

Founder William Lewis Lockwood

The sixth of the Seven Founder's Monuments to be erected by the Fraternity was dedicated at the Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn on November 27, 1932, sixty five years after his death on August 17, 1867.

We attribute integrity with his name where he stated to the Eta Chapter in 1857, "When you first put on the 'dear old cross' you will create quite a sensation. In whatever part of the U.S. you may go you will find no handsomer pins, and I trust and hope that those emblems of purity will be indices of the purity and nobleness of the hearts beneath them. We should endeavor so to raise ourselves that to say of a man, 'He is a Sigma Chi' shall be synonymous with, 'He is a liberally educated, highhanded, pure and noble man.' Such are some of the objects our our Society. The world is in great need of just such men and let all who go out from our chapters be such men."

Background

In a letter dated November 18 1930 from Bolon Turner, Executive Secretary of the Founders Monument Commission, he wrote, "Mangan of New York had in mind to open up the Lockwood campaign at the dinner of the New York Alumni on December 3rd but after discussing the situation with several New Yorkers, it is necessary to postpone this due to the stock market. Personally, I think this is an error, but we must defer to their wishes. (stock market crash began Oct. 24th, 1929 - 1 year earlier)

A couple months later on January 6, 1930 Stafford Smith wrote to Bolan Turner and said, "The New York Alumni Chapter are inclined to think that we can swing the Lockwood monument alone, or at least with the help of the members of the Fraternity residing in this vicinity. Lockwood, as you doubtless know, is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, and has a son and a granddaughter with whom we are acquainted. The grand trustee, J. Meckley Potts, presented the portrait of Lockwood requested by the National Fraternity from the New York Alumni, himself to the Fraternity, and believes that our Alumni Chapter should undertake the responsibility of the Lockwood monument.

Monument Construction and Cost

The contract to erect the Lockwood monument was awarded to the original contractor of Presbrey-Leland company who also erected Runkle's and Cooper's monuments.

In describing the helpfulness of the Presbrey-Leland company selected to erect the monument, correspondence was: "As an illustration of the interest of that company and the cooperation offered, I wish to call attention to the situation connected with the Lockwood burial plot in New York City. In that case, the burial plot is dominated by one large central monument and it will be very difficult to place an additional monument there without detracting from the appearances of the burial ground and the attractiveness of both monuments. It is my understanding that an expert from Presbrey-Leland company has been working on this matter with members of the Lockwood family, however, and that an arrangement has been worked out whereby the Lockwood Monument can be placed so that it will harmonize properly with the family monument now standing."

The completed monuments are made of one solid piece of granite weighing approximately eight tons produced from an approximate fourteen ton monolith and quarried with great care in order to avoid flaws. Since the size and design were to be identical we can assume each of the monuments' weights are similar. The monument is made from Dummerston granite. The cost of the Lockwood Monument was \$2,263.36

Monument Symbols

In a letter dated April 1, 1930 to Bolan Turner, Executive Secretary of the Founders Monument Commission from past Grand Consul Joseph Miller, "A letter will be addressed to the son of Founder Lockwood to learn if there is a family coat-of-arms. We will place on the shoulders of Founder Lockwood's son the burden of getting the required permission from the Greenwood Cemetery authorities at Brooklyn for the erection of a monument to his father."

As a result, the front is the Sigma Chi badge. The back is an insignia indicating worthy of trust of treasure. The sides are the Sigma Chi crest and the family coat-of-arms.

In a letter from Charles Townsend speech at Founder Bell's dedication:

"It is fitting that his monolith should have been carved from the everlasting granite of our Sierra as a symbol not only of the lofty ideals of Sigma Chi, but of the solid permanence of the Fraternity through the ages to come; its own encircling emblems typifying the chain of friendship which links our membership around the world."

Dedication

Historic Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn was the scene of one of the most momentous Sigma Chi gathering ever held in the East, when a large group of undergraduates and alumni, most of them delegates and visitors to the Four-Province Conference in New York City, journeyed there on Sunday afternoon, November 27 to pay homage to their revered Founder, William Lewis Lockwood, and to participate in the dedication of the massive granite monument erected to his memory through the contributions of hundreds of loyal sons.

Not even the icy blasts of the coldest day of that date in weather bureau history could mar the beauty and inspiration of the 50 minute ceremony.

One of the most happy features of the exercises was the presence of Founder Lockwood's Sigma Chi son, W.L. Lockwood and his three charming daughters, Abbe, Mary, and Onnie, of New York City. This Founder - the only one of the Immortal Seven not a former member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon - was the first of that noble group to die, have passed on in 1867 at the early age of 31. Isn't it truly remarkable that such a young man should have proven his true worth in this short span of years and to be so honored by a great army of disciples 65 years later?

