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VIRGINIA DIVISION / #166  
BUCHANAN, VIRGINIA

On May 7, 1920, Mrs. Allen W. Bridges, a new resident of Buchanan, having moved from Lynchburg where she had been active in the UDC, was instrumental in organizing the chapter. By invitation, 10 ladies met in her home, and the Joseph W. Anderson Chapter was formed. The chapter was chartered 12 August 1920 with fourteen members. The chapter name was chosen to honor Captain Joseph W. Anderson who commanded Anderson's Battery, Virginia Artillery, known as the Botetourt Artillery. When Union General David Hunter burned his way through the Shenandoah Valley, Captain Anderson's [Buchanan] home, Mount Joy, fell victim to Hunter's pyromania.

At the first chapter meeting, Miss Ellen Keffer and Miss Sue Douthat were elected honorary members for life; Miss Douthat's four brothers had served in the Confederate forces. Mrs. Lucy Preston Brake was elected honorary president.

There were 23 Confederate veterans at that time, and their welfare was the first consideration for the daughters. State pensions were obtained for three elderly ladies. Beginning in 1921, annual silver teas were held to care for the memorial work. Mrs. W. P. Skidmore graciously opened her home for the first one. The teas were discontinued in December 1930 because of the Great Depression. Veterans were entertained with a dinner every year. In 1924-25, invitations were sent at a cost of 60 cents per plate. In 1927 three veterans attended the Memorial Day dinner; the cost per plate was \$1.00 in 1928.

Contributions were made to the Lee Mausoleum to maintain a custodian at Lee Chapel in Lexington. Contributions were made to the Stratford Hall Fund for the restoration of General Lee's birthplace. In June 1922, the chapter voted to give \$100.00, over a four year period, for the establishment of an enduring memorial on the battlefields of First and Second Manassas. The chapter took charge of the square in the Buchanan cemetery (Fairview) in which unknown Confederate soldiers lie buried; suitable markers were obtained for forty-six graves. Wreaths were placed on each veteran's grave on memorial days. In 1923 there were twelve graves found in Springwood Cemetery.

In 1925 a \$25.00 donation was made to the Woodrow Wilson Scholarship Fund. Regular contributions were made to the Virginia Division Scholarship Fund. A Confederate shelf was installed in the Buchanan High School Library to hold copies of WOMEN OF THE SOUTH IN WAR TIMES, RISE AND FALL OF THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT, and LIVES OF LEE AND JACKSON. The chapter subscribed to THE CONFEDERATE VETERAN, the official publication of the organization at that time. In 1923, a Junior UDC, now known as the Children of the Confederacy, was formed by Mrs. Land, with 24 members.

The last minutes in the secretary's book were dated May 26, 1941, with seven members present. The chapter was then made inactive. There had been a total of sixty members over the years.

(The history of the original chapter was written by Miss Helena Mae Hoover, an early member, and was largely reprinted in the book, BUCHANAN, VIRGINIA – GATEWAY TO THE SOUTHWEST by Harry Fulwiler, Jr.)

The current chapter was rechartered 23 February, 2004, with seven members. By 2007 the chapter membership had grown to twelve. The first president of the rechartered chapter was Debra Huff, followed by Kristin Dorsey. Sadly, Debra and Kristin both resigned, and left the chapter in shambles. I, Constance C. Dorsey, am the current chapter president, and I struggle to maintain the minimum number of members to keep the chapter viable. Several years ago I felt that I had no choice but to let the chapter go defunct, however, several ladies insisted on joining and brought about the chapter's third manifestation. Although we lost two members a couple of years ago, we gained new ones to replace them. Even though the last several years have brought about new struggles, this chapter has a proud history to which current members can, should and do aspire.