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Academy

1892-1913

Acacia

1904-1913

Historical Sketch of the Fraternity

By

FRANCIS W. SHEPARDSON, *of Ayin*
Grand President 1910-1913

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THE ACACIA FRATERNITY.

The Beginning.—The Acacia Fraternity is an outgrowth of Masonic interest at the University of Michigan. Its birth-place was a little room in the boarding house, No. 236 South Thayer Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Here a small group of Master Masons, under the leadership of W. S. Wheeler, Law '04, and W. J. Marshall, Lit-Medic '07, met each week during the winter and early spring of the college year 1903-04 and gradually worked out the idea of a college men's Masonic fraternity. The substantial basis was the University of Michigan Masonic Club, which was started in the early part of February, 1894, when P. A. Shanor and E. W. Moore of Pennsylvania, W. S. Rundell of Michigan, and W. C. Michaels of Kansas, all members of '95 Law, decided to call a meeting for considering the formation of a Masonic Club. After two trials a meeting attended by fourteen men was held February 24, 1894, P. A. Shanor being temporary chairman and W. C. Michaels temporary secretary. March 1, 1894, a constitution was adopted and officers were chosen, P. A. Shanor being made president, B. C. Morse, vice-president, and F. W. Blake, secretary-treasurer, these men representing, respectively, the Law, Literary and Dental Departments of the University. This club was incorporated June 5, 1895. At the opening of the new college year in the autumn, some rooms were fitted up for club purposes. By March 1, 1896, there were ninety-four active members. In the autumn of 1900, W. J. Marshall, with John R. Wilson and Frank K. Leighton, assumed the responsibility of renting a house as a sort of chapter house. That year No. 313 North Thayer street was occupied and during 1901-1903 No. 801 South State street.

The Larger Vision.—Owing to the lack of enthusiasm of the officers and the loose construction of the organization, interest was almost dead when the college year 1903-1904 opened. Only three members attended a meeting, W. J. Marshall, C. A. Sink and Clarence G. Hill. These determined on that October day in 1903 to reorganize the club on a more stable and permanent basis and to seek co-operation with similar clubs known to exist in other institutions. While the minutes of the meetings in the formative period of Acacia unfortunately were destroyed (statement of W. J. Marshall, *Journal*, Vol. II, No. 1, p. 48), the fraternity had the great advantage of having the history all carefully written out in detail by its founders in several *Journal* articles, this publication thus becoming invaluable source material for the historian. On January 30, 1904, "it was moved and supported that the president and two others whom he shall appoint shall constitute a committee to ascertain the legal requirements for

forming a fraternal organization to be national in its scope." This committee consisted of President W. S. Wheeler, J. W. Hawkins and B. E. DeRoy. A few important dates are to be noted showing how the organization developed. On April 2, 1904, committees were appointed as follows:

(1) On Constitution and By-Laws: E. E. Gallup, George A. Malcolm; (2) On Ritual: Harlan P. Rowe, William J. Marshall, C. A. Sink; (3) On Insignia: Benjamin E. DeRoy, E. R. Rings, J. W. Hawkins; (4) On Chapter House: G. G. Hill, Harvey J. Howard.

Acacia Named.—On April 30, 1904, it was ordered that the name of the regenerated organization be the Acacia Fraternity, the Michigan Chapter to be called Aleph. The discussion over the fraternity name and the reasons for adopting the Hebrew nomenclature are described in the Journal of the Acacia Fraternity, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 9. The archives of the fraternity contain some interesting and important affidavits relating to a claim made by the Masonic Club at the University of Minnesota to priority in organization. The statements there outlined show that W. J. Marshall in the summer of 1903 had a conversation with F. A. Wildes, Jr., at Hibbing, Minnesota. The former was then in the employ of the Duluth and Mesaba Northern Railroad. The latter was a senior in the Law School of the University of Minnesota and assistant State Inspector of Mines. Mr. Marshall described with enthusiasm the history of the Michigan Club as already outlined above. Mr. Wildes stated that the Minnesota Masons had been discussing a club of the same general type. In March, 1904, this organization was effected under the name of "Acacia Club" and two rooms were secured for the use of its some fifty members. A badge bearing Hebrew letters was adopted. The members of the Acacia fraternity at Michigan did not know of any possible rivalry with this organization until a letter was received, probably on March 3, 1905, from the secretary of the Beth Chapter at the University of California, Robert R. Rankin, describing a visit from Andrew Johnson, a member of the Acacia Club of Minnesota, who claimed priority for the Minnesota organization and declared that its name and its Hebrew letters had been copied by the Michigan Club (see letter from Kaph Chapter in the Journal, Vol. II, No. 1, p. 44). The Michigan men, however, show conclusively, in affidavits made in 1907, that they worked entirely independently. The name "Acacia" was selected after a conference with W. G. Doty, Past Grand Commander of Michigan Knights Templar, and L. C. Goodrich, Grand Lecturer of Michigan Royal Arch Masons, Mr. Doty suggesting the name, which was adopted, as one well understood and often used in Masonry. The Hebrew letters were selected on purpose to be different from the Greek letters commonly used by college fraternities, and because of the prominence of Hebrew history in Masonic

