

# Chapter 3

## The Thirties

The Northeastern Province was established on December 30, 1930. The Northeastern Province consisted of an alumni chapter and four active chapters. The active chapters were Epsilon, Lambda, Omicron, and Chi. The sole alumni chapter was Philadelphia Alumni.

### The Great Depression of the Thirties

The stock market crash came on “Black Tuesday,” October 29, 1929. Sixteen million shares of stock changed hands on that day. By the end of 1929, the market had declined in value some fifteen billion dollars. At the close of the year 1931, stock losses were estimated at fifty billion dollars. The greatest American depression began.

The economic condition of the country had a definite effect on the growth of the Northeastern Province. The only chapter chartered during the thirties was New York Alumni in 1937. The focus of the Northeastern Province during this period was to maintain existing chapters.

### Northeastern Province Polemarchs during the Thirties

James Egert Allen of Omicron was appointed the first Northeastern Province Polemarch. He served in 1930. Harcourt A. Tynes of Omicron was appointed second Northeastern Province Polemarch by the then Grand Polemarch A. Moore Shearin. He served from 1930 until 1933

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Grand Chapter meeting in August 1933, then Grand Polemarch Jerome Peters appointed James E. Allen of New York City to the position of Northeastern Province Polemarch with jurisdiction over chapters located in New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Baltimore, MD; Washington, DC; and Durham, NC. He served in this capacity for one year and was appointed Northeastern Province Polemarch in 1934 where he served until 1936. The third Northeastern Province Polemarch, I. T. Donaldson of New York Alumni, served from 1936 until 1939.

### Northeastern Province Councils in the Thirties

During the 1930s, the Northeastern Province Council Meetings were held in the city where the Northeastern Polemarch lived. Since all of the Northeastern Province Polemarchs during this decade resided in New York City, it follows that all Province Council Meeting were held in New York City. These meetings provided an opportunity for Kappas in the Northeastern Province to get together, discuss and plan the new directions of the Northeastern Province; however, the primary focus of these meetings was maintaining the status quo.

### Chapters of the Thirties

December 4, 1915	Epsilon	May 25, 1921	Philadelphia Alumni
February 20, 1920	Lambda	February 15, 1924	Chi
February 27, 1921	Omicron	February 20, 1937	New York Alumni

**E****EPSILON**  
**Lincoln University**  
**Chartered December 4, 1915****History of Epsilon**

The Epsilon chapter, the first active chapter of the Northeastern Province, was established at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, on December 4, 1915. The members were E. R. Davis - Polemarch, P. T. Nolte - Vice Polemarch, J. H. Alston - Keeper of Records, S. E. Robertson - Keeper of the Exchequer, and A. E. Henry, J. W. Killingsworth, L. Tillery, W. J. Dabney, L. S. Hart, J. H. Scott, W. J. Delph, B. E. Moore, T. M. Selden, H. H. Smith, E. H. Walker, and H. G. Ridgley, Jr. Here again, Kappa Alpha Psi performed a service to the students and the school.

Members of the Epsilon Chapter are still visible leaders at Lincoln University. Chapter members have served as President of the Student Government Association, President of the Pan Hellenic Council, and Homecoming King. The chapter has also participated in the Philadelphia Cares Day of Community Service and the Philadelphia AIDS Walk. Ongoing community service projects include campus tours for prospective students, a clothing/food drive, volunteering at local hospitals and a regular campus cleanup.



Levell Alexander, Michael Gary, Shawn Harris and James  
Ross Take a Break at Lincoln University



**LAMBDA**  
**Temple University**  
**Chartered February 20, 1920**

**History of Lambda**

The Lambda Chapter was established February 20, 1920 at Temple University. B. H. Brown, a high-ranking student of dentistry, became the Chapter's first Polemarch. Other members were F. L. Brown and G. W. Clinton, standout dental students; C. S. Wooding, referred to as a "satellite" in medicine; A. S. Hawkins, one of the best students in the pharmacy; B. C. Calloway of Penn. State University; and Norman Glenn, a pharmacist who had performed creditably as a lieutenant in World War I.

