

HISTORY OF SIGMA KAPPA

May 25, 1970

Sigma Kappa was founded at Colby College, Waterville, Maine, on November 9, 1874, by five pioneer women who dared to attempt a four year college course when the college first opened its doors to women students.

Sigma Kappa is the fifth oldest nation sorority to be founded. In 1904 Sigma Kappa became a member of National Panhellenic Congress. Alpha chapter's invitation to membership was extended to all women entering Colby until 1879, when membership was limited to twenty-five. Because of the increasing number of girls at Colby, Beta and Gamma Chapters were formed, but were merged with Alpha in 1894. In 1904 Sigma Kappa extended to fields beyond Colby, when Delta chapter was formed at Boston University. Today her chapters extend across the length and breadth of this country and into Canada.

FOUNDERS

MARY CAFFREY LOW (MRS. L. D. CARVER)

The first woman to be graduated from Colby; was for two years the only woman student at the college. She led all the nineteen men in her class in scholarship and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

ELIZABETH GORHAM HOAG created the sorority's first emblem. Her intellectual and musical talents were long remembered. She died at the end of the sorority's second year.

IDA MABEL FULLER (MRS. J. B. PIERCE)

After college activities in the field of social welfare have resulted in the establishment of the Girl's Hotel in Kansas City.

FRANCIS ELLIOTT MANN (MRS. G. W. HALL) gave to Sigma Kappa its secret symbolism. She was a well known teacher in Washington D. C.

LOUISE HELEN COBURN, daughter of a Maine lawyer who became governor of the state, lent her judicial skill to the creation of Sigma Kappa's constitution and by-laws. She gave much of her energy and wisdom to the growth and development of Skowhegan, Maine, where she spent an active and useful life, and to the betterment of her college and state. Her writings and poetry are well known. In 1949 she received the Colby Brick (Alumni Service Award) for her outstanding service for the college.