

## **Years of Expansion**

**1954 - 1956**

**President**  
**First Vice President**  
  
**Second Vice President**  
**Treasurer**  
**Corresponding Secretary**  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Parliamentarian**  
**Executive Secretary**

**Miss E. Merle Scott**  
**Miss Leah Moseley**  
**Mrs. M. V. Harlon**  
**Miss Grace Wilson**  
**Mrs. Thurman Vick**  
**Miss Mamie Meeks**  
**Mrs. Martha May Kallam**  
**Miss Kate McDaniel**  
**Miss Rowena Tull**

**1956 - 1958**

**President**  
**First Vice President**  
**Second Vice President**  
**Treasurer**  
**Corresponding Secretary**  
  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Parliamentarian**  
**Executive Secretary**

**Miss Grace Wilson**  
**Mrs. Martha May Kallam**  
**Miss Maude Hooker**  
**Mrs. Thurman Vick**  
**Miss Mamie Meeks nto**  
**Mrs. J. C. Stanton**  
**Mrs. Edward Phillips**  
**Miss Kate McDaniel**  
**Miss Rowena Tull**

**1958 - 1960**

**President**  
**First Vice President**  
**Second Vice President**  
**Treasurer**  
**Corresponding Secretary**  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Parliamentarian**  
**Executive Secretary**

**Mrs. Pearl Wooten**  
**Mrs. Joseph B. Hardy**  
**Miss Mary Walker**  
**Miss Elizabeth Bryan**  
**Mrs. Roland Jones**  
**Miss Hattie Dill**  
**Miss Kate McDaniel**  
**Miss Rowena Tull**

**1954 - 1956**

**President**  
**First Vice President**  
**Second Vice President**  
**Treasurer**  
**Corresponding Secretary**  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Parliamentarian**  
**Executive Secretary**

**Mrs. Joseph B. Hardy**  
**Mrs. Raymond B. Hooker**  
**Mrs. Bess Sledge**  
**Mrs. Randolph Spear**  
**Miss Blanch H. Moseley**  
**Mrs. Helen Morton**  
**Miss Grace Wilson**  
**Miss Rowena Tull**

## 1962 - 1964

<b>President</b>	<b>Mrs. Raymond B. Hooker</b>
<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>Mrs. Bess Sledge</b>
<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>Mrs. Ruth Walker</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Miss Elizabeth Bryan</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs. Agnes Freeman</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs. J. L. Mills</b>
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Mrs. Christine Daniel</b>
<b>Executive Secretary</b>	<b>Miss Rowena Tull</b>

Sigma Chapter elected the following officers for 1954-1956: Miss E. Merle Scott, president; Miss Leah Moseley and Mrs. M.V. Harlan, first vice presidents; Miss Grace Wilson, second vice president; Mrs. Thurman Vick, treasurer; Miss Mamie Meeks, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Martha May Kallam, recording secretary; Miss Kate McDaniel, parliamentarian; and Miss Rowena Tull, executive secretary. During Miss Scott's presidency, Sigma Chapter expanded to include members from New Bern, Craven County, and Pamlico County. Miss Florence Witherington and Miss Mary Walker were the first members initiated into Sigma Chapter from the new areas. The seeds were sown for growth in membership, fellowship, and devotion to the purposes of the Society.

Since the members felt a need for someone to care for the many articles and paraphernalia that are so meaningful and used in Chapter ceremonies, they chose an executive secretary in 1954 to be in charge of all such materials. The duties of this office included inventory, care, and storage of the materials.

Having begun this period in Sigma's history at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the National Delta Kappa Gamma Society, there was pride in anticipating great growth in membership and territory. Yet, much more pride filled the members by being a part of a Society that had such high ideals and worthy purposes, and members worked diligently to carry out those purposes. Future Teachers of America groups were organized and expanded in the high schools throughout the geographical area, and Sigma Chapter continued as sponsor of the local chapter. The members of these future teachers' organizations were encouraged to become teachers.

