



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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March 2014

"George Rogers Clark" Speaks At GGRCC Annual Meeting

President Jim DeGroff called the 28th Annual Meeting Feb. 13 a great success. Particularly pleasing was the portrayal of the chapter's namesake, George Rogers Clark, by Seth Graves: "I think everyone who heard him left with an appreciation of the far-reaching effects of General Clark's actions and sacrifices.

Seth Graves, a Southern Illinois history teacher and historical reenactor, was costumed in boots and rough frontier garb as Clark was when he led Kentucky volunteers in the conquest of Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes

The frigid evening outside the country club was somewhat like the conditions through which he led his force through icy prairies to take Vincennes and end British rule in the western part of the new United States.

DeGroff noted that the chapter also was fortunate to have State President Bruce Talbot attending, expressing "many kind words about the George Rogers Clark Chapter."

"Thanks to each of you," DeGroff told the gathering of chapter members, spouses and guests, "the GGRCC enjoys a very positive reputation among state chapters."

A certificate from the national organization of Wreaths Across America was presented to the chapter by member Chuck Dobias, who led in placement of wreaths at veterans' graves at two Madison County cemeteries in December.



GGRCC President Jim DeGroff welcomes Annual Meeting George Rogers Clark impersonator Seth Graves, a world and U.S. history teacher at Golconda, IL. Graves was the Illinois SAR History Teacher of the Year in 2012. He participates in numerous living history events. "I have always felt that preserving and teaching history is imperative to our society," he said.

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Luncheon meetings held the third Wednesday monthly at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (IL Rt. 143)

Editor's note: Photographs in this issue were provided by Lola DeGross. A portion of Jim DeGross's President's Letter was adapted for the Page 1 Annual Meeting story. The remainder follows:

President's Letter by Jim DeGross

The year 2014 promises to be another good year for the GGRCC. We have already been notified of several upcoming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor Ceremonies. In April, Bob Stegemier will invite the Outstanding Citizens from seniors from 23 high schools in our area to a ceremony at the First Christian Church in Edwardsville. I hope many of you can attend. This is an inspiring event and a way to observe tomorrow's leaders today. These young men and women amaze me with their commitment to learning and service to the community.

We hope to mark the gravesites of

Active Former President Timothy S. Raymer Dies

Timothy Stephen Raymer, 73, died Jan. 7 at St. John Hospital, Springfield, the third former President of GGRCC to die within the last year. Burial was in Wanda Cemetery.

Tim Raymer became a member of GGRCC in 2003 and was president 2007-2008. Virtually from his earliest time in the chapter he was a leader in various activities, particularly augmenting the annual Flag Day Ceremony which he continued to lead until he experienced health problems.

He was author of a pamphlet on soldiers who prepared for a cross continent exploration at winter headquarters in Wood River, recruited for the Lewis and Clark expedition. He was a member of the Lewis and Clark Historical Society and a volunteer at the Lewis and Clark Memorial in Hartford.

Born at Alton Aug. 4, 1940, he married Carolyn S. Waterman 27 August 1962. She died in 2007. He is survived by sons Kevin of Wilsonville, Jason of Hartford and three grandchildren.

Tim was a manager in the corrugating department of Owens-IL Glass for 25 years and later worked for Fairfax Mobile Home Supply. He resided for many years in Hartford and later moved to Macoupin County. Former GGRCC Presidents Donald E. Campbell and Charles B. Schweizer died in 2013.

three or four Revolutionary War patriots, take a historical field trip, conduct a flag award program that honors citizens who fly the Stars and Stripes daily and correctly, support our Little League team, and will end the calendar year again by decorating veterans' graves in Wreaths Across America. Who knows what opportunities will arise?

Interest in joining our chapter continues to be strong thanks to the positive visibility in the community. Thanks to all of you who serve.



Good Citizenship Award Honors Returner of Misplaced Purse

A Good Citizenship Award was presented at the GGRCC Annual Meeting to a Glen Carbon woman who returned a purse containing almost \$1,900 inadvertently left in a shopping cart.

Sharilyn Lylera, at right, received the award after praise from Lloyd E. Scharz (left) of GGRCC, who recommended her for the citation. Mrs. Lylera was cited along with her sister, Dianna Bates (center) who actually was the first to see the purse in the cart outside a Target Store on Dec. 15.

The purse's owner, Nancy Vetter of Glen Carbon, is director of social services for Oliver Anderson Hospital. She said it contained personal papers, \$1,400 in cash from the hospital staff for Christmas gifts and \$500 in gift cards.

Nancy Vetter and her husband had been shopping at Target stores in Glen Carbon and Shiloh and first realized the purse was missing when they drove on to the Wal-Mart store in Glen Carbon.

It was dark when they got to their home and saw a car parked in the driveway. It was Sharilyn Lylera, who said, "Mrs. Vetter, I have your purse" and apologized for opening the purse to learn the owner's identity.



Highland Eagle Scout Ben Leman received his GGRCC scroll and badge from President Jim DeGroff in a February ceremony. His Eagle project was installation of a new bench, flagpole and memorial blocks at the Veterans Tree Forest near Silver Lake. In December, President DeGroff presented the Eagle Scout ranking awards to Sean Mulligan, Troop 1031, in a ceremony at the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

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