

History of the Founding of
Kappa State Chapter of
Delta Kappa Gamma Society
1935

(Told by Dr. Bessie Moore)



Prepared for 75th Anniversary (2010)

By Elizabeth Waldrip

State Research Chair 2007-2011

Bessie Moore - History of Kappa State
Kappa State Workshop 7/30/2010
(Presented by Dr. Bessie Moore, aka Elizabeth Waldrip)

Bessie Moore Early Years

Good evening, sisters. I would like to share with a few of the things that have happened in my life and some of our sisters whom I have known.

I was born Bessie Grace Boehm August 2, 1902, in Owensboro, Ky. That's 108 years this coming Monday. My 17 year old mother, Bessie Calloway Boehm, died a few hours later. I only weighed two-and-a-half pounds so my Papa, Edgar, age 37, wrapped me up and took me 40 miles by horse and buggy to my Aunt Lillie who got me to nurse by giving me bacon rinds to suck.

When I was 12, Papa and I moved to a farm near Mountain View which became his after three years under the Homestead Act. By the time I was 14 I had finished the 10th grade and took my first job as a teacher at a one-room school at St. James, between Mountain View and Batesville. I later earned a teaching degree at Arkansas State Teachers College and became a rural schoolteacher in Pulaski County before becoming supervisor of Jefferson County's rural schools.

In 1928, I married Merlin Moore, a traveling salesman and member of a prominent Pine Bluff family. We went to the court house to get married. I was supposed to be at two different meetings that day. I told each one of them that I had to be at the other meeting.

While I was working out of the state Department of Education, I was selected as vice-president of the Arkansas Parents and Teachers Association and attended the national meeting in Washington, D.C. (We had the largest delegation there.) While there I met Dr. Gary Cleveland Meyers, a nationally known parental education expert. He found that I was using his materials in local meetings and he wrote about me in one of his columns in the fall of 1934.

The National Society of Delta Kappa Gamma had held a convention in Hot Springs in June, 1934. At that meeting three Arkansas women were initiated. They were Dr. Flora Gillentine of Henderson State Teachers College, and Opal Albright and Annie Griffey, both of Little Rock. When Dr. Gillentine noticed the column by Dr. Meyers she wrote to the national president of Delta Kappa Gamma recommending me as a founding member for Arkansas.

Twelve founders of Kappa Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma, honorary organization for outstanding women educators met with Miss Norma Smith of Montgomery, Alabama, the national president, who conducted the initiation at the Albert Pike hotel March 8, 1935. They were: Miss Edna Rudolf of Hot Springs; Miss Rosa Walker of Fort Smith; Miss Frances Bailey of the state Department of Education; Miss Annie G. Griffey of Little Rock, Mrs. Lelia M. Conte of Hot Springs; Dr. Flora M. Gillentine, Henderson State Teachers College, Arkadelphia; Miss Alma Keys, state Department of Education; Miss Beryl Henry, superintendent of schools, Hope; Miss Willie Lawson of Little Rock, executive secretary of the Arkansas Education Association; Miss Pearl Williamson, superintendent of schools in DeQueen; Miss Constance Mitchell, Arkansas State Teachers College, Conway; and myself Miss Opal Allbright of Little Rock was studying that year in Columbia University, New York City.

First Founding members

Dr. Flora Myers Gillentine

Dr. Flora Myers Gillentine was born November 21, 1875 in Pikeville, Tennessee. In 1902 she married Logan Seitz Gillentine of Van Buren, Tennessee, a professor who had lived in England for a while. She received a degree from George Peabody College for Teachers in 1919 and they both taught at the State Normal College in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She was a widow by the time she came to Henderson State Teachers College in Arkadelphia where she served as head of the department of education. She was extremely active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and served as historian at the national level

Dr. Gillentine was familiar enough with key women teachers in Arkansas to be able to help decide who the founders of Kappa State would be. She served as national vice president of Delta Kappa Gamma in 1940-42.

She died on October 11, 1946 in Arkadelphia and was buried in her hometown of Pikeville, Tennessee.

