



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 2008

Patriot Recognition for Revolutionary Soldier at Namesake Cemetery

A South Carolina Revolutionary War soldier, John Nix, who moved to Madison County, was honored in the annual Patriot Recognition Ceremony of GGRCC Oct. 11 at the Nix-Judy Pioneer Cemetery, named for the patriot's family. It was the sixth GGRCC Patriot event at the old cemetery, which borders Ill. Rt. 157, just north of Interstate 270.

John Nix was born in 1756 in the Camden District, South Carolina. Early in the Revolution, he provided forage, corn and other provisions to General Sumter's command. In the 1780s Nix enlisted in foot and cavalry South Carolina units, and participated in the battles of Orangebury and Eutaw Springs in 1781.

He married in South Carolina in 1782, and with wife Winifred had seven sons and three daughters. The family relocated to the Goshen area, now known as Glen Carbon, about 1812.

John Nix died Aug. 2, 1822, according to research by Marilyn Campbell of the Drusilla Andrews Chapter, DAR. At the Oct. 11 ceremony, she read a sketch of John Nix's life while her husband, Compatriot Donald E. Campbell, served with Ronnie Hicks as the event's color guard and placed the GGRCC wreath on Nix's stone.

Four Madison County residents who are descendants of John Nix were located, and participated in the ceremony. They were Earl Stifel of Bethalto, Mary Tanner of Godfrey and Joan and Phil Achenbach of Glen Carbon. Assisting were members of the American Legion,

Veterans of Foreign Wars and Boy Scout Troop 1031

Also assisting at the ceremony was Compatriot Lloyd E. Schwarz who gave the invocation. Patriotic expressions were led by Compatriots Gaylord J. James and Alan Y. Harrison and Elizabeth Edwards, regent of Drusilla Andrews Chapter DAR. Musicians Marsha and Shawn Ezhorn played "Taps." The program was coordinated by Timothy S. Raymer, GGRCC president. The chapter's array of 15 historic flags was displayed.

Greenfield Hills Fort Ceremony

The first anniversary of the celebration of Hills Fort in Greenville, Illinois took place Aug. 8. The Territorial Rangers and the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presentation of the chapter's 15 Historic Flag Collection marked the opening followed by cannon firing. The Territorial Rangers, an 1812 reenactment group, performed drilling and marching throughout the two-day event as did the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization. The two-day event had presentations by Gary F. Vondrasek (tools, craftsmanship and mechanical ingenuity); Bill Nunes, author of 14 books about Illinois and Missouri; and Indian re-enactor and story teller Blanche Drake. Musical entertainment was by the Gateway Dulcimer Club with a jam session by the Hannebargers. The telling of the Battle at Hills Fort was by Kevin Kaegy.

Ronnie D. Hicks and Timothy S. Raymer represented GGRCC in a presentation with assistance of the Territorial Rangers Group and other reenactors.

The Hills Fort Society, formed in 1999, sponsored the event, located at the American Farm Heritage Museum, east off of Route 127 just south of I-70.—**Timothy S. Raymer**

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 each month at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (IL Rt. 143)

SAR Honors 12 Northern Madison Households for Flying Flag Daily

The residents of 12 northern Madison County households received certificates of commendation Nov. 12 for the displaying the U. S. Flag every day at their homes.

It was the 13th annual Flag Award Ceremony, conducted by the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, in the lobby next to the James Madison statue at the Madison County Courthouse, Edwardsville.

“One of several ways we promote patriotism is to demonstrate our appreciation of residents who properly display and faithfully fly our American Flag,” said William R. Feeney of Edwardsville, chairperson for the event. He is a retired professor of political science at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and a former president of the chapter.

GGRCC alternates recognizing households or businesses in northern or southern Madison County every other year. The 2008 honorees by township are:

Mark Armstrong and Christine Monroe, Wood River; Jim H. and Shirley Augustine, Olive; Laverne Bloemker, Hamel; Tim and Nina Carnahan, Foster; Gary and Alice Grubb, Fort Russell; Stephen and Joyce Grummel, Godfrey; Dennis and Mary Harris, New Douglas; Edmund and Patricia Morrissey, Alton; Jack and Cathy Reeves, Alhambra; Alan and Karen Riedisser, Moro; Christ and Emily Schwarz, Leef; and William White, Omphgent.

