

Keep

Phi Chapter

From "60 Years in Kappa Alpha Theta" page 149

"On April 4, 1889 Helen Widney Watson (Mrs. Harry) and Olive Harrison, took the overnight journey from Los Angeles to San Jose, to initiate at the Phi Kappa Psi house on the campus of the University of the Pacific, the six charter members of Phi. Two years from the following fall, the much advertised Stanford university received its first class on a campus some twenty miles from San Jose. It chanced that just then the University of the Pacific was disrupted by internal troubles, that led to the departure of many members of the faculty, and many students. So, at the 1891 convention, having initiated twenty-two girls, Phi offered to resign its charter, at the same time suggesting the charter be transferred to Stanford university, which its six undergraduate members would enter in the fall. This was a new and novel idea. Nevertheless convention voted 'That the girls of Phi be allowed to take their charter to Stanford university, the matter to be subject to the approval of Mrs. Marx, - she to be empowered to take charge of all papers of Phi until reestablishment or further action.' Mrs. Marx referred to is Harriet Grotecloss Marx (Mrs. C. D.) of Iota, whose husband was a professor on the new university's faculty. By February 1892, the six transferring Thetas had added four freshmen to the group, so Mrs. Marx turned over the charter and papers and Phi thus became the first chapter of a women's fraternity at Stanford university."

CHARTER MEMBERS OF PHI CHAPTER - April 4, 1889

- 1 - Elizabeth W. Gober (Mrs. Philip S. Driver, deceased)
- 2 - Evadne May Hunkins (Mrs. Edwin N. Lapham)
- 3 - L. May Johnston (Mrs. Reuben Brooks Hale, deceased)
- 4 - Mabel Urmay (Mrs. Frederick H. Sears)
- 5 - Sarah Annette Whitehurst (Mrs. Elmer Ellsworth Brownell)
- 6 - Susan M. Kingsbury (deceased)