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MS-233: Papers of Theta Chi

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MS-233: Papers of Theta Chi

Description

The material in this collection documents the foundation of the Star and Crescent Club, its assimilation into a national fraternity, and the financial and social ventures of the fraternity through the early 1990s. Illustrated in papers, blueprints, photo albums, and clothing, this collection is interesting not only for Theta Chi brothers curious about the history of their organization at Gettysburg, but for anyone wishing to follow the development of fraternity culture at Gettysburg since the middle of the 20th century. In addition to the materials housed in Special Collections, donor Jeff Glisson also intends to send related materials to Theta Chi National. These materials include various meeting minutes from 1963 to 1989, an historian's book chronicling from 1952 to 1978, issues of The Deltacron, Articles of Incorporation, responsibility lists for vice president and secretary, and rush brochures from the 1960s and 1970s.

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Keywords

fraternity, Greek life, Theta Chi, Gettysburg College, Star and Crescent Club

Disciplines

Social History | United States History

Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

Guide to the MS-233: Papers of Theta Chi



Lindsay R. Richwine '21

4/3/2019

MS-233: Papers of Theta Chi

4 boxes & oversize items, 4.25 cubic feet

Inclusive dates: 1950—1999

Bulk Dates: 1950—1980

Processed by: Lindsay Richwine '21

04-02-2019

Provenance: These materials are from the personal collections of Jeff Glisson, a Theta Chi brother who graduated from the Gettysburg College in 1977.

Historical Note: Founded in 1856 by Frederick Norton Freeman—pictured in (1-36)—and Arthur Chase at Norwich University in Vermont, Theta Chi has 160 active chapters in colleges and universities across North America.¹ The history of Theta Chi at Gettysburg College begins with the formation of the Star and Crescent Club. Formed on campus in 1950 by John A. Muth, '51, Edward F. Stauderman II, (non-graduate²), and John W. Lafean, '52, the Star and Crescent Club began to recruit members and seek an affiliation with a national fraternity. They chose a new name, Alpha Theta Chi, and began corresponding with Theta Chi national in 1951. In 1952, Alpha Theta Chi became the Delta Omicron Chapter of the national fraternity Theta Chi. It operated until 2002³, residing for the majority of this time in a chapter house at 339 Carlisle St., the former home of the Berger family and, as of 2019, the home of teaching, office, and lab space for the Economics and Africana Studies departments.⁴

Scope and Content Notes: The material in this collection documents the foundation of the Star and Crescent Club, its assimilation into a national fraternity, and the financial and social ventures of the fraternity through the early 1990s. Illustrated in papers, blueprints, photo albums, and clothing, this collection is interesting not only for Theta Chi brothers curious about the history of their organization at Gettysburg, but for anyone wishing to follow the development of fraternity culture at Gettysburg since the middle of the 20th century. In addition to the materials housed in Special Collections, donor Jeff

¹ "About," Theta Chi, n.d., accessed March 28, 2019, <https://www.thetachi.org/about>.

² It is unclear how many years Stauderman was at Gettysburg. It appears that he left for some time, joined the Army, and then returned but did not graduate. It is clear that he enrolled in 1949. (*Alumni Magazine 1949*, 15.) He is named in the 1952 *Spectrum* under a list of Theta Chi members but his name is not listed under any particular class in the rest of the yearbook. There are various records of Stauderman playing golf for the school that can be found in *The Gettysburgian*. The next available record of Stauderman is a listing in the 1954 *Alumni Bulletin* indicating both that he is a member of the Class of 1953 and that he was in the army stationed in Germany. ("Where '53 Has Gone," *The Gettysburg College Bulletin Alumni News*, January 1954, 21.) Interestingly, he appears again in the 1955 *Spectrum*, listed as the Vice President of Theta Chi. (*Spectrum*, 1955, 129.) He was mentioned in a list of non-graduates in the *Alumni News Bulletin* (*The Gettysburg College Bulletin Alumni News*, April 1957, 21.) However, he is listed as Class of 1956 in the Summer 1970 *Class Notes* (*The Gettysburg College Bulletin Alumni Issue*, Summer 1970, 38.) It seems that he originally entered the college in 1949, left for some time and came back by at least 1955 and perhaps stayed until 1956. He is not listed in any graduation programs so it is probable that he left the college in 1956 without graduating.

