

**Hamilton Wade Chapter
UDC No. 949 Division No. 96
Christiansburg, Virginia
Organized in 1905 and chartered on November 25, 1905**

Meetings are held on the fourth Saturday at a local restaurant where the members have breakfast or lunch and then conduct the meeting.

The chapter was named for Captain Hamilton D. Wade, a well-known and beloved citizen of Christiansburg. He served in Company G of the 4th Virginia Infantry, part of the Stonewall Brigade. He began as orderly sergeant and was promoted to captain. He took part in twenty-two battles and was wounded three times. General Thomas J. Jackson placed Wade as commander of the sharpshooters.

The first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Sidney Sheltman with Mrs. Cabell Smith, 4th Vice President of the Virginia Division. Charter members are listed below:

**Miss Rosa Charlton
Miss Evelyn Charlton
Mrs. Rice Charlton
Miss Norma Christian
Miss Dora Carper
Miss Bessie Davidson
Miss Cora Dobbins
Miss Sadie Earheart
Mrs. William Ellis
Miss Lelia Ellis
Miss Mae Fagg
Mrs. F. B. Fitzpatrick
Mrs. W. F. Flannagan
Miss Winnie Gardner
Miss Hunter Gardner
Miss Blanche Harman
Mrs. Rebecca Hawley
Mrs. Frank Hickok**

**Miss Margaret Junkin
Miss Judith Junkin
Mrs. Lushbaugh
Mrs. Bessie Linkous
Miss Laura Marrow
Mrs. J. K. Montague
Miss Mattie Montague
Mrs. John Miller
Miss Lelia Montague
Mrs. R. I. Roop
Mrs. John U. Sumpter
Mrs. J. N. Simpkins
Mrs. T. Surface
Miss Myrtyle Turner
Miss Lelia Turner
Mrs. Scott Thomas
Mrs. Marie Wall
Miss Elizabeth Weaver
Mrs. E. G. Trigg
Mrs. Maggie Wade**

All of the above were either wives, daughters, or sisters of Confederate veterans.

The following officers were elected at the first meeting: Mrs. J. K. Montague as President, Mrs. John U. Sumpter as 1st Vice President, Mrs. William Ellis as 2nd Vice President, Miss Cora Dobbins as 3rd Vice President, Miss Maggie Wade as Secretary, Mrs. Rice Charlton as Treasurer, and Mrs. E. S. Hagan as Historian.

Presidents

1905-1907	Mrs. J. K. Mongague
1907-1911	Mrs. E. S. Hagan
1911-1914	Mrs. Charles W. Sumpter
1914-1917	Mrs. A. Mannoni
1917-1919	Mrs. H. R. Kipps
1919-1920	Mrs. Charles W. Sumpter
1920-1923	Mrs. B. C. Phlegar
1923-1926	Mrs. H. R. Kipps
1926-1928	Mrs. Lou Barber
1928-1929	Mrs. R. I. Roop
1929-1931	Mrs. C. W. Crush
1931-1934	Miss Juanita Robertson
1934-1936	Mrs. I. R. B. Harless
1936-1937	Miss Emily Allen
1937-1940	Mrs. I. R. B. Harless
1940-1941	Mrs. C. W. Crush
1941-1943	Mrs. J. Gordon Smith
1943-1946	Miss Sadie Earheart
1946-1947	Mrs. John Guy
1947-1950	Mrs. L. B. Lester
1950-1952	Mrs. W. Jennings
1952-1954	Miss Rosa Charlton
1954-1957	Mrs. R. L. Kinnaird
1957-1960	Mrs. M. E. Crews
1960-1962	Mrs. R. L. Kinnaird
1962-1966	Miss Emily Allen
1966-1974	Mrs. M. E. Crews
1974-1999	Mrs. Ramsey McNeil
1999-2016	Ms. Sue Anne Boothe
2012-2016	Mrs. Anita Lynn Reed
2016-2019	Mrs. Rhonda Fleming Smith
2019-Present	Ms. Sue Anne Boothe

The Confederate Veterans and Sons of the Veterans had a chapter in Christiansburg. The Captain Hamilton D. Wade Chapter would often meet with the Veterans and Sons.

On January 19, 1907, The 100th anniversary of General Robert E. Lee's birth was celebrated in the Methodist Church, which was crowded with people who had come to pay their respect to one of Virginia's greatest Generals. The Rev. Mr. Rollins delivered an address on the life of Robert E. Lee. General Lee's favorite songs were sung. The Veterans attended in a body.

On October 1907 Governor Tyler delivered a splendid address to the Daughters, Veterans, and Sons, and friends in the Opera House. Miss Kathrine Dickey recited a piece composed by Mrs. E. S. Hagan, "The soldiers who Survive the War".

Every summer a picnic was held for the Confederate Veterans and a well-known speaker was asked to talk. On Lee's birthday a dinner was served to the Confederate Veterans in any building which was vacant and large enough to seat the Veterans. An outstanding speaker would speak to the Veterans, usually at the Methodist Church.

The chapter contributed to the special funds set up by the General organization such as education, historic, Confederate Museum (later called the Museum of the Confederacy), Lee Chapel Custodian's salary, and others. They have also marked many Confederate Soldiers ' graves. Military Crosses have been bestowed on Veterans of various wars.

