



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

Summer 2017

**SEPTEMBER MEETING ON THE 9th, 11:30 AT TOM'S PIZZA & STEAK HOUSE; PAY DUES THIS MEETING!**

## JUNE MEETING ATTENDANCE DOWN



Our regular meeting at Tom's Pizza and Steak House in Paris on June 10 was called to order at 11:00 by Regent Geraldine Sykes. Illness and a conflict with the Tales from the Crypt Paris City Cemetery Tour cut our numbers down to only 6 in attendance. Chaplain Joy Bland gave the invocation,

with a special prayer for three members not there due to health issues. Our ritual followed with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Berdie Maie Foy, the American's Creed by Pat Boals, and the Object of the National Society by Frances Spillman.

National Defense Chairman Mary Ann Claxton presented a message concerning terrorism in the world today. Two of the main causes of terrorism which we fail to address are rogue states and failed states in the Middle East and Africa. The report noted that 74% of all terrorism attacks come from only four groups. Addressing political instability in these countries – the root of the problem – is the only way to end terrorism.

Minutes were read and approved as was the treasurer's report given by

Geraldine in the absence of Treasurer Beverly Wood. She also noted that member Suzanne Viebrock had specified that her donation for veterans be used at the Veterans' home in Humboldt for a device to help bed-ridden patients operate their television sets.

A very nice thank you note from State Regent Linda L. Mansur was read by Geraldine thanking the chapter for the tremendous work on the Reelfoot Lake Historical Marker which was refurbished and then re-dedicated on May 27 (see article below).

With Flag Day approaching on June 14, Regent Sykes gave a review of the History of our Flag Day in America. It is believed that celebrating the Flag originated in 1885 by a school teacher in Wisconsin. Later a teacher in New York City planned a school celebration to honor the flag. Different organizations began to adopt resolutions requesting the flying of the flag on June 14. In 1894 the governor of New York directed that the flag be displayed on all public buildings. After three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day, the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 – was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916. Eventually, on August 3, 1949 President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day. Meeting was adjourned following the program.



## REELFOOT LAKE MARKER RE-DEDICATED



At left at Reelfoot marker: L-R front row Aline Roberts, Hon. TN State Regent, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Regent Col. Gideon Macon Chapter; Geraldine Sykes, Regent Col. Gideon Macon Chapter; Pat Boals, Hon TN State Regent, TSSDAC; Mrs. Spicer of Samburg, TN; Back row L-R Brock Hill, Deputy Commissioner, TN Bureau of Parks and Conservation; Ed Jackson, TN State Senator District 27; Bill Sanderson, TN State Representative District 77; Berdie Foy, Historian, Col. Gideon Macon Chapter; On right side of marker, front row L-R Mrs. Charles W. Miles III, NSDAC Honorary National Vice President and TN State Regent 1982-85 Col. Gideon Macon Chapter; Bettie Gustafson, State Chairman Historic Landmarks, Jamestown Chapter; Janice Webb, Col. Gideon Macon Chapter; Cindy Waters, TN State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Regent, Middle Plantation Chapter; Back row L-R Jeanell Kutterer Historian Middle Plantation Chapter; Olivia Chandler, State Librarian, Jamestown Chapter; Linda Mansur, TN State Regent, TSSDAC, Prudence Hall Chapter; and Mary Ann Claxton, State Chairman, *Colonial Courier*, Col. Gideon Macon Chapter.

The Rededication of the Tennessee State Society NSDAC Marker at Reelfoot Lake was held Saturday May 27, 2017 at 11 a.m. in Spicer Park, Samburg, Tennessee. The welcome was given by Linda L. Mansur, State Regent, TN State Society National Society Daughters of the American Colonists. The Invocation was given by Pat Boals, Honorary State Regent, and member of Col. Gideon Macon Chapter NSDAC. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Geraldine Sykes, Regent, Col. Gideon Macon Chapter, NSDAC. The American's Creed was led by Aline Roberts, Honorary State Regent and First Vice Regent, Col. Gideon Macon Chapter NSDAC.

Greetings were brought by: Benny McGuire, Executive Mayor Obion County. Ed Jackson, TN State Senator District 27. Bill Sanderson, TN State Representative District 77.

Special Remarks were given by: Ed Carter, Executive Director, TN Wildlife Resources Agency; and Brock Hill, Deputy Commissioner, TN Bureau of Parks and Conservation.

The history of NSDAC Reelfoot Marker was written by Mrs. Charles W. Miles III, NSDAC Honorary National Vice President and TN State Regent from 1982-1985. It was read by her son, Attorney, John Miles of Union City: "These are my mother's words. Reelfoot Lake – An Earthquake Lake, a by-product of the "New Madrid Earthquakes", a series of 1,874 recorded tremors centered generally about 70 miles southwest of the Lake, taking place from December 16, 1811 until March 8, 1812. The "hard shock" came at 3 A.M. Friday, February 7, 1812. These shocks could be felt over an area of one million square miles from Canada to the eastern seaboard and New Orleans. Witnesses reported that the earth and the river were torn with furious convulsions. During the quakes ground waves near the epicenter moved a foot to and fro creating sunken lands, fissures, landslides and land domes. Sand blows erupted belching hot water, mud, fumes, coal, and carbonized wood. These explosions coupled with the crashing of timbers, falling of banks along the river and cries of frightened wildfowl created a terrible rumbling and roar. The air smelled of sulphur and the sky was unusually dark

and dreary. When the savage tremors subsided, Reelfoot Lake was born and thirty to fifty thousand square miles of land had undergone vast topographical changes most of which are visible today. Although these were among the most powerful shocks to strike North America within historic times, few lives were lost as the area was sparsely settled. Powerful earthquakes occurred here before 1811 and are now estimated to occur at intervals of about 600 years."

