



THE BENCHMARK REVISITED:

EXAMINING THE EARLY
HISTORY OF THE
BALTIMORE (MD) ALUMNI
CHAPTER

The William L. Crump History Award Petition

Submitted by

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George Newman

Table of Contents	
Introduction	3
Research Topic	5
Observations	6
The Beginning Revisited	6
The Curious Case of Nathaniel Monroe Scott.....	9
Introducing the Charter Members	10
George Lehrman Newman	11
Reverend John Henry Alston	13
John Huffman Lassiter	17
Deaver Preston Young	22
The Initiate Charter Members	25
Lewis Sparkman Flagg, Jr.	25
Observations, Discussions, and Conclusions	34
References	36

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Charter of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter (E).....	7
Figure 2: George Lehrman Newman	11
Figure 3: The Storer College Red Tornadoes	12
Figure 4: Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper June 2, 1928	13
Figure 5 John H. Alston in 1920 featured in The Crisis	13
Figure 6 John H. Alston, The Journal of Kappa Alpha Psi.....	14
Figure 7 John H. Alston in 1981	16
Figure 8 John Huffman Lassiter, 1920 featured in The Crisis.....	17
Figure 12 Deaver Preston Young, photo in Opportunity The Journal of Negro Life, 1935	22
Figure 13 Draft Card, Deaver P. Young	24

The Benchmark Revisited: Examining the Early History of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter

Introduction

The Benchmark, The Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, is among the most storied chapters of the Fraternity. The significant contributions of its members are reflected in the service of the 29th Grand Polemarch Howard L. Tutman Jr., Past Grand Polemarch Tutman has served in offices at every level of the Fraternity, including two appointments as Eastern Province Polemarch, Grand Chapter Meeting Planner, Senior Grand Vice Polemarch, Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter Polemarch, and a Member of the Grand Board of Directors.

The Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter's excellence has been acknowledged and it has won numerous awards on the National and Provincial levels, including National Chapter of the Year (1989, 1999, 2019) and Provincial William Thomas Carter Chapter of the Year (1984, 1998, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2019).

Members of Baltimore Alumni achieve in every field of human endeavor. Several members have served in the Maryland General Assembly. Brothers Michael Mitchell and Nathaniel J. McFadden have served in the Maryland Senate. Brother Antonio Hayes currently serves in the Maryland Senate and previously served in Maryland House of Delegates. Brothers Clarence Mitchell III and Tony Fulton served in the Maryland House of Delegates. Notably, Brother McFadden was the President Pro Tempore of the Maryland Senate. Brother James Torrence is currently a member of the Baltimore City Council.

Several Baltimore Alumni members have been successful public and higher education administrators. Elder Watson Diggs Awardee Charles G. Tildon, Sr. was the Executive Director of the Maryland Service Corps, Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Department of Human

Resources, and President of Baltimore City Community College. Brother Darryl L. Williams is currently the Superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools. Brother Milton Mayo was the Inspector General for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Brother Lewis Richardson was the Deputy Superintendent for Baltimore City Public Schools. Brother Anthony Jenkins is currently the President of Coppin State University.

Several Brothers are or have been entrepreneurs and business leaders. Elder Watson Diggs Awardee George F. David III was a part owner of Parks Sausage Company. Brother Dr. Allen Bennett is the Chief Executive Officer of Park West Medical Center. Brother Brandon Wylie is the Chief Executive Officer of Wylie Funeral Homes.

Baltimore Alumni includes lawyers, public administrators, academicians, physicians, and dentists. Brother Dr. Nathan Fletcher was the 84th President of the National Dental Association, the premier organization of African-American dentists nationally. Brother Larry Gibson was the first African-American professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, the first African-American Professor Emeritus at University of Maryland School of Law, Partner in Shapiro, Sher, Guinot, and Sandler. He was the principal advocate for the legislation that renamed Maryland's major airport, the Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport and published *Young Thurgood: The Making of a Supreme Court Justice* in 2012. He was also a successful campaign manager, leading the campaigns that realized the election of the first African-American Baltimore City State's Attorney, the first African-American elected Mayor of Baltimore, and the first female President of the Republic of Liberia.

This long legacy of achievement all began when Kappa Alpha Psi spread beyond its Midwest roots and bestowed upon Baltimore City and County its seventh Alumni and 23rd chapter.

However, what was understood of the chapter's inception has been challenged by accessing more archival material and historical records. This analysis seeks to assess the evidence and present a more evidenced based foundation for the establishment of Baltimore (MD) Alumni.

Research Topic

In 2007, Elder Watson Diggs and William L. Crump Awardee George F. David III penned the initial edition of the "Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter (E) History 1921-2007" (The BAC History). Brother David's effort was considered seminal and for all intents and purposes the final word on the evolution of one of the most storied Alumni Chapters within Kappa Alpha Psi.

Brother David was incredibly prescient and saw a moment in which archival documentation and the availability of new information would complement or replace the content he carefully gathered. In the preface of The BAC History, Brother David asserted: "... Information should be forwarded to the History Committee. Criticism and corrections are necessary for accuracy. We want the account to reflect facts; what actually happened, as opposed to memories that made fade with the passage of time." (David, 2007)

In anticipation of the centennial of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter (E) research was undertaken that added greater depth and, in some instances, identified inconsistencies with The BAC History. This work is a partial compilation of those findings and therefore seeks to:

- Bring clarity to the timeline of the establishment of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter (E);
- Consider alternative Chapter Charter Members; and
- Augment the Chapter's Charter Members biographies.

Observations

The Beginning Revisited

In 1981, the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter (E) (BAC or Baltimore Alumni) celebrated its 60th anniversary. In recognition of this milestone, the sole remaining Charter Member Dr. William S. Harris recalled his experience being initiated into the Fraternity. His recounting of the establishment of Baltimore Alumni formed the basis of the Chapter's history. According to Brother Harris the foundation for the Baltimore Alumni Chapter was laid in 1921, when Brother Dr. Robert L. Jackson (Kappa 1918), George L. Newman (Epsilon 1918), and Nathaniel Monroe Scott petitioned the Grand Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi to establish a chapter in Baltimore. Brother Harris, as documented in the BAC History, stated:

The Baltimore Alumni Chapter was the brainchild of George Newman. He was a Lincoln University Alumnus and a member of the Epsilon. Along with Brother Robert Jackson, Kappa was brought to Baltimore.

