

# ARTHUR HENRY JACKSON

(1863 – 1948)

ALPHA CHAPTER · CHARTER BROTHER NO. 2  
FOUNDING BROTHER OF GAMMA DELTA PSI FRATERNITY

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## DORSEY A. HOWARD

BETA ALPHA CHAPTER NO. 58



Arthur Henry Jackson (1925) – Age 62

### What is it that brings people together in the bonds of friendship?

One factor that is undisputable is that shared common interests and experiences are often the thread that creates strong friendships.

On Easter Sunday, April 13, 1879 four young men who shared the common bond of being fellow students at Hillhouse High School in New Haven, Connecticut came together and created Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity.

Undoubtedly, there were many more levels of shared common interests that united these four young men in Brotherhood than where they happened to go to school.

Perhaps, the most obvious shared interest that existed between Arthur Henry Jackson and his friend, Alexander Jay Wurts, primary force behind the founding of Gamma Delta Psi, was their passionate interest in music.

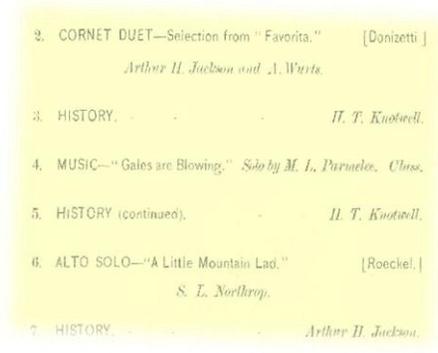
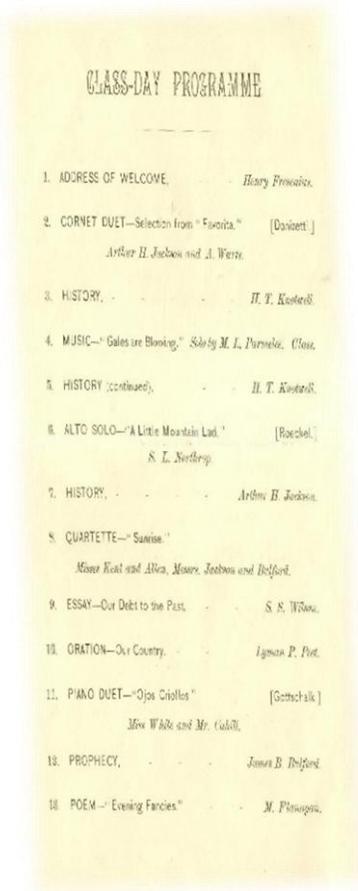
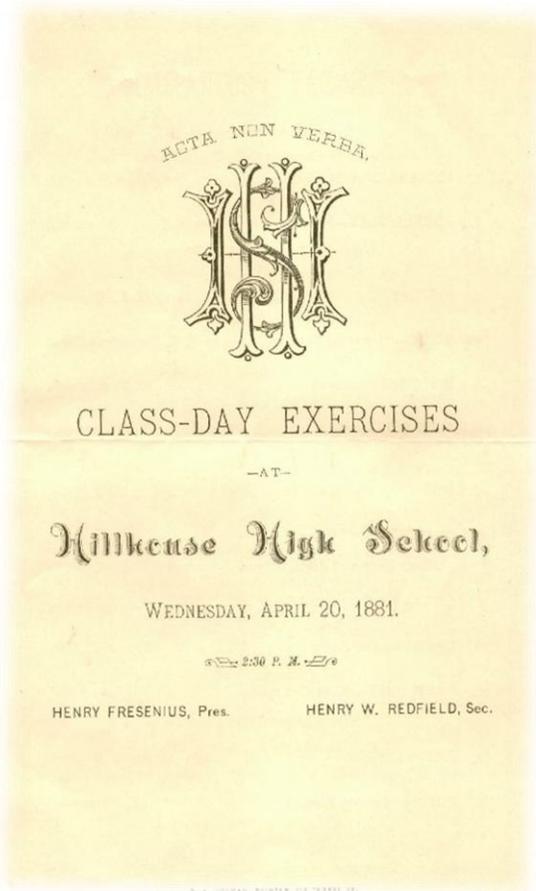
Both of them were accomplished cornet players.

