

A BRIEF HISTORY OF KIRKWOOD OTEY CHAPTER
UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
U.D.O Number 10, VIRGINIA DIVISION Number 5

On 11 June 1895, a few ladies interested in the Confederate cause met in the Y.M.C.A. parlor to organize a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Out of this meeting grew the "Lucy Mina Otey Chapter, U.D.C.," named in honor of a Lynchburg native who had worked so loyally and zealously in Lynchburg's hospitals all through the War Between the States. Mrs. Otey had been commissioned in 1861 as a Captain in the Army of the Confederacy by President Jefferson Davis in recognition of her organizing in Lynchburg the Ladies' Relief Hospital of which she was president. The charter for the Lucy Mina Otey Chapter was obtained 5 July 1895, the tenth chapter to be organized in the United States and the fifth in Virginia. A bronze tablet was dedicated by the chapter on 30 May 1932 on the building at 600 Main Street, the site of the Ladies' Relief Hospital, honoring Captain Lucy Mina Otey.

Members of Lucy Mina Otey Chapter met with a few other Virginia chapters in Alexandria, Virginia, in October of 1895 to organize the First Virginia Division. The organizing president of Lucy Mina Otey Chapter, Mrs. Withers Clark, was elected the first President of the First Virginia Division, U.D.C.

A largely attended meeting of the Chapter was held in November 1897 at the parish schoolhouse on Seventh Street, called to order by the president, Mrs. R.H.G. Keane, to consider a proposal to change the name of the chapter from "Lucy Mina they" to "Kirkwood they" in honor of the late and much-loved Colonel Kirkwood they, son of Lucy Mina they. The motion to make the change was made by Mrs. Charles M. Blackford and carried by acclamation, members stating that by honoring Kirkwood Otey, they would also be paying honor to his mother as well as commemorating the loyalty and bravery of one of her seven sons who served in the War Between the States.

The movement for the Confederate Monument at the top of Monument Terrace on Courthouse Hill was inaugurated by Kirkwood Otey Chapter. After formation of Old Dominion Chapter, they were invited to join in erecting this monument honoring the heroism of our Confederate soldiers. In Kirkwood they Chapter files, there are letters from Coke Smith, Wade Hampton, Fitzhugh Lee, and John Warwick Daniel endorsing this project. The Confederate monument was completed and dedicated in May 1900.

Another monument, the erection of which Kirkwood they Chapter supported, is the tall obelisk at the intersection of Fort and Memorial Avenues honoring General Jubal Anderson Early who came to the rescue of Lynchburg when it was threatened by invasion of Federal forces led by General David Hunter in the summer of 1864.

On Park Avenue there is a monument to Major John Warwick Daniel of the Army of Northern Virginia and for twenty-four years a U.S. Senator from Virginia and known as the "Lame Lion of Lynchburg." The monument was designed by Moses Ezekiel, a world-renowned sculptor. Kirkwood they Chapter is proud to have helped in the erection of this monument to one of Lynchburg's sons.

In Lynchburg's Old City Cemetery (also known as the Old Methodist Cemetery), the resting place of 2,202 soldiers of the Confederate States of America, each grave is marked by a headstone with initials of the soldier and his army affiliation. At various times letters have been received from descendants of Confederate soldiers

who had died at a hospital here, asking for information other than that they had died here. It has been a pleasure for our chapter to answer these requests which have come from many Southern states. A former member of Kirkwood Otey Chapter, Mrs. Charles Baber was co-author of the book *Behind the Old Brick Wall*. which contains much of this information.

Section of the Old City Cemetery Memorial Day services have been held annually since May 1866 in the Confederate in rotation with Lynchburg's two U.D.C. chapters, Kirkwood they 10 and Old Dominion 69 (now disbanded); the Southern Memorial Association; the Garland and Rodes Camp 8, United Confederate Veterans, while they were still with us; and Garland-Rodes Camp 409, Sons of Confederate Veterans. In recent years, there has also been participation by the re-enactors of the Lynchburg Home Guard, Company G, 11th Virginia Volunteers Infantry Regiment, the Lynchburg Civil War Round Table, the Lynchburg Historical Foundation, Wilson-Taylor Camp 10, Sons of Union Veterans, local area SCV Camps, and visitors from many Southern states. Unfortunately, this service was discontinued due to the corona virus and pandemic and changing attitudes about all things Confederate.

It is with a sense of pride that we point to the undisputed fact that by earnest concentration and interest in all work of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Kirkwood they Chapter 10 has given to Virginia Division many fine officers, including seven Division Presidents during the first hundred years of the Division's history, namely: Lottie Preston Clark (Mrs. Withers), 1895-1896; Miss Ruth Jennings, 1903-1905; Minnie Earl Campbell Eller (Mrs. Nathan), 1909-1911; Anne Norvell they Scott (Mrs. James A., Sr.), 1921-1923; Mrs. Bernard C. Baldwin, 1939-1941; Mrs. Samuel W. West, 1949-1951; and Joan Logan Brooks, 1991-1993. Kirkwood they Chapter is particularly proud that one of its charter members served the U.D.C. as President General: Miss Ruth Jennings, who married Mr. St. John Alison Lawton and moved to South Carolina, was elected President General for 1925-1927 after serving as Historian General for 1921-1925. Lottie Preston Clark also served as Treasurer General for 1895-1896. In recent years Rebecca Lipscomb Ferguson (Mrs. Brad) served as Recorder General of Military Service Awards from 2002-2004. Joan Logan Brooks served as Treasurer General from 2010-2012.