Members according to the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending February 27, 1920:

Felton L. Brown  
Bernard C. Calloway  
G. W. Clinton  
B. H. Dillard  
Norman Glenn  
A. S. Hawkins  
Cornelius C. Wooding





**OMICRON**  
**Columbia University**  
**Chartered February 27, 1921**

**As written in the FEBRUARY 1956 KAPPA JOURNAL**

**Omicron Celebrates Its 35th Anniversary**

On February 27, 1956, Omicron Chapter will have reached its thirty-fifth year of service to the noble clan of Kappa Alpha Psi. Thirty-five years ago ten young men, all students attending Columbia University, became intimate friends. From that friendship arose a greater desire to form some sort of group that would embody the ideas and aims of these students and would unite them into a closer bond. Among those aspiring young men were three Kappas: C. Udell Turpin who had come from the University of Illinois, and "Gas Boy" Ridgely and C. Jackson who hailed from the environs of Lincoln University. These three men knew and felt that essentially the aims and ideas of their fellow students- fellowship, scholarship and brotherly love were in accord with those tenets of Kappa Alpha Psi.

**First Officers**

On the twenty-seventh of February in 1921, A. W. Tucker, C. F. Foushee, W. L. Davis, Deaver P. Young, W. J. Levy, H. Hayden and E. M. Wood, were initiated into the sacred realm of Kappa Alpha Psi. These neophytes along with Turpin, Ridgely and Jackson then became the charter members of Omicron Chapter. The first officers of the new chapter were C. U. Turpin, Polemarch; A. W. Tucker, Vice-Polemarch; E. M. Wood, Exchequer; Deaver P. Young, Keeper of Records; W. J. Levy, Strategus.

Today Omicron Chapter stands as a monument to the re-affirmation of faith and ideas that our charter members subscribed to in those early days of the chapter's beginning. The fundamental purpose of Achievement in Omicron Chapter throughout the years has become analogous to the names of James Egert Allen, William Chisholm, Jimmie Lunceford, Aaron Douglas, John Perry, Ernest L. Dimitry, Arthur A. Schomburg, Allen Morton, James Jones, Paul Crawford, Albert Oliver, and many other stalwart brothers whose names at one time or another have been listed on the membership scroll of the chapter. Omicron during its thirty-five years of service to the fraternity has been host to the Grand Conclave twice, once in 1925, and again in 1935. The chapter has had listed among its rank during those years four Grand Chapter officers and no fewer than ten officers of the Northeastern Province, The incumbent Senior Grand Vice-Polemarch, Grand Strategus, and Northeast Provincial Polemarch are or, were members of Omicron Chapter. Members of Omicron founded the New York and Brooklyn Alumni Chapters, and, several of these same brothers were quite instrumental in helping Delta Mu and Asbury Park- Neptune Alumni, the "baby" chapters of the fraternity, receive their charters from the Grand Chapter.

**Nothing Desired**

In the social arena, Omicron has left nothing to be desired. In 1930, the chapter founded the Kappa Karnival. Last year, the New York Alumni presented the 25th Kappa Karnival to be held in New York. Omicron also became the first chapter of any fraternity to sponsor the annual Kappa Moonlight Boat Ride, a tradition which has continued now for eight years.

At present there are twenty-eight active brothers in Omicron. Located in New York Alumni and Brooklyn Alumni are twenty-five Omicron men who have given twenty years or more

# OMICRON

of service to their fraternity. The brothers of Omicron are proud of their accomplishments. Among the schools represented in the makeup of Omicron are Harvard, Columbia, CCNY, Yale, Hunter, Brooklyn, and Queens Colleges, St. Francis, Pace and Pratt Colleges, LIU and NYU. In recent years Omicron has distinguished itself throughout the City with its GUIDE RIGHT program for junior high school students, its charitable Kiddie Karnival, the Black and White Coronation formal in May, its spring recitals, and last year, its first fashion show. Two years have seen the first and the second Kappa Queen of Omicron Chapter chosen. The honor has gone to Miss Theresa Patterson and Miss Marie Johnston respectively.

## **A Long Time**

Thirty-five years is a long time, and to celebrate this auspicious occasion of its founding, the brothers of Omicron are giving their first Anniversary Banquet to commemorate those years of achievement and to honor their charter members, who though few in number, are eternally their guides in Phi Nu Phi. The banquet will take place on February 25, 1956 at the Hotel Theresa Skyline Room with over a hundred brothers in attendance. Once again the old and new members of Omicron Chapter will be able to unite in the fraternal bond of brotherhood and fellowship.