Miss Annie Griffey

Annie Griffey was born in Clarksville, Tennessee on November 21, 1868. As a twelve year old she moved to Little Rock to live with a sister. After graduating from Little Rock Senior High School she studied at Harvard and the University of Chicago. She taught in Little Rock schools and was elevated to a supervisory capacity. In 1929 she became assistant superintendent, which position she held until her death.

In 1910 when the Woman Teachers Association was organized in Little Rock she was its first president. When she became president of the Arkansas Education Association in 1924 she was only the second woman to hold that position. She was elected one of the vice-presidents of the National Education Association in San Francisco in 1923. She was the first woman to serve on a county board of education when she was elected to the Pulaski County Board of Education in 1921.

She campaigned for and secured the appointment of many women as principals. She fought for equal pay for equal work with men and did much to thus equalize the pay status. She went to her eternal rest on March 28, 1944. She was active until the end, being ill only a few days.

Opal Allbright Herrington

Opal Allbright was born May 29, 1897 in Cushman, Arkansas. She received her training at the University of Arkansas and Peabody College at Nashville, Tennessee. For many years she was the head of the English department at Little Rock High School. She married Pat Herrington a Little Rock businessman. Her final years were spent in Denver with her step-daughter. She died there August 10, 1980.

Other founders

Miss Frances Bailey

Frances Bailey received degrees from the University of Arkansas and the University of Chicago. She and Miss Alma Keys worked together in the Home Economics Department of the state Department of Education. She served as state advisor

to the Future Homemakers of America.

Mrs. Lelia Conte

Leila Morehead Conte was born in Memphis May 12, 1890 and graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1907. She continued her education at the University of Arkansas. She started teaching at Hot Springs High School in 1910 at a salary of \$15 a month. She married John Conti around 1915. In 1918 she became principal of Jones School in Hot Springs and held that position for 38 years until her retirement in May 1956. (In all these years she only missed three days because of personal illness.) Mrs. Conte passed away July 26th of that year and was laid to rest in Tranquil Cemetery off of Higdon Ferry Road.

When Henderson State Teachers offered extension classes in Hot Springs she took them no matter what the topic. She was a member of several professional organizations and traveled to several National Education Association conventions. She was the first president of the Hot Springs chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

In the 1920s and 1930s she taught Opportunity classes for soldiers stationed at the local Army and Navy Hospital as well other adults who had quit school before graduation. During the Great Depression she supervised canning groups who canned vegetables and beef to help feed needy children

Miss Beryl Henry

Beryl Henry was born October 8, 1888 at Salem, Arkansas. After receiving her education at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia she came to Hope in 1918 and served as a classroom teacher and principal. In 1929 she became superintendent of Hope School System, a position she held until her retirement in 1942. She and Miss Pearl Williamson of DeQueen were the first women to serve in this position in Arkansas.

In 1942 she served as educational director of a Japanese relocation center at Jerome. She returned to Hope at the end of World War II and lived there until she moved to Benton in 1953.

She was secretary of the Retired Teachers Association. She worked to promote the building of Parkview Towers apartment house for retired teachers and served as a member of its board of management.

Miss Beryl Henry died October 21, 1974 in Little Rock and was buried at Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock,

Miss Alma Keys

A native of Gurdon, Miss Alma Keys received her home economics education at Oklahoma State and the University of Tennessee. During her tenure as state supervisor of home economics the number of girls and women in homemaking classes rose from 1,000 to over 41,000. In 1956 she was named Woman of the Year by the Progressive Farmer magazine for her outstanding work in the rural communities.

Miss Willie Lawson

Miss Willie Lawson received her degrees from Flora McDonald College in North Carolina and College. Her early career was spent in Crossett and Jonesboro. She came

to Little Rock as deputy state superintendent in the Education Department in charge of Opportunity Schools which were organized for those citizens who had no opportunity to receive the fundamentals of education.

She was the first woman to have served any state as executive secretary of its Education Association, and her elevation a few years later to the presidency of the Executive Secretaries' Section of the NEA made her the first woman to hold that post. She played an important part in the successful bid for teacher retirement in Arkansas, led by the AEA

She was selected in 1952 to serve a four-year term on the Arkansas Highway Commission. She was the first woman in the country to serve in such a capacity.