Past Grand Consul Roy T. Osborn, Alpha Xi (Kansas) 1897 was the presiding officer. Dr. John Howard Melish, Zeta Psi (Cincinnati) 1895, gave the invocation:

"Let the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be found acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, this day. Our Strength and Our Redeemer, O Thou who art the God of mass the generations, we than Thee for the Founders of Sigma Chi."

"As we dedicate this monument to the memory of Brother Lockwood, may we renew our knowledge and our recollection of these ideals, those hopes, and that spirit of that group of young men who, years ago, chose the White Cross as the symbol of their fraternity. May we be great in that fellowship which has come down to us, and, here today, may we resolve to pass on that great symbol untarnished and unstained. May each generation of the young still to come under that banner find inspiration and clean life, in gayety of spirit, in good sportsmanship, in loyal conquest, in honor and in self control, in the bonds of Sigma Chi."

"The Founders of Sigma Chi" was the opening address by Dr. Joseph C. Nate, Alpha Iota (Illinois Wesleyan) 1890, our Grand Tribune and Grand Historian:

“(Runkle's) friendship with Lockwood, close and endearing in college days, was life-long in duration. During the Civil War they exchanged their soldier photographs after each had been wounded. Lockwood's wounded arm and shoulder were still carried within the protection of the bandages. Runkle's face, in his picture, still showed pale and drawn from the wounds received at Shiloh. So, each took up the battle of life again, and fought his way back to those eminences of life, for which, as with all the Seven, we honor them. In 1855 William Lewis Lockwood and Benjamin Piatt Runkle designed the White Cross badge of Sigma Chi. Today they continue together - shining stars - at the foot of the Cross.”

Brother W.L. Lockwood, who was made a member of the great fraternity his father helped to found, at our Diamond Jubilee celebration at Oxford, Ohio responded for the Founder's family in his own most gracious way. Founder Lockwood's son said:

“...I shall hope here to express...the deep and sincere appreciation which the members of my family feel, not only because of the creation and the meaning of this impressive and beautiful stone, but also because of the care and thoughtfulness and the great consideration given to the preparation and to the observance of this, its dedication...”

“This stone will stand through the years not only as a memorial to one of the Founders of Sigma Chi, but also to the code of brotherly fellowship, of high purpose and resolve, of the clean and decent living, of good citizenship and soundly Christian manhood which those seven lads at old Miami conceived in the enthusiasm and courage, the faith and vision that are sometimes vouchsafed to youth - a code that has already endured and progressed through more than three-quarters of a century.”

“To this significance the fortune on inheritance has added, for my daughters and for me, an intimate and personal meaning and appreciation that make this occasion one of very precious and enduring memory.”

Ben S. Fisher, Kappa Kappa (Illinois) 1913 presented the memorial to the General Fraternity. He was chairman of the campaign among the Sigs east of the Mississippi River that raised the necessary \$2,263.36 for the memorial. In times such as these, this was no mean achievement.

“...It is indeed fitting and proper that we should pause for a moment to renew our obligations, to retrace our steps, and to call back to memory those lives that have made this Fraternity what it is today.”

“We are here not to mourn but to remember; to call again to mind enduring thoughts of kindly deeds, generous acts and noble impulses which marked their fraternal associations. We should think of the sacrifices that have been made; we should think of the devotion of the brothers who have build in the past; we should ever hold their memory green; we should always recall the fact that what we are today we owe to those who have loved and labored in the past. While this hour brings to us regret in a measure, yet we are privileged to think of it in a sense of gratification, recalling the fact that each of us who does his full duty as a Sigma Chi cannot help but add something to the general good.”

“Our Fraternity teaches us that the job of life is not to be loved but to love, not to receive but to give; and not to be served but to serve.”

“Those brother who founded so nobly never knew that this great Fraternity of ours would reach nearly a hundred active chapters of 25,000 loyal Sigs, scattered throughout the length and breadth of our land and into Canada, all striving for the same high ideals set by those glorious Founders. We of Sigma Chi have been handed down a priceless heritage of finer things in life, bought and paid for by the bitter sacrifices of many brothers who have gone on down the trail, and we owe not only an obligation to them but to those unborn to transmit to posterity the ideals

of our Fraternity - friendship, justice and learning.”

“William Lewis Lockwood was called into the fold of Sigma Chi to make the seventh illustrious Founder, he being the only one who was not a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon. He helped to supply the mental and spiritual things that were so sorely needed in those times of stress. His was the guiding hand that kept the finances of that first baby chapter on an even keel. He showed marked literary ability from the very beginning. A devout Christian, he was the designer of the White Cross. His great integrity which he, as a Founder, symbolized, is shown by these, his own words: ‘Let us strive to be rich and great - not in lands and money, but rich in mental worth and great among the intellectual. Let us spare no labor, nor be sparing of toil; let us give our whole strength to the work and endeavor to fill with honor the place where we are.’”

