

theShield

of Theta Delta Chi

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THE RICH FAMILY LEGACY OF JAMES MACBRIDE STERRETT, CHI 1867

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

"THE OZ" WILLIAM LLOYD OSBORNE, PSI DEUT '36
CONVENTION RETURNS TO WILLIAMSBURG, VA
THE 2023 VG DUES HONOR ROLL

theShield

of Theta Delta Chi



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214 Lewis Wharf
Boston, MA 02110
800-999-1847
shield@tdx.org

Editors

Brian Bertges
Marivi Bertges
Kay McNulty Davila

Please direct inquiries to the Central Fraternity Office

214 Lewis Wharf, Boston,
Massachusetts 02110
800-999-1847

e-mail address: cfo@tdx.org

About the Cover

James Macbride Sterrett, Chi 1867,
graces our cover this year
as this issue explores the rich
family legacy he started.

In this Issue

Theta Delta Chi is in a new era of
expansion, and with that comes
opportunities to create your own
history within the organization.
This issue focuses on the legacies
of various alumni, the
177th Convention—celebrating
the return of the Noble Epsilon,
and how you could leave your
legacy in Theta Delta Chi.

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Officers of the 147th Grand Lodge

Jim Leuck, Upsilon Deuteron '09
67th President of the Grand Lodge
jim.leuck@gmail.com

Juan Alfaro, Xi Triton '17
Graduate Secretary
jalfaro1995@gmail.com

James Ambrose, Tau Triton '18
Graduate Treasurer
james.ambrose45@aol.com

Stephan Johnson, Gamma Triton '93
Executive Member
Stephan.Robert.Johnson@gmail.com

Adam Marks, Nu Deuteron '99
Executive Member
adammarks02@yahoo.com

Joshua Thompson, Delta Deuteron '24
Undergraduate Member at Large
joshuathompsonHHS@gmail.com

Noah Wellborn, Psi Tetraton '26
Undergraduate Member at Large
nwellborn@arizona.edu

Theta Delta Chi Educational Foundation, Inc.

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Vice President
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Executive Member
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beliving@aol.com

Taylor Early, Rho Triton '92
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Counselor_27@yahoo.com

John Geisler, Gamma Triton '83
Finance Committee Chair
jgeisler@msn.com

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stewgondo@earthlink.net

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jbhartough@gmail.com

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lsarchin@aol.com

Robert Stelletello, Beta '83
bobstell283@gmail.com

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bwtench2@gmail.com

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pmtiernan@gmail.com

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brtrefz@bellsouth.net

Annual Directors

Corey Egler, Upsilon Deuteron '15
cjegler@gmail.com

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chris.fuschetti@gmail.com

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Patrick Tiernan, Chi Triton '99
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pmtiernan@gmail.com

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philly.parker@gmail.com

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jshirk@vt.edu

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ericskelley@gmail.com

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jacob.dababneh@22madison.com

Jamie L. Phillips, Kappa Deuteron '91
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pcurley@robinsoncurley.com

Central Fraternity Office Staff

Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00,
65th PGL
Executive Director
bbertges@tdx.org

John Lowry, Theta Triton '13
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jlowry@tdx.org

Drew Johnson, Beta Deuteron '20
Director of Growth & Expansion
djohnson@tdx.org

Nick Flores, Beta Deuteron '22
Charge Consultant
nflores@tdx.org

Kay McNulty Davila, Psi Deuteron '01
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kfdavila@tdx.org



By James Cash, Psi Deuteron '63 & Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00

Legacy

the long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc., that took place in the past; or of a person's life.

Whenever I connect with Theta Deltas, I am reminded of the quality individuals who join our ranks and accomplish remarkable feats. Earlier this year, I had the distinct pleasure of joining a Zoom call with various alumni from the Psi Deuteron Charge. On that call, James Cash, Psi Deuteron '63, shared a story about one such alumnus. Here's what he wrote:

William Lloyd Osborne, Psi Deut '36, was a combat infantry officer commissioned from ROTC at UCLA. He was a contemporary of my father, Walter Cash, and Charles Stuart "T" Blackton, both '36 Psi Deuts. I cannot recall the occasions, but I remember my father and "T" Blackton telling me about "the Oz," as he was known at the house. He was described as the mildest, meekest person you would want to meet. That said, he was a true war hero.

My first definitive knowledge of the Oz was reading *The Marauders* by Charlton Ogburn Jr.; he was an officer in Merrill's Marauders during WWII. He wrote that when he first met Oz, he found him to have a "birdlike slighthness and appeared to weigh perhaps 115 pounds." He reminded Ogburn more of a young assistant professor of mathematics than anything else. It was later that Ogburn found that Oz "liked battle." His actions with the Marauders verified that with extensive fighting behind Japanese lines in Burma. At the war's end, the Oz was second in command of the Marauders.

While all of this is very interesting information, to me, the real story of Oz lies in his prior actions in the Philippines after the Japanese invasion. The Oz, newly married, was sent to the islands in September 1941, just before the U.S. entered WWII. He was a captain in the U.S. Army and commanded a company of Philippine Scouts on Bataan. He managed to escape capture along with many of his soldiers. He hid out on the islands, assisted by Philippine people, for several months following the fall of Bataan. He got word of another soldier, Damon Gause, an Army Air Corps lieutenant, and managed to find Gause and hook up with him. Gause had been captured by the Japanese but escaped and was in hiding on another island.