A year following his own graduation from Hillhouse High School in 1880, Alex Wurts returned to the Senior Class Day program for the Class of 1881.

He and Arthur Jackson performed a Cornet Duet as a part of the program. Graduating Senior Arthur H. Jackson read the Class History.



Earliest known sample of **Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity Pin** of the type likely worn by the Founders.  
*Note it's large size compared to a modern pin at left.*



*Participants in the Senior Class Day Exercises for the Hillhouse High School Class of 1881 were Founders Alexander Jay Wurts (Alpha Charter No. 4) and Arthur Henry Jackson (Alpha Charter No. 2) performing a Cornet Duet. Founder Jackson also read a portion of the Class History. Wurts graduated in 1880 and returned to participate in Founders Jackson and Jones Senior Class Day event. This is the oldest item existing in our digital Archives.*

We cannot adequately express the debt that we owe to Founding Brother Arthur Henry Jackson and to the young Gamma Delta Psi National Secretary, William Frank Buchanan, for the role they played in handing down the early history of our brotherhood.

Without Brother Buchanan's curiosity and impetuous determination in tracking down and exchanging letters with the aging and only surviving Founder Jackson in the early 1940's, we would know little regarding the founding and earliest years of Gamma Delta Psi.

Sadly, Brother Buchanan lost his life at a young age as a U.S. Marine in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945 during the final months of World War II.

What he left for each of us through his fraternity history has made an indelible mark on our understanding of Gamma Delta Psi's earliest years through the surviving copies of his letters to and from Founder Jackson.

Arthur Henry Jackson was born on August 25, 1863, one month after the bloody Battle of Gettysburg during the U.S. Civil War. His hometown of New Haven, Connecticut was a hub of military manufacturing for the Union Army.

Arthur was the son of Henry Edwin Jackson, a carriage maker, and Rhoda Ann Taylor Jackson. He was the youngest child, having a sister, Frances, who was three years older.

The 1880 U. S. Census shows that Frances was a school teacher when her younger brother Arthur was still a high school student around the time he participated in the founding of Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity.

The details of the founding of our brotherhood come almost exclusively from the "Jackson-Buchanan" letters from 1940-1941.



**Yale Alumni University Fund Association**  
 Founded 1890

Sept 2, 1941

Dear Bro. Buchanan:

Bro. Kennedy just called me on the phone. He has been unable to get track of the missing minutes but hopes to have better luck as soon as the boys get together again. Meanwhile perhaps I can give you some preliminary answers to your questions, if I have not already done so.

1. Samm, Jones and myself were old friends even before we went to High School. Wurts got the idea first and consulted one of his brothers, who was a Yale fraternity man. He somehow picked us three as the ones he thought could help him.
2. There are no dates to the signatures of the "founders" on the Constitution - the first involved; but the others of the "charter members" are dated May 18, 1880, so that may be the date of the first meeting.
3. No. Seems to have come out of a dead end.
- 4-5 As I remember, we met once a week during the school term in a High School room. The first social session was held in Al Wurts' barn. Principal Wurts on hill of fare was fearful!
6. Wurts should also be credited with the principal part of designing the pin. The idea that connected the Fraternity with the Crescent (moon) was that it was new and bound to grow. (I always thought that was pretty clever!)  
 The other questions will have to wait for further information. Meanwhile perhaps this will help you a little. "More power to you!"

Fraternally yours  
 Arthur H. Jackson

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 Marshall H. Haskins, Jr., '11  
*(Chairman)*  
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*(Executive Secretary)*

Writing about the details of the creation of Gamma Delta Psi, Jackson's letter (above) of September 2, 1941 relates (below):

1. Samm, Jones and myself were old friends even before we went to High School. Wurts got the idea first and consulted one of his brothers, who was a Yale fraternity man. He somehow picked us three as the ones he thought could help him.

Concerning Wurts' influence in the creation of the symbols of our Brotherhood, Jackson recalled how our Crescent Pin originated:

6. Wurts should also be credited with the principal part of designing the pin. The idea that connected the Fraternity with the Crescent (moon) was that it was new and bound to grow. (I always thought that was pretty clever!)

In spite of the circumstances of work and home life, Arthur Jackson was by all accounts a joyful and optimistic man.

