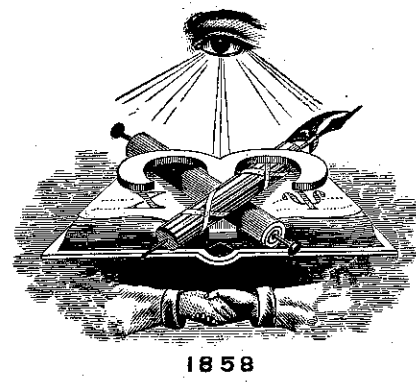


**ALPHA UPSILON**, established on 3 March 1858, at Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina by Absalom Blythe, Robert Perry Duncan, William Edward Earle, Alexander Sparks Lide, Young John Pope, Hazel Furman Scaife, William Chapline Scott and Thomas M. Smith. Gamma, John M. Richmond, Σ'58; and Zeta, Hamlin Beattie, Δ'56.

FURMAN UNIVERSITY is located in Greenville, South Carolina. In 1858 it was in a most prosperous and flourishing condition. The town, then numbering less than 3000 people, was nestled in the beautiful hills which lie at the foot of the Blue Ridge. The healthfulness and salubrity of its atmosphere, the wonderful equanimity of its climate, and the beautiful surroundings of its high, rolling country, furnished admirable physical advantages for a seat of learning, whilst the high moral and religious tone of the little community was an additional attraction, making it altogether desirable. It was the seat, also, of a flourishing Female College and of the Southern Theological Seminary, which as since been removed to Louisville, Kentucky. All three of these institutions were under the auspices of the Baptist denominations. The university and the college had been built up largely by the planters of that denomination in the lower portion of the state, for the purpose of educating their children in the bracing climate of the "up-country."

The university then had over two hundred students, and amongst them were about a dozen whose congenial tastes brought them together in a common friendship, which was developed and strengthened daily by their association in their literary societies, their military organization, as well as in the classroom. Hamlin Beattie, Δ'56, then lately graduated from Princeton, a resident of the town and a law student, suggested to William E. Earle the organization of an Alpha of the Chi Psi, and the idea was quickly grasped by him and a number of his companions, who soon realized that it was just the association they needed for the development of their friendship and their social relations.

A charter was granted, the duty of organization devolved upon Alpha Sigma and she sent as her delegate John M. Richmond Σ'58, who, aided by Brother Beattie, Δ'56, completed the organization "and on one cold



night in March there were eight youths all made happy as bridegrooms." The Alpha was called Upsilon; the state's symbol is a palmetto tree to which that letter is somewhat similar and as the first Alpha in the state it was deemed entitled to appropriate the palmetto. Upsilon was largely instrumental afterwards in the establishment of Beta and Tau, whilst she furnished to Omicron three of her charter members and organized her. The following letters to R.B. Maclin, E'59, show very clearly the founding early history of the Alpha:

"Chapel Hill, NC, 1 March 1858

"Dear Brother:

"...I am also glad to inform you that the Furman University petition has gone through without opposition. Brother Richmond left today for South Carolina to carry on the initiation of the petitioners, he is to be assisted by a graduate of Princeton, in fact, he was the one who persuaded the Furman University boys to petition; I received a letter from him about the petitioners, and recommended to the other chapters the granting of a petition solely on his authority; no doubt we will have a fine chapter there although it is a small college; you will hear from me, as soon as Brother Richmond returns, which will be in a few days...

"Truly yours in the Bonds,  
"James A. Walker, #6"

"Chapel Hill, NC 14 March 1858.  
"Dear Brother:

"...I suppose you are aware that the petition from Furman University has been granted. As our chapter was most convenient our #6 committed its organization to our charge. Brother Beattie and myself were elected officers to organize their chapter, Beattie as A.Z. and myself as A.D. Beattie is an old graduate and resides in Greenville, SC. He saved us a good deal of expense as Furman University is in Greenville. We initiated the petitioners on Wednesday night, 3 March 1858. Their chapter is Alpha Upsilon. The men initiated are Absalom Blythe, Greenville, S.C.; William E. Earle, Columbus, N.C.; Alexander S. Lide, Darlington, S.C.; Young J. Pope, Newberry, S.C.; H. Furman Scaife, Unionville, S.C.; William C. Scott, St. Helena Island, S.C.; and Thomas M. Smith, Edgefield, S.C.

"All of the petitioners were not initiated as they were absent from the university at the time. I remained in Greenville three days and never was more hospitably entertained in my life. We may be proud of our AY, for I think it will be one of our best chapters. I never met with a better set of men in my life than they are; they stand high in college in every sense of the word, and have every requisite necessary for true Chi Psis. Leaving out their other good qualities, 'the champagne bust' they gave us is enough to recommend them. And lastly, though not speaking disparagingly of any of our chapters, I will venture to say that we have not a better crowd of boys anywhere than the boys of AY...

"Yours in the Bond of Chi Psi,  
"J. M. Richmond."

The high character of the charter members of the Alpha at once won for it the envy of the other students and the sympathy of the faculty. Its early success was phenomenal. The outbreak of the war closed the institution and nearly all of Upsilon's members rushed into the service. Their record is the proudest

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page in the Alpha's history.

