,000 since 1930, an extremely good showing during these depression years, and they were also able to extend the bond issue (part of the mortgage indebtedness) which at present amounts to \$11,000, for a period of ten years, when the issue became due in May of 1935. In addition the Association has helped keep the House in good repair by sending Doug Gillette about \$500 per year for the maintenance and upkeep for extraordinary repairs which could not be budgeted.

The solid financial condition of the chapter allowed for a steady schedule of repairs and refurbishing. These ran the gamut of painting, roof maintenance, carpeting, kitchen improvements and bedding.¹⁷ The driveway was repaired, the tennis court was resurfaced in clay and a brick incinerator was built. The Steward Department saw new appliances (a stove and electric ice box), new dishes and linoleum flooring.

The single greatest element of continuity during these years was the Houseman, John Komaroni. Hired by Brother Paul Gillette 1919 in December, 1918, he would serve without interruption for 36 years until his retirement in 1955. Strong, tireless and utterly dependable, he tended to the needs of the House, particularly keeping the coal furnace stoked. His one and only absence from 13 South Avenue —when he was stricken on 20 August 1936 with appendicitis, ended with a return to full duty on the first of the following October.¹⁸

The Steward's Department operated with great steadiness during the Thirties. Accounts were balanced and small improvements in food preparation and table gained the appreciation of the brothers. We do not know the names of any chefs or waiters from that era, but the following brothers served as Steward during these years: Thomas Hill Sidley, Jr. 1931, Alan Haines Armstrong 1933, Ross Brightman Vestal 1935, John Markley Rockwood 1937, Stephen Johnson de Baun 1938 and Donald Francis Hazelton 1940.

Women, Drinking, Gambling

Repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment and the end of Prohibition would not come until 1933. Drinking at Cornell would remain furtive until then and the authorities did what they could to police the University's secret societies. The *Cornell Daily Sun* and the *New York Times* were quick to report a devastating contraband raid at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor that included the Omicron Deke House.¹⁹ Historian James Tobin has given us a fine account of that night.²⁰

¹⁷ *DXD*, V, #4 (June 1939), pp. 1, 3: "Many Improvements Planned for House During the Summer."

¹⁸ *DXD*, VIX [sic], #2 (June 1951), pp. 1-2: "Delta Chi Pays Tribute to John Komaroni." *DXD*, XXIII #2 (March 1955), pp. 1, 4: "Komaroni Retires After 36 Year Career With Deke."

¹⁹ *NYT*, February 12, 1931: "Fraternity Houses Raided At Michigan." *New York Times*, 13 February 1931: "University Locks Fraternity Houses." *Time*, Monday, Feb. 23, 1931: "Education: Drinking." *Cornell Daily Sun*, LI, #99 (13 February 1931), p. 1: "5 Michigan Fraternities Closed Till September on Liquor Charge." *Cornell Daily Sun*, LI, # 99 (13 February 1931), p. 4: "All Likkered Up." *CDS*, LI, #100 (14 February 1931), p. 2. Illustration: RAID MICHIGAN FRATERNITIES. Caption: The Phi Delta Theta (upper) and Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity houses at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, were among the five raided by dry officers who claimed they found liquor. A dozen or more

Sometime after midnight on the morning of Wednesday, February 11, 1931, Ann Arbor police observed an Oldsmobile stopping at a series of houses in the residential blocks east of the campus. At each, the driver would stay behind the wheel while a second figure, carrying an indeterminate burden, would approach the house and go inside. A few minutes later the figure would emerge from the house free of his load and reenter the car, which would move on to the next stop.

Concluding that this behavior suggested activity in violation of the constitutional prohibition of the sale and distribution of alcoholic spirits, the police pulled the car over. The driver, a teenage boy, identified himself as Shirley O'Toole, of 215 N. State. Under questioning, young O'Toole admitted that his passenger, Joseph Looney, of 104 N. Fourth, had been delivering supplies of liquor to fraternities.

It was the end of the winter exam period. Many students, done with exams, had run home for a couple of days. At week's end they would stream back to town for the biggest social event of the year—J-Hop, the three-day shindig of dances and parties. The reason for Looney's deliveries was pretty obvious.

Moving quickly, the police woke up Bert Fry, justice of the peace, who signed search warrants. Between 4 and 4:30 a.m., a raiding party of Ann Arbor police convened east of Washtenaw Avenue and began to pound on doors.

In the card room of Phi Kappa Sigma, 1443 Washtenaw, a handful of fellows were playing a late hand of poker when the telephone rang. The only pledge in the group, Edmund Love, of Flint, was told to answer it.

The voice on the line was desperate: "For God's sake, if you've got any liquor in the house, get rid of it! ...They're raiding the fraternities!"

The caller was a freshman pledge at Delta Kappa Epsilon. Trapped in the house kitchen when the raiders burst in, he had leaped into a laundry hamper while the cops searched the house and sent his brothers to police headquarters. Left alone in the dark, he was moved by a burst of interfraternity concern to spread the word.

Most of the Phi Kappa Sigmas had gone home, leaving their rooms locked. Ed Love and the others had to break in to rifle through closets and desks. By Love's astounding recollection, reported 40 years later in his memoir, *Hanging On*, they found 37 quarts of whiskey and gin, five bottles of champagne, two cases of beer, four quarts of wine and one jug of hard cider. Apparently Joe Looney had been doing a regular business with the brothers.

As fast as they could, they poured everything down the drains. Love was told to get rid of the empties. He found space in the trash cans behind the neighboring sorority, Gamma Phi Beta.

students were taken to police station and the names, of 60 others, listed, among them many prominent in athletic and college affairs. Other houses raided were Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Kappa Sigma and Theta Delta Chi.

²⁰ James Tobin, June 10, 2009: "The great raid." Cf. <http://michigantoday.umich.edu/2009/06/story.php?id=7489> . With permission, J. Tobin (University of Michigan '78, '86 PhD) e-mail to HWF, Sunday, May 22, 2011 12:12 PM.

The doorbell rang just after 7 a.m. Six policemen crowded in and searched every room. They left empty-handed. How many other houses got the word has been lost to history.

The police raiders hauled the contraband to headquarters in handsome leather suitcases confiscated from the fraternities. Police Chief Thomas O'Brien reported the total haul as roughly 75 quarts of "expensive liquors, including Scotch and rye whiskey, gin, wines, bottled cocktails, imported vermouth and rare cordials." Seventy-nine members of five houses—DKE, Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Theta Delta Chi and Kappa Sigma—were booked on charges of disorderly conduct. According to the *Detroit News*, "the raid was the most extensive ever staged on the campus."

U-M President Alexander Ruthven commended the police and referred the question of punishment to the University Senate Committee on Student Affairs—a committee of professors and administrators—which promptly ordered the five fraternities closed and padlocked for the rest of the year and placed on social probation for the following year. Prosecuting attorney Albert J. Rapp said that was good enough for him and dropped all charges against the arrested students, though Joe Looney, the bootlegger, landed in jail.

The sanctions against the fraternities set off a storm. Student groups howled. Nearly 200 fraternity members were forced to walk the streets in search of housing for the rest of the year, and a number of cooks and dishwashers lost their jobs—no small matter in that depression year. "Wets" in the state legislature decried the penalty as too harsh, as did a host of local leaders, including Ann Arbor Mayor Edward W. Staebler, the general secretary of the YMCA, and the president of the State Savings Bank, all of whom remarked that the current crop of students seemed better behaved than any in memory. Gilbert W. Fletcher, owner of the Calkins-Fletcher Drug Co., said it seemed unfair for five fraternities to be singled out when bootleg liquor could almost certainly be found in every fraternity on the campus or "for that matter, in almost any private home."

The penalties stood. Had it not been for the telephoned warnings of that frightened DKE freshman, the Great Raid of 1931 might have closed down a good deal more than five fraternities. In any case, J-Hop 1931 was a notably sober affair.

Further embarrassment to the Fraternity would come two months later when the Delta Kappa Epsilon Club at 5 East Fifty-first Street in Manhattan was raided for the third time by Federal agents.²¹ Sixty bottles of liquor were found in the members' lockers. Seventeen individuals were arrested including two Dekes and an employee of the club. The source of this illicit eyewash was found to be a ring of some ninety-seven doctors who were writing prescriptions for medical alcohol.

²¹ *NYT*, April 18, 1931: "Liquor Plot is Laid to 97 Doctors Here. Five Seized as Syndicate to Which Physicians Are Said to Supply Prescriptions. Agents Raid Fraternity. Seize 60 Bottles." *NYT*, 19 April 1931: "Fraternity Raided After Padlock Suit. Agents Invaded Delta Kappa Epsilon, Although Medalie Had Not Heard of First Action. Bishopp Gets a Surprise."

No doubt, denizens of the Cornell Deke House were aware of these enforcement actions and took such care as was required to keep the authorities at bay. The basement bar, emitting neither light nor sound to the outside world, proved advantageous.

Prohibition began to formally unwind when the Democratic Party called for cessation during the campaign of 1932 and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Cullen-Harrison Act authorizing the sale of 3.2% beer and wine on March 22, 1933. Within a few weeks the Cornell Dekes were deciding how and when legal beer might be consumed in the House — “only in the dining room at meal times and during the evening in studies.”²² The alcoholic floodgates were finally opened with ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment to the United States Constitution on December 5, 1933.

Kappa Beta Phi, the mobile and elusive drinking society with an active chapter at Cornell — Brother Seth W. Shoemaker 1908 was a founding member, always managed to have a few Dekes onboard, but during prohibition they remained largely invisible.²³ It was only after repeal that Brothers allowed themselves to be revealed as loyal members: Edward Huston Ellis, Jr., John Markley Rockwood, Fred Ford Sampson, Jr., and John Wilgus Shoemaker, all of the Class of 1937, Ernest Anton Dahmen, Jr., (President), DeWitt Clark Hile Henry, Harry Leonard Lippincott, Carter L. McGregor and William Wallace Orr, Class of 1938, and Hiroshi “Roge” Mitsui and Eugene Ferree Patterson, 1939.²⁴

The prohibitions on gambling for money in the House enacted in 1917 and re-enacted in 1927, persisted throughout the decade until the House Rule was modified in 1939 to allow the vice on weekends.²⁵ The 1914 rule against bringing prostitutes into the House was reaffirmed in 1938.²⁶ We can only assume that these restatements of House policy were prompted by “incidents” of the kind outlawed.

Anti-coedism, the shunning of University coeds, had been codified in the House Rules since 1921 and this prohibition for the freshmen continued throughout the Nineteen-thirties.²⁷ The Dekes were not alone in their discrimination against Cornell women who were restricted from many clubs,

²² *CMM*, 8 May 1933: “A motion “that beer drinking be done only in the dining room at meal times and during the evening in studies when purchased from an outside vendor at that time” carries.

²³ *DXD* (December 1936): “Fred Sampson and Jack Shoemaker have joined and Ed Ellis and John Rockwood in Kappa Beta Phi. Jack’s initiation was marked with special significance as his father, Brothers Seth W. Shoemaker 08, was one of the founders of Kappa Beta Phi on the hill.” Cf. H. W. Fogle, Jr. 70 ΔX of ΔKE Research Note #04: Kappa Beta Phi.

²⁴ *DXD*, II, #4 (May 1936): “Sports, Journalism Lead in Activities.”

²⁵ *CMM*, 25 Nov 1917, 30 Oct 1927 and 4 Dec 1939.

²⁶ *CMM*, 22 Feb 1914: “Delta Chi enacts a bylaw prohibiting any brother from bringing an “immoral woman into the House” under penalty of \$50 for such an offense.” *Articles of Governance Effective and in Force on 29 January 2009*, p. 35: “614. Sexual Morality. No person of the female sex shall be brought into the lodge for immoral purposes at any time. ENACTED as Article XVI, Bylaws of 1938...”

²⁷ *CMM*, 17 Oct 1920: A motion “that no co-eds be asked to the dance on November 13” carries. *CMM*, 8 May 1921: A motion “that no member of [the] House should go out with University co-eds” carries. Cf. ΔX of ΔKE Research Note #06: Anti-coedism Philosophy and Mores. ΔX of ΔKE Special Study #03: Deke House Terms and Expressions, 1966-1970: “Anti-coedism – The policy enforced by the chapter up until the beginning of World War II that ‘no freshman may be seen with a co-ed or town girl under pain of such punishment as the upper class thinks fit.’”

honors and councils on the Hill. It was not until 1936 that the Willard Straight Board of Managers announced “the abandonment of the time-honored policy of segregation of the sexes in the dining hall.”²⁸ Thus, we are not surprised that the conservative Cornell Dekes resolved to exclude co-eds from the House and especially from the arms of the freshmen.²⁹

Dekes Resolve to Enforce Tradition of Anti-coedism

Despite the diminishing regard for Anti-coedism among practically all fraternities at Cornell, the Dekes still strictly enforce the rule on freshmen—that is, no freshman may be seen with a coed or town girl under pain of such punishment as the upper class thinks fit.

The seniors in particular, as well as members of the other classes, have demanded the anti-coed rule be made more strict this term than it was last year and early this fall. For instance, bringing groups of coeds in cars to the yard during afternoons is frowned on and no longer tolerated.

Upper classmen will not bring coeds into the house except on specified occasions such as certain football weekends. Sophomores may not bring coeds to the house except by special permission from the upper classes.

Although the senior class is the only one still solidly in favor of at least this degree of Anti-coedism, a majority of the juniors and sophomores are of the same opinion. It seems probable, therefore, the rule will continue at about its present degree of strictness for some years to come.

The Dekes were, by no means, against women. The House was often filled with female “imports” who were properly chaperoned for parties throughout the term.

Rush for New Blood

The *Delta Chi Deke* of May 1935 sent the appropriate message.

YOU CANNOT USE BLANKS ANY TOO EARLY

Please make use of the enclosed rushing blank immediately, if possible, and otherwise keep it in a prominent place on your desk that you may put it to its best use as early as possible.

As stated elsewhere, in line with the chapter’s new rushing policy of contacting prospects during the summer, it is essential that you send the chapter recommendations for membership as early as possible, from this time on.

Think now of any desirable membership candidates in your neighborhood, or of sons of friends and business associates, and send facts about them to the house now.

²⁸ *CDS*, LVI, #82 (14 January 1936): “The Last Stand.”

²⁹ *DXD*, Nov 1939, p. 2, col. 1.

The results were generally successful judging from the counts of new initiates.³⁰ The following table lists the inflow by class year and the estimated complement of the House, also by year. We see a pattern of consistent recruiting that raised the headcount throughout the decade.

Class Year	Inflow	Complement
1927	11	43
1928	10	42
1929	10	45
1930	12	46
1931	10	48
1932	13	48
1933	11	48
1934	14	54
1935	10	52
1936	13	61
1937	17	60
1938	12	60
1939	19	64

The rush of 1936 was noteworthy for rounding up seventeen men and the following year saw a fifteen man pledge class.³¹ In 1938 nine of the fifteen new pledges were legacies and the entire class was signed up during the first day of rush.³² Another fourteen men were added in 1939, five having ΔKE familial connections.³³

Athletics and Accidents

Looking for a Deke in one of the University's classrooms? Better to search the playing fields, the boathouse, the gridiron, the links or the ice. Athletics was the rage in the 1930s and almost every brother tried his hand at a sport, some with great distinction. Below is a short list, no doubt with many omissions, of those who played for Cornell or helped prepare the teams.

³⁰ *DXD*, II (October 1935): "Nineteen Pledged to Delta Chi. Chapter Enjoys Successful Rush. Fine Cooperation of Alumni Aids Much in Securing Banner Class." *DXD*, II, #? (February 1936), p. 1: "Delta Chi Greets Nineteen Initiates in Spring Ritual." *DXD*, III, #? (October 1936), 1,3: "Delta Chi Welcomes Seventeen New Pledges." *DXD*, V, #1 (November 1938), p. 1 "Delta Chi Pledges 15; Nine are Legacies."

