

WALTER ROWLING DANN

(1861 – 1910)

ALPHA CHAPTER · CHARTER BROTHER NO. 1
FOUNDING BROTHER OF GAMMA DELTA PSI FRATERNITY

DAVE BARTLETT

GAMMA ALPHA CHAPTER NO. 10



Walter Rowling Dann

Brother Walter Rowling Dann was born in New Haven, Connecticut on April 14, 1861. His father was John Alden Dann and his mother Sarah Delphine Della Mumford. He was one of 8 children; 3 brothers and 4 sisters.

Brother Dann entered Hillhouse High School in 1876 and graduated the Class of 1880.

He was the first to wear the pin of Gamma Delta Psi being Alpha Chapter #1, with induction taking place on April 13, 1879.

His bio says he graduated from Yale in 1883. In actuality he attended Yale for only a few months in 1884.

He left Yale and went to New York City where he was employed by the *Compagnie Haitienne*, a large dye and chemical company.

“To those who knew him, he was a man of sterling uprightness, simple in his tastes, but high in his idealism. He was ever a good fellow, and those wearers of the crescent who had the fortune to pass him the grip can well testify to his sterling qualities as a man among men.”

– Brother Arthur Henry Jackson (Alpha No. 2) in his Eulogy to Brother Walter Rowling Dann (Alpha No. 1)

wing address :
Walter Rowling Dann
55 Beekman St -
New York

Brother W.R. Dann's Passport Signature

In the latter part of his life he was located in Haiti as an employee of the *American Dye Wood Company* where he was Superintendent of the firm's logwood industry.

Not a lot has been written on the life of Brother Dann. We know from Brother Jackson's letters that he and Brothers Dann and Jones were close friends at Hillhouse High School when they had been approached by Brother Wurts to form Gamma Delta Psi.

During the years 1879 and 1880 the Brothers worked on the Constitution of Gamma Delta Psi and in the spring of 1880, before graduation, the first set of pledges were inducted.

Brother Dann's family were well known in the New Haven Carriage building community. John Alden Dann was the President of *Dann Bros. & Co.* – manufacturers of carriage wood work situated in New Haven. It was a family business with father and sons forming the main body.

His brother Clarence Burdette followed into the family business, starting as a Secretary then became Vice President of *Dann Bros. & Co.*, forming a partnership in 1858 for bending wood. In 1880, they stood in the front ranks of wood benders in the country. It is not understood why Brother Dann did not enter into the family business.

Brother Walter Rowling Dann died on February 3, 1910 at Roosevelt Hospital, New York after a brief illness following an operation for intestinal trouble.

He was not married, being a bachelor all his life. Brother Dann was interred at a small cemetery in Manilius, New York.

As Brother Jackson writes in his Eulogy to Brother Dann:

"Probably the last manifestation of his love for Gamma Delta Psi was that which was shown in the Spring of 1909, when he attended the National Convention of the Fraternity which was held at New Haven."

the clinking of silverware and tumblers. As at the Smoker, a thing which added materially to the success of the dinner, was the presence of over a score of grey-headed men, including Walter Rowling Dann and Arthur Henry Jackson, Number One and Two respectively of Alpha. Aside from

**Garnet and Silver
1909**



**Brother W.R. Dann's gravesite
- Manilius, New York**