Founding Brothers
of Eta Chapter
of DELTA KAPPA EPSILON
Established at the University of Virginia
26 November 1852

Charter Brothers of Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon • 1852
William Thompson Abrahams
Thornton Boykin Goldsby
William Wesley Leake
William David Lee
Timothy Lincoln Rogers
Joseph Augustus Sykes
Bolivar Alexander Vaughan

Brothers Who Joined Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon later that year:
William Henry Baptist
Robert H. M. Davidson
Branch Jones Epes
Robert Holmon Redwood

Honorary Members
Albert Taylor Bledsoe
James Philemon Holcomb
John Reuben Thompson
MEMORIES OF “ETA.”

ANTE BELLUM

The establishment of Eta chapter of the DKE Fraternity in the University of Virginia, on November 26, 1852, formed an era in the history of the Fraternity. Chapters had already been organized in the Universities of Nashville (Gamma), Alabama (Psi), North Carolina (Beta), Mississippi (Chi), and in the College of South Carolina (Delta), so that Eta was the sixth Southern Chapter formed, and there then existed but seven others: at Yale (Phi), the Parent Chapter, Princeton (Zeta), Bowdoin (Theta), Waterville (Xi), later, Colby University, Amherst (Sigma), Brown (Upsilon), and Miami (Kappa).

The charter members were Wm. T. Abrahams, of Livingston, Ala.; T. Boykin Goldsby, of Selma, Ala.; Wm. W. Leake, of Camden Ark.; Wm. Lee, of Marion, Ala.; Timothy L. Rogers, of Aberdeen, Miss., and Joseph A. Sykes, also of Aberdeen, Miss. During this session Branch J. Epes, of Nottaway County, Va.; Robert H. Redwood, of Mobile, Ala.; Boliver A. Vaughn of Columbus, Miss.; Wm. H. Baptist, of Dayton, Ala.; and Robert H. M. Davidson, of Quincy, Fla., now (1887) member of Congress from Florida, connected themselves with the Chapter.

It will be noticed that of this number but one was from Virginia, five were from Alabama, three from Mississippi, one from Arkansas, and one from Florida. Of fifteen new members during the following session, but one was from Virginia, the other States represented being South Carolina (four), Alabama (two), Mississippi (two), Kentucky (one), Maryland (one), Georgia (one), Louisiana (one), Florida (one), and the District of Columbia (one), a good illustration of the cosmopolitan character of the Fraternity itself. Not until 1854-55 do we find Virginia furnishing a majority of the new members, twelve out of twenty-three, the other States represented being Alabama (two), Mississippi (two), North Carolina (one), South Carolina (one), Georgia (one), Louisiana (one), Florida (one), and the District of Columbia (two). It is worthy of note that Tennessee does not appear ever to have been represented in Eta Chapter by a native of the State, and North Carolina, Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas have furnished very few members. All of the other Southern States have contributed liberally to the membership of the Chapter, and New York, New Jersey, Indiana and California may also be found upon its rolls, but the University of Virginia has never drawn many students from the North and West.

Eta Chapter of DKE was the first Chapter of any Greek-letter Fraternity established in the University of Virginia, although later in the same session (1852-53) a Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi was formed, and by 1855-56 we find Chapters also of Beta Theta Pi and Phi Kappa Sigma, but afterwards secret societies greatly multiplied. As to the character of the meetings and the principles of selection of members in the early days of Eta, Hon. Hilary A. Herbet, M.C., from Alabama, who was an active member of Eta in 1854-56, having come from Psi Chapter, in the University of Alabama, writes:

“In general terms I would say that the members generally, observed with great fidelity the letter of our laws, and endeavored to carry out the spirit of our most excellent constitution. All the literary exercises were had as prescribed. We had many
entertaining debates, and a number of very fine papers read; but the efforts at ‘Fiction’ were generally laughable failures. We all strove to keep up a high standard, requiring always both character and scholarship in candidates for admission. I remember being very much chagrined at the rejection of a warm friend because his standing in his classes was not up to the mark. But I soon got over my disappointment, because I recognized the fact that my brethren were right. Every Chapter ought to recognize the fact that it will not do to have a black sheep in such a flock as a DKE brotherhood is intended to be. I look upon the hours spent at the meetings of our Chapter as among the most pleasant and profitable of my life.”

