



## THE LONG KNIFE

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

"Serving Madison County"

Volume XVII, Number 4

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March 2008

### Chapter Annual Meeting Was Fun at Alton Casino—You Bet!

GGRCC made its move for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Feb. 6 to the Argosy Casino on the Alton riverfront—not to the slots, but to the banquet room.

Special guests included ILSSAR President Carl Reed and wife Esther, DAR officials, and wives of chapter members.

The appointments of Alan Y. Harrison as registrar and Gaylord J. James as vice president were approved.

Entertainment was provided by the piano stylings and vocals of Marty Heiman of Fairview Heights. He led the assemblage in sing-along of old favorites at the program's conclusion.

After reports by President Timothy S. Raymer and other officers, former President Alan Y. Harrison announced winners of chapter awards.

They included two wives of members: Marilyn Campbell, Madison County Historical Society genealogist, for documenting Revolutionary patriots who lived in the county, and Camilla Laughlin, for preparing applications for chapter members.

For chapter activities, receiving oak leaf clusters, tie tacks or certificates of appreciation were color guard members Donald E. Campbell, William R. Feeney, M. Joseph Hill, Troy M. Huddle and Harry K. Windland. Feeney also was cited for Flag Award chairmanship, Windland for several chapter and state achievements, Campbell for chairing ROTC and Law Enforcement

awards, and Hill, coordinating chapter trips.

Other recipients were chapter officers Raymer, Edwin G. Gerling, Gaylord J. James, Kenneth W. Leroy Sr. and G. Thomas Lawrence, who chaired the 2007 Patriot marker event.

James J. Kessler Jr., Boy Scout committee; Alan Y. Harrison, Alton Memorial Day parade and Members and Their Ladies Night; James A. Cannon, telephone committee; and Charles E. Burgess, *Long Knife* editor and chapter publicity.

### Trivia from Registrar Records

Members since the chapter formed in 1986 have totaled 156; 106 have separated by death, withdrawal or relocation, leaving 50 current members.

Two members have links to nine patriots each—Alan Y. Harrison and Harry K. Windland.

Harry has the only female patriot, Tabitha Pearson, who supplied provisions for the South Carolina militia.

Leading recruiter is chapter founder Charles B. Schweizer, 75 members. Next are Windland, 33 members, and M. Joseph Hill, 12 members.

Record holding patriot on member applications has been Ebenezer Flagg, with 12. A descendant and member, Norman Gershom Flagg, had already been a SAR member since Jan. 18, 1907.

--Alan Y. Harrison

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

## GGRCC OFFICER REPORTS SUBMITTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2007

Gaylord J. James, Treasurer

Balance Jan. 1, 2007	\$2,796.57
Receipts	
Dinners	\$1,598.00
Dues	580.00
Contributions	175.00
Interest	
Dilliard Endowment Fund	34.94
Dilliard Trust Fund	62.53
Windland Endowment Fund	35.00
 Total Chapter Receipts	 \$2,485. 56
Disbursements	
Dinners	\$1,758.93
Awards	209.50
<i>Long Knife</i>	368.53
Madison County Hist. Soc.	50.00
Glen Carbon Vets Memorial	50.00
Administration	113.96
Programs	
Revolutionary War Patriot	430.00
Flag Award	115.33
Outstanding Citizens Award	125.40
ROTC Award	19.35
Law Enforcement Award	15.15
 Total Disbursements	 \$3, 256.15
 Balance Dec. 31, 2007	 \$2,025.98

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Edwin G. Gerling

Total Membership February 2007	49
New Members	
James C. Hicks	
Ronnie D. Hicks	
James W. Buckley	
Neil T. Schroeder	4
Deceased Members	
Roger Kesner	1
Members Withdrawn	0
<u>Members Transferred</u>	<u>0</u>

Total Membership Feb. 6, 2008    52

### GGRCC Website Is Being Designed

The chapter's first website is being developed with the gracious assistance of Lois DeGroff, wife of a recent applicant for membership, Jim DeGroff. Mrs. DeGroff is regent of the Silver Creek DAR Chapter and has designed numerous websites.

