



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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Outstanding History Teacher Cited with Schweizer-Sponsored Award

Applications for the second Outstanding Illinois History Teacher Award, which includes a \$500 prize endowed by GGRCC founder Charles B. Schweizer and his wife Eleanor, are being accepted now.

Deadline for applications from teachers throughout the state is April 1, 2009. Information can be obtained from chapter presidents, an Illinois Society SAR web site, www.colcon.com/ILSSAR-CCI/Navigation/Schweizer%20Award.htm or from Harry K. Windland of GGRCC, coordinator of the award procedure. The application should include a brief biography and 500-word essay discussing the importance and strategies of teaching about the Revolutionary era.

The first winner, announced in May at an ILSSAR meeting in Springfield, was Sue Thomas Settle, who has taught history and related subjects for 13 years at Centralia High School. Her husband, Dan, accompanied her to the award ceremony.

Sue Settle grew up on her family's farm near Charleston, IL. She earned a BA with honors in history in 1979 at Eastern Illinois University, where she was a member of Phi Alpha Theta, an history honor society. She began her 28 years of teaching that year at Streator, IL, followed by 14 years at Sandoval High School before employment at Centralia, where she has taught regular and honors U. S. and world history and psychology. In 2006 she was one of three teachers at the school to receive the "Making a Difference" award determined by student vote.

During her teaching career, she has taken courses at Rend Lake College and Kaskaskia College, and earned a master's degree in 1999 in library and information sciences from the University of Illinois. During summers she has worked as a librarian at Southwestern and Kaskaskia Colleges. She resides in Mt. Vernon.

She says her teaching method is based on educating students as to the social climate of the times, providing insight into the basis for the occurrence of events. A strategy is to show the past impacts on modern society's culture.

An interactive style of instruction encourages students to discuss and research in order to gain insights on historical matters.

Mrs. Settle says her approach to the Revolutionary period is to examine events leading to the conflict, beliefs of citizens at the time, and how those factors led to the founding of the United States of America.

"I also speak to them about serendipity and how lucky America was to have the quality and quantity of leadership she had at that critical period in the formation of the nation. There also was no shortage of courage on the part of the leaders or of those who took up the struggle, given the stakes if they had lost," she said in her application.

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)

Chapter's Annual Patriotic Flag Day Ceremony Returns to Troy

"To respect the flag on this special day of the year is the most appropriate thing we can do," State Rep. Ron Stephens, 102nd District R-Troy, said at the annual Flag Day Ceremony by GGRCC at Troy's Tri-Township Park.

Stephens, who is assistant Republican leader in the state House, commented that the flag and the Declaration of Independence illustrate the most fundamental rights of Americans.

The chapter's collection of 64 state and historical flags was on display at the annual Flag Day program June 14. The event was staged at the Soldiers Memorial in the picturesque park "Our Flag program is a popular patriotic observance held in a different Madison County community each year," said Timothy S. Raymer, president of the SAR chapter and coordinator of the Flag Day ceremony.

Another guest speaker, who received a certificate of appreciation, was Troy Mayor Tom Caraker. He read an exposition of the Pledge of Allegiance that was written by entertainer Red Skelton.

SAR color guard members Troy M. Huddle, William R. Feeney, A. Robert Shaak and William Brown were assisted by members of Boy Scout Troop 1031 of Edwardsville and VFW Post 976 of Troy.

Soprano Michelle Dumoulin sang the *Star Spangled Banner*. Participating through patriotic expressions in the program were GGRCC members Chaplain Lloyd E. Schwarz, Gaylord J. James, and

James DeGroff, along with Mrs. Lola DeGroff, regent of the Silver Creek Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Eagle Scouts Honored in Alton

GGRCC recognition for new Eagle Scouts was quadruple at a ceremony May 31 at St. Peter and Paul Church, Alton.

The highest rank in scouting was attained by four from Troop 16: Jared Michael Allen, Michael Horace Cooke II, Brendan Charles Polach and Steven Scott Pope.

Conferring certificates of honor and letters were GGRCC Eagle Scout recognition chairperson James J. Kessler Jr. and President Timothy S. Raymer.

Honored Aug. 7 at College Avenue Presbyterian Church, Alton, was a fifth Eagle Scout, Nicholas Aaron Yates.

GGRCC Birthdays

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. 15

John A. Fruit Dec. 18

Vernon S. Fox, Dec. 20

'Taps' for Day's End and Funerals Was Adapted in Civil War

[A mythical recounting of the origin of "Taps," the military bugle call sounded at the end of the day and at funerals and other ceremonies, has recently been circulated on the Internet and viewed by several GGRCC members. The account apparently first appeared in a Robert Ripley "Believe It or Not" program in 1949, perhaps based on faulty memories of Civil War lore. In summary, the story is that a Union officer, Capt. Robert Ellicombe, recovered from a battlefield the body of a Confederate soldier, his own son. The youth had been studying music in the South and enlisted in the rebel army. In his pocket was a music manuscript which the father had a bugler play in a funeral ceremony for the son. That is the fanciful version of the origin of "Taps." An accurate account of the origins of "Taps" is on www.west-point.org/Taps/html. The author is bugler Jari A. Villanueva, a U.S. Air Force Band sergeant major and former curator of the Taps exhibit at Arlington National Cemetery. Below are the main points of the article, "24 Notes That Tap Deep Emotion."]

