



## 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 2009

### **GGRCC Installs New Officers at Annual Chapter Banquet**

A new slate of officers for two-year terms took their posts at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual GGRCC Business Meeting and Banquet Feb. 11, and members and their guests heard an interesting presentation on women who supported the Revolution.

Gaylord J. (Jim) James was installed as president. A retired teacher at the Dental School of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, he is a charter member of the chapter and has held several offices, most recently as vice president and treasurer.

Also taking office were GGRCC veterans Ronnie D. Hicks as vice president, Alan Y Harrison as secretary, James A. DeGroff as treasurer and Harry K Windland as registrar.

During the meeting, special recognition was given to Edwin G. Gerling, who stepped down from the secretary position after 16 years. It was noted that the chapter membership has increased to 58, compared to 45 two years ago.

The banquet returned to Sunset Hills Country Club after two years at other locations.

The officers were sworn in by Karl Reed, immediate past president of the Illinois Society of SAR. Retiring President Timothy S. Raymer and incoming President James presented awards to members who have been leaders in the chapter's activities.

In his remarks before retiring from office, President Raymer said his greatest satisfaction was "how the chapter has grown in recognition, in the public eye" during his two-year term.

Incoming President James remarked that

he hoped to continue the improvement, especially in the chapter's mission of expansion of activities and memberships in Bond, Jersey and Macoupin counties.

"Women of the Revolution" with colorful slides, was the program presentation by Brad Winn, site manager for the Illinois State Lewis and Clark Historic Site. "They struggled at home to support the Revolution," he said.

The feminine supporters ranged from the future first lady, Martha Washington, to women who raised funds or contributed large amounts of clothing for the soldiers, performed as spies to alert the continentals about British plans, wrote supportive correspondence, and actually served in combat. At least two "manned" artillery pieces when their husbands were disabled.

"Women were the leaders of the boycott against such British imports as tea and it became the custom to drink coffee," Winn pointed out.

Guests included several Daughters of the Revolution. Assisting with the recitation of traditional patriotic expressions were Lola DeGroff, regent of the DAR Silver Creek Chapter, and Elizabeth Edwards, regent of the Drucilla Andrews Chapter. Several GGRCC members formed the color guard, and Compatriot Lloyd Schwarz gave the invocation.

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

## Chapter Financial Report for 2008

By Gaylord J. (Jim) James

Receipts	
Dues/Contributions	\$210.00
Dinners	767.00
Interest	
Dilliard Endowment Funds	85.21
Windland Endowment Fund	58.41
Honoraria	130.00
Uniform sale	100.00
Total other sources of revenue	373.62
Total Chapter receipts	\$1,350.62
Disbursements	
Dinners	\$843.80
Awards	170.50
<i>Long Knife</i>	358.61
Programs	
Outstanding Citizenship	131.33
Flag Award	100.44
Patriot Commemoration	25.00
Other	
Website	108.43
Contribution 6 Mi. Prairie Chap.	25.00
Simkus Supply acct.-flags	65.85
Total Chapter Disbursements	\$1,828.96
Financial Summary	
Cash Balance 1 January 2008	\$1,872.33
Receipts for Period	1,350.62
Disbursements for Period	1,828.96
Balance 31 December 2008	\$1,393.99
Assets	
Dilliard Endowment Funds	\$2,002.19
Windland Endowment Fund	1,001.18
Vanguard Stock Index Fund at	
End of Period	2,824.45
Cash on Hand	1,393.99
Total Assets 31 Dec. 2008	\$7,221.81

### GGRCC Birthdays

James W. Buckley, April 4  
 James A. Collman, April 7  
 George R. Edwards, April 14  
 Frederick C. Gillham, April 19  
 Gaylord J. (Jim) James Jr. April 22  
 Robert J. Stegemeier, May 4  
 Henry J. Boss, May 6  
 Earl G. Gruber, May 7  
 David R. Oliver, 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  
 Bret W. Brosman, June 18  
 Larry Lee Brown, June 21  
 Charles E. Burgess, June 23

### Eagle Scout Courts of Honor

An Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate was presented to Corey M. Schaufelberger Jan. 11 in a Court of Honor at the First Presbyterian Church, Greenville.

GGRCC President Timothy S. Raymer made the presentation, which included a letter of congratulations on behalf of the chapter. Corey is a member of Troop 57 and a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Schaufelberger.

Two Eagle Scout Awards were given in November by President Raymer: To Andrew Cato, Troop 1031, Glen Carbon, and to Samuel Keck Flory of Troop 1031 in Edwardsville.

