The Years Behind Us

A History of Alpha Sigma Alpha



1901 to 2001

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Editor
Suzanne M. Zorichak, BB

Assistant editor
Nora M. Ten Broeck, BK

Contributing editors
Gina M. Nagy, ΕΞ
Nancy I. Zander Reese, BY
Sharon Marie Sterner, ΓΙ

Design

Jeffrey Mason

Contributors

Sidney Gremillion Allen, ΨΨ
Mary Goecke Backsman, AA
Dorothy Batten, A
Shirley Pallatto Bone, AA
Marianne Busch Bullock, BΘ
Marguerite Archambeault Chenery, A
Hiwana Cupp Crompton, BE
Lucy Daniels, A
Deborah Fields Dietrich, BN
Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ
Mary Rose Finn, Δ
Teresa Boyer Fishback, ΔK
Esther Kauffman Gatseos, BB
Dr. Rosemary Carucci Goss, BΠ
Jean Raup Grady, BE
Lillie M. Greer, ΔΔ
Anne Rhodes Hamilton, BN
Diane Yencic James, HH
Charlotte Adams Johnson, ΘΘ
Charlotte Jones, A
Paula Keyes, ΓΨ
Suzanne M. Kilgannon, BI
Bonnie Payne Koenemann, ZZ
Lisa Tait Longo, ΓH
Dolly Purvis Loyd, BΔ
Kim Ramsey Meyer, BB
Debra Bukas Patterson, ΓΛ
Silvana Filippello Richardson, ΓΛ
Rhetta Nesbitt Robinson, BΓ
Louise Neely Stewart, YY
Hattie Kelly Thomas, A
Agnes Sandine Brunson Toms, BB
Betty Urban Wallick, ZZ
MaryAnn Sidehamer Wenzel, ΓH
Nancy Martin Williams, XX
Leslie Maxwell Ziringer, ΓH

... and the countless members who provided information on the collegiate and alumnae histories.

Dedication

Dedicated to Pearl, the "every member" who makes a difference, and to my son Matthew J. Hagen, who literally grew up watching me work on this project. Thanks, honey.

Founders

Virginia Lee Boyd Noell
Juliette Jefferson Hundley Gilliam
Mary Williamson Hundley
Louise Burks Cox Carper
Calva Hamlet Watson Wootton

Historian's note: The three previously published histories of the sorority, "The Years Behind Us — A History of Alpha Sigma Alpha" (1901 to 1951), "A History Supplement" (1952 to 1976) and "The Years Behind Us 1976-1992," feature the first 92 years of Alpha Sigma Alpha's history in a chronological narrative of 13 chapters, with the chapters based roughly on the terms of the historians. Each sorority year starts with the biennial summer national convention or with the national council meeting in off-convention years.

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The History

The Creed of Alpha Sigma Alpha

To fill my days with satisfying activity,

To find dominant beauty in art,
literature, nature and friendships,

To know the peace and serenity of
a divine faith,

To love life and joyously live each
day to its ultimate good —

This is my creed in Alpha Sigma Alpha.

— Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ
President emerita

CHAPTER 1

1901 to 1913

Historians: Lucy Daniels, A; Mary Rose Finn, Δ; Charlotte Jones, A



Hattie Virginia Kelly, A

Dear Pearl:

I was a member of the first pledge class of Alpha Chapter. In fact, I was the first initiate. In 1932 I was appointed national historian and will do my best to update you on the activities of the sorority from the years 1901 to 1914.

Let's look back to the autumn of 1901. William McKinley had been assassinated at Buffalo, N.Y. Theodore Roosevelt had been made the new president of the United States. Pompadours, large hair bows and stocks (band like collars) were high fashion in young feminine society and football games were collegiate, not public events.

Less than 20 years before, the first school in Virginia admitting women to advanced work had been opened. This institution, the first for teacher-training in the state, and one of the first of its kind in the South, was established at Farmville by act of the State Legislature on March 7, 1884, and two years later was chartered as the State Female Normal School.

In October of 1884 it opened with an enrollment of 110 students, the building and grounds having been presented by the town of Farmville in order to secure the new state school. It was a small campus occupying less than half a square of ground, and had been the plant of what was then known as Farmville College.

Not only was the signing of the bill important for the women of Virginia, but "it was the first indication that the State was realizing the great importance of giving to her children proper opportunities for an education," wrote Miss Jennie M. Tabb in 1929 in "Our Alma Mater," a bulletin of the present institution at Farmville.

Until Randolph-Macon Woman's College appeared in 1893, the Farmville institution presented the only opportunity to Virginia women for collegiate work. Therefore, it was to be expected that Farmville would attract a superior class of students, many of them daughters of professors in the colleges of the state and consequently familiar with the fraternity idea since childhood.

It is not surprising that before the advent of the new century, three Greek-letter local sororities had appeared on the campus: Kappa Delta, founded on Oct. 27, 1897; Sigma Sigma Sigma, on April 20, 1898; and Zeta Tau Alpha, on Oct. 25, 1898.

Kappa Delta records that in 1900 its Alpha members had formulated a policy for becoming a national sorority, elected three of its alumnae as national officers and named this group the Grand Chapter. In 1901, members "went over to Richmond to make arrangements for securing the charter," which was presented to the legislature in 1902 as a bill. Alpha Chapter of Kappa Delta was incorporated by act of April 2, 1902, and on that date the Beta Chapter was established at Chatham Episcopal Institute, Chatham, Va.

The first members of Sigma Sigma Sigma formed "a band united by friendship and the desire to perpetuate that bond." In 1903 a state charter was secured, and the local group at Farmville was reorganized as a national. The Beta Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma was installed May 14, 1903, at Lewisburg Female College, Lewisburg, W.Va.

In a college community, ideas are not only contagious, but they also often seem to self-generate almost simultaneously among various groups on the same campus. Among the Farmville students that fall of 1901 were five girls who had become very good friends. Attractive, vivacious, intelligent, they had been rushed and bid by the existent sororities. However, if they accepted these bids, it would mean that the five would not be sorority sisters.

If Farmville State Female Normal School could have three sororities, why not four? And this fourth sorority was to be national in scope. Some day, Juliette Hundley used to tell Louise Cox as they walked across the campus, this sorority would have chapters in other Southern states, in the North and even in the West. Louise did not believe her.

The Farmville institution was very small. How could an organization of that size begin there? (Upon her arrival at the 40th birthday convention, Louise was ready to admit that the faith and effort of even 16-year-old girls can "remove mountains.") And so the story of Alpha Sigma Alpha unfolds.

Fondly,
Hattie Kelly Thomas
Historian, 1932-1938

1901 to 1902

On Nov. 15, 1901, five college students organized a sorority that they named Alpha Sigma Alpha. Collegiate and alumnae members today respectfully pay tribute to Virginia Lee Boyd, Juliette Jefferson Hundley, Calva Hamlet Watson, Louise Burks Cox and Mary Williamson Hundley. For more on the founders, see p. 312.