literature. The case seems to be a clear one of coincidence, a thing by no means unique in college fraternity history, and since the Minnesota Club afterwards became a chapter of the Acacia Fraternity, founded at Michigan, the possibility of friction soon disappeared.

Fraternity Incorporated.—Returning to the story of progress at Michigan, on May 7, 1904, the committee on reorganization reported a plan for incorporation under the provisions of Act 171 of the Public Acts of Michigan for 1903, entitled "An Act for the Incorporation of Associations not for Pecuniary Profit." The plan was adopted and the committee was instructed to prepare Articles of Association and arrange for incorporation. At the same meeting a draft of a ritual was presented. After much discussion and some changes this was formally adopted. It was largely the result of extended research by W. J. Marshall (see "Acacia's Ritual" in the Journal, Vol. II, No. 1, pp. 47-50. This first ritual was revised by H. P. Rowe, W. J. Marshall and J. M. Cooper, appointed for that purpose on May 31, 1904. They made three typewritten copies. On November 19, 1904, W. J. Marshall, M. Wolff and W. A. Hall were appointed to make further revision and strike off additional copies, thirty being prepared. The committee was finally discharged December 6, 1904. The fraternity archives contain a typewritten copy of this first ritual as revised and formally adopted by the first Grand Conclave held at Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 27-29, 1905. The ritual was first outlined before the Constitution was adopted on May 24, 1904, and some of the revisions were incident to that fact. The fraternity archives contain a copy of the Constitution as adopted at the first Grand Conclave in 1905.

First National Officers.—On May 11, 1904, the officers of the Fraternity for its first year were elected, as follows:

President—Harlan P. Rowe.

Vice-President—George A. Malcolm.

Secretary—William J. Marshall.

Treasurer—Harvey J. Howard.

Directors—Walter S. Wheeler, Harry B. Washburn, Benjamin E. DeRoy, Clarence G. Hill, Edward E. Gallup.

These, with James M. Cooper, J. Waldo Hawkins, W. L. Miggitt, W. A. Hall, Ernest R. Rings, Ralph B. Scatterway, M. Wolff, and Charles A. Sink, were duly incorporated and became the Charter Members of the Acacia Fraternity. The fraternity is fortunate in having preserved a photograph of sixteen of these men who hold this honored place as founders (see Journal, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 15). On May 12, 1904, the articles of incorporation were filed with the Clerk of Washtenaw County, Michigan, and on May 27, 1904, they were received for record by the Department of State and entered in the Record of Corporations.

New Chapters.—In the autumn Aleph Chapter moved into a house at 1103 East Huron street. The notice of the establishment of the fraternity was given wide publicity and led to correspondence with Masons in several large universities. The result was the establishment during the college year of four new chapters, as follows:

November 12, 1904—Beth, at Leland Stanford.

November 24, 1904—Gimel, at the University of Kansas.

February 12, 1905—Daleth, at the University of Nebraska.

April 15, 1905—He, at the University of California.

On April 11, 1905, Aleph chapter passed the following resolution: "The secretary is hereby instructed to notify the other four chapters that Aleph chapter calls the first National Convention for June 23d and 24th and the fore part of the week following; to be held at the Acacia house, Ann Arbor, Michigan, at which convention each chapter will be entitled to two delegates and to two votes." On May 6, 1905, the date was changed to June 26, 1905.