# PHILADELPHIA ALUMNI

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Chartered May 25, 1921

## History of Philadelphia Alumni

The Philadelphia Alumni Chapter was the first alumni chapter of the Northeastern Province. The chapter was authorized in 1921 and chartered on May 25, 1922 under the auspices of Founder of **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity** John Milton Lee. The charter members of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter were Brothers Edward H. Smyrl, Felton L. Brown, Harry Ashley, Bernard C. Calloway, George W. Clinton, Benjamin H. Dillard, Norman L. Glenn, William E. Griffin, Alvin S. Hawks and Cornelius Wooding. These brothers were all graduates of Temple University. Brother Dr. John P. Turner was the first elected Polemarch in 1922 – 23, following Founder John Milton Lee who was the interim Polemarch. The Philadelphia Alumni Chapter takes note of members who have been honored or elected on the international level:

The Philadelphia Alumni Chapter has been one of the host chapters for three Grand Chapter Conclaves: the Twentieth Grand Chapter Conclave held in 1930 where Brother A. Moore Shearin was installed as the seventh Grand Chapter Polemarch; the Forty-ninth Grand Chapter Conclave held in 1959 under the auspices of Brother C. Rodger Wilson; and the 72<sup>nd</sup> Grand Chapter Conclave held in 1995. Executive Director Richard Lee Snow was the Polemarch of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter during this period. In addition, the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter had approximately 70 financial members with 50 years or more of active service to **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.**

Prior to 1951, the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter held its monthly meetings in the private homes of brothers who served as hosts. On May 23, 1951, a committee of members found a property at 1007 Belmont Avenue which the Chapter purchased for seven thousand dollars. The building was sold a few years later and the Chapter started holding its meetings in the YMCA at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Sansom, but a lack of privacy forced the chapter to leave. The next meeting location was the Heritage House on North Broad Street, but this was a high crime area and next to the meeting location of the local chapter of the Black Panthers, which created a tense atmosphere in and around the area. The Chapter then held its meetings at the New Holsey Christian Methodist Church at 5300 Germantown Avenue. A plethora of incidents forced the Chapter to move its meeting location to an assortment of hotels and community centers.

In 1995, the Chapter purchased a facility in the historic Germantown section of Philadelphia. This building, which has been named the Achievement Center, is now home to all of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter's activities.

# PHILADELPHIA ALUMNI



In 1999, Brother **Dr. Melvin Jackson** was presented with the Elder Watson Diggs Award during the 74<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter Conclave in Atlanta, Georgia. Brother Dr. Jackson was the 23<sup>rd</sup> Polemarch of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter, leading the chapter from 1988 to 1990.



*Philadelphia Senior Kappas after a recent health seminar - 1999*



**CHI**  
**Boston University**  
**Chartered February 15, 1924**

## **History of Chi**

On February 15, 1924, the Grand Chapter was petitioned for a chapter at Boston University. Within ten hours after the credentials were received, Chi Chapter had its beginning with Maceo Hubbard of Harvard Law School as Polemarch. Other members were Julian Evans, Boston University Law School Vice Polemarch; Courtney Dooley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Keeper of Records; Theodore Nathaniel D. Scott, Boston University Law School - Strategus, J. Logan Jenkins, formerly of Tufts - Lieutenant Strategus; and John Hunter of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Chapter was well received in Boston and within a month had initiated Clifford Crawford, a student at Tufts.

### **The Kappa Alpha Psi Journal April 1983**

The past two semesters found Chi Chapter extremely busy with community projects in the greater Boston area. This fall, and continuing through the spring, the Chapter kicked off a successful tutorial program at the Western Avenue Baptist Church in Cambridge, MA. For its service, the Chapter was honored by the church and was asked to continue the program.

Also, following the directive of Grand Polemarch Robert L. Gordon, the Chapter stepped up its involvement with the Big Brother Association. Most members have taken "little brothers" under their wings.

The Chapter also raised over \$1,000 for the Minority Recruitment Program of the Big Brothers Association by way of the "Kappa-Thon '83" Brotherhood Run. This was a 24-hour relay run by ten members of the Chapter. Donations were raised on a goal of 200 miles at a penny per mile. Brothers and Sweethearts braved cold, rainy weather for 24 long hours and surpassed their 200-mile goal as all Brothers and "little brothers" joined in for the final mile.

For the effort in this unique event, Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis will honor Chi Chapter with a state citation for outstanding community service.

Chi Chapter also plans to initiate a college chapter of the NAACP at Northeastern and help with their membership and voter registration drives.