Mary Hundley, called May by her chums, and Virginia Boyd roomed together in the "old building." May was a large, fine-looking girl, with light hair and eyes and a keen sense of humor. Virginia, known as Jinks, was smaller, with pretty blue eyes, wavy hair and a lovely soprano voice.

Juliette Hundley, a first cousin of Virginia (but not related to Mary), was a "day student," living a few miles from Farmville with her parents, Judge and Mrs. George Jefferson

Hundley. One of the greatest joys of the Alpha Sigma Alphas was weekend house parties in Juliette's delightful home (where the ever-present Hampden-Sydney students added zest).

Juliette had black hair and brown eyes. Louise Cox — tall, vivacious, with dark brown hair and dancing brown eyes — lived across the street from the normal school. She would have preferred to live in the college dormitory, but in the preceding summer, she had


Louise Burks Cox


Calva Hamlet Watson


Virginia Lee Boyd


Mary Williamson Hundley


Juliette Jefferson Hundley

decided not to return to Farmville and to enjoy life at home.

On the way to school that fall, Juliette and her small brother stopped to see Louise. Suddenly, Louise decided that life that winter would be unbearably dull without this girl and the rest of the crowd. So to the surprise of her long-suffering father, she suddenly announced her immediate return to Farmville. Her possessions were hurriedly collected, and the two guests took her along with them.

Unfortunately, the college was less understanding than Mr. Cox. A room across the street was the best that could be allotted her on such short notice. Her third year was spent at Mrs. Richardson's. Calva Watson, a most intellectual, attractive personality, lived one block away. Rather quiet and efficient, she was the pride of the group in scholastic activities.

1902 to 1903

The first initiates

During the session of 1901-1902, the group was planning and holding frequent conferences with Judge Hundley, and on Nov. 15, 1902, announced the establishment of Alpha Sigma Alpha to the public. On that day, the five founders appeared wearing pins. This pin was a shield, upon which appeared a star and the Greek letters "Alpha Sigma Alpha" in gold on a background of black. At the top was a crown set with jewels.

The record of the first initiation of Alpha Sigma Alpha states that on Jan. 3, 1903, Hattie Virginia Kelly, Richmond, Va.; Louise Pettigrew Price, Gala, Va.; and Louise Gordon Baskerville, Boydton, Va.; were made members of Alpha Sigma Alpha.

On Jan. 29, 1903, the second initiation occurred, with Lucy Hannah Daniel, Charlotte Court House, Va.; Edna Venable Elcan (later to be the first national president), Sheppards, Va.; Marguerite Anthony Palmer, Wingona, Va.; and Angela Carroll Tinsley, Radford, Va.; being added to the membership.

The initiations were held in the school library. Even when the greatest efforts are made to make events inspiring, unexpected incidents sometimes happen. The nearness of the ladder used by the librarian in reaching the high shelves did not occur to Marguerite Palmer,

who while blindfolded, did some moving about on her own.

The founders claim it never could have happened if Marguerite had stood still, and then the next day they would not have had to explain why one of their new initiates had a black eye.

Since, from the sorority's inception, it had been intended that it should become a national organization, it was logical that early steps should be taken toward legalizing its existence.



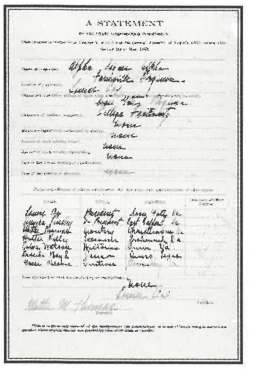
Alpha Sigma Alpha's first badge, which the founders wore in 1902

On Feb. 13, 1903, Alpha Sigma Alpha was chartered in the Circuit Court of Prince Edward County, Virginia. A certified copy of the charter presented to the national president by Margaret Patterson Martz and Hattie Virginia Kelly during the reinstatement of Alpha Chapter in 1933 is now a valued possession of the national archives.

Judge George J. Hundley, Juliette's father, has been described as "a scholar and a gentleman" by the Virginia girls whom he assisted many times in their sorority problems. Not only did he charter the group and assist in other matters of policy, but he also had been invaluable in helping form a ritual and molding the secret work of the sorority.

Third initiation

The sorority held a third initiation March 20, 1903. Grace Macon Wilson, Brownsburg, Va., and Katherine Earle Boyd, Cuero, Texas, were the initiates. Katherine was a cousin of Virginia Boyd. On May 11, 1903, the initiation of Mary Elizabeth Moore, Farmville, brought the membership to 15.


A STATEMENT
President Louise Burks Cox completed the incorporation papers in 1903.

Because the girls thought that the jeweler had made the five pins of the founders much too large, the next pins were ordered in a smaller mold.

1903 to 1904

A peek back

Shall we peek into a sorority meeting of those days? It is held in a room belonging to two or three Alpha Sigma Alpha members. The walls are entirely covered with photographs, pictures, and pennants — the less space left bare, the more attractive the room.

Virginia Boyd, as president, who presides with charm, is probably a little more sophisticated than most of the group. It is she who conducts the simple devotions (sometimes relying on the Episcopal "Book of Common Prayer") and who so sweetly leads the singing of the official hymn, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

Often the meeting is closed with the singing of "Now the Day Is Over." Juliette is vice president, while May is treasurer. Louise as secretary and Calva as historian are the other officers. Minutes are kept in a "copy book."

The first sister chapter

Through the efforts of Louise Burks Cox, the original plan of expansion was partially realized when on Nov. 30, 1903, a sister chapter became part of Alpha Sigma Alpha: Beta Chapter, at Lewisburg Female Institute, Lewisburg, W. Va. Although the bylaws stated spe-



Hattie Virginia Kelly's room at Longwood College

cifically that the initiation ceremony should never be written — but passed on by word of mouth because of the desire to keep it a secret — economic reasons forced the Alpha girls to write in detail to the Lewisburg girls the full initiation ceremony.

During this school year, the badge was changed from a shield to its present square diamond shape, for the members felt that the shield "was not quite dignified." The first jeweler was A.H. Fettig in Baltimore.

Chickalaca! Chickalaca!

In the 1903 "The Virginian," the Farmville annual, Alpha Chapter had a full page and a picture of its group. It is interesting that the page is headed "Alpha Chapter, Alpha Sigma Alpha," for Beta Chapter was not then in existence. This indicates that nationalization was definitely in the minds of the Farmville girls. The colors were listed as crimson and silver and the flower as the white carnation. This was the yell:

"Chickalaca! Chickalaca!
Razzle! Dazzle! Dalpha!
Boomalaca! Boomalaca!
Alpha Sigma! Alpha Sigma!
Alpha Sigma Alpha!
Rah! Rah!"