They learned of a battered sailboat with a Swedish one-cylinder diesel engine. They had to sail and row through further Japanese-occupied areas to

arrive at the island where the boat was located. They patched up the boat and decided to sail/motor to Australia, about 3,200 miles away. Neither of them had any experience sailing. They had a compass and a very limited map to help. They left in mid-August 1942. Their journey was through territory essentially controlled by the Japanese. The Oz was the leader, but Gause was the man who generally kept the boat going. He made a flag to resemble the Japanese flag (poor substitute) and made the journey generally unmolested with the assistance of locals, although they were strafed by a Japanese plane on one occasion. They finally arrived at Australia's north coast on October 11, 1942.

For detailed information on the Oz's escape from the Philippines, I suggest reading *Voyage into the Wind*, written by William Lloyd Osborne, the Oz.

From then on, the Oz returned to the Infantry with the later posting to Merrill's Marauders. He retired from the Army in 1966 as a full colonel and the assistant chief of staff at the 6th Army, Presidio of San Francisco. He died in 1985 at age 71.

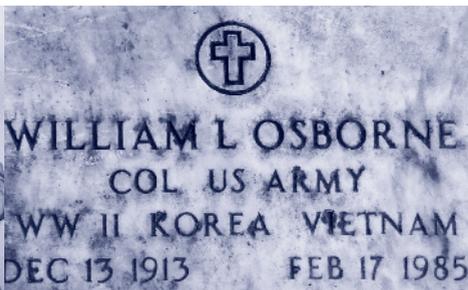
Awards include the Distinguished Service Cross, Combat Infantry Badge, and Ranger Hall of Fame induction. General Douglas MacArthur presented the Distinguished Service Cross to Oz for the escape from the Japanese and the voyage to Australia.

The Oz, unknown to me before that call, represents our organization's rich history and the members who leave a legacy and example for others to follow. Today, our undergraduates are also making their mark, and I am excited by what they are doing. Roughly one-third of our Charges have a member serving as the Interfraternity Council President.

Our undergraduates are likely to accomplish something great. They may need a catalyst—someone to invest in them. The Central Fraternity Office staff coaches, guides, and helps build them into leaders.

Help us help them.

Advise them. Encourage them. Provide them an opportunity to serve. Give to the Educational Foundation. Manifest a brighter future today. Leave your legacy.



Since the birth of our beloved organization in Schenectady, New York, 176 years ago, thousands of young men have chosen to live in the bonds of Theta Delta Chi. Even as the ranks grow, few Theta Delts have had the impact and legacy of James Macbride Sterrett, Chi 1867. Whether you believe it or not, each member dating back to our founding, including yourself, can leave a lasting legacy within the organization. That legacy doesn't necessarily just have to be the things you accomplish(ed) at the Charge or international level, or how much money you helped raise for philanthropy, or the records you and your Charge have broken during your tenure. While those things are all examples of notable achievements, legacy also boils down to the lives you touch along the way. As the organization trends upward in a new era of expansion, educational and leadership programming, and as we continue to strengthen the bonds of our brotherhood, Brother Sterrett's legacy continues to stand the test of time.

MORE THAN



The back of the pin, which was re-discovered by Chris Sargent, has James Macbride Sterrett's name engraved, along with his delegation and Washington D.C. across the bottom.

Pictured is the pin which Chris Sargent and Frank Sterrett Jr. brought to the CFO's attention. It was discovered that it once belonged to James Macbride Sterrett.

Before diving into the legacy Brother Sterrett would leave, I would be remiss not to mention how this story came to life. Christopher Sargent Jr., a member of the Sterrett family, U.S. Navy veteran and Iota Deuteron class of 1962, and his cousin Frank Sterrett Jr., a graduate of the University of Maryland and U.S. Navy Veteran, reached out to the CFO after salvaging some family history. This family history was provided in part by another cousin, Samuel "Sandy" Sterrett, whose father took possession of James Macbride's writings when his house was sold.

Chris rediscovered a pin that was passed down to him from his father, which was passed down to him and so forth. This pin belonged to James Macbride Sterrett. When speaking to Chris about the pin, he mentioned how he forgot he had it in the first place. "I was unaware [of our family's history in Theta Delta Chi] until I unearthed that pin," Chris said. "It had been passed down to my father. My mother, when she died, gave it to me and it'd been in a box for 20 years. I had just been going through stuff and I found it was a Theta Delt pin. I saw it said James Macbride Sterrett on the back and couldn't believe it." Chris was prepared to

Pictured is Frank Sterrett Jr. Frank played a massive part in the creation of this story and we are grateful for his contributions to the organization.



A PIN

give the pin to his significant other in Theta Delt fashion, when she noted to him that it belonged to his great grandfather. One side of the pin displays the crest of Theta Delta Chi, and engraved on the back is "J. Macbride Sterrett, X '67" across the top and "Washington D.C." along the bottom. This pin started all of the research and is why this story has come to fruition. In unearthing that pin from his great grandfather, Chris and Frank helped us unearth their family's rich history within the organization, which will be showcased throughout this story.

James Macbride Sterrett was born on January 13, 1847 and was a native of Howard, Pennsylvania. Once he was of age he enrolled at the University of Rochester in 1863, where he helped found the Chi Charge along with Nathan P. Barlow, Judson W. Harris, Charles G. Kingman, Willis S. Paine, Freeman A. Green, Adelbert J. Howe and J. Prescott McKinney.

