



National Society Daughters of the American Colonists Colonel Gideon Macon Chapter TSSDAC

Fall 2016

NOVEMBER MEETING ON THE 12th AT TOM'S PIZZA & STEAK HOUSE

Committee reports will be due at this meeting. Be sure to have yours ready if you are a committee chairman or get it sent to Geraldine before the meeting.

SEPTEMBER MEETING BACK AT TOM'S



The chapter met at 11:30 on September 10th at Tom's Pizza and Steak House in Paris. Nine members and three guests were present. Regent Geraldine Sykes called the meeting to order. Following the ritual, in honor of the next day being Sept. 11, National Defense Chairman Mary Ann Claxton spoke on how defense has changed since 9/11. She noted 5 main changes. How we fight wars: the Pentagon has learned they can no longer kill their way to victory - they must rather win the hearts and minds of the local population, an expensive and time-consuming strategy. Second military funding: after 9/11 the military could pretty much order what they wanted. Now, however, with pressure to cut their budget, they are having to make decisions on cuts and prioritize. Third is women in the military. Commanders now say women are performing as well as their male peers and that the services couldn't proceed without them. Fourth is special ops. Originally meant to work within and win over the local populations, they now focus on "direct action mission" - targeted strikes on high-value insurgents. Finally is change in leadership and their view of veterans. Young leaders at small outposts were having to make decisions in the field without being able to consult through chain of command. "In the absence of orders, figure out what the orders should have been and execute them." Also the military is increasingly focused on how to challenge their fighters after the war is over.

Following the National Defense message, Secretary Frances Spillman read the minutes which were approved followed by Beverly Wood's Treasurer's report. Mary Ann next gave her registrar's report : we only have one application that is close to ready to send in, but health issues of the applicant have that put on hold at this time. Mary Ann's report on the State Summer Board meeting included a project that is apparently coming down from National for chapters to revisit plaques and grave markers placed by their chapter and take a picture and report on their current condition. Mary Ann reported that we had been given information sheets on 10 plaques/grave markers that needed to be checked on. Mary

Wayne Miles then quickly added that the Union City Chapter - before its dissolution - had placed three markers, one of which was an item of business on our day's agenda. Mary Wayne even had a newspaper clipping about that 1985 marking (see picture above) Since members from Union City joined our chapter, it is logical to assume we will be the ones to report on those markers as well. Mary Ann is going to work on getting that information together. Geraldine then brought up



our main item of business which was the moving of the marker placed at Reelfoot Lake's Air Park Inn on 3 APR 1985 (see article picture above). Air Park Inn has been torn down; the area is no longer used and is not secure. The marker's concrete base has been vandalized and the Reelfoot Lake Friends Group removed it and were asking permission to install it at Spicer Park in Samburg on the banks of the lake and close to restaurants and visitors areas. The group is willing to make the repairs and relocate the sign; they just needed our permission to do it. The sign was placed by the State Society when chapter member Mary Wayne Miles was State Regent. The chapter voted to approve the move, but Mary Ann Claxton noted that we need to check with the State Society and see if it needs to be brought up for a vote at the March meeting. Since there is no cost to the society, it appears there should be no reason not to approve the move. Once the Friends Group is ready, we will need to set a date for a rededication ceremony.

Next item of business was deciding on how much to give to national projects. The decision was to keep the amounts the same as last year.

Following the business meeting, Mary Wayne's grandson, John Miles, presented a program on the book *George Washington's Secret Six* by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger which relates the enormous impact of Washington's Culper Spy Ring on the outcome of the American Revolution. John's program was interesting and most informative and his interest and enthusiasm for the topic kept everyone listening. This spy ring is the basis of our National President's project, the development and continued support of an app for cell phones called *Agent 711 Spy Adventure App* which has been set up at Washington's Mount Vernon home. Following the program the meeting was adjourned.



MARKERS PLACED BY OUR CHAPTER

At the Summer Board meeting we were given forms on ten plaques and grave markers that have been placed by our chapter. We are to check on each marker, note whether it is still in place, its condition, and current contact information. Also Mary Whyane Miles reported that the Union City chapter had marked three sites. Mary Ann Claxton is working on this project and currently has located and/or has pictures for all but one of the markers which is in Union City. Below is a list of the markers that have been placed.