³¹ *DXD*, III, #1 (October 1936): "Delta Chi Welcomes Seventeen New Pledges. New Freshman Class Has Good Prospects. Five of the Pledges Have DKE Connections Here or Elsewhere." *DXD* IV, #1 (October 1937): "Chapter Announced Pledging of Fifteen Men."

³² *DXD*, V, #1 (November 1938): "Delta Chi Pledges 15; Nine Are Legacies. Near Record Set in Speedy Rushing. Entire Class Pledged During First Official Day."

³³ *DXD*, VI, #1 (November 1939): "Delta Chi Pledges Fine New Class of 14 Freshmen. Many Alumni Assist on Recommendations. Five Pledges Possess Deke Connections."

Varsity teams

Varsity Baseball —Frank Kaile Warren, Jr. 1933, Frank Albert Baumann, Jr. 1933 (Manager) and Harold Diodate North, Jr. 1936 (Manager);

Varsity Basketball —Palaemon Lawrence Hilsman 1934 and Frederick Ralph Loetscher 1934;

Crew —John Burr Jenkins 1934 (Coxswain), Ralph Ross Kitchen, Jr. 1935 (Bowman), John Reynolds “Jack” Young 1936 (Manager) and Charles Alden Hunt 1940 (Manager);

Crew (150 lb) —John Burr Jenkins 1934, John Reynolds “Jack” Young 1936 (Manager), Eugene Ferree Patterson 1939 (Manager), Peter Bates (Letterman), and Jordon Honecker Lamb 1939;

Varsity Football —Sherman Vail Allen 1929, Howard Spaford Johnson 1930, Gilbert Sibley Powell 1931, Robert James Coleman 1936, Alexander “Lex” Burke 1940, and E. Vincent “Vinnie” Eichler 1940 (Captain),³⁴

Varsity Hockey —John Volmar Hoene 1937, Ernest Anton Dahmen, Jr. 1938 (Captain), and Eugene Ferree Patterson 1939;³⁵

Varsity Lacross —John Montgomery Avery 1935, Robert Charles Restricks, Jr. 1935, Dale Sanford Carpenter, Jr. 1936 and Ernest Anton Dahmen, Jr. 1938 (Manager);

Varsity Soccer —Richard Meigs Teachout 1939 (Manager);

Varsity Track —John Wilgus Shoemaker 1937 (two letters), William James Tiffany, Jr. 1940, Hayes Clark 1941 and John A. Kramp 1940; and

Varsity Wrestling —Howard Spaford Johnson 1930.

Freshmen teams

Freshman Baseball — Richard Alfred Lowe 1939 (Assistant Manager) and Harold Diodate “Bub” North, Jr. 36 (Manager);³⁶

Freshmen Basketball —John Rogers Dingle 1942;

Freshmen Lacrosse —John Montgomery Avery 1935; Robert Charles Restricks, Jr. 1935 and Ernest Anton Dahmen, Jr. 1938 (Manager).

³⁴ *CDS*, LVIII, #79 (14 January 1938), p. 19: “Theta Delts Win in Intra Loop” identifies “Big Red Football fullback Eichler” as a Deke. *DXD* (December 1938): “Elected Grid Captain. Big Red football captain for the 1939 season will be the Deke’s Vinnie Eichler 1940, hard-plunging fullback and team’s best ground gainer.” “Eichler 1940 Will Head .39 Big Red Grid Team.”

³⁵ *CDS*, LVII, #64 (14 December 1936): “Varsity Hockey Team Picked After Practice [Hoene].” *DXD* (December 1937): “Dahmen 1938 is Captain of Varsity Hockey.”

³⁶ *DXD*, I, #1 (May 1935): “New Campus Honors Come to Members [Young & North] .”

There are many stories of glory on the gridiron in those days, but Syracuse University football captain, James Bruett, recalled one of ΔKE Brother Vinnie Eichler's less stellar moments from their 1938 upset game against the Big Red.³⁷

“They ran a buck up the middle. I remember I was playing Guard, and as Vinnie Eichler was being tackled, our left end, Phil Allen, yelled, ‘Here Vinnie’ and Eichler mistakenly tossed our man a lateral. The next play, Sidat-Singh threw a pass to Allen in the end zone for the winning touchdown.”

Brother John Vollmar Hoene 1937 had a love of ice and snow second to none as indicated by his 1934 use of the ΔKE tennis court as a practice rink for his passion: hockey.³⁸

Variety: Trapper Hoene

No skating on Beebe? What of it when Cornell has found the man-of-the hour in John Hoene 1937, alias “Abner” or “Trapper,” who can with hose in one hand and a temperature below freezing make a real ice rink on a tennis court. Only the German blood of Minnesota can accomplish such a fete.

The next year it was South Avenue skiing.³⁹

Would-Be-Skier Hurt on D.K.E. Lawn Slope

Dressed more for winter teas than winter sports, J. V. Hoene 1937, was injured yesterday morning when he attempted to ski down the slope of the Delta Kappa Epsilon lawn.

Hoene was descending the slope in fine style when he approached a six foot ditch which he could not avoid. He attempted to jump the ditch but failed and landed head first on the ground.

He was taken to the infirmary where it was found that he sustained injuries to the extent of a bad cut over his eye and a dislocated shoulder.

Hoene was a fascinating character: “Prominent in floriculture activities, including the Flower Show,” he returned to his hometown, Duluth, to work in the city's parks department.

The Nineteen-twenties were notable for ΔX automobile fatalities, but the Thirties were surprising free of such misfortune.⁴⁰ Brother Edward Hamilton “Buzz” Swazey 1939 came close to reversing this record when he was severely injured in an automobile accident during the 1936 Labor Day

³⁷ Sal Maiorana and Scott Pitoniak (2005). *Slices of Orange: Great Games and Performers in Syracuse University sports*. Syracuse NY: Syracuse University Press. “Singh's Slings Sink Cornell.” *NYT*, 7 October 1939: “Cornell Out for Revenge Today On Football Boys From Syracuse; Bitter Contest Is Expected on Schoellkopf Field, With the Orange Favored.”

³⁸ *CDS*, LV, #68 (14 December 1934), p. 2.

³⁹ *CDS*, LV, #87 (21 January 1935), p. 1.

⁴⁰ Brothers Ralph Douglas Courson 1930 (d. 06-Feb-1928) and Thomas Keppen Humble 1932 (d. 02-Jun-1929) both died on the roads of New York State.

weekend near Canandaigua NY.⁴¹ That cost him a long hospitalization in the Thomson Memorial Hospital and a full year away from his studies in Ithaca.

Campus Honors and Clubs

Sphinx Head Society, founded on 11 October 1890, is Cornell's oldest senior honor society. In the Thirties, members (men only then) enjoyed use of a tomb designed by J. Lakin Baldrige, Cornell 1915, for their meetings. The building, perched over Fall Creek gorge (900 Stewart Avenue), has since been sold and now forms part of a private residence. Cornell Dekes maintained a sizeable presence in this very private club: Brothers Samuel Jepson Bates 1935, Ezra Volk Bridge 1936, Dale Sanford Carpenter, Jr. 1936, James Woodbury McCulloh, Jr. 1936, Harold Diodate North, Jr. 1936, John Reynolds "Jack" Young 1936, Fred Ford Sampson, Jr. 1937, John Wilgus Shoemaker 1937, Ernest Anton Dahmen, Jr. 1938, Harry Leonard Lippincott 1938, William Wallace Orr 1938, William Harrison North 1939, Eugene Ferree Patterson 1939, Richard Meigs Teachout 1939 and Charles Alden Hunt 1940.⁴²

The Red Key Society, the University's junior honor society for varsity athletes, also counted Dekes amongst its members: Brothers Stephen Johnson de Baun 1938; William Harrison North 1939; Eugene Ferree Patterson 1939 and Richard Meigs Teachout 1939.⁴³

Not surprisingly, Phi Kappa Phi ($\Phi K \Phi$, founded 1897), the national honor society to recognize and encourage superior scholarship counted only one member of the chapter, Fred Ford Sampson, Jr. 1937, on its rolls.

Campus politics, particularly election to the Student Council, would also engage the brothers: Fred Ford Sampson, Jr. 1937, Warren Conrad Smith 1937, William Harrison North 1939, Eugene Ferree Patterson 1939 and Richard Holtzman 1941.

Other distinctions were accorded by the professional societies.

- Delta Theta Phi ($\Delta \Theta \Phi$, f. 1900), the national professional law fraternity: Brother William Wallace Orr 1938;
- Tau Beta Pi (TBPI, founded 1885), the national engineering honor society: Brothers Harold Diodate North, Jr. 1936; John Reynolds "Jack" Young 1936; Fred Ford Sampson, Jr. 1937 (President) and Beach Barrett, Jr. 1940; and

⁴¹ *DXD*, III, #1 (October 1936), p. 1: "Swazey 1939 Injured in Labor Day Crash." *DXD*, (December 1936): "Swazey Leaves Hospital." *DXD*, IV, #1 (October 1937): "Swazy Returns to School."

⁴² Sphinx Head. *DXD*. Issue II, #1 (October 1935) lists Ezra Volk Bridge 1936, Dale Sanford Carpenter, Jr. 1936, James Woodbury McCulloh, Jr., 1936, Harold Diodate North, Jr., 1936 and John Reynolds Young 1936; issue II, #4 (May 1936) lists Fred Ford Sampson, Jr. 1937; issue IV, #1 (October 1937), lists Harry Leonard Lippincott 1936, Bill Orr and Ernie Dahmen; issue III, #1 (September 1938) lists Richard Meigs "Dick" Teachout 1939; (June 1939) lists Beach Barrett, Jr. 1940 and Charles Alden "Chuck" Hunt 1940. *New York Times* (15 October 1938), "Cornell Societies Elect," lists Richard M. Teachout, Beverly Hills.

⁴³ *DXD*, (Dec 1937): "Richard M. Teachout 1939 joined William H. North 1939 and Eugene F. Patterson 1939 as members of Red Key, junior honor society."

- Kappa Tau Chi (KTX) of which nothing is known hosted three from Delta Chi: Fred Ford Sampson, Jr. 1937; John Wilgus Shoemaker 1937 and Harry Leonard Lippincott 1938.

Active Alumni

The alumni were making names for themselves in the realm beyond Ithaca. We have mentioned Judge Pound in New York State. Brother Thomas Carey Hennings, Jr. 1924 gained a seat in the House of Representatives in 1935 and served there until 1940. He would eventually distinguish himself as a U. S. Senator from Missouri, 1951-1960. Brother Andrew John Biemiller 1926 steered a different course in radical politics; in 1936 he was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly as a Socialist and caucused with the majority Progressive Party who elected him speaker, making him the only minor party speaker of a state legislature in the 20th century.

Brother Howard Winchester Hawks 1918 made the transition from silent to sound in the film industry and directed three cinema classics during the 1930s: *Scarface* (1932) for Howard Hughes; *Bringing Up Baby* (1938) for RKO and *Only Angels Have Wings* (1939) for Columbia Pictures. Brother Robert Trent Jones 1930 commenced his distinguished career as a golf course designer, first in Canada and then in the northern United States and France between 1931 and 1939.

The Great Dog Race of 1936

Junior Week, in many ways the social high spot of the year, had become a modest affair following World War I. The winter celebration of 1936 (6-8 February) was to be a change: more festive and extravagant than any could recall. High on the list of activities was to be a day of ice sports on Beebe Lake to include a spirited dog sled race for canines with Greek letter credentials.⁴⁴ The Dekes would not fail to rise to this occasion. Thus we read in the *Sun*.⁴⁵

Fritz

To the Editorial Director:

We of the Halls of Delta Kappa Epsilon, feel —nay, know that in Fritz we have a dog who will do the course in nothing flat, and if neither tree nor Danny obstruct his progress, he is a hundred to won [sic] shot to cop the bunting, or cup, or whatever 'tis that's given to the winner of ze dog race, and as only dogs are included in the dog race, then it stands to reason that only dogs can race in the dog race, and as Fritz, the pride of we Dekes, of jolly old Newfoundland, and Doc's Corner Kitchen, is an extremely racy dog, why 'tis both obvious 'n' apparent that Mr. Fritz will win ze dog race. So, as our entrant would say, if, in a mush race, a dog mush race, he mush race, so we mush close. —Yours, Delta Kappa Epsilon

⁴⁴ *CAN*, XXXVIII, #14 (16 January 1936), p. 125. B.M.O.H. —Best Mutt On the Hill— will be determined during the Junior Week celebration as the result of a gigantic dog-sled race announced as a part of the ice carnival on Beebe Lake. Meanwhile, several Campus canines are reported to have deserted their long-time fraternity and sorority house abodes and taken up new quarters until the festivities shall be over.

⁴⁵ *CDS*, LVI, #88 (21 January 1936), p. 2.

The *Sun* promptly published the rules for the affair.⁴⁶

Rules Announced for Stupendous Fraternity Dog-Racing Contest

As the time for the great dog-sled race Thursday of Junior Week draws near, fraternities all over the campus are rushing to enter their canine compatriots in an event that will receive nation-wide publicity through the eyes of Pathe News. Last night the committee in charge announced the following set of official rules for the contest.

1. Each entry must be a genuine dog; no blueblood, mongrel, wolf allowed.
2. Each entry must be attached by a harness (rope or otherwise) to a sleigh, whose dimensions are left entirely to the dog and his trainers. The sole stipulation is that it must have two runners.
3. Each sleigh must be occupied by a rider who is a member of the fraternity belonging to the dog.
4. Each dog will be allowed to have another member of his fraternity as a leader, to guide him across the ice and keep him from fighting with other entries.
5. The winner is to receive a silver loving cup, properly engraved.
6. Every dog must keep his feet on the ice.

With entries still pouring in, it appears that the dog race will become the first great Cornell event in the year 1938.

Already the anxious bonedogglers are champing at the bit a bit, and seem almost in the pink of condition for the bone derby (not to be confused with Hollywood shop house).

Those who have entries and have not registered them with The Sun should do so at once so that they may be printed in the issues which follow the examination period.

Fritz's views had been clearly stated when the race had first been announced.⁴⁷

<p>Notice</p> <p>Having left the Dekes' bed and board (which are the same thing at the Deke house) I will no longer be responsible for any debts contracted by them. Tradesmen and coeds please take notice.</p> <p>I yam what I yam and that's all I yam.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(signed) Fritz</p>

⁴⁶ CDS, LVI, #89 (22 January 1936), p. 1: "Rules Announced for Stupendous Fraternity Dog-Racing Contest."

⁴⁷ CDS, LVI, #78 (9 January 1936): "Mutts Ado About. Nothing after Announcement of Dog Sled Race."

On the day of the race, Brother Hiroshi “Roge” Mitsui 1939 drove the sled and “Trapper” Hoene 1937 served as leader.⁴⁸ Alas, Fritz was denied his glory by a perfidious ruling of the judges.⁴⁹

Slewfoot Gains Dogdom Honors in Thrilling Mutt Derby Victory

Amid thousands of cheering spectators, Cornell canine pets raced down the narrow course on Beebe Lake to a disputed and protested finish in the dog sled mush, mush derby. Fritz, the gigantic entry of the Deke house swept across the finish line ahead of all other rivals, but was disqualified because his leader wore ice skates.

The judges awarded the cup to Slewfoot, representing Phi Kappa Tau, but a strong protest was entered by Psi Upsilon who claimed their bewhiskered mutt actually finished second in the race stating Kerry Blue on the far side of the course was not even noticed by the mob-confused judges. The Psi U’s claim that pictures taken of the race will definitely prove that their claim is justified.

