

THE
CYCLOPÆDIA OF FRATERNITIES

A COMPILATION OF

EXISTING AUTHENTIC INFORMATION AND THE RESULTS OF
ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION AS TO THE ORIGIN, DERIVA-
TION, FOUNDERS, DEVELOPMENT, AIMS, EMBLEMS,
CHARACTER, AND PERSONNEL OF

MORE THAN SIX HUNDRED SECRET
SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED STATES

SUPPLEMENTED BY

FAMILY TREES OF GROUPS OF SOCIETIES, COMPARATIVE STATISTICS
OF MEMBERSHIP, CHARTS, PLATES, MAPS, AND
THE NAMES OF MANY

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS.

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ASSISTED BY MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND
MEMBERS OF LIVING SECRET SOCIETIES

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by 1890, the others being at Boston University, De Pauw, and Cornell. There are several alumni chapters. The first society chapter house among Greek-letter sisterhoods was erected by the Alpha (Syracuse) Chapter of Alpha Phi. Lilies of the valley and forget-me-nots are the flowers of the sisterhood. Its colors are silver gray and red, and its badge is a monogram formed of the letters composing its name. Frances Willard, late President of the W. C. T. U., was one of its alumnae.

Gamma Phi Beta, founded at Syracuse University, 1874, by four women students, aided by Bishop E. O. Haven, then Chancellor of the University. Its four other chapters in 1890 were located at Ann Arbor, University of Wisconsin, Boston University, and Northwestern University. The society flower is the carnation. Its colors are fawn and seal brown, and the badge is a monogram of the three Greek letters within a crescent.

Sigma Kappa was organized at Colby University, Waterville, Me., 1874. Estimated membership 130.

Alpha Beta Tau was founded in 1881, at Oxford Female Institute, Oxford, Miss., with a branch at the University of Mississippi. Its total membership is about 290.

P. E. O. (Not Greek-letter.) Little is known of this society, which exists West and South, both at and without college cities and towns. There appears to be an especial element of secrecy attached to it. Its membership, has been estimated at about 2,000.

Delta Delta Delta was organized in 1888 at Boston University by four young women. In 1890 it had five chapters. It is governed by convention, and during recess by the officers and parent chapter. It displays the pansy, gold, silver, and blue colors, and a badge consisting of a crescent with three deltas upon it and three stars between the horns. Its membership is about 300.

Beta Sigma Omicron was founded at the University of Missouri in 1889.

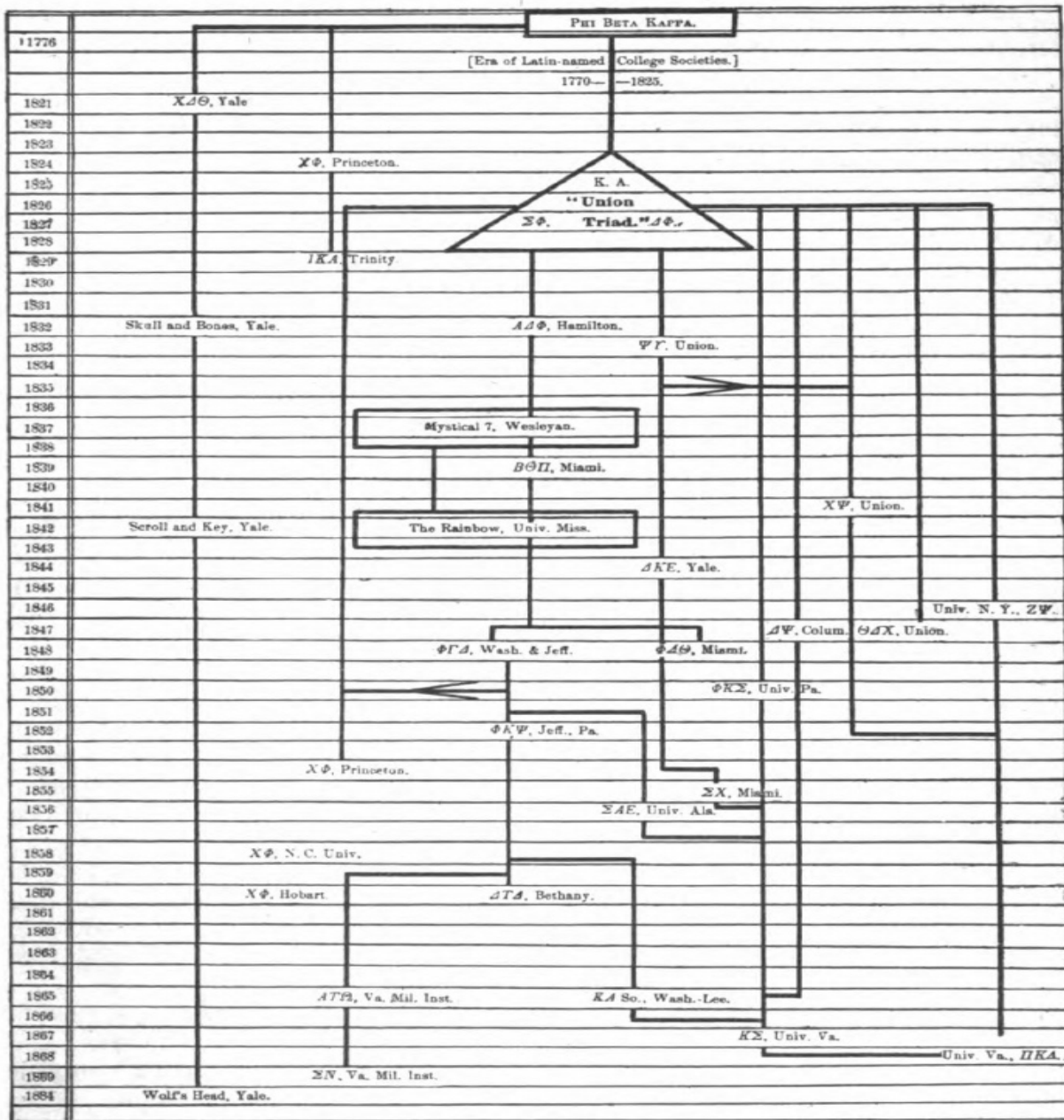
LOCAL FRATERNITIES.