Brother Newman called upon the members of the Epsilon to assist in bringing into being, the Baltimore Alumni Chapter. They responded well and such brothers as Boone Hamer, his blood brothers Willie and John Howard performed well. Brother Jones was the Polemarch of Epsilon.

After a vigorous membership campaign, we finally met. On a hot evening in August before the era of electric refrigerators and air conditioners. We assembled at a fraternal hall in the 1200 block of Myrtle Avenue. We retired to an upper floor and we neophytes, were duly accepted. As most of us were past teen age, consideration was shown in the initiation. Some of the committee were thoughtful enough to supply some cool refreshments. (David, 2007)

The recollection of the beginnings of Baltimore Alumni by Brother Harris was attested to by Elder Watson Diggs Awardee I.W.E. Taylor. Comparatively, the Story of Kappa Alpha Psi (3rd and 10th Editions)" recounting the chartering of the Baltimore Alumni Chapter states:

The Baltimore Alumni Chapter was chartered September 9, 1921, with J. H. Thompkins, a physician; L. S. Flagg, a lawyer; J. Johnson, a banker; William Harris, a pharmacist; J. Lassiter, a pharmacist, and George Newman, a pharmacist. J. H. Alston, a former

member of the Epsilon and Pi Chapters and in 1921 a teacher in the Baltimore High School, added his name to the roster. Deaver Young of the Omicron, George Newman of the Epsilon, and J. Lassiter of the Lambda Chapters insured the beginning of Baltimore Alumni in a veritable hotbed of opposition. (Crump, 1983)

The two accounts, one the recollection of a charter member and another the documented history of the Fraternity appear to contradict one another and contrast the historical record.

The 10th Grand Chapter Meeting was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 30, 1920, and concluded on January 1, 1921. The Story of Kappa Alpha Psi states that the Epsilon and Lambda were the hosts. The resolution to charter the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter was adopted on December 28, 1920, and a charter granted on July 15, 1921. This is substantiated by a physical artifact, the signed charter signed by 3rd Grand Polemarch George F. David II, which is preserved in Baltimore Alumni's archives (see Figure 1).

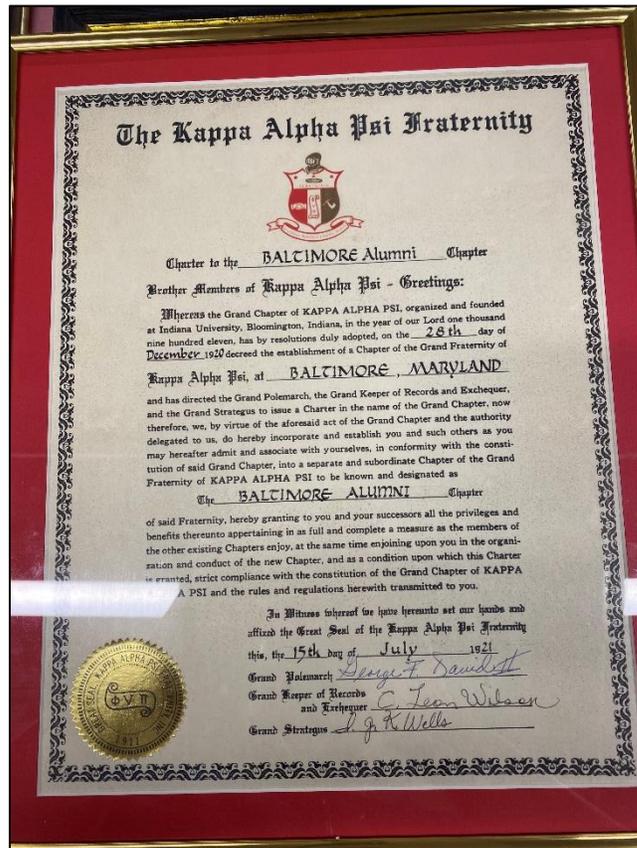


Figure 1: Charter of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter (E) Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. 1921, Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter Archives.

While a full slate of attendees has been lost to posterity, considering the timing of the Grand Chapter Meeting (December 30, 1920 – January 1, 1921) only Brothers Alston (Epsilon 1915), Lassiter (Lambda 1920), and Jackson (Kappa 1920) were potentially present. Furthermore, the only Kappamen with both ties to Baltimore and the incentive to establish a chapter were John H. Alston (Epsilon 1915) and George L. Newman (Epsilon 1918).

Brother Alston, while a native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina resided in Baltimore until returning to North Carolina to complete high school. (All Census & Voter Lists results for John H. Alston, 2022) After matriculating to Lincoln University Brother Alston would return to Baltimore and his residence would be listed as his parent's Baltimore Rutland Street residence. Brother Newman was a native Baltimorean and initiate of Epsilon. Notably during this time, Brother Alston was a graduate student at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. Of note, "The Story of Kappa Alpha Psi" states that in 1921 Brother Alston was a teacher in the Baltimore (Colored) High School. This is not consistent with the historical record. As noted in several documents and The Kappa Alpha Psi Journal, after completing his studies at Clark University in the spring of 1920 Brother Alston became a professor of Philosophy and Psychology at Morehouse College and was instrumental in establishing the Pi of Kappa Alpha Psi, which was chartered on April 30, 1921. (Artis, 1921) Notably, The Journal of Kappa Alpha Psi notes that the initiation of the Charter Members of the PI was conducted by Grand Polemarch George F. David II and Brother Alston. (Artis, 1921)

Brother Dr. Robert L. Jackson was still a student at Meharry Medical College and would not arrive in Baltimore until 1922. (Jackson, 1963, pp. 549–550) Deaver P. Young was a student at Columbia University and would not become a member of the Fraternity until February 27, 1921; and John H. Lassiter, who was initiated into the Lambda of Kappa Alpha Psi in April of 1920 and graduated from Temple University a month later was residing in New Jersey.

Given, the historical evidence, the vantage of Kappa history that holds that the establishment of Baltimore Alumni occurred in 1921 and that it was moved forward by Brothers Dr. Robert L. Jackson, George L. Newman, and Nathaniel Monroe Scott and the September 9, 1921, charter date included in the 3rd and subsequent editions of The Story of Kappa Alpha Psi must be reconsidered. It appears that the folklore of Baltimore Alumni was correct in one respect, in all likelihood, the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter was the brainchild of George L. Newman. Brother Newman was the linchpin which brought brothers from the Epsilon to initiate the first group of men to be initiated into Baltimore Alumni. Furthermore, the physical evidence is irrefutable, July 15, 1921, not September 9, 1921, is the charter date for Baltimore Alumni. This provides clarity not only on the circumstances of the Chapter's chartering, a product of the collaboration of two Epsilon brothers, but who should be considered a Charter Member. Using the historical record, the following should be considered the Charter Members of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter:

- John Henry Alston,
- John Huffman Lassiter,
- George Lehrman Newman, and
- Deaver Preston Young.

