

Ten Plus One

There were ten University of Tennessee Students initiated into Phi Gamma Delta at old-Schubert's Hotel in Knoxville, TN that Friday night May 2, 1890. It had all started with an elegant supper served at 9 o'clock. This night ended with Kappa Tau becoming the newest chapter in Phi Gamma Delta. The first chapter officers were elected that night with Edmund McMillan Davis as President. Mac Davis was from Knoxville. He grew up in First Presbyterian church and was supported financially by that church while preparing for the ministry. It was while serving as the minister of the First Presbyterian Church in McDonough, Georgia that Mac Davis died suddenly on a Sunday evening in 1905. Charlie Moore, whose full name was Charles Chilton Moore Jr., was from Lexington Kentucky. His maternal grandfather had founded Transylvania University. While at Tennessee Charlie Moore was captain of the first football team as well as President of the Pep commission. It was in the latter role that he suggested orange and white as the school colors. He served Kappa Tau as its second president, had a successful career as a chemical engineer, and died in San Francisco in 1940. The third chapter founder was also the third president. Samuel Turney Neeley was also from Kentucky. He was raised in Paris, Kentucky, a boyhood friend of another charter member Nicholas Ford Brent. He died in Cape Girardeau, Missouri in 1918 and is buried in Paris. Ford Brent, whose family gave Kappa Tau many of its early pictures of this chapter, lived in Paris, Kentucky and owned a feed and grain business. He died in 1937. The first treasurer of Kappa Tau was William T. Marfield of Lenoir City. He later was to have a very successful career in banking, much of it spent in New Orleans. He visited Knoxville in 1959 when he was 90 years old and was honored as the only chapter founder still living. He lived in Alexandria, Virginia. We know almost nothing about Oscar Jones, the sixth charter member. He was from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and died in Washington D.C. in 1929. Robert Thomas Lane was from Lewisburg, Tennessee, and was a freshman that Friday evening in 1890. He did not return to U.T. and died in Lewisburg in 1940. Robert Eastin Wait, a senior, served as director of the U.T. Y.M.C.A. after graduation. He earned a law degree and went home to Little Rock, Arkansas where he practiced law until he was elected President of the Arkansas State Bankers Association, a position he held for many years. Mr. Wait died in Little Rock in 1945. The ninth of the chapter founders was also a senior. George F. Harrison was only in the chapter until the summer of 1890. He was the oldest of the ten and was from Knoxville. He continued to live in the Fort Sanders area of Knoxville and was in the Insurance business. He died in Knoxville in 1934 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. One of the Brent pictures shows George Harrison leading a cadet band. Wallace Clift was from Chattanooga and also became a Presbyterian minister. He spent his later years in Tampa, Florida where he died in 1945. The eleventh recognized as a founder of Kappa Tau was Henry Johnston Darnall (North Carolina '89). He was a professor of Modern Languages as well as a private secretary to President Charles W. Dabney. Brother Darnall lived at the chapter house with the undergraduates for many, many years until his retirement in 1930. He moved to Richmond, Virginia where he lived but a short time before he died.

HIS GRAVE IN
MURFREESBORO
AND WE MARKED

Milt Hinshilwood
October 26, 1998

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SAMUEL NEELY
DEPARTED THIS LIFE
AUGUST 21, 1868
IN THE 80TH YEAR
OF HIS AGE
SAMUEL NEELY
BORN
AUGUST 21, 1800
DIED
AUGUST 21, 1868
AGE 67

NEELY

SAM TURNEY NEELY

1872 — 1918





N. FORD BRENT

1872 — 1937



JONES

ELLINGTON

STEWART



OSCAR JONES
1869 — 1927.

HIS WIFE

SARAH NEILSON JONES
1877 — 1947

DADDY
REV. WALLACE CLIFT
JULY 10, 1868
MAY 19, 1945



ROBERT EASTIN WAIT
JULY 24, 1869
JANUARY 16, 1945



GEORGE F. HARRISON

NOV 3, 1866

MAR 31, 1934



LANE



N

TOM