

Thomas Walker Gaggin

Architect

b. 1 Jan 1871, Erie, PA – d. 20 Oct 1945, Syracuse, NY

Raised 25 Mar 1913, Central City Lodge No. 305

Crowned as Honorary Member, 33^o, of the Supreme Council, NMJ, 28 Sep 1938

Thomas Walker Gaggin was born 1 Jan 1871 in Erie, PA. He came to Syracuse to attend the University and remained to give the City the benefit of a beautiful and successful life. In college he became a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and every maintained an active interest as a “deke.”



http://archives.syr.edu/archives/buildings/goldstein_alumni.html

Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center, Syracuse University, constructed as Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity House: 1903. Designed by SU alumni Edwin H. Gaggin, (1866-1955) Class of 1892, and T. Walker Gaggin, Class of 1895, it is a modified federal style building of red Akron brick with trimmings, sill courses, bay window, etc. of white Vermont marble. The foundation is of Onondaga limestone. The interior boasts a central hall wainscoted high in dark oak, with oak beam ceiling. Located by formerly Walnut Avenue until E. S. Bird Library's construction cut off the end of Walnut; now 401 University Place

On November 17, 1871 the Phi Gamma chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon was chartered, the first chapter of any fraternity located at Syracuse University. Originally housed in lodge rooms in the Wieting Block downtown, the 'Dekes' flourished through myriad housing changes and became one of the first fraternities to adopt the chapter house system when it was inaugurated at Syracuse in the late 1880s.

As noted in the 1910 Catalogue of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, “For many years it was the dearest wish of every brother to have an ideal chapter house, located within easy reach of the University and possessing all the modern conveniences of a fraternity house.” In 1898 the Central New York Association of Delta Kappa Epsilon, consisting of ‘Dekes’ of all chapters, was organized, and at once started an active movement for a new chapter house. A financial canvass was started and at the commencement banquet of June 1899, \$8,000 was subscribed. This amount, with that previously secured, formed the nucleus of the building fund.”

Designed by SU alumni Edwin H. Gaggin, Class of 1892, and **T. Walker Gaggin**, Class of 1895, the new chapter house was “situated at the corner of Walnut Avenue and University Place, without doubt the finest site near the campus for a building of this kind. The house faces Walnut Park and has a side outlook upon the campus, a view which can never be cut off by future building in any direction.” The house was opened for the first time by the annual banquet of the Central New York Association of Delta Kappa Epsilon on the evening of June 9, 1903 and 155 brothers were present.

In 1974 Syracuse University bought the DKE fraternity house when the chapter moved to Comstock Avenue. After remodeling, the new Faculty Center was opened on November 4, 1974 with accommodations for meetings, lunch or informal relaxation.

Having completed the course in Architecture at Syracuse University, he took graduate work at Columbia and attended L'École des Beaux Arts in Paris. As an architect he placed great emphasis upon the study of classical works and deprecated the tendency to underestimate the value of cultural study. Less than a week before he died he stated his intention to re-read the works of the great classical writers and quoted at length from Latin and Greek authors.

Several of the public and commercial buildings of Syracuse were designed and the erection supervised by Bro. Gaggin. He planned the hospital in which he died. The Crouse Hinds Building, the A. E. Nettleton Shoe Factory, Syracuse Y.M.C.A Building, several hospital buildings and Winchell Hall are but a few of the buildings which he supervised.

The **Syracuse Masonic Temple** was his product and for many years he served as President of the Trustees of the Temple.

*Syracuse Masonic Temple >
Dedicated 22 Feb 1917*



He designed the L. C. Smith Building in Seattle and made frequent trips to the coast during its construction.

< Smith Tower construction, February [1913](#), Seattle, Washington. On 20 Oct 1910, the City of Seattle issued a permit to build a 36-story steel frame and concrete office building at the northeast corner of 2nd Avenue and Yesler Way. It was completed in 1914 as the Smith Tower, and was the tallest building west of Ohio at the time.

