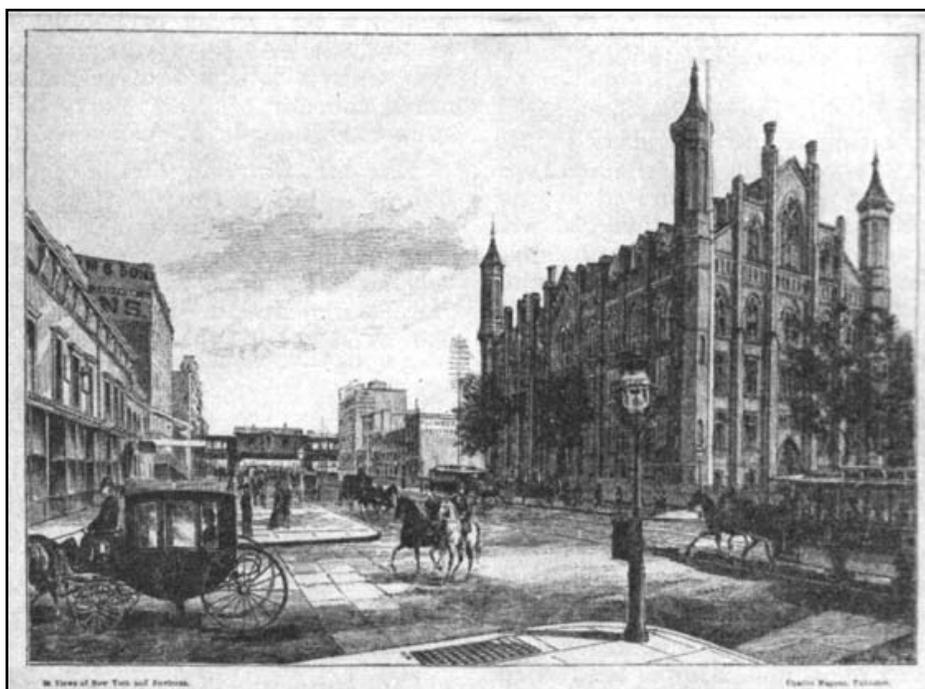


Report of the Historian (#22) to the One Hundred Sixty-Sixth Annual Convention of the Chi Psi Fraternity

1. **This Convention** is the first-ever Chi Psi Annual Convention held in Nashville (although probably not the last), and the third to be held in Tennessee. All three Tennessee Conventions have been held within the last decade: The 2004 Convention was held in Sewanee, and it celebrated the fortieth anniversary of Alpha Tau Delta at the University of the South. The first Tennessee Convention was split between the University of Mississippi campus in Oxford, Mississippi, and the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, just seven years ago in 2000. (Speaking of Memphis, in just a few days, on 16 August, Memphis marks the 30th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley. So let's all be humming "Walking in Memphis.")

2. **Anniversaries:** This year marks a number of significant anniversaries for some of our Alphas and colleges. It is the 165th anniversary of our becoming a national fraternity, with the 1842 installation of our second Alpha, Alpha Theta at Williams. It is the 150th anniversary of Alpha Kappa at CCNY (see #4 below). It is the 115th (in 1892) of our refounding of Alpha Pi at Union; the 95th of Alpha Zeta Delta's founding at Illinois; the 60th of rechartering Epsilon Delta at Northwestern (the Alpha was formerly located at the University of Chicago until 1942); the 30th of chartering Alphas Omicron Delta at W&L and Mu Delta at Rollins; and the fifth anniversary of Alpha Pi Delta at North Carolina State. This is also the 190th anniversary of the founding of the University of Michigan (1817), the 150th of the University of the South, and the 140th anniversary of the founding of the University of Illinois and the University of Colorado (1867).

3. **One Hundred Fifty years ago**, the host of our 2004 Convention and host of the closest Chi Psi Alpha to us this week, the University of the South, was established at Sewanee, Tennessee. On 4 July 2007, for ten months, friends of the University of the South began celebrating the 150 years of distinguished history enjoyed by a great institution of higher learning. Celebratory events are planned throughout the year to commemorate a meeting of southern bishops of



College of the City of New York

the Episcopal Church on Lookout Mountain that formally set the organization of the university in motion. (That same year, Chi Psi's Convention was held in Boston, Mass.)