His spirit was constantly uplifted by his enthusiastic love of music and his participation in various community and fraternal groups.

He and Founder Alex Wurts played cornet in the Yale Symphony Orchestra.

Jackson was a member of the New Haven Orchestral Club for 22 years and was their Conductor for 12 of those years. He was very active in the choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Haven.

His love of "Fraternity" led him to become a member of the Masons, Hiram Lodge #1, where he was an active

member for fifty years.

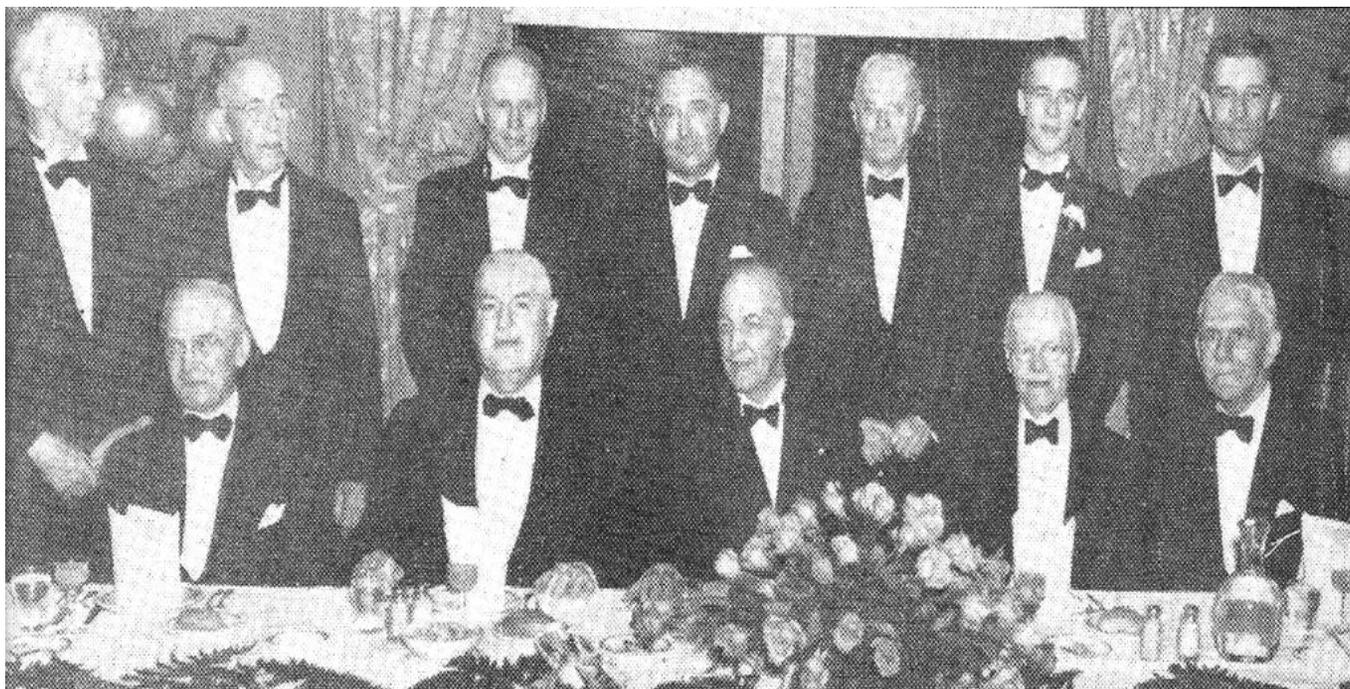
Brother Jackson was also an active supporter of the Yale Alumni University Fund Association even though he did not graduate from Yale. He used that association's letterhead stationery in all of his fraternity correspondence.

Founding Brother Jackson was the only one of the Founders who seems to have maintained a life-long contact with the fraternity's active and alumni brothers.

At the age of 76, Founder Jackson was seated in a position of honor at the head table for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet held in 1939.

Jackson is in the front row next to last from the right.

