

Iota Chapter

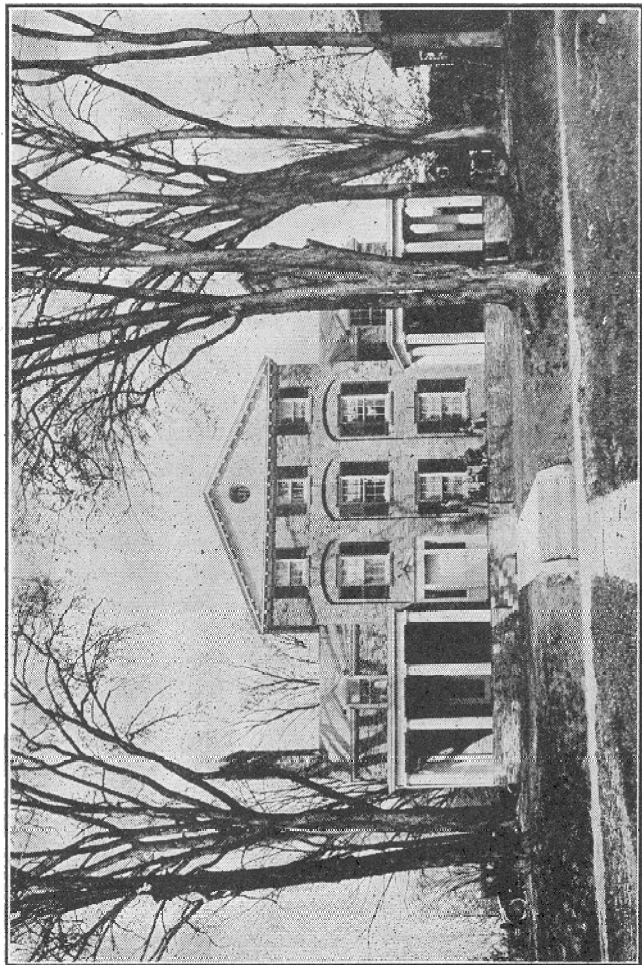
Colgate University
Hamilton, New York

By Sterling R. March, 1921
(*Supplemented*)

Theta Chi was brought into being at Colgate to meet a real, vital need of the college. Since 1887, when Phi Gamma Delta was established, until 1911, not a new national fraternity had entered Colgate, although during this time two locals had sprung up, one in 1902 and the other in 1909, and known as the Madison Club and Sigma Alpha, respectively. In the meantime the University had grown from a small student body to one of over four hundred students, this, the number of fraternities had become totally inadequate to take care of increasing numbers. No class emphasized this need for a new fraternity more than the Class of 1915, which, after the other fraternities, then in the field, had made their selections, contained a strong body of non-fraternity men.

This was just the situation when Frederick W. Ladue came to Colgate. While a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute he had been one of the petitioners of the local there that afterwards became Delta Chapter, but while their petition was being considered he left Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and consequently was not taken into Delta Chapter when it was installed. His first attempts to organize a petitioning body at Colgate were in the nature of conversations with James H. Green, '15, in the latter's room in West Hall. The two then became closely associated with Walter E. Wilcox, '12, Frank A. King, '13, and John N. Sarvey, '12, who had likewise come to feel the need of a national fraternity. When this group had been properly organized and materially added to in numbers, regular meetings were held in the room of Neubauer Brothers at Mrs. Roots on Payne Street.

This organization, which existed subrosa, had to have a name for its



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petition, so they called it Theta Mu. Ladue was almost solely responsible for the petition going to Theta Chi. The same spirit that had prompted the banding together prompted also the selection of Theta Chi, then a national, with a long and honorable life, that was just beginning to expand. The first correspondence concerning Theta Chi was addressed to George H. Chapin, Jr., Alpha, '04, then alumni secretary of the fraternity, on October 8, 1911. The petition was accepted and a charter granted, creating Iota Chapter, February 21, 1912.

The following were the charter members of Iota Chapter: James S. Bailey, '15; James E. Chamberlain, '15; Gordon Chester, '15; Worth B. Cunningham, '15; Christian W. Dannenhauer, '15; James F. Davidson, '15; James H. Green, '15; Charles J. Hooker, '14; Charles D. Humphries, '14; Charles S. Knapp, '14; Frank A. King, '13; Fred W. Ladue, '12; Harvey D. Mackey, '14; Harry R. McDougall, '14; Frank N. Neubauer, '14; Frederick R. Neubauer, '14; Chauncey M. Ogden, '15; George L. E. Parry, '14; Denton D. Robinson, '14; John N. Sarvey, '12; Ellis R. Searing, '13; Perry J. Stevenson, '14; Winfield C. Sweet, '13; Walter E. Wilcox, '12.