“He answered the first call to his country; soon was promoted to a captain, and was severely wounded at Fort Wagner in 1863; he returned to the service and was honorably discharged in 1864. Later he entered commercial life and was started on a prosperous manufacturing career when he was stricken by the terrible wounds sustained in the war. In 1867, at the early age of 31, the end came to William Lewis Lockwood - the first of our Founders to answer the final call.”

As Brother Fisher concluded, the Misses Abbe, Mary and Onnie Lockwood, granddaughters of the Founder, unveiled the beautiful monument by removing the American, Canadian and Sigma Chi flags which had covered it.

The honor of accepting the Lockwood memorial in behalf of the General Fraternity fell to L.A. Downs, Delta Delta (Purdue) 1894, president of the Illinois Central Railroad and a member of our Executive Committee:

“I feel it a great honor, as a member of the Executive Committee, to accept this monument for the Sigma Chi Fraternity.”

“William Lewis Lockwood, the last to join the little band of Founders and the first to leave to join the Chapter Eternal, died a young man only 31 years of age, and it is a remarkable thing that, 65 years later, this great Fraternity assembles at his last resting place and gives this monument - all we can do at this time.”

“I can only repeat what Brother Fisher has said - that he handled the finances of this Fraternity from the time he entered it until he left college, and that his records show that every transaction was fully completed and carried out. This legacy that he hands down to us, that we should meet our budget and stay within our means, is certainly taken care of in our General Fraternity, because our finances are in such splendid shape. He is one of those of whom we could say, using the words of our Ritual: He fought the good fight, he finished his work in a short time, the White Cross of Sigma Chi has gained new luster by his life.”

“And so, with the authority of the Executive Committee, I accept this monument for the Fraternity.”

Chester W. Cleveland, editor of the Magazine of Sigma Chi, then read messages from three great wearers of the White Cross: Grand Consul Daniel Laurence; Past Grand Consul O.S. Brumback; and Past Grand Consul A.P. Thomson
Grand Consul Laurence wrote:

“You have assembled today to pay a small portion of our debt to Founder Lockwood. The dedication of this beautiful monument which marks his last resting place is an evidence to the world of the reverence in which we hold his memory. As a further evidence to ourselves, let us each resolve to renew our obligations to the observance of those fine ideals which have made our Fraternity great - ideals which he and his fellow had in mind when they laid its foundation 77

years ago.”

Past Grand Consuls Brumback sent this message:

“Ever since I became a Sigma Chi, in the seventies (1870s), and learned the personal history of each of our Founders, I have had the highest opinion of Brother Lockwood. It was undoubtedly his artistic nature and ability that inspired and produced the White Cross. This together with his admirable character and personal history, both within and without our Fraternity, and made him an outstanding figure in Sigma Chi. Of all the Founders he is the one who most appeals to youth. To me he has been the Knight-Errant of the White Cross.”

The concluding dedication address, “Heritage of the Fraternity,” was by Dr. George Caleb Moor Kappa Kappa (Illinois) 1901, he said:

“Sir Walter Scott, in his story of Old Mortality, tells how Old Mortality led the youths of Scotland into the cemetery and taught them how to clear away moss from the tombstones that covered the names of the heroes that they might study their deeds afresh. This is the mission of our memorial dedication today. It should be the plan and practice in coming years that all of the initiates into our chapters should make pilgrimages to the monuments of our Founders and there stand in reverence in their memory.”

“There are just two things involved in this hour. The first is memory. Memory will not permit these Founders to die. Memory refuses to admit death. Memory peoples the present with the population of the past. Memory transforms the old oaken bucket into a goblet of silver. Memory hangs pictures of vanished faces on our walls and bids us listen to the music of invisible choirs. We can never permit the memory of our Founders to die. Without their inspiration our incentive is lost.”

“The other challenge is that of gratitude which is the fairest flower which blooms in our lives. To them we owe the Cross of Sigma Chi, the most beautiful fraternal insignia that is worn upon the breast of man and it is to them we owe the inspiration, the spirit of fortitude and daring that has urged our Fraternity through all these years.”

“We recall a young color bearer in the Civil War who carried his ensign into the thick of the fight, was shot in the breast, then in the left arm, but, grasping his flag in his right hand, he held it high until he was shot down. As his colonel stood over him, as he breathed his last, he said, “Colonel, the old flag never touched the ground.” This is the challenge of this hour to this group gathered in honor of Brother Lockwood, to be able to say that we have never permitted the standard, the beautiful Cross of Sigma Chi, to touch the ground, and to hold it up where it belong in true, and loving and loyal service.”

