

KAPPA PHI BEGINNINGS

AND

ROSE'S COLLEGE DAYS

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

1918-1923



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KATHY GUY SANDERS

MARY SEILER GOODENOW

Dedicated to those women of vision and faith who founded and gave of themselves; so that, The Kappa Phi Club could become the national organization it is today. The authors gratefully acknowledge the authors of The Kappa Phi Club History and Candle Beams for their inspiration.

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Note: Uncredited photos are from Candle Beams.

FRESHMAN!

It was a glorious September Saturday in 1918 with just a hint of the cool weather yet to come. Miss Rose Kimberly walked tentatively up the steps and into the cool hallway of the Freshman Girls' Dormitory at Kansas University. She arrived with only her secondhand trunk and an overnight bag. Where will I live this year? Excitement and anxiety filled her heart and she said a little prayer as she waited to see the dean of women for her room assignment. How could she find her way around at this great university? Would her roommate like her? Her dream of becoming a nurse had brought her here. She had been excited at the prospect, but now her mind was filled with questions:

Will I fit in?

Will I find friends?

How can I stay connected to my church?

What if I get homesick?

Will I be able to make it?

Little did Rose know that a new campus organization was ready to help her with just these questions while she was at college!

Rose soon settled into her assigned room and hung her family's picture on the wall to remind her of home. Freshman orientation quickly plunged her into activities designed to acquaint her with the university. She learned that she would be awakened each morning at 6:45 AM to the blowing of a very large industrial whistle, which was located in the center of campus. What a way to start the day! The same whistle would blow curfew at 9 PM when everyone must be in his or her rooms. Rose certainly did not want to find out what happened to young ladies who accidentally stayed out after curfew!

New students were required to learn the Rock Chalk Chant for all university athletic competitions. Rose worked hard to memorize it and was

soon able to sing the school song,
CRIMSON AND BLUE, by heart. She
was becoming a true Kansas University
Jayhawk even before classes began!



“Rock chalk....Jayhawk.....KU.....”

Used by permission Kansas University Athletic

Classes began and Rose found herself running back and forth across the campus. There never seemed to be enough time to get everything done. She studied Latin and British literature which included a lot of Shakespeare! She also studied Biology and was fascinated by her bespectacled professor who seemed to know everything there was to know about how the human body worked.

On the personal front Rose was very happy that she had been given a good and sensible roommate. Maude Crider was a fun young woman with a winning smile and a light-hearted spirit. She came from a good Methodist family and the two girls had become fast friends.

Evenings found Rose and many other freshmen at the library where she was glad for a quiet time to study. Occasionally, if she and Maude were feeling adventuresome, they would go to the drugstore for a strawberry phosphate. Of course, there were often boys sitting at

the polished counter on the tall stools,
but the young girls were too busy with



Photo by Julie Sanders

their schoolwork to give them the time of
day. While Rose and Maude were
enjoying campus life, they still felt
something was missing.

LOOKING FOR MORE

Together they searched the campus and soon found the Wesley Foundation, which Rose had heard about from her Epworth League leader and Sunday school teacher back at her home church. The Foundation's purpose was to minister to Methodist college students on campus and provide them with activities to keep them connected with the Methodist church. The girls found friendly people there and soon began to attend services at the church. One Sunday the roommates were surprised to hear a young woman speak on behalf of an organization called Kappa Phi. Apparently, this organization was specifically for Methodist women at the college! The founder of the club, Mrs. Harriet Sterling Thompson, had founded the club with the aim of: "Every Methodist woman in the university world today, a leader in the Church of Tomorrow."



Mrs. Thompson

Rose and Maude were promptly invited to a reception for all freshman Methodist girls where they learned more about Kappa Phi and Alpha Chapter. A Rose Tea was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gordon B. Thompson where they learned about what the Kappa Phi girls had planned for the year.