"Sorores in collegio" [sisters at the college] were Virginia Lee Boyd, May Williamson Hundley, Louise Pettigrew Price, Marguerite Anthony Palmer, Lucy Hannah Daniel, Angela Carroll Tinsley, Louise Burks Cox, Edna Venable Elcan, Louise Gordon Baskerville, Katherine Earl Boyd and Hattie Virginia Kelly.


Early Alpha Chapter members are, from left, Virginia Boyd, Edna Venable Elcan, Calva Hamlet Watson, Grace Mason Wilson and Louise Pettigrew Price.

"Sorores in urbe" [sisters in town] were Grace Mason Wilson, Calva Hamlet Watson and Juliette Jefferson Hundley. Secretary and treasurer of the "First B Class" of the school was Louise Cox. Angela Tinsley was a member of this class also.

Hattie Virginia Kelly was a member of the Cotillion Club, as were Louise Baskerville, Angela Tinsley, Louise Cox, Edna Elcan, Marguerite Palmer, Virginia Boyd, Ersula Boyd, Louise Price and Lucy Daniel, the club's president. Lucy was also a member of the Dramatic Club.

In the Skaters' Club were Angela Tinsley and Louise Price. Edna Elcan was a member of Tennis Club No. 1. The Rough on Rats group, whose motto was "Teach new girls how to be old ones," and whose aim was "To do others as we have been done," listed Ersula Boyd as one of the two who were "roughest on rats."

Several Alpha Sigma Alphas were listed in the Professional Hall Club. From the record of this group we read a little of what the campus thought of these girls.

Name	*Known as*	*Chief characteristic*	*Favorite pastime*	*Favorite saying*	*Object in life*
Edna Elcan	*Chips*	*Grinning*	*Telling jokes*	*Whoop, Susie!*	*To go abroad*
Louise Baskerville	*Basky*	*Her abundance of hair*	*Dressing her hair*	*Oh, get off!*	*To teach Latin in some college*
Angela Tinsley	*Black Angel*	*Getting up cases*	*Teasing Elise*	*Well, for pity's sake!*	*To love and be loved*
Lucy Daniels	*Lucy Dan*	*Singing like a martin*	*Skipping gym*	*Great Scott!*	*To be engaged once and only once*

Elsewhere, Edna Elcan was listed as the "Merriest Hearted."

" 'Merriest hearted' — that is 'Chips'
Laughing and telling of the classes she skips,
And every day with a smile so sweet
She declares it is not her time to sweep."

In "Caps That Fit," we read "Her sunny locks hung on her temples like a golden fleece." In the same section, the quotation for Angela Tinsley is "Neither a borrower or a lender be."

For Lucy Daniel, one finds the couplet,

"Fear not the anger of the wise to raise,
Those best can bear reproof who merit praise."

For Ersula Boyd, there is the statement,

"I'm quite ashamed — 'tis mighty rude
To eat so much, but all's so good!"

Lucy Daniel also "made" the "Statistics" section as the "sportiest looking, jolliest and wittiest." However, judging from the picture that accompanies the page, "sophisticated" would today be a more descriptive term than "sportiest."

"Alpha Sigma Alpha Fraternity"

"The Virginian" of 1904 listed as college members eight girls: Virginia Lee Boyd, Louise Burks Cox, Katherine Earl Boyd, Mattie Monterey Thomas, Angela Carroll Tinsley, Alma Estelle Thraves, May Williamson Hundley and Hattie Virginia Kelly. In addition to the three girls listed in "sorores in urbe" the preceding year, was Mary Elizabeth Moore.

It is interesting that the page was headed "Alpha Sigma Alpha Fraternity." At the bottom of the page was given the chapter roll. Gamma Chapter was listed as "sub rosa" and no locale given. When the chapter picture was taken, Katherine Earl Boyd was not present, and Mary Moore must still have been in school, for she is pictured.

Chi, the "fraternity of fraternities" established at Farmville in 1900, did not record the existence of Alpha Sigma Alpha that year in the annual by either its picture or its member-

And in the world ...

June 16, 1903

Henry Ford begins selling the Model A auto for $850.

Dec. 17, 1903

Man's first flight by plane occurs. Brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright built the plane.

ship list. However, at some time in 1904, whether it was that year of school or the session of 1904-1905, Mary Henley Spencer and Hattie Virginia Kelly were invited to join as the two Alpha Sigma Alpha representatives.

Each sorority had two girls in the group. Membership being by invitation only, the Alpha Sigmas were justly proud of this recognition. Hattie Virginia Kelly was initiated first, but Mary was not initiated until she had fulfilled the requirements regarding length of attendance at the school. This was in the fall of 1904.

In the German Club of 1903-1904, Alma Thraves was president, and Mattie Thomas drew the cut at the top of the page in the annual. Angela Tinsley, Virginia Lee Boyd, Louise Cox, Calva Watson and Hattie Virginia Kelly were also members. Alpha Sigma Alphas also starred in dramatics, for in the Dramatic Club were Alma, Mattie, Angela, Louise and Luciphine Everett. Alma was "general manager."

Fraternity pins were also important to the Alpha Sigma Alpha girls of that period. Mattie Thomas seems to have had Beta Theta Pi interests, while Angela Tinsley liked the Kappa Alphas.

One page of the 1904 annual has the picture of a long ribbon bearing two skulls, the letters "R.P.C.P.P." and two crossed medieval weapons. With the illustration are nine names, including those of Louise, Calva and Hattie Kelly. In the Cunningham Literary Society, Calva upheld the honor of the chapter. Alma was the censor of the Argus Literary Society. The Glee Club included Hattie Paulett. On the page of "Our Artists," we find Mattie Thomas named.

The First B Class that year included both Angela and Louise Cox. Grouped together on the porch and steps of a college building, this class, garbed alike in stiff white shirtwaists, long dark ties and dark skirts, gave the impression of intelligent, efficient young dignity.

In the Senior A Class were Calva and Hattie Virginia Kelly. Shirtwaist styles differ in this group, and there are fewer of the austere ties, yet the entire class seems keenly aware of its coming responsibilities. Calva, with her sweet smile, large hair bow and turnover collar with its curved corners, looks very young when compared with some of the others in the class.

Gamma Chapter chartered

On May 9, 1904, Gamma Chapter was chartered at College for Women, Columbia, S.C. Alpha Sigma Alpha was the first sorority to place a chapter in this institution.

1904 to 1905

Sorority adds four chapters

Charlotte (Charley) Jones, A, appointed grand historian in 1910, tells the story of the next group of chapters in the May 1911 Aegis:

"The following year, 1905, four new chapters were added to the 'roll call' of Alpha Sigma Alpha. In February, Delta Chapter was established at Mary Baldwin Seminary, Staunton, Va. ... In March, Epsilon was founded at Fauquier Institute, Warrenton, Va. ... On the 28th of October, Zeta Chapter was chartered at Fairmount Seminary, Washington, D.C. ... Owing to faculty ruling Zeta was sub rosa."

