

## **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, 1870-1930**

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Forward—

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.

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This volume represents the current text covering the chapter's history from 1870 to 1930. Circumstances permitting, the Alumni Historian hopes to someday extend the narrative to the Nineteen-Eighties.

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## 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, DKE 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.<sup>1</sup>

Cornell University had barely been opened when the first discussion of expanding the Fraternity to Ithaca took place in October 1868 at the 22nd DKE Convention hosted by the Sigma (Amherst) chapter. Brother John James McCook, Lambda '66, 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 DKE 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.<sup>2</sup> Alas, the records of Mother Phi have been lost.

Then a conservative policy towards expansion then took hold within DKE 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, Phi '71, Charles Hopkins Clark, Phi '71, and William Hill Sloan, Beta Phi '70, were appointed to investigate the situation in Ithaca.<sup>3</sup> The Convention further authorized Phi to grant a charter pending a favorable report from this committee.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>James Anderson Hawes and Adelbert H. VanDuzer, "History of Delta Kappa Epsilon," *General Catalog of Delta Kappa Epsilon*, ed. W. J. Maxwell (New York: Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, 1918), pp. xxii-xxxvii.

<sup>2</sup>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 Office of the Executive Director, Delta Kappa Epsilon International Fraternity (*OED-ΔKE*), originally in New York City, subsequently in Gross Pointe Farms MI, and now in Richmond VA.

<sup>3</sup>John DeWitt Warner, "Early History of Delta Chi Chapter," *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly (DKEQ)*, XII, 3 (November 1884), pp. 191-204.

<sup>4</sup>Minutes of the Twenty-Third Annual Convention of Delta Kappa Epsilon, Hall of Theta, 6-7 October 1869, pp. xxiii-6, 7. *OED-ΔKE*.

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.<sup>5</sup> Cornell President Andrew D. White, himself an enthusiastic member of Psi Upsilon (Yale, '53), played a part in making the fledgling University hospitable to the Greek letter society movement.<sup>6</sup> Opposition to fraternities, often heated, developed immediately, but the Independents, as they called themselves, could not stem the tide of the secret societies.<sup>7</sup>

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.<sup>8</sup> Aided by two older brothers, Professor Eli Whitney Blake, Jr., Phi '57 of the Cornell faculty, and Thomas Morris Strong, Phi Chi '68, at that time a medical student, they promptly recruited five men as the nucleus of the new chapter: James Julius Chambers '70, Sidney Howard Soule '71, John Milton McNair '71, John DeWitt Warner '72 and Sewellyn Ellsbree '73.<sup>9</sup> 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 '72, Frank DeElwin Nash '72, Darius Adams Ogden, Jr. '72, Charles Victor Parsell '72 and Ambrose Clothier Pike '72 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 DKE 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

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

<sup>6</sup>Andrew D. White, "College Fraternities," *The Forum*, III (May 1887), pp. 243-53. Reprinted as "College Fraternities," *DKEQ*, V, 3 (April 1887), pp. 218-222.

<sup>7</sup>Williard Austin, "Fraternities at Cornell University," *The College Fraternity*, II, 1 (April 1893), pp. 3-18.

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

<sup>9</sup>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.

formed to pledge, among others, William McKenzie Hughes '73, Henry Alonzo Monfort '73 and Ebenezer Barton Kellogg '73.<sup>10</sup>

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 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 DKE on the board of *The Cornellian* and then taking steps to control the Irving Society, a Cornell literary association.<sup>11</sup>

Of the charter members, two stand out in this vein. Julius Chambers '70 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup>

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.<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> Finally, it might be noted that 11 February 1870 is sometimes taken as the issue date for the chapter's

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<sup>10</sup>*CMM*, 11 January 1870.

<sup>11</sup>*CMM*, 25 January 1870.

<sup>12</sup>"Julius Chambers' Last Book: News Hunting on Three Continents," *DKEQ*, XL, 1 (April 1922), pp. 94-6. "Julius Chambers Dies of Pneumonia," *The New York Times (NYT)*, Friday, 13 February 1920, p. 11, c. 3.

<sup>13</sup>"J. DeWitt Warner Dies From Stroke," *NYT*, 28 May 1925, p. 21, col. 5.

<sup>14</sup>Warner (1884), p. 192.

<sup>15</sup>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.

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 Ellsbree tendered their resignations.<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> The following fall would see the treachery of Cullinan quitting DKE in favor of her chief rival, Alpha Delta Phi.<sup>18</sup> 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 DKE**

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.<sup>19</sup> The Dokes 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.<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup>

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 nearly one hundred and twenty 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.

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<sup>16</sup>*CMM*, 22 February 1870.

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

<sup>18</sup>*CMM*, 15 October 1870.

<sup>19</sup>*CMM*, 3 June 1870.

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

<sup>21</sup>Warner (1884), p. 192.

## 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.<sup>22</sup> Negotiations stumbled when Delta Chi resolved to break off the combination if Alpha Delta Phi "put up Mr. Cullinan." The Alpha Deltas 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.<sup>23</sup> This would eventually lead to the formation of a strong and enduring 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.<sup>24</sup>

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.<sup>25</sup> This was not accomplished without ruffling the feathers of the sister fraternities.<sup>26</sup> The editorial board of *The Cornell Era* also bore the stamp of DKE. 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.<sup>27</sup> 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 DKE. 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 '72, Charles Addison Wheeler '74 and Earnest Grey Sawyer '74) and the erection of a new gymnasium that was funded entirely by a campaign run by Brother Wilbray James Thompson '74.

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<sup>22</sup>*CMM*, 28 October 1870 and 30 November 1870.

<sup>23</sup>*CMM*, 5 December 1878.

<sup>24</sup>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. *OED-ΔKE*.

<sup>25</sup>*CMM*, 7 December 1877.

<sup>26</sup>*CMM*, 18 January 1878, 25 January 1878 and 15 February 1878.

<sup>27</sup>Warner (1884), pp. 194-98.

## **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 DKE Convention hosted by Upsilon (Brown University) was instructed "to try to have the next Convention at Cornell" and to their credit, they succeeded.<sup>28</sup> On 25 October 1871, the Delta Chi Chapter welcomed brothers from all over the country who descended upon Cascadilla Hall for the 25th DKE Convention. The arrangements for this occasion were elaborate and carried off with considerable style.<sup>29</sup> Furthermore, the Cornell Dekes led the effort to establish a new colony of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Syracuse University: the Phi Gamma Chapter.

## **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.<sup>30</sup> 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.<sup>31</sup> 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.<sup>32</sup> The functionary positions of Chorister, Chaplain and Literary Exercise Critic were also

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<sup>28</sup>*CMM*, 11 November 1870.

<sup>29</sup>*CMM*, 19 and 23 October 1871.

<sup>30</sup>*CMM*, 4 February and 8 December 1871.

<sup>31</sup>*CMM*, 25 January 1870, 19 April, 10 November and 11 November 1870.

<sup>32</sup>*CMM*, 23 February 1872, 2 November and 12 April 1872.

added shortly thereafter. The House officers would continue to use these titles until 1885 when the new centralized DKE 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.<sup>33</sup> Thus, Delta Chi instructed Brother Frederick Baker '74, her delegate to the forthcoming 26th DKE 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 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.<sup>34</sup>

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 '74 who later rose to be twice elected as the House's Pater Primus.<sup>35</sup> Birchard was soon followed into DKE by his younger brother, Webb Cook Hayes '76.<sup>36</sup> In time the two youngest Hayes brothers, Rutherford Platt '80 and Scott Russel '92, and a cousin, Walter Justin Sherman '77 would become Cornell Dekes. Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Kenyon '42, the father of the brothers who bore his name, would also bequeath a grandson, Walter Sherman Hayes '18, 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 DKE Convention to bestow the honor of membership in Delta Kappa Epsilon to the nation's new chief executive. Brother George Pierre Erhard, Gamma Beta '79, speaking as the Chairman of the Committee on Honorary Members, reported "favorably on this name" on 11 October 1877.<sup>37</sup> Several days later, Brother William Lesley Sheaffer, Rho '78, the

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<sup>33</sup>*CMM*, 9 May and 10 October 1873.

<sup>34</sup>*CMM*, 19 April 1870 and 27 May 1875.

<sup>35</sup>*CMM*, 24 Sep 1873, 30 January 1874 and 17 April 1874.

<sup>36</sup>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.

<sup>37</sup>Minutes of the Thirty-First Annual Convention of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity Held With the Mu Chapter of

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.<sup>38</sup> A second letter from Schaefer, nervously asking if the offer was accepted, survives.<sup>39</sup> His anxiety was unnecessary; the elder Hayes had been a staunch advocate of his son's membership in DKE 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 DKE**

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 following month.<sup>40</sup> 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.<sup>41</sup> 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.<sup>42</sup>

## **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.<sup>43</sup> This nationally publicized incident unleashed a virulent attack upon "secret

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Madison University, October 10 and 11, 1877. *OED-ΔKE*.

<sup>38</sup>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).

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

<sup>40</sup>*CMM*, 14 March 1873 and 25 April 1873.

<sup>41</sup>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).

<sup>42</sup>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.

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

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.<sup>44</sup> It is thus recorded "that DKE appalled friends and foes alike by holding her initiations, followed by the usual dinner and midnight walking—and waking—of the town."<sup>45</sup>

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.<sup>46</sup> 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.

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.<sup>47</sup> Brother Eaton La Rue Moses '75 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 DKE 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.<sup>48</sup> This prominent two story structure, owned by John O. Marsh and Edwin M. Hall, would become the first Deke House.<sup>49</sup> 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 DKE faculty members in their new abode.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>*CMM*, 25 October 1873.