³ "Hallowed Ground: Gettysburg's Theta Chi Connection (Part II)," Theta Chi, July 2, 2016, accessed March 28, 2019, <https://www.thetachi.org/hallowed-ground-gettysburg-s-theta-chi-connection-part-ii>.

⁴ For more information on Alpha Theta Chi's merger with Theta Chi National and the acquisition of the Berger House, see Ron Bakeman, "Theta Chi Admits Chapter, Initiates Locals," March 8. *The Gettysburgian*, February 21, 1952, 1 and 3.

Glisson also intends to send related materials to Theta Chi National. These materials include various meeting minutes from 1963 to 1989, an historian's book chronicling from 1952 to 1978, issues of *The Deltacron*, Articles of Incorporation, responsibility lists for vice president and secretary, and rush brochures from the 1960s and 1970s.

Subjects: Fraternities, Greek life, Theta Chi, mid-20th century, blueprints, letter clothing, meeting minutes, construction, renovation, photo albums, photos, Berger House

Series Description: This collection is divided into ten Series. **Series 1:** Star and Crescent Club Notebooks 1950—1965, **Series 2:** Directories, publications, misc. 1955—1986, **Series 3:** National 1952—1986, **Series 4:** Chapter House Information 1956—1990, **Series 5:** Fundraising, **Series 6:** Grand Reunion, **Series 7:** Other material, **Series 8:** Clothing, oversize publications, **Series 9:** Photo Albums, **Series 10:** Digital Photo Albums Collection, **Series 11:** Blueprints collection

Box 1

*All items filed in order with the exception of (1-16)—(1-18) (italicized in guide,) which are filed on the side of Box 1.

(1-0) Finding Aid and Biographical Information

Series I: Star and Crescent Club Notebooks (1950-1965)

- (1-1) Star and Crescent Club Minutes (10/4/1950—3/4/1952)
- (1-2) Star and Crescent Club Low Crescent Book (10/10/1950—3/18/1952)
- (1-3) Star and Crescent Pledge Manual (11/12/1950)
- (1-4) Mothers' Club Minutes (1952—1965)

Series II: Directories, publications, misc. (1955—1986)

- (1-5) Paper on the history of Theta Chi (c.1955)
- (1-6) Copy of 1958 minutes (1958)
- (1-7) Alumni Directory and Newsletter (1959)
- (1-8) Alumni Directory (1962)
- (1-9) Program—4th Annual Homecoming Banquet (1963)
- (1-10) Directory: classes of 1965, '66, and '67 (c. 1967—1968)
- (1-11) 30th birthday pictures (1982)
- (1-12) GPA congratulations letter (1986)

Series III: National (1952—c.1986)

- (1-13) Program—96th Anniversary Convention (1952)
- (1-14) Region 3 Convention program (1964)
- (1-15) Brochure: info for rushees (c.1986)

Series IV: Chapter House information (1956—1990)

- (1-16) *Purchase of 339 Carlisle St., including deed (1956—1959)*
- (1-17) *Letters re: construction (1962—1963)*

- (1-18) *Construction of Nu Alpha (1964—1965)*
- (1-19) Survey of Theta Chi property (1972)
- (1-20) Major Improvements Program, Phase I: Design Development (1990)
- (1-21) MIP, Phi: Schematic Design
- (1-22) MIP, Phi: Design Contract (Hamme Associates)
- (1-23) MIP: Options—construction, feasibility study
- (1-24) MIP: Options—move
- (1-25) MIP, Phi: Report on kitchen improvements from Ted Ron's
- (1-26) MIP, Phi: Loans—Meridian Bank
- (1-27) MIP, Phi: Construction
- (1-28) MIP, Phi: Bidding
- (1-29) MIP, Phi: Construction Documents
- (1-30) MIP, Phase II: Loans from Theta Chi National
- (1-31) Construction pictures (1989—1990)