4. **One Hundred Fifty years ago**, on 27 November 1857, Chi Psi extended its circle of brotherhood to Alpha Kappa at the College of the City of New York. CCNY was for many years known as the Free Academy. It was, in fact, the highest grade of the public school system of the metropolis. Though it was collegiate in rank, with the power of conferring collegiate degrees, and furnished to its students a training unsurpassed in any other institution, yet unfortunately it was not collegiate in name and among college students there was a slight prejudice against, due partly to its connection with the school system and partly to that absence of college life which is the inevitable fate of a city institution. Still, in 1857, the Free Academy was an institution in which wealthy and cultivated New Yorkers took pride, and to which they were accustomed to send their sons. In social polish and in the qualities of true manliness, her students ranked high.

A letter from 1857 written to M. H. Goodrich, E'45, speaks of the quality of the school and its petitioners: "We have received a petition from a number of the members of the Free Academy for an Alpha there. We sent a committee down to look at them and report thereon. The institution is in everything but name a college. It enjoys all the privileges and immunities that any college can boast of, and in all probability it will be changed to 'Manhattan College' within two years... The petitioners are as fine a set of fellows

as can be picked out, taking the highest honors in their classes, and of a class well worthy to be initiated into the glorious brotherhood of the Chi Psi's ever faithful children. There is every prospect that if established it will be one of our best Alphas.... It seems as though there can be no reasonable objection raised, and we hope soon to hear that all have voted in favor of the petition."

The Alpha was never very large numerically, but its selection of members was always wise. In 1866-67 various causes almost occasioned the death of the Alpha; it became reduced to a very low condition, active work being practically suspended. On 6 June 1867, a number of the resident alumni met with the active men and new life was instilled in the Alpha. The event was celebrated by an appropriate spread and symposium at Solari's restaurant, then located at Eleventh Street and University Place. A number of loyal Chi Psis, some of them of great prominence in the metropolis in later years, carried on the banner of the Alpha for several years, but in 1873, when apparently in vigorous condition, the Alpha foreseeing the approaching deterioration in the quality of the student body at the College of the City of New York (as it was renamed in 1864), surrendered its charter and became dormant.

Allen Lee Smidt, K'70, wrote many years later: "I was initiated in Alpha Kappa in 1867 and its active and alumni members at that time were the finest lot of fellows I have ever been privileged to associate with. It must be admitted that we were a social fraternity, not an educational adjunct. The other fraternities considered us exclusive and accused us of thinking of ourselves a little better than anybody else, and I am inclined to think that they were more than half right. But Chi Psi of those days was different; we did not seek members. Few Alphas had more than fifteen members. We did not take men because of the college activities or pre-imminent scholarship. We sought congenial men of social prominence and if they maintained a respectable standing in their classes, that satisfied us. We were a band of Brothers and we were fond of each other and of our Fraternity. In a city as New York was then where all the students of a college live at home, it is hard to develop the Lodge spirit; but Alpha Kappa had it. Almost every afternoon or evening some of us were in the Lodge rooms. We preferred to be there rather than seek diversion elsewhere. There, too, were many graduates of Alpha Theta and Alpha Pi living in New York, and they frequented our Lodge rooms and exercised over us an inspiring influence.

"Some time in 1880, I was with Commodore Gerry, Z'57, and Judge Monell, L'63, and Gerry happened to say that Zeta had never surrendered her charter and that it was then in the possession and custody of Major Keteltas, Z'57, and that he would like to revive the Alpha. I told him that I knew a couple of likely boys in Columbia, unaffiliated, and that if he wished I would speak to them and introduce them to

him. I did so, with the result that they found three more. A number of Zeta graduates became interested and a dinner was held at the Hotel Brunswick, a Lodge was opened, and the five initiated. The rejuvenated Alpha, however, did not thrive. They increased their number to eight, the last two in the class of 1885, and then passed out. I always believed that the over-nursing was responsible for it. The old Zeta men were very enthusiastic, hired and furnished Lodge rooms and generally coddled and indulged the undergraduates to such an extent that they had no incentive to exert themselves.