<sup>45</sup>Warner (1884), p. 199.

<sup>46</sup>Delta Alpha Society Record Book, DKE Depository, *CU-DRMC*.

<sup>47</sup>HWF report, "Expulsions, Suspensions and Censures," *Articles of Governance, Effective and in Force on February 12, 1994* (Ithaca NY: The Delta Chi Association, 1994). Cornell Law School Library, *Cornelliana* LJ75.D39 D39 1994.

<sup>48</sup>*CMM*, 13 April 1877.

<sup>49</sup>Tompkins County NY, *Liber 11 (Deeds)*, p. 37.

<sup>50</sup>*CMM*, 29 May 1877.

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 DKE 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.<sup>51</sup>

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.<sup>52</sup> 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.<sup>53</sup> All of the other fraternities were housed in "business blocks" at the time.

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.<sup>54</sup> This plan, adopted by the 35th DKE 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.<sup>55</sup> Other consequences included the creation of the unique DKE 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 '72 who labored with great intensity

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<sup>51</sup>*CMM*, 14 January 1879 and 16 May 1879.

<sup>52</sup>Waterman Thomas Hewett, *Cornell University: A History* (New York: University Publishing Society, 1905), III, p. 20. Cornell University, Kroch Library, Rare & Manuscripts +LD1368 .H59. Murray Edward Poole, *A Story Historical of Cornell University with Biographies of Distinguished Cornellians* (Ithaca NY: The Cayuga Press, 1916), p. lvi.

<sup>53</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, I, 1 (April 1883), p. 169.

<sup>54</sup>*CMM*, 14 January 1881.

<sup>55</sup>James Anderson Hawes and Adelbert H. VanDuzer (1918).

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."<sup>56</sup> 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.<sup>57</sup> The second entity would evolve to become the chapter's alumni association as we know it today.

The new centralized DKE 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.

## 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."<sup>58</sup> Nevertheless, a system of summary fines became necessary to insure that the scheduled performers were properly prepared.<sup>59</sup> Impositions of fifty cents per offense were not uncommon.<sup>60</sup>

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

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

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

<sup>58</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, V, 1 (October 1886), p. 83.

<sup>59</sup>*CMM*, 28 January 1881.

<sup>60</sup>*CMM*, 10 March 1881, 8 April 1881 and 29 September 1882.

with death.”<sup>61</sup> 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.<sup>62</sup> 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."<sup>63</sup> 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.<sup>64</sup>

The remedy for vice is salvation and Brother Charles Mellen Tyler, Phi '55, the pastor of the Congregational Church in Ithaca, made clear his expectations that all Cornell Dekes would attend services regularly.<sup>65</sup> In 1884, Delta Chi appointed a committee of three "to see about selecting a pew in Dr. Tyler's church and learn [the] cost."<sup>66</sup> Obtaining a pew was one thing; coaxing brothers to fill it was another. Within a year Brother John Bartlett Dennis '87 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.<sup>67</sup> Lewis G. Fay '82 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 '83, 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 F. Rackemann '89 who was promptly tried, found guilty of

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<sup>61</sup>*CMM*, 20 May 1881, 27 January 1882 and 12 February 1882.

<sup>62</sup>*CMM*, 3 December 1880.

<sup>63</sup>*CMM*, 13 January 1883.

<sup>64</sup>*CMM*, 19 January 1889.

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

<sup>66</sup>*CMM*, 22 November 1884 and 24 October 1885.

<sup>67</sup>HWF report, "Expulsions, Suspensions and Censures" (1994).

"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 '91 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."<sup>68</sup> 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.<sup>69</sup> 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 '72 for failing to pay its subscription fees for *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*. The Custos, Brother John Bartlett Dennis '87, 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.<sup>70</sup>

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.<sup>71</sup> 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.

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<sup>68</sup>*CMM*, 12 November 1881.

<sup>69</sup>*CMM*, 7 March 1885 and 13 April 1885.

<sup>70</sup>*CMM*, 18 April 1885.

<sup>71</sup>*CMM*, 6 June, 26 September and 24 October 1885.

## 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."<sup>72</sup> The undergraduates organized a committee to solicit contributions for a house in the spring of 1885.<sup>73</sup> Shortly thereafter the ever enthusiastic Brother Warner '72 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.<sup>74</sup>

This property situated just south of the University's estate was certainly considered as a potential site for the new DKE 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.<sup>75</sup>

In the interim, cash gifts from the alumni continued to amass at a substantial rate.<sup>76</sup> 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.<sup>77</sup>

As funding became more certain, the problem of finding a proper site for the new Hall of DKE became less so. Collegetown, rapidly becoming a commercial appendage of the University, was 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.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>72</sup>*CMM*, June 1884.

<sup>73</sup>*CMM*, 13 April 1884.

<sup>74</sup>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.

<sup>75</sup>*CMM*, 9 March 1889. "Town Talk," *The Ithaca Journal*, 6 May 1889, p. 3.

<sup>76</sup>"Chapter Letters", *DKEQ*, V, 1 (3 April 1887), p. 241.

<sup>77</sup>"Campus Notes," *The Ithaca Journal*, 24 March 1888, p. 3.

<sup>78</sup>*CMM*, 19 January 1889 and 26 January 1889.

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.

## 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 DKE at Cornell.

### The Lodge

The central event of this period was the building of the great Hall of DKE as the lodge was to be officially named.<sup>1</sup> 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 '72 had been thinking about the design of a DKE 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 D. White's house (1871-3).

It is probable that Warner and Brother Edwin Gillette '73, 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.<sup>3</sup>

"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."

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<sup>1</sup>*CMM*, 6 October 1894.

<sup>2</sup>*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.

<sup>3</sup>"Chapter Letter," *DKEQ*, VII, 1 (October 1888), p. 76.

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 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.<sup>4</sup>

"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 (1.618...) of Vitruvius and Lucas Pacioli as a layout rule governs the placement of features throughout the west and north facades of the building.<sup>5</sup> 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.

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<sup>4</sup>John Dewitt Warner, "Delta Chi," *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Catalogue of 1910*, pp. 1001-1004.

<sup>5</sup>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.

On 6 December 1890, the chapter formed a House Committee to begin detailed planning for building. Brother Gillete '73 accepted the task of administering the financing for the forthcoming construction. The nucleus of the required capital materialized when the Collegetown property was sold for five thousand dollars on 2 May 1891.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup>

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.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup>

Construction commenced forthwith and the cornerstone was dedicated in a ceremony on 18 November 1893.<sup>12</sup> The name of the building contractor has never been determined, but the secret is

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<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>*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."

<sup>8</sup>"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.

<sup>9</sup>"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.

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

<sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>"The D.K.E. Lodge," *The Cornell Daily Sun*, Monday, 1 October 1894, p. 1. "The D.K.E. Chapter House," *The Cornell Era*, 18 November 1893, p. 92.

not lost; his business card is still in the hollow of that stone.<sup>13</sup> The work progressed smoothly and elegant edifice was ready for occupation by September 1894. A formal opening ceremony was conducted on Thanksgiving evening, 29 November 1894.<sup>14</sup>

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.<sup>15</sup>

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.<sup>16</sup> The Gamma chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity took over the Ozmun Place building and used it as their lodge until 1903.<sup>17</sup>

## 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] DKE 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."<sup>18</sup> The money problems did not quickly depart. In 1895, the brotherhood was

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<sup>13</sup>*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.

<sup>14</sup>"The new Delta Kappa Epsilon House on South Avenue was dedicated Saturday with appropriate exercises. Many distinguished alumni were present." *The Cornell Era*, 25 November 1893, p. 105. "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." *The Cornell Era*, 1 December 1894, p. 116. "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." *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, 18 November 1893, p. 3, col. 4. 132. "Corner Stone Exercises," *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, 20 November 1893, p. 3, col. 4. "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," *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, 27 October 1894, p. 3, col. 2.

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

<sup>16</sup>"Chapter Letter," *DKEQ*, XXII, 1 (January 1894), p. 61.

<sup>17</sup>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. George J. Vogel, "Gamma Sketch," *The Signet*, II, 2 (15 May 1910).

<sup>18</sup>*CMM*, 10 October 1893.

still so pressed that the Scriptor was directed to send a communication to "excuse Delta Chi from furnishing punch for the [forthcoming 49th DKE] Convention [to be held in Syracuse NY] on account of the present state of financial embarrassment of the chapter<sup>19</sup>." 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 Gillette '73.<sup>20</sup> 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 Rueben Ickleheimer '88 was appointed "to confer with New York brothers in regard to procuring some present for Brother Gillette '73 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, a noted practitioner in the medium of stained glass, were almost certainly commissioned by Brother Warner.<sup>21</sup> 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*.<sup>22</sup>

## The Star League

By the end of 1890 there were nineteen fraternities at Cornell and an established pecking order amongst them was in place.<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup> The members of this organization were, in

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<sup>19</sup>*CMM*, 19 October 1895.

<sup>20</sup>*CMM*, 13 October 1894, 12 January 1895 and 18 May 1885.

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

<sup>22</sup>John DeWitt Warner "Our Aegis," *DKEQ*, I, 1 (1883), pp. 3-7.

