



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 3

Page 1

December 2007

GGRCC Shows the Flag(s) At Several Fall Events

The chapter's color guard and officers participated in several area events this fall, usually in uniform and displaying some of our historic flags.

The 14 historic flags were carried by Chapter members and volunteers in period costumes at the dedication Sept. 9 at the dedication of the Fort Hill site at Greenville, Bond County.

Fort Hill was one of the strong points built during the War of 1812 to protect settlers from Indians allied with the British. The reconstruction is just south of I-70 near the Farm Bureau Museum.

"The presentation was done very well and resulted in several requests for information about SAR," said chapter President Timothy S. Raymer.

A number of the flags were exhibited Oct. 13-14 in the Flags Over the Mississippi" program at the Lewis and Clark Historical Site in Hartford.

As each flag was displayed, chapter treasurer Gaylord J. James read a short history of the banner. GGRCC members were to participate in another flag ceremony at the site Dec. 8-9.

Harry K. Windland, veteran chapter officer and state ISSAR registrar, was among the speakers at the dedication Nov. 11 of the Glen Carbon Veterans Memorial.

The memorial included three lettered bricks approved by the chapter. They were in honor of chapter founder Charles B. Schweizer, Windland, and Patriots of the American Revolution.

Descendant of Wm. Biggs in SAR; Ancestor Was Honored by GGRCC

Remember William Biggs? He was the Revolutionary War Patriot GGRCC honored at Nix-Judy Cemetery in 1998. His great-great-great-great grandson, George David Mokriakow of Mascoutah has applied for SAR membership in the Lewis and Clark Chapter.

George's application included a photo of the grave marker GGRCC erected, along with a photo the painting of Biggs that hangs in the St. Clair County sheriff's office.

Biggs was an early settler and subject of a notable account of his capture by Indians. He also was the first sheriff of St. Clair County. Coincidentally, George is an investigative sergeant for St. Clair County.

—Harry Windland

Heritage Center for National SAR

The National Society SAR is seeking donations for a planned \$6 million Center for Advancing America's Heritage. The project is designed to promote understanding of the Revolutionary War Period and its significance.

The center will house SAR's extensive Revolutionary War collections and a comprehensive learning library. Its educational outreach programs will include development of curricula on the American Revolution for elementary schools.

The center is a private project funded on a voluntary basis by patriotic Americans.

Donations may be sent to NSSAR, 1000 S. 4th St., Louisville, KY, 40203 or by e-mail at www.sar.org.

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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Patriot Ceremony Commemorates Early Madison County Settler

The historic Lusk Cemetery grounds, now a city park in Edwardsville, was the site Oct. 27 of the annual Patriot of the American Revolution marker ceremony of GGRCC.

The program recognized what is thought to be the burial place of Thomas Tindall, who as a youth helped supply American Revolutionary Army soldiers. GGRCC holds the ceremony yearly to recognize a Revolutionary war soldier or supporter who died in Madison County.

Lusk Park was a city cemetery until the 1930s when nearly all the gravestones had disappeared or deteriorated. Several recent markers commemorate the Lusk family, for whom the site was named.

Records show a son of Thomas Tindall was buried there and researchers suspect he was also. A farmer and teamster, he died near Edwardsville in June 1832. He was designated a Patriot of the Revolutionary War in 1951-52 by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Though some individuals did not serve militarily in the Revolution they deserve

recognition for supporting it otherwise, said program chairman G. Thomas Lawrence: "Patriots are people just like you and me who love our country and are willing to defend it with their lives."

Thomas Tindall was born in Halifax County, Virginia, about 1767. He married Martha "Patsy" Wall there on Dec. 31, 1793. They lived in North Carolina and Kentucky before moving to the Edwardsville area with their nine children in winter 1816. They camped in the unfinished log original Madison County courthouse and later built a hewn log residence within the present Edwardsville city limits.

Participants in the ceremony included GGRCC chaplain Lloyd E. Schwarz for the invocation, Donald E. Campbell and Troy Huddle as the GGRCC color guard, several members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and buglers Shawn and Marsha Etzkorn. Illinois Territorial Rangers, a historical reenactment group, fired a tribute volley.

The stone, placed by the Edwardsville parks department, was unveiled by Rita Hecker of Bethalto, a descendant of Thomas Tindall, and Elizabeth Edwards, regent of the Drucilla Andrews Chapter DAR of Edwardsville.

