



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

Spring 2016

IMPORTANT: MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

Our next meeting on Saturday, June 11 will be at the **Paris Country Club**, 195 Country Club Rd. Chapter Librarian Stephanie Tayloe invited us and the group voted to do so; this is a one time change and we will be back at Tom's for the September meeting.

Col. Gideon Macon Chapter met on Feb. 13, 2016 at Tom's Pizza and Steak House in Paris, TN. Regent Geraldine Sykes called the meeting to order at 11:00. Illness and work schedules had lowered our attendance to six members and two guests. Chaplain Joy Bland gave the invocation and blessing followed by our ritual. Mary Ann Claxton presented the National Defense message on voting and why it is so important in a free society. Without good leadership, our defense will not be as effective as it should be.



Recording Secretary Frances Spillman read the minutes of the last meeting which were approved as read. Treasurer Beverly Wood gave the treasurer's report noting that \$100 had been sent to the Wounded Warrior Project, \$180 in dues and \$20 in conference fees had also been paid. Still to be paid were reimbursements for newsletter postage and scrapbook supplies and an order for checks.

Under business, the first item was choosing delegates for State Conference. At this time, only Mary Ann Claxton has plans to attend so she was listed as a delegate. We had another donation of \$100 specified for veterans and the vote was to apply this to the Wounded Warrior project as well. Next item of business was the ROTC Medal to be given at UT Martin in April. Regent Sykes reported that Aline Roberts would again represent the chapter at this event.

Also on the agenda was committee reports which Regent Sykes said needed to be turned in to her. It was noted that the reports had been turned in to the state committee chairs, but they also needed to be sent to the Regent as well for her report.

The business meeting was followed by the program presented by Shannon McFarlin on her book *As If They Were Ours - the story of Camp*

Tyson America's only barrage balloon training facility. Shannon's talk was most interesting as she talked about interviews with people who had lived at Camp Tyson or lived in Paris during the time the camp was active. She said she had grown up listening to stories from her parents and grandparents about the camp and, even as a little girl, she had wanted to write a book about the camp. In the process of her research, she found Army records which had never been made public and learned that there was a hydrogen plant on the grounds of the camp; this had been a surprise to her mother who had told her so many stories about the camp; apparently it was not a well publicized fact among the local citizens.



The camp produced a wide variety of sizes of barrage balloons, some of which were carried by troops on D-Day and could be inflated to take them up above the battle if necessary.

Dismantling of the camp disturbed local citizens as the Army just came in and bulldozed everything into big holes and buried it. This included food which could have been given to local citizens and much building material which could have been salvaged and reused. Buildings which remained were the large balloon hanger, now used by Spinks Clay Company as a clay shed, and one barracks which the Carothers family had been interested in keeping and which they turned into apartments for the employees of Spinks Clay Company. A third building which housed offices for officers was also retained and serves as offices for the clay company. The house that camp commander General Maynard lived in became the home of the Carothers family.

Population of the camp reached as much as 15,000 people at the height of activity there. Some lived off base in houses constructed by the government for them. These houses are still used and can be seen on Chickasaw Rd. which prior to their building was the outskirts of town with no great population living there.

Shannon had copies of her book with her and left with several fewer than when she came! She has done a really good job documenting a major event in the history of Henry County.

DECEMBER TEA WELL ATTENDED

The annual December Tea sponsored by local lineage societies was held at the Heritage Center in Paris December 19th, 2015 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. with a musical program at 3:00. This was in conjunction with the Festival of Trees at the Heritage

Center, so there were beautiful trees on display throughout the building. Tables with finger foods and a



delicious punch were set up in the sun room through which people entered to make their way through the rooms to view the



trees. Musical entertainment by Cash Caldwell at 3:00 was a highlight of the event. Cash sang a variety of songs from blues to Christmas carols, accompanying his vocal talent with his guitar.

