

General William R. Terry 580
Bedford, VA
Established April 28, 1902

The General William R. Terry chapter in Bedford, Virginia came from the Bedford Ladies Confederate Memorial Association, which was started on July 31, 1868. This association had the distinction of being the 2nd of this kind in Virginia, with Richmond being the first. In April 1902, the members of the association met and discussed the prospect of reorganizing as the United Daughters of the Confederacy chapter in Bedford. The chapter was named in honor of Bedford native, Confederate Brigade General William R. Terry, who was born in 1827 and died in 1897.

The following were the first officers and charter members.

President, Mrs. Nelson Sale
First Vice-President, Mrs. H.O. Humphreys
Second Vice-President, Mrs. T.C. Jopling
Secretary, Mrs. William Yancey
Treasurer, Miss Mary Wharton
Historian, Mrs. R.B. Claytor

CHARTER MEMBERS

Mrs. Grace Tunstall Sale
Mrs. Myrtle D. Phillips
Mrs. Clara L. Carder
Mrs. Eugenia M. Yancey
Mrs. Mary W. Brazeal
Miss Marion Claytor
Mrs. Minnie Lee Daniel
Mrs. Roberta Sale
Mrs. Anna Nelms Jopling
Miss Shelley Daniel

Mrs. Nannie H. Griffin
Mrs. Estelle S. Wharton
Mrs. Lucy T. Johnston
Mrs. Fannie Hall
Mrs. Annie Shelton Daniel
Miss Mary E. Hurt
Miss Lena F. Hurt
Miss Jean S.D. Tunstall
Miss May Wharton

There have been several hundred members of the chapter over the past 100 years, 241 of which had joined within the first 50 years, including several real daughters including the daughters of our namesake General William R. Terry. Some of these early daughters even had their father share his story on the application.

The chapter has been instrumental in establishing several Monuments and Markers in the town of Bedford. In 1909, a marker for the local Confederate soldiers in front of the Courthouse was dedicated with Col. Robert E. Lee (grandson of the General) as the orator. The funds were raised by the veterans' families, the local community and others. In 1921 the chapter relocated the graves and a marker for the non-local Confederate dead that had died in local hospitals from the old Confederate Hospital to Longwood Cemetery in town. The chapter was influential in getting the Civil War Trails markers in Bedford and paid for at least one marker to talk about Hunter's Raid. In 2018, the chapter was able to get a historic highway marker at the childhood home of General William R. Terry.

The chapter has been very active with Patriotic Activities. In 1903, one of the first activities was to hand out Southern Crosses of Honor to the Veterans and their surviving families. By 1906, they had handed out 257. The chapter continues this by handing out Military Service medals to their descendants, that have fought in World War I through today.

It is believed that every Confederate grave in Longwood Cemetery has been marked with a unique Confederate marker that only seems to be in Bedford. The markers are sometimes the only markers that these men and women have. The chapter continues their maintenance by fixing and replacing the stones. We place flags on their graves with the SCV and CofC for our joint Memorial Day service. During World War II, the chapter bought over \$3,000 in War Bonds and was awarded a Government Citation. It also collected genealogical data of World War II military personal that had ancestors that served in the Confederacy. This book is in the Bedford County Courthouse.

Outstanding accomplishments of the chapter and by its members include helped start the Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library in 1932 and getting its permanent location in 1979. We also raised the funds to preserved and restore the 2nd Virginia Calvary flag and place it at the Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library. The flag was rescued by the efforts of Major William F. Graves under the Woodrow Wilson presidency from the Yankees from New Jersey that had it as a war memento. We were one of the only ones to get our flag returned. Major Graves gave it to the chapter in 1921.

The Chapter made substantial contributions to the erection of monuments, like the Davis Monument in Richmond; Shiloh Monument in Tennessee; Home for Confederate Women; Lee Mansoleum; and in later years the Jefferson Davis (Historical) Memorial Highway. The chapter received an inscribed ribbon in recognition of our outstanding contribution to the Confederate Women's Memorial Building in Richmond, Virginia. Several members attended the dedication of "The McLean House" at Appomattox April 16, 1950, where the scene of the surrender was re-enacted by descendants of Lee and Grant.

Several of our members have severed in the Division level, they include Leslie Mehaffey as Historian and 2nd District Chairman, Jennifer Thomson as 2nd District Chairman and 3rd Vice President, and Ruth A. Krebs as 3rd Vice President.

The chapter supports a Children of the Confederacy chapter, Mary Oney Fizer, 463, which was originally chartered in 1954 by Ruth Krebs and was rechartered by Jennifer Thomson in 2014. There have been several members of our CofC chapter that have served in their division level. They include Past Division President Katherine Starbuck, Past Honorary Division President Kiersten Thomson, as well the following who have served in several offices at the Division level, Carolyn Saunders, Zeanette Roberts, Ciara Routon, Katherine Starbuck, Jonathan Starbuck, Nathaniel Thomson, Kiersten Thomson, and Amber Smith. The following have served in at least one office or chairmanship at the Division level: Zachary Thomson, Ella Blair, Anna Payne and Thomas Payne.