Individual achievers include Keith Clinkscales' election as Treasurer of UMOJA, the Black student union at Boston University and Vernon Nichols' election as president of the Inter-Fraternal/Sorority Council also there..

At Northeastern, Eric Jean was elected vice president of the Inter-Fraternal Council, Tony Robinson is editor-in-chief of the Onyx-Informer, the Black student newspaper at NU; Mark Meredith is the Managing Editor.

Richard Hart was awarded the Chapter's scholastic achievement award with a G.P.A. of 3.6 and is also a founding member of the Northeastern University Black Business Student Society with Monte Ford and Greg Thomas. Hart also was honored by the African-American Institute at Northeastern for being the Black senior with the highest cumulative average. He was named to Who's Who Among College Students and is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.



# NEW YORK ALUMNI

New York, New York  
Chartered February 20, 1937

## History of New York Alumni

New York Alumni Chapter of **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.** was chartered February 20, 1937, under the sponsorship of the Province Polemarch, Brother I. T. Donaldson, with the cooperation of a number of brothers, including Brothers Ernest L. Dimitry, Thomas Hocutt, Ernest Wood, H. Taft Thompson, Robert “Si” Jones, Othello Broadnax, William Bryant, Samuel Walker, James B. Hardy, J. Douglas Serrell, John Perry, Marion Griffin, James “Chum” Reid, Walter I. Delph, Anthony G. Featherston, Rudolph Scott, Nathaniel Scott, Enzel Smith, Leroy Payne, Robert H. Watson, Harcourt Tynes, George “Pat” Tynes, C.L. Heyliger, Laurence Hunt, Miguel Houchen, Floyd Mourning, Chauncy Cox, Thomas Gorgas, Roosevelt Hammond, Robert Stevens, Von Dickerson, Frank Wheeler, William Atkinson, E. K. Jones, Leroy Lowery, G. Victor Cools, Elihue Packard, Hubert Carter, John Silvera, Roy Ferguson and Irving Hamer. Many of these brothers were the original sponsors of the Kappa Costume Karnival which became the unique and outstanding NY Fall Ball, now called the Annual Krimson and Kream Ball. New York Alumni’s first Polemarch was Brother Irving Hamer. The Keeper of Records was Brother Robert “Si” Jones and the Keeper of Exchequer was Brother H. Taft Thompson. In the early stages of the chapter’s incorporation there was no regular meeting place. Brothers met at local YMCA’s, Elks Home, basement room at 135<sup>th</sup> Street and also at the homes of Brothers Dimitry and Delphi. The most prominent issue on the minds of Brothers was the longing desire to have a Kappa Kastle. Brother Donaldson put up the first five dollars. This was the start of the fund to buy a house. Brother Donaldson encouraged the chapter to allocate a portion of their dues for this fund as well. The fund received its greatest impetus from the Annual Kappa Kruise began in 1950. In 1952 the boat ride netted \$12,500, which was placed into the bank along with each subsequent net profit. In 1959 the brothers’ hard work and dreams paid off. With a loan from Carver Federal Bank of \$12,500 the deal was solidified and the purchase of a four-story brownstone at 472 W. 141 Street in Harlem, New York was made. The mortgage was burned during the administration of Brother Oliver Parsons; thus, the title of Polemarch Emeritus was bestowed upon him. The Kappa Kastle suffered a major fire in the early 1990s. The first and second floors were severely damaged. With the support of the brothers, however, the chapter has completely refurbished and renovated the property.

Reclamation has always been an important issue for the chapter. Under Brother R. Duke Marshall, the fourth Reclamation Committee reclaimed more brothers than at any other time. The chapter received recognition for this at the Detroit Conclave in 1982. There is an ongoing Guide Right program. The chapter sponsors a tutorial program at Salem Methodist Church. In the spring of 1996, the Fredrick Douglass Kappa League made the first Historically Black College Tour, visiting schools such Hampton University, Howard University, and Morgan State University. During Halloween and Christmas there are children’s parties given which are anticipated by the neighborhood the entire year. Brothers also donate gifts to the children during the Christmas party. Under the state’s Not-For-Profit laws, New York Alumni established the Reginald Lewis

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Scholarship Foundation in 1992. The Scholarship Foundation gives at least five scholarships to college bound young men every year at its annual scholarship luncheon. Since its inception, the Foundation has given away more than \$250,000.



*New York Alumni Honors Dr. Calvin Butts – 2001*

