



ALPHA THETA CHAPTER—Texas University

## KAPPA ALPHA THETA

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### THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Perhaps this sketch of the University of Texas and its student life may best be begun by introducing the writer, a native New Yorker, one time of Iota chapter, now a year in Texas with her husband, a Northwestern University man, librarian of the University. Hence her views of Texas life and customs are those of a northerner and easterner "bo'n and bred," and may be more nearly from the standpoint of the majority of our Theta sisterhood than if she were that *rara avis*, a native Texan.

To the newcomer, the first impression of Texas is of its vast size. You are told beforehand that it is farther from El Paso at the extreme west of the state to the Sabine river at the east, than from Chicago to the Atlantic ocean, and that from Texline to Brownsville, the longest straight line within the state, is as far as from Maine to South Carolina. You are incredulous until you procure a rule and good atlas and are forced to own that it is so. You begin to believe it when, in coming to Austin from the north line of the state, you have travelled fifteen hours on a fairly fast train and have by no means reached its southern border. Meanwhile you have seen the fertile fruit and wheat lands of north Texas give place to great stretches of cotton with its white balls, and these again to the wide undulating plains of the cattle ranges, and you know to the northwest is a much greater cattle country, and to the east are the rice lands, and oil-fields and heavy and varied timber, and yonder are quick-

November, 1904

tending through the four years with its accompaniment of exciting politics, and there is little class loyalty.

Altogether the spirit of the place is one of great friendliness and mutual interest, student body and faculty together, and of marked and sturdy independence, perhaps an inheritance from the well-remembered, cherished days of the Lone Star Republic. There is some crudeness, of course, the crudeness incident to our youth, some lack of tradition, and of a homogeneous, strong public opinion directing student tendencies, but these are faults to be corrected by time, and we lack not faith in our future.

We who are newcomers sometimes laugh a bit at the state-enthusiasm, the sublime self-belief of typical Texas, but, while we laugh, we must own her power of swiftly winning her adopted children. A year under her deep blue skies, breathing her clear air, associating with her hospitable people, gives us sympathy with this attitude of mind, and a share in this enthusiasm and belief.

MARGARET BOYNTON WINDSOR, Iota, '95.

## HISTORY OF BETA EPSILON

Beta Epsilon of Texas, now gloriously exalted into Alpha Theta chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta, is three years old. "The Five Club" was its simple cognomen and the reason was plain to all who read — it contained five members; by name, Susie Weld, 1902; Laura Williamson, 1902; Josephine Eikel, 1904; Katherine Petty, 1904; and Alma Proctor, 1905. They all boarded at Grace Hall, then the only dormitory for women, and being very chummy they naturally, according to the way of girls, formed themselves into a club, without thought of applying for a charter from a national fraternity. Then, though still calling themselves the Five Club, they took in two new members, Emma Sabre, 1904, and Jeanne Gorromn, 1904. Soon they began to discuss the question of applying for a national charter, as that was the initial year for women's fraternities in the University, and naturally, all the girls were interested in them. "The Five Club" did not actually apply, however, as the Dean of Women did not approve of women's fraternities at that time, and the girls did not wish to do it without her consent.

The next year, 1902-3, there were several new members; Gretchen Rochs, 1903; Lillian Greer, 1903; Birdie Jagoe, 1903; Ethel Oliphint, 1904; Janie Ellis, 1905; Hallie Powell, 1905; Lily Campbell, 1905; Anna Simonds, 1906; and Emma Greer, 1905. About this time the name "The Five Club" was, for obvious and sufficient reasons, dropped, and the society began to be known as Beta Epsilon. After several months, they obtained the faculty's consent to petition Kappa Alpha Theta for a charter. The Dean of Women too gave her approval, and all was joy in the hearts of Beta Epsilon. But the joy did not last long. We soon learned that Kappa Alpha Theta was conservative, the most conservative of fraternities, and that we might almost as well aspire to the moon as to the stars of K. A. ☉.

Still we did not lose courage. We had hoped that the Convention of 1903 would take up the matter, but we were to learn that a charter from Kappa Alpha Theta, is not easy to acquire. We heard in the fall of 1903 that they considered us worthy of being investigated, and then in January came Miss Whipple.

On January seventeenth, 1904, we initiated into Beta Epsilon Julia Estill, 1904; Adele Johnson, 1906; Willie Davis, 1906; Mary Greer, 1907, and Grace Nash, 1907, thus increasing the number of our active members to eleven. Miss Whipple arrived on the night of the initiation, and great was the excitement in Beta Epsilon. But oh, the anxiety we strove to hide, the smiles we assumed, during the five days we were on trial! And then came the long months of waiting, while the Grand Council and the chapters voted. It was a rather melancholy group of girls who left the University at the end of the year with no news of a charter.