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

<sup>24</sup>"Chapter Letter," *DKEQ*, XIII, 2 (June 1885), p. 133: "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. "Chapter Letter," *DKEQ*, XVII, 2 (June 1899), pp. 154-5: "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

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.<sup>25</sup>

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. Brother James Anderson Hawes, Phi '94, Phi, the Executive Secretary of the Council of DKE, would eventually describe the Star League as a "social mafia."<sup>26</sup>

## 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 DKE preserve for many years.<sup>27</sup>

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 '93, James Roscoe Davy '94 and Frank Nelson Jewett '93 serving on a chapter committee to organize a reception for Brother Whitelaw Reid, Kappa '56, formerly the U. S. Minister to France and the current Republican nominee for Vice President.<sup>28</sup> 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

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twenty-five dollars."

<sup>25</sup>*CMM*, 4 December 1910.

<sup>26</sup>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.

<sup>27</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XII, 3 (November 1894), p. 277. "Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XVII, 1 (February 1899), p. 71.

<sup>28</sup>*CMM*, 29 October 1892.

Fraternity's neighbor at 9 South Avenue, approve.<sup>29</sup> This consent was obtained and a "Tennis Court Committee" was formed in due course to manage the building and maintenance of this facility.<sup>30</sup> 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.<sup>31</sup>

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 Lockard '92 was expelled in 1893 for failing to pay his long overdue initiation fee. Edgar Fay Whitney '94 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 '97 was suspended from membership in 1896 after he became engaged in a drunken brawl in a down town bar.<sup>32</sup>

## Fraternity Affairs

The chapter continued with its active involvement in Fraternity affairs. Brother Maurice Francis Connolly '97 obtained the presidency of the 50th DKE Convention hosted by the Gamma Chapter in Nashville TN during 1896.<sup>33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup> The 42nd DKE 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.<sup>35</sup> Delta Chi considered the matter in the fall of 1890 and instructed its delegates to the 44th DKE Convention, Brothers George White Haynes '92 and Charles Foster Camp '92, to vote for the expulsion of her errant sister chapter.<sup>36</sup> By the spring of 1891, the deed was done and Alpha was stricken from the rolls of DKE.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>29</sup>"Executive Committee Minutes," *Proceedings of the Board of Trustees*, 19 March 1895, Cornell University, Ithaca NY.

<sup>30</sup>*CMM*, 18 May 1895.

<sup>31</sup>*CMM*, 11 April 1896 and 13 April 1896.

<sup>32</sup>HWF report, "Expulsions, Suspensions and Censures," provides a complete account of these incidents.

<sup>33</sup>*CMM*, 21 November 1896.

<sup>34</sup>Hawes and VanDuzer (1918).

<sup>35</sup>For example, Theodore Roosevelt, Alpha '80, was also a member of Alpha Delta Phi.

<sup>36</sup>*CMM*, 25 October 1890.

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

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 '00 spoke on "The History of the Expulsion of the Alpha Chapter" for his Literary Exercise.<sup>38</sup> 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, Alpha '71, "telling him that it would be impossible for his son to go Deke."<sup>39</sup> This would not be the last time in the chapter's history that a legacy was denied entry to the brotherhood.

## 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.<sup>40</sup> 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.<sup>41</sup> 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.<sup>42</sup> This act preserved the honor of DKE 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.<sup>43</sup>

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."<sup>44</sup> The matter was again considered in 1898 and voted down.<sup>45</sup> In 1899, Delta Chi resolved that no member of the chapter may join any class club other than one recognized as an honorary society.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>38</sup>*CMM*, 8 December 1900.

<sup>39</sup>*CMM*, 27 February 1909.

<sup>40</sup>*CMM*, 21 January 1891: Delta Chi debates the current "Phi Delta Phi controversy" during a chapter meeting.

<sup>41</sup>"Cornell's New Greeks," *The Cornell Daily Sun*, XI, 61, Thursday, 29 January 1891, p. 1, col. 1.

<sup>42</sup>*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."

<sup>43</sup>*Cornell Alumni News*, 29 September 1899. "Death of Daniel S. Tuttle," *The Watkins Democrat*, 17 August 1899.

<sup>44</sup>*CMM*, 9 May 1896.

<sup>45</sup>*CMM*, 16 April 1898: a proposed by-law amendment, "that all DKE men be allowed to go Theta Nu Epsilon

## Tragedy of Clinton Eugene Strong

The Delta Chi chapter of DKE 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.<sup>47</sup>

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 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.<sup>48</sup>

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."<sup>49</sup> A limited breakfast service was instituted and by the end of the year action was taken to add luncheon and dinner offerings.<sup>50</sup> The office

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(Θ.N.E.)," is discussed. *CMM*, 7 May 1898.

<sup>46</sup>*CMM*, 3 June 1899.

<sup>47</sup>"Clinton E. Strong Drowned," *The Ithaca Journal*, 13 June 1892.

<sup>48</sup>*CMM*, 8 December 1894 and 19 October 1895.

<sup>49</sup>*CMM*, 22 February 1896.

<sup>50</sup>*CMM*, 28 November 1896 and 3 December 1896.

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.<sup>51</sup>

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.<sup>52</sup> 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.
- 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.<sup>53</sup> 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.<sup>54</sup>

The next administration was less competent. Brothers Philip Brundage Windsor '00 and Frank Scouler Porter '00 were elected as Steward and Assistant Steward, respectively, on 19 April 1898.<sup>55</sup> By December, they reported that the active chapter owed some two hundred dollars to their department.<sup>56</sup> The uncollected board bills amounted to three hundred dollars by April of 1899.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>51</sup>*CMM*, 6 January 1897.

<sup>52</sup>*CMM*, 9 and 16 January 1897.

<sup>53</sup>*CMM*, 13 February, 6 March, 13 March and 20 March 1897.

<sup>54</sup>*CMM*, 15 May 1897 and 16 April 1899.

<sup>55</sup>*CMM*, 19 April 1898.

<sup>56</sup>*CMM*, 17 December 1899.

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 '70, the senior charter member of Delta Chi, took up journalism with the New York Tribune under Horace Greeley 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.<sup>58</sup> For this exploit, he was made a member of the Royal Geographical Society and the creek draining Lake Elk was named 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, is 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.<sup>59</sup>

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

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<sup>57</sup>*CMM*, 10 April 1899 and 16 April 1899.

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

<sup>59</sup>"Julius Chambers' Last Book: News Hunting on Three Continents," *DKEQ*, XL, 1 (April 1922), pp. 94-6.

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 DKE pin might be today, but in 1931 it turned up at the Cornell Club of New York on Madison Avenue.<sup>60</sup>

The name of John Dewitt Warner '72 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;
- 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 DKE Brothers Theodore Roosevelt, Alpha '80, Webb Cook Hayes '76, Milton Cheney Miller and '99, Clifton Beckwith Brown '00, who entered the conflict when the United States entered the war against Spain with an invasion of Cuba.<sup>61</sup>

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.<sup>62</sup> 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.

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

<sup>61</sup>*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."

<sup>62</sup>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.

Brother Webb Cook Hayes '76, 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 '00. 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.

The sad loss of Brother Clifton Beckwith Brown at the battle of San Juan Hill on 1 July 1898 is a story told elsewhere.<sup>63</sup> The chapter rebuilt the library mantle as a memorial to this highly regarded brother just as the century was coming to its end<sup>64</sup>. 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.<sup>65</sup> 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

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<sup>63</sup>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 +.

<sup>64</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XVII, 2 (June 1899), p. 155.

<sup>65</sup>*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.

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."<sup>66</sup> However, the brothers were not abstemious. There was moderate drinking at parties, and the local college bars provided refreshments for those so inclined. The House did see an occasional keg of beer enter its doors from time to time.<sup>67</sup>

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.<sup>68</sup>

"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., Beta Chi '97, drew up and the chapter enacted the following rules governing the conduct of freshmen members.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>66</sup>*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.

<sup>67</sup>*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.

<sup>68</sup>*CMM*, 10 October 1893.

<sup>69</sup>*CMM*, 2 October 1896.

- 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."<sup>70</sup>

## **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 DKE.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>70</sup>*CMM*, 22 October 1898.

<sup>71</sup>*CMM*, 16 January 1897: Mr. "H. M. Stein's name is proposed [for member ship] 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."

## Anti-Coedism

The fraternity system was hostile to the very idea of co-educational students.<sup>72</sup> 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 DKE under any circumstances. A relaxed form of this prohibition (applying only to freshmen) continued at the Deke House until 1939.<sup>73</sup>

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.<sup>74</sup> However, when the brothers were "urged to get girls here for Junior Week," the message was understood to mean ladies from out of town.<sup>75</sup>

## Literary Exercises

Literary Exercises had fallen into decline by 1890 and largely took the form of reciting the DKE Chapter Roll, the blazon of the Fraternity coat of arms or the Admonition Oath during chapter meetings.<sup>76</sup> By 1895, we read of the Critic complaining "that Literary Exercises should be of a more literary nature."<sup>77</sup> 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."<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>72</sup>Bishop, 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*.

<sup>73</sup>"Dekes Resolve to Enforce Tradition of Anti-Coedism," *The Delta Chi Deke*, VI, 1, p. 2, col. 1.

<sup>74</sup>*CMM*, 18 May 1895 and 29 January 1896.

<sup>75</sup>*CMM*, 17 January 1897.

<sup>76</sup>*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.

<sup>77</sup>*CMM*, 13 April 1895.

<sup>78</sup>*CMM*, 22 January 1898.

