



THE LONG KNIFE

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

"Serving Madison County"

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December 2014.



Chapter Participates in Wreaths Across America

A December activity for GGRCC is Wreaths Across America. This year the chapter will place the tributes to veterans at cemetery graves on Dec. 13. Member Charles Dobias coordinated the 2013 event, which was enhanced by a three-inch snow. Placing the wreaths were (from left) Past President Ronnie D. Hicks, President Jim DeGroff, Robert Ridenour, Eric V. Reelitz and Thomas E. Beavers.

Chapter Tours Historic Cahokia Holy Family Church

We enjoyed our fall trip in October to the historic Holy Family Church in Cahokia, with 24 members and wives attending. Before presentations at the log church, Bill Wilson gave a talk on Pvt. Ogle and his experiences in the Revolutionary War. An archaeologist gave a program on early Cahokia, founded by French priests in 1699. Artifacts from a dig near the church were on display.

The church was built in 1799 and is believed to be the oldest place of worship west of the eastern states. The activity was organized by Chuck Dobias.--Jim DeGroff

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Luncheon meetings third Wednesday monthly Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (Rt.140)

Residents Cited in 19th Flag Award Ceremony

Residents of 12 Northern Madison County township homes were recipients of the 2014 Flag Display Awards from GGRCC for displaying the national banner daily.

They received the award certificates at the 19th annual ceremony for displayers at the Madison County Courthouse Nov. 20.

The activity alternates between northern townships in even-numbered years and the southern townships in odd-numbered years.

GGRCC Chairperson for the event David M. File presided and GGRCC President Jim DeGroff conferred the award certificates. Assisting in the program were chapter members Robert Kilzer and William R. Feeney.

Compatriot Feeney, who originated the ceremony and conducted it for 17 years, said "It's one of the ways GGRCC

promotes patriotism and demonstrates an appreciation for individuals who properly display and faithfully fly the American Flag."

Several Madison County Circuit judges were observers for the program.

The 2014 Flag Display Award recipients by township were:

John and Sandra Carpenter, Godfrey

Jeanette Belfield, Foster

Michael and Terri Best, Olive

Jim and Donna Schwartzkopf, Moro

Alan Conroy, Omphgent

Michael and Barbara Whitworth, New Douglas

Robert and Conita Kiser, Alton

Maurice and Susan Sheff, Wood River

Richard and Gale Mendez, Fort Russell

Willard Pfeiffer, Hamel

Rick and Patty Allen, Alhambra

Ron and Gale Bolen, Leaf

Historic Flag Program

Several years ago GGRCC with the help of Bernie Caldwell and his "few good Marines" developed a program to fit this information into the chapter's display of historic flags, now totaling 20.

The program has been conducted at many locations, often with the assistance of Boy Scouts. It includes not only a display of the flags, but also of the procedure for properly folding a flag.

If you have been in the armed services of our country or have lost a member of your family in military service, you should be aware of the significance of the steps in folding the flag.

For further information or to schedule GGRCC's Flag Display program, call President Jim DeGroff at 667-8660.

President's Letter--By Jim DeGroff

Revolutionary War flags from GGRCC's collection lined both sides of the driveway and blew in the breeze at the Nix/Judy Pioneer Cemetery in Glen Carbon for dedication of an impressive marker commemorating six Revolutionary patriots who died in Madison County. They previously received SAR individual markers placed by GGRCC.

The new marker, installed in a ceremony Sept. 21, is a two-sided aluminum plaque. It contains a short biography of the six patriots and recognizes their part in establishing our country's freedom. The marker was set in concrete among ornamental rocks and stones.

Illinois State SAR President Tom Ashby and State Chaplain Dave Ashbrook assisted GGRCC President Jim DeGroff in the dedication ceremony.

GGRCC members or guests read tributes to the six patriots: Bob Evans for Richard Randle, Robert Ridenour for William Biggs, Bill Wilson for John Nix, Tom Beavers for Isham Randle, Harry Nelson for Henry Thornhill and Jerry Oglesby for Josias Wright.