I. K. A. (not Greek), Trinity, 1829. Founded by six students of the classes of '29, '30, and '32. Its color is royal purple. The badge is a St. Andrew's cross, bearing the initials of its title on three of the arms, and 1776 on the fourth. Rev. Thomas Gallaudet, St. Ann's, New York, and Rev. George Mallory, editor of the "Churchman," New York, are among its best known alumni.

Skull and Bones was founded at Yale College, as a senior society, by fifteen members of the class of 1832. A writer in the New York "Tribune," in 1896, states that :

The father of "Bones," first of the senior societies, is believed to have been General William H. Russell, '37, who died a few years ago, after having been for many years at the head of a famous military academy in the city of New Haven. It is a part of college tradition that "Bones" is a branch of a university corps in Germany, in which country General Russell spent some time before his graduation. One of the classmates who joined with him in establishing the society at Yale was the late Alphonso Taft of Cincinnati, President Hayes's Attorney-General. The society flourished from the start. For a long time it held its meetings in hired rooms; but in 1856 the windowless, vine-covered brown stone hall in High Street, near Chapel Street, opposite the campus, was erected. A few years ago the society found more space necessary and built a large wing to the hall. The building is about 30 feet high, 33 feet wide, and 44 feet deep. The property is held by the Russell Trust Association, a name assumed in honor of General Russell. On the last Thursday in May the entire college assembles before Durfee Hall, among whom the juniors are conspicuous, for they all know that lightning is to strike forty-five of them. Soon a "Bones" man appears who, however good natured, wears a solemn look as he passes in and out among the crowd. Suddenly he taps or slaps a junior on the shoulder,* and says sternly, "Go to your room." Amid wild cheering the lucky man obeys mutely, followed by the one who tapped him, who says, "Will you accept an election to the society known as 'Skull and Bones?'" and goes away in silence, while the junior returns to receive the congratulations of friends. About the same time a "Keys"

* Secret Societies at Yale. Rupert Hughes, McClure's Magazine, June, 1894.



**GENEALOGICAL CHART OF GENERAL, GREEK-LETTER, COLLEGE FRATER-
NITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.**

man, and a "Wolf's Head" man in his wake, go through the same evolutions. Between "tapping time" and initiation a week elapses. During this time the slapper and the slapped preserve a sacred mutual silence, except when the new man is notified of the time and place of the awful ordeal, to be consummated in the recesses of the society house.

This peculiar ceremony of nominating or choosing new members of the Yale senior societies, original there with Skull and Bones and imitated by "Keys" and by Wolf's Head, is, doubtless, derived from the accolade, or conferring of knighthood, in ancient times an embrace, but more recently a blow on the shoulder with the flat of a sword. But still more singular is the custom of the Yale juniors in assembling on the campus between four and six o'clock, on the particular Thursday in May, accompanied by half the college, and hundreds of other spectators, entirely without announcement from or arrangement by any one. The writer first referred to points out, in addition to the fact that Yale's senior societies meet Thursday nights in closely guarded society houses, that a "Bones" man, while in college, is never without his badge, a skull and bones, with the figures "322" in place of the lower jaw; that if in swimming without bathing costume, he carries it in his mouth; that one of the newly chosen "Bones" men wears two (overlapped) badges for six months, and that the "sanctum sanctorum" in the "Bones" house is referred to by the figures "322." There is a tradition, however, that the "322," the sum of which is the perfect number and suggests a "mystical seven," means "founded in '32, 2d chapter" (the first being "the German corps"); also, that the members trace their society "to a Greek patriot organization, dating back to Demosthenes, 322 B.C. The 'Bones' records of 1881, it is alleged, are headed 'Anno-Demostheni 2203.'" An election to "Bones" is generally the secret ambition of almost all Yale men, even over the bones of the Greek-letter societies, although Scroll and Key, and Wolf's Head, of late,