Following his time at the University of Rochester, Sterrett went on to Harvard Divinity School, then to Cambridge Episcopal Seminary, where he earned his degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1872 and in 1886 earned the title of Doctor of Divinity. In 1882, Sterrett became a Professor of Ethics and Apologetics at Seabury Divinity School in Faribault, Minnesota. During his time as an educator, he also was a renowned writer, having produced some of the world's most favored religious literature. His works, *Studies in Hegel's Philosophy of Religion* and *Reason and Authority in Religion*, were well received in the United States and England. Sterrett was undoubtedly a very bright man during his era, but he was also a very devoted Theta Delt. After his college Theta Delt days, Sterrett became a member of the Southern Graduate Association, which would help establish the Chi Deuteron Charge at The George Washington University, formerly known as Columbian University.

In 1892, during the Tau Deuteron Banquet celebrating the birth of a new Charge at the University of Minnesota, Sterrett was in attendance with none other than one of our founding fathers, Abel Beach. Both were asked to present a speech to the newly born Charge. This speech is where we can understand precisely the kind of man and Brother James Macbride Sterrett was.

Before getting into the real substance of his speech, Sterrett precluded with, "I believe it is customary to do some little lying on occasions like this,



Pictured is Chris Sargent Jr., Iota Deuteron '62. Chris was a major contributor to the story, a loyal brother to his Charge, and the organization.

and understand that even a clergyman may avail himself of such opportunities and tell little fibs," Sterrett said. "Now I want to tell a big lie this evening. I like to make a speech after dinner...That is a lie. Now for the truth," he proceeded. "I always like to be present where Theta Delta Chi's are to be found, I like to be present at their banquets, at a lodge of one or two, or wherever they are together, for wherever there are Theta Delt I am always at home... I have been 25 years a Theta Delta Chi, and have always, where it was possible for me, been present at their banquets and meetings, and I will say that some of the purest pleasures of my life have come from this fraternity." Brother Sterrett continued speaking fondly of the newly founded Charge and gave bits of advice to both Tau Deuteron and those in attendance which can still be of great use today. "...My first advice to you is, -Subscribe to *the Shield*. It will do more to build up and educate you than any other thing of the kind. It will tell you what Theta Delta Chi is; who are the bright and shining lights; it will give you the pictures of them. It will also give you the history of the fraternity," Sterrett said. "There is another thing, send delegates to the annual convention. It will do

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More than a Pin

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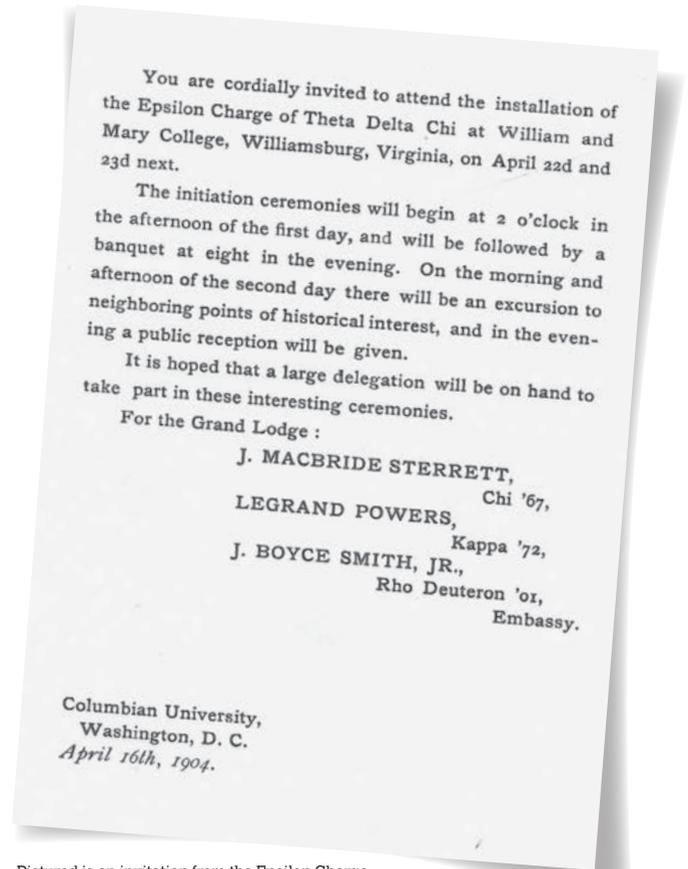
the delegates good. It will do the Charges good. It will do the fraternity good.”

In the messages of brotherhood, he speaks of the pride he takes in being at each Convention and banquet he can attend, the importance of the Shield to him and the Fraternity as a whole, we see he was a Theta Delt through and through. James Macbride Sterrett is a Brother who would leave a legacy that stands the test of time. He also created one of the greatest family dynasties in the organization’s history.

Brother Sterrett fathered six sons: James Macbride Sterrett Jr, Robert Sterrett, Henry Hatch Dent Sterrett, William Dent Sterrett, Douglas Bovard Sterrett, John Adlum Sterrett and one daughter, Adlumia Dent Sterrett. Each of his sons would go on to become Theta Delt, seemingly having seen the amount of time, dedication and belief he had in the organization.

From eldest to youngest: James Macbride Sterrett Jr, nicknamed Jamie, was also a member of the Chi Charge. Jamie was born on May 8, 1877 and initiated into the class of 1896. Jamie unfortunately passed away of cerebral meningitis on September 10th, 1894, before his graduation date. In Volume 10 of the Shield, members Stanton E. Barrett '95, P. A. Blossom '95 and James A. Hamilton '97 paid tribute to their beloved Brother. In an excerpt found on page 409, Brothers of Chi write, “None need to be told whose son he was. No name is more familiar to brothers of the last twenty years than that of his father, who has done so much for the advancement of the moral and social standing of our fraternity.” Again this highlights the legacy Sterrett Sr. had left and was still building upon. “Even in death Theta Delta Chi was not forgotten,” the memorial continued. “The shield which he had so affectionately worn in life was pinned to the lapel of his coat. Although his direct association with his Charge had been very little, he had always been so intimately in touch with his father, that it only needed the ceremonial performance to make him an ardent and loyal brother. He loved the fraternity which he had long before learned to admire as a faithful son.”

