

The History of the Fredericksburg

On February 26, 1896, Mrs. J. N. Barney, founder of the Fredericksburg Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), placed the following notice in The Daily Evening Star: "To Organize a Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy. There will be a meeting at the library rooms at the Courthouse, Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock, to organize a chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy. The wives, daughters, sisters and other relatives of Confederate soldiers are urged to meet on that occasion with Mrs. J. N. Barney, who has been requested to take the lead in the movement." About 100 women answered the call, by meeting with Nannie Seddon Barney, at the Fredericksburg Courthouse, February 28, 1896, for the organizational meeting. Of those attending, 76 filled out papers and became the Charter Members. The Charter was granted November 11, 1897 and the Chapter was the 18th organized in the Virginia Division and 63rd in the General Organization. Mrs. Barney became the first President and served 16 years, from 1897 until her death in 1913. Since that time 27 dedicated ladies have served as Chapter Presidents, 8 of which served as President a second time. Money was raised by holding rummage and bake sales to help save Kenmore House, home of Fielding Lewis and Betty Washington Lewis, and Stratford Hall, ancestral home of Robert E. Lee. The Children of the Confederacy, the Nannie Seddon Barney Auxiliary, also raised money for flags for schools and the Stone Mountain Memorial in Georgia among other things.

The most extensive work done by the Chapter was during the years 1917 thru 1927. Eight large stone markers were placed at historical sites: 1) Upper Pontoon Bridge site at the foot of Hawke St. on the Rappahannock River. 2) Lower Pontoon Bridge site near the City Dock where Federal troops crossed the river before the Battle of Fredericksburg (this marker is now missing). Both of these markers were dedicated December 17, 1917. 3) In 1917, Martha Stevens House was marked on Sunken Rd. near the Stone Wall at Marye Heights. 4) A bronze plaque in the wall surrounding the Presbyterian Church at the corner of Princess Anne and George St.'s was dedicated November 27, 1924, to mark the spot where Lee and Jackson planned the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Jointly, the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Chapters in 1927 placed 4 markers: 1) The Battle of Fredericksburg at the corner of Hanover St. and Sunken Rd. 2) The Battle of Salem Church, Rt. 3 at Old Salem Church. 3) Battle of Chancellorsville (now missing), Rt. 3 and Eleys Ford Rd. 4) Battle of Spotsylvania Court House at Spotsylvania Court House.

Beginning with WWI, the Fredericksburg Chapter became actively involved in attending the needs of our servicemen. Money was raised to buy beds and a stove for soldiers' quarters overseas. The Chapter joined the Red Cross as a Unit, and participated in the Liberty Bonds and War Stamps Programs. In WWII, the ladies were busy knitting socks, sweaters, and making bandages.

Today, among other activities, we give Military Crosses of Service to men and women with Confederate ancestors who have served our country in our many wars; mark Confederate graves; give books that present the true history of the South to schools and local libraries; actively encourage school children to enter the Essay Contests sponsored by the UDC' donate funds to scholarships and relief funds; and make donations for the Veterans Canteen Fund at VA Hospitals. In 2022, we reestablished our Chapter Scholarship this year and have awarded the chapter's first Homeland Security Award to chapter member, Carrie Combs, for her service as a nurse during the recent pandemic. We continue to grow and are very proud to be members of this old Chapter who celebrated its 125th Anniversary this year. We hold onto our proud Southern heritage and promote its honorable and true history.

On February 26, 1896, the following notice was placed in the Fredericksburg newspaper, The Daily Evening Star, by Mrs. J. N. Barney.

THE DAILY EVENING STAR.

FEBRUARY 26, 1896.

ADVERTISING RATES.

One inch, first insertion	.....	\$ .50
Subsequent insertions	.....	.25
Half inch, first insertion	.....	.25
Subsequent insertions	.....	.15
Want, lost, found, church and society notices, per line	.....	.25

Address all business communications to S. I. BAGGOTT, JR., Manager, and all matter for publication to R. B. Mc. CALLEY, Editor.

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1896 Confederate Veteran.
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CONFEDERATE DEAD AT FREDERICKSBURG.

The VETERAN is pleased to present an engraving of Mrs. J. N. Barney, of Fredericksburg, Va.



MRS. NANNIE SEDDON BARNEY.

Mrs. Barney is President of the Fredericksburg Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, with one hundred members, but this special tribute is to honor her for an unparalleled achievement to our Confederate comrades buried in that historic old town—the home and burial place of the mother of Washington. The Memorial Association was in session one day a dozen years or so ago, and deploring the general dilapidation of the Confederate lot, the headboards of which were fast falling into decay, when it was proposed that they all be removed and the ground made smooth so the grass could be mowed occasionally. To Mrs. Barney, an active member of the Association, the proposition was acutely painful and she begged that a committee go with her to the cemetery and consider the conditions. The members agreed with her that the headboards might, by careful attention, stand another year. Upon returning to the meeting she appealed in behalf of individual memories, proposing to undertake by herself, to raise the funds to preserve the names and locations of the 1,700 Confederate soldiers buried there. She began the work at home. Penny boxes were established and babes in their nurses arms were given the joy of depositing the yellow coins. She seems never to have thought of failure, and with her pen she wrote and wrote appeals to Southern people who caught the spirit of her zeal and co-operated. There was an amazing result; in a year or so that dilapidated burial spot of men who

died for Dixie was the prettiest Confederate Cemetery in existence. Beautiful headstones of Georgia marble, with names engraved, were in place of rotted boards, the entire area transformed, and in center of the grounds there was erected a beautiful monument representing a private Confederate soldier. This patriotic and beautiful tribute to our dead was achieved with \$5,160, secured by this noble woman, wife of a Confederate naval officer who resigned his position in the United States Army to see his own Virginia and her sister States of the South

This article in the Confederate Veteran, 1896, honoring our founder, Mrs. Barney, for her effort in having marble headstones placed on each soldier's grave in the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery, was sent to our chapter by her grandson, Mr. Elijah B. White of Leesburg, Va. He attended the 90th Anniversary celebration of the founding of our Chapter in 1987, and gave us his most interesting recollections of his grandmother.

He must have inherited much of her Southern spirit and drive as he organized and was first Commander of both the Clinton Hatcher Camp, S.C.V., and the Elijah Viers White Chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, of Leesburg, Virginia.