From this we can affirm that Lewis S. Flagg, Jr., William S. Harris, John Johnson, and John H. Tompkins were charter initiates, in that the Chapter received its charter on July 15, 1921.

The Curious Case of Nathaniel Monroe Scott

Brother Nathaniel Monroe Scott was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and graduated from the Baltimore City Colored High School in 1916 alongside Charter Member George Newman.

Brother Scott would go on attend Howard University in 1916 and graduate in 1921 with a Ph.G. In the Howard University Yearbook for 1921, he is not listed as member of Kappa Alpha Psi. Moreover, each edition of The Story of Kappa Alpha Psi omits him as a Charter Member and likely for good reason.

Baltimore Alumni's records indicate that he was an active member of the Chapter in 1925, 1926, 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1942 (David, 2007). In addition to the membership records compiled by Brother George F. David III, the May 18, 1935, edition of the Afro-American Newspaper includes Brother Scott among Kappas hosting a formal dance (Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper, 1935). Also, Brother Scott was among the brothers present at the Eastern Province Council hosted by the Alpha Iota and Baltimore Alumni. The question then presents itself, if he was not initiated into the Xi, how then was he documented as not only a Charter Member, but the Chapter's first Keeper of Records?

Introducing the Charter Members

The men that chartered the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter were among the City's prominent citizens. They were physicians, attorneys, educators, accountants, and pharmacists. They faced challenges and, in many instances, created a framework for the creation of Kappa Alpha Psi as we know it now. This work provides new details regarding charter members; shed light on murder mystery and a grave injustice; a "lost" Charter Member; a Charter Member that was an African-American first; a Charter Member that would create the finance structure for an African country, and a pioneering community leader and physician.

This analysis seeks to demystify the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter's Charter Members so that they can truly inspire future generations of our noble clan.

George Lehrman Newman



Figure 2: George Lehrman Newman

The Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter was the brainchild of Brother George L. Newman. He is among the most well documented Charter Members. He was born on April 18, 1897, in Baltimore, Maryland to Phillip and Hannah Newman. By the time he was four years old both of his parents would die, and he would be raised by his maternal grandmother Mary Caesar.

Brother Newman would graduate from the Baltimore Colored High School in 1916 and enter Lincoln University.

While at Lincoln University he was initiated into the Lincoln University Chapter, the Epsilon (NE) of Kappa Alpha Psi on August 17, 1918. He would graduate from Lincoln in 1920 with a degree in Pharmacy with honors. In addition to being an exceptional student he was also a phenomenal athlete. In the May 20, 1920, edition of The Kappa Alpha Psi Journal a “Letter from Epsilon”, highlights Brother Newman’s athletic exploits and notes he played both offense and defense and was selected as a Second Team All-American in football. In addition to being an athlete like many other college men during this time he joined the Student Army Training Corps (pre-cursor to the Reserve Officer Training Corps). Brother Newman would receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in June of 1920. (Lincoln University , 1920) After returning to Baltimore he began a career as a pharmacist and spectacularly played with the semi-pro Basketball team The Baltimore Athenians for which he was the Team’s treasurer.

On November 22, 1920, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy awarded him a certificate as a qualified Assistant Pharmacist. He would marry Mazie Newman and have two children. In 1923, he was appointed as a Professor of Chemistry and Biology at Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, where he also served as the Head Football and Track Coach. Early in the morning on April 1, 1928, at the age of 31 Brother Newman passed to the Chapter Invisible. Storer College would create a memorial scholarship in his honor.



Figure 3: The Storer College Red Tornadoes, Brother Newman on the left with Varsity “L” Sweater

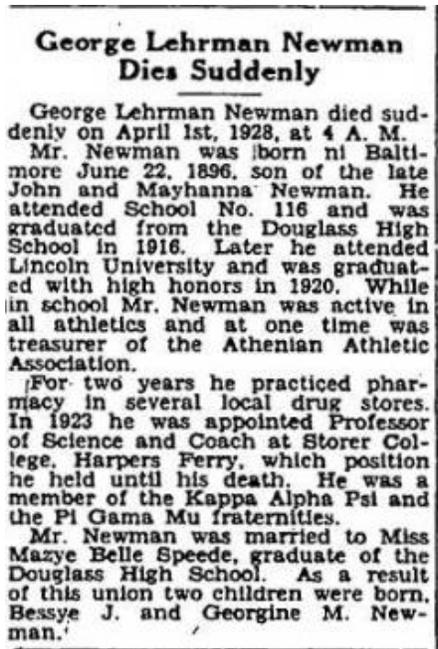


Figure 4: Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper June 2, 1928

Reverend John Henry Alston



Charter Member John Henry Alston was born on August 24, 1895, in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. His parents, Joseph, and Carrie Alston, moved to Baltimore and in 1910 resided on Calhoun Street and Rutland Avenue (All Census & Voter Lists results for John H. Alston, 2022). He would move back to North Carolina when he was 15 and would complete his secondary education at the Henderson Normal Institute. In 1913, he would enroll in Lincoln University, where because of his academic standing he received a scholarship. Although, the 1913-14 Lincoln University Academic Catalog notes that he graduated from high school in North Carolina, his hometown is listed as Baltimore, Maryland (Lincoln University, 1914).

Figure 5 John H. Alston in 1920 featured in *The Crisis*

On December 14, 1915, through the acknowledged efforts of Brother Alston, the Epsilon (NE) of Kappa Alpha Psi was chartered. This would be the first chapter on the East Coast. Brother Alston would serve as the Chapter's first Keeper of Records. This the first of many of his significant contributions to the Black Fraternal movement generally and the expansion of Kappa Alpha Psi, specifically.

After earning his A.B. in Psychology he served in the Reserve Officers Training Corps during World War I. Upon the completion of his military training at Howard University, he would embark on a teaching career. Over his career, he taught at Paine College, Walden University (where Charter member Robert L. Jackson was a student), Johnson C. Smith College, Morehouse College, Prairie View A&M, Sam Houston State College, and Alabama A&M University.