The dog race was the climax of the first winter carnival held at Cornell since the war and marked the beginning of one of the most gigantic Junior Weeks that Cornell has ever seen. The program began with a half hour skating program performed by the Caley Sisters and another professional group. The quartet featured individual and group fancy skating.

Between the events of the gala program, the thousands of Junior Week celebrants enjoyed the skating and tobogganing facilities of Beebe Lake. The program was closed with a display of fireworks from the east end of the lake.

Every dog has its day. The University administration tried to crack down on the canine community by banning their presence in campus buildings, but this prohibition only encouraged a strident backlash.⁵⁰ Thus we read,

Canine personalities approached by *The Sun* last night for statements on the ruling were disposed to ignore the ruling, considering it beneath their dignity to comment. Fritz, a black and white St. Bernard [sic] who resides at Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, refuse [sic] to make any statement pertinent to the new regulation.

Fritz, perhaps disgusted by the *Sun*’s shoddy journalism, disappeared during the summer of 1937. The brothers made extraordinary, but in the end futile efforts to find him. A year of mourning

⁴⁸ *DXD*, II, #? (February 1936), p. 3: “Junior Week Party Offers New Features for 45 Happy Guests —Ice Carnival on Beebe Lake and Other Attractions Were Scheduled.”

⁴⁹ *CDS*, LVI, #93 (7 February 1936), p. 1. *CAN*, XXXVIII, #17 (13 February 1936), p. 271: JUNIOR WEEK HAPPY, Crowds Enjoy Events. “In spite of the confusion the judges were positive that “Slewfoot,” the entry of Phi Kappa Tau, had won the dog derby, and duly awarded him and his driver the cup for that event.”

⁵⁰ *CDS*, LVII, #138 (14 April 1937): “Opposition Rises Throughout Campus After Ruling Banning Stray Dogs from All University Buildings.”

followed before the old Fritz was replaced by a new Fritz —another Newfoundland with black with white markings, in March 1938.⁵¹

Literary Exercises

The last Literary Exercise worthy of the name occurred in 1929 when Brother Frank G. Erskine 1930 presented “a brief history of Chi chapter.”⁵² The Nineteen-thirties would see nothing more than recitations of the Freshman Oath, often poorly executed.⁵³ Brother Beta, with approval of the audience, resorted to the use of stiff fines for unsatisfactory performances, but no return to the old format was ever attempted.⁵⁴

The curtailment of exercises in the House did not mean that the brothers retreated from letters. Brother Homer Hartman “Bud” Bishop 1936 served on the editorial board of the *Cornell Daily Sun*, Beach Barrett, Jr. 1940 became editor of the *Cornell Engineer* and other brothers obtained positions on the *Cornellian* and the *Cornell Countryman*.⁵⁵ The *Cornell Widow* continued as a Deke preserve as it had since that publication first appeared in 1894.⁵⁶ Consider this list of ΔKE staffers during the Thirties: Calvert Carlen “Cal” Canfield, Jr. 1933 (Business Manager); Lawrence Arver “Larry” Coleman 1933 (Managing Editor); Samuel Jepson Bates 1935 (Art Editor); Ezra Volk Bridge 1936 (Art Editor); James Woodbury McCulloh, Jr. 1936 (Business Manager); Gardner Reed Lloyd 1937 (Editorial Board); William Wallace Orr 1938 (Business Manager); George Stewart Stothoff 1938 (Advertising Manager); George Lewis Kalb 1939 (Editorial Board); George Frederick Unger 1939 (Art Editor); and Franklin E. Brundage 1940 (Editorial Board).

Spring Day, 1937: Chicken Derby Woes and Victory Afloat

The spring term of 1937, labeled a “Hill-Billy Holiday,” presented two opportunities for the Dekes to demonstrate their social superiority to the residents of East Hill. Certainly they submitted an

⁵¹ *DXD*, IV, #1 (October 1937): “Mascot Disappears During Summer.” *DXD*, IV, #3 (March 1938): “Newfound Pup [Fritz II] Becomes Mascot.” *DXD*, V, #3 (April 1939): “Chapter’s Present Mascot Is a Newfoundland.”

⁵² *CMM*, 16 Dec 1929.

⁵³ *CMM*, 10 Mar 1930, 28 Mar 1932, 18 May 1936 and 24 May 1936.

⁵⁴ *CMM*, 19 Mar 1934: “Brothers [Edward Huston] Ellis [Jr., 1937], [Edgar Frederick] Hazelton [Jr., 1937] and [Kent Wilson] Longnecker [‘37 are] fined five dollars each for failing to give the Freshman Oath and were told they must give it at another meeting.” *CMM*, 1 May 1939: A motion “amending Article 73 in the bylaws to read: anyone failing in the literary exercise shall be fined fifty cents which shall increase in geometric progression with further failures up to a maximum of four dollars” carries.

⁵⁵ *DKEQ*, LII, #4 (December 1934), p. 176. *DXD*, V, #3 (April 1939).

⁵⁶ *DKEQ*, XII, #4 (November 1894), pp. 277-278: “An illustrated bi-weekly, *The Widow*, issued its initial number this fall, and all appearances speak well for its success.” *DKEQ*, LI, #2 (May 1933), p. 102; LI, #4 (December 1933), p. 198; LII, #4 (December 1934), p. 176; LIII, #2 (May 1935), p. 94; LIII, #4 (December 1935), p. 190; LV, #2 (May 1937), pp. 92-3. *DXD*, II (February 1936), p. 1: “Widow Board Names Two: Other Dekes Learn Laurels.” *DXD*, V, #1 (November 1938), p. 3.

entrant to the well advertised Chicken Derby as a diversion, but the main attack would come from an artfully designed parade float that would compete against a field of eighty-eight. Of preliminaries to the poultry competition, we read the following.⁵⁷

Training to Start at Noon Today As Chickens Face Pre-Derby Work

Springing full-fledged from the egg of secrecy which has surrounded them for days, entries in Cornell's great Spring Day Chicken Derby will officially open training on the Quadrangle at high noon today. Accompanied by trainers, handlers, and jockeys, a flock of feathered phantoms will practice quick starts, banked turns, and slow trots in front of Goldwin Smith Hall on the famous greensward.

Word has come from Delta Kappa Epsilon, Kappa Alpha, Psi U, Sigma Phi, Phi Gamma Delta, Chi Psi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Chi Phi, and Delta Upsilon that they will parade their entries in the Hillbilly Derby under wraps. If the track proves to be fast, they may let their fowl steeds work out in front of Ezra Cornell. They issued a warning, however, that no stop watches will be tolerated and anyone attempting to clock their chickens will be eggsterminated.

After spending several hours snooping in the vicinity of the various stables, it was learned that most of the entries are being conditioned on corn brought directly from the hills of Kentucky. A few hens were allowed the extra luxury of a dash of bitters. This is supposed to improve their wind for the gruelling [sic] grind next Saturday morning.

According to the Spring Day committee, all the odds on the chickens will remain even until they can be seen in action this morning. Although the betting at the present time has been very light, it is expected to pick up considerably over the weekend.

Entries will be received until mid night next Thursday, and should be mailed to the Chicken Derby committee in care of *The Sun*.

It was the country-theme float that would salve the wounds of ΔKE when their chicken failed to prevail—an unfortunate repeat of fowl failure for those who remembered the Duck Derby of 1933 when the ΔKE entries named 3.2 and 4⁰% were beaten by the Psi Upsilon bird from Syracuse.⁵⁸ The *Delta Chi Deke* proudly announced the results of the competition.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ *CDS*, LVII, #171 (22 May 1937): "Training to Start at Noon Today As Chickens Face Pre-Derby Work."

⁵⁸ *CDS*, LIII, #167 (17 May 1933): "Rules Made for Duck Derby/" *CDS*, LIII, #171 (22 May 1933): Thousands Attend Revival of Spring Day Carnival on Beebe Lake Island." Bishop (1962), p. 494-5.

⁵⁹ *DXD*, III, #4 (June 1937): "First Prize Given to Deke's Float For Spring Day."

**First Prize Given To Deke's Float For Spring Day
Thirty Girls Enjoy Week-end Here;
Many Alumni Return For Occasion**

The Deke float was awarded first prize in the annual Spring Day parade Saturday, May 29. The theme of the whole week-end was a hill-billy one, and the Deke entry certainly typified life in the mountains.

The float which was organized by [George] Lewis Kalb 1939, showed Carter McGregor 1938 and his blushing bride, John Kramp 1940, riding in an old-fashioned horse and buggy, closely followed by John [Vollmar] Hoene 1937, the irate father, riding horseback and fully equipped with the proverbial shotgun.

The *Cornell Alumni News* reported this happy day with a similar account.⁶⁰

Some eighty floats were in line for the Spring Day parade Saturday morning as it made its way up the Hill from down town past the reviewing stand opposite Willard Straight and to the circus on Alumni Field. Most of the fraternity floats and those of other student organizations were decidedly on the rural theme, and the parade, headed by the ROTC band, included also members of Varsity teams, afoot, and exhibits of downtown merchants and others. Judges were Mrs. Farrand, Colonel John J. Fulmer, commandant of the ROTC, and R. Leo Sullivan of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. They awarded first prize to Delta Kappa Epsilon, whose entry was a dilapidated buggy in which rode two "mountaineers" caressing a white hen.

At the circus on Alumni Field, the much-advertised "chicken Derby" was won by Phi Gamma Delta's racing hen, "Whiskey," the cup being presented by Professor Charles L. Durham '99; and Hugh C. Troy, Jr. 1916 judged the contests for the boy and girl with the most apparent "vice, virtue, vim, vigor, and vitality," the prizes said to have been awarded to J. Frederick Hillegas '37, editor of the Sun, and Grace Ballard 1938. The usual sideshows were there, consisting mostly of the barkers outside, and they did a good business with the Spring Day throng for the benefit of athletics.

With the float victory, came a cash prize which the Dekes rolled into their entertainment fund.⁶¹

In Memoriam

Brother Webb Cook Hayes 1876 died on 26 July 1934 at his home in Fremont OH. The gallant and highly decorated Hayes had fought during the Spanish American War, in the Santiago de Cuba Campaign at San Juan Hill, in the invasion of Puerto Rico and in the Philippines. He then served

⁶⁰ CDS, LVII, #177 (29 May 1937): "Parade to Start Off Spring Day Events At 10 This Morning." CAN, XXXIX, #31 3 June 1937): "Spring Day Happy."

⁶¹ CMM, 30 May 1937 Brother Warren Conrad Smith 1937, speaking for the Entertainment Committee, suggests "that the prize money won by the Spring Day float be turned over to the entertainment funds."

later in the China Relief Expedition during the Boxer Rebellion, and as an observer in the Russo-Japanese War.

The widely admired Brother Cuthbert Winfred Pound '87, Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals from 1932 to 1934 and University trustee for twenty-two years, died in Ithaca on 3 February 1935.⁶² His death, one month after his retirement from the bench, was announced in the first issue of the *Delta Chi Deke*: "He was stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage while attending a dinner being given in his honor, at the Ithaca Hotel, and never regained consciousness."

Ten days later, Brother Archibald Gregory 1919 expired from pneumonia, the indirect result of his near-fatal aircraft accident in England during World War I when he served with the Canadian Royal Flying Corps. His story was revealed in the *Cornell Alumni News*.⁶³

ARCHIBALD CYRUS EDSON GREGORY 1919 died in White Plains February 13 of pneumonia, the indirect result of injuries received during the world war when his airplane crashed in England in August, 1918. For fifteen years he had been in hospitals, first in England, then in Montreal, where all the ribs of his left side were removed, and finally at Saranac Lake. In September, 1933, however, he re-entered the Law School after an absence of seventeen years, received the LLB degree and was admitted to the Bar last June. Since September, 1934, he had been with the law firm of Kent, Hazzard & Jaeger in White Plains. Born August 15, 1896 in Odebolt, Ia., Gregory first entered the Law School in 1915 from Dickinson High School, Jersey City, NJ. He enlisted October 2, 1917, in the Royal Air Force, was commissioned Lieutenant and was a flying instructor first at Camp Benbrook, Tex., and then in England. He was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon. He is survived by a brother, Dr. William S. Gregory [N 1918], New York City physician, and seven sisters, Mrs. Chester Peake of Brooklyn; Mrs. Harold DeVoe, Mrs. James Parkes, and Mrs. Edward Doremus of Red Bank, N. J. ; and the Misses Elsie, Jessie, and Christina Gregory of Jersey City, N. J.

1935 closed with the death of George Washington Graham 1876, a prominent Chicago real estate man and devoted alumnus, on 28 November.⁶⁴

Honorary Brother James Anderson Hawes Φ'94, for twenty years General Secretary of Delta Kappa Epsilon, died on 28 February 1936 after a protracted illness. Delta Chi was said to be his favorite chapter in the fraternity save for Phi.⁶⁵ His will, filed for probate in White Plains NY, made

⁶² *CAN*, XXXVII, #17 (14 February 1935): "Judge Pound Dies at Ithaca Dinner." Photograph: Waterman Thomas Hewitt, *Cornell University: A History* (New York: University Publishing Society, 1905), vol. II, p. 254.

⁶³ *CAN*, XXXVII, #19 (28 February 1935), p. 8

⁶⁴ *DXD*, II (December 1935): "G. W. Graham '76 Dies Suddenly in His Chicago Home."

⁶⁵ *DXD*, II (February 1936), pp. 1, 4: "Fraternity Mourns Past Sec'y Hawes, Loyal Deke Leader — Dies February 28 at Mt. Kisco Ending 40 Years of D.K.E. Service." *NYT*, 1 March 1936: "J. A. Hawes Is Dead; Leader of Dekes." *NYT*, 8 April 1936: "Will Criticizes Colleges; Bulk of J. A. Hawes Estate Goes to Delta Kappa Epsilon." *NYT*, 6 December 1936: "Ogden Reid Delivers Fraternity Eulogy; Memory of J. A. Hawes Honored at Renewed Annual Dinner of Delta Kappa Epsilon." *Herald Tribune*, 7 April 1936: "Fraternity Gets Bulk of Estate of J. A. Hawes; Will of Veteran Secretary of Delta Kappa Epsilon Also Aids Eight Chapters."

individual bequests to eight chapters of ΔKE —those at Yale, Virginia, Michigan, Bowdoin, Cornell, California, Pennsylvania and Illinois, for the establishment of trust funds to provide annual prizes for deserving undergraduates.

Fred Baker 1874 passed away on 15 May 1938 in San Diego CA.⁶⁶ He had gained international fame as a naturalist in addition to his practice of medicine and surgery.⁶⁷ His 1936-37 history of Delta Chi's early years, published serially in the *Delta Chi Deke*, added much to our understanding of the chapter's spirit. The *Cornell Alumni News* recorded his passing in the following notice.

At one time a physician in southern California, he had devoted the last fifteen years to conchology, the study of shells and mollusks. He was credited with organizing the Marine Biological Association, which later became the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla, Cal. He had been conchologist and surgeon on expeditions to Brazil, Japan, Borneo, Sarawak, Formosa, and Cambodia. A life member and fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, he was also honorary curator of mollusks at the University of California. Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Brother Benjamin Dorrance Beyea, Jr. 1910 “succumbed to complications which followed an appendectomy” on 14 June 1938. He had served in the U.S. Navy during World War I and later became an assistant to the president of E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co.⁶⁸

«««« «««««««« ΔKE »»»»»»»» »»»»

Looking back on the Thirties, we find that these years were indisputably a high point for the Chapter. The brotherhood excelled in rush, deportment and distinction on the campus. Results in the classroom did not compare to glories on the athletic field, but everywhere else Deke was a force to be reckoned with. It is curious that as the country was sunk in the Great Depression, the fraternity did not follow that gloomy path. Save for Swazey's automobile crash —thankfully not fatal, there were no serious accidents or deaths amongst the undergraduates. The storm of World War II was coming, but the decade-long prelude would become a happy memory for the Chapter.