## DKE Pin

The familiar DKE pin or badge did not achieve a standardized design throughout the Fraternity until 1897 when the 51st DKE Convention hosted in Chicago IL by the Delta Delta chapter and the DKE Northwestern Alumni Association adopted "a new official badge."<sup>79</sup> However, the Delta Chi chapter had been wrestling with the problem for several years before. To be certain, there had been DKE 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.<sup>80</sup> 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.<sup>81</sup> 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."<sup>82</sup> Three years later, the brotherhood resolved that "that every brother must have a regulation DKE pin" and "that all new members must buy their pins from a regulation jeweler."<sup>83</sup> 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."<sup>84</sup> The brotherhood accepted this plan with the provisos that the inscription "Cornell" appear beneath the scroll and "that all DKE pins be worn over the heart."<sup>85</sup> 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.

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<sup>79</sup>Hawes and VanDuzer, p. xxx.

<sup>80</sup>*CMM*, 11 January 1870.

<sup>81</sup>*CMM*, 8 November 1890.

<sup>82</sup>*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.

<sup>83</sup>*CMM*, 29 October 1894.

<sup>84</sup>*CMM*, 14 September 1896.

<sup>85</sup>*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.<sup>1</sup> 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."<sup>2</sup> This custom was modified slightly in 1904 by designating Saturday evening as Fraternity Night.<sup>3</sup>

The DKE social life was festive and elegant as indicated by this account of plans for the 1906 Junior Week.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup> It started as an

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<sup>1</sup>*CMM*, 13 January 1900 and 18 February 1900.

<sup>2</sup>*CMM*, 20 January 1900.

<sup>3</sup>*CMM*, 1 October 1904.

<sup>4</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXIV, 1 (February 1906), pp. 83-4.

<sup>5</sup>*CMM*, 20 October 1907.

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

There were, altogether, five House servants.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> The chamber, lacking heat, ventilation and proper furnishing, soon fell into disuse.<sup>10</sup> A Heating Committee, formed in 1901 to determine the feasibility of adding steam heating, concluded that this improvement was inadvisable.<sup>11</sup> Thus we read of a motion "that literary exercises be held upstairs owing to the cold" carrying in 1905.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup>

Finally, in the spring of 1909, Brother Coleman Clark Keeler, Beta Chi '10, led a team of freshmen in a major renovation of the lodge room.<sup>14</sup> 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

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<sup>6</sup>*CMM*, 13 February 1910.

<sup>7</sup>*CMM*, 21 April 1912.

<sup>8</sup>*CMM*, 13 December 1908.

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>*CMM*, 27 April 1901: Brother Stewart Burchard '02 "objects to non-use of lodge room."

<sup>11</sup>*CMM*, 18 May 1901.

<sup>12</sup>*CMM*, 15 January 1905.

<sup>13</sup>*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 '10, suggests "that repair of the Lodge Room be attended to immediately."

<sup>14</sup>*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.

end.<sup>15</sup> 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.

## 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.<sup>16</sup> Brothers dressed formally beneath their robes for these proceedings and answered the roll call by snapping their fingers.<sup>17</sup> Freshmen were finally granted the right to wear fraternal gowns in 1904.<sup>18</sup> The brotherhood might then open the meeting with a song before launching into the serious business of the evening.<sup>19</sup>

## 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 '02 and "Extracts from the Eulogy by Secretary Hay on Ex-President McKinley" by Brother John Leland Mothershead, Jr. '03 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 '03 and a reading from "Billy Baxter" by Brother Stanley Sellman Oberrender '06 are presented.

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<sup>15</sup>*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 of the Lodge Room" carries. *CMM*, 19 December 1909: Brother Alan Graeme Darling '11, speaking "for the lodge room committee, reports on [the] progress of the ventilating scheme."

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

<sup>17</sup>*CMM*, 5 October 1901: A motion introduced by Brother John Leland Mothershead, Jr. '03 that "the Brothers snap their fingers hereafter in answering to the roll call" carries. *CMM*, 10 May 1903.

<sup>18</sup>*CMM*, 4 December 1904: a motion "that the freshmen be allowed to wear robes at the meetings" carries.

<sup>19</sup>*CMM*, 21 November 1908: the chapter meeting opens with the song, "In Yankee Land There Lives a Maid."

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. '03, 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 '04 are given.

29 February 1908 Brother Joseph Benson Turner, Jr. '09 gives "a talk on the financial situation" and Brother George Frederick Hewitt, Jr. '10 gives "a reading from Tennyson."

16 October 1910 Exercises include a reading from Bliss Perry's Study of Prose Fiction by Brother Franklin Hiram Smith '11, and talks on "Submarine Boats" by Brother William Ayers Bordon '12 and "Production of Gold in Colorado" by Brother Halsey Vanderlieth Welles '13.

20 November 1910 Brother Adolph Reutlinger '13 talks on "The Filtering Plant in Louisville" and Brother William Ryves Casparis '13 describes "Quarrying Stone".

15 January 1911 Talks on "The Disposition of the Negro in the United States" by Brother George Edmounde Saunders, Theta Zeta '12, and "The Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis" by Brother Donald McGraw '13 are given.

The Literary Exercise was infused with a modest amount of DKE 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."<sup>20</sup> Extemporaneous speaking became so popular that by 1911 chapter meetings were often begun with a short address in addition to the scheduled literary event.<sup>21</sup>

## 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.<sup>22</sup>

In 1900, Brother Erwin Marx '00 proposed four important House Rules that were enacted by the brotherhood after debate and amendment.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>*CMM*, 4 December 1904.

<sup>21</sup>*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.

<sup>22</sup>*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. '03 "speaks to [the] freshmen regarding their position in the house, on the streets and in the University."

- 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.
- 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 well being and amity.<sup>24</sup> 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.<sup>25</sup> 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.<sup>26</sup>

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."<sup>27</sup>

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 can not 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, 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.<sup>28</sup>

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.<sup>29</sup> The gravity of

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<sup>23</sup>*CMM*, 27 May 1900, 2 June 1900 and 9 June 1900.

<sup>24</sup>Note the case of Brother Hayward Hutchinson Kendall '00 herein.

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

<sup>26</sup>*CMM*, 11 January 1902: A motion introduced by Brother Stewart Burchard '02 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.

<sup>27</sup>*CMM*, 16 April 1904 and 30 April 1904.

<sup>28</sup>*CMM*, 17 November 1907.

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 Remson Robinson '11 and Coleman Clark Keeler '10, were censured joy riding about the campus. The age of the automobile had arrived.

## **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 '73 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."<sup>30</sup> 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.<sup>31</sup> 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.<sup>32</sup>

One important factor in maintaining solvency was the chapter's intolerance for debtors. In 1900, Brother Hayward Hutchinson Kendall '00 fell into arrears with his House bill.<sup>33</sup> 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."<sup>34</sup> This institutional arrangement proved to be not only durable, but effective. The Finance

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<sup>29</sup>*CMM*, 16 and 26 May 1901.

<sup>30</sup>*CMM*, 18 October 1902.

<sup>31</sup>*CMM*, 14 February 1903.

<sup>32</sup>*CMM*, 9 January 1904, 13 February 1904, 16 February 1904, 20 February 1904 and 22 May 1904.

<sup>33</sup>*CMM*, 9 June and 29 September 1900.

<sup>34</sup>*CMM*, 8 January 1905.

Committee controlled the chapter's purse strings with an iron hand and even managed to give the patient Taylor a modest raise in time.<sup>35</sup>

## **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.<sup>36</sup> The matter came up before the new IFC, there was little that could be done.<sup>37</sup> 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.<sup>38</sup> 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.<sup>39</sup> True to form, the next year saw some improvement. In fact, the Steward's Department was affluent enough to purchase a set of dishes

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<sup>35</sup>*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.

<sup>36</sup>*CMM*, 27 October 1912.

<sup>37</sup>*CMM*, 3 November 1912.

<sup>38</sup>*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.

<sup>39</sup>*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.

decorated with the Delta Kappa Epsilon escutcheon.<sup>40</sup> 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.<sup>41</sup> 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.<sup>42</sup> A program of corrective actions was soon proposed and successfully carried out by the chapter.

## **Fraternity Affairs**

Delta Chi's relationship with here sister chapters and the Fraternity at large was uneventful during this period. The brotherhood endorsed the expansion of DKE to Leland Stanford University and resisted the establishment of a chapter at McGill University in 1900.<sup>43</sup> The delegates to the 55th DKE 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 DKE 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 DKE 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."<sup>44</sup>

As time went on, there was a noticeable hardening in Delta Chi's heart. Delegates to the 64th DKE 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."<sup>45</sup> The next year again saw Delta Chi voting to strip the Phi Chi and Nu of their charters at the 65th DKE Convention (Chicago, 1911).<sup>46</sup> Delta Chi delivered one last attack against Nu in 1912 and then called it quits.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>40</sup>*CMM*, 8 October 1904 and 15 January 1905.

<sup>41</sup>*CMM*, 14 May 1905.

<sup>42</sup>*CMM*, 3 November, 23 November and 7 December 1907.

<sup>43</sup>*CMM*, 10 November 1900 and 28 October 1901.

<sup>44</sup>*CMM*, 24 October 1903 and 13 November 1904.

<sup>45</sup>*CMM*, 23 October 1910.

<sup>46</sup>*CMM*, 26 November 1911.

<sup>47</sup>*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.

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 DKE in 1902.<sup>48</sup> 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, a candidate for membership in the Lambda chapter of DKE, was accidentally killed by a train during initiation exercises at Kenyon College in Gambier OH.<sup>49</sup> The inevitable national outcry against fraternities blew throughout the land, but in the end nothing came of it.

## Alumni Relations

Delta Chi's competence at managing relations with her alumni can not 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.<sup>50</sup> 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 '03 sent pictures of the lodge's public rooms to interested alumni, and later in the spring Brother Clarence Gearhart Crispin '02 organized an alumni "reunion boat ride" on Lake Cayuga.<sup>51</sup> 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.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>48</sup>*CMM*, 18 January and 6 December 1902.