During the school year of 1904-1905, Alpha Sigma Alpha received the first communication from Mrs. William Holmes Martin (Ida Shaw). This was considered a mark of ecognition by the young sorority since Mrs. Martin was at that time talking of editing a sorority handbook.

For more on Ida Shaw Martin, a founder of Delta Delta Delta sorority and Alpha Sigma Alpha's national president from 1914 to 1930, see p. 327.

National council 1905-1906

President
Edna Venable Elcan, A

Vice president
Jeanne D. Pelham, Γ

Secretary
Effie C. Mealy, B

Historian
Lucy Daniels, A

ΑΣΑ Magazine editor
Martha A. Wilson, Γ

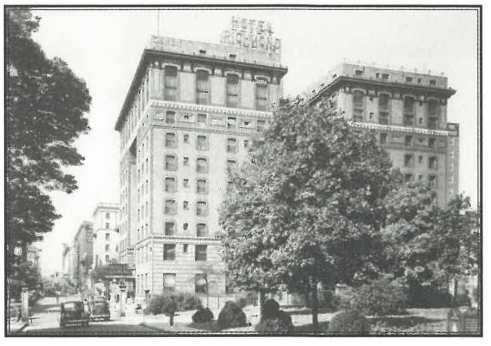
1905 to 1906

The first convention

With six chapters now on the roll, the young sorority proudly called its first convention for Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 29 and 30, 1905. Newspaper clippings of that time reported the event.

"The Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority held its annual convention on Thanksgiving Day at the Hotel Richmond. ... After the business meetings the young ladies attended the football game between V.P.I. and V.M.I. and later on they were entertained at the Academy, after which Alpha Chapter gave a magnificent banquet to their visiting sisters and a number of guests. The dining room was tastefully decorated in ΑΣΑ pennants, the table in American Beauty and white carnations. The souvenirs were ΑΣΑ stick pins, made in the fraternity colors.

"Mr. Eugene G. Adams presided as toastmaster, and in a few well-chosen words introduced Mr. William V. Thraves [chaperone], Amelia County, who responded most delightfully to the toasts to Alpha Sigma Alpha. Miss Jessie Scott, Γ, of South Carolina, charmingly responded to a toast to the invited guests present, and Miss Bessie Ferguson, president of Alpha Chapter, responded in a delightful way to the toast, 'Our Visiting Sisters.' "



The first convention was held at the Richmond Hotel in Richmond, Va.

According to the papers, those present were Annie Thraves [chaperone], Bessie Ferguson, Georgia Newby, Juliette Hundley, Hontas Tinsley, Hattie Paulett, Alma Thraves [convention chairman], Lucy Daniel, Louise Cox, Virginia Boyd, Jessie Scott, Martha Wilson, Prue Colcord, Jane Birthisell, Suzane Bandell and Hattie Kelly Thomas. In addition were their male escorts, several being from V.M.I. or V.P.I.

The paper briefly described the gowns. Annie Thraves wore a white lace "robe"; Hattie Kelly Thomas, pink silk; Virginia Boyd, hand-painted organdy; Juliette Hundley, blue chiffon over taffeta; and Bessie Ferguson, black net over taffeta.

Again noting the account written by grand historian Charley Jones, "The chapters represented were Alpha, Beta and Gamma. The other chapters were prevented from sending representatives by the school authorities. Up to the time of the Richmond convention no officers had been elected to the Grand Council, except Edna Elcan, from Alpha, who was chosen Grand President. She, not being present at the convention, Alma Thraves, from Alpha Chapter, was made presiding officer.

"The most important subject discussed at this convention was that of beginning the publication of a magazine. It was decided to issue a publication three times yearly. The staff was elected as follows: Editor-in-Chief, Martha Wilson; Assistant Editor, Violet Officer; Art Editor, Marguerite Beirne; Assistant Art Editor, Prue Colcord; Business Manager, Alma Thraves.

"The following officers were elected to the grand council: Edna V. Elcan, A, president; Jeanne D. Pelham, Γ, vice president; Effie C. Mealy, B, secretary; Lucy Daniels, A, historian; and Alma Thraves, A, grand priestess.

"Many important bylaws were passed. The time for annual conventions was fixed upon — Thanksgiving of each year."

Eta chartered, Zeta disbanded

On Dec. 15, 1905, Eta Chapter was established at Ward Seminary, Nashville, Tenn.

During the year 1906 a blow came to the young sorority when it was necessary to disband Zeta Chapter at Fairmount Seminary in Washington, D.C., because of the school's anti-sorority laws.



Alpha Sigma Alpha Magazine appeared in May 1906.

Alpha Sigma Alpha Magazine

An important forward step, however, was the appearance in May of Volume I, Number 1, of the Alpha Sigma Alpha Magazine. Bound in gray, with crimson printing, it was priced at "$1.50 per annum, payable in advance; single copies 50¢." Editors were Martha A. Wilson, Γ, and Helen St. Clair Scott, Γ.

The business manager was Mary Henley Spencer, A. Advertisers were welcomed and consisted of various Southern firms dealing in commodities ranging from groceries to real estate.

Each chapter was expected to solicit its quota of advertising. A.H. Fettig, the sorority's official jeweler, advertised as part of a half-page notice (March 1907) that he would send a memorandum package "to any member of the Fraternity through the Secretary of the Chapter."

Rates per year were full page, $15; half page, $7.50; fourth page, $4; and sixth page, $2.50. The magazine contained sorority news, reprints of outstanding articles on the fraternity system, editorials, chapter letters, Alpha Sigma Alpha songs, news of members by chapter, news of other Greek-letter organizations and a directory of the grand council and chapter roll. It was printed by the State Co., Columbia, S.C. The March issue contained 50 pages in addition to five pages of advertising.

1906 to 1907

Bright faces

The March 1907 issue of the Alpha Sigma Alpha Magazine begins with an enthusiastic account of the 1906 national convention:

"The faces of the Alpha Sigma Alphas gathered together at the Charleston (S.C.) Hotel on the twenty-ninth of November were the brightest seen. It was nothing that half had not

arrived until midnight Wednesday, and the other half had sat up to wait for them. There never was congregated a crowd of girls more in the spirit of enjoying every minute of the two whole days.

"This story of the Convention of 1906 must be divided into two parts: the part pertaining to things social, and that other part relating to business proceedings. And I should not be very much surprised if there be a distinct disproportion of parts, an indirect ratio so to speak, as regards their respective importance, between these parts social and businesslike:

"During the afternoon of the twenty-ninth the whole Convention, including guests, drove tally-ho-wise to a football game between the Charleston Amateurs and the South Carolina Military Academy team. For some time both sides were impartially criticized and encouraged. Finally the Citadel boys, after various brilliant plays, won the victory. Then it was decided that the next place of interest to be viewed was the Battery, passing on the way the Colonial Lake.