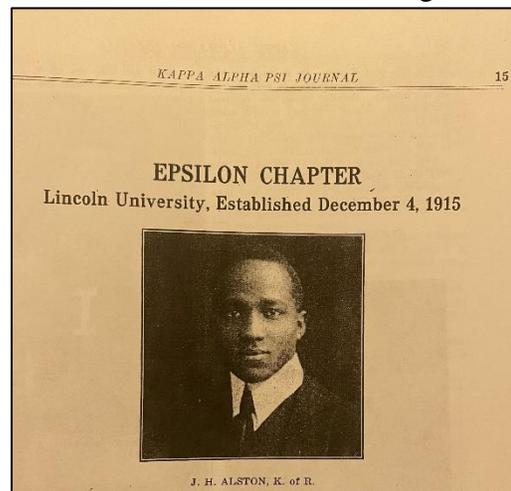


Figure 6 John H. Alston, The Journal of Kappa Alpha Psi

Brother Alston won a fellowship and attended Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts where he earned his M.A. in Psychology. Brother Alston is considered a pioneer of Black Psychology. In fact, he is credited as the first African-American to publish a research article (“Psychophysics of the Spatial Condition of the Fusion of Warmth and Cold in Heat”) in an exclusively psychological journal, The American Journal of Psychology. Brother Alston’s

achievement was significant as there would not be another article authored by an African-American published in the Journal for 50 years.

After graduating from Clark University in June of 1920, Brother Alston became a member of the faculty of Morehouse College. His efforts would lead to the chartering of the Pi of Kappa Alpha Psi, the Morehouse College Chapter. (Artis, 1921) In 1921, Brother Alston would be among a group of Kappamen that would establish the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter. While George L. Newman may have been the brainchild of Baltimore Alumni, Brother Alston was the glue. It can be established that he had relationships with George L. Newman, Deaver P. Young, and Dr. Robert L. Jackson. Assumptions can be made of his engagement with Brother Lassiter. Critically, given his role with the establishment of the Epsilon, it is likely that he had the gravitas to facilitate the establishment of the first Alumni Chapter in what is now the Eastern Province.

In 1926, Brother Alston became Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Psychology for Johnson C. Smith University. Brother Alston in tandem with Omicron and Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter Charter Member Deaver P. Young, who by 1927 is the first Southeastern Province Polemarch, established the Alpha Epsilon of Kappa Alpha Psi, the Johnson C. Smith Chapter.

Deaver P. Young the chartering of the Alpha Epsilon of Kappa Alpha Psi, the Johnson C. Smith Chapter. The catalog for 1926 and 1928 do not list Brother Young as faculty but lists Brother Alston as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Psychology during the time the Chapter was chartered. Further, the June 1921 edition of the Journal lists Brother Alston as a driving force in the establishment of the Morehouse College Chapter, the Pi of Kappa Alpha Psi.

Brother Alston would become the Dean of Students for Prairie View A&M in 1929, where he would reorganize the school and its curriculum. He also held a position as an Inspector of “Negro Schools”. In this capacity, he would ensure they met standards. His finding was astounding, none of the African-American schools fully met standards- most did not have libraries or science programs. He also uncovered misappropriation of funds, noting that funds dedicated to negro education were not being used for that purpose.



Figure 7 John H. Alston in 1981

In 1937, Brother Alston entered the ministry and would pastor several churches including Benson Memorial, Wesley Chapel, Saint Paul, and Miles Memorial. During his time as the pastor for Miles Memorial (the oldest CME church in Texas founded in 1872) he led the church’s construction. Brother Alston would become the Presiding Elder of the Greenville District, Sherman District, and the Ft.

Worth District of the C.M.E Church. Brother Alston was member of Prince Hall Freemasons and reached the sublime Prince of the Royal Secret of the 32nd and last degree, Most Worshipful St. John Grand Lodge (PHA). In 1979, the Association of Black Psychologists recognized Brother Alston for being among the first African-American psychologists in the county. Brother Alston passed to the Chapter Invisible on January 14, 1981. He is buried in Skyvue Memorial Gardens in Rendon, Texas.

John Huffman Lassiter

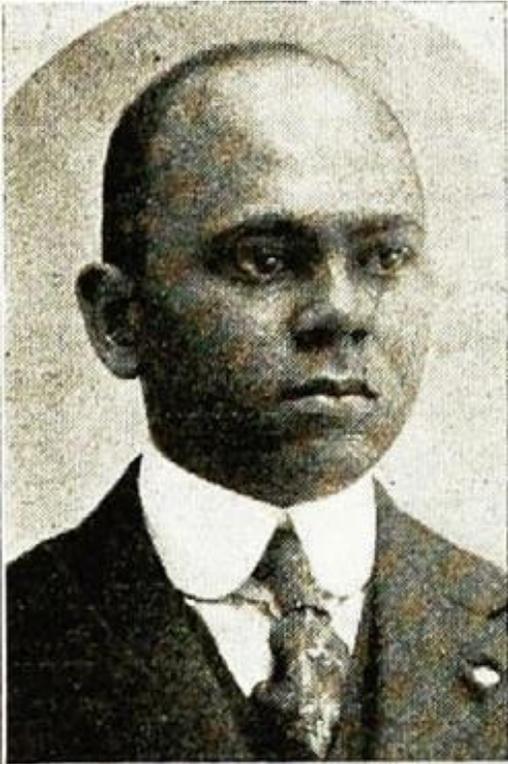


Figure 8 John Huffman Lassiter, 1920 featured in The Crisis

The 2007 Edition of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter the only details that are known about Charter Member Lassiter are his name and profession. There was also no picture or clarity of his whereabouts after the chartering of the Chapter. Research for this analysis identified additional details regarding Brother Lassiter.

Brother John Huffman Lassiter was born on May 3, 1890(1) in Harrellsville, North Carolina to Lewis and Candis Baker Lassiter. The 1900 Census shows

Brother Lassiter living with his widowed mother and 8 siblings on their rented farm. Brother Lassiter would

ultimately leave North Carolina and enroll in Temple University where he studied Pharmacy.

Notably, he is listed among college graduates in the Crisis Magazine, the Official Publication of the NAACP (see picture above). In 1918, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served from August 1, 1918, until his honorable discharge in December 1918. Brother Lassiter was initiated into the Lambda of Kappa Alpha Psi on April 9, 1920, a few months prior to his graduation from

Temple University. Brother Lassiter would have been among the first group of Lambda pledges and initiates.