⁶⁶ *DXD*, IV, #4 (June 1938): “Dr. Baker's Death Brings Brilliant Career to an End.” Cf. H. W. Fogle, Jr. '70, ΔX of ΔKE Research Note #07: Brother Fred Baker '74 (1854-1938). *CAN*, XL, #31 (2 June 1938): Necrology —Dr. Fred Baker '78.

⁶⁷ *DXD*, I, #3 (February 1936), p. 4: “Dr. Fred Baker '74, Oldest Delta Chi Alumnus Vividly Describes a Brilliant, Versatile Career.”

⁶⁸ *DXD*, V, #1 (November 1938), p. 4: “Benj. D. Beyea 1910 Dies Following Operation.” *CAN*, XLI, #1 (29 September 1938), p. 11. Necrology.

Chapter VII: 1940-49

World War II may have begun for the United States in 1941 with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, but for the Cornell Dekes with connections abroad the conflict began in the late Thirties. The Second Sino-Japanese War (July 1937 – September 1945) certainly led Brother Hiroshi “Roge” Mitsui ‘39, scion of the powerful Japanese industrial family, to change his course of study while at Cornell to aeronautical engineering and return to his native land before completing his graduate studies in New York City.¹ Nothing is known of his activities during the war.

The British Empire and Commonwealth nations became belligerents following the September 1939 invasion of Poland by Germany and Slovakia. That propelled Brothers George Albert Bronder 1919 back into the Royal Australian Air Force, Enos Eldridge “June” Pennock 1928 into the Canadian Overseas Force and George E. Tierney 1929 into the 17th Duke of York’s Royal Canadian Hussars (armored reconnaissance force) before the new decade was underway.

Those Who Served

In the United States the military draft began in October 1940 following passage of the Selective Training and Service Act. Participation in the Reserve Officers Training Corps by Cornell men immediately increased when infantry training gave way to the disciplines of field artillery, signals and ordnance.² Naval training would come later when V-1, V-5, V-(S), V-7 and V-12 programs became established on the hill.³ By the fall of 1942 two-thirds of the undergraduates were in one training program or another. Brother William Bradford Whiting 1942 recalled his early training.⁴

My first exposure to the “army” was as a brand new freshman at Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) in September 1938. Cornell was (and still is) a land-grant college and as such in the 1938 era was compelled to require all male students to enroll in the U.S. Army’s Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) training and instruction for two years, known as basic training. I was entered in the College of Mechanical

¹ *Delta Chi Deke (DXD)*, VII, #4 (Summer 1941), p. 2: Brother George Lewis Kalb ‘39 wrote “Roge Mitsui ‘39, my roommate in school, and later on also, has returned to Toyko after being over here for eight years. He flew from New York, to San Francisco where he boarded the *Kamakura Maru* for Yokohama.”

² Bishop (1962), p. 527.

³ *CDS*, 25 May 1942: “43% Enlisted in U.S. Service.” *CDS*, LXII, #10 (7 October 1942): Two-Thirds of Male Undergraduates Enlisted or Applied for some Branch of US Military Reserve, Gibson Says

⁴ Whiting, William Bradford 1942 (1920 –). *Army Memoirs, World War II*. William Whiting Collection (AFC/2001/001/5430), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

Engineering and was (automatically) assigned to the Field Artillery group. Training amounted to one afternoon session each week from 1:30 to 4:00. It was an introduction to the army and the field artillery. We had close order drill (marching), and went through the motions of loading and aiming an artillery field piece. The latter was a “French 75” from World War I, with a 75 mm bore. It had large wooden “wagon” wheels and was intended to be horse drawn. At the time it seemed to me to be an ancient relic of a long ago war, but in 1938 that war had only been over for 20 years.

After completing the basic two year ROTC course one could, and was encouraged to, sign up for two more years for the advanced course. Successful completion of the full four years resulted in one being commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves. The advanced ROTC program involved two classroom hours and one full afternoon session each week. The instruction was more serious and included ballistics, trajectories, and of course fire direction with an elaborate sand terrain table, and other aspects of artillery and military training. It also included a six week stint at an army camp between our junior and senior years. The Cornell group, along with similar groups from Princeton and St. Bonaventure colleges, went to Pine Camp, near Watertown, NY, now called Camp Drum. There was a Regular Army armored division in the main camp area and our ROTC group was in a separate area. We lived in pyramidal tents on wooden platforms. On field exercises we filled all of the roles in a field artillery battery, with different assignments each day. You could be battery commander one day and on KP (kitchen police) the next. In general we lived an army life. We fired French 75’s on the firing range with all of us acting as different members of gun crews, and at other times observing and adjusting the impact of the shells in the target area. That was the most interesting thing we did. It was not great but started our preparation for what was to come. We had a good time.

Several Deke alumni were serving in the U.S. armed forces before the Japanese struck Hawaii, and one would be spot-on the scene when that happened.⁵

- LTC Russell Henry Brennan 1906 USA found himself stationed at Fort Santiago, Manila, P.I., just before hostilities and later served in Washington DC in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps.⁶ He died on 2 November 1942 on active duty with the rank of full colonel.

⁵ Brothers are identified with the highest known rank, but the data is restricted to that found in fraternity records. Modern rank abbreviations are used, e.g. 2LT, 1LT, CPT... for U.S. Army and U.S. Army Air Force, ENS, LTJG, LT ... for U.S. Navy and 2dLT, 1stLT, CAPT ... for U. S. Marine Corps.

⁶ *DXD*, V, #3 (April 1939).

- LTC William Ayers “Bub” Bordon 1912 USA specialized in the design of aerial bombs and was credited with several inventions in that field.⁷
- MAJ Howard Andrews Starrett 1912 USA conducted research with the Quartermaster General’s Engineering Branch.⁸
- CDR Stanley Griswold Wight 1920 USN served as a naval logistics officer and would die of exhaustion in California just as the war ended in 1945.
- LTC Patrick Stuart Ledereich Vance 1920 USA GSC, became the Assistant Chief of Staff, A-4, Southeast Army Air Forces Training Center, Maxwell Field, Montgomery, AL.⁹
- LCDR Thomas Carey “Tom” Hennings, Jr., 1924 USNR had a short and unhappy assignment as an aide to the Governor of Puerto Rico; of this we will read later.
- Brother John Reynolds Young 1936 served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during his summers as an undergraduate to earn tuition money. When war came he returned to the sea and served on the North Atlantic convoy routes.¹⁰
- LT Edgar Frederick Hazelton, Jr. 1937 USNR became a Naval Aviator in 1939 and was deployed with Naval Patrol Squadron VP-21 in the Philippines during the winter of 1941-42 and later in Java.
- ENS John Markley Rockwood 1937 USNR served on a destroyer in the Pacific.
- 2LT Stephen Johnson de Baun 1938 USAR left his job with the National Broadcasting Company to do publicity work for his regiment and would later head a black infantry company at Camp Wallace TX.¹¹
- 1LT William Wallace Orr 1938 USAR served in the 241st Coast Artillery.
- ENS Eugene Ferree Patterson 1939 USNR began active service during June 1941.
- 1LT Frederick Thomas Rockwood, Jr. 1939 USAR began service at Ft. Eustis VA.
- 1LT Edgar Warden Phillips, Jr., ‘39 USAR made it as far as San Francisco. After that nothing is known.
- Brother John Perry Walker III 1939 went into naval aviation.
- ENS Donald Francis “Don” Hazelton 1940 USNR, Edgar’s younger brother, was the first Cornell Deke to see combat when his ship, the USS West Virginia (BB-48) berthed in Pearl

⁷ *DXD*, III, #4 (June 1937): “Borden ‘12 Serves Army in Armory at Springfield.”

⁸ *DXD*, VII, #3 (May 1941), p. 4: “Major Starrett ‘12 on Duty.”

⁹ *DXD*, IX, #1 (November 1942), p. 4.

¹⁰ Brother William Bradford Whiting ‘42 e-mail to HWF, Saturday, April 21, 2012 2:39 PM.

¹¹ *DXD*, VIII, #2 (February 1942), p. 2: “Publicity Work in the Army.” *DXD*, IX, #1 (November 1942).

Harbor was attacked on 7 December 1941. Hazelton was credited for his role in fighting the ship's fires and serving aboard when the heavily damaged vessel returned to the States for repairs.¹²

- 1LT Richard Alfred Lowe USAAF piloted a B-24 bomber.¹³

The U.S. buildup in the Armed Forces was in full swing by the time the Class of 1941 took their degrees in June.¹⁴

- It was then that Hayes Clark 1941, Stuart A. Spaulding 1941, John Henry Teach, Jr. 1941 and Stuart Boutecou McKinney 1941, all entered the Naval Reserves as Ensigns on active duty. Clark would see service as chief engineering officer on the destroyer USS Schenck (DD-159) escorting trans-Atlantic convoys to support the ETO. LCDR Teach USNR was assigned to command a gun crew on a medium sized merchant ship off the Atlantic coast that was later torpedoed and shelled by a U-boat.¹⁵ He was one of thirty rescued out of a crew of forty-eight. After the war he continued with his Navy career in the reserves and retired finally with the rank of Captain USN.
- 1LT Jonathan Britton Fisher, Jr., 1941 USAAF, 1LT Porter William Gifford, Jr., 1941 USAAF and CPT Richard Edward "Dick" Holtzman 1941 USAAF and 1LT John Talman Whiting, Jr. 1941 USAAF joined the U.S. Army Air Corps for aviation training. James Samuel "Jim" Abbott III 1941 USA was drafted and served with the 107th Cavalry.
- In 1945 SGT Robert Morris "Punchy" Lowe 1941 USAR wrote back to the Deke House complaining about his last "boat trip" that took him to Luzon in the Philippines.¹⁶

By 1942 we read that more than a few alumni were on active duty.

- COL Caesar Augustin Grasselli II 1922 USAR left the service of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company to serve as a liaison officer with the British as we shall read later.
- 1LT Joseph DeWitt Warner, Jr. 1932 USAR was stationed at Camp Bowie TX.

¹² *DXD*, VIII, #2 (February 1942), p. 2: "Ensign Hazleton '40 Writes From Pearl Harbor on Dec. 2." R. H. Hillenkoetter, Senior Surviving Officer, U.S.S. West Virginia, letter to Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, December 11, 1941. Appendix F (Statement of Lieut., C.V. Ricketts, U.S. Navy, Excerpt): "From that time on until relief firefighting parties arrived we fought the fire on the boat deck, starboard casemates, and port side of the main deck forward. Ensigns Hine, Hazelton, Lombardi, Graham and some others did excellent work in this firefighting."

¹³ *CAN*, XLVIII, #8 (December 1, 1945), p. 184.

¹⁴ *DXD*, VII, #4 (Summer 1941), pp. 1 & 3: "Most of Ten Seniors Will Go Into Service; Several Enlist in Air Corps; Others Ready."

¹⁵ *CAN*, XLVIII, #18 (1 May 1946), p. 401.

¹⁶ *DKEQ*, LXIII, #3 (October 1945), p.95.

- CPT Edward Huston “Ed” Ellis, Jr. 1937 USAR was assigned to the 597th Field Artillery
- LTJG John Wilgus “Jack” Shoemaker 1937 USNR served in Naval Ordnance.
- MAJ Carter “Mac” McGregor, Jr. 1938 USAAF was called to active duty as an infantry officer on 1 July 1941 and assigned initially to the 368th Infantry at Fort Huachuca AZ, but he then qualified for aviation training, logged 400 hours as a B-17 pilot with the 45th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 40th “Kagu-Tsuchi” Bomb Group, and transitioned to the Boeing B-29 Superfortress very heavy bomber. He flew 33 combat missions in the China-Burma-India Theater and earned the Army Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster.
- PVT Alben Grederick “Pete” Bates, Jr. 1939 USAR, 25th Hospital Unit, PTO.
- ENS Edward Williams Walls, Jr. 1939 USNR.
- 1LT Charles Alden Hunt 1940 USAR was assigned to 1st Armored Division, 27th F.A., at Fort Knox, Ky.,
- PVT David Harold “Dave” Doherty 1940 USAR, Field Artillery.
- Brother Lawson W. Turner, Jr. 1941 served in the Armored Corps.
- Brother George Allman “Bud” Orr, Jr. ‘42 served in the U.S. Navy.
- CPT William Bradford Whiting 1942 USA fought with the field artillery in France and later wrote extensively of his experiences.
- CAPT Edward Austin “Jolly” Rogers 1942 USMCR piloted a North American PBJ-1 Mitchell medium bomber (USAAF B-25) assigned to Marine Bombing Squadron, VMB-613, in the Pacific theater and flew bombing missions over Ponape Island (Caroline Islands) in February 1945 and Mille Island (Marshall Islands) the following month.
- ENS George Frederick Hewitt III 1943 USNR was killed in an F6F-3 Hellcat fighter training accident before receiving his first overseas assignment.
- Brother John Karlen “Jack” Kimball ‘43 pulled duty with the U.S. Navy.
- 2LT Wallace H. “Wally” Williams, Jr. 1943 USAAF gained his pilots wings.
- 2LT William Hunt Eisenman, Jr. 1943 USAAF would lose his life in the crash of a Curtiss-Wright C-46A Commando while serving with the 74th Ferrying Squadron of the 3rd Ferrying Command.
- LTJG John Stuart Banta 1943 USNR saw duty in all theaters, European, Pacific and Indian aboard the USS Murphy (DD-603).
- 1LT Jay Russell Geib, Jr. USA became the only brother to serve with the Office of Strategic Services in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations.
- Peter Nathaniel “Pete” Barr 1944 USA, Field Artillery.
- Thomas Robert “Torn” Graham 1944 USNR, Naval Aviation.

- 2LT Ernes Howard “Ernie” Winter, Jr. USAR, Field Artillery.
- 2LT Elbert Hall “Bake” Baker III 1945 USAAF.

Then in 1943 LCDR George Butler Storer, Jr. 1922 USNR, President of the Standard Tube Company (Detroit MI) and the Fort Industry Company (Toledo) was called to active duty to manage material acquisitions for the Naval Service.¹⁷

A few brothers served the nation’s war industry in a civilian capacity.

- Brother Egbert Moxham 1904 took over an old shipyard in Georgia, formed the Brunswick Marine Construction Corp and put his son, Brother Arthur James Moxham 1937, to work handling material procurement for building Liberty Ships.¹⁸
- Brother Samuel Everett “Boody” Hunkin 1916, vice-president of the Hunkin-Conkey Construction Co., led the construction of a huge ordnance plant for the army at Ravenna OH.
- Brother Allen Lenoir McGill 1918, a Los Angeles architect, planned the layout of Camp Roberts near Paso Robles CA.
- Brother Walter Thomas Prendergast 1922, a native of Marion OH, joined the U.S diplomatic corps after graduation and served in Europe throughout the interwar period. By the end of the war we find him serving as Special Assistant to the Deputy Coordinator in the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in the enormous Office for Emergency Management.¹⁹
- Beach Barrett 1940 worked initially with Pratt & Whitney building aircraft and later as 2ndLT USA he was assigned to the experimental engineering section of the Air Corps Engineers at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.

In time the war would engulf Cornell and profoundly change fraternity life for all.

Scholarship and Rush

The poor academic record of ΔKE in the Thirties continued into the prewar years and the annual

¹⁷ *CDS*, LXII, #137, 5 May 1943, p. 5: “George B. Storer ‘22 Commissioned in Navy.”

