



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

Winter 2016

## FEBRUARY MEETING ON THE 11th AT TOM'S PIZZA & STEAK HOUSE

### NOVEMBER MEETING LIGHTLY ATTENDED



Illness, work, and other issues kept attendance at the November meeting to a bare minimum with seven members present. Regent Geraldine Sykes called the meeting to order at 11:30. Following the ritual, National Defense Chairman Mary Ann Claxton read from a message by Lana Davis relating steps we as individuals can take to stay safe in these times of terrorist attacks and neighborhood violence. Being aware of our surroundings, knowing the closest exit or place to take cover, and observing those around us for unusual behavior are things we all need to consciously work on as we go about our daily routines. As the airports tell us, keep an eye on our luggage (ANYWHERE we travel), don't accept packages from strangers, and report suspicious behavior, unattended packages, or strange devices to police or security. We are naive to think we will not see violence at some point - we need to be proactive to protect ourselves and our families; don't wait for the government to "build a wall."

Following the National Defense message, Chaplain Joy Bland gave the devotional reminding us that we are always an example to others and we must be sure that the example is one that Christ would be proud to see in us. Someone is always watching; what lesson will we teach?

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 noting we still have only one application that is close to ready to send in, but health issues of the applicant still have that put on hold at this time.

Our first order of business was a report by Geraldine on the historical marker at Reelfoot Lake. She said that she had been working with Mr. Mayberry of the Reelfoot Friends group as well as with State Regent Linda Mansur and that, although Newman Brothers made the original sign, neither they nor Classic Bronze Resources could do the restoration needed on the marker. They were given the name of the Sewah Co. of Marietta, Ohio who do actual restorations. The cost to repair and clean the marker will be \$900.00 including shipping there and back; following restoration, the marker will look like new. Also in costs will be the concrete post at \$325.00 for a total of \$1225.00. The good news is that \$975.00 of the cost has been donated by the Reelfoot Friends group, the Reelfoot Tourism group, the Reelfoot Parks Service, and the Spicer Park Family. We had talked last meeting about paying as much as \$200.00 depending on

how much was needed, so Mary Ann moved and Joy seconded that we pay \$200.00 leaving \$50.00 for the State Society to pay. Geraldine said that Linda said the State Society will assume costs of the invitations and mailings and other incidentals involved in putting together the re-dedication service. See article below for date and details.

Following this discussion, Mary Ann reported that the 13 plaques and grave markers placed by our chapter and the Union City chapter have been photographed and their information updated. At this time the only ones in question are the markers on the grave of Elizabeth McCutcheon in Jackson which need repair and the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Union City which is in the process of being sold by the Presbytery; contact information will be provided to us once a sale is made and we can see what will need to be done about the marker at that time, based on the new owners' disposition of the building.

The next order of business was what to do about donations to veterans for Christmas. It was voted that we give \$100.00 to the Wounded Warrior Project. Geraldine then read an invitation from the John Babb Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution to attend the Christmas Tea scheduled for December 10 from 1:00 to 3:00. It will again be held at the Heritage Center which is celebrating the 100th year for Cavitt Hall where the Heritage Center is housed.

Geraldine also reminded us that Chapter Officer and Chapter Committee Chairman reports are due to the Chapter Regent by February 1. Since our next meeting is Feb. 11, we need to have them in before that date. You can go to the National website and download the appropriate forms. If you have trouble doing that, please contact Mary Ann as she is our Technology Chairman and can help with connecting and downloads.



Following the business meeting, Geraldine presented the program entitled The First Thanksgiving in America. This came from an issue of The Mini Page which is a monthly supplement given to students in the schools. Each issue has a focus theme with an informational article and then various activities which require reading the article to complete them. This issue said that the actual first Thanksgiving in America was at Jamestown, not at Plymouth. "On Dec. 4, 1619, a group of 38 Englishmen landed at Berkeley Plantation on the James River near what is now Charles City, Va. They were led by Capt. John Woodlief. The ship was called the "Margaret." The crew had orders to:

- give thanks on their arrival.
- give thanks on the same date every year that followed.