<sup>49</sup>"The Kenyon Accident," *DKEQ*, XXIV, 1 (February 1906), pp. 32-44.

<sup>50</sup>*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 '03 "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."

<sup>51</sup>*CMM*, 25 January 1902 and 31 May 1902.

<sup>52</sup>*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.

## 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.<sup>53</sup> The Cornell fraternities, after considerable debate, voted to carry out a series of reforms.<sup>54</sup> The Star League cartel had broken down by this time and DKE was compelled to compete on a somewhat more level playing field with the other houses.<sup>55</sup> Nevertheless, the Dekes were able to maintain their standards and preferences for admitting new men. The House was unquestionably an Anglo-Saxon-Protestant preserve.<sup>56</sup>

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.<sup>57</sup> This loose cartel preferred late or second term rush of the freshmen.<sup>58</sup> 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.<sup>59</sup>

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) was born of this dispute and its eventual settlement.<sup>60</sup> The association might have easily disappeared, but Brother Albert Carlton Miller '12 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

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<sup>53</sup>*CMM*, 9 May 1908.

<sup>54</sup>*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.

<sup>55</sup>*CMM*, 8 April 1905: Brother Anton Vonnegut '05 speaks of his talk with Mr. Saleskey concerning revival of the Star League and advises secrecy concerning the matter.

<sup>56</sup>*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 '00 and Clark. *CMM*, 10 May 1903: The chapter decides "to have him [Mr. Lehman] around for dinner."

<sup>57</sup>*CMM*, 4 December 1910.

<sup>58</sup>*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.

<sup>59</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXX, 4 (December 1912), pp. 316-7.

<sup>60</sup>*CMM*, 24 Mar 1912: A motion introduced by Brother Albert Carlton Miller '12 "that it be the sentiment of this chapter to enlarge [the] power of [the] rushing association to deal with other fraternity matters" carries.

make this a reality<sup>61</sup>. 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."<sup>62</sup>

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:

Progenitor/Legacies	Relationship
Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Hon.	
Birchard Austin Hayes '74	son
Webb Cook Hayes '76	son
Walter Justin Sherman '77	nephew
Rutherford Platt Hayes '80	son
Scott Russell Hayes '92	son
Walter Sherman Hayes '18	grandson
John DeWitt Warner '72	
Joseph DeWitt Warner '02	son
John DeWitt Warner, III '31	grandson
Edwin Gillette '73	
Douglas Graves Gillette '12	son
Edwin Spence Gillette '14	son
Paul Gillette '19	son
Mario Garcia-Menocal '88	
Aldopho Jose Menocal '88	brother
Mario Garcia Menocal de Almagro '44	grandson
Frank Warren Cool '95	
Charles Leroy Cool '03	brother
Willard Cameron Cool '16	brother
Benjamin Dorrance Beyea '10	second cousin
Benjamin Dorrance Beyea, Jr. '44	son of BDB '10
Frank Harrington McCormick '10	uncle to BDB, Jr. '44

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<sup>61</sup>*CMM*, 31 Mar 1912: Brother Albert Carlton Miller '12, 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."

<sup>62</sup>*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.

## 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.<sup>63</sup> Books were generally obtained in sets after formal approval of the membership was given.<sup>64</sup> These volumes were imprinted with the 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.<sup>65</sup>

## Grounds

The grounds were also improved throughout this era. The lawns were regularly sodded and tended by the House and Grounds Committee.<sup>66</sup> 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.<sup>67</sup> And in 1908, we read of the House Tennis Committee reporting that renovations costing some \$80 to the court were "well underway."<sup>68</sup>

## 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.<sup>69</sup> In 1910, the Scriptor was instructed to

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<sup>63</sup>*CMM*, 15 January 1905.

<sup>64</sup>*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.

<sup>65</sup>*CMM*, 12 May 1908: A motion "that the Librarian take charge of stunt picture book and collect all pictures he can" carries.

<sup>66</sup>*CMM*, 3 May 1902.

<sup>67</sup>*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.

<sup>68</sup>*CMM*, 18 April 1908.

<sup>69</sup>*CMM*, 26 October 1907: The Student Committee "requests freshmen to hand in a list of their studies and professors." *CMM*, 10 October 1908.

maintain a Prelim File that contained University examination papers for every course (except law) that the brothers and pledges were registered in.<sup>70</sup> More importantly, the House enacted a bylaw that formally established the Student Committee and spelled out the duties of this standing body.<sup>71</sup>

- 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 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.<sup>72</sup>

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.<sup>73</sup> On the positive side, the new five hundred square foot refectory allowed comfortable seating for all who wished to dine in the House.

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<sup>70</sup>*CMM*, 16 October 1910.

<sup>71</sup>*CMM*, 23 October 1910.

<sup>72</sup>*CMM*, 17 November 1900: Brother Chatillon '01 "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 '02 "reports on Mr. Miller's plan for fixing up the dining room."

<sup>73</sup>*CMM*, 15 December 1900: Also, "Brother Warner '02 speaks on the plans for the new dining room." A motion "that the plans be accepted as they are" carries.

Other renovations to the parlor were carried out at the same time.<sup>74</sup> 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.<sup>75</sup> The extent and effect of these projects was reported in a Chapter Letter published in *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*.<sup>76</sup>

"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 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 '79, 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.<sup>77</sup>

The next major addition to the house fell clearly into the category of luxury: the 1906 south porch.<sup>78</sup> The intent was to create a large out-door extension to the parlor that could "be used for dancing during the spring and fall."<sup>79</sup> 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.<sup>80</sup> The leasehold estate would now measure 70 x 130 feet.

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<sup>74</sup>*CMM*, 6 January 1901: [Special Meeting] Brother Warner '02 reports on improvements recently made to the House Ball Room.

<sup>75</sup>*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.

<sup>76</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XIX, 1 (February 1901), p. 56.

<sup>77</sup>*CMM*, 10 May 1902 and 17 May 1902.

<sup>78</sup>"Chapter Letter," *DKEQ*, XXIV, 2 (June 1906), p. 144: "A stone porch will also be added to the House."

<sup>79</sup>"Dekes to Have Handsome Porch; Fitting a Commodious Billiard Room Below Stairs," *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, 15 August 1906, p. 6, col. 6.

<sup>80</sup>"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.

The construction work, accomplished by the Ithaca Contracting Company, was completed just before the University opened for the fall term.<sup>81</sup> 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.<sup>82</sup> The father of Brother Roscoe James Hackney '08 donated a fine billiard table for this purpose.<sup>83</sup> 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.<sup>84</sup>

## 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.<sup>85</sup> The impact of this loss was immediate and profound on the Delta Chi chapter of DKE. The lodge's wiring was inspected, found to be suspect and largely replaced.<sup>86</sup> 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.<sup>87</sup> 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. '09 was chosen to be the first Fire Warden of the Delta

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<sup>81</sup>Cf. *The 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.

<sup>82</sup>*The Ithaca Daily Journal*, 15 August 1906, p. 6, col. 6.

<sup>83</sup>*DKEQ*, XXIV, 2 (June 1906), p. 144.

<sup>84</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXIV, 3 (November 1906), p. 219.

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

<sup>86</sup>*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."

<sup>87</sup>*CMM*, 28 September 1907.

Chi.<sup>88</sup> The work was taken seriously and every chapter meeting included a report from this officer and his successors.<sup>89</sup>

## 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.<sup>90</sup> 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 '73 to have plans drawn up for [an] addition."<sup>91</sup> 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 [Arthur Norman] Gibb and [Ornan H.] 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."

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."<sup>92</sup> Gibb drew up rough plans and the Building Committee solicited suggestions and comments from the membership.<sup>93</sup> 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.<sup>94</sup> That body promptly referred the matter to a committee.

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<sup>88</sup>*CMM*, 12 October 1907.

<sup>89</sup>*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."

<sup>90</sup>*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."

<sup>91</sup>*CMM*, 11 October 1909.

<sup>92</sup>*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."

<sup>93</sup>*CMM*, 31 October 1909.

<sup>94</sup>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."

A snag quickly developed.<sup>95</sup> The new wing would require expansion of the DKE building lot over the ground currently taken up by the DKE 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 '10, 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."<sup>96</sup>

By January of 1910, a compromise was soon worked out. The University allowed the DKE lot to be augmented with a seventy-five foot wide strip of land on the eastern border to accommodate the addition.<sup>97</sup> 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."<sup>98</sup> This restriction presumably placated Professor Church.

The revised building plans were ready in February.<sup>99</sup> The addition included six new studies, seven bedrooms, an accommodation suite for visiting alumni, and a large chapter room.<sup>100</sup> The Elmira NY firm of J. Allington & Son, Inc., was selected to be the building contractor.<sup>101</sup> Construction commenced in March and was completed in the fall.<sup>102</sup> 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.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>95</sup>*CMM*, 5 December 1909.

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

<sup>97</sup>*Ibid.*, 4 January 1910, p. 62.

<sup>98</sup>*Ibid.*, 18 January 1910, p. 67.

<sup>99</sup>"Fraternity Home to be Enlarged," *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, 24 January 1910, p. 6, col 4. "Terse Tales," *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, 25 February 1910, p. 5, col. 3: "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."

<sup>100</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXVIII, 2 (June 1910), p. 117.

<sup>101</sup>"Elmira Firm Gets Contract; J. Allington & Son, of Elmira, to Rebuild Frat House," *The Ithaca Daily Journal*, 14 March 1910, p. 6, col. 5.

