

HISTORY OF HI-Y

The girls had Y-Teens and the boys had Hi-Y

This was a spirit duplicator handout from roughly 1956

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The important factors to note in our historical heritage are that all our groups were conceived by young people.

George Williams, a young man in London, England, felt a need for a Christian-centered program for himself and other young men working as apprentices in the shops of London. He and eleven other young men began to meet and study the Bible, share prayers, and personal concerns. Their personal loyalty brought into being the first Y. M. C. A. group in 1844.

As the patterns of living have changed during the past 100 years, so has the Y. M. C. A. until it now embraces co-educational activity.

Just as the Y. M. C. A. itself was a "young man's dream" so was our Hi-Y Movement. In 1889, a new high school was built in Chapman, Kansas. The town was small so it became a county-wide High School. During bad weather many students had to board at or near the school. The boys who were used to farm chores became discontented with the free time they had and were dissatisfied with what was happening.

A group of boys sat down with a teacher they admired; his name, David F. Shirk, and presented their problem of not knowing what to do. Mr. Shirk listened to their

request for a Bible study group and decided to help them. As the success of this group grew, they approached the Y. M. C. A. for help in leadership and became the HI-Y Clubs or high School Y. M. C. A.s.

After years of expansion and changing of

custom, Tri-Hi-Y clubs for girls came into being just after the first World War. The group in Wanesboro, Pennsylvania, in 1919 was probably our first, and then in 1939 the name and insignia we now use was adopted nationally.

A look at our history causes us to cherish the fact that we grew from a Christian concern in a religious atmosphere and we are a movement for youth, conceived by youth and directed by youth.

We are challenged to humbly commit ourselves to our Christian purpose:

"TO CREATE, MAINTAIN, AND EXTEND THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL, HOME, AND COMMUNITY HIGH STANDARDS OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER."

Our platform is:

CLEAN SPEECH, CLEAN SPORTS, CLEAN SCHOLARSHIP, CLEAN LIVING

