



THE LONG KNIFE

Quarterly Newsletter of the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter
Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution

"Serving Madison County"

Volume XIX, Number 1

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June 2009



Four members of GGRCC were part of the color guard for meetings and events of the 119th Illinois Society SAR meeting at the Hilton Hotel, Springfield, May 15-16. Color guard participants were, from left, Compatriots Franz Herder, Thomas Ashby, Joe Smith, James Say, Timothy J. Raymer (GGRCC), Gaylord J. (Jim) James (GGRCC), Donald E. Campbell (GGRCC) Jack Firse, Harry K, Windland (GGRCC), Ron Smith and Robert Hoaglin.

Photo Courtesy of Lola DeGross

President's Letter -- By Gaylord J. (Jim) James

When I assumed the presidency of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter in February, I was very much aware that I had big shoes to fill. Our chapter has been fortunate in the able leadership we have had during the past 23 years. This fact and the enthusiasm and dedication of the members accounts for the continued success of our chapter. I am especially

grateful to Timothy Raymer for his counsel these past three months and his help assisting me in the transition. During his term as president, Tim put much of himself into the work of the chapter, and he continues to oversee important activities.

We have been encouraged by the Illinois State Society to extend our activities **(Continued on page 4)**

The Long Knife is a quarterly publication of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution.
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 Luncheon meetings held the third Wednesday monthly at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (IL Rt. 143)

GGRCC Birthdays

Carl D. Mizell, July 17
 David B. Brammier, July 25
 Troy M. Huddle, July 31
 M. Joseph Hill, Aug. 3
 Timothy S. Raymer, Aug. 4
 Kevin J. Babb, Aug. 7
 Homer J. Vowels, Aug. 13
 James D. Stewart, Aug. 14
 David M. Bimes, Aug. 15
 A. Robert Shaak, Aug. 17
 Donald E. Campbell, Sept. 12
 William R. Feeney, Sept. 13
 James Arthur DeGroff Jr., Sept. 15
 Edwin G. Gerling, Sept. 15
 Albert A. Oleson, Sept. 18
 Stephen C. Mudge, Sept. 23

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

An Eagle Scout Certificate was presented May 9 to Joseph Corey McKee in a ceremony at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, Alton.

Presenters for GGRCC were President Gaylord J. (Jim) James and Timothy J. Raymer.

Family members attending included Corey's parents, Joseph and Janice McKee, and grandfather, Dale W. Harrison, who has been president of the Dalton, GA SAR chapter.

Flag Day Event to Be at Hartford Park

GGRCC's Flag Day ceremony will be at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 14, at Hartford's Seventh Street Park. Timothy J. Raymer, coordinator, said the program will include the chapter's 16 Historic Flag Presentation. Fifty state flags will be displayed. Members will form a color guard and lead patriotic expressions.

Grave of Early SAR Officer Marked

Several members of GGRCC joined members of the Missouri Society, Spirit of St. Louis Chapter, in marking April 30 the grave of Gaius Paddock, first national treasurer of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The ceremony took place at the Paddock/Flagg Cemetery, Moro, Madison County, where Paddock's Revolutionary ancestor, also named Gaius Paddock, is buried. GGRCC recognized the Revolutionary veteran in 1991.

ROTC Awards at SIUE, Alton High

Outstanding ROTC cadet award were presented by GGRCC to Bradley Craycraft, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and Lavante Womack, at Alton High School.

The ceremony was April 23 for Bradley Craycraft, of Smithton, IL, a freshman criminal justice major. In his first year of Army ROTC activity, he has been a member of the unit's rifle team and a leader of its Ranger Challenge team.

Levante Womack, a resident of Alton and a junior, has held several leadership positions in his Air Force Junior ROTC unit. He plans to attend a four-year college and become an attorney.

The award medals and certificates were presented by GGRCC President Gaylord J. (Jim) James and James A. DeGroff Jr.

* * * *

Recognized and presented with a special birthday cake at the May 20 monthly meeting were Charles B. Schweizer, 96, founder of GGRCC, and James A. Cannon, 94.

10 High School Seniors Receive Outstanding Citizenship Awards

In line with efforts by GGRCC to expand its activities beyond Madison County, a senior from Brussels High School, Calhoun County, was among high school seniors receiving the Outstanding Citizenship Award.

Since her application was received after then-available award certificates and pins were used for the 2009 group, **Emily Danelle Eberlin's** award took place in May at her school, with the presentation made by GGRCC President Gaylord J. (Jim) James and Timothy S. Raymer.

Emily also has been a DAR award nominee, *Chicago Tribune* scholar and recipient of an Illinois College Heritage Scholarship. At her school she was freshman class secretary, senior class president, yearbook editor and secretary of the Future Business Leaders of America, the student council and the school band. She was named to the National Honor Society.