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

<sup>103</sup>"Campus Improvements During the Summer," *The Cornell Daily Sun*, 27 September 1910, p. 6, col. 2, continued from p. 3.

The new lodge room in the addition was officially opened on 12 November 1910 with an elegant ceremony.<sup>104</sup> Many alumni attended including Brother Julius Chambers '70, the first Delta Chi Deke. They saw much to admire. Gibb had dutifully expanded William Henry Miller's great DKE lodge without compromising the architectural integrity of the original building.<sup>105</sup> 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 DKE lot.<sup>106</sup> 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.<sup>107</sup>

We close this account by taking note of a chapter tradition that took effect in 1912. Brother Willfred Karl Krauss '13 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."<sup>108</sup> 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.

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

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

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

<sup>107</sup>"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.

<sup>108</sup>*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.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, "the business capacity and strong position of this chapter" was widely known and acknowledged throughout the Fraternity.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> Although these funds were eventually absorbed into the House operating budget, their establishment was clear evidence of prosperous times and a conservative management style.<sup>4</sup> Even the Steward's Department could announce that it was in the black.<sup>5</sup>

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.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup>*CMM*, 19 January 1913, 2 March 1913, 9 March 1913 and 20 April 1913.

<sup>2</sup>"On Chapter Publications," *DKEQ*, XXXIII, 2, pp. 151-53.

<sup>3</sup>*CMM*, 9 March 1913 and 30 March 1913.

<sup>4</sup>*CMM*, 7 March 1915.

<sup>5</sup>*CMM*, 16 March 1913.

<sup>6</sup>*CMM*, 12 January 1913.

<sup>7</sup>*CMM*, 3 October 1915 and 18 January 1916.

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

## **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 DKE Convention delegates to grant charters and then flatly refusing to vote for expansion during the 67th DKE Convention of 1913 held in Boston.<sup>9</sup> This policy was reaffirmed in 1916.<sup>10</sup> 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 DKE 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.<sup>11</sup> 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 DKE. 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.<sup>12</sup> 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."

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<sup>8</sup>*CMM*, 13 April 1919.

<sup>9</sup>*CMM*, 27 May 1913 and 23 November 1913.

<sup>10</sup>*CMM*, 26 November 1916.

<sup>11</sup>"On Chapter Publications," *DKEQ*, XXXIII, 2, pp. 151-53.

<sup>12</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXXIII, 2 (May 1915), pp. 216-17.

## 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.<sup>13</sup> 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 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.<sup>14</sup> 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."<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup>

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."

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<sup>13</sup>*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.

<sup>14</sup>*CMM*, 30 March 1913 and 13 April 1913.

<sup>15</sup>Bishop, p. 435: summaries of the Presidents annual reports of 1918 and 1919.

<sup>16</sup>John DeWitt Warner, *The Delta Kappa Epsilon Catalog*, 1910.

## 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.<sup>17</sup>

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 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.<sup>18</sup> These were adopted by the other fraternities and some semblance of order was reestablished in the following fall term.<sup>19</sup>

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.

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<sup>17</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXXIV, 1 (1916), p. 239.

<sup>18</sup>*CMM*, 26 March 1916: A motion introduced by Brother Richard John Foster, Jr. '16 and seconded by Brother Richard Averill Parke '16 "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."

<sup>19</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXXIV (1916), pg 481-82.

## 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. DKE 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.<sup>20</sup> Seniors, having accorded themselves the exclusive right to wear blazers, were particularly natty.<sup>21</sup>

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

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

The House did well in academics.<sup>27</sup> Possibly the Prelim File, a carefully maintained collection of University examination papers provided the brothers with an edge not possessed by independents.<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup>

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

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

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

<sup>23</sup>*CMM*, 30 January 1915.

<sup>24</sup>*CMM*, 21 March 1915 and 11 April 1915.

<sup>25</sup>*CMM*, 14 November 1915 and 5 December 1915.

<sup>26</sup>*CMM*, 28 January 1916.

<sup>27</sup>Chapter Letter, *DKEQ*, XXX, No. 2 (May 1912), p. 130. "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."

<sup>28</sup>*CMM*, 15 November 1914.

<sup>29</sup>*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.

## 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.<sup>30</sup> Brother Robert Irving Blodgett Inglehart '13 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.<sup>31</sup> Alas, this relic has been lost, and with it the only clue to one of the great mysteries of DKE at Cornell.

## Law and Order

Disciplinary events were remarkably few in this era. Only one brother was expelled, Raymond Elliot Laurence '15, and this proceeding occurred with noteworthy dispatch in comparison to the messy and protracted trials of earlier times.<sup>32</sup> Fines awarded by the Upperclass Committee were established for a range of offenses, but the number of impositions was scarcely worth counting.<sup>33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup>

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.<sup>35</sup> 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."<sup>36</sup> The conservative fraternities, whole-heartedly Victorian, excluded women from the social life of the University throughout this period. DKE policy concerning the treatment of coeds differed little from that adopted by the other Star League houses.

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<sup>30</sup>*CMM*, 2 March 1913.

<sup>31</sup>*CMM*, 9 March 1913, 23 March 1913, 20 April 1913 and 27 May 1913.

<sup>32</sup>*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.

<sup>33</sup>*CMM*, 7 May 1916, 5 November 1916.

<sup>34</sup>*CMM*, 9 March 1916, 19 March 1916 and 22 February 1914.

<sup>35</sup>*CMM*, 19 April 1914.

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

## 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.<sup>37</sup> 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.<sup>38</sup>

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.<sup>39</sup> 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.<sup>40</sup>

Mario Menocal was not the only member of the Class of '88 to achieve notoriety. There was also Brother Henry Rubens 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.<sup>41</sup> 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 Bitter, a noted American sculptor.

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

<sup>38</sup>"Mario Menocal '88, Once Cuban Chief, Loses Island Votes," *The Delta Chi Deke*, II, 4 (May 1936), p. 4, col 1.

<sup>39</sup>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.

<sup>40</sup>"General Menocal," *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 2 (May 1920), pp. 183-5.

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

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.<sup>42</sup> 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 in a tragic airplane crash in 1921.

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.<sup>43</sup> 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.

### **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 '72, but in 1918 the duties were taken over by Brother Herbert William Strong '94.<sup>44</sup> 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 '73 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.<sup>45</sup> This new organization, the predecessor for what is now called the Delta Chi Association, was in full running order by the next year.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>42</sup>"Maurice Connolly, Delta Chi '97," *DKEQ*, XXXIX, 3 (October 1921), pp. 357-8.

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

<sup>44</sup>"The Council of DKE for 1915," *DKEQ*, XXXIII, 1 (February 1915), p. iii.

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

<sup>46</sup>*CMM*, 18 October 1916.

## 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 Victoriano Huerta 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 was installed and a period of relative peace ensued.<sup>47</sup>

In 1916, a second irritation called Francisco (Pancho) Villa 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 J. "Blackjack" Pershing 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.<sup>48</sup>

Martin Castleman Rutherford, Jr. '10	1st Cav., Troop H, NY
Selah Van Velsor Hiscox '15	7th Inf., NY
William Hallam Gillis Murray '16	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

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

<sup>48</sup>Charles Doyle, "Some Deke Patriots," *DKEQ*, XXXIV, pp. 411-12.

the other cavalymen 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.<sup>49</sup> On 6 April 1917, the Senate passed a resolution that thrust the United States into the conflict.<sup>50</sup> 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 institutions.<sup>51</sup> 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 '18 was in France with the Royal Flying Corps.<sup>52</sup> This list was to grow substantially before the end of the conflict.

True to form, the Dekes could not resist setting up a DKE Club in the European Theater<sup>53</sup>. This was done by the tireless Brother James Anderson Hawes, Phi '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

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

<sup>50</sup>Johnson, p. 346.

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

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

<sup>53</sup>Frederick Dwight, Phi '94, "Delta Kappa Epsilon Overseas," *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 3 (October 1918), pp. 175-79.

activity quickly got back to Ithaca in 1917.<sup>54</sup> By war's end, a number of Delta Chi brothers had gathered there for a short respite from their duties.<sup>55</sup>

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 DKE Overseas Club from a Delta Chi Deke was typical of the affections that resulted.<sup>56</sup>

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 '13

### 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.<sup>57</sup> Cornell was given a quota of 1700 men to train for hostilities in Europe. This order came in 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*.<sup>58</sup>

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

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<sup>54</sup>*CMM*, 28 October 1917.

<sup>55</sup>*DKEQ*, XXXVI, 3 (October 1918), pp. 182-88: Brothers Charles Baskerville, Jr. '19, Laurence Bowen '11, Lewis Benedict '18, Maurice Connolly '97, William H. Fritz, Jr. '14, William W. Ricker '96, Thomas H. Sidley '03, and Henry E. Wacker '17 all visited the Paris DKE Club between 15 July and 15 September, 1918.

<sup>56</sup>"Extracts From Some Letters Received by the DKE Overseas Club and Bureau From Dekes on Active Service at the Front," *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 3 (October 1918), pp. 180-1. The author is unknown, but Brother Willfred Karl Kraus '13 is a possibility.

<sup>57</sup>Editorial, *The New York Times*, 6 October 1918. "The War and Fraternities," *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 3 (October 1918), pp. 192-3.

<sup>58</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 4 (December 1918), pp. 278-9.

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.<sup>59</sup> 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."<sup>60</sup> 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.<sup>61</sup>

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

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<sup>59</sup>*CMM*, 20 January 1918 and 17 March 1918.

<sup>60</sup>*CMM*, 28 April 1918.