A.P. S. adds: “We never allowed any liquors or other refreshments at our regular meetings.”

It is worthy of note that the word “regular” is interlined. What occurred at their irregular meetings, the deponent saith not, and we will forbear to inquirer. It is not improbable that “the flow of soul” at least predominated over “the feast of reason” on such occasions.

A characteristic mark of Eta Chapter, as contrasted with her Northern sisters at that time, was the extreme secrecy that shrouded the Chapter. The place of meeting was kept carefully concealed, and members would often seek it by roundabout approaches, frequently dodging into alleys to avoid meeting other students, who, by any possibility, might discover where the secret conclave was held.

When we look at the magnificent Chapter halls that now adorn the grounds of many of the Northern Colleges, this laborious effort to conceal the approach to an ill-furnished attic room seems amusing, but it is an evidence of the spirit that animated the members of Eta in their adherence to one of the original features of all Greek-letter fraternities. Eta also frequently protested against the publication of the official letter by other Chapters as tending to divulge Fraternity secrets. Strict “fidelity to the letter of our laws” was thus a prominent characteristic of Eta in ante-bellum days. Extreme care in the selection of members was a no less prominent mark. Fair abilities were always demanded, and agreeable social qualities, and especially those traits of character and manners, more easily felt than described, that may be summed up in the word “gentlemen,” so that Eta Chapter of DKE was noted for the number of “good fellows” that it contained.

In looking over the roll of members to 1861, one is struck with the number of those who have attained prominent positions in both Church and State, especially the former, and who rose to official positions in the Confederate service, for Eta contributed her quota to the defense of the South; and no less than eight of her members laid down their lives in their country’s cause, namely:

Whitfield Morton, of Columbus, Miss., Lieutenant, killed in the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862; Thomas J. Scott, of Montgomery, ala., killed in the battle of Seven Pines, May 31, 1862; Randolph Fairfax, of Alexandria, Va., Private in the Rockbridge Artillery, attached to the Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia, killed in the battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862; William T. Haskell, of Abbeville, S. C., Captain of a company in the 1st S. C. Infantry Regiment, killed in the battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863; W. Bernard Meredith, of Richmond, Va., Lieutenant and Adjutant of Artillery, who died at Richmond of disease contracted in the service, August 22, 1862; Frederick Tupper, of Savannah, Ga., Lieutenant, who died May 24, 1865, and Percival Elliott, also of Savannah, Ga., who died May 30, 1865, both from wounds received at the battle of Tailer’s Creek, April 6, 1865, the last general engagement in which the
Army of Northern Virginia ever participated, and but three days before its surrender; and James T. Walker, of Richmond, Texas, who fell in the war, but it is not known where.

The writer of this sketch knew some of these men intimately, and was a member of the Chapter with Elliott and Fairfax. Meredith was a student of the University for three sessions (1856-59), took the degree of Master of Arts with distinction in 1859, and afterwards devoted himself to the study of law. He possessed a fine intellect, bright and active, and would doubtless have attained a high position in his chosen profession, following in the footsteps of his father, the distinguished jurist, Judge John A. Meredith. Haskell was a student of the University for four sessions (1856-60), studying the whole time in the Academic Department, and graduating in several schools. He was elected President of the Jefferson Society and editor of the University Magazine, a testimony to his talents and popularity. He was an earnest Christian, and devoted himself to the promotion of the religious interests of the University. One who knew him at the University writes: “Haskell’s character was one of the most beautiful I ever knew.” Devotion to duty characterized him as student and as soldier, and as one says, he fell “while leading his men with that serene courage and unselfish devotion which characterized him through life.”