"To those who have had the good fortune to see a Southern sunset from the western end of the Charleston Battery there is no need to bring again the picture. It cannot be forgotten or dimmed. Then just as we turned, the moon came up over the harbor water, harmonizing with the quietness which was in that part of the city.

"The contrast was marked when we drove away and returned to the hotel. There everything was in a rush to get ready for the banquet. Finally, everybody really did come to the Alpha Sigma Alpha reception room, and in high good humor started for the hall.

"The walls of the hall were hung with trailing Southern smilax, sprinkled with hundreds of tiny colored lights. The table decorations were palms and carnations. Messrs. Riddock and Byrns served one of their well-known dinners.

"Just at the last moment we were much disappointed to know that our Sigma Nu brother, Mr. Henry Cumming Tillman, would not be with us to act as toastmaster. There were many short, informal speeches and songs.

"The Citadel Cadets invited us to their Thanksgiving hop on the same evening; so, when we left the banquet hall we all went on to the dance. This part of the evening was some of the pleasantest hours spent in Charleston.

"On Friday afternoon the native South Carolinians took the other girls to many of the historic places of Charleston. The visitors were very much interested by St. Michael's and its surroundings, and the stories told of the old church.

"Friday evening we saw 'The Merchant of Venice' played by the Ben Greet Company. This play was of great interest to us. ... At 10 a.m., November 29, 1906, the meeting was called to order by Martha Wilson. A letter from Edna Elcan, A, was read, regretting her unavoidable absence.

"Many letters and telegrams of good wishes were then read, after which the regular business meeting was carried on. Lina Wakefield Mattison, Γ, acted as Secretary for the Convention. First, new officers were elected. Next, the Chapter reports were read; then new by-laws and suggestions were submitted. Work was continued until 1 p.m.

"The next meeting was a short one at 7 p.m. that evening. Friday, at 10 a.m., a meeting

National council 1906-1908

President
Edna Venable Elcan, A

First vice president
Jane Birthisel, B

Second vice president
Caroline M. Clay, Δ

Third vice president
Annie Hawkins, H

Historian
Mary Rose Finn, Δ

Secretary and treasurer
Fredree C. Ansel, Γ

ΑΣΑ Magazine editors
Martha A. Wilson, Γ, and
Helen St. Clair Scott, Γ

And in the world ...

1907

Hershey's kisses are introduced.

was called at which the various committees submitted their reports. The Friday afternoon meeting closed the work.

"Saturday morning everyone left, each girl with enthusiasm redoubled, afraid of nothing which might stand in the way of the success of Alpha Sigma Alpha; each with a new, broader spirit of sisterly feeling to take back to her chapter sisters, and each girl taking away indelible impressions of the 'City by the Sea' of South Carolina."

1907 to 1908

Beta, Epsilon disbanded

For financial reasons, it was impossible to hold a convention in 1907. Moreover, early in this year, Beta Chapter at Lewisburg Female Institute, Lewisburg, Va., was disbanded — probably because of low membership. In 1906 there were only eight girls. Epsilon Chapter at Fauquier Institute in Warrenton, Va., also was disbanded sometime in 1907.



In 1908 Alpha Sigma Alpha changed the name of the magazine to the Aegis. The name is linked to the sorority's first patron goddess, Athene. The aegis, a gift to Athene from her father, is a shield.

The Aegis

In May 1908 the name of the magazine was changed to The Aegis of Alpha Sigma Alpha. The binding and format remained almost the same although the editions during most of the 1909-1912 period bore the coat of arms in crimson. Under the title some numbers carried the legend "Devoted to the interests of all Alpha Sigma Alphas."

Iota Chapter installed

Iota Chapter was installed in May 1908 at Randolph-Macon Women's College, Lynchburg, Va.

1908 to 1909

Delta closed

Edna Venable Elcan, A, grand president, called a meeting of all Alpha Sigmas for June 18, 1908, in Lynchburg. The object of the meeting was to revive interest and enthusiasm among the chapters. The meeting was fairly well-attended.

That fall of 1908 there was again disappointment when Delta Chapter at Mary Baldwin Seminary, established in 1905, was ruled out by the faculty.

Third convention: Asheville

The third national convention, held Jan. 1-3, 1909, at The Manor, Asheville, N.C., was enthusiastically described in the May 1909 Aegis:

"When our Grand Council decided on Asheville, North Carolina, as the place to hold our convention of 1908 [1909], it made a wise choice. For where in the east can be found a more beautiful place than Asheville? Its air is the best, its mountains the grandest, and its people the friendliest. And where could we have found a nicer and more homelike hotel than 'The Manor'?

"It was with light hearts and beaming faces that the delegates assembled on the second

day of January to make plans and elect officers for the coming year. In the absence of the Grand President, Bessie Ferguson Cary, A, was asked to preside. Sue Smythe Flinn, Γ, acted as Secretary for the Convention.

"After the roll call and the reports from the chapters, letters and telegrams wishing for the success of the meeting were read. A letter from Edna Elcan was read, in which she expressed her great regret at not being able to be present, and asked that another Grand President be appointed.

"An entirely new Grand Council was formed, composed of:

Grand President: Lina Wakefield Mattison, Γ

Grand Vice-President: Mary C. Ash, Γ

Grand Secretary and Treasurer: Bessie Ferguson Cary, A

"Most of the delegates assembled on December 31, and thus had ample time to see something of the town before the business meetings were called. On the morning of January 1 we boarded a car and went to Biltmore, the magnificent estate of Mr. George W. Vanderbilt.

"It's said that Biltmore estate is without a doubt the finest country place in America, and there are few, if any, in the world to compare with it in elegance of design and splendor of setting. In the afternoon we had a delightful motor ride around the city, and were charmed by the excellent and well kept residences.

"Several delightful drivers added to the pleasure of the occasion.

"Our last evening was spent at the Country Club, where we indulged in bowling and music.

"On the morning of January 3 we separated for our respective homes or schools, filled with enthusiasm, and zealous to do a far greater part towards advancing the interests of our beloved Fraternity."

That issue of the Aegis also announced the 1909 convention at Natural Bridge, Va., "about June 10th, 11th, 12th," and encouraged everyone to send the convention fee of $1.50 to Bessie Ferguson Cary at once.

National council 1908-1909

President
Lina Wakefield Mattison, Γ

Vice president
Mary C. Ashe, Γ

Secretary and treasurer
Bessie Ferguson Cary, A

Aegis editor-in-chief
Jessie Scott, Γ



Bessie Ferguson Cary, A, served as grand secretary and treasurer from 1908 to 1911.

Truly "national"

Of the newly elected grand president, Jessie Scott Arnold, Γ, wrote in 1933, "It was here that Gamma made its greatest contribution to ΑΣΑ. For it was here that Lina Wakefield Mattison became Grand President. No organization has ever had a more devoted, intelligent, loyal and able executive.

"She worked for ΑΣΑ eight hours a day and when that was not enough, eight hours a night as well. She visited every chapter — the first Grand President, I think, who did. Under her supervision the work of the chapters was coordinated. Never had the sorority been so well-organized. Wakefield made it truly 'national.'