<sup>61</sup>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.

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.<sup>62</sup>

## 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 '19 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.<sup>63</sup> The unhappy event occurred in France near Issoudoum during a training flight.<sup>64</sup> 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." Brother Alton "Monte" Baker '16 was assigned to the same command and attended the funeral.<sup>65</sup> With this tragedy, Brother Ingersoll began an unhappy tradition that would plague future Deke aviators.

The news of Ingersoll's death soon reached Ithaca.<sup>66</sup> Brother Langdon Thomas Williams '21 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.<sup>67</sup> On 5 May 1918, Brother Clarkson Lewis Farnsworth '21 was appointed by the chapter "to purchase a gold star for [the House's] service flag in honor of Brother Ingersoll."<sup>68</sup>

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

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<sup>62</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXXVII, 2 (May 1919), pp. 147-8.

<sup>63</sup>"Our Record in the Great War," *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 2 (May 1918), pp 122-3. 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.

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

<sup>65</sup>"With Ingersoll in France," *The Delta Chi Deke*, December 1938, p. 4, col. 1.

<sup>66</sup>*CMM*, 1 May 1918.

<sup>67</sup>*CMM*, 5 May 1918.

<sup>68</sup>*CMM*, 12 May 1918.

its sacrifices on the battlefield.<sup>69</sup> And by this measure, Delta Chi's contributions were by no means slight. Brothers McClary Hazelton Brown '19 and John Milton Nazel '18 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.<sup>70</sup> Charles Baskerville '19 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 *DKEQ* that carried two entries for the Delta Chi chapter: Brothers Clayton C. Ingersoll '18 and John Milton Nazel '18.<sup>71</sup> The news concerning Nazel was premature. Although wounded, he survived the war.<sup>72</sup>

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 DKE 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 '18 and a certain William Bayer '18.<sup>73</sup> 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.<sup>74</sup> Brother Charles Baskerville, who was about to embark on a long career as a painter, set about designing a commemorative fireplace in the lodge's main hall to honor the fallen aviator. This work was completed in 1920.<sup>75</sup> And Ingersoll's

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<sup>69</sup>"Our Record in the Great War," *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 2 (May 1918), pp. 122-3.

<sup>70</sup>"Military Honors and Decorations," *DKEQ*, XXXIX, 2 (May 1921), pp. 155-62. "DKE War Notes; Pins Cross on Menocal," *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 1, p. 505.

<sup>71</sup>"Our Honor Role," *DKEQ*, XXXVI, 4 (December 1918), pp. 220-22. "Our Honor Role," *DKEQ*, XXXVII, 1 (February 1919), p. 11.

<sup>72</sup>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.

<sup>73</sup>"Our War Memorial," *DKEQ*, XXXIX, 2 (May 1921), pp. 149- 54. The present location of the War Memorial is unknown.

<sup>74</sup>*CMM*, 13 April 1919: A motion introduced by Brother Byron Earle Wrigley, Jr. '19 and seconded by Brother Charles Baskerville, Jr. '19 "that [a] committee be appointed to look after a memorial for Brother [Clayton Caskey] Ingersoll '18 and [John Milton] Nazel '18" carries. Brothers George Swiggart Miles '17, Alan Lenoir McGill '18, Julius T. Schaezel '17 and Lawrence William Breck '18 are appointed to serve.

<sup>75</sup>*CMM*, 18 January 1920.

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.<sup>76</sup>

## 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 Palmeter Carpenter '22 on "Mexico," a prepared speech by Brother Langdon Thomas Williams '21 on "The Turkish Problem," and an extemporaneous speech by Brother Archibald Cyrus Edson Gregory '19 on "Arbitration."

30 November 1919. A reading by Brother Ross Stockbridge Anderson '22 on "America as a Peace Obstructor," an extemporaneous speech by Brother Lawrence William Breck '18 on "Artillery Proving Grounds," and a reading of the Chapter By-laws by Brother Beta, Brother Lewis Benedict, Jr. '18.

## In Memoriam

The decade came to an end with sadness as 1919 became a year marked by loss. Brother Eugene Mergenthaler '19 died in Baltimore on 4 January from influenza in an epidemic that ravaged the city.<sup>77</sup> Brother Theodore Roosevelt, Alpha 80, passed away on 6 January at his lovely home at Oyster Bay, Long Island.<sup>78</sup> Brother Deyoe Lohnas Ashton '19 died tragically of influenza and pneumonia at his father's home in Saratoga NY on 31 March before taking his degree.<sup>79</sup> And finally, the revered Emilius Oviatt Randall died on 18 December after a long and distinguished career with the Supreme Court of Ohio.<sup>80</sup>

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

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<sup>76</sup>*Cornell Alumni News*, 16 December 1926.

<sup>77</sup>Student file, Eugene Mergenthaler '19, CU-DRMC.

<sup>78</sup>"Theodore Roosevelt," *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 1 (February 1920), pp. 46-7.

<sup>79</sup>"In Memoriam; Hall of Delta Chi of Delta Kappa Epsilon," *DKEQ*, XXXVII, 2 (May 1919).

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

## Chapter V: 1920-1929

### The 76th DKE Convention

The Fraternity's annual conventions played a critical role in binding the diverse institution together, reinforcing the distinctive DKE 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, DKE conventions had convened at various locations throughout the American East, Midwest and South by 1920.

The 69th DKE 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 DKE chapters and alumni brothers all along the course of this great trip. Delta Chi played a prominent role; Brother Richard J. Foster, Jr., '16 served at the President of the Convention!

The idea for holding a DKE 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.<sup>2</sup> His generous offer was declined at that time only because plans for the forthcoming 1918 convention were well advanced, but the 76th DKE 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 DKE'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!"<sup>3</sup>

On Sunday, 26 December 1920 a party of 125 Dekes departed Pennsylvania Station in New York City in a special chartered DKE 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

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<sup>1</sup>Hawes & VanDuzer, pp. xxxv-vi.

<sup>2</sup>John Clair Minot, "The Convention in Havana," *DKEQ*, XXXIX, 1 (February 1921), p. 1-25.

<sup>3</sup>*Life*, 23 December 1920.

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 DKE 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 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 DKE 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 DKE 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 DKE as a lead story.<sup>4</sup> Witness the following editorial from the Havana Post.<sup>5</sup>

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 DKE 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

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<sup>4</sup>"D.K.E.'s Elect Officers," *NYT*, 1 January 1921, p. 5, col. 4.

<sup>5</sup>*Havana Post*, Thursday, 30 December 1920, editorial page.

chapter who attended.<sup>6</sup> Brother Horace Alfred Taveira '04, a resident of Havana and a member of the DKE 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 '21 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 '76, Vice President of the DKE 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 DKE 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 '14, 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."<sup>7</sup>

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.

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<sup>6</sup>"Convention Attendance," *DKEQ*, XXXIX, 1 (February 1921), pp. 54-7. The following brothers from the Delta Chi Chapter attended the 76th DKE Convention: George Washington Graham '76, Horace Alfred Taveira '04, Robert Howland Coit '06, Hermann Charles Mergenthaler '11, Willfred Karl Krauss '13, Edwin Spence Gillett '14, George Blaine Howell '17, Franklin Chamberlin Moore '17, Philip B. Windsor '19, Harland Franklin Beardslee '22, John Thomas Shaw '23, George B. Davidson '24, Sheldon Bailey Wright '24 and Stephen Byrd Horrell '21.

<sup>7</sup>John Clair Minot, "The Dekes in Cuba," *DKEQ*, XXXIX,1 (February 1921), pp. 37-9.

So here's a health to Havana,  
And a health to the Cubans all,  
In the name of El Presidente,  
Our Brother Menocal.

## 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 DKE 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.<sup>8</sup> 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 DKE Convention to "consistently oppose by every means at his command" attempts to extend the Fraternity or reactivate defunct chapters of DKE.<sup>9</sup> 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."<sup>10</sup> By 1922, a full circle had been completed when Brother David Aloysius Munns '23, the Delta Chi representative to the 78th DKE Convention, was directed to vote in favor of reviving the 1858 charter of the Zeta Zeta chapter at Louisiana State University (previously Centenary College).<sup>11</sup> The Convention concurred and Zeta Zeta returned to the DKE 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.<sup>12</sup>

Perhaps the most politic action taken by the Cornell Dekes was the 1920 initiation of Brother James Anderson Hawes, Phi '94, into the Delta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon as her second Honorary Member.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>*CMM*, 31 October 1920 and 25 May 1924.

<sup>9</sup>*CMM*, 12 December 1920.

<sup>10</sup>*CMM*, 5 October 1921.

<sup>11</sup>*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.

<sup>12</sup>*CMM*, 22 January 1928.

<sup>13</sup>*CMM*, 11 December 1920.

<sup>14</sup>*CMM*, 24 October 1924 and 15 November 1925.

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. '16, Charles Baskerville, Jr. '19, William Wood Ricker '96, and Joseph DeWitt Warner '02 (in that order) during this period.<sup>15</sup>

## **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.<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup>

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.<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> By the following fall the situation was much improved. The operating accounts were back in balance and a significant chunk of debt had

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

<sup>16</sup>*CMM*, 9 May 1920.

<sup>17</sup>*CMM*, 28 September 1924.