In 1921, he obtained his pharmacy license and moved to Baltimore. The economic opportunity that existed in the Monumental City is more than likely what brought Brother Lassiter to Baltimore. The 1921-22 Baltimore City Directory shows his residence as 1534 McCulloh Street

and his occupation as a Druggist. In 1923, Brother Lassiter returned to New Jersey and continued as a pharmacist. The record is scant for the period of his life between 1925 and 1940; but the record indicates he was a pharmacist in 1931; married with four sons and two daughters; and was an Instructor for the WPA in 1940 (City Directory for Atlantic City New Jersey, 1931). Brother Lassiter passed to the Chapter Invisible on March 17, 1946 and was buried in the Veteran's section of Glendale Cemetery in Bloomfield, New Jersey (Larson, 2022).

the Chief of Surgery, a position he held until his retirement in 1957. In recognition of his service and achievement he was named Chief of Surgery Emeritus. Brother Jackson was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and member several medical associations, including: the Baltimore City and Monumental City Medical Societies, the American Medical Association, National Medical Association (he received its highest award and in 1963 was its First Vice President), and the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. (Jackson, 1963) In 1967, he would co-author "A History of Provident Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland", which would be published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Brother Jackson's on-going contributions to the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter he was recognized as the Honorary Chair of the 55th Grand Chapter Meeting held in Baltimore. Brother Jackson was among African-American Baltimore's elite. He was appointed by successive Mayors to the Board of Supervisors of City Charities, Baltimore City Planning Commission, and the Baltimore City Planning Board. During the infancy of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter, Brother Jackson opened his home to meetings. Moreover, his work at Provident Hospital would lay the foundation for the professional success of several notable Baltimore (MD) Alumni Kappamen including Elder Watson Diggs Awardee and Past Eastern Province Polemarch Charles G. Tildon who served as the Associate Director of Provident Hospital.

Brother Jackson entered the Chapter Invisible on February 23, 1974.

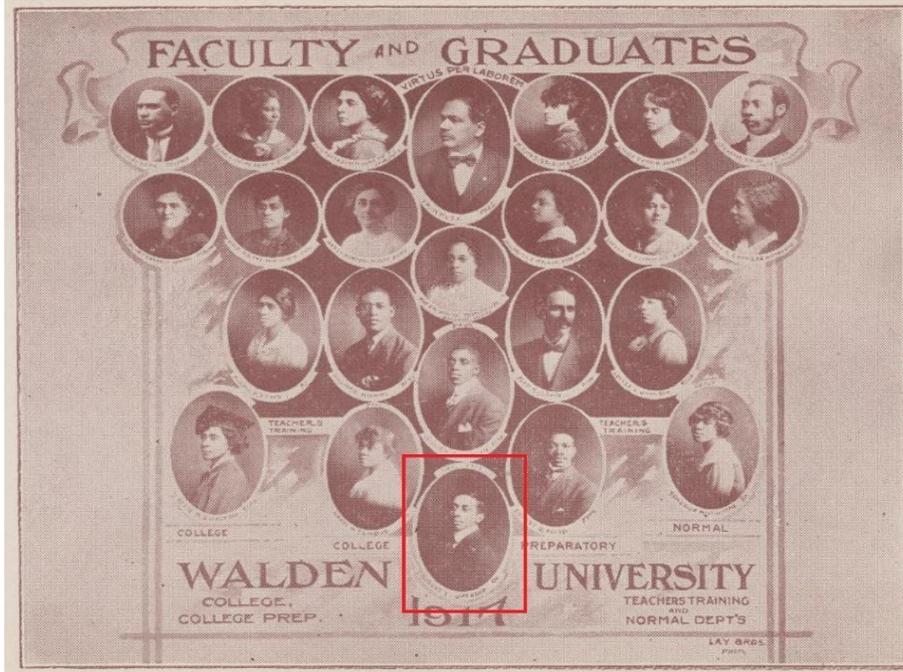


Figure 10 Collage of Walden University Faculty and Graduates 1917, Brother Jackson highlighted in red

F

Deaver Preston Young



*Figure 12 Deaver Preston Young, photo in Opportunity
The Journal of Negro Life, 1935*

Deaver Preston Young was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1898 to James, a Caulker in Baltimore's Shipyards, and Mary a homemaker. (Ancestry.com, 2022) Brother Young was initiated into the Fraternity on February 27, 1921. His initiation coincided with the Chartering of the Columbia University Chapter, the Omicron (NE) of Kappa Alpha Psi. He was the Chapter's first Keeper of Records. The 1920 Census shows him residing with family on Argyle Avenue, but would move to Athens, Georgia marry and begin work. The 2007 History of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter Brother Young was listed as an educator. This

erratum might have been attributed to his association with Talladega (as a teacher) and Edward Waters Colleges (as the business manager). However, as records indicate Brother Young was professionally an accountant, however, at the time of the chartering of Baltimore (MD) Alumni he was a student at Columbia University.

The 1930 Census shows Brother Young living in Chicago, Illinois with his wife and daughter and working as a clerk. (Ancestry.com, 2022) The depression would find Brother Young returning to New York City where he obtained employment as a Special Assistant on Negro Problems for Works Progress Administration (WPA). The New York Age Newspaper showed his progressive career growth as he would be promoted to Executive Assistant to the head of the WPA and then Chief of Special Payroll for the WPA's Federal Emergency Relief

Administration. In this capacity, he was staffed by 20 assistants and oversaw the payroll for 200,000 workers.

The 2007 Chapter History notes that Brother Young was the Liberian Consul for the port of Jacksonville, Florida. The full extent of his engagement with the Republic of Liberia or the level of notoriety it garnered was not fully known. By 1939, Brother Young was working in the Republic of Liberia as a representative of the Firestone Company and was living as Firestone secured a 99-year lease for 1 million acres of land. This role evolved and what was almost lost to posterity was that Brother Young was given the responsibility of restructuring and establishing the financial systems of the Liberian government. His position was the U.S. Accountant for Liberia- a position he held for 12 years. In the periodical West African Issues, regarding Brother Young it is stated: “The appointment of Mr. Young as the Accounting Officer to the Liberian Government represents an important departure for the administration of the African Republic. (West African Issues, 1939)

He even provided testimony to the Liberian Supreme Court (The Republic of Liberia, 1989).

