FAIRFAX CHAPTER

Chapter was originally a Grand Division Chapter 420 in 1900. When the Grand Division and the First Virginia Division combined, Fairfax became a Virginia Division Chapter of the UDC. Prior to that it was apparently known as the Ladies Memorial Association when the Confederate obelisk was dedicated in the Confederate Cemetery of Fairfax, Virginia in 1890.

There is no record of chapter activities between 1903 and 1912, but the chapter became defunct and was reformed and chartered as Fairfax Chapter 1410 on May 12, 1912. The Chapter was given the Division umber 63.

The 1912 Virginia Division Minutes show that Fairfax Chapter was organized on May 12, 1912, with the Charter being issued on July 19, 1912. Mrs. Alexander of Alexandria, VA was shown as the organizer. The chartering members are given as: Mrs. W. Peyton Moncure, Mrs. John N. Ballard, Mrs. John S. Barbour, Mrs. Richard Ewell Thornton, Mrs. Nannie Claiborne Henry, Mrs. Adrian Moncure Ford, Mrs. Mattie Leigh Fletcher, Miss Hallie Wallace Moncure, Miss Mamie J. Wiley, Mrs. Mary E. Wiley and Miss Ella May Ballard.

Only three months later, the original 11 members had grown to 17 who could already report proudly that they had given a luncheon for 75 veterans and had presented a total of 28 Crosses of Military Service, including one to Col. Robert E. Lee, grandson of General Robert E. Lee, as well as one to Richard R. Farr. Applications were in progress for additional Crosses to be awarded.
Unfortunately, many of the earlier Minutes of the Chapter are missing, apparently having been removed by one of the Presidents when she moved our of the country later in life. The old Treasurer's books remain, and are a vital source of information, reading between the lines.

The Chapter worked to remain active, presenting historical portraits to area schools and books to school libraries, as well as continuing the benevolent work toward veterans and widows. Essay contests in local schools were sponsored, and scholarship funds raised for deserving students. "Silver teas" were held to raise money for various projects and booths were operated at local county fairs. As an example of benevolence, on July 2, 1919, the Treasurer's journal carries the entry "Drew $12 out of bank for James Davis, an old Confederate Soldier, to help pay his hospital bill." A concluding entry on July 24 indicates, "Received check back from James Davis." In December of that year, "Mrs. Wyckoff rec'd $15.00 for pension", and a month later the chapter expended "$1.45 for her slippers". At that time, dues were seventy cents, increased to $1.00 two years later. That same year the chapter was able to bank the grand sum of $100.00 "for a future home for the Chapter in Fairfax".

While all aspects of UDC memorialization and benevolence were observed through the General organization, the Chapter worked to maintain an equally strong observance of Virginia's heroes as well. In 1937, a gift of $16.00 was made toward a Jefferson Davis Monument. At the same time a marker was erected honoring Col. John "Grey Ghost" Mosby for the sum of $137.00! The latter unveiling featured the great-grandson of Mosby attending and officiating at the ceremonies.

Both world wars saw outstanding and unselfish service performed by Fairfax women, with monetary gifts to nurse funds as well as hundreds of "soldier kits" being made and sent. The 1942 Minutes reflect "...a roster of 30 -- eight meetings held -- 10 Military Crosses to World War soldiers - LOTS of Red Cross Work".

Four years later, the end of hostilities saw memorial books prepared for the "Southern boys killed in W.W. II".

Numerous pictures of Jeb Stuart, John Mosby, Robert E. Lee and others continued to be presented to elementary and secondary schools in the area, and books of poetry by Sidney Lanier could be found in almost every school library, courtesy of the Fairfax Chapter.

Contributions were made toward scholarship funds, even when the local treasury was at a low point, and school essay prizes continued to be awarded, all in the effort to perpetuate and encourage interest in our Southern heritage.