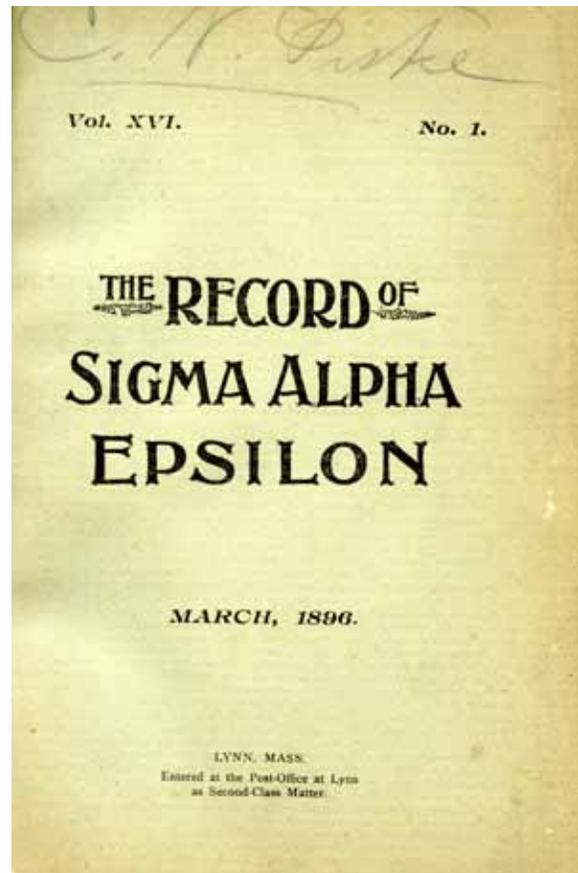


March 1896

Since our last letter things have moved along slowly; few things of importance have happened. For our University it is the beginning of a new era in the matter of beautifying our campus. The situation of the University is said to be one of the finest in the United States, it being placed on a tract of land at the foot of the hills which surround the bay of San Francisco, and opposite the Golden Gate, truly symbolic of our grand State, and a fitting place for its University. The tract consists of 250 acres of land, and is well endowed with natural beauties. Heretofore the grounds have suffered during the summer and autumn on account of lack of water, but a new reservoir is about to be constructed, which will do away with the lack of water and the grounds can be properly cared for. An alumnus has offered a fountain and others have contributed towards other ornaments. But foremost among the movers are the students of the University. Every male student has signified his willingness to do three days work on the grounds, and the faculty has promised a vacation of that length. At present the students of the Civil Engineering Department are laying out the drives, paths, etc., and the improvement will soon take place. Mr. McLaren, the father of one of our members, has been instrumental in aiding the movement by his valuable suggestions, and in obtaining the tools whereby we shall be able to perform our labors. In my next letter I hope to report the results of our labors.

At present the all-absorbing topic is baseball. The class games will be played in a few days, and from these and the teams from the Law, Medical and Dental Colleges, the material for the Varsity nine will come. Brother W. Blasingame is Captain of the Sophomore team, and the chapter will probably be represented on every class team in the University. We have aspirants for the Varsity team also, having had three men on it last year.

Track athletics will also share a large part of our attention. It is rumored that Yale will probably challenge us, and a team will doubtless be sent to the East or Chicago, at any rate. Last year our team of ten men travelled through the East, beating Princeton, Union, the University of Illinois and Denver Athletic Club, tying the University of Pennsylvania, getting fifth place in the Mott-Haven games, and winning the Western Inter-Collegiate Championship at Chicago.



Fraternities are already beginning to look ahead to the next collegiate year, and I can assure you that we shall not be last in the race. Kappa Alpha and Chi Psi, the two fraternities which entered after our chapter, have taken houses and entered the family circle. Chi Phi has moved into a new home which is large and commodious and well within the needs of that chapter.

California Alpha and California Beta will have their first Joint banquet, made famous by our brothers in Province Alpha, on Founders' Day. We should be glad to hear from any wandering brothers, and have them with us at that time.

Wishing our sister chapters prosperity, we drink their health and rejoice with them on Founders' Day.

Fraternally,
Robert Arnold Foster

May 1896

Although time seems to have passed rapidly, few events of importance outside of the regular routine—track athletics, baseball, etc.—have happened, and of the honors dealt out California Beta has received more than her share.

Baseball and track athletics have attracted the most attention this season, and this year we are in hopes of putting up a baseball team that will beat Stanford. The inter-class baseball games have been played, and '99 is the winner. We were represented on '96 by Osmont and Wittenmyer; on '98 by Blasingame, captain, Baker and Foster; on '99 by McLaren and Huffman. The inter-Collegiate games will be played about the last of April, and we hope to be represented on the team. At present we have three brothers trying for places on the Varsity team with [the] prospect of at least two making it. In track athletics '98 beat '99, brother Baugh '98 representing the chapter. The athletic committee has started the custom of giving C's to those who have represented the college, and at the distribution *Blue & Gold* editor and manager Brother Baker was elected by a large majority, receiving twice as large a vote as his opponent, and he was the only fraternity man elected. The position of manager is probably the most important and responsible class office and is probably the second honor in college

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