First Conclave.—The Convention met at the Acacia house in Ann Arbor, at 8:50 a. m., June 27, 1905. It was called to order by C. A. Binckley, president of the Aleph chapter. Brother E. E. Miller of Beth presented a proxy from He and was accepted as its delegate. The complete roster of the Convention was:

Aleph—H. P. Rowe, C. G. Hill.

Beth—E. E. Miller.

Gimel—O. Q. Claflin, Jr.

Daleth—Charles R. Weeks.

He—E. E. Miller (proxy).

The Convention was organized by the selection of Harlan P. Rowe of Aleph chapter, as president, and E. E. Miller of Beth, as secretary. The first business was the adoption of a Constitution. (See Journal, Vol. I, No. 1, pp. 42-45.) On June 28th national officers were chosen as follows:

President—Harlan P. Rowe, of Aleph.

First Vice-President—O. Q. Claflin, of Gimel.

Second Vice-President—John Westover, of Daleth.

Secretary—Clarence G. Hill, of Aleph.

Treasurer—Earl E. Miller, of Beth.

A summary of the other constructive work of the Convention shows that the ritual was studied and revised, five copies, all numbered, being loaned to each chapter. Dues were fixed, initiates being charged four dollars, alumni members three dollars and active members twenty-five cents a month. A badge was adopted in the form of a right angled triangle with sides proportionately three, four and five; the border jeweled, and containing on a black enameled background three smaller triangles, designated by the Hebrew letters Shin, Teth and He. Its wearing was restricted to members, their mothers,

wives, sisters, daughters and fiances. No other jewelry was provided. Colors of black and gold apparently had been accepted as adopted by the Aleph chapter. Expulsion was made the penalty for joining a Greek-letter fraternity, other than honorary. Each chapter was ordered to pay the traveling expenses of its delegates to the National Conventions. Encouragement was voted to the formation of a National College Eastern Star sorority. The secretary was authorized to print the Constitution, the Ritual and the Minutes of the Convention. A copy of the photograph of the Convention was voted to each of the five chapters and to each new chapter on its establishment. (For this picture see Journal, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 39.) The Convention adjourned at four p. m. on June 29, 1905, subject to call by the Grand Council.

On July 26, 1905, the secretary presented to the Grand Council this request: "The secretary asks permission of the Grand Council to make the annual pamphlet the first number of the annual publication of the fraternity, to be a magazine called "The Acacia" and to contain a full report of the Grand Conclave, Grand Council and of each chapter; to contain a complete directory of the members, alumni and active, a history of the fraternity and articles by men prominent in Masonic circles." This request was granted by the unanimous vote of the Grand Council and thus the Journal of Acacia came into being.

On September 9, 1905, the secretary submitted to the Grand Council designs for a charter and for a membership certificate, these being the work of the Grand President. They were unanimously adopted.

During the college year 1905-1906 the extension of the fraternity was rapid, new chapters being established as follows:

March 24, 1906—Waw, Ohio State University.

March 31, 1906—Zayin, Dartmouth College.

April 13, 1906—Teth, Harvard University.

April 28, 1906—Heth, University of Illinois.

May 3, 1906—Yodh, University of Pennsylvania.

May 22, 1906—Kaph, University of Minnesota.

May 22, 1906—Lamedth, University of Wisconsin.

In some instances these chapters seem to have been founded on the initiative of the officers of the fraternity rather than as a result of petitions from groups seeking membership. In the case of Zayin at Dartmouth the action was too hasty as the chapter soon died from lack of sufficient Masonic material for membership.

Second Conclave.—The second National Convention, now called "Conclave" under the Constitution, was held at the Hyde Park Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, on June 20, 21 and 22, 1906. The following delegates were present:

Aleph—W. L. Miggett.

Beth—James R. Dillon.

Gimel—Frank R. Grant.
Daleth—Not represented.
He—Edwin J. Berringer.
Waw—J. H. Tilton.
Zayin—Not represented.
Heth—W. J. MacFarland.
Teth—Snowden Parlette.
Yodh—George E. Nitzsche.
Kaph—C. A. Erdman.
Lamedth—F. J. Petura.