Pictured is a 12 year old James Macbride Sterrett Jr. He was part of the Chi Charge and unfortunately passed away at a young age just after his sophomore year at George Washington University.



Pictured is an invitation from the Epsilon Charge to attend their chartering banquet in 1904. James Macbride Sterrett is listed on the invitation as a member of the embassy for the Charge.

Robert Sterrett was the second eldest of his brothers, born on June 29, 1778. He became a member of the Chi Deuteron Charge and later transferred to the Phi Charge at Lafayette College. Robert was a colonel in the U.S. Army and enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corps for the Spanish-American War in the summer of 1898 before graduating from Lafayette College with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. He was appointed a lieutenant in the 43rd U.S. Volunteer Regiment and served in the Philippine-American War. In 1901, he became a Lieutenant of Cavalry in the Army and, prior to World War I, served in the western US, the Philippines, and Mexico. After the war he served for a time in France in charge of Grave Registration.

Henry Hatch Dent Sterrett was the third eldest son, born on January 25, 1880. He became a member of the Iota Charge at Harvard University, class of 1899. Following graduation with a Master of Arts degree, Hatch went on to the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he would receive his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1903. He then served as an assistant minister at Trinity Church in New Haven, Massachusetts, minister of St. Paul’s Church in Columbus, Ohio, and later became rector of the All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church, which his father established in 1911 as a memorial to his son and namesake James Macbride Sterrett Jr. Given his experience with the Church he was asked to assist with the 1930 Omega Service held at Bruton Church in Williamsburg, Pennsylvania. There he would deliver a sermon that, “would long be remembered by all who heard it for its fraternal appropriateness, its sincerity and the fund of traditional theta delt memories it recalled.” During said sermon captured from the 1931 edition of the Shield, he would encapsulate the true essence of brotherhood and its effect upon our lives as Theta Delt, as well as the eternal significance of the Omega Charge. His sermon reads as follows:

“Off the coast of Ireland is a little island of fisher folk. When their men are caught out on a turbulent sea in heavy fog, it is the custom of the women and children to gather on the beach and sing the songs of home as a way of cheering and guiding their dear ones to a safe landing. When we go hence, my brothers, through the fog and mist of death, I like to think that the brothers of the Omega Charge will be down on the white, sandy beach of eternity, singing together the old songs to cheer and guide us into a haven of fellowship. And what

« continued on page 8

More than a Pin

« continued from page 7



Pictured is William Dent Sterrett and Ida Gum Sterrett. Parents of Adlumia [Chris Sargent's mother], William Dent Sterrett, Jr., and Frank Sterrett Sr (Frank Sterrett Jr's father).

His professional life took him all over the world having spent some time in Canada and Alaska as well. As a member of the Chi Deuteron Charge, he was highly regarded, given his father played a significant role establishing the Charge.

John A. Sterrett, also referred to as Jack, was the youngest of the Sterrett brothers and was also a member of the Chi Deuteron Charge, with the delegation of 1907. As found in the 1937 edition of *The Shield*, following his undergraduate days John became president and general manager of Sterrett Operating Service, Inc., a truck rental service in Washington D.C.. Ten years later he purchased a Ford Co. dealership which he named Sterrett Motor Service, and the company was in operation for about two years.

Each of Brother Sterrett's sons is amazing in their own right and all played a significant role within our organization. With each son becoming a Theta Delt, following in the footsteps of their father, they continued his legacy and the Sterrett family legacy for years to come.

As time passed and the family grew bigger, more Sterretts took the oaths of Theta Delta Chi. One of William Dent Sterrett's sons, Frank G. Sterrett Sr., went on to become a Theta Delt at the Iota Deuteron Charge at Williams College, delegation 1936. There Frank met Brother Christopher S. Sargent Sr., Iota Deuteron '33, who became his

brother-in-law, having married Frank's sister Adlumia Dent Sterrett. Both Frank and Christopher would go on to have their own children in their namesake; Christopher "Chris" S. Sargent Jr. and Frank G. Sterrett Jr.

Chris, as mentioned at the start, would join the Iota Deuteron Charge like his father, graduating in 1962. Although his father passed away when Chris was just six years old, he was able to read about how great of a man his father was through a book his grandfather wrote about him. Having read how great a scholar and man his father was, he aspired to be just like him thus attending Williams College and joining Theta Delta Chi. Chris then became treasurer of the Charge and a well-respected Brother at Iota Deuteron as the Fraternity meant the world to him.

Through conversations with Chris and Frank, I discovered that both were not aware just how rich their family history is within the organization. As Chris said, he wasn't aware until he rediscovered the pin and conducted his own research, and when speaking to Frank he only knew of the Fraternity through *the Shield*. "I was not as much [aware] as I would have liked but I did know there were a great many Sterretts that were Theta Delts," Frank said. "My father used to get the Shield back in the 50s but that sort of dropped off because he probably didn't participate as much. So I was aware there was a connection but it was vague; I was 10 or 12." Frank did not go on to become a Theta Delt as he attended the University of Maryland. Despite this, he is very much etched in the organization's history given his family name, and will always be.

