Societies...
Young Men's Christian Association.

The influence of the College Young Men’s Christian Association cannot be measured. The Association serves as a home for the new college boy, and places around him such environments during the formative period of his life as will mould him into a perfect—a Godly man.

Men who have spent a few years together as members of a common cause, having thoughts in common, feelings in common, aspirations in common, purposes in common, visions in common, must surely work together upon the great battlefield of life in the years to come with a singleness in aim, a purity in motive and unselfishness in co-operation, which in themselves will be a powerful appeal for the truth and the God of the common message that Christian workers convey.

To those who fear that institutional Christianity is on the wane, that churches are dying out, that prayer is a lost art, and that the consecration of our best-educated young men to Christian service belongs to a past age of faith, are recommended to read the history of the College Y. M. C. A., which had its birth probably in the University of Virginia in the year 1858, and which has spread with its sweeping influence until it has reached the sacred halls of more than six hundred of our colleges and universities, and the hearts of more than forty thousand of our cultured young men.

The College Y. M. C. A. movement is a perfectly sane one. It is free from that emotionalism which, divorced from judgment, creates an enthusiasm as short-lived as it is vociferous. It means a new birth of wise, well-ordered, sane Christian enthusiasm among the young of the more educated and cultured class of America. Our organization has a two-fold mission—First, the purifying of the college life, and, second—the building of Christian character in its individual members.

It is necessary to have a pure college life, because sane parents look well into the moral condition of our colleges before selecting one for their boys. It is necessary to build up individual Christian character, because the world to-day demands not only men well trained physically and intellectually, but of sturdy Christian manhood.

Our College Y. M. C. A. means to bring a more abundant life to all the churches in the years to come, to challenge Christendom to awake from slumber and to send it forth to spread the triumphs of the Cross of Christ in every department of civil and domestic life.

The movement is here and here to stay. Long may it live in Delaware College, and let each of its members ever remember that sin worketh, and that as busy as sin is so should he be till his soul finds rest only in the rest of eternity.
Officers of the Y. M. C. A.

H. K. McCabe, ..................... Vice-President.
R. O. Mason, ...................... Recording Secretary.
H. M. Morris, ..................... Corresponding Secretary.
Archibald Grant, ................. Treasurer.

Committees.

On New Students.
R. O. Mason, Chairman.
H. W. Vickers.

On Membership.
E. C. Johnson, Chairman.
H. M. Morris.

On Religious Meetings.
G. L. Medill, Chairman.
H. B. Hughes.

On Bible Study.
Archibald Grant, Chairman.
R. Owen Mason.

On Finance.
Archibald Grant, Chairman.
J. Lamont Stewart.

On Inter-Collegiate.
H. M. Morris, Chairman.
J. W. Rickards.

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Athenæan Literary Society.

Founders.

D. Haves Agnew.
Amos Slaymaker.
Jas. T. McCullough.
Wm. G. Whiteley.

George C. Jones.
Joseph Tatlow.
Wm. S. Clawson.
Thos. D. Bell.

George R. Riddle.
Jas. V. Blaney.
Jas. C. Turner.
Wm. S. Graham.
This society was founded December 18, 1834. It is established beyond question that the above date is correct by the testimony of Dr. D. Hayes Agnew, Rev. Thos. D. Bell, James T. McCullough, Judge Wm. G. Whiteley and Joseph Tatlow, witnesses who are still living, and whose names are among the founders of our society. The constitution of the Athenaean Literary Society was adopted February 4, 1835, while that of the Delta Phi, according to their catalogue of 1880, was adopted January 12, 1835. In this we freely grant them precedence, but insist that it is no claim to priority in founding; in fact, this is expressly contradicted in an address delivered before the Athenaean Society by Rev. Thos. D. Bell, in 1838, in which occurs the following:

"At that time it was thought best to confine our society to those in collegiate classes. The more prominent academical students, being somewhat piqued (and perhaps justly) at this arrangement, determined to establish a society for themselves. The present Juniors, being then in their preparatory year, were the principal movers in this scheme, and this accounts for the fact that no member of that class has ever belonged to our society."

This statement has since been confirmed by Mr. Bell, and as far as human testimony can go, sets the matter at rest forever. The Athenaean Society has ever looked more to solid acquirements than to outward show, and is content to rest her claim to distinction upon results. She is proud to name among her members those who have been prominent in state and national councils, distinguished at the bar and on the bench, renowned as physicians and eminent as divines. In all this she has nothing to fear by comparison with any rival.

During the interval caused by the suspension of the college, the organization of the society was kept up by an association of the old members, and since the re-opening has been in full operation. The Athenæan Society was incorporated by act of Legislature dated February 11, 1881.

A cordial welcome will be given to any of her former members who may return to visit her once more.
JOHN T. HARRINGTON

To see a young man taken from life while in the very beginning of his broader existence in college is heartrending.

We have suffered this to an exceeding degree through the death of our fellow collegian, and brother Athenian, John T. Harrington.

In him was great promise; he was on the very threshold of life, full of a high sense of morality and religion, and studious to a marked degree.

He was perhaps known better to us, his associates in the Athenian Literary Society, than to his other associates, and through close intercourse with him we are enabled to judge him truly.

He had in him the promise of a future manhood and success in life. And we can but feebly express our sincerest regrets at his untimely death, and extend them to his bereaved father and mother, and family, by adopting this minute in his memory.

We feel this all the more as he was an active member of our society at the time he was taken from us in our young championship.

With our best sympathy breathing through it we transmit a copy to his family, and feel thankful that we can number John T. Harrington among the departed brother Athenians, whom we love and whose memory is so dear to us.