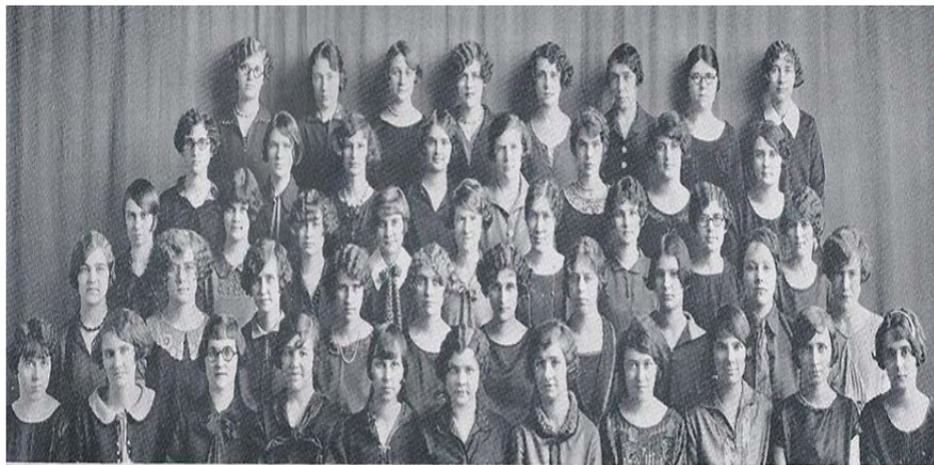
HOUSE IN WHICH KAPPA PHI WAS FOUNDED



Photo by Novella Bredbenner

These events included a meeting which would discuss highlights of the work in Foreign Missions, a subsequent meeting on Home Missions, a fudge party, a middy party in the school gym, and a formal spring banquet. A “Spring Sing” with a picnic would conclude the year’s activities. Needless to say, Rose and Maude were hooked on the idea of joining Kappa Phi! Rose and Maude both received invitations to pledge Kappa Phi. Even though they had been “rushed” to join this organization, they

knew that the decision to join was theirs and theirs alone. No tears would be shed at not being asked to join this organization. How thankful were these new Kappa Phi girls to have discovered a club that instinctively knew how to keep college women connected to their church and have fun at the same time.



ALPHA CHAPTER

October 13, 1918

Dearest Mother,

I am well, and I hope that you and Father are also splendid. I want to tell you that I have found a wonderful group here at Kansas University, just as we had hoped. Its name is Kappa Phi. The Wesley Foundation sponsors the club. Can't get much better than that!

The girls are wonderful and they have such fun while learning about the work of the church. There are serious meetings on home and world missions, but also fun meetings where we play games and sing. We are collecting kindergarten supplies for missions in China and we are planning our annual Spring Banquet. It will be quite a fancy affair. The cost will be \$.25 a plate and we are planning for about 80 people to attend! My roommate Maude and I are happy new members!

Please give little Benjamin a kiss for me and tell him his big sister misses him!

With great love,

Rose

The fall semester raced by with classes, football games, exams, and Kappa Phi events. Christmas vacation was near and the Kappa Phi girls celebrated by giving a party at a local orphans' home. The residents were treated to oranges and walnuts. In addition, each little girl and boy received a special toy lovingly chosen by the Alpha Chapter members. Christmas carols concluded the evening and many Kappa Phi girls felt the true spirit of Christmas was invoked that evening.



From the collection of Gwen Lanning of Montgomery, Texas, texileranger.com. Used by permission.

KAPPA PHI

After her first tentative beginnings with college as a freshman at the University of Kansas, Rose became a talented student and an integral member of Kappa Phi. She learned how to plan programs and to befriend even the shyest of the girls. She became adept at speaking in front of her sisters and found spiritual support for everyday life at college. Kappa Phi became a moral compass, which helped her to make good choices, and allowed her to make heart friends with good Christian women.

As her years at The University of Kansas progressed, Rose and Maude became active in other campus activities. She cheered from the stands as the Jay Hawks football team played Oklahoma to a scoreless tie in 1919. She decided some of the boys at the drugstore were nice after all, especially the one with the yellow roadster! She knew she was right about going to college, and her decision

to go into nursing. She felt she was growing as a woman.