Series V: Fundraising

- (1-32) Fundraising brochures

Series VI: Grand Reunion

- (1-33) Working files preparing for the 1990 Grand Reunion (1989—1990)
- (1-34) Grand Reunion Programs (1990)
- (1-35) Guest Book from the Grand Reunion (1990)

Series VII: Other material

- (1-36) Drawing of Frederick Norton Freeman, founder of Theta Chi
- (1-37) Outstanding Senior Award Plaque (1983—1991) & "DeVeech" (1999)

Box 2

Series VIII: Clothing, oversize publications

- (2-1) Rattle Tales (1980—1997)
- (2-2) Fundraising Chairman records (1985-1997)
- (2-3) Blue Pullover Shirt
- (2-4) Alpha Theta Chi Jacket

Series IX: Photo Albums

The Theta Chi Photo Album Collection contains photos from four scrapbooks spanning from the mid-1950s to late 1970s. One scrapbook, a later re-make of a 1955-56 scrapbook, has been left intact and scanned. Two others have been scanned and dismantled and the fourth was simply dismantled as lack of captions or meaningful layout did not necessitate it. Photos are in protective plastic sleeves and are

labeled when a caption was available. The scans of the original albums are available digitally upon request through Special Collections.

Box 3

(3-1) Assorted photos, 1950s-1970s

Box 4

(4-1) Scrapbook dating from mid 1950s-60s

Series X: Digital Photo Albums Collections (available upon request)

(D-1) 1955-1956 Scrapbook (digitized scans; original photos housed in (3-2) or (3-1)):

GCS_MS233_ThetaChi

(D-1) Digitized scan of a 1960s-70s album: GCS_MS233_ThetaChi_Book2

Oversize

Located in flat-file manuscript drawer

Series XI: Blueprints collection

(B-1) Elevations, Alterations, and Additions, Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc. (n.d.)

(B-2) A-1 Title Sheet, Alterations and Addition, Delta Omicron Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity (5-24-1989)

(B-3) A-2 Floor Plans and Details, Alterations and Addition, Delta Omicron Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity (5-24-1989)

(B-4) A-3 Elevation and Details, Alterations and Addition, Delta Omicron Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity (5-24-1989)

(B-5) A-4 Sections and Details, Alterations and Addition, Delta Omicron Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity (5-24-1989)

(B-6) ME-1 Mechanical and Electrical Alterations and Addition, Delta Omicron Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity (5-24-1989)

(B-7) Revisions, Alterations and Addition, Delta Omicron Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity (5-24-1989)

(B-8) Schematic Design Plan #2-SD, Alterations and Additions, Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc. (6-23-1988)

(B-9) Flattened white copy of (B-8)

(B-10) Scheme 1, Preliminary Plans and Elevations of Proposed House for Theta Chi Fraternity (8-18-1970)

(B-11) Scheme 2, Preliminary Plans and Elevations of Proposed House for Theta Chi Fraternity (8-21-1970)

(B-12) A-1 Floor Plans, Elevations, Sections, and Details, Dormitory Building for Theta Chi Fraternity (8-20-1964)

(B-13) M-1 Heating, Ventilating, Electrical, and Plumbing, Dormitory Building for Theta Chi Fraternity (8-20-1964)

Unflattened Duplicates (located in labeled manila folder):

(B-2)—(B6) (bound together)

(B-8)

(B-10)

Related Collections

[MS-133: Bair-Kohler-Berger Family at 339 Carlisle Street Collection](#) – This collection contains documents, correspondence, photographs, newspapers, artifacts, and ephemera, documenting the lives of the Bair, Kohler, and Berger families who lived at 339 Carlisle Street, as well as information about Judge David Wills' family (business partners and friends of the Bair/Kohlers) as well as materials on Katalysine Springs and the Springs Hotel of Gettysburg.