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

<sup>19</sup>*CMM*, 19 April 1926.

been retired.<sup>20</sup> 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 Howard "Cotton" Cissel '22 died in the Cornell infirmary on 9 March from acute tonsillitis —alas, penicillin would not become available until the next war.<sup>21</sup>

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.<sup>22</sup> The blast was lethal: thirty-three were killed and some three hundred were injured. Brother Franklin G. Miller '21, by then employed by the Elliott-Fisher Adding Machine Company, was among those slain.<sup>23</sup> Back in Ithaca, the chapter was shocked and outraged. Somber resolutions were enacted and subsequently published in the *Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly*.<sup>24</sup> The perpetrator of this misdeed was never identified despite the frenzied efforts of the FBI.<sup>25</sup>

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.<sup>26</sup> The next year saw the death of Brother Robert Straun Bloomer '24.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>*CMM*, 9 October 1926.

<sup>21</sup>*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.

<sup>22</sup>"Wall Street Explosion Kills 30, Injures 300," *NYT*, 17 September 1920, p. 1, col. 1: "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."

<sup>23</sup>"Cornellian Killed in N. Y. Explosion," *Ithaca Journal*, 23 September 1920.

<sup>24</sup>*CMM*, 3 October 1920: Brother William Emil Kugeman, Jr. '22 reports "that resolutions regarding the death of Brother [Franklin G.] Miller '21 have been completed and sent." *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 3 (October 1920), p. 355.

<sup>25</sup>James Truslow Adams, ed., *Dictionary of American History* (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1940), V, p. 393: "Wall Street Explosion."

<sup>26</sup>*The Long Islander*, 14 January 1921.

<sup>27</sup>*CMM*, 5 March 1922: Delta Chi instructs Brother Iota "to write a letter of condolence to the family of Brother [Robert Straun] Bloomer '24."

## 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 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.<sup>28</sup> Delta Chi recruited eleven freshmen and seemed sufficiently happy with the result to recommend that it be tried for another year.<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> 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.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>28</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XXXVIII, 1 (February 1920), pp. 110-1.

<sup>29</sup>*CMM*, 18 April 1920.

<sup>30</sup>*CMM*, 27 February 1921, 27 March 1921 and 8 May 1921.

<sup>31</sup>*CMM*, 13 May 1923 and 6 May 1923.

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.<sup>32</sup>

The fall rush of 1923 was more of a struggle than a triumph for Delta Chi.<sup>33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup>

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."<sup>35</sup> Doubtlessly, the high "legacy" content of pledge classes in this era was due in part to this practice.

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<sup>32</sup>*CMM*, 9 November 1924.

<sup>33</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XLI, 4 (December 1923), pp. 418-9.

<sup>34</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XLIV, 3 (May 1926), pp. 223-4.

<sup>35</sup>"Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XLV, 2 (May 1927), pp. 197-9. "Chapter Letters," *DKEQ*, XLV, 4 (December 1927), pp. 401-2.

## 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 A. Herson, the proprietor of the Lehigh Valley House on West Buffalo Street.<sup>36</sup>

Securing drinkable hootch was another matter.<sup>37</sup> On one memorable occasion in 1923, Pledge Brother Harold Roland "Chick" Labonte '26, acting on the instructions of Brother Andrew John Biemiller '26, 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 '28 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 '26, Harold Roland "Chick" Labonte '26 and William Burke, Jr. '26 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 '24 and another large sum from John Francis "Jack" Barrett '25.

This intrepid band of DKE 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

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

<sup>37</sup>Transcript of a conversation over cocktails with Brothers Caesar Augustin Grasselli, II '22, Harold Roland "Chick" Labonte '26, Thomas Washburn Hopper '28, Homer Hartmen "Bud" Bishop '36, unidentified (probably Norman Lindsley Davidson, Jr.) '71, and Henry Chesnel Llop '72. 12:15 PM, 12 June 1971, Ithaca NY.

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 DKE 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.

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 DKE 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 '23 lost a wheel while speeding down Newfield Hill in a Model T Ford owned by Brother Rollin Henry White, Jr. '26.

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."<sup>38</sup> 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.<sup>39</sup> 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

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<sup>38</sup>Bishop, p. 490.

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

days later, Chairman Murphy was able to report that the problem had been resolved.<sup>40</sup> 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.<sup>41</sup> As a result, the Delta Chi Dekes partied almost exclusively with Chi Psi, Kappa Alpha and Alpha Delta Phi during this period.<sup>42</sup> One of the few DKE social affairs allowing outsiders was the annual Faculty Tea, an event noted for the absence of any tea in the cups of attendees.<sup>43</sup>

## 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 Anticoedism policy was formally put on the books as a House Rule in 1921.<sup>44</sup> The only expulsion was that of Oscar Pierson Vatet '28 who was struck from the rolls for unknown reasons.<sup>45</sup> 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.<sup>46</sup> 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

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<sup>40</sup>*CMM*, 4 December 1921: Brother William Emil Kugeman, Jr. '22 "reports [to the brotherhood] on [the] liquor question."

<sup>41</sup>*CMM*, 3 April 1921.

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

<sup>43</sup>*CMM*, 29 April 1923, 28 April 1924 and 15 November 1925.

<sup>44</sup>*CMM*, 8 May 1921.

<sup>45</sup>*CMM*, 24 October 1926, 29 October 1926 and 16 December 1926.

<sup>46</sup>*CMM*, 14 March 1920.

from the wife of Edwin Gillette '73.<sup>47</sup> Within the lodge itself, there was little more to do save for hanging the pictures of famous Dekes and Cornell lettermen.<sup>48</sup>

## Alumni

One of the more peculiar incidents of this era was the moderate storm raised by Brother Hayward Hutchinson Kendall '00 in 1928 when he published what can only be called a spirited open letter to Cornell's President Livingston Farrand in *The World*.<sup>49</sup>

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 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

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<sup>47</sup>*CMM*, 29 October 1923 and 9 March 1924.

<sup>48</sup>*CMM*, 5 December 1926.

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

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."<sup>50</sup> And, of course, fraternity men rose to the defense of their societies.<sup>51</sup> 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.<sup>52</sup> His estate was found to total no

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

<sup>51</sup>"Cornell Graduates Back Fraternities —Gherardi, New Trustee, Denies Kendall Charge That Lack of Affiliation Handicaps Men," *NYT*, 1 June 1928, p. 10, col. 3.

<sup>52</sup>"Hayward Kendall Dies in New York —Coal Operator was Vigorous Dissenter —Cleveland Millionaire Was Critic

more than \$690,000; there was no million dollar bequest, provisional or otherwise, for the University.<sup>53</sup> 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.<sup>54</sup>

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 '21 on "The Value of a General College Education in Business," and a talk by Brother George King Bishop '19 on "[A] Trip Through Standard Parts Company of Cleveland, Ohio."

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

29 February 1920. Brother Caesar Augustin Grasselli, II '22 reads an article on "Cruelty on Both Sides in Russia," Brother Oscar Bauer, Jr. '21 gives a prepared speech on "The Effects of Wood Alcohol," and Brother Paul Gillette '19 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."

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of Cornell's Fraternities," unidentified newspaper, possibly *The Ithaca Journal*, ca. 20 November 1928. "Hayward H. Kendall of Cleveland Dies —Free-Lance Writer and Retired Coal Operator Is Stricken in New York," *NYT*, 20 November 1928, p. 31, col. 4.

<sup>53</sup>"Kendall Didn't Have Million He Offered to Give to Cornell," *Journal News*, 30 November 1928.

<sup>54</sup>*CMM*, 21 November 1920: Brother Caesar Augustin Grasselli, II '22 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.

10 October 1920. Brother Howard Archibald Acheson '23 gives a reading on "The Bomb Outrages in Wall Street," Brother Ross Stockbridge Anderson '22 gives a prepared speech on "Why America is Not Rebuilding France," and Brother Paul Gillette '19 gives an extemporaneous speech on "The Oil Situation."

23 January 1921. Brother Carter Mullaly '23 reads an article entitled "Keep it Up," Brother Caesar Augustin Grasselli, II '22 speaks "On the Condition of Austria After the War," and Brother Eric Martyn Rickard '21 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. '24 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. '24 on "Canadian Relations and Their Bearing Upon the Conference," by Brother Stuart Holland Hacker '23 on "Disarmament and its Effect Upon the Nations," and Brother Ross Stockbridge Anderson '22 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 '32 "reads [to the brotherhood] an account of the presentation of the [alumni] memorial windows." Brother Joseph Marquis Johnston, Jr. '30 serves as critic.

16 December 1929. Brother Frank G. Erskine '30 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.<sup>55</sup> New York Supreme Court Justice Louis William Marcus '89 died in Buffalo in 1923.<sup>56</sup> John DeWitt Warner '72, the chapter's most important charter member, fell victim to a stroke in New York City in 1925.<sup>57</sup> The next year saw the death of the infamous Patrick William Cullinan '72 who had quit DKE to join Alpha Delta Phi back in 1870.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>55</sup>Anon., "William Henry Miller [obituary]," *American Architecture*, 121 (1 March 1921), p. 168. "W. H. Miller '71 Meets Death at Miami Residence," *Cornell Daily Sun*, 11 January 1922, p. 2, col 1.

<sup>56</sup>"Justice Louis W. Marcus. Supreme Court Jurist for 18 Years Dies at His Home in Buffalo," *NYT*, Sunday, 19 Aug 1923, p. 26, col. 5.

<sup>57</sup>"J. DeWitt Warner Dies From Stroke," *NYT*, 28 May 1925, p. 21, col. 5. See  $\Delta X$  of  $\Delta KE$  Special Study #9.

<sup>58</sup>"P. W. Cullinan [72] Dead," *NYT*, 30 July 1926. 73. "P. W. Cullinan Found Dead on Floor of Home," *Oswego Palladium-Times*, ca. 30 July 1926, p. 12.

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