The membership of Sigma Chapter grew, and its members attended National, Regional, State, and District meetings. Sigma Chapter was co-host at the Eta State Convention in Winston-Salem in 1958. Programs were interesting, inspiring, and fulfilled the organization's purposes.

While many happy occasions are remembered, it is also necessary to recall the death of a charter member of Sigma Chapter. Miss Fannie Aldridge attended her last meeting on October 4, 1958. Her death occurred on April 12, 1959, and she was buried in LaGrange, North Carolina, with members of Sigma taking part in the ceremony at the graveside.

On August 28, 1959, another charter member, Miss Leonora Watts, died. One Sigma member attended her funeral services which were held in Asheville, North Carolina, where she had been making her home since her retirement.

It was during this period of growth that the Chapter received its first honorary member. Dr. Rachel Darden Davis, physician, legislator, former teacher, and friend of schools and education, was initiated into Sigma Chapter on December 5, 1959. Later, Dr. Davis was received as an honorary member of Eta State, with Sigma as the sponsoring Chapter. Sigma members were very proud of this member and what she had done for education and health in North Carolina and the nation.

The District meeting was held in Kinston with Sigma Chapter as host. Miss Merle Scott was elected to serve as Region II Director during 1960-1962.

“Some Pioneer Women Educators of North Carolina,” published by Eta State, was distributed to local chapters. Sigma purchased copies to be placed in local and school libraries. Miss Scott purchased a copy and presented it to Kinston-Lenoir County Public Library for the Society.

During this period Social Security and State Retirement laws were studied and explained to the membership, and contributions toward a headquarters home in Austin, Texas, were collected. Each Sigma member contributed two dollars and fifty-cents toward the headquarters building. The contribution was presented in memory of Miss Lenora Watts, a charter member, who had retired and moved to Asheville, North Carolina.

Instead of all meetings being held in the Kinston area, members were privileged to visit New Bern, La Grange, and Institute on different occasions. The Chapter area had expanded to include these areas and communities.

Mrs. Hazel Stapleton, an active Sigma member, was the recipient of the Eta State Scholarship award at the State Convention in Charlotte on April 28, 1962. She studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, later accepting a position at East Carolina College in Greenville, North Carolina, in the Department of Psychology.

State Presidents, Ms. Nettie Herring and Mrs. Phebe Emmons, visited the Chapter during their terms of office. Attendance at Chapter meetings was always good. Several members retired—some leaving a vacancy each time that could not be filled. However, new members, those moving in from other chapters, reserve members, and visitors have kept interest and knowledge of Delta Kappa Gamma alive and growing.

Programs presented at each meeting were highly stimulating. The National program suggestions were followed, and most programs were prepared and presented by Sigma Chapter’s worthy, qualified members. Sigma is most conscious of its excellent membership. All are among the leaders of women educators, as are all Delta Kappa Gamma members.

From a membership of 16 at the organizational meeting in 1948, Sigma Chapter had grown to a membership of 70 in 1964. The area included Pamlico, Craven, and Lenoir counties. Fellowship and friendships had grown stronger over the years. Purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma had been understood and embedded in the lives and work of each member throughout the years. Sigma had become an integral part of the now International Society.

Immediately following 1964, the State Executive Board announced that better work could be accomplished in smaller groups. So, the sad work of dividing the Chapter and the membership areas was begun. The State Board suggested that Pamlico and Craven counties be combined into

one chapter and that Lenoir County include the new area of Jones County. Deliberately, and with regret due to members' close ties, reorganization began.

On April 3, 1965, Mrs. Phebe Emmons, State Expansion Committee Chairman, met with Sigma Chapter, explaining her pride in Sigma and requesting that the new Alpha Psi Chapter continue the progress, service, and growth it had shared with Sigma Chapter. Thus ended the years of tremendous growth for Sigma Chapter.

Now a new beginning was emerging. Thirty-three Sigma members transferred to the new chapters. There was a division of funds and materials between the chapters; so for several years, initiations were held jointly. These were most impressive and beautiful affairs. Sigma Chapter presented a red leather-bound Bible to Alpha Psi as a parting gift.