Morton was a former member of Chi Chapter, and was an Academic student of the University for two sessions (1853-55). Tupper was an Academic student of the University for three sessions (1853-56), and graduated in all subjects necessary for the degree of Master of Arts, except chemistry, which he did not study; he was a man of excellent ability.

Scott was a former member of Psi Chapter, and was a student of law in the University for two sessions (1857-59). Walker was from Iota Chapter. Elliott and Fairfax were Academic students of the University but one session when the war broke out, and they enlisted in the Confederate service. Elliott and Fairfax were both remarkable types of boyish beauty. Elliott was as gentle as a girl, and endeared himself to all who knew him by his pleasant manners and thorough gentility of feeling. Fairfax was devoted to athletic sports as well as to his studies. The writer was his teacher for a year and afterwards his fellow-student. He was untiring in his application and possessed an intellect of unusual strength. He took the highest honors at school and bade fair to renew his triumphs at college, but on the call of duty he entered the service as private, enduring the hardships of campaign and battle for eighteen months, and fell at his post when barely twenty years of age. His Christian character was one of such marked excellence that his biography was written by the Rev. Philip Haughton, D.D., and distributed as a tract among the soldiers of the Confederate armies. He was one of whom, though dying so young, DKE may well be proud.

Amongst the living it would be invidious to select those who have specially distinguished themselves in life, but suffice it to say that on the roll of Eta, which closed with 1861, may be found men prominent in every walk of life. It has furnished to the Protestant Episcopal Church two of its bishops, Kentucky and West Virginia; one professor in its theological seminary of Virginia, who declined a bishopric, and another in the theological department of its University of the South, and many clergymen to the Baptist church, a former professor in its Southern Theological Seminary and now professor in Harvard University; to the State, members of Congress from Alabama, Florida and Virginia, judges of courts, members of legislatures, lawyers,
physicians, professors, teachers, farmers and merchants in abundance. In academy honors there may be found on that roll eleven masters of arts, the highest academic honor of the University of Virginia, not conferred in course, but after graduation in certain specified subjects; two magazine medalists, several orators of the literary societies, and winners of other like honors which attract the student mind. Almost all of the antebellum members of Eta possess a military record, from private to colonel, and few, if any, will be found who were not in the Confederate service; but in this respect Eta simply stood shoulder to shoulder with her Southern sisters.

The write can speak more particularly of the Chapter as it was in 1861 and 1866, when he was an active member of it, and must leave to some one of his younger brethren the continuation of the record.

In 1861 there were in all nineteen members, of whom nine were new members, and of these, one came from Kappa Chapter, at Cumberland University, Tenn., and another from Iota Chapter, at the Kentucky Military Institute. The instructors in Latin, mathematics and chemistry in the University were regular members, the two former having been old members of Eta as students, and the last having joined the previous session. Most of the members were academic students, though some were students of law, and among the latter, one who was a member of the Virginia Legislature during that session, which necessitated optional attendance a part of the time. The instructors in Latin and mathematics having taken to themselves better-halves, also sometimes pleaded the privileges of beneficia and gave the scriptural excuse for non-performance of duty. The majority were hard-working students, and hence rendered necessary the imposition of occasional fines for neglect of Chapter duties; notwithstanding, too, the excited condition of the country during that winter, Eta moved along the even tenor of its way, and as late as February 20, 1861, we find Eta concurring with Gamma (University of Nashville, Tenn.), in its desire “to hold the Convention after the next somewhere in the South.” The last DKE Convention held in the South, that of December 31, 1855, and January 1 and 2, 1856, had been held with Eta Chapter at Washington, D. C., when Beverly R. Wellford, of Richmond, a former member of Zeta (College of New Jersey) delivered the oration, and John R. Thompson, editor of the Southern Literary Messenger, elected an honorary member of Döö for the purpose, read the poem. While the Convention was a great success from a literary and social point of view, there were but five Chapters represented, so that not much business was transacted. This contrasts strangely with the recent (1887) convention held in Washington, with its flourishing DKE Alumni Association, when of thirty-one Chapters, twenty-nine were represented by nearly one hundred delegates.