have made such strides as to frequently dispute the first place which the older senior society has had in the minds of available material. "Bones" generally elects honor men and athletic stars. Scroll and Key takes men of the same rank, but more frequently from among the social element, while Wolf's Head has taken men which might have been welcome additions to either "Bones" or "Keys." The following are the names of some of the better known Yale graduates who are "Bones" men: President Dwight, Ellis H. Roberts, William W. Crapo, Daniel C. Gilman, Andrew D. White, Chauncey M. Depew, Moses Coit Tyler, Eugene Schuyler, William Walter Phelps, Anthony Higgins, Daniel H. Chamberlain, Franklin McVeagh, William Collins Whitney, William Graham Sumner, George Peabody Wetmore, Wilson Shannon Bissell, John C. Eno, Theodore S. Woolsey, Walker Blaine, Arthur T. Hadley, Robert J. Cook, Judge William H. Taft, Walter Camp, Sheffield Phelps, and Alonzo A. Stagg. The three historic junior societies at Yale are Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, and Delta Kappa Epsilon, although Zeta Psi has figured there of late years as a sophomore and junior society. Skull and Bones, Scroll and Key, and Wolf's Head, as a matter of practice, each elect fifteen members annually, generally from among members of the first three societies named, seldom from members of that last named, and still less frequently elect a junior who is not a member of any of the Greek-letter fraternities.

Lambda Iota was founded at the University of Vermont by thirteen students, where it has since maintained a prosperous existence. Its badge consists of an owl on the top of a column or pillar between the letters forming the society's name. It numbers three governors of Vermont among its alumni. Its membership is more than 400.

Scroll and Key was founded at Yale in 1841, by members of the class of '42, as a rival senior society to Skull and Bones, most

of the peculiarities of which it copied. (See Skull and Bones.) It celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a three days' jubilee in May, 1892, in its society house at New Haven, one of the handsomest structures of the kind in the country. It is incorporated as the Kingsley Trust Association. It is related that on the nights when the society meets all the active "Keys" men in New Haven are required to be in the society house from half-past six until half-past twelve, and that none of them is allowed to leave the building during that period, "unless accompanied by another man." In preserving a deep mystery about its affairs, in not mentioning the society in the presence of an outsider, and in retaining constant possession of badges by undergraduate members, "Keys" parallels its prototype. While members of the latter wear their badges on their vests, "Keys" men frequently wear theirs on their neckties. The "Keys" badge consists of a gold key across a scroll, with the letters "C. S. P." above, and "C. C. I." below. It selects annually fifteen members of the junior class by the same process described as originating with Skull and Bones. Its membership, on the whole, is characterized as conspicuous for social standing and wealth rather than for college or athletic honors, though many Yale athletes and honor men have joined it. Among its prominent graduates are Theodore Runyon, John Addison Porter, George Shiras, General Wager Swayne, the Rev. Joseph H. Twitchell, Dr. James W. McLane, George A. Ade, Edward S. Dana, Isaac Bromley, Bartlett Arkell, and James R. Sheffield.

Wolf's Head was founded at Yale by a number of members of the class of '84, as a rival senior society to Skull and Bones and to Scroll and Key. (See those societies.) It copies most, if not all, of the peculiarities of the two older senior societies. For a few years it was not rated as highly as either "Bones" or "Keys," and was able to take only the so-called better

men in the Junior Class overlooked by "Bones" and "Keys;" but with the increase in the size of classes, and the fact that each of the senior societies takes only fifteen men each year, with increased age and its handsome ivy-clad society house, Wolf's Head continues to gain upon its older rivals. It is incorporated as the Phelps Trust Association. Its badge consists of a wolf's head transfixed on an inverted Egyptian tau, the symbolism suggested by which is significant, yet probably different from that taught within the pale of the society.

Phi Nu Theta was organized at Wesleyan University, 1837, shortly after the appearance there of the Mystical Seven which is now dead, and in some respects one of the most remarkable college societies in the country. Phi Nu Theta sought to bring together a few members of each class for mutual helpfulness and within the past sixty years has initiated about 460 members. It has a handsome house, and ranks well among Middletown college fraternities. Its badge is a scroll watch-key with the letters forming its name engraved thereon. Among its alumni are Rev. Dr. Winchell, formerly of Syracuse University, the late Bishop Haven and Professor W. O. Atwater.

Kappa Kappa Kappa. Founded at Dartmouth, Hanover, N. H., in 1842, by six students, assisted by Professor C. B. Haddock, the year following the appearance of Scroll and Key at Yale. It numbers about 850 members. The badge is a Corinthian column and capital of gold with the letters K. K. K. at the base. It has generally ranked with other fraternities at Dartmouth.

Delta Psi. Organized at the University of Vermont in 1850. For a few years it was an anti-secret society. It has no connection with the fraternity by the same name which was founded at Columbia in 1847. It numbers about 350 members.

Alpha Sigma Pi. Organized at Norwich University, Vermont, in 1857, by seven students. The military character of the society