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## Clark's Campaigns After Capture of Kaskaskia, Vincennes

Members of GGRCC are familiar with accounts of the July 1778 capture of the Illinois French settlement of Kaskaskia by George Rogers Clark (our chapter's name source) with a small cadre of Kentucky soldiers. The subsequent taking in February 1779 of the British outpost at Vincennes after crossing flooded prairies completed the conquest which assured that the Illinois-Indiana territories would be part of the United States. GGRCC honored Clark with a plaque at Fort Kaskaskia's remains in the mid-1990's.

There has been relatively little attention to Clark's military leadership west of the Alleghenies during nearly five remaining years of the Revolutionary War. For much of the period, Clark sought to develop a campaign against Detroit, the remaining British strong point in the West. The Continental forces and Virginia governors failed to provide support and the decisive effort never took place.

Governors Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Nelson encouraged Clark to strategically fortify Ohio River crossing places against infiltration by small bands of Indians. Although Clark used most of his own resources including selling his land holdings, adequate funding and personnel never were provided for the safeguards, and the murderous attacks continued.

In October 1781, Clark complained in a memorandum to Gov. Nelson: "I have lost the object that was one of the principal inducements to my fatigues & transactions for several years past—my chain appears to have run out. I find myself enclosed with few troops, in a trifling fort, and shortly expect to bear the insults of those who have for several years been in continual dread of me."

However, it should be noted that Clark had some successes, although not as significant as the Kaskaskia-Vincennes campaigns.

In August 1780 he returned to Harrodsburg, Kentucky, hastily from the Fort Jefferson site being developed near the Mississippi-Ohio junction. British-led Indians were reported to be moving against the Wabash valley and Clark's headquarters at the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville). [This was one aspect of a large-scale British-led campaign that included an attack on the Spanish village of St. Louis.] With a thousand volunteers, Clark routed Indians from the Old Chillicothe site and Piqua in western Ohio. The month-long campaign kept Kentucky settlements free from Indian trouble for the rest of the year.

A similar result came from Clark's last significant campaign, in November 1782. With 1,050 mounted men, Clark assailed the Shawnee stronghold at Chillicothe. Although most of the inhabitants fled, the expedition succeeded in burning Chillicothe and five other Shawnee towns, and destroying large quantities of corn and other provisions.

"By this blow, Clark had not only saved the frontier settlements from danger of attack, but he had offset the designs of British authorities to bring about a union of the northwestern and southwestern tribes," according the Clark biographer James Alton James. Daniel Boone, a volunteer in Clark's Kentucky forces, told a 1787 inquiry into the conduct of the western campaigns that by Clark's intimidating drives into their territory "the spirits of the Indians were damped, their connexions dissolved, their armies scattered & a future invasion [was] entirely out of the question."

[Sources: Quotations and other material are from *George Rogers Clark Papers 1771-1781 and 1781-1784*, ed. by James Alton James.]

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## **Retiring President Timothy S. Raymer's Message**

It is with bittersweet thoughts that I stand before you, happy to be relieved of the pressure yet with remorse that we could have done better. However, we did achieve some of the primary goals; have brought in 10 new members to the chapter over the past two years, in fact we increased membership to 12 new members.

Due to public relations efforts from our outreach programs, such as the Historic Flag Presentation, Flag Day, and Flag Awards, Outstanding Citizenship and ROTC programs, the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter and the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution have grown in recognition, in the public eye, as a group of individuals who promote patriotism and morals of our founding fathers.

The one disappointment---well, I won't say disappointment but rather, regret, over the past two years is the lack of membership participation in our Chapter events, both in verbal and physical support to those who actually are out there trying to do their best for the chapter.

Now it is time that I step aside and bring in our new president.

### **Awards Presented at Annual Meeting—Chairman Alan Y. Harrison**

Lola DeGross, regent of Silver Creek Chapter of DAR and wife of GGRCC member James A. Degross: Medal of Appreciation for designing and maintaining the GGRCC website,

Certificate of Appreciation for attendance and support of chapter events:

James C. Hicks, Henry J. Boss

.For leadership and support of various chapter activities:

Bronze Color Guard Medals: Ronnie D. Hicks, Gaylord J. (Jim) James, Timothy S. Raymer.

Bronze Good Citizenship Medals: James A. Cannon, Ronnie D. Hicks.

Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters: Troy M. Huddle, Gaylord J. (Jim) James, James J. Kessler Jr., Kenneth W. Leroy Sr.

Silver Good Citizenship Medals: Edwin G. Gerling, Alan Y. Harrison, Timothy S. Raymer.

Silver Oak Leaf Cluster: William R. Feeney, Donald E. Campbell.

Replica of Revolutionary War Cannon: M. Joseph Hill.