This role was well documented in the periodicals of the time. Brother Young’s return trips were documented in the society pages of the Baltimore Afro-American and Brooklyn Eagle. He and his wife would also be routinely called upon to serve as hosts for visiting African dignitaries.

The Manhattan Directory lists Brother Young as residing at 470 Convent Avenue and his occupation is an accountant. He held this position with the Liberian Government until 1951.

After his time with the Liberian government concluded Brother Young and his wife would return to Jacksonville, Florida.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)			
SERIAL NUMBER T 1934	1. NAME (Print) Deaver Preston Young		ORDER NUMBER T 11 374A
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 470 Convent Avenue - Apt 34, N.Y.C.			
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS same			
[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]			
4. TELEPHONE W 3-7637	5. AGE IN YEARS 41	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Baltimore, Maryland	
DATE OF BIRTH July 18, 1901			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS C. E. Kenwick - 470 Convent Avenue			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Employee of Republic of Liberia			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS (on leave)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42)			Deaver P. Young (Registrant's signature)

Figure 13 Draft Card, Deaver P. Young

Upon his return to Jacksonville, Florida, Brother Young, and his wife would operate an accounting, tax service, and African import business. Notably, as early as 1928, Brother Young had begun to import African goods and he acquired a New York City peddlers license. He would also return to Edward Waters College, briefly, as Business Manager. The last known records regarding Brother Young were his listing in the Liberian Yearbook and the Department of States Publication "Foreign Consular Offices in the United States" as Honorary Consul for Liberia for Jacksonville in 1956.

Brother Young was extremely active in the movement for civil rights. He organized to ensure African Americans were properly served by the WPA and helped to reorganize the Mt. Vernon Branch of the NAACP. Brother Young's service to Kappa was significant. In addition to being a charter member of the Omicron and Baltimore Alumni, he was a charter member of the Jacksonville (FL) Alumni Chapter. In his capacity as the first Southeastern Province Polemarch, he was responsible, along with Brother Alston, for chartering the Johnson C. Smith University Chapter, the Alpha Epsilon of Kappa Alpha Psi.

The Initiate Charter Members

The charter to for the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter was granted on July 15, 1921, and the nucleus of what would become the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter identified candidates for membership. The first initiates of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter represented the cream of Baltimore's emergent African-American professional class- Lewis Sparkman Flagg, Jr. an attorney and the son of the Presiding Elder of the Baltimore Conference of the AME Church and notably the brother of Margaret Flagg Holmes one the founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; William S. Harris a Pharmacist; John Johnson a Banker; and Dr. John H. Tompkins a Physician.

Lewis Sparkman Flagg, Jr.



Figure 14 Lewis S. Flagg

Lewis Sparkman Flagg, Jr. was born on October 13, 1897, in Durham, North Carolina to Lewis Sparkman and Callie McAdoo Flagg. Brother Flagg was the youngest of the five Flagg children. The Flagg's were a prominent family. His father was a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was the Presiding Elder for the Morganton District of the West North Carolina Conference and ultimately Baltimore Conference. As the Presiding Elder for the Baltimore Conference, he would pastor Brown Memorial and

Ebenezer AME in Washington, Bethel AME in Easton, MD and ultimately, Bethel AME Church in Baltimore. As the pastor of Bethel AME Church, he was responsible for a period of unprecedented growth. The Centennial Cyclopedia of the AME Church noted that Bethel AME (Baltimore) raised \$1,000 per month the equivalent to \$31,000 in today's dollars. (African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1916) When Reverend Dr. Lewis Flagg was appointed to pastor Bethel AME it was national news and featured in African-American newspapers from Colorado to Indiana.

In 1900, the Flagg family lived on O Street, NW in Washington, DC. The eldest Flagg child, Margaret Flagg, would enroll in Howard University in 1904 and study Latin, English and History. Notably, she would participate in the first meeting of what would become the first sorority founded by and for African-American women, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

By 1910, the family would move to Baltimore and reside at 620 Lafayette Avenue. In June of 1915, Brother Flagg graduated from the Colored High School Academic Program. Soon after he married Marie Cecilia Payne in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and in 1916 his first child was born Lewis Sparkman Flagg III (Ancestry.com, 2022). The family would live at 620 Lafayette Avenue.

The record is unclear which college Brother Flagg attended. The records of Lincoln, Cheyney, Temple, Hampton, and Howard University were examined. But what is known is that on July 28, 1920, Brother Flagg was admitted to the Maryland Bar. At the time, he was 22 years old.

Interestingly, prior to his passing the bar, his occupation was listed as a musician. In addition to being an excellent lawyer and community leader, Brother Flagg was a phenomenal cellist.

Articles in the Baltimore Afro-American discuss his performances. He was also a member of the American Federation of Musicians.

After practicing law throughout Maryland and Washington, DC in 1928, Brother Flagg moved to New York. He practiced law with the firm of Watts, Griggs, and Flagg and became politically active. This included participating in the National Negro Business League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National War Veterans Association, The New Voters' Nonpartisan Association, Founded the Brooklyn Long Island Lawyers Association, and the Bedford-Stuyvesant Chamber of Commerce. Eventually, Brother Flagg would enter practice with his son Lewis S. Flagg, III who was also an attorney and member of the Fraternity. He was twice a candidate for the New York State Legislature, both bids were unsuccessful.



Figure 15 Brother and Mrs. Flagg on his Successful Election

In 1953, Brother Flagg was the democratic candidate for the Municipal Court of Brooklyn. The closely contested race was faced a recount, but Brother Flagg prevailed and went on to the general election. On November 4, 2021, Brother Flagg won and was the first African-American to be elected to the Second District Municipal Court. This was a political coup d'état organized

by Wesley McDonald “Mac” Holder. Holder would also mastermind and support the political rise of Shirley Chisolm who was also an instrumental player in Brother Flagg’s successful election.

Brother Flagg would retain his elected Judgeship and retire from the Bench and live in Wappinger Falls, New York until his transition to the Chapter Invisible on December 16, 1977.

Dr. William S. Harris

Dr. William S. Harris was born in 1897 in Virginia. The 1910 Census shows Brother Harris as a 13-year-old residing with his aunt and uncle. Like his contemporaries Brothers Newman and Scott, he would attend the Colored High School. While the record is unclear corroborating evidence is that he attended Morgan State College and graduated from the Era School of Pharmacy in 1920. In 1920, as indicated by the Practical Druggist, Brother Harris became a registered druggist.