"At that time the funds of ΑΣΑ could scarcely be dignified by the name 'Treasury.' When they were insufficient to carry out Wakefield's plans, she used her own money — and then forgot about it. Even though her work later seemed to be frustrated for a time, the spark was never entirely extinguished. And the flame which burns with such a steady light today

was largely of her kindling." For more on Wakefield Mattison, see p. 326.

Handbook includes Alpha Sigma Alpha

When the third edition of The Sorority Handbook by Ida Shaw Martin was published in 1909, the girls rejoiced to find themselves "among those present." In discussing the evolution of the sorority system, Mrs. Martin wrote, "A fourth society founded at the Virginia State Normal School, Alpha Sigma Alpha, has recently placed chapters above the seminary rank, so it is doubtless only a question of time when all these essentially Southern orders will have chapter rolls that will compare favorably with those of the older sororities."

Among publications was listed The Aegis. In classification, Alpha Sigma Alpha was listed among the Class A literary sororities, including such organizations as Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Phi, Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma. Data in the form of grand council personnel, chapter roll, colors and the like, were included.

It is interesting to find that the world knew the sorority as having seven active chapters and one alumnae association, a total membership of 600 and an active membership of 105, with an average initiation of 40. The membership badge was pictured in jeweled and plain forms in cuts at the front of the book.

It was stated that the pledge pin, similarly shaped, was enameled in crimson and that the flag was a pennant of crimson and gray. Probably it was only procrastination that had kept Alpha Sigma Alpha from earlier bound editions, for it is recorded that previous ones had carried a loose-leaf article as the data were "not sent in time."

Sigma Phi Epsilon installed

Sigma Phi Epilson Chapter was installed at Brenau College, Gainesville, Ga., on Feb. 28, 1909, while May 27 and June 5 brought Gamma Beta Sigma at St. Mary's School, Raleigh, N.C., and Kappa Phi at Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio. Thus, with the establishment of Kappa Phi Chapter, Alpha Sigma Alpha went north of the Mason-Dixon line.

And in this Northern state, by this time famed for its unusually large number of accredited colleges and universities, the state in which is located Oberlin College, the first institution to open its doors for women seeking a higher education, the sorority was later to have five other active chapters.

1909 to 1910

1909 convention

From June 10 to 12, 1909, Alpha Sigma Alpha again convened nationally. Of this event an unknown writer in the August 1909 Aegis reports:

"For an order whose founders were idealists of the noblest type there could be no more fitting place of meeting than is Natural Bridge, Va. There is a roundness in the beauty of the low, forest-covered mountains, which is perhaps not grand, but there is no awe in cliffs and crags and snow-covered peaks which one who sees the great phenomenon of the place for the first time does not experience.

"This combination of softness and sublimity makes an environment which those who were present at the last convention of Alpha Sigma Alpha feel to have been in a measure responsible for the success of the meeting — even as the sorority counts success.

"The mornings were given up to the business meetings, and under the skillful and systematic management of the President, the fullest possible amount of work was accomplished.

"The flower of the sorority was changed from white carnation to American Beauty Rose and the jewel from emerald to ruby to harmonize with the colors.

"The afternoons were all too few and too short to visit the many places of interest which Rockbridge County offers to visitors, but the time was utilized to the fullest extent by the sightseers.

"The evenings were devoted to social features of the convention and fittingly closed the days that were filled with so many kinds of pleasure."

A clipping from the Atlanta Constitution, quoted by the Aegis, lists the delegates as Mattie West, A, Virginia Normal School; Kate McSween, Γ, College for Women, Columbia, S.C.; Mary Shuford, ΓΒΣ, St. Mary's School, Raleigh, N.C.; Clara Williams, I, Randolph-Macon Women's College, Lynchburg, Va.; Mary Turner, ΣΦΕ, Brenau College, Gainesville, Ga.; Charlotte Battles, ΚΦ, Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio; Lina Wakefield Mattison, Γ, Bessie Ferguson Cary, A, and Jessie Scott, Γ, of The Aegis.

Other members were also present. Attendance at the convention was mentioned many times in the news items of the various chapters in the next Aegis.

Chapter inspections

During the following year, Madeleine Rollwage, H, inspected Sigma Phi Epsilon, Gamma, Gamma Beta Sigma, Alpha, Iota, Kappa Phi and Eta chapters. If any proof were needed that years make only minor changes in girls and chapters, the reading of her reports is sufficient:

"The offices held by Sigma Phi Epsilon girls bespeak the standing of the chapter in the college. Leslie Harrel holds the two highest offices in school. She is president of the Grand Council and of the Student Union. ... Elizabeth Alexander is editor-in-chief of the Brenau Journal and of the college annual. ...We discussed forming an alumnae chapter in Gainesville and we decided that Mary Lucy Turner should write the Grand President or instructions."

Of Gamma Chapter, Miss Rollwage wrote: "At the time of my visit the chapter had no pledge pins, but they promised to order some right away."

Of Gamma Beta Sigma: "In scholarship St. Mary's is very strict, accordingly none of the girls were exempt from fines, but the rector, among others, stated that the scholarship of Alpha Sigma Alpha is the highest in school." Of Iota, "They have a dear little clubroom up in one of the towers."

Then, at Kappa Phi, "these girls are genuine frat girls; they know their full duty. ...Would that we had a dozen more chapters just like it. ... Each chapter made me feel so 'at home' and the girls are all — well, just what you would expect Alpha Sigma Alphas to be. ...

"At each chapter we sang the Alpha Sigma Alpha songs and talked much about the convention and jubilee celebration. ... I found that each chapter had neglected the correspon-

National council 1909-1910

President
Edna Venable Elcan, A

Vice president
Mary Rose Finn, Δ

Secretary and treasurer
Bessie Ferguson Cary, A

Inspector
Madeleine Rollwage, H

Custodian of the badge
Suzanne Bandell, E

Aegis editor-in-chief
Jessie Scott, Γ

Co-editors
Mary C. Shuford, ΓΒΣ, and Beverly Andrews, A

dence with the other chapters and the Grand Council, but I believe we shall have no more trouble in this way.

"At St. Mary's, Farmville and Mount Union, I attended initiations. And right here let me urge one form of initiation. No similarity existed between these initiations, and we ought to use the same form everywhere. The Mount Union initiation was the most impressive, and what we need is an impressive ceremony."

Apparently in those pre-"progressive education" days, a general average of 90 exempted an active from dues.



Lina Wakefield Mattison, Γ, center, was the sorority's grand president from 1908 to 1912.

A grand wedding

Accounts of weddings now crept into chapter newsletters, one of the outstanding ones being that of Fredree C. Ansel, charter member of Gamma and at one time grand secretary and treasurer, to Dr. George Bunch.