Despite not fully understanding the history

will they sing, you may ask? 'Joyful we greet you, Brothers beloved and true, 'Neath our black, white and blue banner we love.' And this too, 'There is one thing always certain, It will never fail. When a Theta meets a Theta, The word is always, Hail!'"

William Dent Sterrett Sr., the fourth son of James Macbride Sterrett, was also a graduate of the Iota Charge, class of 1901. Following his undergraduate days he served as a forest examiner for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and has various publications such as, *The Ashes: Their Characteristics and Management*, *Jack Pine* and *Scrub Pine* which can all be accessed online. Like his father and brothers, he also attended as many Conventions and conferences of the Fraternity as he could. This is evident as he is mentioned to be in attendance at the 1930 and 1931 annual conventions according to those editions of *the Shield*. In the 1931 edition of *the Shield* it is mentioned that William Sr. was an instrumental part in coordinating the Washington Grad Association Dinner. He helped put out the announcements, reached out to alumni, paid for them to attend, and took them home afterward. The commitment the Sterrett's had for the organization is clear and they consistently showed their love and gratitude through acts of service, as detailed in this example and many more.

The fifth son of the Sterrett lineage is Douglas Bovard Sterrett, Chi Deuteron 1902. Douglas spent his professional life as a geologist and mining consultant in the southwest as stated in his memorial.



Sterrett family members pictured together from a postcard in the 1900's. Back row: John Adlum Sterrett, William Dent Sterrett, Douglas Bovard Sterrett. Front Row: Colonel Robert Sterrett, Rev. Henry Hatch Dent Sterrett.

« continued on page 11

THETA DELTA CHI HEADS TO WILLIAMSBURG

177th Convention & the Return of Epsilon

**AUGUST 1 - 3, 2024
CELEBRATING THE RETURN
OF NOBLE EPSILON**

**177th
ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

Θ Δ Χ



**WILLIAMSBURG
WOODLANDS
HOTEL & SUITES
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA
TDXCONVENTION.ORG**

The 177th Convention is headed to Williamsburg, Virginia. Our Convention site will be the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel & Suites. Events will be held starting on Thursday, August 1, and ending on Saturday, August 3. There are several tickets available to meet your needs! Go to tdxconvention.org to secure your spot.

Williamsburg is home to the Epsilon Charge, one of the first Charges in Theta Delta Chi. Epsilon was first chartered in 1853, later closed in 1861, had a year of activity from 1871 to 1872, and was rechartered in 1904. The Charge was briefly suspended in the early two-thousands before going dormant in 2012. If you have been reading this issue closely, you are familiar with J. Macbride Sterrett, Chi 1867; he was a member of the Embassy that installed the rechartering members of Epsilon in 1904.

Epsilon was most recently reestablished on January 27, 2024. They will receive their charter on Friday of the Convention during a banquet dinner with speakers and songs. Join us here to celebrate the return of noble Epsilon.

Conventioneers can hit the ground running on Thursday, August 1. Delegates and guests should arrive early for the 18-hole Red Ubel Golf Tournament. The Grand Lodge has 32 spots with tee times starting at 8:50 AM; secure your spot for \$100. Thursday's schedule also has the First General Business Session and our Welcome Event, Indoor Golf & Dinner.

A Full Registration Upgrade makes sense if you are arriving on Thursday. This upgrade covers all ticketed events throughout the Convention. Undergraduate delegates from each active Charge have this ticket type; it is recommended for a Charge's elected alumnus delegate. This upgrade package is available for \$350. The Full Registration Upgrade is the only package that includes Thursday night's Welcome Event and the Historical Tour & Lunch.

The Historical Tour Multiday Ticket is a great value and will give access to Colonial Williamsburg's museums, gardens, and other sites from Thursday until Monday. On Friday, Theta Deltas and guests will be given a curated list of items to explore before having lunch at the local Museum Café.

The Omega Service, a tradition of Convention since the early 1900s, continues. It will be held Friday evening in the Wren Building on the College of William & Mary campus. Having been constructed before 1700, it is the oldest college building still standing in the country.

Are you only joining for the weekend? The Banquets Only Upgrade might make sense for you. This package, at \$250, includes two banquet dinners. Friday's banquet celebrates the newly reestablished Epsilon Charge, and Saturday's is our annual Grand Banquet.

Saturday will conclude with the President of the Grand Lodge Reception (PGL Reception), followed by the Grand Banquet. The Grand Banquet has continued to grow. There will be songs, speakers, scholarship announcements, and an awards ceremony. The Grand Banquet is the most attended event; access is available with the required base ticket for \$150. Attending en masse? Select a full table upgrade to secure 10 spots at the Grand Banquet and PGL Reception. Buying in bulk gets you a discount. This package costs \$1,350.

There is more information to keep in mind. Tickets can be purchased for guests and other attendees. Not all events are ticketed. General business sessions are open to all Brothers. Each Charge may have one alumnus vote at these sessions. The Alumni Minerva Session on Friday is open to all and not ticketed. Minerva Sessions (undergraduate topics) are open to all and not ticketed. Educational Foundation, Founders' Corporation, and Grand Lodge board meetings are on Saturday and open to Brothers.

Breakfast is available daily for hotel guests.

Registrations have already come in. Join us to make this the most well-attended convention in recent history!

Our event site is tdxconvention.org. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Central Fraternity Office at staff@tdx.org.

(*) designates Lifetime VG Donors
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\$1-\$99	VG Dues Club
\$100	Century Club
\$250	Stars and Arrows Club
\$500	Sons of Minerva
\$1000	Graduate Loyalty Club
\$1847	Founders' Circle
\$5,000	PGL's Society
\$10,000	Robert Frost Society
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All past and future gifts of cash, securities and other tangible property on record will be credited toward membership in these giving clubs. Active donors with renewed contributions will receive annual recognition in *The Shield*.