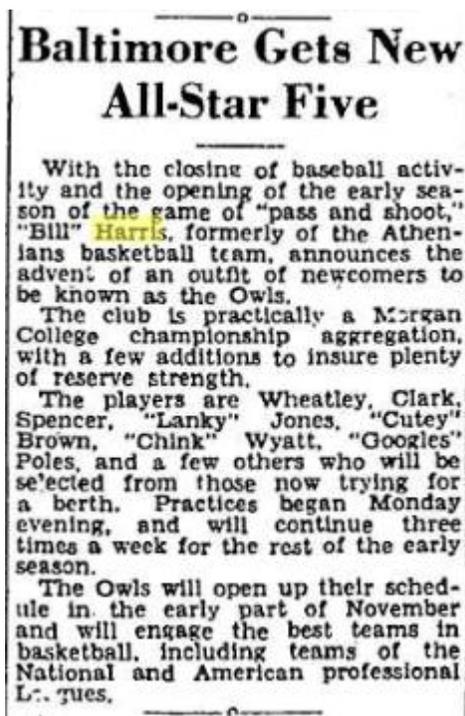


Figure 16 Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper mentioning Brother Harris

While the immediate thought is that Brother Harris connected to the nucleus of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter through his profession as a pharmacist, it was another passion that would reflect his connection. As indicated by the Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper he was basketball player with the Baltimore Athenians. The same basketball team that Brother George L. Newman played for. For Brother Harris, basketball would be a passion that would be reflected in addition to his active participation in Kappa Alpha Psi, Brother Dr. Harris was an officer in Baltimore Elks Lodge No. 713 where he was a trustee.



When the Md. Pharmaceutical Society held its testimonial dinner two Sundays ago, six senior pharmacists were honored. They were

from left: Drs. Fred R. West Sr., T. Henderson Kerr, Ernest I. Johnson, Theresa Weaver, Harold T. Derry and **William S. Harris**. (AFRO Staff Photo by Benjamin Murphy Phillips IV)

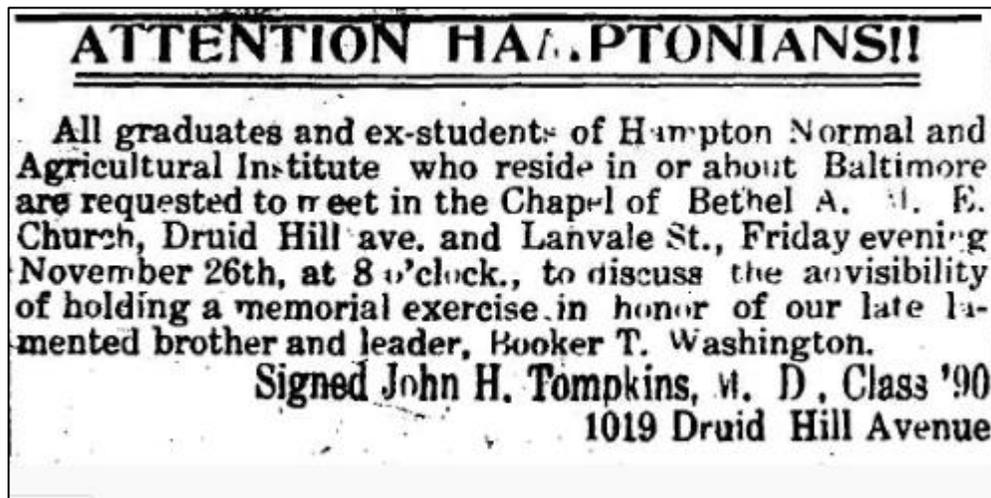
Figure 17 Baltimore Afro-American article highlighting the honoring of William S. Harris

While the Great Depression forced Brother Harris to move to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to work with the Post Office, what the 2007 History of the Baltimore Alumni Chapter neglects is that he continued to be a pharmacist, continuing to practice until he was a septuagenarian. His contributions were recognized by the Maryland Pharmaceutical Society in 1974.

Dr. John H. Tompkins

The History of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter mentions only that Brother Tompkins was 53, physician, and the oldest of the Charter Member initiates. What is neglected is that Brother Tompkins was among the great wave of doctors that emerged after the civil war and a prominent member of Baltimore's and as will be discussed later the Cumberland, Maryland.

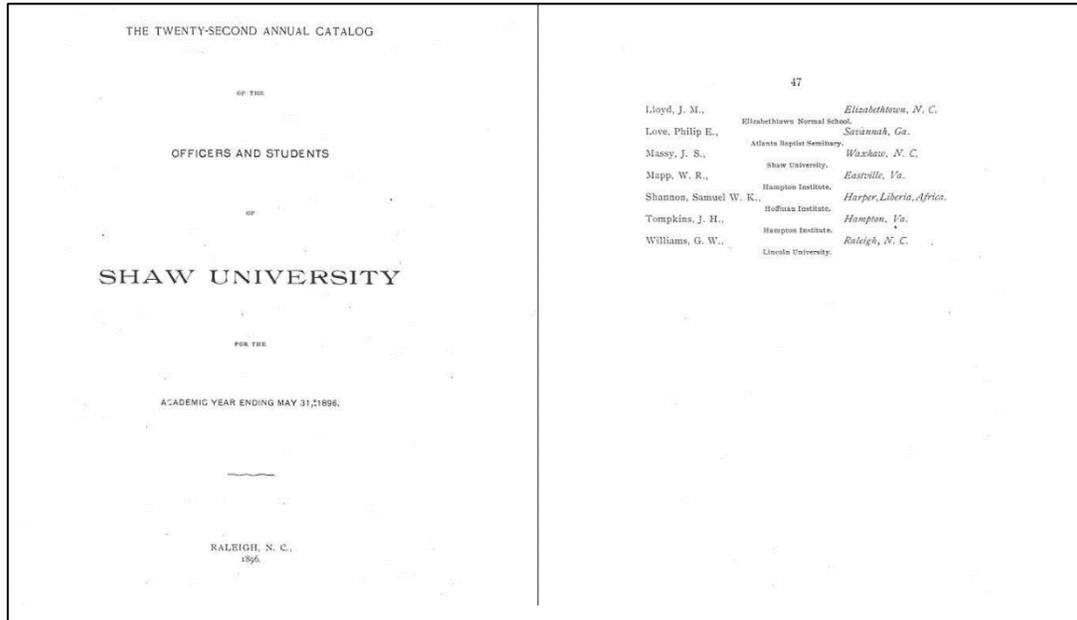
Brother John H. Tompkins was born in July 1867 in Hicks Landing, Westville, Virginia to Henry and Louisa Tompkins. His father was an oysterman and his mother a homemaker. Little is known of his early life, but we do know he attended Hampton Institute and graduated in 1890. In fact, Brother Tompkins organized a meeting of Hampton Institute Alumni for the purposes of "memorializing "our brother" Booker T. Washington".