The last undisturbed meeting of Eta was held on April 10, 1861, and it deserves passing mention that the query selected for the next debate was, “Should there be a free trade between the United States and the Southern Confederacy?” But the next debate was held March 22, 1866, on the peaceful question, “Is Poetry an imitative Art?” The writer was the only member of the Chapter present on both occasions. What had occurred in the interval is matter of history, and may be committed to the recesses of memory. The noble figures of Elliott and Fairfax, the last names respectively on the affirmative and negative of the former question, rise before me, and admonish that the curtain be drawn over the past. They had both answered their last roll-call in the bloom of youth and beauty, and their names alone remain to their friends as an inspiration to all that is noblest and best in human nature.

Virginia seceded on Wednesday, April 17, 1861, and that evening the two University Infantry Companies, the “Southern Guard” and the “Sons of
Liberty,” started for Harper’s Ferry by authority of the Governor of the State. After the secession of South Carolina (December 20, 1860), when the ominous clouds of war were threatening, these two companies had been formed among the students of the university, each numbering about eighty members, and had become quite proficient in the infantry drill. With the ardor of youth they immediately tendered their services when it was learned that troops were ordered to Harper’s Ferry, though it was left optional with each member to go or not to go. It may be truly said that not many were left behind, and when the train from Staunton came along that Wednesday night the two University companies, among whom were several members of Eta Chapter, the writer included, joined the rest, and hurried on to surprise Harper’s Ferry. The eighteen-mile march from Strasburg to Winchester the next afternoon, will long live in the memory of all who endured this, their first military tramp; how, footsore and weary, they reached Winchester by dark—having accomplished the journey with the speed of veterans, within seven hours—and enjoyed the supper prepared for them by kind friends. The good people of Winchester were much surprised at this sudden display of troops, the secession of Virginia not having been yet publicly announced, and many looked upon it as a very questionable undertaking. So far the expedition was a great success, but now came delays which caused complete failure. We privates have never understood why we were so long in leaving Winchester; why we should have crept along at a snail’s pace in our uncomfortable box cars, and why we should not have reached Harper’s Ferry, but thirty-two miles distant, before daylight next morning, only to find that Lieutenant Jones, U.S.A., with his handful of men, had set fire to the armory and arsenals about ten o’clock the night before, and retreated across Maryland into Pennsylvania. The bird had flown, and we could only put out the flames and save what was left. In the light of subsequent events our first military experience at Harper’s Ferry seems ludicrous enough; how we would be turned out at the least alarm; how we stopped and searched all passing trains; how one night, just as we were about to settle ourselves to rest in our barracks, the long roll beat, and out we went on a long and tedious march up London Heights to support a battery, which the imaginary enemy could by no possibility have reached from the other side of the Potomac, and which had been placed in such a position that it could never have depressed its guns sufficiently to have hurt anybody in easy range; how next morning we scrambled down the face of the mountain in preference to repeating our lengthy tramp, and returned to barracks much used up by our first night bivouac in the open air.

All this may live in the memory of the participants, but is now for the first time handed down to posterity in these vexatious records of the history of Eta Chapter of DKE.

