

CECIL C. FULTON, JR.  
102 SOUTH STATE STREET  
DOVER, DELAWARE

October 26, 1962.

R. Alan Bebout, Corres. Secy.,  
Beta Epsilon Chapter, Kappa Alpha Order,  
University of Delaware,  
Newark, Delaware.

Dear Brother Bebout:

My old classmate and Brother K. A., Edward D. Neill of Los Angeles, has recently sent me, with a very brief note of transmittal, your letter to him of September 24th and Brother Carmean's letter of September 18th. Apparently you are endeavoring to obtain a picture of the charter members of Beta Epsilon and an account of its origin. As one of the earliest members, although not a Charter Member, I offer my contribution along that line for what it may be worth.

BETA EPSILON CHAPTER, KAPPA ALPHA ORDER.

During the 1903 - 04 scholastic year at Delaware College, among the dormitory dwellers was a congenial group of young men in the dormitory section of the main building now, in 1962, known as "Old College". In the front of the building, and to south of the stairway, were four rooms known as Devil's Den, and at that time three of the rooms were occupied by Lucien Green rooming with Hayes Wilson, William Lawton rooming with Marvel Gooden and Bassett Ferguson occupying one room alone. Down the hall, north of the stairway, in the section of the hall known as Poverty Row, were Joe Truxton and Stuart Groves rooming together and Eugene Shallcross rooming alone.

Within this group was conceived the idea of organizing a fraternity chapter which might be affiliated with one of the national fraternities. The thought is believed to have originated with Truxton although he and Green worked closely together and it may have been Green. After several discussions with those previously mentioned, correspondence was begun which led to an invitation from the Kappa Alpha Chapter at Johns Hopkins University for some of the group to visit that chapter at Baltimore. The invitation was accepted and Truxton, Green and one other went to Baltimore for an evening at the chapter house there in order that the Hopkins men might have an opportunity to fraternize with them and to observe and report on their personal characteristics, social graces, and general suitability for membership in such an illustrious organization.

One of the sidelights of that visit was recounted when the Delaware visitors returned to Newark. Lucien Green was an athlete and a football player, and was one of the finest charact-

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ers, one of the most popular and best liked men to attend Delaware College. After the formal visiting at the Baltimore Chapter, the hosts suggested a little socialability and asked what the guests would like to drink. Green, who was very temperate, in fact almost a teetotaler, said that they might bring him whiskey. When asked what whiskey he preferred he told them he did not know there was any kind but just plain whiskey.

At any rate the authorization for a charter was soon issued from Kappa Alpha headquarters and several of the Johns Hopkins men came to Newark to install Beta Epsilon Chapter and to initiate the charter members of whom there were eight previously mentioned and more specifically named as follows;

Joseph D. Truxton,	Georgetown, Del.,	Class of 1904.
Lucien Green,	Middletown, Del.	Class of 1903. (Post Grad.)
Bassett Ferguson,	Blackbird, Del.	Class of 1904.
Eugene H. Shallcross,	Middletown, Del.	Class of 1904.
J. Stuart Groves,	Wilmington, Del.	Class of 1904.
William Lawton,	Wilmington, Del.	Class of 1904.
T. Marvel Gooden Jr.	Dover, Del.	Class of 1905.
M. Hayes Wilson,	Dover, Del.	Class of 1905.

None of the names of the K. As. who came from the Hopkins Chapter to conduct the installation is recalled at this late date. The date of the installation is recalled to have been in February 1904 which can be confirmed from official records. Truxton was elected the first Number One or President, and Shallcross was elected the first Scribe or Secretary.

At the first regular meeting of Beta Epsilon thereafter four additional men were initiated as follows:

Samuel M.D. Marshall,	Milford, Del.	Class of 1905.
Frank B. Evans,	Elkton, Md.	Class of 1905.
Henry W. Lyndall,	Wyoming, Del.	Class of 1905.
Ralph W.E. Bowler,	Washington, D.C.	Class of 1905.

At a subsequent meeting, a little later in the spring of 1904, two members of the Class of 1906 were taken in. They were:

H. Morton Stephens,	Glenolden, Pa.	Class of 1906.
	Originally from Middletown, Del.	
Cecil C. Fulton Jr.,	Dover Del.	Class of 1906.



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This entire group, consisting of all the members who were initiated before the 1904 Commencement exercises, went to Wilmington one Saturday, donned their evening clothes, and sat for the first chapter photograph ever taken. My original photograph, taken that day and with it's original mat and frame, accompanies this letter for whatever disposition the present chapter chooses to make. On the back is attached a transparency with names of the men as located in the picture for ease of identification.

At a meeting prior to the 1904 Commencement Evans was chosen Number One and Fulton, Scribe, for the 1904 - 05 year. The succession to the Number One position was:

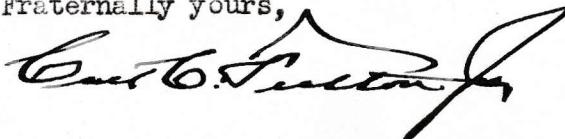
- 1st No. 1. Joseph D. Truxton, '04. (1904)
- 2nd No. 1. Frank B. Evans, '05, (1904 - 1905)
- 3rd No. 1. Cecil C. Fulton Jr., '06. (1905 - 1906)
- 4th No. 1. Harry A. Miller, '07. (1906 - 1907)

The foregoing account represents to the best of my ability the events and persons surrounding and connected with the origin and beginning of Beta Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Alpha. Should any official note be made of this account, I suggest that before any record is made of it, a copy of the account should be circulated to the three surviving Charter Members for their suggestions, corrections, or approval and that their signatures should be appended.