The Conclave continued the constructive work of the fraternity. It appointed official jewelers, again revised the ritual, recommended the use of regalia and paraphernalia, provided that all initiation work be secret, made a revision of the fees, made the chapters responsible for all fees, appointed a committee on seal and adopted a fraternity flag. There was much discussion of the perplexing Greek-letter membership topic and a motion was adopted providing that if an individual should go to an institution having a chapter of Acacia and join a Greek-letter fraternity, free choice being given to join either, he should be barred from further membership in Acacia. The chapter at Illinois having been given the name Heth at its installation and desiring to retain that designation, although founded after the Harvard Chapter, it was decided to interchange the names Heth and Teth on the national record, so as to show the priority of the Harvard Chapter's establishment. Lawrence, Kansas, was selected as the meeting place for the third Grand Conclave, the time being fixed for the last week in June or the first week in July, 1907. Grand officers were chosen as follows:

President—E. E. Miller, of Beth.
First Vice-President—J. H. Tilton, of Waw.
Second Vice-President—C. A. Erdman, of Kaph.
Secretary—C. G. Hill, of Aleph.
Treasurer—Snowden Parlette, of Teth.

During the year two additional chapters were established as follows:

May 17, 1907—Mem.—University of Missouri.
May 30, 1907—Nun.—Cornell University.

Third Conclave.—The Third Grand Conclave was held at Lawrence, Kansas, on July 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1907. The following delegates were present:

Aleph—H. S. Bowman.
Beth—F. A. Hermann.
Gimel—C. D. Ise.
Daleth—G. W. Cheney.
He—W. K. Watkins.
Waw—C. J. Knisely.
Zayin—Not represented.
Heth—A. N. Heavy.

Teth—Not represented.
Yodh—F. H. Hudson.
Lamedth—J. O. Schaff.
Kaph—Not represented.
Mem—Harry E. Kilmer.
Nun—H. C. Pierce.

Individual reports of conditions in the chapters were made. The Constitution was thoroughly revised after much debate and many votes on details. The Ritual also was changed. There was consideration of a change in terminology from Hebrew letters to Greek, the name Delta Pi Alpha being proposed and rejected by a vote of 6 to 5. Provision was made for an Endowment Fund. The file of affidavits designated "History of the Organization of the Acacia Fraternity" was ordered placed in the archives (see account above). Each delegate was made a committee on fraternity seal, suggestions to be reported to the Grand Secretary within sixty days. Acacia songs written by Mrs. L. C. Goodrich, of Michigan, were officially adopted for the fraternity. Shingles were approved. A committee was appointed to make further study of the Ritual to report at the next Conclave. A national installation fee of ten dollars for each member of a petitioning body was fixed and a charter fee of twenty-five dollars established. A fee of five dollars for each initiate to accompany his membership was voted. Other financial provisions were adopted. By a vote of 6 to 5 each member was required to purchase a badge. Special badges for the Grand Officers were ordered and their designs adopted. A service or presentation badge was approved, its design being left to the Grand Council, and the right to wear it being reserved to vote of the Grand Conclave. Such badges were voted to W. J. Marshall, W. S. Wheeler, H. P. Rowe and C. G. Hill. Provision was made for the publication of the Journal at an expense not to exceed \$300. No special editor was chosen. The Grand Secretary was put in charge, and chapters were allowed to send in such copy as each deemed fit, articles of general Masonic interest being also favored. Discussion of double membership was lively, the matter finally being left to the judgment of each chapter. The Grand Council was ordered to investigate the Zavin Chapter at Dartmouth. Champaign, Illinois, was selected as the meeting place of the fourth Conclave. The following Grand Officers were chosen:

Grand President—J. H. Tilton, of Waw.
Grand Vice-President—H. C. Pierce, of Nun.
Grand Secretary—G. W. Cheney, of Daleth.
Grand Treasurer—C. D. Ise, of Gimel.

A photograph of the delegates to this Grand Conclave is reproduced in the Journal, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 5, along with other pictures of historic interest.

During the following year the Zayin Chapter was dropped from the roll and a new branch established:

October 11, 1907—Samehk—Purdue University.