On March 17, 1912, National President Holmes, Robert L. Irish and Edwin D. Huntley of the Grand Chapter arrived at Hamilton to install the chapter. John E. Miles of Alpha, Frank S. Sinnicks of beta, Ralph E. Harrington of Epsilon, Nathan Holmes Wells of Theta, and George V. Catuna, Harold H. camp, Leslie B. Gillie, Lloyd R. Vivian and Cecil C. Finch of Delta represented their carious chapters. The installation exercises were held at the Odd Fellows Hall, beginning in the early afternoon. At 4:30 that afternoon the charter was formally handed to Frederick W. Ladue, who had previously been elected first president of the chapter. The installation banquet was held the same evening at hotel Hamilton, with John N. Sarvey acting as toast-master. Ladue spoke for Iota, Holmes, Irish and Huntley for the Grand Chapter and Dr. M. S. Reed, Vice-President of Colgate, for the University.

The first meeting of Iota Chapter was held in the Odd Fellows Hall, where the first two initiates, T. M. Snyder, '15, and S. R. March, '15,

were given their degree work. A room in Taylor Hall, now occupied by the post office, and another directly across the hall, were later used for meeting quarters. It was in the latter rooms that the 1916 delegation was rushed and pledged. The Spring of 1913, with rented Phi Psi furniture and dishes, Iota went to house keeping at 27 Bluff Street. This was a progressive step, but one that tested the metal of the founders of the chapter. Iota had no splendid house to offer as an attraction, no star athletes, only an opportunity to help in making and building a chapter almost from the ground up. Owing to the energy and devotion of the charter members, however, the progress of the chapter went steadily on, and in the second year of its existence Iota rented the home of Mrs. Staples on Hamilton Street. This was a decided step forward. This house was large and comfortable, and, although not in "fraternity row" it was convenient both to the college and the town. There Iota remained until 1918 when a home was purchased. The latter remained the chapter's home until the completion and occupancy of its luxurious new home on "fraternity row," in 1925.

Iota is proud to have on the wall of its blue room a memorial tablet to the memory of Lloyd Ludwig, '17, a brother of Kenneth and Walter Ludwig, members of the chapter. He was the first Colgate man to give his life in the Great War. As a memorial to their son Lloyd, the Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Ludwig presented Iota with the sum of \$500.00 to be expended on the house. One year later, when Kenneth died, the stricken parents desired to give the chapter some token in memory of Kenneth, too, and had the music room of Iota's home, at that time, burlapped and beautifully decorated.

By way of a war record Iota had, on the day of signing the armistice, forty-four members in active service. Of this number three were captains, four were first lieutenants, two were second lieutenants and two were ensigns. Fifteen Iota men saw service in France and of these one was killed in action and five were wounded.

Listed among the more prominent members of Iota during its short history of fifteen years appear the following: F. W. Ladue who had held the positions of National Marshall, National Secretary and

National Historian of the fraternity since his first election to the Grand Chapter in 1915, M. E. McDowell, National Chaplain of the Grand Chapter, 1924-25, Carl A. Kallgren and Clifford E. Gates, the first coach of debates and assistant dean at Colgate, and second associate professor of German likewise at Colgate, Lionel D. Edie until 1927 a professor at the University of Indiana and since professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, Frank N. Neubauer and Albert J. Bartholomew, high school principals in Central New Jersey, Charles S. Knapp, a surgeon in Connecticut, and Samuel W. Sweet of Utica, New York, one of the best known osteopaths in the East.

Too much credit cannot be given to Robert J. Cashion, C. Garry Riggs and Maxwell E. McDowell for their untiring efforts in planning and carrying out the financing of the present new chapter house.

Statistics

Number of members initiated to September, 1927: 226.

Name and frequency of chapter publication: Discontinued.

Average size of chapter: Fifty.

Both members and pledges may room in the chapter house.

Meals are served in the chapter house.

Chapter owns its home, value \$80,000.

Colgate University

Colgate University, formerly a Baptist institution called Madison College, is located at Hamilton, New York. It was founded in 1819. It is a non-sectarian, non-co-educational school and during the school year of 1926-27 the student body numbered approximately 900. The following fraternities have chapters at Colgate (dates of establishment in parenthesis): Delta Kappa Epsilon (1856), Delta Upsilon (1865), Beta Theta Pi (1880), Phi Gamma Delta (1887), Phi Kappa Psi (1887), Theta Chi (1912), Lambda Chi Alpha (1916), Sigma Nu (1917),

Kappa Delta Rho (1917), Alpha Tau Omega (1918), and Phi Delta Theta (1918).

Hamilton is a small town of 2500 people, located about thirty miles south of Utica and approximately forty-five miles north of Binghamton. The College can be conveniently reached by motor bus from either of the aforementioned cities.