Mrs. James A. Scott served as the Adjutant of the Garland and Rodes Camp 8, United Confederate Veterans, until they disbanded. Mrs. Scott, granddaughter of Lucy Mina they and daughter of Kirkwood Otey, was one of our most outstanding members. She was present at and served as secretary of the organizational meeting of the First Virginia Division. A photostatic copy of the minutes of that meeting, as they were written in longhand, are in the archives of the Virginia Division, U.D.C., Richmond, Va. She held, until her death in 1948, the position of chairman of the Lee Chapel and Mausoleum Committee. While Mrs. Scott was president of the Virginia Division, she led a state-wide movement to preserve Lee Chapel when the President of the Washington & Lee College wanted to destroy its integrity by building a large structure in its place. Mrs. N.D. Eller, Mrs. B.C. Baldwin, Mrs. S.W. West, and Joan Logan Brooks also served on that committee. The chapter continues to contribute annually to the salary of the Custodian in that hallowed place.

In showing their appreciation of Mrs. Scott's service to Garland and Rodes Camp 8, U.C.V., the camp bequeathed to Kirkwood they Chapter many valuable portraits of their members. Among these was a portrait of "Lynchburg's Savior," General Jubal A. Early, which was presented to Fort Hill Club which is situated on the site of the old fort thrown up to defend the City in 1864.

Another portrait, an oil painting of Dr. William S. Morris, was sent to the Western Union Museum in New York City and is a greatly prized addition to this public utility's "Hall of Fame." Dr. Morris, surgeon, scientist, and public official, served as General Robert E. Lee's aide during the War Between the States and had complete charge of the telegraph system of the Confederate States. He later served as president of American Telegraph.

Portraits of Generals Garland and Rodes were given to the Lynchburg public school named in their honor. The last of the portraits from Garland and Rodes Camp 8, U.C.V., was placed in 1989 with a Georgia descendant of the brave Lynchburg soldier depicted in the portrait.

Kirkwood Otey Chapter's first and foremost aim was the care of the Confederate veterans who were still with us at the time of our organization as well as the continuing benevolent care of wives, widows, daughters, and other Confederate descendants. Kirkwood they Chapter continues to be true to its heritage and at all times and in all activities is loyal to the five objectives of the U.D.C., such as awarding Southern Crosses of Honor to Confederate veterans and Crosses of Military Service and National Defense Medals to deserving veterans of recent wars; obtaining scholarships for eligible descendants of Confederate veterans; striving for a true history of the Confederacy; and contributing generously to patriotic activities which include contributions of money and Christmas gifts for the patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salem, VA, visits to the hospital, and flags flown on patriotic days. Books relating to Confederate history and the United Daughters of the Confederacy Magazine are given to various libraries in the area.

In 1995, Kirkwood Otey Chapter was privileged still to have two Real Daughters of the Confederacy as members, Miss Bland Massie Richeson and Miss Virginia Organ. These unique ladies were cherished and honored as our special link to our Confederate heritage.

One recent project of which Kirkwood Otey Chapter is particularly proud is the conservation of three flags carried by the 11th Virginia Volunteers Infantry Regiment. One is a Stars and Bars flag which was the Regimental flag. The others are Army of Northern Virginia battle flags, second and third bunting issues. The flags are housed and displayed in the Lynchburg Museum across the street from the Confederate Monument at the top of Monument Terrace.

As a special chapter centennial project, the chapter had its chapter badge re-struck and made available for chapter members to purchase. The original design for the chapter badge was drawn up by Colonel Kirkwood Otey and was accepted by the chapter in February 1896. In April 1896, the chapter members, wearing their new badges, attended *en masse* a lecture given by General John B. Gordon in Lynchburg. One original chapter badge has been in continuous use in the chapter by a charter member and then by her daughter until her death in 2000.

A special chapter project in 1994 was to pay the cost of planting a large maple tree and placing a granite marker in the Old City Cemetery, Confederate Section, Lynchburg. The cemetery suffered extensive damage, especially to the oldest trees, during the windstorm of June 1993. During its centennial season, Kirkwood they Chapter was honored to be a part of the 1994-1995 restoration project in the historic Old City Cemetery headed up by the Southern Memorial Association and the City of Lynchburg.

An on-going benevolent project of Kirkwood they Chapter is the Adopt-A-Spot cleanup in the Jones Memorial Library area of Memorial Avenue in the center of Lynchburg. The sixty members of Kirkwood Otey Chapter, who range in age from 20 to 90+, wish to be known as active and concerned citizens of our lovely and historic hometown.

During the Sesquicentennial commemoration of the War Between the States (2010-2015), Kirkwood Otey Chapter chose as its major project the erection of a Virginia Civil War Trails marker in the Old City Cemetery. The marker's text and photos honor Mrs. Lucy Mina they and other Lynchburg ladies who established and worked in the Ladies' Relief Hospital on Main Street. This is the 15th Civil War Trails marker to be placed in Lynchburg.

Kirkwood Otey Chapter cherishes the glorious memories of the Confederate past, works for the present good of the organization, and looks forward to even greater opportunity for benevolent, educational, historical, memorial, and patriotic service. The chapter motto is "Loyalty to the Truth of Confederate History."

This Kirkwood they Chapter history was first compiled in 1957 by Mrs. B.C. Baldwin, updated in 1976 by Mrs. Samuel W. West, and recently updated again by Joan Logan Brooks.

The essay *Why I Am a Daughter of the Confederacy*, featured on the home page of the Virginia Division's website, was written by Chapter member Mary Nowlin Moon.