Miss Constance Mitchell

Born August 10, 1888 in Radford, Virginia, Constance Mitchell moved to Illinois as a child. She was educated at Illinois Wesleyan College, George Peabody College, and University of Illinois. After teaching a few years in Illinois, she came to Arkansas Normal (now UCA) in 1919 as an English teacher and remained with the institution until her retirement in 1954. She served as head librarian of the college's Torreyson Library from 1941 to her retirement in 1954. She also sponsored the girls' basketball team and led them to two state championships.

Miss Mitchell was chairman of the education committee of the Library Association, which worked with the state Department of Education to build up undergraduate library science courses in Arkansas colleges. The library science minor she built up at ASTC sent many graduates to other schools to finish their library degree. She served for a time as executive secretary of the Arkansas Library Commission.

She died in 1978.

Miss Edna Rudolph

Miss Edna Rudolf was born November 8, 1879 in Arkadelphia. A graduate of Henderson-Brown College and Peabody College, she taught English in several schools in Texas as well as Arkansas. Her teaching experience also included Arkansas College and College of the Ozarks. In her later years she lived in Little Rock. She died February 1, 1964 and is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Arkadelphia.

Miss Rosa Walker

Rosa Walker received degrees from Florida State College for Women and the University of Tennessee. She came to Arkansas as head of the home economics department at Fort Smith High School. In the 1930s she became state supervisor in clothing, a job which involved traveling to all parts of the state conducting classes. From this position she went to Arkansas State Teachers College where for nine years she was in charge of student teachers. Later she became field supervisor for student teachers throughout the state, and was associated with the state Department of Education as clothing specialist.

Miss Pearl Williamson

Pearl Williamson was an A.B. graduate of Henderson and had her Master's Degree from Columbia University. For over 30 years she served as superintendent of schools in DeQueen, her home town. She also served on the state Library Commission.

Bessie Moore Later Years

After WWII Merlin and I operated two cafeterias in Little Rock, one on the lower level of the Capitol Building (contacts there were useful for years to come) and the other on Main Street. Merlin died unexpectedly in 1958. We never had children

My biographical resume takes up three single-spaced typed pages but I won't bore you with all of that. You have to remember that I was just following Papa's advice to pay rent for living on this earth, and he taught me to finish what I started. "This was ingrained in me. It's almost physically impossible for me to leave a project unfinished."

Nine governors appointed me to the state Library Commission for a total of 39 years. Three presidents (Nixon, Carter and Reagan) named me as a member of the National Library Advisory Commission.

After Merlin's death, I joined the state Education Department as supervisor of elementary education. At the encouragement of Arch Ford, head of the state Education Department, I earned a master's degree in economic education at the University of Connecticut. In 1962, Arch Ford and I formed the Arkansas Council on Economic Education to promote economic literacy and the economic-way of thinking to students in Arkansas by empowering educators to teach the fourth 'r,' real life economics.

In 1950 Eleanor Roosevelt appointed me to the board of the American Association for the United Nations and was Arkansas U.N. chairman, helping initiate the UNICEF program, and I served on the United States Committee for UNICEF for 12 years;

I was given honorary doctorates by the University of Arkansas, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Arizona at Tucson. I was the first living person to be honored with a building named for them at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. The Bessie B. Moore Center for Economic Education was dedicated in 1979.

I was a member of the committee that brought about the expansion of Little Rock Junior College into a four-year institution (now UALR), and chairman of the Mountain View Folk Cultural Center Commission. The Bessie B. Moore Library in Mountain View, where I helped found the Ozark Folk Center, was named for me.

The last one of the Kappa State founders, I left this earth October 24, 1995 at the age of 93. I now rest next to my beloved Merlin in Graceland Cemetery in Pine Bluff.

"There is no end to the good you can do if you're a good advocate. That's what I've tried to do. If I do have a talent, it is the ability to create a sense of urgency in others to support the projects I see as necessary. Arkansans are good workers. They will work as a team to bring a program to fruition."

Bessie Moore - History of Kappa State
(Presented to Mu and Lambda chapters by Bessie Moore,
AKA Elizabeth Waldrip, Spring 2010)

Bessie Moore Early Years

Good evening, sisters. I would like to share with a few of the things that have happened in my life and some of our sisters whom I have known.