LEWIS R. SPRINGER, Jr.
RICHARD P. REED,
GEORGE HARLAN WELLS.

Committee
Delta Phi Literary Society.

Founders.

Ephraim J. Bee.
George S. Bryan.
William W. Ferris.
Peter B. Delany.

Manlove Hayes.
John B. Le Fevre.
Alfred P. Robinson.
William D. Sherrerd.
Edwin J. Stevens.

This society dates its regular organization from January 14, 1835.

The exercises of Delaware, then Newark College, were opened on the 8th of May, 1834, by the inaugural address of Prof. John Holmes Agnew, and the recitations commenced on the following Monday.

The college records show that on the 17th of November, 1834, the faculty resolved to recommend to the students the formation of Literary Societies and adopted conditions upon which they should be organized. The language implies that in accordance with the general custom in colleges, two such societies were contemplated.

The students held meetings for the purpose here indicated, but refused to combine under the restrictions which the faculty had imposed.

This accounts for the fact that neither society was promptly organized. The Delta Phi dates, as we have stated from January 14, 1835, and the Athenæan dating, according to the statement in their catalogue of 1853, from February 4th, 1835.

These facts agree also with a statement made by Wm. D. Sterrer rd, Benj. F. Watson and Wm. M. H. Irwin, a committee of the Delta Phi Literary Society, in a memorial addressed to the Board of Trustees, on the 23d of June, 1835, in which they said, "The society which we represent is the first Literary Society ever
organized in the institution, and the number of students connected with it is considerably greater than any other association in the institution."

Such declarations at that early date would have been very impertinent and very ridiculous if they had not been true.

We freely admit that very little importance is to be placed either upon priority of organization or upon mere numbers.

The attractions and claims of such a society depend upon what its members have made it.

Our sister society can boast of some brilliant scholars upon its roll at the beginning and throughout its career, but we acknowledge, to say the best, no inferiority during any period during the history.

The first student ever admitted to the college, Alexander T. Gray, was a member of our society.

The first graduating class consisted of five, three of whom were Delta Phi's; the second class containing four, were all Athenæan; the third class containing eight, and the fourth class containing four, were all Delta Phi's.

Throughout the history of the college, however, very nearly an equality of numbers has been maintained, and this is for the interest both of the college and of the two societies. Up to the time of the publication of the Athenæan Catalogue, December 21st, 1853, the Delta Phi Society had outnumbered that society just one in the aggregate of membership.

At one time, during the period of several years, our society for the sake of sufficient room, held its regular meetings in the Odd Fellows' Hall, each of the society halls was enlarged to double its former extent.

We will give a cordial welcome at any time to non-resident members, who may return to renew their former pleasant associations.
Our Literary Societies.

You have just seen the accounts of our Literary Societies as they are copied from their respective catalogues. Our readers will notice a conflict as to which was founded first. You will observe that each claims priority. Both no doubt are conscientious in their claim. One must be wrong.

The catalogue of Delaware College of last year, in speaking of the founding of the two societies says, "The Athenæan Literary Society, according to the testimony of its founders, was founded December 18, 1834, about six months after the opening of the college. The society's first constitution was adopted in February, 1835, and the society was incorporated by act of the Delaware Legislature dated February 11, 1881. The Delta Phi Literary Society claims for itself somewhat greater age than its rival, but was not legally incorporated until January 12, 1835. The society obtained a new charter from the Legislature of Delaware about 1871, and another in 1895."

Lyman P. Powell in his "History of Education of Delaware," in discussing the founding of the two societies says: "It has long been an open question as to which society was founded first. According to the catalogues, the constitution of the Delta Phi was adopted January 12, 1835 and that of the Athenæan February 4, 1835."

We do not mean to dispute anything claimed by either society, but simply give the above questions to show to our readers the conflict is one that can not well be avoided.

The societies were founded almost simultaneously, and why this point has proven such a bone of contention we are unable to understand. It is enough for us to know that each society has an important place in Delaware College, and that each is filling its place admirably. On account of the secrecy of our societies it is almost impossible to write an interesting account of their work. From their foundings, each society has held that secrecy which has given birth to the truest kind of loyalty and brotherhood.
A healthy vigorous rivalry exists. Nothing in our College life gives us more pleasure than to be privileged to fight for our fraternity. The work done in each of our societies is of a literary type. Parliamentary practice debating, speaking and reading constitute a part of each week's program. We believe the benefits of our societies are indispensable for here we learn the value of speech, here we are taught quick thinking, here we receive our first lessons in oratory, here is where selfishness of all sorts is set aside and each brother's works for his brother's good, here we are taught to love and to be loved; and by a common intermingling we become as a sheaf of wheat bound together by the same lovely twine. Nothing in Delaware College absorbs as much of the students' time or has a greater claim upon his heart and mind than the Literary Societies. You may stuff a man's brain full of science, literature, classics and mathematics, but if you take from him the power of expression, the power of speech, the power of imparting knowledge, his stuffing amounts to naught and you deprive him of that which is as essential to his progress in the world as is food to the nourishment of his body.

We think the societies have a just claim upon a great deal of our time. We believe if you take from Delaware College her Literary Societies, you rob her boys of that which is equal to all the instruction they received in the class rooms. Just as the sun is to the planets of the earth so is the Literary Societies to the boys at college.
IN MEMORIAM

HOWARD WILLIAMS HUFFINGTON
PROFESSOR MECHANICAL
& ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
BORN AUG 18, 1813,
DIED DEC 8, 1896.