

History of Fincastle Chapter 797
Fincastle, VA

The Fincastle Chapter 797 was organized by a group of 19 ladies on May 18, 1904, and remained active until 1934.

In 2007, Katherine Harris and Loretta Caldwell found records pertaining to the chapter in the Botetourt County Courthouse's documents. Those interested in joining the UDC met at the Fincastle Library until applications were sent to Division for re-activation.

On March 16, 2009, the Chapter received its re-activated charter. On September 12, 2009, a ceremony took place at the Botetourt County Courthouse. The Virginia Division President, Susie Masters and Fincastle Chapter President, Christine Gray presided over the Ceremony. There were 13 charter members; four of those are now deceased. Our chapter now has 19 members, one Honorary Member and one Associate Member.

We have honored 83 Confederate ancestors with original and supplemental applications. Our members endeavor to fulfill our UDC objectives:

- Historical - Visits to Confederate Monuments, special speakers, visit historical places, raised funds to restore the Fincastle Dragoon Flag now in the Museum at Appomattox.
- Patriotic - Held 10 Military Service Award Ceremonies, sent cards and gifts to Veterans Made donations to V.A. Medical Center, "Adopt-A-Veteran," magazines taken to nursing homes. Virginia Veterans Care Center
- Benevolent - Donated coats, etc. to Roanoke City Rescue Mission, Back-to-School Supplies. Donations to UDC projects, churches, many organizations, League for Animal Protection, Food Pantry.
- Education - 2 Student Essays (Both won 1st place). Successfully support General/Division Scholarship Applications. 4 scholarships received by university students.
- Memorial - Held 8 Iron Cross Dedications, flags placed on soldiers' graves, cleaned stones and crosses, flowers planted at the Confederate Monument, wreath laying.

President Harriett Francis represented our Chapter on the Monuments and Memorial Committee of Botetourt County for six months. As of today, the monument remains at the courthouse thanks to her devotion to Confederate history.

Since re-activation, our chapter has been represented at each VA Division Convention and District Conference, also Spring Board and General Convention.

There have been many articles in the Fincastle Herald, Old Dominion Bulletin and UDC Magazine telling of our activities. These were sent to the Scrapbook and Publicity Committees.

We have two Granddaughters; members have joined Daughters' Clubs and three have served as pages.

Military Service Awards (10)

- Leon W. Buchanan 2014 WWII
- Philip H. Booze 2016 WWII
- Fred C. Lee 2017 WWII - Korean
- Cyrus Eugene Lee 2017 Korean

- Carlos L. Showalter 2018 WWII
- Marion Noel 2019 WWII
- Jack Cassell 2019 WWII - Korean
- Louis Silcox 2019 Korean
- Claude Andrew Hodges Jr. 2021 Global War on Terror
- Hubert Carol Smith 2022 Korean

Ceremonies presented by President Harriett Francis and Donna DiMurro (Military Service Officer)

Iron Cross Dedications (8)

- Martin VanBuren Hickok 2013
- Henry Thomas Wood 2014
- Rufus H. Peck 2015
- Callahill Parkes 2016
- Fleming B. Caldwell 2017
- Joel Brewbaker 2019
- Telemachus D. Smith 2021
- William Harvey Peery September 202

Ceremonies presented by President Harriett Francis

Daughters Resurrect Charter
By Anita J. Firebaugh
Contributing Writer F

Female voices singing “Dixie Land” rang out in the courtroom of the Botetourt County Courthouse September 12 as 13 new members of Fincastle Chapter 797 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) celebrated.

Decked out in their Sunday best, the women welcomed guests and UDC President Susan Lee Masters as she formally handed over the charter for the reinstated chapter.

“We’re hoping to educate folks about our history,” Chapter President Christine B. Gray said after the even. “We will preserve and mark graves that haven’t been marked too.”

The original Fincastle UDC Chapter began in 1904; it is unknown when that organization ceased. Charter members for the original group were Mrs. I. R. Godwin, Alma Walker Simpson, Gray Haden, Irma S. Doggett, E. Cary Breckinridge, Annie B. McDowell, Annie E. Spinon, Virginia L. Breckinridge, Mary R. Waleke, Fran Godwin, Louise Camper, Ella J. Godwin, Mary Bell Simmons, Phebe W. Haden, Rose F. Breckinridge and Mary Alice Simmons.