With further reference to the early days of Beta Epsilon, a small kodak picture is also enclosed which was taken in the spring of 1906. In it is #1, Fred Bennett, Wilmington, Del. whose name I believe has never appeared in a recent tabulation of Chapter members. He transferred after two years to the University of Virginia and I think died at an early age. #4, was Dr. Paul Murrell, a native Kentuckian, a chemist, and a Regional Commander on official visit at that time. #13, was Steele, the very young child of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Steele who lived directly across the street from the first K.A. House on Main St. #20 was Joseph Brewster, an alumnus and Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

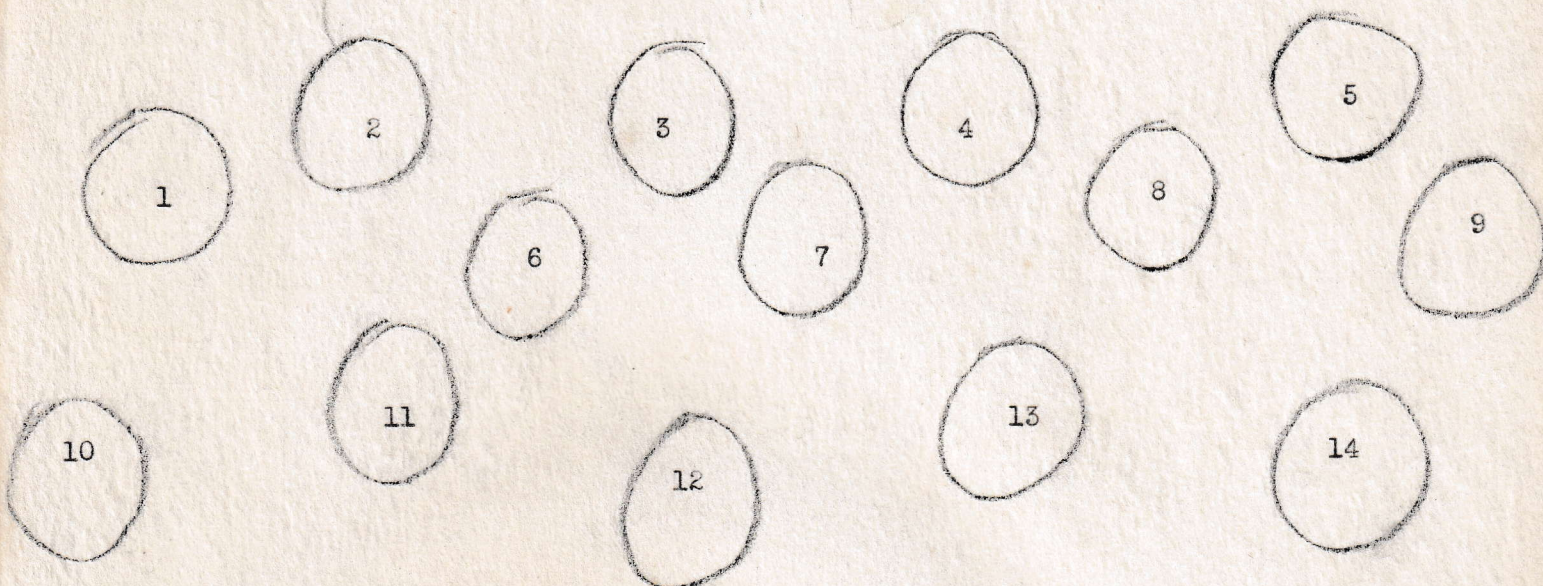
If I can be of any assistance in any way I shall be glad for you to call on me. My check for annual dues is enclosed.

Fraternally yours,



Copy to Bro. Neill.





BETA EPSILON CHAPTER - KAPPA ALPHA ORDER

Organized and Installed at Delaware College

Spring of 1904.

MEMBERS

1. Bassett Ferguson, Charter Member
2. Ralph W. E. Bowler
3. Henry W. Lyndall
4. Joseph D. Truxton, Charter Member, First No.1.
5. Cecil C. Fulton, Jr.
6. H. Morton Stephens
7. William Lawton, Charter Member.
8. Frank B. Evans
9. J. Stuart Groves, Charter Member.
10. Eugene H. Shallcross, Charter Member.
11. Lucien Green, Charter Member.
12. T. Marvel Gooden, Jr., Charter Member.
13. Samuel M. D. Marshall
14. M. Hayes Wilson, Charter Member.

NOTE:

The above group consists of the eight Charter Members and all of those members of Beta Epsilon Chapter who were initiated prior to June 1904 Commencement Exercises.

This is one of the first and only photographs made of that group.

*Cecil C. Fulton Jr.*