A committee of GGRCC officers and members has been appointed to furnish appropriate information for the website. Members are President Timothy S. Raymer, Vice President-Treasurer Gaylord J. James, Alan Y. Harrison, William R. Feeney, Donald E. Campbell and M. Joseph Hill.

The website is expected to inform the public about chapter activities and assist in recruiting new members.

## President's Letter

By Timothy S. Raymer

Greetings: Having finished 2007, my first year as President of the Gen. George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, there were many pluses and minuses that need to be addressed. On the plus side:

We added five new members.

We started a new public awareness program.

We have started to create a chapter web page.

We recovered from an unfortunate loss of our elected registrar and vice president.

We gained public support at our events.

We are gaining attendance at our monthly meetings.

The minus side is less in volume, yet more important because it somewhat reflects on our membership.

We need more involvement of members for committee chairmen or co-chairs.

We need to show more support for those who serve on the committees, by coming to events of the chapter. Remember, it is chapter monies that support these events.

In short terms, the chapter needs your support to survive and grow! Non-support of membership is a "downer" for all events and the chapter. If the public sees less support from membership, then what draws them? If you guess patriotism, you are probably correct. The American public loves patriotism and this is what we, as SAR, are all about. It doesn't matter if you have a uniform or not. Many times, a SAR speaker will ask SAR members to stand or raise you hand just to show the public how many are in attendance. Don't misunderstand what I mean, we have much support at our

events, but we could use more, a lot more! We need involvement, we need volunteers, this year, 2008. We would like all of our committees to be made up of two or more committee members, one being a chairman.

The Gen. George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is an active and proactive group. To remain so, the chapter needs your help. Many of our members donated extra funds when sending in their dues. The chapter thanks you for your support, but money is not at all what we are about; we still promote

### **Patriotism**

#### **Support our national symbols**

#### **Good citizenship**

#### **And many other ideals**

If you would like to know more about any of the committees, or how to volunteer, or even help with ideas, please call me at 254-5429 or come to a monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. We meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Moore Lodge, on Rt. 143 in Edwardsville.

#### GGRCC Birthdays

James W. Buckley, April 4  
 James A. Collmann, April 7  
 George R. Edwards, April 14  
 Frederick C. Gillham, April 19  
 Gaylord J. James Jr., April 22  
 Robert J. Stegemeier, May 4  
 Henry J. Boss, May 6  
 Earl G. Gruber, May 7  
 David R. Oliver Sr., May 7  
 James C. Hicks, May 9  
 James A. Cannon, May 13  
 Charles B. Schweizer, May 18  
 Stanley A. Jacobs, May 31  
 Neil T. Schroeder, June 4  
 Larry L. Brown, June 21  
 Charles E. Burgess, June 23

## The American Creed

William Tyler Page, as an entry into a patriotic contest, wrote the American Creed. The U.S. House of Representatives adapted it in 1918.

William Tyler Page was born in 1868 and died in 1942. He descended from a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Carter Brazton, and from the 10th President of the United States, John Tyler. Page served as a page at the U.S. Capitol at the age of 13, thus beginning a 61-year-long career as a national servant.

At the age of 49, he wrote the "American Creed." His goal was to bring to public awareness a complete statement of patriotic faith. Drawing from wide variety of historical documents such as the Preamble of the American Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Declaration of Independence, and other national writings, he crafted a simple, yet profoundly moving expression of American patriotism.

His submission was chosen from more than 3,000 entries. The creed often comprises part of the naturalization ceremony for new Americans.

Concerning the Creed, in Page's own words:

"The American Creed is a summing up, in one hundred words, of the basic principles of American political faith. It is not an expression of individual opinions upon the obligations and duties of American citizenship or with respect to its rights and privileges. It is a summary of the fundamental principles of American political faith as set forth in its greatest documents, its worthiest traditions, and by its greatest leaders."

For many years, Page had served as the president-general of the United States Flag Association. The night before his death, he gave an address to the Daughters of the American Revolution on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The last picture taken of him shows him with his hand over his heart, gazing at the symbol of the country he loved.

This single entry in a nationwide contest brought forth many changes in American attitudes, producing increased pride in the United States. Even at the age of 90, these simple, few words, are as powerful as any large, well-armed Army could be.

*Contributed by Timothy S. Raymer: Source, Wikipedia free encyclopedia*