I was named Bessie Grace Boehm when I was born prematurely on August 2, 1902, in Owensboro, Ky. My mother, Bessie Calloway Boehm, died a few hours later at age 17. My father, Edgar, was a 37 year old farmer struggling to make a living. Papa wrapped me up and took me 40 miles away by horse and buggy to a sister-in-law in hopes that she could nurse me to health. Along the way he stopped to milk the cows of friendly farmers in exchange for shelter and a little warm milk. Aunt Lillie gave me salty bacon rinds to get me to suck. I went from two-and-one-half pounds to six pounds in six months.

When I was 12, Papa and I moved to a 160 acre parcel of land in the hills near Mountain View. Because of the Homestead Act it became Papa's after he worked it for three years. Two years after we moved and after I had completed the 10th grade, I took my first job as a teacher at a one-room school at St. James, between Mountain View and Batesville.

I eventually earned a teaching degree and certificate at Arkansas State Teachers College at Conway.. Later I was a rural schoolteacher in Pulaski County before becoming supervisor of Jefferson County's rural schools.

In 1928, I married Merlin Moore, a traveling salesman and member of a prominent Pine Bluff family.. We went to the court house to get married. I was supposed to be at two different meetings that day. I told each one of them that I had to be at the other meeting.

1934-1935

Along about this same time I became active in the PTA and was awarded a life membership in the Arkansas Congress of Parents and Teachers. Serving as a state vice-president, I attended the National Congress in Washington, D.C. The largest delegation was from Arkansas. While there I met Dr. Gary Cleveland Meyers, a nationally known parental education expert. He found that while I was working out of the state Department of Education I was using some of his materials in local meetings and he wrote about me in one of his columns in the fall of 1934.

The National Society of Delta Kappa Gamma had held a convention in Hot Springs in June, 1934. At that meeting three Arkansas women were initiated. They were Dr. Flora Gillentine of Henderson State Teachers College, and Opal Albright and Annie Griffey, both of Little Rock. When Dr. Gillentine noticed the column by Dr. Meyers she wrote to the national president of Delta Kappa Gamma recommending me as a founding member for Arkansas.

Twelve founders of Kappa Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma fraternity, national honorary organization for outstanding women in education met with Miss Norma Smith of Montgomery, Alabama, the national president, who conducted the initiation at the Albert Pike hotel March 8, 1935. They were: Miss Edna Rudolf of Hot

Springs; Miss Rosa Walker of Fort Smith; Miss Frances Bailey of the state Department of Education; Miss Annie G. Griffey of Little Rock, Mrs. Lelia M. Conte of Hot Springs; Dr. Flora M. Gillentine, Henderson State Teachers College, Arkadelphia; Miss Alma Keys, state Department of Education; Miss Beryl Henry, superintendent of schools, Hope; Miss Willie Lawson of Little Rock, executive secretary of the Arkansas Education Association; Miss Pearl Williamson, superintendent of schools in DeQueen; Miss Constance Mitchell, Arkansas State Teachers College, Conway; and myself Miss Opal Allbright of Little Rock was studying that year in Columbia University, New York City.

Arkansas is the tenth state to organize a chapter. The eleventh state was installed in Illinois the next week. Other states having chapters included Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico and Virginia.

First Founding members

Dr. Flora Myers Gillentine

Dr. Flora Myers Gillentine was born November 21, 1875 in Pikeville, Tennessee to John Calvin and Sue Edna Hill Myers. Her father was a lawyer, banker and state senator in Tennessee. In 1902 she married Logan Seitz Gillentine of Van Buren, Tennessee. He was a professor and lived in England for a while. They taught in Lafayette, Tennessee. She received a bachelor of science degree from George Peabody College for Teachers in 1919 and by 1920 they were both teaching at the State Normal College in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She received a master of arts degree from Columbia University, New York, in 1926, and the Ph.D. degree from George Peabody College. She was a widow by the time she came to Henderson State Teachers College in Arkadelphia where she served as head of the department of education.

She was extremely active in the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1931 she served as the Historian General of the N.S.D.A.R. She also ran for President-General on the national level.

She was familiar enough with key women teachers in Arkansas to be able to help decide who the founders of Kappa State would be. She served as national vice president of Delta Kappa Gamma in 1940-42.

