



THE LONG KNIFE

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

"Serving Madison County"

Volume XX, Number 2

Page 1

September 2010



Advancing the colors at the Patriot Recognition Ceremony June 5 at Glenwood Cemetery, Collinsville, are (from left): Event chairperson Timothy S. Raymer, James A. DeGroff Jr., and GGRCC Chapter President Gaylord J. (Jim) James. The chapter color guard participated in several other recognitions for Revolutionary patriots who died in the area. Story on Page 3.

No Rain on GGRCC Unit in Alton Memorial Day Parade!

After four years of being rained out of participation in the Alton Memorial Day Parade, on May 31 there was a perfect day and the chapter was represented. Alan Y Harrison loaded his pickup truck with Chapter President Gaylord J. (Jim) James and past president Timothy S. Raymer, in uniform. They unfurled flags, as chapter treasurer James A. DeGroff Jr. walked the whole parade route, also in uniform.

Alton has had a Memorial Day parade for 143 consecutive years. In recent years, GGRCC has participated except when stormy weather would damage its banners. The flags and uniforms this year drew expressions of respect from the crowds, with many veterans giving vigorous salutes.

—Alan Y. Harrison

The Long Knife is a quarterly publication of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution.
Charles E. Burgess, Editor
Col. Charles B. Schweizer, Associate Editor
Send announcements, items of interest and member news to:
Editor, *The Long Knife*
6264 Lanterman Drive
Bethalto IL 62010
Phone: (618) 377-6010
Email: cbur305325@aol.com
Luncheon meetings held the third Wednesday monthly at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (IL Rt. 143)

Flag Day Ceremony Goes To Macoupin County

The annual Flag Day Celebration of GGRCC was held June 14 at Schneider Park, Brighton. It was the first time that the ceremony took place in Macoupin County, in line with the chapter's expansion of services this year to counties north of Madison.

Timothy S. Raymer was coordinator. Several GGRCC members formed the color guard, and a special guest was Karl Reed of Springfield, former president of the Illinois State Society SAR.

Chapter members presented a program with 16 historic American flags. Troop 1031 Boy Scouts of Edwardsville took part in the color guard, the historic flag presentation, and an explanation of the 13 folds of the American Flag.

Assisting the program were Daughters of the American Revolution members Claudette and Judy Green. Hope Birch, a senior at Southwestern High School, sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful." Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Brighton Mayor Wayne Schafer, Police Chief William Norris and City Clerk Sharon Broyles.

Troop 1031 Scout Eagle Honor

A member of Boy Scout Troop 1031, Calen Cade Lacy, received GGRCC's Eagle Scout Certificate, congratulatory letter, and application for the National/State Eagle Scout Scholarship June 5 in Worden.

Calen is the son of Steve and Erin Lacy of Edwardsville, and has assisted with several past GGRCC activities. GGRCC Past President Timothy S. Raymer made the presentation June 26.

Little League Team Sponsored

GGRCC members donated \$150 for equipment and uniforms in the chapter's first sponsorship of a team this summer in the Edwardsville-Glen Carbon Little League Association, according to the chapter Vice President Ronnie D. Hicks, who proposed the GGRCC sponsorship. The team, Number 408, finished in first place in its division, and placed second in the final 4th grade tournament. Coach Steve Stuart expressed appreciation for the GGRCC support.

GGRCC Flag Demonstrations At Bond Homestead, Hills Fort

Several GGRCC members are participating in historic flag presentations and other activities during the summer at the Hills Fort-Farm Museum site near Greenville, Bond County. Chapter treasurer James A. DeGroff Jr. is coordinating GGRCC's programs.

The first was at a craft and scouting day at the Farm museum June 11-13. GGRCC assisted with history lessons on the War of 1812, and gave two historic flag presentations.

In the same area, Compatriot DeGroff plans to coordinate a flag display and commentary on the Genl. George Rogers Clark expedition for Latzer Homestead Days Sept. 10-12.

The GGRCC color guard will return to Hills Fort Oct. 9 for a flag presentation and demonstration of proper flag folding to assist scouts in earning merit badges.

Busy Summer for GGRCC Honoring Several Revolutionary Patriots

For more than two decades, an annual Patriot Recognition Ceremony has been held by GGRCC to honor a Revolutionary War veteran who lived in Madison County

A significant increase in the commemorations took place June 5 when markers were placed for five at the Glenwood Cemetery, Collinsville. Ceremony coordinator was Timothy S. Raymer. The old cemetery is just west of Illinois Rt. 159 across from the catsup bottle monument.

In two years of research to select honorees for the Patriot Recognition, it was found that the five shared many similarities is Revolutionary service and early settlement in the Collinsville area, Raymer said.

“We know that these veterans lived and died nearby from a 1917 compilation called ‘Illinois Revolutionary War Veteran Burials,’ although not all are actually buried in Glenwood,” Raymer said.

The ceremony included a color guard of Clark Chapter members, a musket salute by a historical reenactment group, the Illinois Territorial Rangers, and taps rendered by chapter and VFW bugler Mel Jones. Guest DAR members read biographies of the honorees.