THE COLUMNS - (G. T. Ingram Home) Built 1860. A hospital during Civil War. Note: Elizabeth Ingram was a chapter member. She passed away in 1995 at the age of 102 and her home was donated to the Foundation. Location: W. McNeal Street, Bolivar, TN. Dedicated 12 MAR 1986

FIRST FREE LIBRARY - Jackson's First Free Library. Built by grant from Andrew Carnegie. Now The Carnegie Center for Arts. Location: 305 East College Street, Jackson, TN. Dedicated 10 NOV 1990.

GRAVE OF MALISSA WILSON HUMPHREYS - Malissa joined the Francis Billingsley Chapter and when the chapter disbanded transferred membership to Col. Gideon Macon Chapter. She maintained her membership until her death on 18 AUG 1990. Location: Maplewood Cemetery, Paris, TN. Dedicated 9 NOV 1991.

E. W. GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - Built in 1905. First privately endowed public high school. First high school in the nation to receive agriculture teaching funds under the Federal Smith Hughes Act, and had the first Future Farmers of America Chapter. Location: 215 Grove Blvd., Paris, TN. Dedicated 10 SEP 1994.

PARIS-HENRY COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER - Home of O. C. Barton built in 1914. Now a museum for cultural and historical activities to enhance the present and future. Location: 614 N. Poplar St., Paris, TN. Dedicated 14 SEP 1996.

GRAVE OF ELIZABETH MORGAN MCCUTCHEN - Elizabeth joined the chapter in 1980 and remained a member until her death on October 31, 1997. Location: Ridgecrest Cemetery, Jackson, TN. Dedicated 6 JUN 1998.

GRAVE OF PETER J. SWINK - Peter and wife Malinda operated the Stage Coach. Location: George W. Swink land on Tenn. Hwy. 18 at the north city limit of Medon, 12 miles south of Jacksona and just south of the intersection of Riverside Dr. and Main St. in Medon. Dedicated 12 SEP 1998.

BEMIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE - Built by J. M. Bemis, founder of Bemis Brothers Bag Company as a home for the first manager of the mill, J. B. Young. This home was occupied by members of the Young family until 1961, when it was given to the Methodist Conference to be used as a parsonage for the Bemis United Methodist Church. Location: Corner of 5th Street and Massachusetts Ave., Bemis, TN. Dedicated 14 SEP 2002 (marker says 11 NOV 2001).

ROBERT E. LEE ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS - Formerly Robert E. Lee School, it was built in 1893 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. Original brick building built in 1848 burned in December 1891 when it was City High School. In 1892 a movement began to rebuild it and it reopened in September, 1893. the name change to Robert E. Lee School about 1910 and it remained a school until 1975. In 2001 the Robert E. Lee School Association took over the building and began restoration. In 2003 it became the Robert E. Lee Academy for the Arts. Location: 402 Lee St., Paris, TN. Dedicated 9 OCT 2011.

HENRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE - Built in 1896. West Tennessee's oldest working courthouse. Court - first held in Peter Wall's home in 1821. A log courthouse built in Clifty in 1823. Two story brick courthouse erected on this land in 1825 and replaced in 1852. The county's first murder led to the landmark "State vs. Grainger" case (1830) that set a precedent for self defence as the basis for appeal. During the Civil War, Confederate military units were organized here in 1860 and also 1861. Union forces occupied the courthouse in 1862. Troops were sent from herein WWI and WWII. Silver dollars donated by citizens are melted in the bell in the tower. Location: 101 East Washington St., Paris, TN. Dedicated 21 JUL 2012.

MARKERS PLACED BY UNION CITY CHAPTER

OLD CAMPGROUND CEMETERY - Established about 1833. buried here are families who founded Obion County in 1824. Located outside of Troy, Obion Co., TN. Dedicated in 1984.

BETHLEHEM CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Location: outside of Union City, Obion Co., TN on Bethlehem Rd.

REELFOOT LAKE - Location: was located at Air Park Inn on Reelfoot Lake, Lake Co., TN, but Air Park Inn has since been torn down and the marker is now in storage waiting to be installed at Spicer Park in Samburg, Lake Co., TN. Dedicated 29 MAR 1985.