She died on October 11, 1946 in Arkadelphia as the result of a fall down the steps of the college auditorium a week earlier. She was buried in her hometown of Pikeville, Tennessee..

Miss Annie Griffey

Annie Griffey was born in Clarksville, Tennessee on November 21, 1868. At the age of twelve years she came to Little Rock, Arkansas to live with her sister, Mrs. C. R. Lovell. She attended the Little Rock schools, was graduated from the Little Rock Senior High School, and further studied at Harvard and the University of Chicago. She had a private school in her home and taught in Little Rock Public Schools. During a steady flow of promotions she was elevated to a supervisory capacity. In 1929 she became assistant superintendent, which position she held until her death.

The Woman Teacher's Association was organized in 1910 at the Little Rock Senior High School with Miss Griffey as its first president. When she became president of the Arkansas Education Association in 1924 she was only the second woman to hold that position. She was state director of the National Education Association for five years

and was elected one of its vice-presidents in San Francisco in 1923. She was first woman to be elected to a county board of education. She served on the Pulaski County Board of Education from 1921 to 1930 and was president of that body from 1926 to 1930.

She was known for daily wearing a narrow black band of ribbon around her throat even though the fashion had long since passed out of date. Her love for children extended to even the "raggedest" and her ability to see people and to stir them to sincerity and honesty. She made them want to do a good piece of work. Her favorite expression was, "Don't be a ragamuffin".

She campaigned for and secured the appointment of many women as principals. She fought for equal pay for equal work with men and did much to thus equalize the pay status. She went to her eternal rest on March 28, 1944. She was active until the end, being ill only a few days.

Opal Allbright Herrington

Opal Allbright was born May 29, 1897 in Cushman, Arkansas, the daughter of George A. and Dora Sarah Phillips Allbright. She received her training at the University of Arkansas and Peabody College at Nashville, Tennessee. For many years she was the head of the English department at Little Rock High School. She married Pat Herrington a Little Rock businessman. Her final years were spent in Denver with her step-daughter. She died there August 10, 1980.

Other founders

Miss Frances Bailey

Miss Bailey received her A.B. degree from the University of Arkansas and her M.A. degree from the University of Chicago. She and Miss Alma Keys worked together in the Home Economics Department of the state Department of Education. She served as state advisor to the Future Homemakers of America.

Mrs. Lelia Conte

Leila Morehead Conte was born in Memphis May 12, 1890. She graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1907. She continued her education with both A.B. and M.A. degrees from the University of Arkansas. She started teaching at Hot Springs High School in 1910 at a salary of \$15 a month. After marrying John Conti (He spelled it with an "i" but she use an "e".) In 1918 she became principal of Jones School in Hot Springs and held that position for 38 years until her retirement in May 1956. (In all these years she only missed three days because of personal illness.) Mrs. Conte passed away July 26th of that year. She was laid to rest in Tranquil Cemetery (also known as Rowe Cemetery) off of Higdon Ferry Road.

When extension classes were offered in Hot Springs by Henderson State Teachers she took classes no matter what the topic. She just wanted to keep up with new ideas and methods. She was a member of several professional organizations and traveled by bus several times to National Education Association conventions. She made sure that all of her teachers sat together, front and center, at monthly meetings of the local education association. She was the first president of the Hot Springs chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

In the 1920s and 1930s she taught Opportunity classes for soldiers stationed at the

local Army and Navy Hospital as well other adults who had quit school before graduation. During the Great Depression she supervised canning groups who canned vegetables and beef. These foods plus rice and beans donated by the U. S. government helped feed needy children.

Miss Beryl Henry

Born at Salem, October 8, 1888, Beryl Henry was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James Taylor Henry. After receiving her education at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia she came to Hope in 1918 and served as a classroom teacher and principal. In 1929 became superintendent of Hope School System, a position she held until her retirement in 1942. She and Miss Pearl Williamson of DeQueen were the first women to serve in this field in Arkansas.

In 1942 she went to southeast Arkansas where she served as educational director of a Japanese relocation center at Jerome. She returned to Hope at the end of World War II and bought a business which she operated until she moved to Benton in 1953.