Fourth Conclave.—The Fourth Grand Conclave was held in Heth Chapter house in Champaign, Illinois, June 24, 25 and 26, 1908. The following delegates were present:

Aleph—J. W. Murphy.
Beth—Not represented.
Gimel—Jacob Jones.
Daleth—R. I. Elliott.
He—Hugh T. Gordon.
Waw—K. B. Ward.
Teth—W. W. Snow.
Heth—M. C. Tanquary.
Yodh—Joseph R. Wilson.
Kaph—Not represented.
Lamedth—J. L. Rodabaugh.
Mem—Harry E. Kilmer.
Nun—A. R. Keith.
Samehk—Daniel Senour.

Reports of the Grand Officers showed steady progress. The names of sixteen honorary members were reported by the Grand Council, which also announced the adoption of a design for a grand seal. The minutes of this Conclave, published in a separate pamphlet of sixty-one pages, contain several full reports of officers, the revised Constitution and Laws, a four page report of the National Endowment Committee, and a copy of an agreement between Purdue University and the Samehk Chapter. The discussion of changes in the Constitution and Laws occupied much of the time of the Conclave. A case of discipline reported from Waw Chapter was remanded to the chapter for reconsideration. Provision was made for a pledge pin. The death of President Cleveland was recognized by the adoption of a message of sympathy to his widow. A. R. Keith, of Nun, A. K. Wilson, of Gimel and Stanley Coulter, of Samehk, were constituted a committee to revise the Ritual. Decision was made to use the single word Acacia for the name of the fraternity, old English letters being employed. Chapters were urged to send as Conclave delegates students intending to return to college for another year. A proposition for uniform chapter accounting was favored. Traveling cards and leather cases for their proper preservation were ordered. Philadelphia was selected as the meeting place of the fifth Grand Conclave on September 15, 1909. The following Grand Officers were chosen:

Grand President—Joseph R. Wilson, of Yodh.
Grand Vice-President—H. C. Pierce, of Nun.
Grand Secretary—Harry E. Kilmer, of Mem.
Grand Treasurer—M. C. Tanquary, of Heth.

The beginning of the administration of Grand Secretary Harry E. Kilmer was marked by notable progress. The Journal under his management put on a new dress, three

numbers being issued during the year. Vigorous attempts were made to complete the official records of the fraternity particularly the membership records. Six new chapters were added to the fraternity roster:

December 5, 1908—Ayin—University of Chicago.

January 15, 1909—Pe—Yale University.

March 20, 1909—Tsadhe—Columbia University.

March 20, 1909—Koph—Iowa State College.

April 17, 1909—Resh—State University of Iowa.

June 9, 1909—Shin—Pennsylvania State College.

Fifth Conclave.—The Fifth Grand Conclave was held with Yodh Chapter at Philadelphia September 15, 16 and 17, 1909. The following delegates were present:

Aleph—W. R. Thompson.

Beth—Harlow Greenwood.

Gimel—George C. Magatagan.

Daleth—I. G. von Forell.

He—J. F. Pullen.

Waw—R. B. Colton.

Teth—L. L. Green.

Heth—T. H. Amrine.

Yodh—A. P. Clime.

Kaph—E. H. Comstock.

Lamedth—John E. Treleven.

Mem—George W. Sneed.

Nun—G. W. Lewis.

Samehk—E. W. Green.

Ayin—K. T. Waugh.

Pe—W. M. Musgrave.

Tsadhe—W. T. McCastline.

Koph—Roy E. Smith.

Resh—O. N. Elliott.

Shin—H. N. Van Gorder.

The Conclave was notable for the variety and the attractiveness of the entertainment provided for the delegates by Yodh Chapter. Some changes were made in the Constitution and Laws. The Committee on Ritual reported further revisions. Three numbers of the Journal were ordered published. Steps were taken looking to the adoption of a fraternity yell and a whistle, and to the securing of additional songs. The pledge button was formally adopted. The following Grand Officers were chosen:

Grand President—Joseph R. Wilson, of Yodh.

Grand Vice-President—John F. Pullen, of He.

Grand Secretary—Harry E. Kilmer, of Mem.

Grand Treasurer—Elting H. Comstock, of Kaph.

A photograph showing the delegates and visitors to the Conclave is reproduced as a frontispiece to the Journal, Vol. V, No. 1.