This first group of Confederate daughters helped with the Confederate Monument that stands on the lawn of the Botetourt County Courthouse. The monument itself, dedicated on October 27, 1904, has a little different inscription in that it recognizes the services of women in helping the soldiers during the war. One side of the monument reads, “To the women of Botetourt in remembrance of their constant encouragement, steadfast devotion, tender ministrations and unfailing providence and care, during the war and in the dark reconstruction years.” The statue commemorates “the deeds and services of the twelve volunteer companies ... that went to the war from Botetourt County.” It is “in memory of our brave and loyal officers

and enlisted men who were killed in battle and who died from wounds and disease, during the war, and of our faithful comrades who have died since the war.”

Flags fly at the monument courtesy of the Sons of the Confederacy, who assisted at the most recent UDC event on Saturday.

About 18 months ago a group of local women, spearheaded by Katherine Harris of Fincastle and Christine Gray of Oriskany, decided to resurrect the chapter's charter.

Several members transferred from the Joseph Anderson Chapter, which meets in Buchanan.

The new members of the reinstated Fincastle Chapter are Barbara Gray Nofsinger Allen, Loretta A. Caldwell, Martha F. Chew, Virginia Bosserman Cronise, Brenda K. Fuller, Elizabeth B. Fuller, Christine B. Gray, Sheryl Rhodes, Haymaker Hall, Katherine Camper Harris, Patricia Ann Rhodes Haymaker, Linda Hardbarger Newcomb, Nicole Lynn Newcomb, and Deirdre Brewbaker Noble.

The women traced their ancestry back to uncles and many-great-grandfathers who fought for the Confederacy. The group's charter was officially received on March 16, 2009.

More members are welcome and interested persons should contact Katherine Harris at 473-2337. Meetings will be held on the first Saturday of each month at the Fincastle Library.

Sent photos, news articles, programs to VA DIV Publicity and Scrapbook Committees:

- Sent - Records of Grave sites of Confederate Soldiers and Sailors to Committee
- Sent - Original poem to Southern Poetry and Literature Committee
- Members of: Grand Daughter's Club Great-great-great Granddaughter's Club
- 2 VA DIV Pages - Christine Gray - Helen Camper Helen Camper received Page Pen 2019

Other Luncheons: “Kitty's” Tea Time - Fincastle Library

- Magnolia House Inn - Lexington
- 21 Martha Washington Inn - Abingdon
- “Rain” Inn - Abingdon

Historic Work with Students:

- 2x winner - Kelsi Hammons - James River High School

Education: Scholarships:

- 2 Matson L. Roberts Jr. UVA
- 1 Hannah Nelms JMU
- 1 Olivia Moran (pending)

UDC Magazine placed in 4 county libraries UDC

Magazine historical article March 2016 by Debra McClane “Hunters Raid Through The Shenandoah Valley”

Visits to Confederate Monuments

- Fincastle - Botetourt Co.
- Salem - Roanoke Co.

- Warm Springs - Bath Co.
- Covington - Alleghany Co.
- New Castle - Craig Co.
- Rocky Mount - Franklin Co.
- Marion - Smythe Co.
- Abingdon - Washington Co.
- Appomattox - Appomattox Co.
- Pulaski - Pulaski Co.
- Stonewall Jackson - Cemetery Lexington RKB. Co.
- Confederate Soldier - Selma Oakland Ch. Co.
- Staunton - Augusta Co.
- Lovington - Nelson Co.
- Front Royal - Warren Co.
- Monterey - Highland Co.
- Richmond Monuments
- Charlottesville - Albemarle Co.
- Confederate Soldier - Hanging Rock Park - Salem
- Buchanan - Botetourt Artillery

Awards Driven by Chapter:

- Debra McClane - Winnie Davis Medal - Outstanding fund raising - Dragoon Flag
- Debra McClane - Jefferson Davis Historical Gold - Historical Writings
- Edwin McCoy - Judah P. Benjamin May 11, 2019 Edition of Fincastle Herald

Division Participation:

- Loretta - Credentials
- Debra - Div. Records (Lucy Steele); Headquarters Fund (Delores Smith)
- Pages - Christine, Helen

Patriotic:

- Flowers planted at the Confederate Monument yearly
- Harriett gave 1st National Flags (Daughters) to chapter
- Members and placed at Confederate monument, wreath laying, cleaned stones and crosses.