"When I look back, I feel and appreciate how much Chi Psi meant to me and how the memories of those days brighten the way toward the end of the road. Sixty-two years a Chi Psi with never an unpleasant incident. Truly we are brethren."

5. One Hundred Twenty-Five years ago, The 1882 Convention was held on 1-2 March at Burnet House in Cincinnati, Ohio. L.R. Head, I'82, served as #6 and J. H. Brandnow, P'83, as Secretary. At the Convention it was resolved, "that it is the sentiment of this Convention that the tendency toward the unwise and indiscriminate establishment of new Alphas be severely deprecated and censured and the upmost diligence should be exercised in investigating the standing and condition of the proposed Alpha and the institution with which it is connected."

Such anti-extension feelings have always been a bit surprising to some of us who feel that we can still be a close-knit family fraternity with twice as many Alphas. But "Smaller is better" and "Let's not extend to more attention to our existing Alphas" is always lurking just around the corner. At the moment of that resolution (1882), Chi Psi had 14 active Alphas (and 8 dormant ones). By 1907 we were up to 18 Alphas. Then, after the fervor of extension fever gripped us in the 1920s, Chi Psi had a whopping 28 Alphas by June 1928. In spite of regular surveys of undergraduates and alumni over the last 80 years that suggest our Brothers would like to be at least a little bigger, we expect to close this Convention with 28 Alphas – the same number that we had in 1928.

6. One Hundred years ago, in 1907, the Annual Convention was held from 3-5 April at the Hotel Astor Longacre Square, New York, New York, under the auspices of Alpha Rho. Recent alumnus Francis E. Wilber, P'05, served as the #6; future Executive Council Chair and #7 Stanley Birge, then with just the designation X'08, who was #1 at Alpha Chi, served as the Convention Secretary. "Honored and beloved" Elbridge T. Gerry, Z'57, #7 from 1882-1914, gave the address of welcome. This event was the first gathering of the Chi Psi family following the tragic fire at Cornell just five months earlier.

The Purple and Gold reported that the most interesting occurrence during the first days sessions,

from many standpoints, was the sending by the Convention of formal messages of thanks numerous individuals at Cornell and in Ithaca for their timely and generous assistance to Alpha Psi when in dire trouble. The Convention also sent messages of thanks to the New York Alpha of Phi Kappa Psi and to the Cornell Chapter of Alpha Delta Psi.

7. Fifty-five years ago, in 1952, the 111th Annual Convention was held on 14-16 May in Champaign-Urbana, under the auspices of Alpha Zeta Delta and the Illinois alumni. The Fraternity has been invited by Alpha Zeta Delta bring the 171st Convention to Champaign in 1912 for Zeta Delta's Centennial Anniversary. At the 111th, there were several items worth noting:

- The Chi Psi Service Ring, by resolution of the Convention, could now be worn by any alumnus. Prior to this action, the ring was available only to Brothers in the Armed Services. By the 1960s, undergraduates were allowed to purchase rings. Then in the early 1970s, for a few years, the ring became an option that one could purchase upon initiation instead of a Badge. Eventually that was reversed, with a desire that each initiated Chi Psi should have his own Badge. The Service Ring remains available to any initiated Chi Psi.

- The 111th Convention saw the "premiere" of the long-playing (33 1/3 rpm microgrove) record of Songs of Chi Psi (recorded by RCA Victor on a pure vinylite ten-inch disk). The words and music on the record were selected by the Executive Council from songs in the official Fraternity songbook (with the addition of "Maid of Chi Psi") and recorded by the Don Craig Male Chorus of New York. Truman Bidwell, BA'25, is said to have guided the project to its successful completion. It was the Council's hope that "Chi Psi Brothers old and new would find an enduring musical treasure which will serve to keep alive the cherished spirit of their beloved Fraternity." Almost 40 years later, F. Van S. Parr, A'29, #7, funded new copies of the recording for all the Alphas. (At the time, cassette tapes were the best technology for passing the music on. We hope that within the next year a new edition on CD and MP3 with younger men's voices will be available to all Chi Psi Brothers.)