We did not, however, stay at Harper’s Ferry long, but were ordered back to the University on the following Monday, April 22d, and returned, after just one week’s absence, as heroes of the Harper’s Ferry campaign. Meantime the records of the Chapter show that a meeting had been held during our absence, on Friday, April 19th—which may be remembered as the day of the passing of the Federal troops through Baltimore, at which but five members were present, whereupon it was moved that in consideration of the excited and distracted state of the country, causing many of our members to be absent from the University, we do now adjourn sine die, subject to call, when circumstances will justify a resumption of our regular course of meetings and business, which was accordingly done. There was but one other meeting of the Chapter this session, on May 10th, when the present writer read a letter which informed Eta of the establishment of a Chapter of DKE at Union University at Murfreesboro, Tenn., said Chapter called Tau Delta; and he “was
instructed to write to the Southern Chapters and say that Eta was still in existence and would be alive next session of the University of Virginia." This was the last business transacted by the old Eta. It shows that even amid the throes of war DKE was strengthening her borders, and that, notwithstanding the troubles of the country, Eta had no intention of succumbing. Little did any one present imagine how long it would be before the next session of the University of Virginia would see Eta alive again, and that the certainty of its existence would be complete, not withstanding the long intermission.

A brief account of the revival of Eta has already been given in the DKE Quarterly (Vol. III, No. 1, October, 1884), in the article on "DKE in the Old South," by Senator M. C. Butler, formerly of Delta Chapter (College of South Carolina). Suffice it to say that Kinlock Nelson, an old member of Eta in 1860-61, then teaching in the vicinity of the University; Hugh R. Garden, a former member of Delta Chapter, and then a student of law in the University, and the present writer, then teaching in Midway School at Charlottesville, determined to revive the Chapter, and formed a preliminary organization on December 9, 1865. The old books, which had been carefully preserved during the war by one of the brethren, were soon procured; members were initiated from time to time, another old member of Eta, Rev. Crawford A. Toy, then also teaching in Charlottesville, lent his valuable aid, and on March 7, 1866, the regular organization was completed by a full election of officers, and by starting the chapter in its usual course, a direct continuation of the life which had been suspended for nearly five years, but only suspended, never extinct.

It was not until this time that any public announcement of the revival of Eta was made, and so far as known, but one other Fraternity, the Phi Kappa Psi, one of DKE's former rivals, had preceded Eta in the revival of its organization. It is not known whether the latter had taken any steps towards such revival previous to December 9, 1865, when the first formal steps were taken by the old members of Eta.

After commemorating by suitable resolutions those members of Eta who had fallen during the war, although the record was at that time incomplete, the Chapter determined to have a grand reunion at the close of the session. To that end, Brother Virginius Dabney of 1854 (now resident in New York City), was invited to deliver the oration, and Brother Daniel B. Lucas, also of 1854 (now resident of Charleston, West Virginia), to read a poem at a banquet to be furnished in regular DKE style. Reminiscences of this occasion from some of the participants have already appeared in the QUARTERLY in the article above referred to. It would have done credit to DKE in its palmiest days, and will long live in the memory of those who were so fortunate as to be present. We certainly had "a jolly good time." This closes the record of the revival of Eta in the year succeeding the war, and the continuation of its history must be committed to other hands. Exercising the usual care in the selection of members, Eta added but six to its roll this session, including the former member of Delta. All of these were war veterans, except one, whose youthful age prevented any participation in the struggle. This was John Scott, a student of law, the son of a distinguished sire, the late Hon. Robert E. Scott, of Virginia, and who after a brilliant career at the bar, succumbed to that fell disease, consumption, and died in California a few years ago. He was a man of the highest character and sterling worth, with a clear judicial mind, who would have made a name for himself in his chosen
profession. Four others adopted the profession of law, two of whom have held seats on the bench, and one of these now occupies a position in the Supreme Court of Kentucky. The remaining member, son of a physician, adopted his father’s profession and has attained distinction in it, keeping up the old reputation of DKE, that her sons will be found at the top in whatever career they may enter. So more it ever be.

But while it is gratifying to know that DKE has suffered no detriment at the hands of Eta, the most characteristic mark of the members of Eta has ever been their genuine companionability, if we may so phrase it. Gemütlichkeit has been kept steadily in view, and where one meets an old member of Eta, he may be sure of meeting an agreeable companion and a trustworthy friend.

