



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 2013



Among Madison County residents recognized by GGRCC for flying the Star Spangled Banner daily at their homes were Bill and Kay Butler of Saline Township. Presenting the award scroll was GGRCC President Jim DeGross. Event chairperson was David M. File (left).

Residents Cited in 18th Annual GGRCC Flag Display Ceremony

Residents of 11 Southern Madison County homes were recipients of the 2013 Flag Award from GGRCC for displaying the national banner daily at their homes.

They received the award scrolls at the chapter's 18th annual Flag Award Ceremony at the Madison County Courthouse Nov. 7.

"The ceremony alternates between the northern townships in even numbered years and the southern townships in odd-numbered years. One of the ways GGRCC promotes patriotism is to demonstrate an appreciation for individuals who properly display and faithfully fly the American Flag," said the chairperson for the 2013 event, David M. File.

He was assisted by William R. Feeney, who did most of the identification and conferring of the Flag Display Awards in the 17 previous years. Compatriot Feeney served as a color guardsman for the 18th ceremony. (Continued on Page 4)

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. *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)

President's Letter--By Jim DeGroff

GGRCC has been busy during the last quarter and I personally appreciate all the work the chairmen and others have expended to make these events successful.

Many of you went on our "field trip" to Evergerd's Fort in Germantown. Thanks to Bill Wilson for making the arrangements. A fun time was had by all who attended. Who knew Tom Beavers could play the drum fiddle?

New chairperson David File jumped in with both feet in replacing long-time chairperson Bill Feeney on the Flag Awards committee. Thanks David for taking on this job (see picture and story, page 1) and thanks also to Bill Feeney for the excellent job he did in the past. As a side note, from that event alone the chapter got three prospective members.

We planned to participate in the Edwardsville Veterans Day Parade Nov. 11. The rain, strong winds and cold temperature caused this president to cancel our participation.

On Nov. 20, Lloyd Schwarz, Ronnie Hicks and I presented hero awards to seven first responders who saved a driver whose car had turned over in a ditch (see story, page 4).

We are working hard to appoint vice chairpersons for all of our programs in case the primary member cannot fulfill his duties. It is a good way to gain experience in our various programs. We are still looking for vice chairpersons for the Knight Essay Award, Rumbaugh Oral Award, ROTC, Flag Awards, Schweizer History Teacher Award, and publicity. Please see if you have some time to help us continue our great support of these awards.

Our chapter is growing! Three new member applications were approved recently, bringing our membership to 112 despite losses from deaths and other causes. There are many reasons that people join organizations such as ours. For many its is a way of honoring a patriot ancestor. But I believe others are looking for an organization that embodies the patriotic, historical and educational ideals they hold dear.

We have sent letters to all the high schools in our service area seeking entries for the Schweizer History Teacher Award and the Knight Essay Award. The Illinois Teachers Association will publicize the programs electronically to their member schools.

Eagle Scout Awards continue to be a very visible and rewarding outreach for our chapter. The chapter presents a certificate and an impressive patch which can be worn on the scout's uniform. Thanks to Tom Lawrence and Bill Johnson for support of the Eagle Scout program.

On Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. I hope you will join us at either the Nix-Judy Pioneer Cemetery or the Oaklawn Cemetery as the chapter participates in honoring veterans through the Wreaths Across America program. Chuck Dobias has worked hard to coordinate this event.

Attendance at our monthly meetings remains strong thanks to the camaraderie (and good food) enjoyed. If you haven't attended a meeting for awhile, we hope you will join us on the third Wednesday each month at the Moose, Edwardsville.

A Family of Patriots: The Siblings of George Rogers Clark

Our chapter takes its name from a notable hero of the Revolution, George Rogers Clark. His achievements in leading the conquests of Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes are well known as well as his leadership in the defense and settlement of Kentucky and other parts of the region.

It is interesting to note that George Rogers Clark was a member of a family of patriots, who participated in distinguished fashion in the Revolutionary struggle, winning honors while suffering dire consequences.

George Rogers Clark was the second of 10 children born to John Clark (1725-1799) and wife Anne Rogers (1728-1798). They raised the family on land close to the frontier near Charlottesville and in Caroline County, Virginia. In 1784 they moved to a home called Mulberry Hill, near Louisville, which George Rogers Clark prepared for them.