*Please note that donations made to local alumni associations do not count toward VG Dues cumulative giving clubs.



More than a Pin

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their family has within the organization, both Chris and Frank spent a lot of time with their Theta Delt family members. “It’s funny, you know, I spent a whole summer with Uncle Douglas. I went to British Columbia with him and his wife in the summer of ’53 for maybe seven weeks, and he never mentioned [Theta Delta Chi],” Frank said. “It was probably so far in his past he didn’t focus on it as much. In retrospect, it’s crystal clear to me that he lived the TDX values and those of his father without a lot of fanfare.” When Chris and Frank reflected on their youth with their family, Chris mentioned how closely everyone lived to each other. “My grandfather lived right next door, my three great uncles lived within half a block of where I lived, so as a child I would go around to each one of them,” Chris said. “Uncle Doug, Uncle Hatch, Uncle Rob, all of these guys were part of my life, and each of them were extraordinary.” Frank Jr. was similarly affected by the proximity of so many senior family members who were Theta Delt.

These conversations with Chris and Frank helped us understand the legacy James Macbride Sterrett created and how the family continued to build upon it through each generation. In an anecdote told by Frank, he recalled a time he was working at George Washington University and met a senior retired faculty member who was hiring a scribe to help him with the book he was writing on the history of GWU. Frank met with him to do a job description. “There was a professor at George Washington when my [great] grandfather was there. He was a history professor and he had written a book about the history of the university,” Frank Jr. said. “He was hiring a scribe and I was asked to go over and do a job analysis. When he heard my surname he recognized it right away. ‘Your name is Sterrett?’ I said ‘Yup’ and he goes ‘I knew your great grandfather’ and we talked for three hours.” These moments for Frank were priceless and helped him understand the legacy which his great-grandfather had left at the university.

James Macbride Sterrett and each of the Sterretts that followed wrote themselves into the history

books of Theta Delta Chi and in their own fields of study as well. Whether it be architecture, philosophy, religion, etc., the Sterrett legacy is defined by the lives that they each touched throughout their journeys. The achievements and the accomplishments certainly are essential to note, and they don’t go unnoticed by any means. Still, when you think about legacy and how you want to be remembered at your Charge, your university, by your friends and family, it’s all about how you positively impact the lives of others. The Sterretts made a significant impact on the lives of their Charge Brothers, their family members and anyone they had the chance to meet and work with.

Looking forward to the 177th Convention, take a page from Brother Sterrett’s book and make your way to Williamsburg, as it will do the Fraternity good. This could be your chance to continue your legacy as a Theta Delt. With the organization

celebrating the rechartering of the noble Epsilon Charge, Brother Sterrett would certainly have been in attendance, given he was on the embassy when the Charge was installed at William and Mary.

As Theta Delta Chi continues to grow both in membership and in Charges, the organization also grows in terms of legacy. With each passing day every Theta Delt, whether they know it or not, leaves their mark on the world. Each day is a new opportunity to build upon your legacy, and as a member of Theta Delta Chi, that legacy is sure to live on forever.

“To me, a fraternity is as strong as it is because of its members,” Chris said. “Theta Delta Chi is a very strong Fraternity in my mind.”

Pictured is a portrait of Brother James Macbride Sterrett and his family from the early 1900’s. The Sterrett family played a crucial role in the development of the Fraternity. The legacy they left is still celebrated today.



Theta Delt QUIZ



The Book of Accepted Rulings was the predecessor to the By-Laws. What year was the Book of Accepted Rulings published? In what year did the Convention authorize the publication of the By-Laws?

See answers on page 14

Book of Accepted Rulings
and Other Legislation
of the
Theta Delta Chi Fraternity

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LEAVING A LEGACY

By Brian Bertges, Sigma Triton '00



This issue of *the Shield* mainly focuses on the history of Theta Delta Chi, and especially the legacy of James Macbride Sterrett. **Leaving a legacy is about the lives that you impact.** Partnership and setting a vision are crucial elements to the most impactful legacies. We want your commitment to making a difference for our undergraduates, who follow in your footsteps in the halls of Theta Delta Chi. They need our love, encouragement and support.

Partnerships are about coming together, which is a precursor to making an impact. Our six Founders had partnership from the start, leaving their mark on us. Andrew H. Green, credited with writing the ritual, started our Preamble with one remarkable word highlighting our connection – We. This simple two-letter word, clearly calls for collaboration.

As I round out my 7th year as Executive Director, I recognize the power of partnership. If you hang out with me long enough, you will hear one of my personal leadership tropes: **Individually, we can make a difference. Together, we can move mountains.** To achieve the impossible, we must share common goals, or more broadly, a vision. I believe a common vision is a necessary precursor in order to make an intentional impact.

We are going to do a non-hostile takeover of every college and university where there is a Charge of Theta Delta Chi. We have been saying this for years, and now we see that our undergraduate members' vision is aligned with ours. I'm getting text messages from Charge presidents telling

me that the new Interfraternity Council (IFC) President is a Theta Delt at their campus, while also adding "the non-hostile takeover has begun."

How pervasive is it? Roughly one-third of our Charges have the IFC President, and even more have IFC executive board positions. Beyond Greek Life our Brothers sit as student government presidents, editors of the school newspapers, and captains of sports teams. I've even had administrators comment to me, **"Theta Delta Chi has done more for the community than any other organization on campus."** Take notice of "any other organization," not just fraternities, but the whole student community.