Held at her home, the executive mansion of South Carolina, it was a gala event for Alpha Sigma Alphas thereabouts. The eight bridesmaids were all from Gamma Chapter, and one day there were 24 sorority members in town.

1910 to 1911

Plans and possibilities

The Stafford, Baltimore, was the scene of the 1910 convention, June 9-11. The account of Elizabeth Alexander, ΣΦΕ, in the November Aegis gives highlights of that conclave:

"Without discrediting the charm of those three memorable June days of gala companionship and social event, the Ninth Annual [sic] Convention of Alpha Sigma Alpha must, still, be classed as pre-eminently a Business Convention.

"With plans on foot for the remodeling of a constitution, and the revision of a ritual; with demands from this chapter for less stringent chapter government; and pleas from that for still more 'red tape' the group of 30 or more lawmakers gathered at the Stafford Hotel in Baltimore on June 9, 10, and 11, found themselves pressed for time in which to consider the urgent matters before them.

"The first business session of the 1910 Convention was opened with a few well chosen words from the Grand President, Miss Mattison, Γ, followed by a concise report of the results accomplished by Alpha Sigma Alpha throughout the year, and a sketch of the plans and possibilities open to the sorority for the year 1910-1911.

"Miss Mattison especially stressed the importance of each Chapter's prompt response to the annual presidential message, issued in the fall, and impressed upon the delegates the necessity of advising with their Chapters on this matter.

"Petitions for charters were discussed at length. [Because] the Convention [doesn't possess] the powers to grant charters, the petitions will be presented to the various Chapters with recommendations from the Convention. The inspector's visit was made biennial.

"Perhaps the most important proceeding of the second business session was making the founders of Alpha Sigma Alpha life members of its Grand Council, entitled to all the privi-

leges, and invested with the duties of the regularly elected officers who, heretofore, have formed the chief governing body of the sorority.

"An outline of the proposed plan for remodeling of the Constitution and By-Laws was ready by the chairman of the committee, and accepted by the Convention. The work of remodeling will be done during the ensuing year by the same committee, and submitted in the form of an amended Constitution to the 1911 Convention, which shall take action upon it.

"A form of initiation (consisting of a revision of and additions to the old form) prepared by Miss Alexander, during the past year, was presented to the Convention by the committee, with various amendatory suggestions. After much discussion and some few amendments, the new form was adopted, and will go into effect under the supervision of a Board of Examiners appointed by the Convention.

"The report of the Committee on Alumnae affairs showed plans for the reorganization of the present alumnae system by the following means:

"(1) That a constitution especially adapted to the needs of alumnae chapters be drawn up, and that all alumnae organizations be governed thereby.

"(2) That a Central Alumnae Association, consisting of three members and the vice-president of the Grand Council as chairman, be formed to direct all affairs pertaining to the organization and government of alumnae organizations.

"The plans of the committee were adopted, and a motion was carried that the Central Alumnae Association be appointed by the present Convention, and that this Association be authorized to draw up the said constitution, subject to the approval of the sorority at large, said constitution to be submitted to the sorority at some time during the ensuing year.

"The delegate from Kappa Phi Chapter presented a petition from an alumnae organization in the town of Alliance, Ohio, devoted to the interests of Kappa Phi, asking that this organization be in some way officially recognized by Alpha Sigma Alpha.

"On investigation of the splendid work done by this alumnae association and its helpfulness to Kappa Phi, the organization was made an honorary alumnae chapter to Alpha Sigma Alpha, to be provided for under the constitution to be drawn up by the Central Alumnae Association."

The Alliance, Ohio, petition seems to have been the first one ever received from an alumnae chapter for recognition as such, although in Mrs. Martin's Handbook of 1909, statistics on Alpha Sigma Alpha include an alumnae association.

In addition to the regular officers, the 1910 convention elected a Central Alumnae Association, a board of examiners, an extension committee and additional Aegis officers.

Gains, losses

Because only one girl returned to college in September, it was necessary to disband Eta Chapter at Ward Seminary, Nashville, Tenn. On Nov. 24, 1910, Nu Chapter, Shorter College, Rome, Ga., was welcomed, but just three days before, on Nov. 21, Gamma Chapter girls at College for Women, Columbia, S.C., found a notice on the bulletin board saying that sorori-

National council 1910-1911

President
Lina Wakefield Mattison, Γ

Vice president
Hattie Virginia Kelly, A

Secretary and treasurer
Bessie Ferguson Cary, A

Inspector
Madeleine Rollwage, H

Custodian of the badge
Suzanne Bandell, E

Historian
Charlotte Jones, A

Editor-in-chief
Mary C. Shuford, ΓΒΣ

Co-editor
Charlotte Jones, A

National council 1911-1912

President
Lina Wakefield Mattison, Γ

(Elizabeth Alexander, ΣΦΕ, had been elected when Miss Mattison refused to consider re-election; when Miss Alexander, who was not present at the convention, refused, Miss Mattison was persuaded to act as president pro-tem.)

Vice president
Hattie Virginia Kelly, A

Secretary and treasurer
Arney Robinson, Γ

Inspector
Nancy B. Clarke, Γ

Custodian of the badge
Suzanne Bandell, E

Historian
Charlotte Jones, A

Editor-in-chief
Mary C. Shuford, ΓΒΣ

Co-editor
Charlotte Jones, A

ties were nonexistent in the college from that day.

"The presence of several local sororities was, as far as we could find out, the direct cause and we were told that the decision was positively irrevocable," wrote the girls to the Aegis.

During the first semester of the year 1910-1911, there was debate regarding a proposed union of Alpha Sigma Alpha with Phi Mu Gamma under a new name. However, this idea was abandoned because of objections from the Kappa Phi, Gamma, Iota and Gamma Beta Sigma chapters.

1911 to 1912

Convention in North Carolina

During June 21-23, 1911, the sixth convention was in session at Lake Toxaway, N.C. The Aegis of August 1911 describes it as follows:

"The Alpha Sigma Alpha Convention for the year 1911 was really a very important Committee meeting, composed of a small and select number of girls, held at Lake Toxaway, N.C., on the 21, 22 and 23 of June. Business was strictly attended to and work was done at both morning and afternoon sessions.

"More was definitely decided upon and accomplished at this Convention than at any preceding one. The Constitution was revised and adopted and plans for the direct future of Alpha Sigma Alpha were formulated and agreed upon.

"The following officers and members of Alpha Sigma Alpha were present: Wakefield Mattison, Γ, grand president; Mary Shuford, ΓΒΣ, editor-in-chief, Aegis; Nannie D. Lee, business manager of the Aegis and delegate from Gamma Beta Sigma; Sourie Glover, ΣΦΕ, delegate from Nu [as a faculty member]; Leslie Harrell, delegate from Sigma Phi Epsilon; Nancy Clark, alumna Gamma; Sara Graves, alumna Gamma; Annette Marable, member Nu; and Julia G. Jones, alumna Sigma Phi Epsilon."