Of their 10 children, five sons (including George Rogers Clark) were Revolutionary War officers (the sixth son, William, born in 1770, of course was too young to participate in the conflict, but served the nation as a soldier as well as a co-leader in the 1803-1806 Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific). The four daughters all married men who served in the Revolutionary conflict and had large roles in the settlement of the Midwest.

The eldest son was Jonathan (1750-1811). As a young man, he served in several Virginia county offices and reached the rank of lieutenant colonel in campaigns in the southern states, where he suffered disabling illness. He was a prisoner of the British in Charleston in 1780-81. In 1793 he was commissioned as a major general in the Virginia militia. He moved to Trough Spring near Louisville in 1802, where he prospered in real estate dealing.

The third son was John Clark (1757-1783). He served as a lieutenant in 1777 in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. Captured in the latter battle, he contracted consumption due to harsh conditions of imprisonment in Philadelphia and on a loathsome prison ship off Long Island. He died at age 27 at his father's house.

Richard Clark (1860-1783) commissioned as a lieutenant at age 19, served under his brother George Rogers Clark in Illinois country campaigns in 1781, and later at Fort Jefferson near the Ohio-Mississippi juncture and at Louisville. Alone on a horseback journey in Indiana in March 1784, he disappeared and is believed to have drowned in the White River.

Edmund Clark (1762-1815), served in southern campaigns as a lieutenant at age 18 and was a prisoner until exchanged in 1782. He emigrated to Jefferson County, KY ca. 1799.

As noted above, the youngest son was William Clark (1770-1838), appointed by President Jefferson as co-leader of the first American exploration of the west. He also served as appointed governor of Missouri territory and for many years was Indian agent based in St. Louis.

Anna (1755-1822) was the first born of four daughters in the family. She married Owen Gwathmey, a Revolutionary War veteran and businessman. They moved to the Louisville vicinity in the 1780s.

Lucy (1765-1838), married William Croughan, an Irish immigrant who reached the rank of major in the American forces and was captured in the siege of Charleston. They married in 1789 at Mulberry Hill, KY where Lucy had moved with her parents. Their home at Locust Grove, now a restored historic site, was also the last place of residence of George Rogers Clark.

Elizabeth (1768-1795) married in 1787 at Mulberry Hill Richard Clough Anderson, served in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth gaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was taken prisoner in the battle of Charleston. He was a surveyor and representative of Jefferson County in Kentucky.

Frances Eleanor (1773-1825). She married three times: (1) 1791 at St. Louis to Dr. James O'Fallon, a company commander and surgeon in the American Revolutionary forces; (2) in 1796 to Charles Thruston and (3) in 1805 to her cousin Dennis Fitzhugh,

Residents Cited in 18th Annual GGRCC Flag Award Ceremony

(Continued from Page 1) Chapter President Jim DeGroff gave the scrolls to those honored. Chapter Chaplain Lloyd E. Schwarz gave the invocation. Several Madison County circuit judges were guest observers. The 2013 Flag Award recipients by township were:

Bill and Kay Butler, Saline; Ken and JoAnn Dalton, Collinsville; Richard and Pam Evans, Nameoki; Curtis and Penny Kinnick, St. Jacob; Richard and Heather Mantz, Jarvis; Johnnie and Lori Maples, Edwardsville; Jack and Connie Monson, Chouteau; Louis and Karen Simpson, Pin Oak; David Tanner, Marine; Lawrence Watson, Granite City; and Mike, Megan and Mitchel Widman, Helvetia.

Multiple Heroes Recognized for Saving Drowning Crash Victim

Five Madison County firemen and two sheriff's deputies received hero citations Nov. 20 from GGRCC for saving a 62-year-old crash victim who nearly drowned when his car overturned in a flooded ditch along Country Club Drive near Bluff Road.

Paul Wanda of Glen Carbon, a Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville professor, said later that he must have fallen asleep when his Volkswagen was going down a hill.

The first responder was Steven Slemer, an off-duty Glen Carbon fire fighter, who was driving nearby and noticed several people looking at the overturned, partially submerged vehicle. Slemer broke a window and helped Wanda keep his head above the water. Deputies Timothy Lawrence and Dennis Laboray and Mitchell firemen George Miller, Albert Forrester, Tony Copper and Ryan Staicoff arrived and helped lift the car from the water.

Slemer cut Wanda's seat belt and the others managed to remove a door and move Wanda to safety.

The hero citations were conferred at a meeting of the Madison County Board of Supervisors by GGRCC President Jim DeGroff, past President Ronnie D. Hicks and Chaplain Lloyd E. Schwarz.

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