



## 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 2015



**State SAR President Thomas Ashby (right) swears in GGRCC officers (from left) Jim DeGroff, registrar; Charles Dobias, vice president; Thomas Beavers, treasurer; Marvin Meng, president; and Lloyd E. Schwartz, chaplain.**

## GGRCC Installs New Officers at Annual Meeting

Officers were installed for two-year terms at the 29th annual meeting Feb. 28 of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. and the program included a talk by an expert on the chapter's namesake.

Marvin Meng moves up from vice president to president. Marvin, a retired Department of Defense management analyst, resides in O'Fallon., where he was president of the Dunlap Lake Property Owners Assn. He has been a member of GGRCC since 2008.

Other officers installed were Charles Dobias, vice president; Thomas Beavers, treasurer; Roy Wehling, secretary; Lloyd Schwarz, chaplain; and Jim DeGroff, who retired from a term as president, as registrar .

The installing officer was state SAR President Thomas Ashby, who also praised the chapter for its numerous activities and membership recruiting.

The meeting was at First Christian Church, Edwardsville. Guest speaker was Frank Doughman, curator of the General George Rogers Clark Museum at Vincennes, IN.

Chapter members in uniform formed the color guard. Baritone Don Bradford sang "America the Beautiful," "God Bless the USA," and "God\Bless America."

Outgoing officers gave reports and numerous awards were announced (See pg. 2)

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

## Awards to Members, Guests at GGRCC Annual Meeting

Veterans Service Award: Ronnie Hicks  
Military Service Awards: Ed Windsor,  
Gail Bass, Steve Hyatt, John Coleman,  
Carl Mizell  
War Service Awards: Jimmie Shaul, Bill  
Wilson, Larry Smith, Robert Ridenour  
Bronze Good Citizenship Awards: Bill  
Wilson, Robert Ridenour  
Silver Good Citizenship Awards: Tom  
Beavers, Charles Dobias, David File,  
Bill Johnson, Marvin Meng, Eric Reelitz

Silver Oak Leaf Cluster: *Long Knife*,  
Charles E. Burgess, editor  
25-Year Pin and Certificate: M. Joseph  
Hill  
Distinguished Service Medal: Lloyd E.  
Schwartz  
Speaker at Annual Meeting: Frank  
Doughman  
Support for Chapter Website and  
Certificates: Lola DeGroff  
Singer at GGRCC Events: Don Bradford

## Illinois Society SAR Annual Meeting in Springfield

Members who wish to attend the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution Annual Congress and Board of Managers Meeting May 15-16 should make reservations by April 24.

The activity will be at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center, 701 East Adams St., Springfield, 62701.

If you intend to stay at the conference site, a block of rooms has been reserved but is limited. Cost is \$99 per night, parking not included. Meals are \$35 for the Friday evening dinner and \$30 for the Saturday Community/Youth Awards Luncheon. Arrangements for rooms and meals should be made by calling 866-788-1860.

Formal dinner attire or uniforms are required for the 6 p.m. dinner Friday, May 15. There will be a silent auction, cash bar, and awards program. Speaker will be John Biedler, portraying Commodore Stephen Decatur, who commanded U. S. naval forces in the early 1800s, including victories over the Barbary pirates in 1804.

The Ladies Auxiliary will have a separate continental breakfast Friday before its meeting.

For further information and payments for meals attendees should contact Toby Chamberlain, 230 Marblestone Dr., Chatham, IL 62629, phone 217-483-6267.

## **Outgoing President's Letter-Jim DeGroff**

I have been honored to serve as President of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter SAR for the past two years and hope all members give new President Marvin Meng the support you have given me.

Thanks to all our chapter members, the GGRCC has 136 members as of this date in 2015. It is because many of our great members have submitted their sons, grandsons, brothers and cousins and mentioned SAR to friends and have gotten them interested in what we do in the community.

As of this report we have submitted three new applications and are working on more than 30 more applications. We look forward to having many more active members.

And don't forget all members are talented at something and just a little of their personal time is all that is expected 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 part of our chapter. Thanks to all who volunteer.

Eagle Scout awards continue to be a very visible and rewarding outreach for our chapter. The recent Court of Honor presentations were one each in Hamel, Greenville and Glen Carbon. 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, Harry Nelson and award chairman Bill Johnson.

GGRCC placed a Cemetery marker on Sept. 21 at the site of the Judy/Nix Pioneer Cemetery in Glen Carbon, where the chapter had previously placed markers for six Revolutionary War patriots who died in Madison County. We will have the opportunity to install another marker this year in Vaughn Cemetery honoring three Revolutionary War patriots.

I look forward to marching in the Glen Carbon Veterans Memorial parade on the Sunday before Veterans Day and then marching in the Highland parade that afternoon. GGRCC had five color guard members in the Veterans Day parade in Edwardsville in 2014 and we look forward to doing it again in 2015.

We gave our historic flag presentation at a Daughters of the American Revolution activity in Greenville March 13.

GGRCC has a spring field trip coming up on our Flag Day program June 14 at the courthouse in Greenville.

Thanks to all of you who I have worked with during my short two years as your president. Your unwavering support has meant the world to me. Thank you one and all,

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## Article Detailed GGRCC Member's Revolutionary Vet Research

(Andy Yakstis, who died recently, wrote many stories about GGRCC activities for the *Alton Telegraph* before retiring. Following are excerpts from his story "Historian Fights for Revolutionaries" detailing information collected by GGRCC member Alan Y. Harrison about Revolutionary veterans who died in or near Madison, Jersey, Macoupin and other counties and are commemorated by markers placed by GGRCC.)

Alan Harrison is preserving memories of soldiers from the Revolutionary War.

"The rank and file soldiers were wounded and sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today," said Harrison, a Revolutionary War historian who lives in Foster Township.

Through years of research, Harrison has compiled names of Revolutionary War patriots who are buried [or otherwise commemorated] in the three counties.

Gaius Paddock, one of the courageous soldiers, served in the bitter winter with Gen George Washington at historic Valley Forge, Harrison said. After the war, Paddock came to Madison County where he is buried in Paddock Cemetery.

Harrison's amazing, accurate research resulted in six books about Revolutionary War patriots buried in Madison, Fayette and Montgomery counties.

"The soldiers buried in our area range from drummer boys to generals," Harrison said. "These soldiers fought under the most extreme conditions. They were fighting the superpower of the day. Most of them were farmers. They were responsible for their families and had to balance military service with planting and harvesting crops."

Isaac Gillham, a brave Revolutionary War fighter, settled in Madison County.

Gillham was wounded and served in the battles of Rocky Mount and Fishing Creek.

Brothers Isaac, James and Thomas Jr. were buried in family plots on their farms and brother John was buried in Wanda Cemetery in South Roxana.

The General George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has honored the Gillham brothers in a patriotic ceremony.

Harrison is a proud member of the George Rogers Clark Chapter and dedicates his historic books as a special project of the organization.

Harrison's books on burial sites of Revolutionary War soldiers are located at Hayner Public Library in Alton, Madison County Historical Museum in Edwardsville and Jersey County Museum. Harrison graduated from the former Shurtliff College in Alton in 1955 with a degree in business administration. He retired as purchasing manager of the former Jefferson Smurfit mill in Alton.

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