



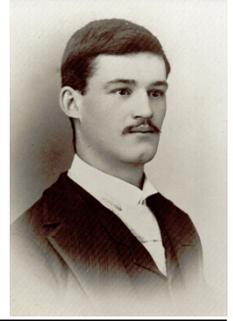
Charles Bennett Christy 1898

The Father of the Beta Phi Chapter

Has been elected to membership in the

Beta Phi Hall of Honor

Class of 2009



Born in Iowa in 1873, Brother Charles Bennett Christy was brought to Arizona Territory by his family, who settled in Phoenix in 1883.

Finishing his primary and secondary education in Phoenix, Brother Christy enrolled in the University of Southern California, where he was initiated into Sigma Chi at Alpha Upsilon Chapter. He left Southern California in his senior year for Spanish-American War service. Following army service, Brother Christy studied opera in New York City, where he would meet his future wife Ethel.

Returning to Phoenix, he pursued a business career in banking, accounting and then as commercial secretary of local and state organizations. He also served as a life underwriter for the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Brother Christy was very active in Rotary International. He served as president of the Phoenix Rotary Club, personally organized and installed seven new clubs in the state, and was named the first Governor of the Eighth District of Rotary.

Brother Christy's devotion and service to Sigma Chi started early, with his involvement in chapter offices at Alpha Upsilon, and continued as one of the charter members of the Phoenix Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter when it was founded in 1906. He served as chapter president almost continuously from its founding until his death.

The establishment of an active Sigma Chi Chapter on the University of Arizona campus was one of the major goals of Brother Christy's life. From the selection and petitioning of a very worthy local fraternity in 1919, to the chartering and installation

of Beta Phi Chapter on April 23 and 24, 1921, no one devoted more work, time or travel than he to bringing the White Cross to the University of Arizona campus.

Brother Christy died unexpectedly and entered Chapter Eternal at the age of 51 in Phoenix on December 21, 1924, leaving a wife and four children. One of ten Sigma Chis in his family, Charles Bennett Christy loved Sigma Chi, he loved the Beta Phi Chapter and he lived the Sigma Chi Ritual.