Several Madison County officials and judges attended the ceremony..

GGRCC members present were color guard members Donald E. Campbell, Ronnie D. Hicks, Gaylord J. James and Timothy S. Raymer. Lloyd E. Schwartz gave the invocation. Witnessing the program was Henry J. Boss, Troy M. Huddle, James A. DeGroff and Harry K. Windland.

Veteran’s Day Parade

Three compatriots in uniform participated Nov 11 in the Veterans Day parade in Edwardsville. Riding in a car driven by Chapter President Timothy S. Raymer were Gaylord J. James and Donald E. Campbell.

Two other GGRCC members were in the parade with different units—Ronnie D. Hicks and William R. Feeney.

During the parade, a SAR sign on the side of the car disappeared. It will be replaced, Raymer said.

GGRCC Birthdays

Andrew R. Johnson, Jan. 14
 H. Donald Laughlin, Jan. 16
 Donald L. Hastings Sr., Jan. 31
 Kenneth W. Leroy Sr., Feb. 4
 William C. Brown, Feb. 6
 Ronald F. Luebben, Feb. 13
 G. Thomas Lawrence, Feb. 20
 Ronnie D. Hicks, Feb. 26
 William C. Hayes Jr., March 6
 Jack W. Calve, March 18
 Thomas W. Blixen, March 28

President's Letter by Timothy S. Raymer

Time is close at hand when the chapter will elect new officers. Watch the mail for an invitation to the annual meeting on 11 February 2009. It is hard to believe that almost two years have passed since the last election.

During the past two years, we have seen our membership grow and some activities added to our already busy schedule. One particularly is our 15 Historic Flag Presentation. Many people have enjoyed seeing all of our flags flying in the Flag Day presentation in different communities in Madison County, but the Historic Flag Collection is equally as impressive presented by itself. It is presented by request of schools, at community affairs, and at other events. Another request that we have had is for our color guard. We now have 10 members who have uniforms and are active in the chapter color guard. Several DAR activity leaders have requested our color guard to be at their events as well as appearing in our own programs.

Our monthly meetings have been well attended for the most part, but could have, and should be, better because this is how the chapter finds out what is going on around the county and what we can do to get "better involved to make better contact with residents in and around our communities." When we do get into these activities, many of the people, and particularly the children, want pictures taken. Nothing is better than to have a child's eyes light up when they see you, then ask you "Did you know George Washington?"

Flag Disposal at the home of George and Elizabeth Edwards, a DAR function with cooperation with the GGRCC, took place Nov 9 on a cold and blustery day. A shortened version of the DAR Flag Disposal Ceremony was held. In attendance were Boy Scouts from Troop 1030, the Edwardsville Chapter of DAR, and GGRCC members. A flag's cannon area was cut away, then each stripe was cut away. As the cuts were made a DAR member read the procedure on how and why they were to be done. When finished, each piece was put into the fire, one at a time. Remaining flags were unfolded and laid on the fire.

The reason why this was done in November was because when it was originally scheduled in September about two inches of rain fell.

To end this term as chapter president, I have been pleased to serve as the president of Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter. After Feb. 11, a new president will be in office. If you cooperate as well with him, as you have with me, he, too, will enjoy being in office. He, and the other new officers will have my support and I will help when and wherever I can. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Even if you are unable to attend monthly chapter meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, at the Edwardsville Moose Lodge, Highway 143, at 11:30 a.m., you can still help to support an activity by making calls, helping with the programs, or many smaller tasks that greatly help an event chairperson. Help is needed just to advise the chapter of events in your community appropriate for the GGRCC participation.



A team from GGRCC set up an information table at the Flags Over the Mississippi event Oct. 11-12 at Lewis and Clark Museum in Hartford. Fifteen historical and 17 state flags were displayed. Assisting in the activity were, from left, Ronnie D. Hicks, Chapter President Timothy S. Raymer, Henry J. Boss, and Gaylord J. James. (Photo inserted by courtesy of Lola DeGross).

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