Three new chapters were established during the college year 1909-1910:

October 28, 1909—Tav—University of Oregon.
February 5, 1910—Aleph-Aleph—University of Washington.

March 5, 1910—Aleph-Beth—Northwestern University.

Sixth Conclave.—The Sixth Grand Conclave was held with Mem Chapter at Columbia, Missouri, September 13, 14, 15 and 16, 1910. The chapters were represented as follows:

Aleph—George R. Green.

Beth—Not represented.

Gimel—Ben. L. Jones.

Daleth—J. T. Maxwell.

He—Charron Staples.

Waw—Amos P. Potts.

Teth—L. L. Green.

Heth—W. E. Ekblaw.

Kaph—E. H. Comstock.

Yodh—Joseph R. Wilson.

Lamedth—H. Sutherland.

Mem—George W. Sneed.

Nun—A. R. Keith.

Samehk—E. B. Jacka.

Ayin—Russell Elwell.

Pe—S. R. Scholes.

Tsadhe—Not represented.

Koph—W. R. Laird.

Resh—C. S. Cornell.

Shin—W. S. Dye.

Tav—C. P. Shangle.

Aleph-Aleph—T. F. Murphy.

Aleph-Beth—H. F. Methven.

The Conclave adopted a revised Ritual which had been prepared by a committee consisting of A. R. Keith, F. W. Shepardson, Stanley Coulter and A. K. Wilson. An earnest plea was made for the enlargement of the powers of the Grand President. Much constructive work was done in the direction of perfecting the Constitution and Laws. For financial reasons the annual Conclave of 1911 was ordered omitted. The following Grand Officers were selected.

Grand President—Francis W. Shepardson, of Ayin.

Grand Vice-President—Elting H. Comstock, of Kaph.

Grand Secretary—Harry E. Kilmer, of Mem.

Grand Treasurer—Arthur R. Keith, of Nun.

The two years following the Sixth Conclave made a period of steady internal development. The chapters prospered as a rule and a stronger fraternity feeling became manifest. The Journal showed constant improvement and became notably a clearing house for the frank interchange of opinions on mooted questions of vital importance. A few of the chapters published printed letters to their alumni, these taking the form of little chapter papers. The Grand President visited a

dozen of the chapters. The fraternity found increased recognition in college annuals and in local inter-fraternity councils. It was admitted to membership in the national Inter-Fraternity Conference. A sketch of its history was published in a new edition of "American College Fraternities." Two new chapters were founded:

January 27, 1911—Aleph-Gimel—University of Colorado.

June 10, 1911—Aleph-Daleth—Syracuse University.

Seventh Conclave.—The Seventh Grand Conclave was held in Hitchcock Hall at the University of Chicago, September 10, 11, 12 and 13, 1912, a section of the dormitory being used as a "grand chapter house" and meetings being held in the same building. The chapters were represented as follows:

Aleph—W. S. Hopkin.

Beth—Earl D. Brown.

Gimel—O. M. Edmonson.

Daleth—E. F. Hornberger.

He—K. C. Leebrick.

Waw—Not represented.

Teth—A. A. Jenkins.

Heth—W. E. Ekblaw.

Kaph—A. D. Smith.

Yodh—W. F. Guilfoyle.

Lamedth—George E. Frazer.

Mem—B. S. Heims.

Nun—E. M. Holbrook.

Samehk—J. W. Shera.

Ayin—R. C. Woolsey.

Pe—W. E. Schultz.

Tsadhe—E. F. Humphrey.

Koph—D. G. Whitaker.

Resh—C. A. Corey.

Shin—A. I. Underwood.

Tav—F. E. Dunton.

Aleph-Aleph—J. R. Gates.

Aleph-Beth—T. M. McKinney.

Aleph-Gimel—A. G. Pierrot.

Aleph-Daleth—N. Ransler.