Mrs. Maggie Wade Slusser, the daughter of Captain Hamilton D. Wade, was a life long resident of Montgomery County. She lived in Christiansburg until she moved to Blacksburg to care for her mother, who was ill. In Blacksburg she worked as assistant to the Registrar at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. She was an honorary member of the Hamilton Wade Chapter until her death on October 19, 1965.

Three members have held office in the Virginia Division: Mrs. C. Sumpter as 1st Vice President from 1914-1916, Mrs. B. C. Phlegar as Treasurer from 1925-1929, and Ms. Sue Anne Boothe as Division Historian from 2007-2009. Mrs. Ramsey McNeil has served the Division as First District Chairman from 2003-2005 and as Chairman of the Organization of New Chapters in 2001-2003 and 2005-2007. Ms. Sue Anne Boothe served as First District Chairman from 2001-2003 from 2005-2007 and from 2017-2019 and as the Chairman of the Organization of New Chapters from 2003-2005, Chairman of Monuments and Markers Committee, and Chairman of Magazine Committee. Anita Lynn Reed served as First District Chairman from 2015-2017.

Hamilton Wade Chapter celebrated its 50th anniversary at the home of Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Kinnaird in November of 1955. Mrs. Kinnaird, president, and the other chapter officers received many members and guests. In 2005 the chapter celebrated its 100th anniversary at the historic home of Mrs. Ramsey McNeil with over 150 attendees. Chapter members in period attire and the sound of old time music greeted guests. A ceremony was held on the front porch which included a Color Guard provided by the Stuart Horse Artillery Battery, an account of the chapter history, an account of the life of Hamilton Wade, a poem entitled *A Rebel Remembers* by chapter member Mrs. Ruth Harman, remarks by Stuart Horse Artillery Camp Commander Dana Jackson, Virginia Division President Mrs. Dolores C. Smith, and chapter president Sue Anne Boothe. Other distinguished guests included Division Registrar Mrs. Annette Wetzel and Fourth District

Chairman Mrs. Patricia Bryson, members of Dr. Harvey Black Chapter in Blacksburg and members of McComas Chapter in Pearisburg. There was a country dinner on the grounds followed by a house tour which included chapter memorabilia and an exhibit of period clothing, a war encampment and artillery demonstration by the Battery, and carriage rides.

Member Linda Haney was awarded the Winnie Davis Medal for her contributions to the chapter, particularly designing our chapter pin.

In 2006 chapter member Judith Blackwell spearheaded the restoration of the Craig Cemetery in Christiansburg. There are several Revolutionary War and Confederate Veterans buried there. The cemetery has been cleaned up, but stones and the fence around the lot need repairs.

At the 2006 Division Convention member Pat Boothe received a Judah P. Benjamin Award for her work with Reading Is Fundamental in Floyd. Our chapter recommended Lowell H. Boothe as a candidate to receive the World War II Cross of Military Service Award at the Convention. Mr. Boothe received the Award at the Convention in Roanoke.

Our chapter has been generous in contributions to veterans at the Veterans Administration in Salem and to active military personnel. We awarded a World War II Cross of Military Service to Bernard Webb in 2004 and to Jack Gordon in 2007. Dressed in period attire, we have been walking and riding in the Veterans and Christmas parades in Floyd, Virginia with the 1st Stuart Horse Artillery Camp of the Sons of Confederate.

In 2007 our chapter participated in a grave dedication for Wesley Phillips, the ancestor of four of our current members. We have held Iron Cross Ceremonies in 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

We have had Military Service Bestowal Ceremonies in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Our chapter has held rededication ceremonies for the 100th Anniversaries of the Floyd Confederate Monument in 2004 and the Pulaski Confederate Monument in 2006.

We awarded a 50-year membership pin to member Elsa Richards in 2003.

Chapter members participated in the Floyd Living History for the four years of the sesquicentennial of the War Between the States.

On April 26, 2014, Hamilton Wade 949 commemorated the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of New Market. Member, Linda Haney, organized the event in which the Chapter joined with the Friends of VMI Alumni to conduct a memorial service in remembrance of VMI Cadet Alfred Eli Goodykoontz at Laurel Branch Church of the Brethren. During the Memorial Service, a local historian and member of the Goodykoontz family, Gino Williams, provided a brief history of the Goodykoontz family. Following the memorial service, Hamilton Wade Chapter 949 and 1st

Stuart Horse Artillery Battery in Virginia conducted an Iron Cross Dedication at the Goodykoontz Cemetery. A young descendant of the 19th Century Goodykoontz family of Floyd County unveiled the Iron Cross during the dedication and wreaths were placed. Everyone was invited back to the church where the Chapter provided refreshments.

When Dr. Harvey Black Chapter disbanded, they turned the Montgomery White Sulphur Springs Cemetery over to Hamilton Wade Chapter. Member Anita Lynn Reed has worked for several years to document the history of Montgomery White Sulphur Springs, a resort that was used as a hospital during the War Between the States. She created a program, presented it to various groups, and received a Jefferson Davis Gold Medal for her work. We have been working towards putting up a new fence around the cemetery.

Member Cynthia Akers writes historical articles for local papers and has written two historical articles for the *UDC Magazine*, and Sharla Conner makes Confederate items for sale to raise money for the chapter. Cindy Akers has also worked with the Civil War Trail Markers in Virginia to place a marker in Christiansburg.

Our chapter has had a booth at the Heritage Day at Sunnyside Pentecostal Church for two years. Members wear period attire and talk to attendees.