TWO MEMBERS ATTEND AUGUST BOARD MEETING

The Tennessee State Society Daughters of the American Colonists' Summer Board Meeting was August 11, 2016 at the Doubletree in Murfreesboro, TN. Pictured below are (seated) Hon. State Regent and Chapter first Vice Regent Aline Roberts, National Vice President, Blue Ridge Section and Hon. State Regent Linda Dean, State Regent Linda Mansur and (standing) State *Colonial Courier* Chairman and Chapter Registrar Mary Ann Claxton.

Ten officers were present for the Executive Committee meeting. Minutes were approved by committee. Phyllis T. Carter, Treasurer Pro Tem, reported receipts from member dues, Aug. registration fees and sale of DAC pins which has continued to be a good source of income; also \$850 in member donations for Wounded Warrior Program. She also prepared the budget for 2017 and 2018. Unfinished business was for the Society members to help fund the National President's project, a "Spy Adventure App for Smartphones to be used by visitors at Mr. Vernon historical site," and the state regent's projects. New business included three motions: 1) Develop a TSSDAC Brochure to go in the DAC packet and be on the web site. 2) Give a \$50 memorial to the American Indian Scholarship in honor of deceased Hon. State Regent Joan Harmon (2012-2013). 3) Revise the Records/Document and Property Management Policy.

The State Board Meeting began at 11:30 a.m. Following the invocation, Librarian Olivia Chandler led the Pledge of Allegiance; Kathryn Ward led The American's Creed; and Cindy Waters read the Object of the National Society. State officers were introduced and four Hon. State Regents recognized: Aline Roberts, Pat Boals, Linda Dean and Charlotte Miller. New member Jennie Jo Hardison was presented a DAC pin.

Roll call of chapters gave 26 present. Rec. Sec. Marilyn Burchett announced the minutes were approved by committee. State officers' reports were given: Regent Mansur attended National Assembly in Washington DC and also National Children of the American Colonists Assembly. She has developed the TSSDAC Brochure; made awareness of Chapter and State publicity; is trying to revitalize CAC in the State; working on social media in the state and talking to chapters about supporting the National President's project, Alvin C. York ROTC Award and the National Headquarters Maintenance Fund. First Vice Regent, Cindy Waters remarked our 85th TN State Assembly will be March 2, 2017 in Murfreesboro with chapters Knoxville and Middle Plantation as hostess. Second VP Kathy Ward is updating the directory and asked all to inform her of changes. Chaplain, Shirley Hall reported two deaths, Betty Smotherman and Joan Harmon. Rec. Secretary had no report. Cor. Secretary, Bettie Gustafson, reported 26 present, and for chapters to keep records current. Treasurer, Phyllis Carter repeated her report. Registrar Laura Bales reported 190 members and stressed need for new members, especially Golden Acorns. There is a new pin for a sponsor of a Golden Acorn. Historian, Faye Henson, asked everyone to send her PR and chapter programs to put in the state historian book. Librarian, Olivia Chandler, asked each chapter to give a book to the National Library or local library and give at least \$1 to this committee. The group recessed for lunch.

State Board reconvened at 1:15 pm. The 3 recommendations from the executive committee were presented, voted on and passed. Next our Vice President, Blue Ridge Section, Linda Dean from Springfield, TN, reported She has traveled to W. VA, KY and TN in her region this year. She is stressing the need of Golden Acorns and new members in all states.

State chairmen reports: Mary Ann Claxton was presented a National Award for her work in preparing the chapter web site. Also her Col. Gideon Macon Chapter scrapbook was awarded 1st place at National Assembly. State Chairmen asked members to send articles to the *Colonial Courier*; give Flags to schools and businesses; search for all their previous historical markers and report on findings; give a ROTC award; present a national defense message at meetings; purchase Patriotic Book Markers to present to school children; do public relations; send articles for the website; and give money, items, food to Veterans and their facilities.

Betty Walton gave a workshop on "Patriotic Education" and Bettie Gustafson gave one on "Historic Landmarks and Memorials." Cindy Waters gave the invitation to the 85th TN State Assembly in Murfreesboro after which the meeting was adjourned.

Watch for the Winter issue of *Paris! Magazine* coming out in January. Focus of the issue is expected to be preserving our past.