GGRCC members formed the color guard. Don Bradford sang "God Bless America."

The marker cost \$2,030. The chapter received \$1,000 from the National Society SAR and \$500 from the State SAR. Chapter funds used totaled \$550. The good news is that Tom Beavers and John Roach amassed \$700 donations from business and organizations:

Rotary of Edwardsville, Steve Ellsworth State Farm Insurance, Cassens Auto Sales and Boilermakers Union Local 482.

Village of Glen Carbon officials were thanked for clearing the site of the marker

Thanks to all our chapter members, GGRCC has 126 members as of this date in 2014. It is because many of our great members have submitted their sons, grandsons, brothers and cousins for inclusion in our community-involved chapter. As of this report we have submitted 14 new applications and are working on more than 10 new applications. We look forward to many more active members. And don't forget that all members are talented at something and just need a little of their personal time to be involved with the chapter. We always need help. Some members rarely come to meetings but do a superb job at some of our high profile award programs and presentations. So you see you don't have to come to meetings to be a vital part of the chapter. Thanks to all who volunteer

Eagle Scout awards continue to be a very visible and rewarding outreach for our chapter. The chapter presents a certificate and an impressive patch that can be worn on the scout's uniform. My personal thanks to Ronnie Hicks, Chuck Dobias and Chairperson Bill Johnson for support of the Eagle Scout program.

Our Members and Ladies Night Oct. 7 at Julia's Banquet Center, East Alton was well attended. Brad Winn, administrator at the Lewis and Clark Museum, Hartford, gave a dynamic talk on the early period of preparation in Illinois before the expedition began its exploration to the Pacific at the Oregon coast. Claims that the expedition began in Missouri are incorrect. It was not yet part of the United States, he emphasized.

I marched in the Glen Carbon Veterans Memorial Parade on Sunday morning before Veterans Day and then in the Highland Parade in the afternoon. Five GGRCC members were in the Veterans Day parade in Edwardsville: Rob Ridenour, Harry Nelson, Chuck Dobias, Bob Kilzer and myself.

Lewis & Clark Camp DuBois Was in Madison County

(Several GGRCC members have been active in the Lewis and Clark Historic Site activities or have visited the location. The following information is adapted from Wikipedia encyclopedia.)

Camp DuBois (English Camp Wood), near present-day Hartford, IL served as the winter camp for the Lewis and Clark expedition from Dec. 12, 1803, to May 14, 1804.

Founded at the confluence of the Riviere du Bois with the Mississippi, it was located on the east side of the Mississippi so that it still was at that time in United States Territory. Spain and France still governed the land west of the great river. This was important because the transfer of the Louisiana Territory from Spain to France did not occur until March 9, 1804, and then from France to the United States on March 10, 1804.

Lewis and Clark, at Cahokia on their way to the expedition, met a well-known French citizen, Nicholas Jarrot, who owned 400 acres along Riviere du Bois and he agreed to let them camp there.

William Clark arrived at the site of Camp DuBois with a group of men he had recruited from Fort Massac and Kaskakia as the explorers progressed along the Ohio and lower Mississippi at the beginning of their expedition.

Capt. Meriwether Lewis joined the camp several week later after a time in St. Louis and other locations to gather supplies and information about their proposed route west. Lewis used the time to smooth relations with Spanish authorities in St. Louis.

Camp DuBois was a fully operating military camp. Cabins were built to house the personnel. They were required to participate in training, police the camp, maintain personnel cleanliness and perform other duties spelled out for the U.S military establishment. A neighboring woman settler, Mrs. Cane, was hired to do washing and sewing for the men in exchange for a cabin of her own. The personnel had inspections, stood guard duty and hunted to supplement their military rations. Sgt. John Ordway was in charge of the camp during periods when Lewis and Clark were away.

The state's Lewis and Clark Historic Site, with an extensive museum and twin towers, now is located across the Mississippi from the mouth of the Missouri River. It is somewhat removed from the original site of Camp DuBois because of alterations in the course of the rivers.

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