¹⁸ *DXD*, IX, #1 (November 1942), p. 2: Moxhams Build Liberty Ships.”

¹⁹ U.S. Government Organization Manual, 1945. *New York Times*, April 22, 1942: SACRIFICE IS URGED TO SUPPLY LATINIS. HOLLYWOOD BEACH, Fla., April 21 -- This country must supply Latin America with machinery, equipment and manufactured goods even if we deprive ourselves to do it, Walter T. Prendergast, assistant director of the Science and Education Division of the Office of Inter-American Affairs, declared tonight.

reports from the Dean of Students made clear.²⁰ The following table tells the story of how Cornell's Big Six fraternities performed in those years.

Scholastic Standing of the Big Six Amongst Men's Associations				
Fraternity	Chartered	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
Kappa Alpha Society	1868	32	48	45
Zeta Psi	1868	48	29	26
Alpha Delta Phi	1869	56	49	46
Chi Psi	1869	29	37	54
Delta Kappa Epsilon	1870	53	52	47
Psi Upsilon	1876	51	45	43
Total Men's Associations		58	57	58

Poor grades led to many complications. In the spring of 1941, the chapter suspended the by-law prohibiting the initiation of men on academic probation "to permit initiation of the entire class of 1944," but during the following fall term felt compelled to delay the initiation of Pledge Mario Garcia Menocal III 1944 until his marks became "satisfactory."²¹

The Fall 1941 rush was a great success. Eleven men were added to Delta Chi's ranks including the Freshmen Class President, James Barkhurst Trimble 1945.²²

In the fall of 1942, the University issued rules that largely ended the "good life." Junior Week, fraternity house parties, student automobiles and cutting classes were all consigned to the past.²³ Despite a successful Fall 1942 rush that netted fourteen pledges including three legacies and three sophomores, there was a continuing exodus of the older men to join the war effort.²⁴

²⁰ *CDS*, LXI, #16 (10 October 1940), p. 1: "Independents Lead Students Scholastically." *CDS*, LXII, #3 (24 September 1941), p. 10: "Telluride, AEPHI Boast Top Averages; Women Again Lead Men Scholastically." *CDS*, LXII, #45 (18 November 1942), p. 1: "Telluride Leads in Scholarship." The ΔKE rankings and grade point averaged for the 1939-40, 1940-41 and 1941-43 academic years were 53 out of 58 (71.26), 52 out of 57 (71.40) and 47 out of 58 (71.72), respectively.

²¹ *CMM*, 3 Mar 1941. *CMM*, 13 Oct 1941: a motion introduced by Brother Robert Clarence Ochs '42 "to postpone the initiation of Pledge Brother [Mario Garcia] Menocal in order to find out if his marks at the [end of the term's first] six weeks period are satisfactory enough to warrant his initiation" carries.

²² *Cornell Alumni News*, XLIV, #9 (20 November 1941): "On the Campus —James B. Trimble. PRESIDENT of the Freshman Class, elected by proportional representation, is James B. Trimble of Wayne, Pa. Out for the Freshman track team, he is a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon."

²³ *DXD*, IX, 1 (November 1942), p. 1: "Campus Shows Changes Brought About By War," NYT, 4 October 1942: "Bans House Parties; Cornell Abandons Junior Week and Other Fraternity Festivities."

²⁴ *DXD*, IX, #1 (November 1942): Cornell Dekes Announce Pledging of 14 Men; Three are Sophomores.

The last initiation of nine men was held on 13 December 1942.²⁵ One straggler, John Livingston Beersman 1946 would enter the brotherhood via a one-man ritual on 15 January. It would be three full years before the chapter inducted a new generation of Dekes.

The Deke House Closes for the War (Spring 1943)

Delta Chi, hoping to avoid the misfortunes that befell the chapter when the House closed during World War I, began planning for the inevitable. The first measure was to close the kitchen, relieve the Steward and “double up” by taking meals with nearby Psi Upsilon. This arrangement began in January 1943. Even then getting a meal proved to be a challenge.²⁶

FRATERNITY STEWARDS are having their troubles with the new point rationing of processed foods. Dining rooms of most houses serve fewer than fifty persons regularly, so the total supply of rationed foods is only that called for by their pooled ration books. J. Basil Abbink '43 points out in *The Sun*: “With nine out of ten cooks on the Hill using canned or frozen or dehydrated foods wherever possible, and with one day’s serving of a canned vegetable taking up two men’s points for a whole month, trouble is sure on its way.”

The Chapter decided that Houseman John Komaromi would be retained to take care of the lodge for the duration and his pay was raised by \$20 to compensate for his loss of ΔKE board.

Able-bodied men were getting to be in short supply and the co-eds were becoming increasingly desperate for attention. Shortly after the Dekes closed their kitchen and took up dining at the Psi Upsilon house, they became victims of an artfully planned terrorist assault.²⁷

²⁵ The last initiation before the House closed down for the war on 13 December 1942 added the following brothers to Delta Chi: Howard Earl Blood, Jr., Frederic Clement Bowen, Peter Reiss Bachmann, Charles Alexander Fitzgerald, Warren Phillip Hill, Robert Lockhart McCormick, Donald Martin Smith, James Burt Stoddard, Jr., and John Frederic Wolf. John Livingston Beersman [Beers] was initiated on 15 January 1943. All except Blood '45 and Bowen '45 were in the class of 1946.

²⁶ *CMM*, 18 January 1943: Speaking about wartime conditions, Brother Beta [John Ames Newman '43] said, “In past times money had been lost when many of the boys went to war. This time we are going to double up in dining. and when it is necessary to close the House, we are going to store all valuables and take good care of the records and rituals, and send a report to the National Council [of Delta Kappa Epsilon].” A motion “that the Steward’s position be eliminated” carries. *CMM*, 1 March 1943: The Finance Committee reports that “the Steward at Psi Upsilon gave us the wrong rate and everyone would be required to pay two dollars more. *CAN*, XLV, #20 (4 March 1943), p. 261.

²⁷ *CDS*, LXII, #95 (26 February 1943), p. 1.

Masked Commandettes Attack Psi U; Swift Sortie Takes All by Surprise

Red-sweatered, white-masked Commandettes swept into the Psi Upsilon House last night to deliver a telling raid. Striking suddenly, the rifle-bearing blue-skirted raiders launched their screaming attack at dusk, stunning the dining Psi Upsilon and Delta Kappa Epsilons, who found their tongues—to render comments unprintable—only after the invaders had made a timely withdrawal,

Calm and decorous was the atmosphere as fraternities Psi U and DKE enjoyed their fruit cup and saw their meat set before them—then piercing screams, and from a side entrance the rifle brandishing, shrieking squad charged into the dining room.

Dumfounded by the noise and unscheduled appearance of women in their dining quarters, fraternity brothers were an amused but wondering audience as Commandettes delivered their advertising assault—a singing invitation to the freshmen’s ‘46 Day Dance.

Fraternalists chuckled as rifles came to “right shoulder” at the corporal’s command, but with “load” and “aim” laughs were stifled and gave way to a mistrusting murmur when those sitting at the tables saw rifles leveled above their heads. “Fire!”, a few winced, but only the sound of clicking firing pins echoed from still-standing walls, and all tenseness was gone as the Commandettes issued a challenge down their rifle barrels to “come to the Freshman Banquet and Dance” before executing a strategic retreat into the night.

The next night these mysterious female commandoes raided Alpha Delta Phi.²⁸ They followed this unorthodox tactic by striking Zeta Beta Tau and Phi Delta Theta. The effect on turnout for the 73rd Annual Freshmen Banquet held in Willard Straight Hall’s Memorial Room on 6 March 1943, was unrecorded, but attendees were assured that the Commandettes would finally be unmasked for this affair.²⁹

The *Chapter Meeting Minutes* for 1 March 1943 tell us much about the carefully planned wind-down of the Chapter’s affairs.

²⁸ *CDS*, LXII, #96 (27 February 1943), p. 1: “Commandettes’ Second Assault Hits Alpha Delt.” *CDS*, LXII, #98 (3 March 1943), p. 1: “Double Raid Announces ‘46 Day Dance Plans”

²⁹ *CAN*, XLV, #20 (4 March 1943), p. 261: “FRESHMAN CLASS is advertising its ‘46 Day Dance March 6 as “the last chance to gather with your Class.” A “date bureau” has been set up by the Class under management of William L. Brach of East Orange, N. J., and the Sun reports nightly forays of masked “commandettes” at various fraternity houses, where the imaginary feminine raiders deliver musical invitations to “Come to the Freshman banquet and dance” before they vanish into thin air. These reports were preceded by a “teaser” story in The Sun that a mysterious company of “commandettes” was training on the Campus.”

The Finance Committee reports that “the Steward at Psi Upsilon gave us the wrong rate and everyone would be required to pay two dollars more. After the war, name plates are to be put on study doors for the classes of ‘42 and ‘43. Nicknames are submitted on loose paper in [the] record. House silver is stored in The First National Bank, and Maxfield has the receipt. Because Komeini [sic] no longer eats at the House, he should receive \$20 extra per month. Brother [John Stuart] Banta ‘43 is going to discuss the matter with Maxfield. Komeini should be told when the House is going to close because he has another job lined up.”

Brother Beta reads two letters from Brother Elder to the brotherhood. The letters discuss the continuation “of chapters even though the House is closed, and if no members are enrolled in the University, the alumni body should preserve the property of the chapter and make preparations for reinstatement when the war is over.”

Delta Chi submits the names of Brothers Gillette, LaBonte, Luhr, Cowell and Walter to the Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon as a wartime alumni group to watch over the affairs of the chapter.

“Pledging is to remain even if [the] Chapter House is closed. Bills should be paid on time, war or no war. The records should be stored in a safe place out of the House.”

Brother John Frederick Nixon [1924] is “very optimistic of our situation after the war because [the] Trustees on [the] board [of Cornell University] are fraternity men and much money is sunk in fraternity houses here.”

The Chapter Meeting Minutes of 1943 included a slip of paper listing the brother’s nicknames, probably for the brass name tags that were tacked to the doors of second floor rooms.

CLASS OF 1942

“DAPPER” BARZLER
“BUCK” BUXTON
“STORKY” DINGLE
“GABBY” INGLEHART
“SCOOP” McCANN
“SCRAPPY” OCHS
“BUD” ORR
“JUG-HAID” RISER
“JOLLY” ROGERS
“AL” SCHMID
“SHADOW” SHANER
“POP” WHITING
“ALFER” WILLIAMS

CLASS OF 1943

“FIGHTER” BANTA
“GLENN” BREATHED
“BUGLE” BUCHANAN
“DICK” EARL
“BREY” EISENMAN
“KIM” KIMBALL
“GLOOM” NEWMAN
“CLIFF” RODES
“DUCKY” SAYLE
“STA” MERRILL

“STUD” WILLIAMS
“MONTY” WOODRUFF

Two weeks later the Alumni appointed Brothers Joseph DeWitt Warner III 1931, John Frederick Nixon 1924, Edwin Spence Gillette 1914 and Ernest Vail Stebbens 1893 to serve on the wartime Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon.³⁰

The last chapter meeting before the Deke House was closed for good convened on 3 May. The Finance Committee reported that the kitchen storeroom had been cleared of food. On 1 July 1943 the lodge was leased back to the University to house Navy and Marine Corps personnel who would train as officer candidates.³¹ The term of this lease was for one year, ending on 30 June 1944, and then extended on a month-to-month basis until 31 December 1945. Income from this lease allowed the Delta Chi Association to retire two mortgage notes, one for \$3,000 issued in 1906 on 9 July 1943 and another for \$5,000 issued in 1894 on the following January.³² John Komaromi, became an employee of the U. S. Government, staying on to maintain the building.³³

War Stories

Very few accounts of the brother’s wartime exploits have survived —only three wrote edited memoirs (Bruce Johnson 1919, Carter McGregor 1938 and William Bradford Whiting 1942).³⁴ Brother Robert Franklin “Scoop” McCann, Jr. 1942, a former editor of the *Cornell Daily Sun*, circulated a news digest called *The Deke Lion* to take the place of the *Delta Chi Deke* that ceased publication at the close of 1942, but no copies have survived save for one excerpt reprinted in the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*.³⁵ Still, much can be pieced together from incidental references in

³⁰ *CMM*, 15 March 1943.

³¹ *DXD*, X, #1 (May 1946), p. 1: *DXD*. Delta Chi Deke, X, #1 (January 1947), p. 1: “Dekes Again Occupy House After Navy Leaves; Improvements Completed Before Fall Term Opens.”

³² CERTIFICATION dated 9 July 1943 of Edwin Spence Gillette to the Delta Chi Association of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity of the City of New York, *Liber 25* (Discharge of Mortgages), p. 76, recorded 12 Jul 1943. CERTIFICATION dated 5 January 1944 of Cornell University to Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, *Liber 25* (Discharge of Mortgages), p. 285, recorded 17 Jan 1944.

³³ John Komaromi, b. 18-Feb-1887, d. 01-Nov-1966 at Ithaca NY, age 79. SSN: 072-03-4904.

³⁴ (1) Johnson, Bruce. *The Man with Two Hats: An Autobiography*. Edited by Richard Alden Knight. New York: Carlton Press (Hearthstone book), 25 March 1968. (2) McGragor, Carter. *The Kagu-Tsuchi Bomb Group: The Scourge of the Fire God* (1981). (3) Whiting, William Bradford. *Army Memoirs, World War II*. William Whiting Collection (AFC/2001/001/5430), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

³⁵ *DXD*, X, #1 (May 1946), p. 4: “The Deke Lion Great War-Time Success. *The Deke Lion*, a war time news digest of the Delta Chi Dekes from 1939 on was put out every three months by Bob “Scoop” McCann ‘42. Scoop did a grand job

the fraternity journals and the occasional obituary as we read below.

Brother Bruce Johnson 1919 (1896 –1985) and his son, Bruce, Jr. 1941 (1923 –)

The stories of ΔKE Brothers Bruce Johnson 1919 and his son, Bruce, Jr. 1941, in World War II are of particular note.³⁶ Johnson 1919 had joined the U.S. Army Signal Corps Air Service in 1917, qualified as a pursuit pilot, became a skilled aviation instructor, and suffered the frustration of missing combat during World War I.³⁷ Determined not to miss another war, he prevailed upon his close friend, General James Harold “Jimmy” Doolittle, USAF (1896–1993), and obtained a commission as a Captain in the U. S. Army Air Corps in 1942. Once overseas, he was promoted to Major on 18 January 1943 and assigned as Headquarters Commandant, Twelfth Air Force, in Algiers and later Constantine, Algeria, and Tunis, Tunisia. Moving in step with Doolittle, he ran the Fifteenth Air Force Headquarters in Bari, Italy, as 1943 drew to an end and later the Eighth Air Force Headquarters in London. By that time Bruce Jr. had completed his basic training and arrived in England as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 16th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division —the “Big Red One.”³⁸

Johnson, Sr., described the first of two meetings with his son in London before the Normandy invasion.³⁹

The war was driven home to me harder than ever when I was told that I had a visitor one day at [Eighth Air Force] headquarters. I walked into the outer office and there stood Bruce Jr., second lieutenant’s bars on his shoulders and a big grin on his face. We fell on each other and I gave him a big hug to mask the shock I felt deep inside me.

Bruce was a platoon leader, heading up a group whose main line of defense was flame throwers, those awful searing instruments of war so important in eliminating opposition in bunkers and caves. The casualty figures in these platoons was said to

and deserves the chapter’s greatest praise. His mimeograph copy of five or six pages was read in every corner of the world where Delta Chi Dekes were stationed or fighting. The paper brought back many happy memories to men who were in the ETO, CBI, the Pacific, and all the rest of the fighting fronts. Scoop did a fine job in keeping the boys not only posted on their fellow brothers but also in contact with the Deke house. Congratulations and thanks from all of us at 13 South, Scoop.”