Kappa Phi was growing too. In addition to Alpha chapter at the University of Kansas, Kappa Phi began to spread across the country. As part of the pledge process (which cost \$1.00 in dues) the pledges in Kappa Phi were asked to memorize the location of all the chapters in Kappa Phi. The list had increased rapidly since the founding of Alpha Chapter in 1916! The new Kappa Phi chapters included:

- 1917 Beta, University of Iowa
- 1917 Gamma, State College of Iowa
- 1919 Delta, University of Minnesota
- 1919 Epsilon, Ohio State University
- 1920 Zeta, Nebraska University
- 1920 Eta, Wyoming University
- 1920 Theta, Oklahoma A & M
- 1921 Iota, Kansas Agricultural College

- 1921 Kappa, Oklahoma University
1922 Lambda, Miami University
1923 Mu, University of Washington

Mrs. LeSourd and son, Leonard



Communication became vital among all the chapters of Kappa Phi and it was decided in 1923 to publish a national magazine. Not surprisingly, the national organization decided to use the name of Alpha's newsletter, **THE CANDLE BEAM**. Mrs. Lucille LeSourd would be the first Editorial Sponsor. The **Candle Beam** would feature articles from each chapter about what was going on with Kappa Phi at other universities. The Grand National Officers would also contribute articles about the workings of the club. The **Candle Beam** became an instant success.

By 1923 many of the symbols of Kappa Phi had been adopted. The original pin was the letters **KΦ**. By 1923 many of the symbols of Kappa Phi had in gold. (It is presently our recognition pin.) It cost \$3.00 plus fifteen cents war tax. In 1922, the seal of Kappa Phi was chosen. Theta Chapter presented it. The seal (as seen on the cover of this book) was a circle carrying the aim of Kappa Phi, encircling the words is a wreath of roses

and pine, the center was the candle and **KΦ**. The second choice for the seal became the pledge pin. This pin, designed by a Beta girl, has the three colors of Kappa Phi and in the center the letters **KΦ**. The Coat-of-Arms contained the symbols of the Pine Tree, Lighted Candle, and Pink Rose as a “Shield of Faith.” (It is the basis for our official pin.) The colors had been chosen: the **BLUE** of the sky representing Truth, the **GREEN** of the pine representing Loyalty, and **WHITE** representing Purity. The pink rose had been chosen as our flower in honor of Mrs. Thompson. A Constitution was in place, as well as, the “Kappa Phi Hymn” and the “Benediction.” One of the first traditions was the Philitia. Mrs. Thompson wrote it for a banquet. “For eating and drinking together maketh friends.” From the heart and mind of Mrs. Thompson came the Aim: Every Methodist woman in the university world today, a leader in the Church of Tomorrow.

OFF TO COUNCIL

March 15, 1928

Dear Mother,

How are you these days? Thank you so much for the package complete with the jars of jam and the Unedas (soda crackers). The boxes of Cracker Jack are a wonderful snack while I am studying. I am glad to tell you that I am fine and am looking forward to coming home for Easter.

I want to share with you some Kappa Phi news. You know how much this club has come to mean to me and I have become aware that Kappa Phi is bigger than just the University of Kansas! We now have a total of 12 chapters all around the country! Our club has asked me to be a delegate to the National Council of Chapters in August of this year! Delegates from all of the chapters will travel to Camp Wesleyan in Lakeside, Ohio. It is such an honor to be asked and I sincerely hope that you and Father will give me permission to attend. We will travel by train and it will be a grand experience! The cost will be \$15.00 and I am hoping that my Kappa Phi chapter and our church back home will help with expenses along with you, my dearest parents. Please consider this my graduation gift!

*I eagerly look forward to hearing from you
post haste! Kiss Benjamin for me. I cannot believe
that he is now 5 years old!*

Love,

Rose

As she took her final spring classes and graduation approached, it seemed to Rose that time had just flown by. Rose and Maude were prepared to take that long walk up the hill from Fraser Hall to the new Robinson Gymnasium on the Lawrence campus with all the members of the faculty and the graduating class. How could four years - with so many activities, classes, and new friends - pass so quickly?

On the evening prior to graduation, the Kappa Phi girls bid farewell to their seniors with lighted candles and pink roses. Maude and Rose knew that they would never forget their “active” years in Kappa Phi. They looked forward to new adventures as alumnae of Alpha Chapter.

