

In the school years of 1910-11, a small group of Black students attended Indiana University. Most of them were working their way through school. The number of places where they might assemble was limited. Realizing that they had no part in the social life of the university and drawn together by common interests, they decided that a Greek-letter fraternity would do much to fill the missing link in their college existence.

Ten men, organized themselves to create a fraternity. The charter members were Elder Watson Diggs, Byron K. Armstrong, John M. Lee, Henry T. Asher, Marcus P. Blakemore, Guy L. Grant, Paul W. Caine, George W. Edmonds, Ezra D. Alexander and Edward G. Irvin.

The Founders sought one another's company between classes and dropped by one another's places of lodging to further discuss the means of formulating the fledgling fraternity in an effort to relieve the depressing isolation. They found that through these close interactions, they had common interests and a close bond began to emerge.

The Founders possessed the imagination, ambition, courage and determination to defy custom in pursuit of a college education and careers.

These men decided the Fraternity would be more than another social organization. Reliance would be placed upon high Christian ideals and the purpose of ACHIEVEMENT.

On January 5, 1911, the Fraternity then became known as Kappa Alpha Nu. These men of vision decided KAN would be more than another social organization. It would be the only Greek-letter organization founded with the concept of achievement. KAN began uniting college men of culture, patriotism and honor in a Bond of fraternity.

Primarily, under the efforts and leadership of the calm, methodical, and philosophical Elder W. Diggs and the critical, and scholarly Byron K. Armstrong, the Kappa Alpha Nu Fraternity was founded. Through their combined labors, the fraternity's ritual and ceremonial forms, constitution, hymn and motto were created, and insignia and emblems were fashioned.

Taking careful attention to detail and to ensure the fraternity was rooted in authenticity, these Founder Diggs took courses in Greek heraldry and mythology and applied their combined knowledge to the development of these articles. The idealist, John Milton Lee also contributed significantly to the fledgling organization. For their works to establish the fraternity, Diggs was named permanent chairman, Lee was designated as secretary and Armstrong as sergeant-at-arms. These three Founders are credited with guiding the infant Fraternity through the most perilous years of its life. Able assistance provided by each of the remaining Founders furnished necessary sustenance for the embryonic group. Kappa Alpha Nu became the first incorporated Black Fraternity in the United States once granted a charter by the Indiana Secretary of State on May 15, 1911.

The Greek Letter Ψ was subsequently chosen in place of N and the Fraternity acquired a distinctive Greek letter symbol and Kappa Alpha Psi (KAΨ) thereby became an indistinguishable Greek-letter Fraternity. The name was officially changed to Kappa Alpha Psi on a resolution adopted at the Grand Chapter Meeting in December 1914. This change became effective April 15, 1915.

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