The GGRCC markers commemorated:

Henry Revis, born Aug. 11, 1752, in Northampton County, NC. He served for a year in Surry County, NC militia. He moved to Kentucky about 1808 and to Collinsville Township, Madison County in 1811. He received his pension in 1832 and died near Collinsville Aug. 21, 1837.

Robert McMahon, born in Augusta County, VA, served 1780-1781 in the Virginia Line and was taken prisoner in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, NC. He later moved to Lexington, KY where he married Margaret Clark on June 29, 1785. In 1793 they moved to New Design in Monroe County, IL. He was taken captive along with a nine-year-old daughter when his wife and three other children were killed by Indians in 1795. He escaped barefoot in midwinter and returned to the New Design area, and the daughter was freed in 1796. McMahon remarried and raised a family in Ridge Prairie near Troy in Madison County, where he died March 15, 1827.

Elihu Mather, a resident of Windsor, CN, was a sergeant in a Connecticut regiment in 1781. In the 1790's, he came to Illinois where he served in 1809 in the St. Clair County militia and as adjutant to Lt. Col. William Whiteside in the War of 1812. He married Polly Beauvais Sept. 10, 1792, in Kaskaskia. They separated and he married second Mrs. Lettice Moffet on May 11, 1802. They moved to the Cahokia area and he died Nov. 20, 1831, in Collinsville.

Benjamin Johnson was born about 1758 in Orange County, VA, where he served in the Revolutionary infantry. He received a pension after moving to Madison County where he died at age 86 on Dec. 8 1844. He married Ann Thacker, who died at age 66. Their original stone in Glenwood Cemetery has disappeared.

John Long, born in 1732 at Granville, NC, died in Madison County Feb. 10, 1839. His Revolutionary service in 1781 included the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. With his wife, the former Frances Estes of Virginia, he lived in Logan County, KY until moving to Madison County in 1822. He became owner of large tracts of land in Collinsville Township and operated a hotel.

Chapter President Gaylord J. (Jim) James and several other GGRCC members participated in the commemoration of a sixth Revolutionary War Patriot, **William Gillham**, on May 22 at East Newbern Cemetery, Jersey County. The marking of his grave was a joint project of GGRCC and the Ninian Edwards Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

William Gillham, born in 1750, was one of four brothers, along with their father, who fought in South Carolina including the siege of Charleston and Battle of Waxhaw. William and brothers Thomas Jr., John, James and Isaac were early settlers of the Six Mile Prairie near Wanda in Madison County. In 1823 William moved to Lofton's Prairie in Jersey County. He died Oct. 27 1825.

The marker replaced one that apparently was stolen several years ago.

Officers of GGRCC formed a color guard June 1 in support of the Ninian Edwards Chapter, DAR, for the dedication of a plaque at Madison County Courthouse recognizing 37 county residents who served in the Revolution. It replaced a plaque placed in 1912 that recognized 23 Patriots.

GGRCC officers formed color guards to participate in Daughter of the American Revolution Patriot Recognition ceremonies June 19 at Pruitt Cemetery, Bethalto, and Vaughn Cemetery, Wood River.

On July 17 the GGRCC color guard participated in a Ninian Edwards DAR placement of a headstone in Grant Fork United Church of Christ Cemetery honoring Revolutionary War veteran **Robert Stuart Coulter**.

Hero Award for Man Who Saved Woman In Sinking Car

A Cottage Hills man who rescued a woman from a car sinking in the Mississippi received an SAR hero medal from GGRCC.

The commendation went to Anthony "Tony" Sparks, 26, at the monthly meeting of the Bethalto Village Board Aug. 2 at the Bethalto City Hall

The rescue took place about 9:40 p.m. June 27, when a car driven by Barbara Nowak, 65, of Grafton, careened into the river near Clifton Terrace Road after striking debris on the River Road and blowing a tire.

Sparks, with his girlfriend Amanda Moxey, had driven to the site to take pictures of flooded areas. He kicked off his shoes and sprinted into the water, where Nowack's vehicle was sinking about 50 feet from the shore.

A strong swimmer, Sparks was able to pull her out of a window of the nearly submerged car and support her in swimming back to shore. Other passersby assisted Nowack until

emergency crews arrived. She was distraught, but uninjured.

Sparks was praised for the heroic act July 6 by the Godfrey Village Board.

The SAR award was presented by James A. DeGroff Jr. and Gaylord J. (Jim) James, officers of the Clark Chapter.

GGRCC Birthdays

Donald E. Campbell, Sept. 12
William R. Feeny, Sept. 13
James A. DeGroff Jr., Sept. 15
Edwin C. Gerling, Sept. 15
Albert A. Oleson, Sept. 18
Stephen C. Mudge, Sept. 23
Harry K. Windland, Oct. 4
Lloyd E. Schwarz, Oct. 15
Alan Y. Harrison, Oct. 25
Robert B. Lahlein, Oct. 23
James J. Kessler Jr., Nov. 9
Matthew R. Wallace, Nov. 9
John B. Oleson, Dec. 7
Lynn D. Hargas, Dec. 13
John A. Fruit, Dec. 18
Vernon S. Fox, Dec. 20

The Long Knife, Quarterly Newsletter
Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter
of the Illinois Society,
Sons of the American Revolution
6264 Lanterman Dr., Bethalto, IL 62010

