

# Theta in Greencastle, Indiana

*A historical walk through Greencastle, highlighting the places connected to the early members of Kappa Alpha Theta*



**1. Hannah Fitch's boarding house: Northwest corner of S College Ave. and E Hanna St., just south of the Phi Kappa Psi facility**

This is the building where it happened! On Jan. 27, 1870, Bettie Locke, Alice Allen, Bettie Tipton, and Hanna Fitch met in the upstairs room and had the first meeting of Kappa Alpha Theta.



**2. Birch Cottage: S Indiana Ave., somewhere between E Seminary St. and E Hanna St.**

Bettie Locke lived here during her college days, 1867-1871. Her parents moved into this house in 1866 as her father served as Professor of Mathematics at Indiana Asbury. Unfortunately, we do not have the specific address of the home, as it seemed to be common knowledge where the cottage was located.

**3. Edifice/West College: Front of the Roy O. West Library**

The original Indiana Asbury college building was named the Edifice. Construction began in 1837, the founding year of the university. It contained classrooms and the famous chapel into

which the founders walked to front, wearing their badges for the first time on March 14, 1870. The Edifice burned down in 1879, was rebuilt in 1880, and eventually torn down in 1934.



**4. Theta House: 302 S Indiana St.**

Thetas met in a variety of locations in their early years, including the Theta House in the 1900s. Additionally, according to the Alpha Chapter minutes, a meeting was held at a house on the corner of S Vine St. and E Poplar St. on Jan. 31, 1876, belonging to Dr. Samuel Fisher. Their daughter, Agnes Fisher Walker, was a member of the chapter.

**5. Edward A. Hamilton's Specialty Dry Goods Store: 2 W Washington St.**

After their marriage in 1875 in Jerseyville, Ill., the Hamilton family moved to Independence, Mo., where Edward owned a store. When their daughters reached college age, they moved to Greencastle in 1892. Financial challenges led to the closing of the store by 1907. Today, the building no longer exists.

**6. The home of Bettie Tipton's grandparents Miller and Margaret Black: E Franklin St./N Locust St./Washington St./N College Ave. area**

Bettie visited her grandparents prior to her enrollment in fall 1869 and decided to attend Indiana Asbury. By the fall of 1870, her sister was attending Millersburg College in Kentucky and Bettie's parents transferred her to be with her sister. Bettie established a short-lived Theta chapter at Millersburg.

**7. The home of John Clark Ridpath: 602 E Washington St.**

Professor Ridpath was a significant supporter of the four founders and their work with creating the Theta badge. There is a reference to some early badge design work occurring in the Ridpath kitchen. Professor Ridpath is credited with connecting Bettie Locke with John Newman, a New York jeweler, to help produce the first Theta badge.



**8. Bettie Locke Hamilton's home, 1892-1939: 99 S Locust St., northeast corner of S Locust St. and E Walnut St.**

Bettie, her husband Edward, and her two daughters Edna and Eulalia, moved to Greencastle in 1892 so that both daughters could attend DePauw. Both Edna and Eulalia were members of Alpha Chapter in the early 1900s.

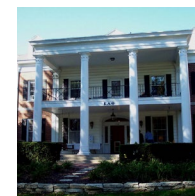


**9. East College**

Construction on this building began in 1870 while several of the founders were still on campus. The lower floors were opened to use in 1874 and the building was completed in 1877.

**10. Kappa Alpha Theta Memorial Garden: Green Center for the Performing Arts, northeast corner of E Olive St. and S College Ave.**

Dedicated in 1976, the Memorial Garden was made possible because of a gift from Theta to DePauw in recognition of the 100th anniversary of our founding in 1970. Four trees were also planted, each representing a founder.



**11. Alpha Chapter House: 904 S College Ave.**

Chapter members selected this site as their chapter facility in 1920. The structure

was built in 1940 with an addition created in 1980. The house's location has a long connection with Theta. The 1876 Grand Convention was held in Greencastle and the closing dinner was held at the building that stood here prior to the current structure being built.

**12. Forest Hill Cemetery: Gravesite of Bettie Locke Hamilton, turn left on the first road once entering the main entrance of the cemetery, edge of lots 5 and 6, block 4, range 7**

Bettie's grave is to the right near the small bridge, about halfway between the two roads. Please be respectful of the setting and others visiting the cemetery.

**13. Alice Allen's Family Farm: 1715 N County Road 175 W**

Among the first five women to be admitted to Indiana Asbury in 1867, Alice often commuted to school via horseback from her family farm. Even after moving away from Indiana, Alice visited her home in Indiana frequently.

**14. Brick Chapel Cemetery: Gravesite of Alice Allen Brant, 3547 US-231**

Alice's grave is located on the north end of the cemetery. If approaching via the outer drive, it is about halfway down and to the right. You will need to look for the row that begins with "Knoll." It is the third stone to the south. There is a large capped white stone with a small individual marker along with the special marker placed for Theta's centennial anniversary in 1870. Please be respectful of the setting and others visiting the cemetery.

# Locations