After completing his undergraduate education at Hampton, he attended The Leonard Medical School of Shaw University. The Leonard Medical School was established by Shaw University in 1880 and educated more than 400 AfricanAmerican physicians. Soon after Henry Martin Tupper, a missionary representing the American Baptist Home Mission Society, founded Shaw in 1865, he asserted that there was a need to educate black physicians. Funding for the medical school came from the American Baptist Home Mission Society and importantly, Tupper's

brother-in-law Judson Wade Leonard. Notably, Brother Tompkins is recognized as being among the first African-American doctors and among a few that attended a four-year medical school.

(Savitt, 1987)



After graduating from medical school in 1895, he opened a practice in rural Cumberland and Baltimore (City), Maryland. The 1900 census shows Brother Tompkins residing at 63 Mechanic Street with his wife and son Herman. By all accounts, Brother Tompkins was successful and a well-respected member of the Cumberland Community (Cumberland Directory, 1900). He attended the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church where he served as a chorister and steward. As a medical professional, he served both African-American and White communities and was known to be the preferred physician of many of Baltimore's prominent citizens. That was until in 1905 when scandal struck.

In May 1905, a 29-year-old white woman, Jean Maxwell, was brought to Brother Tompkins by F. William Hermann a local pharmacist. The woman had complained that she was ill suffering from a cold and a stomachache. Dr. Tompkins treated her by prescribing cascara. Cascara was a common medicine prescribed for a variety of stomach ailments. However, within the day Ms. Maxwell would die. An autopsy revealed she died of sepsis, and she was pregnant. The cause of death was ultimately tied an illegal abortion. By December of 1905 Brother Tompkins would be indicted for manslaughter and abortion. (The Cumberland Evening Times, 1906)

During the trial, salacious details emerged. F. William Hermann had been involved in a secret relationship with Ms. Maxwell and was the father of her unborn child. The relationship between Ms. Maxwell and Mr. Hermann was not looked on favorably by the Maxwell Family; a family that held prominence in Cumberland, Maryland. Interestingly, Ms. Maxwell was treated by her family doctor, Dr. Koons prior to her treatment by Brother Tompkins. Dr. Koons testified that he received a deathbed confession from Ms. Maxwell that Dr. Tompkins performed surgery on her. Something which Brother Tompkins vehemently denied. On March 10, 1906, the first trial ended in a hung jury. However, the State's Attorney, Austin Wilson, was determined to try the case again. The second trial lasted 11 days and on March 28, 1906, both Hermann and Tompkins were convicted of manslaughter. Brother Tompkins was sentenced to 6 years in the Maryland Penitentiary.

Members of the community asked for leniency and even petitioned for Brother Tompkins to be pardoned. Regrettably, the 1910 Census shows Brother Tompkins incarcerated in the Maryland Penitentiary in Baltimore. Much like today, prisoners were used as contract labor and were forced to make shoes.

By 1912, Brother Tompkins, as indicated, by the Baltimore Directory, is in Baltimore practicing medicine and is very much a prominent member of the Baltimore community. By all accounts the community acknowledged that his conviction was a travesty. The history of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni does belie the rationale for the interest in Kappa among the Chapter's first initiates. But, with a deeper look we find the clearcut answer for Brother Tompkins- his son.

Herman G. Tompkins was born in 1899 in Cumberland, Maryland. He would go on to attend Lincoln University where he would play football and basketball. On April 9, 1920, the younger Tompkins would be initiated into the Epsilon (NE) of Kappa Alpha Psi. A member of Epsilon at that time was his football teammate George L. Newman, who spawned the idea of creating the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter. Moreover, early oral history indicates that Brother William "Boone" Hamer, who was initiated in the same pledge class as Brother Tompkins, assisted in the initiation of the new Baltimore Alumni Chapter members. Brother Wendell Jones, the Polemarch of Epsilon, was initiated in the same class as Charter Member Newman.

Brother Tompkins would go on to attend Meharry Medical College. He would open a practice for a short time in Richmond, Virginia and then practice with his father. The last mention of Brother Tompkins in the historical record was the 1930 census and the Baltimore City Directory. An article from June 10, 1939, edition of the Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper acknowledging the death of Herman G. Tompkins noted that his father was deceased as well. Given the record we can surmise he passed to the Chapter Invisible in 1930.

John Johnson

The History of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter mentions that among the initiates was a banker named John Johnson. However, after extensive research including reviewing the City Directory for the periods of 1920-1940 and importantly, “The first Colored Professional, Clerical and Business Directory of Baltimore city 10th Annual edition”, 1920-1921, 1922-1923, 1923-1925, there is no banker named John Johnson. The consistent bankers found are Harry O. Wilson, Winifield Thomas, Wingate and Brown, and Taylor & Jenkins. The likely candidate for John Johnson that matched the social standing of the other members is John M. Johnson an undertaker and insurance agent. More research will be taken to confirm the identify of John Johnson.

Observations, Discussions, and Conclusions

The available documentary evidence points to the acceptance of the charter date of the Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter to be July 15, 1921, not September 9, 1921. The author notes instances in which the issuance of chapter charters being postponed, but there is not record indicating that this is the case for Baltimore Alumni. Moreover, somewhat consistent with The Story of Kappa Alpha Psi, there is strong evidence to indicate that consideration should be given to John Henry Alston, John Huffman Lassiter, George Lehrman Newman, and Deaver Preston Young and Lewis S. Flagg, Jr., William S. Harris, John Johnson, and John H. Tompkins as Charter Initiates. Moreover, and disappointingly, the Chapter’s Charter Members should not include Brothers Dr. Robert L. Jackson and Nathaniel Monroe Scott. Additionally, there is also no evidence to substantiate that Brother Jackson was the first Polemarch.

The findings of this research should not be focused solely on correcting the record, but also illuminating the deep connections and vision of the early initiates of the Fraternity. They sought fraternal bonds to move forward a community of people who endured economic and social oppression and violence. Any information gleaned for this analysis should be used to further emphasize their accomplishments.

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