She is a member of the Calhoun Lady Rebels Softball Senior League, a religion teacher at St. Mary's Church Parish School and a volunteer vacation Bible School teacher.

The nine Madison County students received the Outstanding Citizenship Award April 15 in an annual ceremony at First Christian Church, Edwardsville. As in several past years, the event was coordinated by veteran GGRCC member Robert J. Stegemeier. The recipients were:

Zachary Meszaros, Roxana High School. He has received a National Science Merit Award, was named as the school's engineering and English student of the year. He was an IDEA drafting competition state qualifier in 2008 and third place winner in 2009. He was a member of the National Honor Society for three years, a track and field letter winner for four years, and cross-country letter winner two years, captaining both teams and winning several competitive honors. He lettered in soccer for two years. He is a participant in the community chem. II recycling program.

Cameron Wiggerhorn, Metro East Lutheran High School. He was listed on the high honor roll. He participated in three plays and four musicals, was a four-year band member participating in solo and ensemble contests and ranked first in flute quartet competition. He played lead parts in school productions of *Oklahoma* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and also was active in drama production at his church.

Katherine Henricks, Highland High school. She was listed on the honor roll, was international Leo of the Year for 2006-07 and president of the Highland Leo Club and treasurer of the Spanish Club. She lettered in golf and achieved the most improved stroke average in 2006. She is active in church youth groups and the Choose Respect Program.

Clay Moran, Granite City High School. He was an honor roll listee and Elk and Rotary student of the month. He captained the Congressional and Public Forum debate team and was Scholar Bowl captain and varsity letter winner. He was a member of the National Honor Society and social studies club, and attended the National Student Leadership Conference on Intelligence and National Security.

Zachary Hinkle, Edwardsville High school. He made high honor roll with an accumulated four-year grade point average of 4.24. He was freshman class treasurer, student council executive board member, and president of the Orange Rush sports pep organization. He lettered in basketball for two years and was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Matt Alexander, East Alton-Wood River High School. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Junior Rotarian, yearbook editor and Oiler Achiever. He has joined the U.S. Air Force in a delay entry program.

Jeffrey Bruns, Civic Memorial High School, Bethalto. He received the Bethalto Rotary citizenship award and was band president. He was a tennis team player for four years and basketball manager for three years. His church activities included Christmas Walk, preparing a church video, assisting at a Souldard church and participating with 24 other youths in a Samaritan Purse activity in Ecuador.

Ryan Huber, Alton High School. He was on the honor roll all four years, a member of the National Honor Society and an Illinois State Scholar. He is a congressional nominee for the Air Force Academy. He was junior ROTC Daedalon Award winner and command chief, and active in the social justice club, church young groups, Encounter and Boy Scouts.

Lance Taylor, Triad High School (qualifications not available).

Speaker at the ceremony was Capt. Andrew Wilbraham, who described his two tours of duty in Iraq as a tank commander.

The student Citizenship Award recipients were nominated by their schools on the basis of dependability, cooperative spirit, leadership, service to their school and community and evidence of personal values and patriotism.

- **Robert J. Stegemeier**

President's Letter By Gaylord J. (Jim) James **—Continued from Page 1**

Into some of the adjoining counties, especially Calhoun, Jersey, Macoupin and Bond counties, and the western portion of Effingham County. These counties—at the present time—do not have any component chapters within ILSSAR. While it is desirable to have the exposure of these areas, manpower, distance and possibly finances are important considerations. The chapter cannot be committed to activities which might be difficult to maintain. This is an issue that shall be addressed by our Board of Managers.

Were we to extend our activities into some or all the above-mentioned areas, it would require the involvement of more members. Unfortunately, the participation in chapter activities is too often limited to less than half of the membership. It is understandable that many members are still working and are unable to participate in daytime activities, but it is hoped that more compatriots would be able to attend the several evening functions, namely, Ladies and Members Night and the Annual Dinner, and perhaps the Flag Day Ceremony, which will be held on Sunday, June 14.

Recently we added two more flags to our historic flag collection; it now has 16 flags. The two additions are the flag used by Genl. George Rogers Clark at Vincennes and the First Navy Ensign. This collection comprises a program for which I am most enthusiastic. It is a mini-history lesson. The presentation is about 35 minutes in length. It has been presented at several schools and organizations and has been very well received. The history books currently used in our schools tend to distort the good accomplishments of the United States and emphasize the negatives in our history. I believe that this presentation is a very productive effort and further identifies the Sons of the American Revolution with the community.

Again I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president, and I welcome your advice—and criticisms—so we may further continue the good work of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution: God Bless the United States of America.

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