³⁶ Bruce Johnson 1919 (b. 30-Apr-1896, i. 10-May-1916 ΔX #485, d. 25-Apr-1985) and Bruce Johnson, Jr. 1941 (b. 17-Aug-1923, i. ΔX #802).

³⁷ Johnson, BGEN Bruce, USAF. *The Man With Two Hats*. New York NY: Carlton Press (Hearthstone), 1968.

³⁸ Bruce Johnson, Jr., responses to HWF letters of 22 and 30 July 2011.

³⁹ Johnson (1968), p. 142. Bruce, Jr., later recalled his father taking him to the Eighth Air Force operation center in London and showing him the next day’s bombardment plan depicted on a large map of the Continent.

be frightful, but the work they did was of tremendous importance.

We had lunch together and talked of home and family. I can remember posing for several pictures and then giving him my .45 to augment his light carbine. After lunch, I took him south to his camp in my car. At his billet, I met and chatted briefly with his captain, spent some more time with the boy and then, far too soon, it was time for me to go.

We said no fond goodbyes, rather we just shook hands hard and turned away. I sat in the back seat of my car and hated the world, the war and, more particularly, the Germans he was going to face in a short few days.

Their second meeting was in Paris after the Normandy invasion. 2LT Bruce, Jr., had entered the Continent the hard way, on a Landing Craft, Vehicle & Personnel, with the second wave of the 16th Infantry on sector Easy Red of Omaha Beach. The older Johnson would write of this encounter in his memoir.⁴⁰

The next few weeks were so work-filled that I could scarcely find time to drag my weary body from one place to another. I grew to hate a telephone, everyone wanted something and they all wanted it first. Bruce Jr. hung heavy in my thoughts. I knew he had hit Omaha Beach and I also knew the slaughter that took place there. My queries directed through the Red Cross had netted me nothing. Then, one day, the news came. Bruce was safe and well and was in (or near) Paris. I slept soundly for the first night in weeks.

Two days later, I was sent to Paris, for “supplies” from the commissary officer there. Supplies, my ass. I was going after all the booze I could load into a flight of bombers! I went over first with the “supply” ships destined to meet me on a pre-arranged schedule. With me I took a wagon load of money out of the recreational fund, thanks to all those busy slot machines.

We landed at Orly Field outside of Paris and I sent one of the plane crew to round me up a car. Standing there by the ship talking to the pilot, I could see that the crewman was running into heavy weather from a stocky-built American major. I walked over to see if I could help. The major took one look at me and started to grin. “For Christ’s Sake —Bruce Johnson! Don’t you remember me?”

I looked at him closely, going past the wrinkles and knocking off the years. There stood Charles W. Yerkes, a plebe at New York Military Academy the year I had been graduated. As we shook hands, the clock rolled back thirty years.

Charley found me a car and we drove into Paris, parking near the Ritz on the Place

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 144-5.

de Vendome. The streets were full of military personnel, uniforms of all nations milled by in the crowd. Suddenly I was grabbed by two strong arms and looked into the face of an unshaven, dirty foot soldier—my son Bruce! I lost complete control for a minute and cried, but the occasion was too joyous for tears.

After getting him permission to spend the night with me, I saw to it that he bathed and shaved. Then we had dinner at the Ritz, complete with champagne and toasts. Then we retired to my room where he brought me up-to-date on his landing.

Bruce's platoon had hit the beach in the second wave. He and his men had to discard their heavy equipment and swim for it when their boat capsized in the surf. In the process, he had to pull two of his men along with him who could not swim. On the beach, he threw away his officer's helmet and grabbed a plain one off a body in the wash of the waves. They were shooting at every officer they could spot. Finally, they managed to fight their way off the beach to safety.

We sat up most of the night, drinking champagne out of heavy china mugs and talking.⁴¹ I drove him back to his billet around five that morning, finding that it was in a tremendous group of warehouses filled with all manner of liquors, cigars and cheeses. Bruce filled my car to overflowing and shook hands goodby.

Both Johnsons returned safely to the states after the war was over. Bruce, Sr., was decorated with the Legion of Merit for his service and would become the first Cornell Deke to achieve flag grade when he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and assumed command of the "Red Hot" 50th Reserve Fighter Wing at Otis Air Force Base.⁴² In 1956, at age 60, he was compelled by law to retire from the U. S. Air Force Reserve so he took the unique step of resigning his commission as

⁴¹ Bruce Johnson, Jr., letter to HWF, 13 August 2011: this champagne drinking session occurred at the Ritz Hotel and a German V-1 buzz bomb passed overhead at the time.

⁴² *Ibid.*, pp. 148-49. The citation for the Legion of Merit, dated June 24, 1944. "Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Johnson (then Major), Army Serial Number 0504391, Air Corps. United States Army, for exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services as Assistant to the AC of S-1 and as Headquarters Commandant, Twelfth Air Force, during the period of 6 December 1942 to 7 March 1944. Lieutenant Colonel Johnson displayed resourcefulness, initiative and a high degree of diplomacy during the North African and Italian Campaigns, in procuring buildings for headquarters and the difficult supplies; in superintending the building and finishing of laundries and kitchens, supervising and requisitioning officers' messes, necessary billet, a large theater, amusement clubs, rest homes, recreational centers and motor pools. His close liaison work with the British, French and Italian military agencies, civilian authorities was so expertly and diplomatically handled that the spirit of goodwill, unity and friendship was created which materially aided all future enterprises that involved cooperation with these agencies. Lieutenant Colonel Johnson has assisted materially in the attainment of the high degree of efficiency, morale and perfection evidenced in the operation of the Twelfth Air Force and Fifteenth Air Force Headquarters. The untiring efforts, energy and devotion displayed by Lieutenant Colonel Johnson reflected the highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Connecticut/'

an officer and accepting the rank of Airman, 3rd Class.⁴³ This flamboyant step made national headlines. Bruce, Jr., returned to Cornell briefly, struggled with chemistry, and transferred to Columbia University, taking his degree in 1948. He then studied Portuguese and set off for Brazil where he worked for the Texaco Oil Company. Eventually he returned to the United States to work in the life insurance industry.

Brother Caesar Augustin Grasselli II 1922 (1901–1978)

In 1936 Brother Grasselli arrived in London to take up the position of Assistant European Manager of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. He was recalled to the States in December 1939 and promoted to European Manager in the DuPont organization.⁴⁴ The U. S. Army commissioned Grasselli a Major in May 1942 and sent him to serve as a liaison officer with the staff of the British First Army to assist in planning the Allied invasion of North Africa. His assignments to the British forces continued, and on 27 October 1944 King George VI appointed Grasselli to the Order of the British Empire in appreciation of his service to His Majesty's Government. March 1945 saw him transferred to the U.S. Planning Group for Austria in Caserta, Italy. In May 1945, he went to Vienna as the Deputy Director of the Economics Division of U.S. Forces —Austria. He was discharged with the rank of Colonel after forty-three months of Army service and awarded the U.S. Legion of Merit. Grasselli had the distinction of serving under British command longer than any other American officer.

Brother Carter “Mac” McGregor, Jr. 1938 (1917 – 1996)

Aircraft Commander CPT Carter McGregor USAAF, recalled a 17 October 1944 mission to bomb Formosa's Takao harbor when Japanese fighters attacked his B-29 Superfortress heavy bomber, killing a gunner, SGT Edward Hornyia USAAF, who was dragged from the right blister turret.⁴⁵

“Bombs away,” and *Monsoon Minnie* jumped from the released weight of our load. The flak was thick and heavy, and I heard myself muttering to the lead airplane, “Make your turn and let's get the hell out of here.” At the same time I saw Fritz reach for the switch to close our own doors.

The leader had just started his turn when the Nipponese greeters arrived on the scene, and every gunner started calling fighter positions. Moss was still busy, flying the formation, but I could see those nasty little Zekes coming from all directions. The best way to spot them at a distance was by their vapor trails, and then when they would get a

⁴³ *New York Times*, 4 May 1956: “General Drops in the Ranks.”

⁴⁴ *DXD*, VI, #3 (April 1940): “Until War is Over.”

⁴⁵ *40th Bomb Group Association MEMORIES*, Issue # 54 (January, 1995): “Tragic Loss of Ed Hornyia Over Formosa (Taiwan).” <http://www.40thbombgroup.org/memories/Memories54.pdf>

little closer you could see the leading edges start blinking, and you knew their calling cards were on the way.

Suddenly, there was an explosion, and the interior of the plane filled with fog. I didn't know what the noise was, but I knew that we had taken some kind of hit and had depressurized, causing the warm air inside the airplane to vaporize. For a few seconds, the fog was too thick to see anything, but I yelled for everyone to get on a mask at the same time I was grabbing for mine and hooking it to my helmet. We knew from past experience that if the hole in the plane was not too big, we could put something over it—a magazine, a cushion, anything that would cover the space and then the pressure would build back quickly, so I wanted everyone to look for holes.

At the same instant, Weinberg said, "I'm hit," and Sgt. Klaver said, "I'm hit too, but I can't tell how bad."

Right at that moment, there was nothing I could do for either of them until we got out of that hornet's nest, for the fighters were still pouring it on, and every turret on our ship was in action. I looked around me to see if we had any holes in the front end, and I just happened to look up, right over my seat, and saw blue sky through a hole about four inches in diameter, just above my head. I turned to see where the shell had hit, and there was a big scar on the armor plate behind my seat, about six inches behind me. Later, we surmised that when the 20mm shell hit the armor plate, the bullet shattered, and the fragments ricocheted back and hit the navigator and radio operator. I could not believe I was not hit too, but I couldn't feel anything hurting, although there was no way some of that shrapnel could have missed hitting me, somewhere.

McGregor soon learned that the damage to the cockpit was relatively minor compared to what happened amidships. The right blister turret had been hit and the gunner, Edward Hornyia, was dragged out of the aircraft. The tail gunner saw Hornyia's parachute deploy but given the altitude and position over the Yellow Sea, his chances for survival were nil. Brother McGregor was able to bring the wounded bomber to a safe landing near Luichow in mainland China.

Brother William Bradford Whiting 1942 (1920 –)

Brother William Bradford Whiting suffered fire from his own outfit, the 802d Field Artillery Battalion, and later from the enemy while serving in France as an artillery survey officer.⁴⁶

On October 29th [1944] Sgt [Jack] Fleishman and I were at our OP on the front of the Foret de Gremecey [Lorraine région]. In all the time we had spent there we had never seen anything we could fire at, an occasional messenger coming into or going out of Jallaucourt on a motorcycle, or an individual German scurrying about, but

⁴⁶ Whiting, *Army Memoirs, World War II*.

nothing that was worth expending our rationed shells. But on this day we thought we saw the gun of a German tank on the edge of town, and were given permission to adjust on it. Behind our OP position about ten feet was a large concrete bunker, left over from WWI, too far back in the woods for us to use as our OP, but comforting if we should ever be shelled by the Germans. We radioed the coordinates of our target to the FDC [Fire Direction Center] and soon we were advised “on the way”, and almost immediately a shell landed about twenty yards to our left rear. We were startled and scared and dashed to the bunker, wondering how the Germans had seen us. After a minute or so with no more shells landing, we came out and radioed the FDC what had happened and explained that we had been unable to observe the first round they had fired and requested they fire again. Once again we were told “on the way” and once again a shell landed right where the first one had. We were startled again, but now knew what had happened. We radioed the FDC to check Si (pronounced ess-eye). There were three settings on the gun -deflection for direction, elevation for range (distance), and site for the difference in elevation between the gun and the target, the latter being known as Si. The FDC reported back that the gunner had set his Si 100 mils too low, and by coincidence Sgt Fleishman and I were in line with the trajectory from gun to target. After this correction was made we proceeded with the “tank”, but whatever it was it moved before we could get close.

Whiting’s next memorable experience with incoming rounds, this time enemy fire, came during the Ardennes Campaign in in eastern Luxembourg.

One of my regular functions was to make shell reports, or shell-reps, for all enemy artillery shelling in or near the Hq Btry area. Making these reports required a visual inspection of the impact crater or shell hole. With a little experience one could tell the bore of the gun, take a reasonably accurate compass direction from which the shell was fired, and determine the approximate angle of impact. The information was phoned back up the chain of command to Corps Artillery. From this information they would back-plot from the point of impact, and from the angle of impact and gun size were able to approximate the enemy gun position. Similar reports from other units and locations provided several back-plots, and their convergence provided a fairly accurate location of the firing position. Map terrain details in the suspect area helped refine the position location. Artillery air observers were alerted to be on the lookout in the area, and Air Force fighter-bombers were sometimes asked to attack the positions. In any event, shell-reps were part of our counter-battery effort, and I was the shell-rep individual for our Hq Btry area. It was not a large activity as we were not shelled often. The more recent the shelling the more useful the information. We only reported shelling we actually witnessed. I was

expected to make my inspection and report as soon as the shelling ceased. The Germans had a nasty habit of stopping briefly and then resuming. There was no way of telling when they had “ceased.” Sgt Fleishman almost always went with me, though he did not have to. We normally waited ten minutes or so, and then made our inspection as quickly as possible and got out of the area.

In Consdorf the CP/FDC was in one of the buildings on the south side of the only street going through town. On my way to mess for breakfast I noticed German artillery was making an air adjustment over the curve in the road about 100 yards beyond where the mess truck was located. It was high enough and far enough away that it was not dangerous to us, and only a few rounds were fired. But it was unusual. An air adjustment was made when you could not see the ground in the area you wished to fire on from map data. The air bursts were quite visible and were observed from two mutually visible known map locations, and were triangulated. That located the actual shell trajectory, and after corrections were made the guns were ready to fire from map data, with reasonable confidence of accuracy. Nothing was as good as observed fire, but many times that was not possible. I was puzzled as there was nothing in our area worth shooting at, certainly not us. About mid-morning several of us were sitting in a barber shop next door to the FDC, and heard shelling in the field out behind the row of buildings on our side of the street, 60 or so yards away. They seemed to be making a muffled sort of explosion. The street went towards the front, so as we faced in that direction the shells were landing to our right. The shelling had stopped for about four minutes when Colonel [Nelson L.] Head [802nd FA Bn. Cdr.] said to me “Whiting, when are you going out and make your shell-rep? What are you afraid of? Just to show you, come on, I’ll go with you”. He was not being nasty or critical, it was just friendly banter or needling. So I got my compass, and we put on our jackets and out we went. There was about four inches of snow on the ground, it was cold and overcast, but still and quiet. We walked through the backyards of the building, climbed through a three strand barbed wire fence, and reached the impact area in less than a minute. The shells had landed not far from our buildings, directly behind them, but far enough away that we were not concerned about them. The reason for the muffled sound was obvious. The shells were armed with “delay” type fuses rather than “impact” type. Each projectile made a perfect, round, tunnel into the ground for three or four feet before exploding, and then created a rise in the ground, or a mound, about five feet in diameter and about 18 inches higher than the surrounding ground at its high point. I could insert my gloved hand with thumb and smallest finger extended in opposite directions into the cylindrical tunnel, so the shell diameter was ten inches, or 240 mm. It was equally easy to measure the angle of impact and direction of origin, and count that there were four guns firing and they had fired a five salvo barrage. In a minute or

