

*Would you please tell me how our colors were chosen?* Ah yes, the selection of Fraternity colors has caused quite a few misunderstandings.

Alice Pillsbury, the early secretary of Alpha Chapter, said that the colors, the two blues, were adopted by Alpha at a meeting at her home in 1871 or 1872 soon after she joined. They were adopted without discussion and so quickly that she thought they had been discussed the year before when she was in Rockford Seminary. Kate Height, *Indiana*, said that she was pinned with the colors, two blues, in 1875. Two *Illinois Wesleyan* members imitated in 1875 were pinned with cream and cardinal. All three say gros-grain ribbon was used. The minutes of the *Indiana* Chapter, February 4, 1878, read “Kate Hight made a motion that we change our Kappa Kappa Gamma colors to navy and light blue. Carried.” The suggestion was apparently taken to the Third National Convention held in Bloomington, Ill., in October 1878. Kate Hight presided over the Convention as *Indiana* had been Grand Chapter for two years. No list of delegates appears in the minutes, but nine chapters existed at that time. The Convention minutes state, “Moved and carried that the colors be changed from cardinal and cream to bronze and light blue.”

The minutes of the Fifth Convention, September, 1881, Bloomington, Ind., with *Indiana* as hostess record this, “Some misunderstanding existing as to the colors, it was carried that the colors of KKG be the blues, light and navy.” By this time eight more chapters had been added, making a total of 17. This was the Convention which started the Grand Council form of government, and decided to have provinces, starting with three immediately. It was also the Convention which decided to have a magazine; *The Golden Key* was launched with its huge golden design set diagonally across the dark brown or light blue cover.

In December, 1881, according to the *Illinois Wesleyan* minutes, the chapter adopted pink and heliotrope apparently for chapter use until the new Constitution would arrive and the exact colors be defined.

The *Bylaws* of 1882 were the first to include a statement about the colors in the rules of the Fraternity. These were the set of miscellaneous rules begun in 1870, in addition to the Constitution. They were what’s known today as the *Standing Rules* of the Fraternity.

In 1890, the words “dark blue” were substituted for “navy blue” and continue in that form until now. The rule today is listed in Article XXII, Section 3, A which states “The colors shall be light blue and dark blue.”

There were customs for wearing the Fraternity colors. The delegate to the 1876 Convention in Greencastle, Ind., brought word back to *Illinois Wesleyan* that colors were to be worn “only on special occasions and by the consent of the society.” On December 8, 1877, this same chapter voted to “wear Kappa Kappa Gamma colors on the eve of the (initiation) banquet.”

Beginning in 1906, the *Standing Rules* carried these instructions. “The colors of the Fraternity should be worn on Founders Day, on the anniversary of the chapter’s establishment and on the date of the installation of a new chapter.” In addition to this some chapters have always used the colors in connection with pledging, the pledged member being “pinned with the colors” for a week or more before formal pledging is completed with a formal service and pledge pin.

The 1934 *Constitution and Standing Rules of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity* stated, “The colors of the Fraternity should be worn on Founders Day, on the anniversary of the chapter establishment and on the date of the installation of a new chapter.” These directions continued into the 1970s.