New Members & Lewis & Clark President Welcomed at Ladies Night

I am very proud to report that the "Members and Their Ladies Night" Oct. 24 was a resounding success. We had 39 in attendance. All enjoyed good fellowship, good food, and good entertainment.

The good fellowship came from those who attended. The good food came from Moonlight Restaurant, which did an outstanding job. The good entertainment came from Rex Egelston, the president of the Lewis and Clark Chapter, SAR, a retired FBI agent. He reviewed some of his experiences as an agent, laced with humor.

Egleston, who had been a schoolteacher, recalled that one his most memorable assignments was reviewing the Lee Harvey Oswald file on the assassination of President Kennedy. "The only thing we were thinking about it was that the Russians had something to do with it," he said.

On another matter, while assigned to the St. Louis office, he handled the first federal murder case in which DNA resulted in a conviction, he said. Rex was accompanied by his wife, Elinor.

An additional item was induction of four new members into GGRCC. They are: James W. Buckley, James C. Hicks, Ronnie Dale Hicks, and Neil T. Schroeder. They were received into the chapter with an applause of welcome from the membership.

Program chairman Al Harrison, assisted by Tom Lawrence, substituted

ATTN: VETERANS---WAR SERVICE MEDALS

War Service Medals will be presented at the ILSSAR Annual Meeting. If any member serving in past wars has been overlooked, they too are eligible for the War Service Medal. Applicable dates for the conflicts are: WWII 7 Dec. 1941-31 Dec. 1946, Korea 25 Jun. 1950-31 Jan. 1955, Vietnam 28 Feb. 1961-7 May 1975. To qualify, furnish to me a copy of your DD214 and synopsis of military experience by the Dec. 19 meeting—**Al Harrison**

for chapter President Tim Raymer for the induction portion of the program.

Karl Reed, president of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, was in attendance with his wife Esther. Karl encouraged the new members to take an active part in participating in chapter activities, which advance the goals and objectives of our organization.

The only cloud over the program was the absence of President Tim Raymer. It was explained that Tim's wife Carolyn was undergoing severe illness issues and that Tim and Carolyn were facing them together. Our condolences were expressed when Carolyn died Nov. 9.

I wish to express my appreciation of the support I received in presenting this program from the following:

Jim James who led the Pledge of Allegiance and did an outstanding job on printing of the programs and nametags.

Joe Hill who led us in reciting the Sons of the American Revolution Pledge.

Lloyd Schwarz who gave our invocation.

Harry Windland who led the Recessional.

Don Campbell who facilitated exchanges of flags, certificates, etc. between Tim and myself.

-- Alan Y. Harrison

GGRCC Birthdays

Andrew R. Johnson, Jan. 14
 H. Donald Laughlin, Jan. 16
 Donald L. Hastings Sr., Jan. 31
 Kenneth W. Leroy Sr., Feb. 4
 William C. Brown, Feb. 6
 Ronald F. Luebben, Feb. 15
 G. Thomas Lawrence, Feb. 20
 Jack W. Calve, March 18
 Thomas W. Blixen, March 28

12th Flag Award Ceremony Honors 11 Madison County Households

The residents of 11 households received certificates of commendation Nov. 14 for displaying the U.S. Flag every day in their homes. It was the 12th annual Flag Award Ceremony, conducted by GGRCC in the lobby next to the James Madison bust at the Madison County Courthouse, Edwardsville.

“One of several ways we promote patriotism is to demonstrate our appreciation for individuals who properly display and faithfully fly our American Flag,” said William R. Feeny of Edwardsville, chairperson for the event. He is a retired professor of political science at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and a former president of GGRCC.

Such recognition is particularly appropriate at this time when Americans are struggling against enemies of the freedom that the flag symbolizes, he said.

The chapter alternates recognizing households or businesses in northern and southern Madison County every other year. The 2007 honorees by township are:

Louis and Patricia Brown and Louis Brown Jr., U.S. Army, Helvetia; Paul and Karen Darr, Pin Oak; William and Jeane Howard, Saline; Robert and Terri Meyer, Nameoki; Glen and Jane Noeltner, St. Jacob; Vernon Nothstine, Choteau; Ronall and Barbara Pratt, Edwardsville; Chris Roy and Sarah Sardigal, Venice; Edward and Ramona Schuessler, Collinsville; Charles and Jeanine Seymour, Jarvin; and Harold E. Tracy, Marine.

Assisting in the ceremony were GGRCC compatriots Troy M. Huddle and Donald E. Campbell as the color guard and Lloyd E. Schwarz, chaplain.