She was secretary of the Retired Teachers Association. She worked to promote the building of Parkview Towers apartment house for retired teachers and served as a member of its board of management. .

Miss Beryl Henry died October 21, 1974 in Little Rock and was buried at Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock,

Miss Alma Keys

Miss Alma Keys was a native of Gurdon and received her training in home economics at Oklahoma State University and the University of Tennessee. She was awarded a fellowship at Cornell University for advanced study in parent education. When Miss Keys became state supervisor there were only 1,000 girls and women enrolled in homemaking classes. By 1955 that number had increased to 41,491. She was a member of the executive council of the home economics section of the American Vocational Association and the national New Homemakers of America advisory board.

In 1956 she was named woman of the year by the Progressive Farmer magazine for her outstanding work in the rural communities and was named the 1960 Woman of the Year in Arkansas

Miss Willie Lawson

Miss Willie Lawson received her A.B. Degree from Flora McDonald College in North Carolina and later her Masters Degree from Peabody College. Miss Lawson entered the field of education with one year as teacher in an elementary school at Crossett. The next six years she spent teaching high school English at Jonesboro. When she came to Little Rock she was deputy state superintendent in the Education Department in charge of Opportunity Schools which were organized for those citizens who had no opportunity to receive the fundamentals of education..

She was the first woman to have served any state as executive secretary of its Education Association, and her elevation a few years later to the presidency of the Executive Secretaries' Section of the National Education Association makes her the first woman to hold that post. She played an important part in the successful bid for teacher retirement in Arkansas, led by the AEA

She was selected 1950 Arkansas Woman of the Year. She was selected in 1952 to serve a four-year term on the Arkansas Highway Commission. She was the first woman in the country to serve in this capacity.

Miss Constance Mitchell

Constance Mitchell was born in Radford, Virginia, August 10, 1888. While she was still in grade school, the family moved to Illinois where she graduated from Bloomington High School. Miss Mitchell received an AB degree from Illinois Wesleyan College, an MA from George Peabody College, and a bachelor of Library Science degree from the University of Illinois. She taught English in Saybrook High School and Bollm Township High at Chicago Heights.

When she moved to Arkansas with her family she taught one year in Little Rock High. She came to Arkansas Normal (now UCA) in 1919 and remained with the institution until her retirement in 1954. She was English teacher from 1919 to 1940 and served as head librarian of the college's Torreyson Library from 1941 to her retirement in 1954. She also sponsored the girls' basketball team and led them to two state championships.

Her interest in libraries was not confined only to the university level, but also on the community and state level as well. Miss Mitchell was chairman of the education committee of the Library Association, which worked with the state Department of Education to build up undergraduate library science courses in Arkansas colleges. At ASTC she built up a minor in library science and graduates with this minor did well in graduate study library schools. She was "loaned" to the Arkansas Library Commission for four months in 1942 when the state was getting its library work underway. She served as executive secretary of the commission.

For many years Miss Mitchell spent her vacations at her home in her native Virginia, in the Blue Ridge Mountains. She traveled in most of the states and in Europe. She was a member of the AAUW, Delta Kappa Gamma, PEO and the Presbyterian Church. She died in 1978.

Miss Edna Rudolph

Miss Edna Rudolf was born November 8, 1879 in Arkadelphia. She was a graduate of Henderson-Brown College and received her Master's Degree from Peabody College. She taught English in several schools in Texas as well as Arkansas. She taught in Arkadelphia from 1896 to 1899. Her teaching experience also included Arkansas College and College of the Ozarks. In her later years she lived in Little Rock with her sister, Mildred. She died February 1, 1964 and is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Arkadelphia.

Miss Rosa Walker

Rosa Walker received her B.S. degree from Florida State College for Women and her M.S. degree from the University of Tennessee. She came to Arkansas as head of the home economics department at Fort Smith High School. In the 1930s she became state supervisor in clothing, a job which involved traveling to all parts of the state conducting classes. From this position she went to Arkansas State Teachers College where for nine years she was in charge of student teachers. Later she became field supervisor for student

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In 1952 I was named Woman of the Year in Arkansas in recognition of my business accomplishments and work in clubs, as well as being outstanding worker with the library facilities in the state. Nine governors appointed me to the state Library Commission for a total of 39 years. Three presidents (Nixon, Carter and Reagan) named me as a member of the National Library Advisory Commission.