The impressive rites drew to a close with the benediction by Dr. Melish.

Chairman Mangan was happy to receive the following letter from Brother Lockwood (son of Founder Lockwood) on January 3:

“In accordance with your request, one of my daughters and I visited Greenwood Cemetery for the purpose of inspecting and checking more carefully than was possible at the time of its dedication the memorial to Founder Lockwood.”

“Having had considerable correspondence with Brother Mill during the development of the design, and as my daughter made some of the studies for the shields, it was with especial interest and understanding that this more critical inspection was made.”

“In my opinion and in that of my daughter the stone is a very finely proportioned one and of exceedingly beautiful craftsmanship. The Fraternity insignia, the shields relating to the Founder’s

family and occupation and the general scheme of border decoration are carried out in splendid and clear-cut relief and workmanship. And the inscriptions on the four faces are splendidly placed and cut.”

“For my family may I express not only the sincerest satisfaction with and appreciation of this splendid and impressive tribute of the Fraternity to one of its Founders, but also the beautiful craftsmanship in which it has been expressed.”

The College Days and beyond

Runkle said, “When Will Lockwood received a box of fashionable clothing from his importer father in New York, it was at once parceled out, and the strange sight of blue jeans trousers and a cloth Shanghai coat reaching nearly to the heels, gave a variety to the landscape on the campus. A stovepipe hat over a gray shawl, with a pair of parti-colored trousers stuck into cowhide boots was no uncommon sight.”

Runkle further said, “I have inverted somewhat the alphabetical order of these names because Brother Lockwood was not of the Delta Kappa Epsilon contingent that founded Sigma Chi. He was an ally called in as the battle grew fierce. He made up the magic number, seven. He was chosen unanimously on the motion of Frank Scobey, who was always closer to him than any other of us all. He was different from each of the others. This difference was hereditary and was sharpened by environment. He was western born, but cultured, and had been partly educated in the East. His father was a merchant and importer. He was a slender, fair-haired, delicate-looking youth with polished manners, and was always dressed in the best of taste. When he first came to Miami wondrous tales were told of his wardrobe, of his splendid dressing-gowns, and the outfit of his quarters. He was refined in his tastes. He knew something about art and had some understanding of the fitness of things genteel. We welcomed him into our circle. I understand why we wanted him. He could bring to our ambitious little band some things, mental and spiritual, that were sorely needed. But I do not understand why he so promptly responded to the call. Phi Delta Theta would seem to have been the most attractive, but it was not. He came to us, brought us all he had, and divided even his wardrobe, which seemed to be unlimited.”

“After graduating, Lockwood married and named his first boy Frank Scobey, which was the natural thing to do. He became a manufacturer of cotton fabrics. I remember that he wrote me he was “now entering the race for a purse.” He was the only Sigma Chi to whom this idea occurred. He furnished the business spirit to the little band, and without it we most utterly would have failed. The Civil War called him into the army and he forgot the pursuit of the dollar to follow the flag. He greatly distinguished himself at the storming of Fort Wagner where he fell, grievously wounded. From this he never recovered and died a martyr to the cause. He shared our love while living, and tender memories follow him to the brighter world.”

Sigma Chi

Runkle said, “Lockwood and the writer (Ben Runkle) hereof designed the badge; that is to say, we furnished the ideas. Frank Baird, a Delta Kappa Epsilon who would not withdraw with us (though sympathizing with us), and since an artist of high renown, drew the design. I can see him now, Lockwood on one side and I on the other, working away over the drawing in that poor little, old room where Sigma Chi has her birth. I remember that we determined to have a cross — and we understood the meaning of that emblem.”

“Lockwood knew, instinctively, the value and power of money. He was treasurer, and managed the business of the first convention and the first banquet. He had a shot bag in which he kept the coin, and I think he reported, at every meeting, how fast the sum was growing. All the expenses of the first convention were paid in cash on the spot, and every member of the Fraternity

was present.”

Lockwood was concerned with the recruitment efforts and in 1856 to Alpha Chapter, he said: “The various secret and literary societies are pulling and tugging after new members. There is quite a large number from which to choose and we are taking it quite cool. The idea of rushing a member in without giving him time to breathe is very bad. Sometimes we can get good boys and then again we get awfully sold. We therefore (our society) have determined to look before we leap.”

And in 1857 to Eta Chapter - “Be careful to get those who, possessing the requisite mental and social qualities, are expecting to finish their course ‘with joy and gladness.’ The perpetuity of the society depends on having such members in it. I would not advise you to have more than four or five in each class.”

...all honor to his name.