two I told Colonel Head I was through and we should go back. He had been looking at other shell “holes” while I had been taking my measurements, and replied that I should “wait a minute, what’s your hurry, I’m looking for a souvenir for my two boys”. So we poked around another few minutes, there were no “souvenirs”, and we were standing a few feet apart when we heard the enemy guns fire. It was very distinct and we both knew instantly what it was. Where we were was very quiet, and they were very large caliber guns aimed directly at us, across a valley. The sound from a firing gun is very directional. They were firing “battery right” (or left), one gun at a time, with about one second between firings. We heard each gun quite clearly and understood what it meant to us. Without a word we both hit the ground, knowing that if the time of flight was 15 seconds and it took the sound about half of that to reach us, we had very little time until the shells would start to land. We were as flat as we could get in the snow. It seemed almost instantly that the shells started to land, about 20 yards short of us, and they were firing battery right. In my earlier inspection I had noticed a shallow excavation about 12 feet square and a foot deep that a farmer had dug but not used for the winter storage of rutabagas, about 30 yards to the side, in the direction away from our buildings. One of the things one learned very early was always to be aware of any nearby ditch, trench, or hollow of any sort, for such occasions. I said “Colonel, I am going over to that rutabaga hole”, and got up and ran to it, as we had heard the guns fire a second time. I dove into the hole, and as it had several inches of ice under the snow I slid all the way across until my helmet hit the other side. I looked back to see if Colonel Head was following me, but he was still where I had left him. The second round of shells were landing as I looked at him, and I saw him and the ground under him rise (mound) from a shell explosion directly beneath him. It must have landed within three feet of him to have gone in at about a 45 degree angle and exploded directly under him. Since I had been about three feet from him a few seconds before, I was glad I had gone to the rutabaga hole. After that salvo he ran over to join me. Colonel Head was a brave and more or less fearless man, but when he joined me he was almost as white as the snow. The first volley had landed 20 yards short of us, and the second volley right at our position, so the third would logically be 20 yards beyond us. A normal creeping barrage, each volley 20 yard greater range than the previous until five salvos were fired. Having made this observation instantaneously and without conscious effort, I told the Colonel I was taking off, and I ran as fast as I could towards the guns, and after 50 or 60 yards swung to the left towards the rear of the row of buildings. I managed a small tear in my trousers going back through the barbed wire fence. I did not know what Colonel Head did, and did not see him again for over an hour. He never mentioned the incident to me ever. He never joked at me about shell-reps again. The Germans were firing delay fuses because they knew we were in

buildings, from a civilian spy probably. It had to be us they were after. There was a battery of “long Toms” (155 mm guns as opposed to howitzers) about a mile back up the road to Altrier, too far away to have been their target. It was fortunate for the colonel and me that they were firing delay fuses and that none of them misfired “quick.” Shells that size exploding on the ground had tremendous concussive force. And the one shell landed awfully close to Colonel Head. I learned much later they were indeed 240 mm guns, firing projectiles that were approximately 26 inches long, weighing 352 pounds. Awesome.

Whiting was decorated with a Bronze Star and left the Army as a Captain.

Brother Thomas Carey “Tom” Hennings, Jr. 1924 (1903 – 1960)

Tom Hennings was the chapter’s most illustrious public figure of the Forties. By the time the war began he had acquired a law degree from Washington University (St. Louis MO), established himself in Missouri political circles, served in several prosecutorial positions, taught law, gained election as a Democrat to the U.S. House of Representatives (serving in the 74th, 75th and 76th Congresses) and acquired a beautiful wife, the St. Louis radio news commentator and analyst, Mrs. Josephine Halpin. When the war broke out, the Secretary of the Navy saw fit to commission Carey as a Lieutenant Commander and sent him to “advise” Governor Rexford Guy Tugwell (1891 – 1979), the potentate of Puerto Rico, who was never known to need or take advice.⁴⁷ By December 1941 Mrs. Carey was called to duty by her husband’s side “as radio chairman of the Puerto Rico central committee for civilian defense.”

The path to glory is sometimes bumpy as this story reveals.⁴⁸

During his term as circuit attorney in St. Louis Hennings, for the first time in public office, failed to distinguish himself in the eyes of the voters. The problem began while Hennings was on a twenty-month leave of absence for service in the Navy. In September of 1941, seven months after he had assumed office, he left St. Louis with the rank of lieutenant commander, assigned as naval aide to Governor Rexford Tugwell of Puerto Rico. With him was his wife of only a few days, a stunningly beautiful St. Louis radio commentator and divorced mother of two children, the former Mrs. Josephine Halpin. Their stay in Puerto Rico was brief. Hennings and Tugwell engaged in an imbroglio, the details of which remain undisclosed, that led

⁴⁷ *DXD*, VIII, #2 (February 1942), p. 4: “Tom Hennings ‘25 Is Married.” *DXD*, VIII, #3 (April 1942), pp. 1 & 4: “Tom Hennings is Accomplishing Things on Duty at Puerto Rico.”

⁴⁸ Kemper, Donald J. *Decade of fear; Senator Hennings and civil liberties*. Columbia MO: University of Missouri Press, 1965. LC #65-21795. P. 12. Footnote #24. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, August 30, 1941. For the clash with Tugwell: *El Mundo* (San Juan, Puerto Rico), May 20, 21, and 29, 1942; *New York Times*, May 20, 1942; *St. Louis Star-Times*, June 23, 1942. Namorato, Michael V. *Rexford G. Tugwell: A Biography*. New York: Praeger, 1988.

eventually to Hennings' reassignment to Hawaii and his divorce from Mrs. Hennings. According to published rumors, Mrs. Hennings precipitated the clash between the Governor and his Naval Aide by openly criticizing Tugwell. Immediately after his arrival in Hawaii Hennings contracted tropical influenza, which brought about his medical discharge from the Navy and his return, in April of 1943, to the office of circuit attorney in St. Louis.

Brother Hennings would shake off this embarrassment and go on to win a seat in the U.S. Senate, serving with distinction from January 1951 until his death in Washington, D.C. in 1960.

Brother Pearne William Billings 1944 (1921 –)

Pearne, already famous for his athletic triumphs on the Cornell gridiron, saw action as an artillery forward observer with the 79th Field Artillery Group assigned to Major General Matthew B. Ridgway's XVIII Airborne Corps during the Battle of the Bulge. Twice wounded by enemy shrapnel—once blasted by an artillery round that blew him over a barn, he received a Silver Star “for gallantry” and a Purple Heart augmented with an Oak Leaf Cluster.⁴⁹

Brother Richard Edward “Dick” Holtzman 1941 (1919 –1989)

CPT Holtzman USAAF piloted a B-29 Superfortress with the 24th Bomb Squadron, 6th Bombardment Group, 313th Bomb Wing, 20th Air Force, during the last months of the war. This unit began operations in February 1945 with raids against targets on Iwo Jima and Truk, then moved on to attack the Japanese home islands, carrying out its first incendiary raid on Japan in March 1945. In April it helped protect the troops attacking Okinawa by launching a series of attacks on Kamikaze bases on Kyushu. In July 1945 it took part in the campaign to blockade Japan by dropping mines to block the countries remaining harbors.⁵⁰

His report published in the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly* is the only vestige of *The Deke Lion* that has survived.⁵¹

Dick Holtzman writes, “Moved into this outfit on Tinian in the Marianas several weeks ago—and am Airplane Commander on one of the many Superfort crews on these islands. Wish I could tell you something of our operations, but suffice to say that I’ve got a few missions put away—and it’s quite the sport.

“Life on the island is pretty, good in general—what with tremendous strides in improving living conditions having taken place in the last few months. The days are hot as hell, however, and the climate is very conducive to an extraordinary measure

⁴⁹ P. W. Billings reply of 15 August 2011 to HWF letter, 1 August 2011. DXD, X, #1 (May 1946), p. 4.

⁵⁰ J. A. (Bill) Saavedra, Office of Air Force history, letter to HWF, 18 July 2011.

⁵¹ *DKEQ*, LXIII, 3 (October 1945), p. 95. *The Deke Lion* was edited by Brother Robert Franklin McCann, Jr. 1942.

of sex urge. All of which is futile—for what nurses there are here are either sad sacks or all tagged by the ‘big wheels.’

“Haven’t seen any of the boys except Pete Gifford—who visited Janet and me just before I left the States.”

Dick’s address is: Capt. Richard E. Holtzman, O-659128, 24th Sqdn., 6th Group, APO 247, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

Before his combat tour in the Pacific, 2LT Holtzman USA experienced one minor mishap during aviation training at Athens TX. He became lost during the course of a hooded instrument flight and, low on fuel, was forced to land his Vultee BT-13A Valiant trainer at a secondary airfield for refueling. On his departure take-off the trainer’s right wheel fell into an obscured stump hole, the tail rose and the propeller nosed into the ground. No one was injured and the subsequent accident investigation assigned no fault to the young pilot.⁵²

Casualties of War

Two older brothers serving as active duty staff officers passed away during the course of World War II.

- COL Russell Henry Brennan 1906 USA, age 60, died from a heart attack while serving on the Judge Advocate General’s Court in Washington DC.
- CDR Stanley Griswold Wight 1920 USN, age 47, died from exhaustion while serving as a logistics officer in the Navy’s San Francisco base.

The chapter lost three brothers in aviation accidents while they were assigned to stateside training commands.⁵³

2LT William Hunt Eisenman, Jr. 1943 USAAF did not let “defective vision” rejections from the Cornell R.O.T.C., the U. S. Army and the Canadian Air Corps authorities stop him.⁵⁴ He equipped himself with primitive contact lenses, won his Commercial Pilot’s License from the Dallas Aviation School, and obtained a coveted Instrument Rating. This earned him a commission in the U. S. Air Transport Command and assignment to the 74th Ferrying Squadron. So it was that on the clear night of 28 May 1943 that CPT Robert E. McIntyre USAAF, pilot, and 2LT Eisenman,

⁵² UAAAF Report of Aircraft Accident, 43-1-25-47, 25 January 1943.

⁵³ ΔX of ΔKE Research Note #25: Deke Aviation Losses, Military.

⁵⁴ CMM, 2 September 1942: Brother Eisenman “resigns as Brother Beta to return to service.” The chapter offers “a vote of confidence and thanks to Brother Eisenman for his services and efforts on behalf of the Delta Chi Chapter.” Brother John Ames Newman ‘43 is elected to fill the office of Beta.

copilot, were on the last leg of a mission to ferry a C-46A Commando cargo aircraft from Buffalo NY to the West coast. They had very little sleep before taking off that day. Night fell and their aircraft, in level flight, impacted a mountain near Conifer CO, killing both. The investigating board surmised that “after leaving Lincoln, Nebraska, the automatic pilot was employed to fly the airplane; that the pilot and copilot were both asleep or dozing when the airplane passed Denver, the beacon line, and crashed.”

Two weeks later ENS George Frederick Hewitt III 1943 USNR was killed when his F6F-3 Hellcat fighter aircraft was struck in mid-air by another F6F-3 piloted by his instructor, LTJG Foster Miller Fargo USNR. The Hellcats were practicing coordinated attacks on a flight of six TBF-1 Avenger torpedo bombers 13,500 feet above Moyock NC. According to the surviving Aircraft Trouble Analysis, “The squadron doctrine called for one section of two fighters to attack from the starboard beam, and the other section to make an attack from the port beam about 3 or 4 seconds later. Both sections were to recover on the opposite beam and repeat attack. Thus the sections would alternately attack from the starboard and port beams.” Apparently Fargo attacked a mite too soon on one pass; the collision at the cross-over point took his life as well. George Hewitt was a Deke legacy, son of Brother George Frederick Hewitt, Jr. 1910. Fargo was Yale 1940, a member of Saint Anthony Hall and scion of a powerful New York family.

Three days before Japan’s surrender was announced, Pledge Brother 1LT John Talman Whiting, Jr. 1941 USAAF, and a civilian, Roger Fred Wilson, perished in the crash of a two-seat PT-19 trainer aircraft at Thompson Field, San Marcos TX, shortly after take-off. No report of the accident investigation has survived for this 12 August 1945 tragedy and no cause may be surmised. Whiting’s older brother, CPT William Bradford Whiting 1942 USAR, was serving in the 804th Field Artillery Battalion in the ETO at the time of his sibling’s fatal accident and recalled receiving the news in Germany.⁵⁵

We arrived back at the battalion just before supper on the 31st, and Doc [Danish, the battalion surgeon] and I told the others at Hq mess what a great time we had had. Immediately after supper, Colonel [Nelson L.] Head USA called me into a private room and said he was sorry to be the one who had to tell me, but that my brother had been killed. He then gave me the telegram from home and left me alone. After 15 minutes or so I left and went to my quarters, trying to sort out my thoughts and grief, and read the mail that had arrived while I was away. It was a very sad and hard evening for me. I wrote my mother and father, and then Jeanie. I was humbled by the fact that I had worried much about myself and not at all about my brother, or for that matter anyone at home. Jack had gone into the draft and into the Air Force in the summer of 1941. After basic training he had unsuccessfully attended pilot

⁵⁵ Whiting, *Army Memoirs, World War II*.

training school, bombardier school, and navigator school. He was then a 1st Lt and was a non-flying officer, going to a succession of non-flying schools and assignments. He was an administrative officer in the Air Force and had never been sent overseas. I did not consider him at risk. Much later I learned that he and a friend had gone up in a rented two-seater plane that crashed on take-off, and both were killed. He was killed on August 12th, after the atomic bombs had been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and just before the Japanese surrendered. At that time I am sure my parents had begun to relax about their two sons in the service. It turned out that the telegram arrived in the morning just before my group was to leave for the Riviera, and Colonel Head decided there was nothing I could do, no way I could get home, so he chose to withhold the news and let me go. And, of course, he knew about it when I saw him in Cannes. He did what he thought was best for me. It was sad to learn later that my parents, my mother especially, thought the Army would fly me home immediately. Unfortunately, she believed the nonsense the government put in the newspapers during the war for civilian consumption, such as flying soldiers home when tragedy struck a family. That summer Jeanie (and Bethie) had been staying with my parents thinking I would be home soon, but had just gone up to Ithaca, NY, to visit her grandmother, of whom she was especially fond. She returned immediately at my mother's phone call, and then she and my Aunt Josephine (my mother's next younger sister) took over and handled the arrangements, phone calls, identified the body, and other things that had to be done. Jeanie and especially Bethie were a great comfort to my mother and father in the ensuing weeks and months. It was at least a month after my brother's death that my letter reached them. The death of my brother was the hardest tragedy suffered by my parents.

Delta Chi Re-activates (Fall 1945)

A handful of brothers returned to Cornell in the fall of 1945 only to find the House still in the hands of the U. S. Government and thus inaccessible. That did not stop them from rejuvenating the chapter as we read in the first post-war passage recorded in the chapter's minute books.

4 Oct 1945: Brothers [John Livingston] Beersman '46 and [Donald Martin] Smith '46 rushed and pledged sixteen men [during] the fall of 1945. This new blood was added without the help of a fraternity house. Much credit is due [to] the alumni in the fine spirit they helped get the ball rolling. This is the spirit which perpetuates the fraternal system, and is always strived for by the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon."

For DKE—

John Livingston Beersman '46
Donald Martin Smith '46

Presumably the local drinking establishments offered their premises to the homeless Dekes for convivial chapter meetings and some recruiting. Little is known about that first post-war rush, but the strict regulation of the pre-war years was probably not enforced as the Greek community struggled to regain life. Thus, it was not until the spring term of 1946 that the brotherhood reopened the Deke House for occupancy.⁵⁶ This was facilitated by the alumni presence in Ithaca and most especially by the services of John Komaromi who had remained in service tending to the lodge's upkeep while the Marine Corps and Navy trainees were accommodated. Most of the other houses on the hill would not be so speedy to reestablish operations.⁵⁷

The first initiation in over three years added fourteen brothers to the chapter's thin ranks on 9 February 1946.⁵⁸ This was followed by an extraordinary spring rush; a second initiation on 5 May 1946 providing a further increase of seven. Still the numbers were too few. Brother George Allman "Bud" Orr, Jr. '42, who returned to attend Law School, identified the rush problems accurately: an inadequate number of "older, experienced hands" and a severe shortage of alumni recruitment recommendations.⁵⁹ These were matters to ponder as ΔKE —specifically the Deke war veterans, revived the infamous ΚΒΦ that spring.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ *DXD*, X, #1 (May 1946), p. 1: "Deke House Open Again. Early this year the University turned back our chapter house. For the past two and a half years the house has served as barracks for Marines and later Navy trainees. Now, once again, 13 South Avenue is the home of Delta Chi chapter. Great credit is due to our faithful janitor John Komaromi who stayed with the house during the war years on the government payroll and kept an eye on our house. Under the careful guidance of Doug Gillette and Joe Warner, workmen have been putting the house in the finest shape that it has been in for many years."