Edwin H. Gaggin and T. Walker Gaggin of Syracuse, NY, were the architects, and Lyman Cornelius Smith (1834-1910) was the owner.

It took four years to construct the building, which was dedicated on 4 Jul 1914. Smith died before the building was completed. He was an inventor and industrialist. Although his family manufactured guns, they are not the ‘Smith’ from [Smith and Wesson](#). They founded [Ithaca Gun Company](#).



Bro. Gaggin was a long time member of the First Methodist Church, serving faithfully in many capacities, and where his final services were conducted by Rev. C. C. Noble and the Rose Service of the 33^o was given by the 33^o Club of the Valley of Syracuse.

Masonic Record:

25 Mar 1913 Raised in Central City Lodge No. 305; Master 1921. More than 100 Master Masons were Raised during his term. He served as Chaplain of the Lodge in 1922 and from 1924 to 1942 inclusive.

13 Jun 1913 Received the Royal Arch Degree in Central City Chapter No. 70, RAM
He was a member of Central City Council No. 13, R&SM

5 Nov 1915 Received the Temple Degrees in Central City Commandery No. 25, KT

1915-16 Received the Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Syracuse.

1927-29 Most Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix

1938-41 Commander-in-Chief of Central City Consistory

28 Sep 1938 Crowned an Honorary Member, 33^o, of the Supreme Council, NMJ

Bro. T. Walker Gaggin laid down his Working Tools on 20 Oct 1945, at Syracuse, NY. He contributed abundantly to degree work both in the Blue Lodge and the Rite. His Masonic character was not confined to the Lodge room, nor backstage in the dressing room. His standing in the community was well expressed in the Syracuse Herald:

“Although T. Walker Gaggin’s life has closed and his body has been laid to rest, the work of this gifted Syracuse architect will live on. Architecture . . . is frozen music. The rhythmic harmonies of Mr. Gaggin’s structures in this city will continue to speak to his skill while their functional qualities play their part in civic life. Quiet in manner, of broad outlook, he had a busy and useful career.”

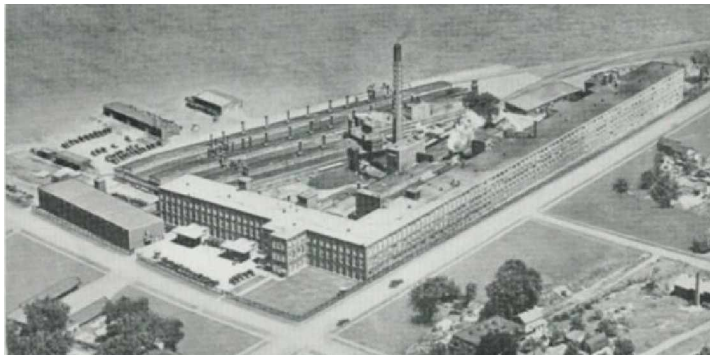
As noted above, among his other works were some of the following:



< Lyman C. Smith Hall, Syracuse University, 1902, Gaggin & Gaggin
Gifted by Lyman C. Smith, typewriter pioneer and president of L. C. Smith & Brothers Typewriter Company.



Winchell Hall Dormitory for Women, Syracuse University - 1900 >
Architect: E. H. Gaggin, Syracuse University School of Architecture, located on the Northeast corner of University Avenue and University Place; demolished Feb 1984. This was the first dormitory to be built on the Syracuse University campus, and was named for Alexander Winchell, first Chancellor of Syracuse University, 1872-74, and Professor of Geology, Zoology, and Botany, 1873-78. The building opened in the fall of 1900 and had thirty rooms housing female students. The dormitory later housed 58 students and had offices, and in the mid 60's housed classrooms, one of which was used for students in Advertising Design (such as I). It was in the process of being demolished to make room for the building of the Schine Student Center when a fire swept through it in early Feb 1984 and hastened the venerable structure's end.



Crouse Hinds Plant, built in 1911 at the corner of Wolf and 7th North Streets in Syracuse, New York.