It is to be hoped that the younger generation will keep steadily in view these traditionary characteristics, and while not sacrificing other qualities to social companionship, will ever remember that a DKE is a friend and brother, and admit no one who cannot honor these relations, and the well-known motto, \( \delta \Sigma \eta \Pi \mu \Omega \Delta \Theta \omega \hat{\alpha} \pi \# \)."

Next to these must come a suitable endowment of brains, for “when Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war,” and in that war the banner of DKE must be borne aloft, always at the front. Thus only will the objects of the fraternity be accomplished, and the country at large be benefited by its Chapters, which may now be found north, south, east and west.

JAMES M. GARNETT

SINCE 1867.

In the interesting article from the pen of Professor Garnett which immediately precedes, we have seen the foundation of the Eta Chapter of DKE laid in substantial and lasting fashion; we have been introduced to that noble band of gentlemen who gave it at the outset a reputation for character and scholarship; we have been led behind the curtain to catch glimpses of the orderly and consistent observance of the rules and regulations of the order, the earnest, thoughtful deliberations and more jovial social gatherings which marked its earlier days, and we have seen the truly enviable record in war and in peace which the ante-bellum members of the Chapter have accomplished.

To a less skillful, but a not less willing hand, has been committed the task of giving a brief sketch of the later days of the Chapter.

In the two decades which have elapsed since 1867 but little addition has been made to the general history of the Chapter apart from the achievements of its individual members. It has retained to a degree remarkable in the history of Greek-letter fraternities the position of recognized prominence in its University which it assumed at its foundation.

As has been told us by Professor Garnett, Eta of DKE was the first Greek-letter Chapter established at the University of Virginia, and for several years after its foundation it had but three rivals with which to compete; but a great change was soon to take place in this regard; the attention of the Northern and Western college fraternities having been once attracted to the great Southern institution, chapters multiplied rapidly within its walls, and during the past twenty years the number of national college fraternities represented at the University of Virginia has ranged from fifteen to twenty; yet during these two decades the Eta Chapter of DKE has maintained throughout the same proud position of admitted prominence. By its own members it has ever been regarded as clearly and distinctly entitled to the
leadership of its University in all that marks a chapter as excellent, whether in scholarship or in character, while its reputation among the members of other fraternities has been such that there has never been a time when it has not been freely accorded a place among the three best Fraternity chapters at the University of Virginia.

The general conduct and policy of the Chapter have been consistently prudent and conservative. With its fellow-chapters of DKE it has striven to maintain a close and intimate relation, and while it has more than once opposed the establishment of new Chapters of DKE it has thrown its whole weight in favor of every scheme which had as its object the close and more compact union of the existing branches of the Fraternity.

In its own University its influence has always been felt to be a power for good, and has been recognized as such not only by the students, but by the more sober judgment of the faculty.

Respected at all times by neighboring “Greeks,” it has been occasionally thoroughly admired, and has had more than one most pleasant and intimate relationship with the chapters of other fraternities, a mutual regard and common fellowship, breaking down for the time the barriers of fraternity rivalry.

It would be a pleasant task to the writer to dwell at length on the distinguishing features of the Chapter-life of Eta during these two decades, but time and space forbid more than a passing notice of some of them.

One of the most distinctive characteristics of the Chapter is its recognized and established social position. Its members have shone equally in the lighter accomplishments of social life as in the sterner routine of class room and college hall. Said a fair daughter of Virginia to the writer: “I like to meet a DKE; for when I do I know that I am making the acquaintance of a gentleman.” Kind words from beauty’s lips! And not undeserved, it is hoped. The members of the Chapter have invariably taken a conspicuous part in the social life of the Virginia University, their reputation for gentlemanly character and agreeable companionship has been maintained without flaw or detraction, and the DKE badge has never failed to prove an open sesame to the most refined and exclusive home of the Old Dominion.