The Conclave was notable for its personnel, for the earnest spirit manifested, for its devotion to the work to be accomplished and for the fine fraternal feeling which developed during its sessions. The perplexing problem of double memberships received much attention as it had in every preceding Conclave. Constitutional changes were effected but with greater care to avoid duplication and repetition of enactments previously made. The reports of the Grand Officers were administrative documents of great value. Chapter reports showed steady advances toward local and general fraternity strength. The charter of Tav chapter was suspended, owing to the lack of students at Oregon having the funda-

mental Masonic requirement for membership. The publication of a quarterly Bulletin supplemental to the Journal was authorized. The formation of alumni chapters was encouraged. Increased powers were given to the Grand President. Madison, Wisconsin, was selected as the place of meeting of the Eighth Grand Conclave. Grand Officers were chosen as follows:

Grand President—Francis W. Shepardson, of Ayin.

Grand Vice-President—W. E. Ekblaw, of Heth.

Grand Secretary—Harry E. Kilmer, of Mem.

Grand Treasurer—George E. Frazer, of Lamedth.

A photograph showing delegates and visitors to the Conclave is reproduced in the "Journal," Vol. VIII, No. 1, frontispiece.

Grand Council Meeting.—The Grand Council held its first called session since the organization of the fraternity on April 12 and 13, 1913 in the Heth chapter house at Champaign, Illinois. It formally recognized the Aleph Alumni chapter located in Chicago. Francis W. Shepardson, of Ayin chapter, was made Historian of the fraternity. A flag and a coat of arms were adopted. Provision was made for the codification of the fraternity laws. W. E. Schultz, John E. Treleven and H. H. Bussey were appointed a committee to prepare a song book. The observance of May 12 each year as Founders' Day was recommended, this being the date of incorporation of the fraternity in Michigan in 1904. Many other topics were carefully considered and detailed recommendations were prepared to be presented to the Eighth Grand Conclave to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, on September 17, 18 and 19, 1913.

Conclusion.—Such in outline is the history of the Acacia Fraternity as the story is told in its Journal and in the minutes of its seven Grand Conclaves. The nine years since its organization at Ann Arbor in 1904 have been years of constructive work and of more or less uncertainty regarding its nature and destiny. There have been many sharp debates on questions of fraternity policy. There has been almost continual constitutional change and much needless duplication and repetition in Conclave legislation. The Ritual has seen many revisions. Some mistakes have been made in the establishment of chapters. The faults attendant upon youth and always incident to a growing institution have been evident. But the careful examination of the records has shown an earnest and determined spirit and a continued and steady growth, so that, at the opening of its tenth year Acacia is a well organized fraternity, with its chapters quite firmly established, with general recognition in college communities, with a creditable record of achievement and with an outlook upon a future which is full of hope.

FRANCIS W. SHEPARDSON.

September 17, 1913.

Acacia

Incorporated at Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 12, 1904.

The Grand Conclaves

- 1—Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 27, 28, 29, 1905
- 2—Chicago, Illinois, June 20, 21, 22, 1906
- 3—Lawrence, Kansas, July 1, 2, 3, 4, 1907
- 4—Champaign, Illinois, June 24, 25, 26, 1908
- 5—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 15, 16, 17, 1909
- 6—Columbia, Missouri, September 13, 14, 15, 16, 1910
- 7—Chicago, Illinois, September 10, 11, 12, 13, 1912
- 8—Madison, Wisconsin, September 17, 18, 19, 1913

THE GRAND OFFICERS

Grand Presidents

- 1904-1906—Harlan P. Rowe, of Aleph
1906-1907—Earl E. Miller, of Beth
1907-1908—J. H. Tilton, of Waw
1908-1910—Joseph R. Wilson, of Yodh
1910-1913—Francis W. Shepardson, of Ayin

Grand Vice-Presidents

- 1904-1905—George A. Malcolm, of Aleph
1905-1906—(1) O. Q. Claflin, of Gimel
(2) John Westover, of Daleth
1906-1909—H. C. Pierce, of Nun
1909-1910—J. F. Pullen, of He
1910-1912—Elting H. Comstock, of Kaph
1912-1913—W. Elmer Ekblaw, of Heth

Grand Secretaries

- 1904-1905—William J. Marshall, of Aleph
1905-1907—Clarence G. Hill, of Aleph
1907-1908—G. W. Cheney, of Daleth
1908-1913—Harry E. Kilmer, of Mem