This Virginia Thanksgiving, a religious observance, was held about one year before the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth in 1620 and about two years before their Thanksgiving harvest feast in 1621. One reason we have heard so little about the Virginia Thanksgiving is that just about all the settlers at Berkley Plantation were killed in Indian raids in 1622." So when someone mentions the "first Thanksgiving," ask them whether they mean the ACTUAL first one or the first one celebrating a successful harvest.

Coincidentally, Mary Ann had chosen today to bring the state's Colonial Education Kit so members could see what was in it. This is a kit that she has used with 126 Girl Scouts back in June and then with 4th grade students at Lakewood and Henry schools this fall. A total of 229 students benefited from the kit this year. Members got to see the items which students get to handle including quills with which they can write. See article below about this year's presentations.







### REELFOOT HISTORICAL MARKER TO BE RE-DEDICATED IN NEW LOCATION

Pictured above is the damaged marker which was originally placed by the State Society and the Union City Chapter on 3 APR 1985 near the Air Park Inn near the spillway at Reelfoot Lake. The Inn has since been demolished and the area is no longer safe. The plaque and its concrete post had been damaged and the Reelfoot Lake Friends group removed it for safe keeping till it could be restored. Financing for the restoration has now been assembled and names of those who have contributed will be on small plaques attached to the concrete post of the marker. Plans are to have a re-dedication ceremony on 27 MAY 2017. This is the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, but locally in Samburg, TN they have a parade and program with local dignitaries present. It was thought that this would be the best time to have the ceremony since people would already be assembled for the Memorial Day festivities. The exact time has not been set, but it should be before noon as the group will be eating at the \_\_\_\_\_ Restaurant across the street from Spicer Park where the marker is going to be set up. State and National officers will be invited to attend. This is going to be a really special event so be sure to mark your calendar (as soon as you get it 😊) We will probably carpool from Paris, but will make further plans at the Feb. Meeting.

### COLONIAL YOUTH IN THE AMERICAN FRONTIER PROGRAM

(At right) Chapter Registrar Mary Ann Claxton advises a student on writing with a quill pen while another student tries his hand at writing on a "slate" chalk board. Mary Ann used the state Colonial Education Kit to present "Colonial Youth in the American Frontier" to 4th grade students at Lakewood School on October 24th and 25th and at Henry School on November 2. A total of 103 students heard the presentation over the three days. The students thoroughly enjoy the kit which lets them touch things like animal hides (pictured on the table here), arrow heads, a musket ball, and antler buttons and they get to write with a quill as well as play marbles and try their hand at the cup and ball game. Two sets of cards allow students to learn about colonial occupations and life while playing matching games. All of the teachers asked that we bring the presentation back next year. These presentations added to the ones done back in June for the Girl Scouts in Clarksville brings the total number of students for our presentation this year to 229. For more pictures from the school presentations [click here \(http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tncgmdac/website/dacpictures2016coled102416.html\)](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tncgmdac/website/dacpictures2016coled102416.html); for pictures from the Girl Scout presentations, [click here \(http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tncgmdac/website/dacpictures2016coled060216.html\)](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tncgmdac/website/dacpictures2016coled060216.html).



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

### GOOD TURNOUT FOR MILITARY MEMORIAL HALL PROGRAM

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 the Henry County Archives and Genealogy Library presented a program honoring Henry County veterans of all wars. Assistant

Archivist Linda Dunlap presented a history of the Military Memorial Hall located next to the Genealogy Library in Weston Hall on the E. W. Grove School campus. On one side of the hall are pictures with biographical and service information on those who were killed in action. On the opposite wall are pictures and information on those who came back from the wars. Linda said that families are encouraged to fill out a form to get their family members enshrined in the Hall. In addition, there are notebooks where pictures and any other information the family wants to include may be placed for others to see. This is creating an excellent reference source for the present and the future. There are three sets of notebooks, all coordinated with the pictures on the walls so



that you can look in the book to see if someone is on the wall and then go right to the picture or you can find a picture on the wall and go to the notebooks to find more information about that person.