⁵⁷ *CDS*, LXVI, #1 (11 October 1946), p. 6: 52 "Fraternalities Reopen Easing Room Situation. Eighteen hundred students will be housed in Cornell's 52 fraternities and 13 sororities, many of which are re-opening today for the first time since 1941."

⁵⁸ *CMM*, 10 Feb 1946: Brother John Ames Newman '43, acting as Brother Beta, presides over the first recorded post-war Delta Chi chapter meeting. Sixteen brothers are present and fourteen new men are initiated into Delta Kappa Epsilon. Brother Jay Russell Geib, Jr. '44 is elected as the New Beta. Elections of the remaining officers are deferred until October 1946. *Delta Chi Deke*, X, #1 (May 1946), p. 1: "Fourteen New Men Initiated." The first initiation of 1946 added the following brothers on 9 February: John Arthur Krieger, Frederick Daniel McLoughlin, Jr., Edward Baker Jenner, James Cantine Huntington, Jr., Richard Edward McErlean, John Edward Rupert, Finley Cuyler Hunt, Jr., William Albert Smith III, Edward Parker Gubb, John Eaton Townsend, John Winchester MacDonald, Jr., Ralph Crandell Huszagh, Joseph Norment Willis, III, and John Thomas Griffin.

⁵⁹ *DXD*, X, #1 (May 1946), p. 2: "An Open Letter" by Bud Orr '42.

⁶⁰ *DXD*, X, #1 (May 1946), p. 4: "First Kappa Beta Phi Meeting Held at Deke House. The first post-war meeting of the Kappa Beta Phi, the honorary drinking society of Cornell, was held at the Deke House, Friday, March 22nd. The chapter's president, Russ Geib '44 was elected president. Other brothers of the chapter who attended are Jim Carr, Ben

A number of the new brothers were veterans.

- S1c Frederick Orson Johnson II 1948 USNR enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945 and served at the Terminal Island Separation Center at Long Beach CA.⁶¹
- CPT John Arthur “Jack” Krieger 1949 USAAF flew 40 combat missions with the 587th Bombardment Squadron, 394th Bombardment Group, as the pilot of a Martin B-26 Marauder medium bomber in the ETO.⁶²
- 1LT Edward Livingston Feakes 1949 USAAF qualified as a bomber navigator. He would be recalled to active duty in the Korean War and be lost on a mission over North Korea.
- Brother George Nixon, Jr. 1949 served with the U. S. Army where he “lost a leg and some fingers when he ran into machine gun fire in Northern France.”⁶³
- PFC Paul Joseph Kiely 1950 USAR saw the battlefields of Europe with the Army Combat Engineers building “bridges across rivers and creeks, moving forward all the time.” His unit responded infantry-fashion to the German outbreak during the opening of the Battle of the Bulge and he was subsequently wounded.
- LT Richard Gerard Mino 1950 USNR had hard duty in Bermuda during the war.

Years later, Brother Krieger reminisced about his wartime experiences.⁶⁴

We had a lot of missions during the “Battle of the Bulge”. George Nixon, ‘49 Deke, gave me hard time because he claimed we didn’t do a very good job of getting rid of the Germans there. You may recall that he lost a leg and part of a hand during that combat. Last time I talked to him a couple of years ago I asked where he was hit meaning geographically in the Ardennes & Bastogne area. He missed my meaning and responded, “In the leg you dumb bastard.” What a guy! Anyway, I got home in one piece.

Beyea, both of ‘44, Jack Beersman and Don Smith ‘45 and Ed Feakes ‘49. Machinery was set in motion for once more establishing the society on the hill and at the close of the meeting refreshments were served.

⁶¹ Frederick Orson Johnson II 1948, e-mail to HWF, January 30, 2011 12:12 PM. FOJ e-mail to HWF, May 04, 2012 8:41 AM: “To clarify my military service: I joined the USNR in July 1945 as a S1/c expecting to attend electronics training school after boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. I was in boot camp when the war ended. The electronics program was still an option, but only if I signed over to a four-year term in the regular navy. The alternate was duty at the separation center nearest my home until everyone else had been discharged. I naturally elected the latter and served at the separation center at Terminal Island near Long Beach, CA, until late August 1946. For the first month or two, I had latrine and kitchen duties, but for the last six months I landed a plum job in the Base photo lab, doing the work of a Photographer’s Mate but never being given the official title —so it was just plain S1/c.”

⁶² J. A. (Bill) Saavedra, Office of Air Force history, letter to HWF, 18 July 2011.

⁶³ Paul Joseph Kiely ‘50 e-mail to HWF, Mon 8/22/2011 12:51 PM and Thu 8/25/2011 12:55 PM.

⁶⁴ John Krieger e-mail to HWF, November 21, 2010 1:43 PM.

At this point we should recall some old history.⁶⁵ On 1 October 1893 the University leased the ground of 13 South Avenue to ΔKE for a term of fifty-years and allowed the Dekes to erect a building thereon. The deed permitted two renewals of twenty-five years each before the property entire, building and ground, would revert to the University. There was a provision in this agreement that the lease would terminate if the Fraternity ceased to exist at Cornell or abandoned the building. So it happened that the fifty-year term ended on 1 October 1943, i.e. during the period that the lodge was serving the nation's war effort.

The University tried to pull a fast one on the Dekes in December 1945 when the brotherhood approached the Administration asking for the first twenty-five year renewal in accordance with the 1893 terms. The University mumbled that ΔKE had effectively abandoned the property, thereby allowing the Cornell to buy the building appraised at \$125,000 for a mere \$10,000 and limiting the Dekes to a single twenty-five year renewal of the lease for occupation. Brother John Frederick Nixon 1924, President of the Delta Chi Association and a practicing New York City attorney very promptly put the Big U in its place, declining to accept this decidedly raw deal. In the end, ΔKE obtained the necessary renewal. A grateful brotherhood re-elected Nixon as the chapter's representative to the Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon.⁶⁶

Post-war Circumstances

Life at 13 South Avenue returned to some semblance of normalcy by the spring of 1946 as we read in the following report to the alumni.⁶⁷

DEKE HOUSE OPEN AGAIN

Early this year [1946] the University turned back our chapter house. For the past two and a half years the house has served as barracks for Marines and later Navy trainees. Now, once again, 13 South Avenue is the home of Delta Chi chapter. Great credit is due to our faithful janitor John Komaromi who stayed with the house during the war years on the government payroll and kept an eye on our house. Under the careful guidance of Doug Gillette and Joe Warner, workmen have been putting the house in the finest shape that it has been in for many years. The entire inside of the house has been redone. The living room and downstairs remain the same although repainted and re-stained. However the

⁶⁵ ΔX of ΔKE Special Study #13: The Cornell Deke House —A History of the 1893 Lodge. Appendix D (1893 Deed Agreement for the Cornell Deke House), Appendix E (R. B. Meigs 1946 Memorandum) and Appendix F (Quitclaim of 1963). <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/3447>

⁶⁶ CMM, 27 Oct 1947.

⁶⁷ DXD, X, #1 (May 1946), p. 1.

upstairs studies are now painted in a variety of soft colors which have added new life to our "halls." Navy fire escapes and other safety installations are remaining in place. Several of the returning veterans came back early and furnished the house so it would be ready for the spring term and the twenty-five men who wanted to move right in. Some improvements are being postponed until the summer months. For example the exterior of the house and laying new linoleum in the dining room. Some new surplus bureaus were obtained from the Navy to augment our sleeping floor accommodations. For our married alumni we have completely redecorated our alumni suite. The house now stands as a comparatively rejuvenated "going concern."

The brotherhood now included undergraduates who returned to Cornell after an interruption of their studies for war service, several of whom were married and living in the University's crowded quarters for families, and a number of combat veterans who were new to the University.⁶⁸ Of the men students enrolled in the University during the 1946-47 year, 77% were veterans.⁶⁹ The brothers with pre-war affiliation made a good effort to keep the chapter's traditions intact while the older brothers who had seen service abroad were somewhat less studious and more rowdy. Thus we read that a serious effort to resume Literary Exercises conflicted with celebratory endeavors centered about the lodge's refurbished bar.⁷⁰ On the hill the chapter moved quickly to retake the social spotlight by winning second place in the 1947 Spring Day parade float competition with a take-off on Li'l Abner: "Spring Day Deke Patch Style."⁷¹

Meanwhile many in and out of fraternity-land were taking note of the post-war excesses. The Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity centennial would have been celebrated in 1944, but the exigencies of war postponed our celebration to the Christmas season of 1947. It was then that Dekes were reminded that the world was a more serious place.⁷²

FRATERNITY ABUSES CITED **'More Mature Attitude' Urged at DKE Centennial Dinner**

The members of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity were asked last night to realize that these

⁶⁸ *DXD*, X, #1 (May 1946), p. 4: "Many Married Delta Chi Dekes Living On Hill."

⁶⁹ Bishop (1962), pp. 556-7.

⁷⁰ CMM, 27 Oct 1947: The chapter decides "that the brothers who missed their Literary Exercise last term would be fined \$50 and then \$4 if they missed at the next formal meeting. It was also decided that those who missed a formal meeting without an excuse would be fined in geometric progression starting with \$1.00." CMM, 11 Oct 1948: Delta Chi extends a "vote of confidence for the excellent job they have done" in erecting a new House bar to Brothers Robert Conkling Phillips, Jr. '49, John Arthur Krieger '49, Don Innes '49 and William Eaton Pierce '51.

⁷¹ *CDS*, LCIV, #128, 13 May 1947, p. 2: "Holiday Opens with Parade; Carnival Largest in Years."

⁷² *NYT*, December 30, 1947: "Fraternity Abuses Cited."

are serious times, and to take the lead in correcting abuses that many fraternity groups have developed. The plea was made by Dr. Everett Moore Baker, dean of men at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He told the centennial dinner meeting of the fraternity that the world situation demanded a more mature attitude than: “hell weeks” and rowdiness.

Dr. Baker said fraternities had the responsibility to select men for qualities of character and leadership that were above race, creed, color or social prominence. Unless the fraternity can contribute also to the educational process, he said, there is no need for its existence.

A free democracy and the challenge of a free world force the young student into a more serious mold, he said, adding that many old practices of Greek-letter organizations can be resurrected with profit if they are directed toward these “virtues.”

The Forties closed with a not unexpected struggle between exuberance and scholastics as we read in the Chapter Meeting Minutes.

12 Apr 1948: -The chapter receives a letter from Brother John Frederick Nixon 1924 “concerning a rumor that there was too much drinking going on.” Delta Chi instructs Brother Robert Conkling Phillips, Jr. 1949 to “answer to this charge for the House” at the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

12 Apr 1949: -Brother Beta proposes that a bylaw be enacted to establish the Scholarship Committee. The current committee is tasked to compose a statute.

Oct 1949: -The chapter discusses the Scholastic Committee and agrees that it “should be given teeth to carry out its function.” Brother Arthur Lawrence Wasserman, Jr. 1951, the chairman of this committee is instructed to elect members and “set up rules governing same.”

The decade ended with a sour note when the malevolent Jewish author Norman Kingsley Mailer (1923 – 2007) wrote *The Naked and the Dead*.⁷³ The character described in the following passage (chapter eight) was purely fictitious.

Hearn stared at Dove. Lieutenant (sg) Dove, USNR. A Cornell man, a Deke, a perfect asshole. He was six feet two and weighed it a hundred and sixty pounds, with straight ash-blond hair cut lose, and a clean pleasant vacuous face. He looked more like a Harvard clubman, varsity crew.

⁷³ New York: Rinehart and Company, 1948. *NYT*, May 9, 1948: “The Dusty Answer of Modern War” by David Dempsey.

In Memoriam

Brother Henry Reuben Ickelheimer 1888, Cornell University Trustee, died at his home in New York City on 8 December 1940.⁷⁴ Brother Ickelheimer will always be remembered for his gift of the statue of Andrew D. White that stands on the University's Arts Quadrangle.

Nineteen Forty-one was a very hard year for the alumni. In August Brother Franklin Chamberlin Moore 1917, age 47, was struck by an automobile speeding past his Kirtland Hills OH fruit stand. He was immediately taken to a hospital, but did regain consciousness and died early the following day.⁷⁵ A month later Brother Aurelio Mario Gabriel Francisco García Menocal y Deop 1888, the former President of Cuba, died at Santiago de Cuba.⁷⁶ Brother James Howell Cummings, Jr. 1918, age 46, succumbed to an extended illness at Philadelphia in December.⁷⁷ Brother William Howard Fritz, Jr. 1914, the chapters famed Olympian and football athlete, was taken down by a heart attack at his home in Wayne PA on 28 December; he was just 49.

Brother Nelson Jarvis Darling 1907, a senior executive of the General Electric Company, died on 26 October 1942 at Beach Bluffs MA after an illness of several months.⁷⁸

A holiday hunting accident at Massillon OH cost Brother Charles Porter Weekes, Jr. 1912 his life at age 57 on the last day of 1946.

Brother George Edmond Chantillon 1901, President of John Chantillon & Sons, scales and cutlery, died at his Fifth Avenue home in New York City on 10 March 1949. He held memberships in the Cornell, Bankers and DKE Clubs.⁷⁹

«««« «««««««« ΔKE »»»»»»»» »»»»

Acknowledgement

The author is indebted to Gould Patchen Colman, Cornell University Archivist, for his many prompt replies to letters of inquiry, to James A. Hughes, Jr., Sigma Phi Epsilon 1952, for his careful review of the typescript, to Brother William Sidney Houck 1970 for spotting two errors of fact that have been corrected, and to Brother William Alan Morrison 1970 for reviewing Chapter VI.

⁷⁴ *NYT*, December 9, 1940: "Henry Ickelheimer of Banking Firm, 72."

⁷⁵ *DXD*, VIII, #1 (November 1941), p. 2: "Moore '17 Fatally Injured When Struck By Automobile."

⁷⁶ *DXD*, VIII, #1 (November 1941), p. 3: "Mario Menocal '88, Outstanding Deke, Succumbed On Sept. 7."

⁷⁷ *NYT*, 6 December 1941: "J. H. CUMMINGS JR. OF STETSON HAT FIRM; Vice President of Concern Since 1938; Naval Officer in War."

⁷⁸ *DXD*, IX, 1 (November 1942), p. 1: "Darling '07 Died in October; Was Manager of G.E. Plant."

⁷⁹ *NYT*, March 11, 1949: "George E. Chantillon."

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Summary

The author recounts the Chapter's founding in 1870, the conduct of meetings, literary exercises, social gatherings, involvement in University activities, and matters of internal discipline. The author identifies the first and second Halls of DKE (rented meeting chambers) in downtown Ithaca, the occupation of the first lodge on Ozmun Place in 1877, and the ultimate construction of the present lodge at 13 South Avenue in 1893. The author addresses rushing, pledging, dining, chapter customs, inter-fraternity affairs, fraternity politics within Delta Kappa Epsilon, incidents involving the undergraduate brothers and the exploits of alumni up until the year 1949.

Notes

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