

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

September/October 2002

Who's Number One? As football season begins, we often hear this question asked. Kappas and others also wonder which is the first women's fraternity. Through the years, this has prompted lengthy discussion among members of the Greek world.

- The Adelphean Society was founded in May 1851 at Wesleyan Female College, Macon, Ga. It later became Alpha Delta Pi.
- The Philomathean Society was founded in July 1852 at Wesleyan Female College, Macon, Ga. The society's name was later changed to Phi Mu.
- I.C. Sorosis was founded in April 1867, at Monmouth College, Monmouth, Ill., and became Pi Beta Phi in 1888.
- Kappa Alpha Theta was founded at Indiana Asbury College, now DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind., in January 1870.
- Kappa Kappa Gamma was founded October 13, 1870, at Monmouth College, Monmouth, Ill.

When you look at the founding dates of the earliest women's societies and fraternities, you can see why there has been confusion. *Who's number one?*

Do we consider the early 1851-1867 societies who later changed their names to Greek letters the first women's fraternities? If so, Alpha Delta Pi founded as the Adelphean Society would be number one. If we don't consider the first three societies women's fraternities, Kappa Alpha Theta would be number one. It is the first Greek letter fraternity for women.

Theta at once began to expand in response to the national idea already expressed in the growth of the men's fraternities and an effort was made to establish a chapter of this fraternity at Monmouth College, where a women's society called the I.C. Sorosis had been established. The women who were asked to become its charter members preferred, however, to organize a new fraternity and thus Kappa Kappa Gamma came into being on October 13, 1870. (*Kappa's Record* 1903)

Even though Theta and Kappa were founded in 1870, the Thetas appeared in January and the Kappas not until October when our six Founders walked into chapel at Monmouth College wearing little golden keys in their hair.

We know the meaning of Alpha Omega Omicron on our badge. Look closely at a Theta's badge and you will see the same Greek letters. Yes, Kappa and Theta were both founded in 1870 and were *among* the first women's fraternities.

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Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity
October 13, 1870-2002
Celebrating
A Tradition of Leadership
for 132 years