Make Your Gift Today.

Right now, we benefit from roughly 900 generous Brothers. **By joining or continuing to support the effort, we can convey to the undergraduate members that the alumni are behind them 100%.** Leaving a lasting legacy is about collective effervescence, which builds momentum and excitement as a brotherhood. Your partnership demonstrates your love, encouragement and support. Your fidelity matters because when we come together, we will make our communities better, having a multiplier effect that yields even more impact.

With a planned gift, or with as little as \$18.47, your generosity will provide scholarships to undergraduates who want to bring their authentic and passionate selves to the world. Because of you, a Charge can conduct philanthropy to serve community members in profound ways. Because of you, the Preamble Institute will continue to inspire members to be value-added. Because of you, Theta Delta Chi will flourish. Consider leaving a legacy with your donation today.



Mail reply envelope



Text **VGD24** to 91999



Go to **vgdues.org**

MyTDX.org powered by GreekTrack is Theta Delta Chi's online membership management portal.

The Central Fraternity Office uses MyTDX as its official rolls of membership, recordkeeping, and communication. The Educational Foundation uses the system to track every member's complete donor history, address information, and contact preferences.

We encourage every member to login to the system periodically to update their address, set their contact preferences, and check their donation history. It is vital that we are able to keep in touch with you and to keep you updated on all things Theta Delt. While you are there you can check your donation history, inspect your family tree, connect with other alumni and much more!

The CFO staff is always available to help with your MyTDX questions and is available for training. Don't hesitate to email us at cfo@tdx.org or call **1-800-999-1847 ext. 0**.

Check your email to see if you have received an invite email from greektrack@mytdx.org.

To setup your alumni account, fill out our Getting Started form: setup.mytdx.org

MyTDX.org is not the only way to update your information.

- Are you a member of Theta Delta Chi and want to update your information quickly? [Visit update.mytdx.org](http://update.mytdx.org)
- Are you not a member of Theta Delta Chi and are receiving mail in error? Don't fret. [Visit notme.mytdx.org](http://notme.mytdx.org)
- Do you need to report the death of a member? [Visit omega.mytdx.org](http://omega.mytdx.org)
- You may also email cfo@tdx.org, or call **1-800-999-1847, X0**

Theta Delt QUIZ



Answers to questions on page 11

The Book of Accepted Rulings was published in 1904. The 60th Convention in 1908 authorized the publication of the By-Laws, which were constantly amended over the decades and first published in a joint edition with the Constitution in 1971.



**Alpha
Union College**
Thomas Orr
116 Adams Dr.
Portsmouth, RI 02871
tommtor75@gmail.com

**Alpha Alumni Association
Union College**
Bob LoParo
435 Fairfield Ave.
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
loparo.bob@gmail.com

**Beta Alumni Association
Cornell University**
Len Shapiro
P.O. Box 1045
Woodstock, NY 12498
Lj.shapiro@gmail.com

**Beta Deuteron
Iowa State University**
Ethan Czyzewicz
217 Ash Ave.
Ames, IA 50014
eczyz3z@iastate.edu

**Theta Delta Chi Realty Co.
of Ames, Iowa
Iowa State University**
John C. Fuller, Jr.
69726 110TH St.
Zearing, IA 50278
fuller69726@yahoo.com

**Gamma Deuteron
University of Michigan**
Daniel Pacious
725 Oxford Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
dpacious@umich.edu

**Gamma Deuteron Building
Association
University of Michigan**
George Cobane
400 Maple Park Blvd, Suite 401
St. Clair Shores, MI 48236
george@cobane.com

**Gamma Triton
Michigan State University**
Vlad Serikov
131 Bogue St.
East Lansing, MI 48823
serikovv@msu.edu

**Gamma Triton Alumni
Association
Michigan State University**
Brendan Gudenburr
433 W Side Dr. Apt. 102
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
brendangudenburr@gmail.com

**Delta Deuteron
University of California Berkeley**
Alexander Martinez
2647 Durant Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94701
alexmartinez@berkeley.edu

**Delta Deuteron Building
Association
University of California Berkeley**
C. David Strait
331 Laurelwood Dr.
Lebanon, PA 17042
strait@straitanswers.com

**Epsilon
William & Mary**
Andrew Finkelstein
CSU 1505 PO Box 8785
Williamsburg, VA 23187
andrewkamen.finkelstein@gmail.com

**Epsilon Alumni Association
William & Mary**
Greg Wagner
23603 Golden Embers Square
Ashburn, VA 20148
seniorhrpro97@gmail.com

**Epsilon Triton
Arizona State University**
Zachary Fitzgerald
1118 E laguna Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85282
zfitzgera@gmail.com

**Epsilon Triton Alumni Association
Arizona State University**
Tom Czyz
12437 N 80th Place
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
drtomczyzaz@icloud.com

**Theta Deuteron
Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
Mario Sanchez Mendez
372 Memorial Dr.
Cambridge, MA 02139
mariojsm@mit.edu

**Theta Deuteron House Corporation
Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
Armando Viteri
9110 N 70th Street
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
armando5@earthlink.net

**Iota Triton
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**
Aidan Lynch
1340 County St. Unit 51
Attleboro, MA 02703
lynch.aidan64@gmail.com

**Iota Triton Alumni Association
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**
Andrew Georgian
7 Rogers St.
Millbury, MA 01527
Andrewjg696@gmail.com