- Improvement Award — The Convention asked the Executive Council to give consideration to a new trophy that would be awarded to the Alpha that had shown the most improvement over the previous year. One would suspect that some Fraternity leader(s) (aka "#23 Slip Slifer, E'12") must have opposed the idea, perhaps because a large part of Thayer Trophy judging then was based on improvement, or perhaps because of a sometimes-displayed Epsilon crankiness about too many awards. Four years earlier, it was reported that "Alpha Alpha Delta won the Wheeler Trophy for greatest improvement... a new trophy presented by the retiring Visitor Paul B. Wheeler, H'40." That trophy was never heard from again. It finally

took an overwhelming Convention vote in 1974 to end up with the permanent Founders' Trophy we have today.

8. Thirty-five years ago, Convention was held in Boston, at the Sheraton Plaza at Copley Square. Delegates were advised to stay clear of the area around the new Prudential building, as glass panels regularly fell off toward street level. The highlight of the trip for most delegates was an evening cruise through the Harbor Islands with a lobster bake at an old fort. The Stanley J. Birge Award had been created the year before, at the Washington, D.C. Convention, and the first presentation was made at Boston (by Stanley himself) to George Butler, Sigma '72. The new Alpha at Clemson had been installed the previous January, and Alpha Chi Delta delegates attended their first official Convention at Boston.

9. Thirty years ago, Chi Psi chartered two brand-new Alphas in the same year, at Washington and Lee and Rollins. This was something Chi Psi hadn't done in 56 years (since the beginning of the Slifer era, when we went to Oregon and Washington in 1921). The new Alphas begun in 1977 were very different from each other in origin, as Mu Delta at Rollins was an existing local group (the Lambdas), and Omicron Delta at W&L started from scratch for the purpose of becoming an Alpha.

10. Twenty-five years ago, Alpha Theta Delta was brought back from the dead. This Convention marks the 25th anniversary of the unofficial refounding of Alpha Theta Delta, after the Alpha was down to just three members and almost disbanded. Following a crisis meeting" with local alumni and #7 Oliver Rowe, Σ'25, a bunch of dedicated Brothers pitched in and rebirthed the Alpha. Those Brothers included Visitor Julian Emerson, B'80 (who now chairs the Educational Trust), Epsilon transfer Craig Chelius, E/ΘΛ'83, Bryan Van Meter, HA'83 and Greg Brown, HA'84 (Oregon Brothers who spent a summer in Seattle as summer recruitment chairs), a core of stalwart local alumni, and a bunch very dedicated alumni. The growing new Alpha captured the Founders Trophy in 1983. Then they went on to grab the Goodbody Award six times (in 1986, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2004) and also the Thayer Trophy an unprecedented nine times in twenty years – including five years in a row (in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1998, 2003, and 2006).

17. Ponce De Leon Toast – This is a "toast" (really more of a short address by today's standards) delivered by the Honorable Charles A. Hawley, Phi '59, at the Hamilton Chi Psi Birthday Banquet on 26 June 1907. The Banquet served as the dedication of the new Lodge, after a fire (with no fatalities) had destroyed the previous Lodge in 1905 – a year before the horrific fire at Cornell. He was asked to make his

toast about an assigned topic – this being about the explorer Ponce De Leon (not to be confused with the Atlanta street of a different pronunciation). It is altered slightly to fit in the space allotted here):

A man who kept a ramshackle hotel saw a newly arrived guest with an arm around his daughter's waist. "Mandy," he said. "Tell that man to take his arm away from your waist." "Tell him yourself," said Mandy. "He's a perfect stranger to me."

So the historical character to whose name I am asked to speak is a perfect stranger to me. I know that he was an old man who sought to regain his youth, and failed. Perhaps because of my being an ancient Brother that is the implied suggestion of the toast. If so, I do not accept it.

Titbottom, the old bookkeeper in Curtis' Prue and I, was wont to say with a smile of immortal youth, that "age is a matter of feeling and not of years." That is a true philosophy for any old Chi Psi who can carry, as I can carry, the joys of a long experience of brotherhood into his regenerated youth, – a glad experience "which throws over the past the freshness of a new morning and puts the fire of rekindled blood into his older veins."