After Merlin's death, I joined the state Education Department as supervisor of elementary education. At the encouragement of Arch Ford, head of the state Education Department, I earned a master's degree in economic education at the University of Connecticut. In 1962, Arch Ford and I formed the Arkansas Council on Economic Education (ACEE) as a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization to promote economic literacy in Arkansas. The ACEE's mission was "to promote economic literacy and the economic-way of thinking to students in Arkansas by empowering educators to teach the fourth 'r,' real life economics."

In 1950 Eleanor Roosevelt appointed me to the board of the American Association for the United Nations and was Arkansas U.N. chairman, helping initiate the UNICEF program, and I served on the United States Committee for UNICEF for 12 years;

I was given honorary doctorates by the University of Arkansas, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Arizona at Tucson. I was the first living person to be honored with a building named for them at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. The Bessie B. Moore Center for Economic Education was dedicated in 1979.

Some of my civic and political activities include – member of the committee of Little Rock residents whose findings brought about the expansion of Little Rock Junior College into a four-year institution (now UALR), delegate to the Democratic National Convention, chairman of the Mountain View Folk Cultural Center Commission, member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women and on the Aging – Freedoms Foundation Medal for distinguished service to education. The Bessie B. Moore Library in Mountain View, where I helped found the Ozark Folk Center, was

named for me.

The last one of the Kappa State founders, I left this earth October 24, 1995 at the age of 93. I now rest next to my beloved Merlin in Graceland Cemetery in Pine Bluff.

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Charter of MU chapter

Although the minutes for Mu chapter from its organization up to the year 1959 were discovered to be missing, past presidents did put their own personal notes together to write a history in 1977. That history does show that the chapter was organized at the home of Helen Finkbeiner on November 9, 1945 by Mrs. Claire T. White, Kappa State president. The charter officers were President Audrey Anderson, First Vice-President Maude Herring, Second Vice-President Agnes Ferguson, Recording Secretary Helen Finkbeiner, Treasurer Lucile Hopper, Corresponding Secretary Ursaline Ringgold, and Parliamentarian Jimmie Raye Curtis. Other charter members included Laura Anderson, Edna Ashcraft, Bernice Grant, Martha Gublo, Edith Kerr, Ruby Little, Dahlia Petty, Fanny Richards, Alice Sims, and Mary Sims.

In 1946 Honorary Membership was voted for Gertie Steed and Virginia Tynes was elected to active membership. In 1947 Blanche Rogers, Maude Steed, Dorothy Cheek, Myrtle Westbrook, and Violette Johnson were added to the group

Charter of LAMBDA chapter

Lambda Chapter was organized in the Caddo Hotel, Arkadelphia, in July 1945. The initiation ceremony was conducted by Dr. Flora Myers Gillentine, a state founder, who was assisted by Ruth Guthrie, Louise Porter, and Mrs. Ila Mae Nixon of Gamma, Mrs. Hattie Lewis (president), Maude Wright, Mts. Lucy Williams, and Mrs. Johnnie Mae Mackey of Delta chapter, Hot Springs.

Those initiated were Gertrude Boyd, Marjorie Ballew, Orabelle Carlisle, Mrs. Hazel Cooper, Mrs. Lucille Franklin, Mrs. Dora Harwood, Nell Jordan, Mrs. Lois Smith, Mrs. Lois Thomas, and Mrs. Florence Turpentine (Honorary).

Members who were transfers from other chapters were Dr. Gillentine, Mrs. Fannie Wright, Amy Greene, Mrs. Vada Cowan, Edna Rudolph, Mrs. Fleta Russell, Maude Wright (from Delta), Margaret Fuller, Mrs. Pamela Ross (Honorary) and Juanita Ford.

The first officers were president, Mrs. Lois Thomas; first vice president, Amy Jean Greene; second vice president, Mrs. Dora Harwood; corresponding secretary, Marjorie Ballew; recording secretary, Mrs. Lois Smith; parliamentarian, Mrs. Vada Cowan; treasurer, Nell Jordan.

Compiled by Elizabeth Waldrip, Kappa State Research chair