The history of the found defaced marker, previously placed on the other side of the lake in 1985 by Mrs. Miles, was given by Ed Mayberry and David M. Laut. Marker dedication remarks were given by Bettie Gustafson, State Chairman, Historic Landmarks and Memorials, TSSDAC.

The marker was accepted by the Spicer Family. Mrs. Spicer spoke and said, "I can see this marker from my house and I will look after it as long as I live. We are so proud to have it placed in Spicer Park".

Unveiling the marker were Mrs. Charles W. Miles, III, Ed Mayberry, and David M. Laut.

Benediction was given by Pat Boals, member of the Col. Gideon Macon Chapter.

A small plaque was placed on the pole listing names of those who graciously gave their time, effort and donations. They were: Ed and Betty Mayberry, The Spicer Family, Sharon Shaw Cunningham, David M. Laut, Samburg Tourism, and Col. Gideon Macon Chapter NSDAC.

Afterwards twenty people attending ate lunch together at the Boat House Restaurant, adjacent to the Spicer Park. (Thanks to Aline Roberts for this excellent article.)



#### ROTC WINNER FOR TSDAC COL. GIDEON MACON CHAPTER

At left: Cadet Faith Peet was presented a ROTC certificate and medal from Aline Roberts, member of Col. Gideon Macon Chapter of Paris, TN at the "Annual UTM ROTC Dining Out" Banquet on April 21, 2017 at the Student Life Center at UTM. This award is given to an outstanding female Cadet who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities, and has a B or above in military science.

Cadet Faith Peet is from Vine Grove, KY and is a Pre-Vet major.

#### PREPARING FOR MARKER PROGRAM

At right Chapter Regent Geraldine Sykes and Chapter Registrar Mary Ann Claxton meet with Ed Mayberry who has been instrumental in having the Reelfoot Lake marker restored and moved to its new location in Spicer Park in Samburg. A rededication program will begin at the park at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch at the Boat House Restaurant across the street from the park. This is to be in conjunction with Samburg's 3rd annual Memorial Day Celebration with several activities scheduled ending with fireworks over the lake at 9:00 p.m.



#### TWO MEMBERS ATTEND 85TH STATE ASSEMBLY

Three main items of business were approved at the meeting.

(1) There was discussion of the resetting of the Reelfoot marker which is to take place at 11:00 on May 27, 2017 at Spicer Park in Samburg, TN. The group approved \$145 to pay for an additional marker to be placed on the post naming those who had contributed to the restoration of the marker. (2) The attendees approved continuation of the \$50 JROTC award at Alvin C. York Institute through 2018. (3) And the third business item was approval to spend \$50.00 to put an ad in the *Colonial Courier* for the DAC pins which have been a good source of revenue for us.

Above: Chapter First Vice Regent Aline Roberts receives eleven awards for our chapter. Those awards included: First place: verifying TN state historical markers; Second place: *Colonial Courier* subscriptions 48% and articles and photographs published for Public Relations; Having articles published in the *Colonial Courier*; Best overall report for Public Relations; Use of electronic newsletter to chapter members; Veterans Services - Comfort and personal items; Wounded Warriors donations; Donations made to National Headquarters; Most publicity for ROTC Award; Special award to Mary Ann Claxton for Tennessee Marker Sleuth.

In further business, the delegates approved Phyllis Carter as



Treasurer. Phyllis had been operating as Treasurer Pro Tem because she had not been a member long enough to qualify as a state officer. And in other business relative to officers, a nominating committee was appointed to select a slate of officers for the 2018-2021 term. Members of the committee are: Charlotte Miller, Chairman, Lynda Logan, Mary Ann Claxton, Susan Brown and Aline Roberts.

In reports, we were told there are 180 members with 6 new members this year. Also of interest are new insignia available from NSDAC. The Member for Member pin now has a bar for every 5 members you recruit, and there is now a pin for significant contributions to the National Headquarters Maintenance Fund and the National Presidents' Fund.

The speaker at our Candlelight Supper was Antoinette G. van Zelm, Ph.D, Assistant Director, Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University (pictured at left). She and graduate assistant Jenny Andrew spoke about preservation work that the University has been doing. They said that part of their work was to help teach others about preservation methods.



At right Chapter Registrar Mary Ann Claxton and State Hon. Regent and Chapter First Vice Regent Aline Roberts (back row, L to R respectively) are pictured with (L to R seated) State Regent Linda Mansur, National President Phyllis Jones, and National Vice President Blue Ridge Section

and State Hon. Regent Linda Dean. In addition to speaking at our Candlelight Supper, President Jones also held an open forum after the business meeting in which she answered questions from those in attendance. Pictured at left are Mary Ann and Aline with President Jones after the forum.



### MARKERS PLACED BY OUR CHAPTER

At the 2016 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 and Aline Roberts has information on two plaques placed by Isaac Dawson Chapter. 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 (Prior to merging with our 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.

### MARKERS PLACED BY ISAAC DAWSON CHAPTER (Prior to merging with our chapter)

**MT. VERNON METHODIST CHURCH** - Location: three miles west of Sharon, TN. Organized in 1823 in the log cabin home of John Bradshaw with Reuben Edmonston, Bradshaw's brother-in-law, and a few neighbors. Marker dedicated March 19, 1982.

**NEW SALEM CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - Location: Sharon, TN. Organized in 1849, the building that is standing today was built in 1893, one of the oldest landmarks in Weakley Co., TN. Marker dedicated October 28, 1989.