Another marked feature of the later history of the Eta Chapter is the prominent part which it has taken in the development within its University of opportunities for physical culture. This is a direction in which the University of Virginia was for many years greatly lacking and in which there is still room for improvement; but to the Eta Chapter of DKE should certainly be given the credit of instituting the first important steps towards securing for the institution the requisite facilities for this most essential branch of a truly liberal education. For years the established theory of the Virginia University was that a university is place for study solely, and this theory was acted upon by the great body of its students. But within the past ten years these conditions have been greatly altered, the theory of constant mental application as an essential to a college education has been exploded, and the facilities for physical exercise offered by the institution are excelled nowhere in the South. In this reform, for it may be truly so called, the Eta Chapter has borne a conspicuous part. During the session of 1876-77 the “Rives Boat Club of the University of Virginia,” the first boat club ever organized in the University, was founded, mainly through the active instrumentality of two or three members of the Eta chapter. Five times the chosen crew of this club has borne off in triumph the prize challenge cup of the Virginia Association of Amateur Oarsmen at its annual race, and of the
members of these five successful crews about half were members of the Eta Chapter. In the session of 1877-78 the "Squib Gymnasium Association of the University of Virginia" became a possibility through the liberality of a wealthy gentleman of New York City, and was organized and permanently established largely as the result of active and persistent work on the part of several members of the Eta. When, some two or three years later, the "Athletic Association of the University of Virginia" was established and regular annual athletic games instituted, the Chapter was still found in the lead of all others at the Virginia University in its enthusiastic advocacy of physical culture. Not a session has passed in which at least two or three of the fifteen or twenty medals of the Athletic Association were not awarded to DKE's, and in more than one session the members of the Eta Chapter have succeeded in carrying off a clear majority of the whole number of medals awarded by the association. Add to this that the representation of the Chapter on the football and baseball teams of the University has always been large in proportion to numbers, and that on several occasions the captaincy of these teams has been tendered to one of its members, and we must agree that in truth the 'sanum corpus' has not been neglected by Eta of DKE.

In the more important field of intellectual contest the Chapter has been quite as prominent and equally as successful. It is not too much to say of it, that of its members, fully three-fourths have attained more than ordinary success in college work, while a more limited number have succeeded in wearing the brightest laurels to be won at the Virginia University. The membership of the Chapter has always been rigidly restricted, and during the period of its history covered by the last twenty years it will not average more than twelve or thirteen members each session, the number of students in attendance upon the lectures of the University ranging from three to four hundred; but though constituting so small a proportion of the whole body of students, it has taken no insignificant part in the intellectual life of the University.

Time and again in the last twenty years have its members been elected to positions of honor and trust by one or the other of the two literary societies of the University. Four times during this period the "Magazine Medal," awarded each session by the two literary societies, on the judgment of a committee of the Faculty to the author of the most creditable literary production of the year in the "Virginia University Magazine," has been accorded a member of the Eta Chapter. Of the four medals which the Washington and Jefferson literary societies award each session to the successful competitors in their prize debates a most gratifying number have fallen to DKE's; in our session, that of 1878-79, the Chapter succeeding in capturing both medals of the Jefferson Society. Of the men who have taken since 1867 the degree of Master of Arts of the University of Virginia, admittedly the most honorable college distinction to be obtained in the South, about one-seventh were members of the Eta Chapter, while of the less important academic degrees and of the professional degrees conferred by the Virginia University, and of the diplomas of graduation in the various distinct and elective schools of the institution, the members of this Chapter have never failed to win each session their full share.

The most distinctive feature, however, of the later, as of the earlier Eta, is found in the high character and gentlemanly demeanor which has invariably distinguished its members.
The qualifications for membership have been always insisted upon most rigidly, so much so, in fact, that the Chapter and the Fraternity have reason to regret the loss of many a fine fellow, who has honored other Greek-letter orders, but who failed to come up to the superlatively high standard urged by some over-cautious member of Eta as the *sine qua non* of admission.