Nearly five years had elapsed since Furman University had been closed and Upsilon's band had met together in fraternal intercourse, when, in May 1866 and shortly after the reopening of Furman, the Alpha was revived. Brothers W. E. Earle, W. H. Perry, William Beattie and J. F. Dargan were the moving spirits in the work.

To Upsilon belongs the distinction of being the first one of the Southern Alphas to reorganize after the war, and the hopes of the revived Alpha clustered about four men. A small number, forsooth; but that was the day of small things, when students were very few. Earnest work, however, brought several recruits, and the first post bellum session ended with eleven members.

The following letter of 7 July 1868, to William S. Palmer, E'68, gave to Alpha Upsilon announcement of the revival from John H. Dargan, A.D. of Alpha Upsilon:

"After a suspension of four years during

Furman University

FURMAN IS one of the oldest colleges in South Carolina and the oldest Southern Baptist college in the nation. Founded in 1826 in Edgefield, South Carolina, as the Furman Academy and Theological Institution, financial problems forced the school to move to Sumter County and Winnsboro during the next 25 years. The institution finally settled in Greenville in 1850, the same year the school was chartered as Furman University.

Furman became coeducational in 1933 when the university merged with the Greenville Woman's College, another college situated in downtown Greenville. The university built a new campus on the outskirts of the city during the late 1950s and moved there permanently in 1961.

Today, Furman is a private, coeducational, primarily undergraduate college of 2,500 students. The 750-acre campus, which includes a 30-acre lake, 24 major buildings and an 18-hole golf course, is considered to be one of the most beautiful in the nation. Furman is widely recognized for its excellent academic program, outstanding faculty, and superb facilities.

the late war, Alpha Upsilon was reorganized by several of its old members. Members initiated on 12 May 1866: John Edgeworth Beattie, John Hugh Dargan, James Belton Davis, John Henry Earle."

The success of the Alpha for several successive years was limited only by the feebleness of the institution.

The latter half of 1881 was gloomy. Such was the financial condition of the college that the trustees met and decided not to open in the following September. But in August, the Saluda Association convened at Williamstown, South Carolina, and decided to lead a movement among the Baptist to reopen the institution. The university reopened in September 1881, with twenty-five students. It was weak in numbers and so was Alpha Upsilon, J. B. Earle being the only representative. He initiated John M. Manly, and they were reinforced by the return of Brother Douglas later in the fall. These faithful brethren did the work on the Fraternity "Catalogue" which was issued about that time, and by their influence and high standing in the university, did not suffer Alpha Upsilon to fall into the background. Her power was felt and recognized. The next year Furman gathered unto herself and so did Alpha Upsilon.

From that time Upsilon had a career of continuous prosperity until at the close of the session, June 1898, by vote of the trustees, all fraternities were banished from Furman University.

"As shown in this statement," wrote Alester G. Furman, Y'86, "fraternities were outlawed by the board of trustees in 1898, the Alpha functioning, however through 1902. As I remember it, the provisions of the board of trustees were that there should be no additional initiations after the action by the board in December, 1898, so that the class that had been initiated during that fall carried on through until 1902."

Upsilon's men in her late years were still the leaders in all college affairs and to the last the Alpha retained her high standards of membership and conduct. The news that Upsilon could no longer exist sent a pang of sorrow to her hundreds of loyal sons the country over, and, although there now seems small prospect of revival, a hope, born of love for Chi Psi and Upsilon, still lingers with the men, some now aged, whose fondest recollections are of the old Alpha at Furman.



A. G. Furman, III X'39; A. G. Furman, II, Σ40, A. G. Furman, Y'59. Four Generations of Chi Psis. When this picture was taken several years ago, before the death of Charles M. Furman, Y'59, (great-grandfather), it was greatly regretted that Alester G. Furman, III (father), had not been available to Chi Psi for the reason that fraternities had been abolished at Furman University before he attended there. "The fact that there was a Chi Psi Alpha at Amherst had a great deal to do with my lending my influence in deciding that Alester G. Furman, III, X'39, (grandson), should attend that college," said Alester G. Furman, Y'86 (grandfather), of Greenville, SC.

Then Alester G. Furman, II, received the following letter of 27 March 1940, from Philip Walker, Σ40, #1 of Alpha Sigma:

"We have been informed of your close family connections with the Chi Psi Fraternity. We understand that Chi Psi would have been your choice of fraternities had not the Alpha at your Alma Mater been dormant at the time you were in school. With this in mind, Alpha Sigma of Chi Psi, in the spirit of our "family Fraternity," cordially invites you to become initiated into the Bonds of Brotherhood at our formal initiation in April, 1940... As Chi Psi has no honorary members, you will be initiated regularly into the Fraternity, taking your place as a full fledged Chi Psi among our alumni. It would please us greatly if both your father and your son could be present to attend the ceremonies at your initiation."

That this invitation were accepted was a source of great satisfaction the father and the son of Alester G. Furman, II, Σ40, who were present at his initiation on 20 April 1940, at Chapel Hill, and will afford gratification to other Chi Psis now and in years to come.