Big personal changes were also awaiting these new college graduates. Maude was engaged to a young Methodist minister and would soon be a very busy minister's wife. Rose was headed to nurse's training and then on to mission work in China where she hoped to work at a children's hospital.

Camp Wesleyan



But before they began their new lives, the two Kappa Phi roommates made plans to meet at Camp Wesleyan in Lakeside, Ohio in August. Kappa Phi would be convening its Third National Council with much business to discuss and programming to enjoy! They were wondering how the host chapter Epsilon was going to use the theme of “Flowers” in the week’s programs.

Would there be a pageant? They looked forward to the boat trip and visit to

Detroit. Rose was making sure to pack her Kodak to capture memories. Maude wanted to meet the Grand Sponsor, Mrs. Gertrude DuBois. She had heard she was friendly, the Theta girls even called her Mother D.



MRS. E. V. DUBOIS

OUR GRAND SPONSOR

MISS ROSE REEVE
GRAND PRESIDENT



Rose couldn't wait to meet the Grand President from Beta Chapter, Miss Rose Reeve, who was rumored to be dignified and sweet. A train trip across the country and new sisters from eight states to meet! What could be better than that!

About the Authors

Mary Seiler Goodenow grew up in Sandusky, Ohio with a family of seven brothers and sisters! She attended college at Bowling Green State University from 1969 until 1973. In the Spring of 1970 Mary became an active member of Kappa Phi at Alpha Gamma Chapter at BGSU and eventually became president of the chapter her junior year. After her graduation and subsequent marriage to Dan Goodenow, Mary moved back to Bowling Green and became sponsor of Alpha Gamma in 1978. She has served as chapter sponsor during at least 3 different time periods over the years and is now an honorary sponsor. Mary is a charter member of the Northwest Ohio alums and continues to be a member. National involvement includes serving on the National Executive Board as Gamma Kora Coordinator and chairing the National Leadership committee. She is a member of the Legion of Light in recognition of her 35 years of service to Catholic education at St. Aloysius School

in Bowling Green. Mary continues as an active member in the parish of St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

Mary would like to thank her husband Dan for being a true 'Kappa Phella' with his love and support of Mary's involvement in Kappa Phi over these many years. Mary and Dan continue to live in Bowling Green with their dog. They have two grown daughters. Their older daughter, Debbie Goodenow Messman, is an alumna of Alpha Omega Chapter of Kappa Phi at Ohio Northern University. Their younger daughter is Beth Goodenow Corrigan who has provided creative and technical support to her Kappa Phi mother over many years.

Kathy Guy Sanders grew up in Columbus, Ohio with a family of four brothers. She attended The Ohio State University from 1971-1975. She became an active member of Kappa Phi at Epsilon Chapter in the spring of 1972. In her active chapter she served as treasurer and vice president where she discovered her gift for programming. After graduation, Kathy moved to the Athens, Ohio area where she was an elementary teacher, attended Ohio University for her MEd. in 1979, and met her husband Ron. While in Athens, she was a member of the Athens Alums, the Gamma Kora program director, and then became the Phi Chapter associate sponsor. She married Ron in 1982 and has lived in the Cleveland and Chicago areas, before returning to Columbus, Ohio in 1989. Kathy has served on the Zeta Kora board, was National Program Director from 1989-1993, and Epsilon Chapter sponsor, and chaired the National Leadership Committee. She has used her Kappa Phi training in all of the churches to which she has belonged

and continues to sing in the choir at
Scioto Ridge United Methodist Church.

Kathy would like to thank her
Kappa Phellow, Ron, for all his love and
support of her Kappa Phi work and
everything she does. Ron and Kathy live
on the northwest side of Columbus with
their two cats. They have a grown son,
Nathan, and a daughter, Julie, who is a
student at Ohio University. All have
enjoyed her Kappa Phi adventures and
helped her achieve her Kappa Phi
dreams.

*The authors would like to thank their
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Janet Martin Cummings for her valuable editing and assistance.

Laura Walters Anspach for creating Rose, our paper doll, and designing her wardrobe.

And all of our Kappa Phi sisters who continue to provide us with inspiration and support.