Grand Treasurers

- 1904-1905—Harvey J. Howard, of Aleph
1905-1906—Earl E. Miller, of Beth
1906-1907—Snowden Parlette, of Teth
1907-1908—C. D. Ise, of Gimel
1908-1909—Maurice C. Tanquary, of Heth
1909-1910—Elting H. Comstock, of Kaph
1910-1912—Arthur R. Keith, of Nun
1912-1913—George E. Frazer, of Lamedth

Directors

- 1904-1905—Walter S. Wheeler, Harry B. Washburn, Benjamin E. DeRoy, Clarence G. Hill, Edward E. Gallup, all of Aleph
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SOURCE MATERIALS

The *Journal*, is the principal source of material for the history of Acacia. The minutes of Grand Conclaves are to be found as follows:
Minutes of the First Grand Conclave, *Journal*, May, 1906, pp. 48-60.
Minutes of the Second Grand Conclave, *Journal*, February, 1907, pp. 4-24.
Minutes of the Third Grand Conclave, *Journal*, 1908, p. 76 for brief summary. Complete minutes in manuscript in the fraternity archives.

Minutes of the Fourth Grand Conclave, separately printed in a 62-page pamphlet.

Minutes of the Fifth Grand Conclave, *Journal*, November, 1909, pp. 9-41.

Minutes of the Sixth Grand Conclave, *Journal*, November, 1910, pp. 20-50.

Minutes of the Seventh Grand Conclave, *Journal*, December, 1912, pp. 8-58.

Some additional articles of historical interest are:

Harlan P. Rowe: "History of Acacia Fraternity," *Journal*, May 1906, pp. 5-9. (Also reprinted in *Journal*, February, 1911, pp. 23-25.)

William J. Marshall: "University of Michigan Masonic Club," *Journal*, May, 1906, pp. 10-12. (Also reprinted in *Journal*, February, 1911, pp. 25-26.)

E. E. Gallup: "Aleph Chapter of Acacia Fraternity," *Journal*, May, 1906, pp. 13-18.

William J. Marshall: "Acacia's Ritual," *Journal*, February, 1907, pp. 47-50.

Historical statements regarding the foundation of individual chapters are given in the *Journal*, usually in the first number following the date of installation. Several of the chapters have published chapter papers, such as the "Heth Hello," the "Nun Traveler," the "Yale Triangle," the "Acacia Bulletin" of Teth chapter, the "Letter from Home" of Gimel chapter, and the "Daleth Asp."

No catalogue of the fraternity has been published, but lists of members were printed in the *Journal*, May, 1906, February, 1907, 1908, May, 1910 and February, 1912.

The *Journal* has been richly illustrated with pictures of Conclave delegates, chapter groups, grand officers and other prominent members, and chapter houses, all of much historical value.

The minutes of the first called meeting of the Grand Council are printed in *Acacia Bulletin*, May, 1913.

A sketch of the history of Acacia, written by Francis W. Shepardson, is found in Baird: "Manual of American College Fraternities," Seventh Edition, 1912, pp. 350-352.

The "Constitution and Laws" has been printed in several editions, quickly rendered out of date because of many changes.

The "Ritual" has been printed twice.

The fraternity archives also include these important manuscripts:

"Constitution of the Acacia Fraternity as adopted by the first Grand Conclave, held at the Acacia House, Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 26-30, 1905."

"Ritual of the Acacia Fraternity, as revised and adopted by the first annual Grand Conclave, held at Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 26-30, 1905."

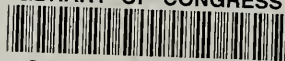
"History of the Organization of the Acacia Fraternity," is a manuscript containing affidavits and letters setting forth in much detail the facts connected with early movements in the fraternity at Michigan. While apparently designed as a defence against the claims of priority put forth by Minnesota, the manuscript is rich in historical evidences.

C. G. Hill: "To the Members of the Acacia Fraternity." A circular letter, 9 pp. ms., under date April 14, 1906, relating to the establishment of Teth Chapter at Harvard University.

"The Ritual of the Acacia Club of the University of Minnesota, revised to the time of the admission of said Club into the Acacia Fraternity." F. Alexander Stuart, chairman of the Committee on Ritual.

C. G. Hill: A collection of twenty-three letters from the archives of the Zayin Chapter at Dartmouth, written by C. G. Hill, and describing the progress of Acacia during the years 1906 and 1907.

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