This rejuvenating power of our fraternity life is not new thought to me.

In 1870, our Convention was held in Clinton. One evening in the old Stone Church, before a great and brilliant audience, Antoinette Sterling, then in the early fullness of her vocal powers which afterward made her famous round the world, sang for us. Towner '85 read a poem, and in an address I said, "Fraternities are the natural product of student life. In every institution of learning students crystallize into clubs and societies and from this development of the social nature by culture and contact spring fraternities, and among them our own beloved, around whose shrines we gather with joy and gladness, though many years have passed since her early vows. This gives to student life its charm, crowds its years with delightful memories, and then in after-time swaying over us a magic sceptre, bids the years roll back and makes men boys again."

Thirty-seven years have fled away, but I stand tonight by what I said on that occasion; and so, thought I have been a Chi Psi for more than fifty years, I am not more than fifty years old, but, as Dr. Holmes so delightfully expressed it, a Chi Psi "more than fifty years young."

The old Spanish explorer should have postponed his birth for a few centuries and become a Chi Psi, and then within our charmed and delightful circle he would have found the fountain of eternal youth.

We gather here under a new roof-tree. This beautiful Lodge will have an uplifting influence upon the Alpha which here has its home, and a reflex uplifting influence upon every other Alpha; and so by it something will be done to develop the ideal fraternity.

But that development must be a growth and not a memory. It is not upon a past, however bright, nor upon present surroundings, however beautiful, that our supremacy depends.

It depends upon developing through all changes, keeping pace in all our growth with that traditional spir-

it that puts deeds before words; that seeks realities, not shams; that no defeat can discourage and no success can intoxicate; that maintains an ideal of courtesy and scholarship, of loyalty and honor, an ideal only to be felt and striven for, not to be paraded and talked about.

This ideal requires high character, good habits, and true manhood. "What a man earns in the daytime goes into his pocket; but, my young Brothers, what he spends in the evening goes into his character."

I requires unswerving loyalty. I have heard of a man who wouldn't be a cook on a two-masted schooner because of the scripture saying that "no man can serve two masters." The ideal fraternity tolerates no divided allegiance.

There are other fraternities. Some are worthy rivals, but many of them exist, or did in my day, for inscrutable reasons. They may, however, be useful at rushing time for purposes of comparison. Like the Sunday school girl's definition of a lie, they are "an abomination to the Lord, but a very present help in time of trouble." To all of these we should be courteous or tolerant, but reserve loyalty and allegiance for our own.

But to realize this high ideal, there must also be what I think is our distinguishing feature, a careful selection of men and the survival of the fittest. This requires not any fine-spun theory, but study and judgment of character. Lincoln said that if he "wanted a man to buy him a horse, he wanted a man who knew the points and character of a horse, rather than one who could tell how many hairs were in his tail."

A Chi Psi thus selected will be a man who "keeps the company of his self-respect;" a genial but sturdy character, of whom we may say, he grasps a great purpose with a grip of iron but the iron hand is gloved with velvet; a man who sticks to a Brother in distress or adversity, or when he is under a cloud and illustrates the truth of the paradox that "he who stoops to raise the fallen, stands erect."

Cherishing these high ideals and living here a fraternity life in harmony with its beautiful home, may we not expect that young Brothers, animated by noble purposes and fired with high ambitions, will more and more throng our gates and be welcomed to our secret shrines as the years go by?

And to paraphrase a sentence uttered by Dr. North fifty years ago, may we not expect that our annual banquets will become, more and more, glad carnivals of good fellowship where "wit and eloquence, repartee and song, shall jewel the feet of the hours as they trip smilingly away."

My Brothers, it is my parting wish for this dear Fraternity that it may here live this ideal fraternity life through all the endless years,

"Till the sun grows cold, And the stars are old,
And the leaves of the judgement book unfold."

Respectfully submitted, I am

Yours in Chi Psi,



W. S. Hattendorf, Jr., AA '69, Σ '82
#22 (Historian)