But that gloom was more than atoned for by the wild joy the telegrams brought us in the summer. I am sure there were no happier girls in these United States than the girls of Beta Epsilon, when they received the joyous telegram from Alma Proctor, then at summer school in Austin, saying that the charter was actually granted. We spent the whole summer in joyful anticipation of the time when we should be really Thetas. A house was leased and all the arrangements made for a chapter house.

At last we are Thetas, and I am sure no one ever appreciated "the wearing of the kite" more than we of Alpha Theta. Beta Epsilon has departed this life; she is not dead, indeed, but transformed and exalted into something nobler and higher in standards, purer in ideals.

EMMA ANTRY GREER.

## THE INSTALLATION OF ALPHA THETA OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA

On the evening of September seventeenth, Kappa Alpha Theta's second southern chapter was installed, in the University of Texas, at Austin, the State capital. For three days before, the installing officer, who had cut short her summer in cool and shady Maine, labored with what vigor she might in weather the Texans called blithely "a little warm." Her guiding star, inspirer, and comfort generally was Mrs. Windsor, known in Cornell in '97 as Margaret Boynton, and on the fateful Saturday night these two faced the problem of the installation of eleven girls.

To go back to the beginning, on my arrival, I was carried straight to what in a few days would be called the Theta House, where one girl and the housekeeper were already settled. At all hours of that day and night arrived the remaining ten. We all knew each other before, and it was a great pleasure to welcome into their house my to-be-sisters, whom I had learned to love in January, when I investigated them in their quarters at Grace Hall. Wild was the confusion in the bedrooms, late the arrivals at meals, but everyone was so excited and so happy, and the only regrets were for the few girls whose homes were so far away that they could not be spared yet to come. For Texas opens October third, and I had been forced by a limited ticket to set the installation two weeks before College opened.

Saturday came, sunny and sultry, with a heat California never yet saw, and the two Thetas heaved furniture, arranged and re-arranged, planned and executed, until the bell rang softly to announce that the candidates had come. What I can tell you of the ceremony I will; you know we have never arranged a separate ceremony for an installation, and owing to our limitations, the Grand President had

November, 1904

allowed us every latitude of arrangement possible. So Mrs. Windsor and I divided the amount, re-arranging into as logical order as possible, cutting unnecessary individuality to save ourselves and the girls exhaustion from the heat, and keeping as prominent as possible the idea that this was Alpha Theta's entrance into Kappa Alpha Theta, as well as the individuals entrance to nationality. I saved until the banquet's end the explanation of the pin, that preceding events might have time to sink in, so to speak, and that every detail might stand very brightly and clearly in their minds.

When the time came for the banquet, which was a very simple affair, and held in the Windsor's own pretty, cool, dining room, even there we were dependent upon ourselves. For it is "cotton picking" time in Texas, and to complicate domestic matters yet more, a colored Baptist convention twenty thousand strong was holding forth in Austin, so that a colored servant could not be had for love or money. But the two Sophomores, Grace Nash and Lucy Whitney, were equal to the emergency, and tucked up their white lacy gowns to carry trays and serve. Mrs. Windsor was at one end of the table, I at the other, the toast mistress, Gretchen Rochs, now Mrs. Goldtschmidt, in the middle of one side, and the President, Adele Johnson, 1905, her vis à vis. But eleven and two make thirteen, and so, at Mrs. Windsor's left, was a tiny high chair, and the Sophomores, shouting with joy, brought in to us, as we stood by our places, two tiny kittens, one yellow with a huge black bow, and one black with a huge yellow one! These were deposited in the high chair, and then, the ice broken and clinking cheerfully, we took our seats. The kittens were promptly christened Beta and Epsilon.

It was not a hilarious table exactly, feeling ran too deep for hilarity. The toasts were good — here is the list:

Beta Epsilon — Katherine Petty, '04.

The House — Adele Johnson, '05.

The Charter — Emma Greer, '05.

Theta Babies and Baby Thetas — Mrs. Windsor.

Kappa Alpha Theta — Marion Whipple.

Next morning there was the Journal picture to be taken, then in the afternoon, at two-thirty began our first business meeting; general,—while the Constitution was read, and much discursory illustration, question, answer, and anecdote took place; 'especial—when officers were elected, and the business of the first meeting took place. It was *business*, too; and rejoiced my heart. It was parliamentary, dignified, alert; they had already a chapter policy developed in three years of good, solid Beta Epsilon training, the officers got to work, in seriousness, and the alumnae and I sat back and tried to keep in order.