Programs:

- John Graham - Marking Graves/ Jubal Early Home
- Jean Robbins - Recipes - Diary of Civil War Era - Book
- Paul Rice - Re-enactor "Botetourt Program"
- Harry Gleason - (2) Buchanan on Curl War - Kanawha Canal
- Cindee Hensley - Painting Replica Dragoon Flag
- Debra McClane - "Flora Stuart" Essay
- Sheryl Hall - Civil War Era Valentines; flowers exhibit

- History of Roaring Run Furnace
- Marilyn Iglesias - Capt. Sally Jompkins
- Delores Smith - Conf. Park - Hanging Rock / Salem / Conf. Christmas Story
- Doris McCoy - Appomattox Re-enactor (Video)
 - Oakland Pres. by Cem. – Selma
- Linda Nezbeth - “Windows of Time” Franklin Co. Conf. Soldiers
- Lynn Reed - Montgomery “White Sulphur Springs” Hospital and Cem.
- Lewis Sifford - SCV activities; Civil War artifacts
- Deedee Kagey - “Stones House” Effects of War at Bonsack
- Harriett Francis - Biography of Grandfather Capt. William Brewbaker –
 - POW at Johnson Island
- Kelsi Hammons - 2 Student Essays
- Loretta Caldwell - Civil War records in Botetourt County Courthouse
- Christine Gray - Civil War era music “Lorena” \
 - Gen. Historian / UDC magazine articles / special historic award
- Lisa Russell - “Confederate Women Soldiers” Effects of Civil War on Northern and Southern Children
- Debra McClane - Sept. 1864 - “Fall of Atlanta”
- Ed McCoy - Book signing Botetourt Co. in War Between the States

Historic Places Visited

- Richmond - Massing of the Flags - Hollywood Cem. Memorial Bldg. - Chapel Museum of Confederacy - Library of VA
- Appomattox - Appomattox Courthouse / Museum of Confederacy
 - Dragoon Flag Ceremony
- Bonsack - “Stone House”
- Hotel Roanoke - Christmas Luncheon
- Buchanan - Wilson Warehouse - Kanawha Canal
 - Fair View Cem. Memorial Day Ceremony
 - Many Conf. soldiers graves/flags
- South Carolina - Museum of Confederacy
- Franklin Co. - Jubal Early Home
- Roaring Run Furnace
- Lexington - Lee Chapel - Stonewall Jackson Mem. Cem.
- Gordonsville - Exchange Hotel Museum (Hospital)
- Trevillian Station Louisa Co.
- Buchanan - Civil War Weekend - Re-enactment
- Martha Washington - Abingdon
- Barter Theatre - Abingdon “Stonewall Country”

Christmas Luncheon

- (2) White Oak Tea Tavern
- (2) Hotel Roanoke
- Tap House - Daleville
- Homeplace Restaurant - Catawba
- Southern Inn - Lexington

(2) Granddaughters

- Harriett Brewbaker Francis (Capt. William Brewbaker)
- Geneva Karnes Jenkins (John P. Karnes)

Special Donations

- Memorial Building Beautification Fund
- Lee Chapel
- Dragoon Flag Restoration
- Ladies Pyramid - Restoration - Riverview Ladies Memorial
- SOS Donations
 - Memorial Building

Fund Raisers

- 2011-2016 Dragoon Flag Restoration - Debra
- (2) Framed Pictures "Farewell my Gallant Knight" By Henry Kidd - Donation by artist
- (2) Yard Sales - Fincastle Firehouse - Berglund Center
- "Barbara's Creations" by Barbara Fatteloh Baskets
- Wreaths

Annual Chapter Scrapbooks

Benevolent

- Back-to-School Supplies
- Coats - Roanoke City Rescue Mission
- League of Animal Protection
- Magazines and Visits to Nursing Homes and Adult Care Centers
- Donations to churches, many charitable organizations
- Food Pantry
- Coupons sent to Service Men and Women - Gifts
- Cards to Veterans - Adopt-A-Veteran - Mr. Ouerstreet

Binders

- Certificates (Loretta)
- History of Confederate Ancestors (Donna)
- Soldiers in Cemeteries (Harriett)

Celebration - 10th Year Anniversary March 2019

- Exhibit Boards of photos, new articles of activities

250th Anniversary of Botetourt Co.

- 2020 Exhibit (Lord Botetourt High School)
- Exhibit Eagle Rock Library

Certificate of Awards from VA DIV or District

- (Chapter under 41 members)
- Selling Mast Insignia (2015)
- Sent Mast Applications
- Military Service Award (2020)
- Historical Work with Students (2017) • UDC Fincastle Chapter - Exhibit - Eagle Rock Library

News Article in Fincastle Herald, UDC Magazine, Old Dominion Bulletin

Debra McClane - Author of 2 Botetourt History Books; co-author of Architectural History