**Kappa Corporation
Tufts University**
Jeremy Zuniga
118 Rutledge Rd.
Belmont, MA 02478
zunigajeremy@yahoo.com

**Lambda Deuteron
University of Toronto**
Fatih Gul
22 Madison Ave.
Toronto, ON M5R2S1, Canada
fatihgul200135@gmail.com

**Lambda Deuteron Alumni
Association
University of Toronto**
Thomas Bernard
23 Gurney Crescent
Toronto, ON M6B1S9, Canada
tbernard1@octopusproducts.com

**Mu Triton
University of North Carolina Greensboro**
Xzavier Smith
402 S Josephine Boyd St.
Greensboro, NC 27403
xmsmith25@gmail.com

**Mu Triton Alumni Association
University of North Carolina Greensboro**
Michael PISO
4434 Meadow Lane
Lincolnton, NC 28092
Tdxmt.alumnipresident@gmail.com

**Nu
University of Virginia**
Alejandro Erazo
1811 Lambeth Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22903
alejandroerazotdx@gmail.com

**Nu House Corporation
University of Virginia**
Benjamin Webne
209 East Curtis Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
webne6@yahoo.com

**Nu Triton
Virginia Tech University**
Frank Naccarato
311 Edge Way Apt 202
Blacksburg, VA 24060
franknacc03@vt.edu

**Xi
Hobart College**
Suraj Mukkamala
14 Perrine Lane
Cranbury, NJ 08512
Smukkamala106@gmail.com

**Xi Alumni Association
Hobart College**
Ryan Hofmann
187 N Main Street
Geneva, NY 14456
rhofmann10@yahoo.com

**Xi Deuteron
University of Washington**
Justin Giddings
4532 19th Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98105
justinggidd@outlook.com

**Xi Deuteron House Corporation
University of Washington**
Lawrence Sarchin
2920 76th Ave. SE, #304
Mercer Island, WA 98040
Lsarchin@aol.com

**Northwest Graduate Alumni
Association
University of Washington**
Lawrence Sarchin
2920 76th Ave. SE, #304
Mercer Island, WA 98040
Lsarchin@aol.com

**Xi Triton
University at Albany**
Brennan Miller
483 Hamilton St.
Albany, NY 12205
bmiller7@albany.edu

**Omicron Deuteron
Dartmouth College**
Hunter Binney
11 West Wheelock St.
Hanover, NH 03755
Hunterbinney02@gmail.com

**Omicron Deuteron House
Corporation
Dartmouth College**
James Calmas
260 Elliot St.
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Lodgeprez@gmail.com

**Omicron Triton
University of Rhode Island**
Sal Krekorian
14 Fraternity Circle
South Kingstown, RI 02881
saiiviokrekorian@gmail.com

**Rho Proteron
University of South Carolina**
Derek Kaiser
3125 Heyward St.
Columbia, SC 29205
derekkaiser133@gmail.com

**Rho Proteron Alumni Association
University of South Carolina**
Bradley Rosenblatt
1410 N Scott St. Apt. 570
Arlington, VA 22209
bprosenblatt@gmail.com

**Rho Triton
Virginia Commonwealth University**
Thomas Alexander Purcell
208 Roslyn Hills Dr.
Richmond, VA 23229
tpurcell45@hotmail.com

**Rho Triton Alumni Association
Virginia Commonwealth University**
Michael Stanley
PO BOX 6286
Glen Allen, VA 23058
tdx1847@hotmail.com

**Rho Triton House Corporation
Virginia Commonwealth University**
Brian Haug
2755 Royal Crest Dr.
Midlothian, VA 23113
brianhaug@hotmail.com

**Sigma Deuteron
University of Wisconsin**
Simon Ross
144 Langdon St.
Madison, WI 53703
jtufano@wisc.edu

**Wisconsin Alumni of Theta Delta Chi
University of Wisconsin**
Patrick Loureiro
7201 Countrywood Lane
Madison, WI 53719
ploureiro512@gmail.com

**Sigma Triton
Penn State University**
Nicholas Wehner
305 E Prospect Ave.
State College, PA 16801
Nickwehner07@gmail.com

**Sigma Triton House Corporation
Penn State University**
Thomas Stephan
140 E Sixth St.
Media, PA 19063
thomas.stephan.318@gmail.com

**Tau Triton
Marist College**
Jack Crowley
5 High St.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
jcrowley1218@gmail.com

**Tau Triton Alumni Association
Marist College**
James Ambrose
1250 Central Park Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10704
james.ambrose45@aol.com

**Tau Tetraton
Johnson & Wales University**
Camden LeBlanc
69 Radcliffe Ave.
Providence, RI 02908
j02272900@jwu.edu

**Upsilon Deuteron
Wabash College**
Carter Bertsch
607 South Grant Ave.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
Ccbertsch26@wabash.edu

**Upsilon Deuteron Alumni Association
Wabash College**
Corey Egler
1507 N Ohio St.
Arlington, VA 22205
cjegler@gmail.com

**Chi Deuteron Alumni Association
George Washington University**
Adam McCready
43 Hosmer Street
Watertown, MA 02472
tdxgwaa@gmail.com

**Psi Deuteron
University of California Los Angeles**
David Sargsyan
547 Gayley Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90024
sargsyandavit645@gmail.com

**Psi Deuteron Alumni Association
University of California Los Angeles**
Yoab Garcia
12210 Pleasant Valley Dr.
Dallas, TX 75243
yoab2196@gmail.com

**Psi Deuteron House Corporation
University of California Los Angeles**
Sean Kang
1051 S St Andrews Pl.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
Kang.ss92@gmail.com

**Psi Tetraton
University of Arizona**
Evan Dickmeyer
1724 S 207th Ave.
Omaha, NE 68022
evandickmeyer@arizona.edu



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