The House business was the most engrossing, and again I found the little sisters had good business heads, and kindly hearts and tactful hands. The three house Seniors—there will be eight house girls—are in general charge; one is the dining room manager and head of the House; the other two are responsible for the appearance of, respectively, the parlors, and the upstairs rooms. Under them, to do the actual work, are the two Sophomores; and here you see, is the beginning of committee responsibility with its invaluable training in promptness, reliability, thoroughness. Furthermore, an old hobby of mine, which, when I lead him from his stable, neighs with the joy of battle: *the training of the underclassmen*. Work your Freshmen hard on Committees, telephone and door service, house keeping; and when they are Seniors they will be administrated heads, who can plan, while other Freshmen and Sophomores execute the mechanical labor, and learn punctuality, reverence for their elders, and the necessity of the parts unifying to produce a competent whole.

When the real meeting was done, at almost seven, the alumnae stayed to ask eager questions about what they could do for the chapter and the house, and I explained all I could; the secretaries and treasurer stayed to get exact information about methods; the archivist gathered together

with glee those already established jokes of one day; the Fraternity jeweler who had respectfully alluded to the "Insulation"; the telegraph operators who had signed one telegram "E. P. Silon"; and the remark of the wit, when the kittens were missed, "Gone forth to rush mice!"

There was an influx of men that night, and next morning I departed from Austin, bearing with me the warmest hopes and the sincerest convictions of the safety of Kappa Alpha Theta in Texas University. Dear little sisters! I wish every one of you could know them, and rejoice as I do in this new addition to our ranks. The ten days forcing of time, for which I was responsible, and which greatly inconvenienced them, their families and their purses, and prevented two from coming to the grand event, they turned with beautiful philosophy and courtesy to its best advantage; that it would be a real blessing to them in learning to know each other, to settle their house, and to plan thoroughly the campaign of the coming year. By their request, my picture was taken with them, for which I am sincerely grateful; and when I left, the secretary was already working on the letters to those who had so kindly remembered us that night — the chapters and officers for their telegrams of good will, the other women's fraternities for their flowers, and thoughtful, ever gracious Phi for her gifts and loans.

Thus ends my share in the installation, and I thank sincerely those in power who made it possible for me to know and trust and personally love, each individual member of Alpha Theta.

MARION CRINS WHIPPLE,  
*President Gamma District.*

## REPORT

### Of the vote on the Four Motions, submitted by the Inter-Sorority Conference to the Nine Sororities represented in it.

The Inter-Sorority Conference of September, 1903, submitted to all the Sororities represented in it four motions, on which it asked that a vote by chapters be taken in each Sorority. The results of this vote were to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Conference by March 1, 1904, and by her reported to the Sororities. The last report has just been received, April 25, 1904, and the Secretary begs to submit the following statement of the result:

#### PI BETA PHI.

Motion 1—	Lost.	Vote 15-17.
" 2—	Tie.	" 16-16.
" 3—	Carried.	" 23- 9.
" 4—	Carried.	" 27- 5.

#### KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA.

Motion 1—	Carried.	Vote 16-10.	No report from 3.
" 2—	"	" 16-10.	No " " 3.
" 3—	"	" 21- 4.	No " " 4.
" 4—	"	" 21- 4.	No " " 4.

#### KAPPA ALPHA THETA.

Motion 1—	Carried.	Vote 17- 4.	No report from 1.
" 2—	"	" 17- 4.	No " " 1.
" 3—	"	" 19- 2.	No " " 1.
" 4—	"	" 19- 2.	No " " 1.

#### DELTA DELTA DELTA.

Motion 1—	Tie.	Vote 9- 9.
" 2—	"	" 9- 9.
" 3—	Carried.	" 13-15.
" 4—	"	" 12- 6.

#### ALPHA PHI.

Motion 1—	Carried.	Vote 7- 5.
" 2—	"	" 8- 4.
" 3—	"	" 9- 2.
" 4—	"	" 10- 2.

#### CHI OMEGA.

Motion 1—	Carried.	Vote 9- 5.
" 2—	"	" 9- 5.
" 3—	"	" 11- 3.
" 4—	"	" 11- 3.

#### DELTA GAMMA.

Motion 1—	Carried.	Vote 12- 4.
" 2—	"	" 12- 4.
" 3—	"	" 13- 3.
" 4—	"	" 13- 3.