The result, however, has been on the whole most satisfactory in the absolute exclusion of all unsuitable elements. The writer is either personally acquainted with, or knows by reputation, nearly all of the men who have united themselves with the Chapter in the last twenty years. To many of them he is bound by those ties of intimate and lasting friendship which unite men who were not only college-mates but fellow-members of the same Fraternity Chapter; others he has met for the first time beyond college walls in the arena of active life; and yet others, with whom he has no acquaintance, he almost feels that he knows well, having heard so often their names and successes. Among all these sons of Eta he has yet to hear of one man whose reputation for truth and honor, for unimpeachable integrity and gentlemanly character has ever been assailed.

It is yet too soon to form a just estimate of the life work of the members of the Eta Chapter of the last twenty years; none of them have as yet reached fifty years of age, while a larger proportion have but recently left the halls of the University; yet quite a number of them have already carved out for themselves careers of merited success in the higher walks of active life, and may be found in almost every Southern State occupying positions of honor and trust beyond their years.

Such is the past record of Eta of DKE. We turn from it with confidence, of forecast her future. The Chapter was never in better condition than to-day; with an unexceptionable record, an enthusiastic body of alumni, and a most creditable active membership it has little to fear and much to hope for.

If anything were needed to confirm its position of leadership at the Virginia University, which it has held for so many years, it would be the erection of a Chapter-hall, and this important step will soon be taken. The Chapter has in the hands of trustees a steadily accumulating fund for this object. The design for the building has been prepared and a site selected, and it is hoped that in the course of a few months it will be an accomplished fact.

The Chapter-hall of Eta, when erected, will be probably the first fraternity building at the University of Virginia, thought it is understood that one or two other fraternities represented at the institution have similar projects in hand. It will give to the Chapter a permanence that its great prestige alone could not effect, and will mark a distinct epoch in the history of Greek-letter societies at the Virginia University.

In closing this brief record of the later years of the Eta Chapter, a feeling of pleasure comes over the writer, not unmixed with sadness, as he recalls the scenes and faces that are forever associated in his mind with the DKE badge-pleasure, that to him was vouchsafed the enjoyment of so much pleasant companionship, and that his college days were sweetened by so much congenial fellowship; sadness, that these are among "the days that are no more." He feels that he owes to Eta of DKE the happiest hours of his college life, and the stimulus too much of his college work, and he regrets that this tribute which he pays her should fall so far short of his gratitude.

ROBERT W. MALLET.
The Good Old Song

Tune: "Auld Lang Syne"

That good old song of Wah-hoo-wah,
We'll sing it o'er and o'er;
It cheers our hearts and warms our blood
To hear them shout and roar,
We come from old Virginia,
Where all is bright and gay;
Let's all join hands and give a yell
For the dear old U. V-a.

What though the tide of years may roll,
And drift us far apart;
For Alma Mater still there'll be
A place in every heart.
In college days we sing her praise,
And so when far away,
In memory we still shall be
At the dear old U. V-a.

Wah-hoo-wah,
Wah-hoo-wah,
Uni-v, Virginia;
Hoo, rah, ray!
Hoo, rah, ray!
Ray! Ray!
U. V-a.

Edward H. Craighill, Jr. [H 1892], of Lynchburg is usually credited with having composed the entire “Good Old Song.” However, Brother Craighill wrote in the University of Virginia Magazine for October 1922 that ‘no one man should be credited with the authorship’ of the first stanza. He said it appeared in 1893 as the by-product of a bibulous welcome to a victorious football team and was the joint production of several students. A “Wah-Hoo-Wah” yell, said to have been “borrowed from Dartmouth College,” was already in vogue at the University, and this was incorporated into the song. The second and third stanzas were written later—almost certainly by Brother Craighill.