Taps began as a revision of the bugle signal for Extinguish Lights, commonly called Lights Out, a signal apparently borrowed from the French for a military tactics manual by Silas Casey (1801-1888). Two versions of the call, both called the Scott Tattoo, were in use after 1835.

In July 1862, Union Brig. Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield (1831-1901), a Medal of Honor winner, was in command of a brigade in the war's

Peninsular Campaign. He felt that the "Lights Out" tattoo was too formal to signal days end. In an 1898 letter to *The Century* magazine, Butterfield wrote that with the aid of "some one who could write music" and some changes "to suit my ear" he composed taps. The final version was composed with the help of the brigade headquarters bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton. Also in 1898, Norton wrote, "Up to July 1862, the Infantry call for Taps was that set down in Casey's Tactics . . . soon after the seven days battles . . . General Daniel Butterfield, then commanding the brigade, sent for me, and showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times . . . He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody."

Norton was ordered to sound the new version of Taps at "Lights Out," and the next day was visited by buglers from several other brigades who began using the call. It was first used at the funeral of an artillery cannoneer killed in action in the same campaign. It rapidly came into use throughout the Union armies, and even was adopted by some Confederate units.

GGRCC Donates School Flags

Flags were donated by GGRCC at the opening ceremonies for three Edwardsville District schools Aug. 16 and 17. The flags were flown on opening day Aug. 17.

The flag presentation was made at the remodeled Worden School Aug. 16 by Donald E. Campbell and chapter President Timothy S. Raymer. Ronnie D. Hicks and Raymer made the presentations Aug. 17 at the new Goshen School and new Albert Cassens School.

President Timothy S. Raymer's Letter

These quarterly reports come much too soon. Time does fly by for us so very quickly. It's no wonder I have such trouble keeping track of time, much less the day of the month.

During the past quarter activities of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter have been at a pretty brisk pace. In the past quarter we had 12 "marked" events, counting three monthly meetings, plus opportunities for fellowship with other members.

We had one ROTC presentation at Southern Illinois University, in Edwardsville, our annual ILSSAR Banquet and BOM Meeting in Springfield, and a Pre-Memorial Day Service at Oak Lawn Cemetery in Glen Carbon. Four Eagle Scout presentations were made during one Court of Honor at St. Peter and Paul Church in Alton.

We had three monthly meetings at the Moose Lodge in Edwardsville. At our June meeting we had guests present: ILSSAR Scholarship winner Tyler Moore and his mother, Melissa Tyler, Elizabeth Fuld, President of CAR 6 Mile Prairie Chapter, and her mother, Novie Fuld, regent of the Belleville Chapter of the DAR.

Flag Day Ceremonies were held at the Tri-County Park in Troy. Our color guard was present. June 21 found the GGRC Chapter in Millstadt, where our color guard was requested by the Cahokia Mounds Chapter of the DAR for their Patriot Recognition Ceremony. On July 25 chapter representatives were in Fairview Heights, offering flags and handshakes to new U.S. citizens during naturalization proceeding.

It appears that we will be just as busy during this quarter.

We already have had one Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Alton. We were scheduled to attend the Vietnam "Traveling Wall" exhibit on Labor Day in Hecker. Our responsibility was to help people find names on the wall during a three-hour shift. We were scheduled to participate in the opening Sept. 7 of Greenville Fort Hill Celebration. For the first anniversary of the reconstruction of the fort, we will be presenting our 15 Historic Flags. We have again been invited to the DAR Sept. 14 Flag disposal ceremonies at the residence of George and Elizabeth Edwards, just off of Rt. 157N, Edwardsville. Ceremonies begin at 1:30 p.m. followed by a potluck. If you plan to attend bring chair (s) and a covered dish.

During October and November look for notices on several chapter events: Members and Ladies Night Out, Veteran Day Parades and Flag Awards for flying the flag year-around, an event that takes place at the Madison County Court House, Edwardsville. Hopefully, we will have calls to give our 15 Flag Presentation at local schools.

All new members, who haven't been able to attend our monthly meetings are especially invited to attend these future events, as some are in the evening hours or on weekends. We encourage you to come and fellowship with us, as we would enjoy meeting and getting to know you. I can only ask you to come, it's up to you if you want to meet some very nice guys who have gone through what you are going through right now.

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