

Hartford (CT) Alumni

April 15, 1950

As in the beginning of our noble clan, the Hartford Alumni Chapter started with ten charter members. By April of 1950, ten brothers had gathered to start this chapter of our Fraternity. These brothers had experienced trials and tribulations during their lifetime, but because of their dedication to the virtues of the Fraternity, they became achievers in their own right. They were Kenneth Hickman, Daniel Fletcher, Walter Mitchell, Warren Howard, William Pickens, James Trailer, Walter Burden, Thomas Borders, Boce Barlow, and Robert Moody.

Eight of the original ten brothers, including Barlow, Burden, Fletcher, Hickman, Mitchell, Borders, Moody and Howard met to discuss the starting of the chapter. These men were already established in their professions at this time. These brothers were a congenial group who had known each other over the years. This facilitated their establishing a strong foundation for the newly formed chapter. Many of the wives were also familiar with each other. Realizing that the required constitutional number for starting an alumni chapter was ten (10), the search began for two others. Once the two men, Trailer and Pickens, were identified, they proceeded to file for chapter status. The Northeastern Province Polemarch, Enos Andrews of Philadelphia Alumni, attended the ceremony which was held at D'Pasquales Restaurant in Hartford. Silhouettes and sweethearts were in attendance for the gala affair that took place after the chartering ceremony.

With the chapter newly formed, the brothers of the Hartford Alumni met at the various members' homes. Many of the brothers had to walk to the meetings because of the lack of owning automobiles. Daniel Fletcher presided at the meetings as the first Polemarch of the newly-formed chapter. Hartford, the city of having a very transient population, appealed to brothers to move into the Hartford area, and the chapter started to increase in numbers. Brothers like James Walker, Wallace Curtis, and Harold Cunningham were among the first to join the chapter. The programs of the chapter were in line with the national programs. In the area of Guide Right, they spoke at churches and traveled to schools where they lectured to the students. The brothers planned and held social functions to which the community was invited. Dues were charged, but in order to support many of their social functions, the brothers were assessed. The fraternity meetings were typical. After the business was handled, the brothers strengthened their brotherhood through the socialization of playing their favorite card games. Some of the brothers increased their wealth by the end of the evening, while others developed excuses to tell their spouses.

As the chapter progressed, membership grew. The chapter members continued to meet in the homes of the brothers until the membership grew too large to be handled in the homes. The chapter meetings moved to local establishments where brothers were assigned the duties of being the hosts for the meetings. The responsibility of the hosts was to provide the evening nourishment for their brothers. The chapter continued to develop goals in accordance with the national guidelines. Through its reclamation efforts, the chapter continued to grow, and under the leadership of Polemarch Samuel C. Hamilton, it established undergraduate chapters within Connecticut and the New England area. These goals were accomplished through the chartering of Nu Tau at University of Massachusetts on March 10, 1989, at

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Amherst, MA; Nu Psi at University of Connecticut on June 16, 1990 at Storrs; Connecticut and Nu Gamma at Yale University on March 26, 1987 in New Haven, Connecticut. There is also an Expansion Chapter at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

In 1988, under the administration of Grand Polemarch Ullysses McBride, past chapter Polemarch Samuel C. Hamilton was appointed to the position of Province Polemarch for the Northeastern Province. Brother Hamilton, in turn, appointed Brother A. Bates Lyons, also Past Chapter Polemarch, to the position of Province Keeper of Records. Brother Lyons became elected in his own right at the 59th Provincial Council Meeting. This was the first time provincial offices were held by members of this chapter. Brother Hamilton advanced his position in the fraternity by being elected to the position of Sr. Grand Vice Polemarch at the Grand Chapter meeting held in Atlanta 1999. At the 76th Grand Conclave, held in Charlotte, N.C. in July 2003, Brother Samuel C. Hamilton was elected to the office of Grand Polemarch.



Samuel C. Hamilton
30th Grand Polemarch

The chapter has made major accomplishments during the years. Recently it has undertaken a Guide Right project, "*The Black Male - An Endangered Species*," under the leadership of its present Polemarch, Alvin Hayes. The chapter brought to the forefront the issue of the extinction of the black male. The brothers of the chapter held seminars to which young black males from the Hartford and surrounding areas were invited. In addition, the brothers of the chapter have adopted an elementary school, Annie Fisher, which they visit monthly to discuss with the students various subjects of interest. These subjects could entail career building, there adding of stories to the younger grades, or the discussion of major issues of the time such as "*saying no to drugs*" and peer pressures. The overall purpose is to act as a positive male role model to the students. As with any alumni chapter, it grows through its influx of new brothers moving into the area. Hartford, being a very transient community, is no different. It is a warm feeling to have introduced at a fraternity meeting a new brother who will be joining the clan. The life of **Kappa Alpha Psi** lives on, just as our Founders envisioned