In her report, the grand president "followed a few well-chosen words with official announcement of events of the past sorority year: mention of the resignation of the grand secretary and treasurer, Bessie Cary, A, and the work that Arney Robinson, Γ, has done in preparation for the convention in her place; welcome to Nu as a chapter at the first convention it has attended; regrets for the loss of Eta through lack of members; and mention of the establishment of an alumnae chapter in Columbia with Eugenia Childs as president. This chapter owns a club house and confers upon the Gamma girls while students at Columbia the privilege of honorary membership."

Sorority exams

The matter of sorority examinations, discussed at many Alpha Sigma Alpha conventions, was also one for serious consideration at this one. It is interesting to find that it antedates the testing impetus in educational circles of the '20s. Apparently the increase in knowledge of psychometrics caused by the first World War was by no means the stimulus for the Alpha Sigma Alpha program.

Wakefield Mattison, Γ, grand president, as chairman of the committee, presented the

examination to the convention. The first degree deals with parliamentary law and the sorority world as presented in the handbook. This part was approved of with but one suggestion, that the learning of the Greek alphabet be added as a clause to Section VII.

The second degree deals with matters pertaining to Alpha Sigma Alpha. Two minor additions were embodied in this: that the business manager's name and address be added to that of the editor-in-chief of The Aegis and also a list of the defunct as well as the active chapters must be learned. The whole examination was then adopted and highly approved of by the convention.

Constitution revised

Revision of the constitution was also an important matter for consideration. Much credit is due Leslie Harrell, ΣΦΕ, for many valuable suggestions regarding the generalizing and condensing of the constitution.

The most important additions made to this main body of rules were that the custodian of the badge shall be furnished with a roll call of Alpha Sigma Alpha for reference and all alumnae must order jewelry through her — active chapters may order direct from Fettig; the vote of any officer or chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha shall be considered null and void if not sent in two weeks after notification by the secretary; the chairman of the extension committee shall be given a vote on all matters pertaining to the sorority; and the constitution shall only be amended by two-thirds vote of any convention after three months' notice.

The sorority further decided that every active chapter be furnished with a copy of the constitution and bylaws, the work of publication to be in the hands of Sourie Glover, ΣΦΕ, expenses to be paid by the grand treasurer.

All through the convention, and especially during the last meeting, the future of the sorority was discussed.

Wakefield refuses presidency

When Lina Wakefield Mattison, Γ, refused to be re-elected grand president again, Elizabeth Alexander, ΣΦΕ, was elected — although there was doubt about her ability to act in this capacity because she would be in school at the University of Chicago.

Yes, indeed, there was a social side to this convention. An article bearing the caption "The Social Side of the Convention" appeared in the Aegis too. It relates: "The beautiful mountain country was explored and delighted in the entire time. Dancing was enjoyed every night at Toxaway Inn, and the entire party went driving and walking and kodaking every spare minute of the three busy, busy days, and learned to know each other in the most delightful and intimate manner.

"One golden afternoon the whole convention was entertained for the space of three hours away from work by Mr. Don Boozer, from Bainbridge, Ga., who had accompanied his cousin, Leslie Harrel, ΣΦΕ, on her trip to the North Carolina mountains. They were on a launch party around the beautiful lake that lies in and out among the mountains and sighed

National council 1912-1914

President
Susan Duane Galt, Γ

(No records exist of other council members)

And in the world ...

1913

The first home electric refrigerator, the Domelre (for "DOMestic ELectric REfrigerator"), is put on the market in Chicago for $900.

with regret when darkness compelled them to land and return to the hotel.

"The most important social event that the convention enjoyed was the banquet held the last night. The table was beautifully decorated in mountain laurel and all assembled around the board at 9 o'clock with Wakefield, as grand president, presiding. The many courses were enlivened by an equal number of gay and witty toasts given in response to the demands of the toastmistress Mary Shuford, ΓΒΣ.

"Prolonged applause paid tribute to the inspiring and beautiful address by Leslie Harrell on 'Our Tenth Birthday.' Sourie Glover, ΣΦΕ, toasted the alumnae and Nannie Lee, ΓΒΣ, made us all drink to the crimson and gray colors.

"Souvenirs at the banquet were silver bar pins bearing the raised letters of the sorority. The party broke up rather late at night, after much jollity."

Gamma Beta Sigma closed

In the fall of 1911, the Gamma Beta Sigma girls had gone back to St. Mary's School, Raleigh, N.C., with hearts and minds full of Alpha Sigma Alpha. All summer they had thought and planned for rushing season. For one week they rushed. At the end of this time, the rector called an intersorority meeting and announced that sororities would no longer exist at St. Mary's.

However, to partially offset this sorrow, the sorority added to the roll in December 1911 Chi Iota Chapter at Hamilton School, Washington, D.C.

Lack of funds, not material, caused the elimination of the November Aegis, but it appeared again in February 1912 to tell of the post-convention events.

An arduous task

After Elizabeth Alexander, ΣΦΕ, had refused the grand presidency because of her scholastic work, the council had authorized Kappa Phi Chapter to elect a president from its membership. When Kappa Phi replied that no member of its group believed herself capable of such an arduous task as filling Wakefield Mattison's place, Miss Mattison was persuaded to accept the office again until June. She was not president in any part of 1912, however.

According to a Nov. 15, 1944, letter from Wakefield Mattison to historian at the time Louise Stewart, ΥΥ, Susan Duane Galt, Γ, served as grand president from 1912 to 1914.

The statement in the Aegis that "an attractive little brown booklet may be had by writing to the Grand Secretary" announced the readiness of the revised constitution and bylaws of Alpha Sigma Alpha. A scholarship prize and a prize for an Alpha Sigma Alpha song were likewise announced.

1912 to 1913

Down to four chapters

The seventh convention was held in June 1912 at Norfolk, Va., in the Monticello Hotel. Alpha Sigma Alpha now found the sorority diminished to four chapters. The life of Chi Iota Chapter at Hamilton School, Washington, D.C., was limited to but one year, and Nu Chapter

at Shorter College, Rome, Ga., was disbanded sometime during 1912.

However, in its sorrow over lost chapters, Alpha Sigma Alpha was by no means alone. All national sororities were losing charters in Southern institutions, especially those of seminary or junior college rank and, in at least one instance, the mother chapter had to be sacrificed to maintain the prestige of the national organization.

Alpha Chapter at Farmville decided to take no steps toward furthering its own interests until provision for the future of the other chapters could be made. The Iota Chapter at Randolph-Macon Women's College was given an honorable release to Pi Beta Phi and was installed as Virginia Alpha of that organization in 1913.

Delta Delta Delta received the Brenau (Sigma Phi Epsilon) and Mount Union (Kappa Phi) groups in the same manner, installing Sigma Phi Epsilon as its Alpha Epsilon Chapter and Kappa Phi as Delta Nu Chapter, both installations occurring in 1914.