### HEAD TABLE AT 60th ANNIVERSARY



Over 100 active and graduate members of Alpha Chapter of the Gamma Delta Psi high school fraternity met in the Union League for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society. Shown above are some of the leaders in the fraternity. *Left to right, seated* Philip Pond, Judge John L. Gilson, President Charles Seymour, Arthur H. Jackson, charter member: Charles H. Kirschner. *Standing:* Dr. C. H. Zimmerman, F. A. Mar, E. J. Stewart, National President; F. D. Grave, J. E. Wheeler, James De Bowes, Stanley Daggett.

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*Text (Above): Over 100 active and graduate members of Alpha Chapter of the Gamma Delta Psi High School Fraternity met in the Union League for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society. Shown above are some of the leaders of the fraternity. Left to right, seated: Philip Pond (A – 34), Judge John L. Gilson (A-171), Yale University President Charles Seymour (A – 230), Arthur H. Jackson – Charter Member (A – 2C), Charles H. Kirschner (A – 79). Standing: Dr. C. H. Zimmerman (A – Honorary), F.A. Mar (A – 35), E.J. Stewart – National President (N – 79, Grand Brother No. 2), F.D. Grave (A – 306), J. E. Wheeler (A – 77), James De Bowes (A), Stanley Daggett (N).*



I believe it true that most of us do not realize the amount of work necessary to bring out a publication of this kind. I also believe that it is appreciated and that it has been the experience of those who have undertaken the task that it has its rewards. The experience has been of much value in after years and *those who do the most for their Fraternity invariably get the most out of it.*

Gamma Delta Psi has been very fortunate in the after lives of great numbers of those who were connected with it in their early days. While it is difficult to know just how much of their success is traceable to the influence of the association and fellowship of their chosen comrades, the fact that in so many cases they desire their sons to follow them into the Fraternity would seem to indicate their valuation of it.

Us "old fellows" look back with much appreciation upon the good times we had together and believe it made school life more pleasant and profitable. The "distractions of modern life" we hear so much about pull on the young student in much the same way as they do upon those who have gone out into the world, and the Fraternity offers a great opportunity for the members to work together for the good of all; to do things for the good of the school, and generally to encourage such conduct on the part of the Fraternity men that criticism will be disarmed and their Alma Mater convinced that Gamma Delta Psi is an institution that is useful to it and to all who prove themselves worthy to be chosen.

It has always been a wonder to me, in recalling the beginning of Gamma Delta Psi, that the founders had such a real fraternity spirit take possession of them right at the start. I believe it was largely due to the ideals and vision of Alexander Wurts, who was the first president. I never knew a student of higher ideals, or a more perfect and manly young gentleman. Those ideals were infectious, and if they were always followed by the members the history of the Society would be bright indeed.

As the schools grow larger, it is increasingly difficult for all to be close friends. Groups are the natural consequence and every student is drawn into one or another, according to circumstances and his tastes. What more fortunate thing could happen to a student than to be associated with the "chosen few," selected for their sterling qualities as the cleanest, brightest and most promising of the school? Those whose ambition is to help their brothers to make their school life more enjoyable and helpful, and aid in forming enduring friendships.

So will the best quality of student seek admittance to its ranks and in their turn help to carry it onward.

With best wishes for the success of GARNET AND SILVER and the prosperity of Gamma Delta Psi everywhere, I am,

Yours fraternally,

ARTHUR H. JACKSON.



*Photo courtesy of John Schatzlein (Historian) – Hiram Lodge #1, F&AM, Masonic Lodge, New Haven, CT*

Founding Brother Jackson died on November 9, 1948 at the age of 85 years.

He is buried beside his beloved wife, Mary, in the Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven, Section 94 – Path A.

In summarizing the life of Founding Brother Arthur Henry Jackson, it must be emphasized that we owe practically everything we know about the founding and earliest days of Gamma Delta Psi to the information contained in his letters to Brother William F. Buchanan.

Brother Jackson was a hard working man who was not from an elite or wealthy family in direct contrast to many of the early Brothers.

Arthur Jackson loved life and celebrated it with his musical talents, civic interests and through his love of group and Fraternal interaction.

Founder Jackson was the solid unbreakable link between the earliest days of the Fraternity and our present time.

Let us honor his memory as we celebrate the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity.

May we proudly proclaim as we commemorate the life of Founder Arthur Henry Jackson,

“Once A Brother, Always A Brother”.

