

# THE LEE CHAPTER NO. 173



100th  
Anniversary  
1924 - 2024

# History of The Lee Chapter U.D.C. of Purcellville #1842 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

100 Years of "The Lee Chapter" No. 173 History  
By Becky J. Fleming, President 2024

The Beginning: A Brief History – **Written by Mrs. Bessie M. Hackley in 1958.**

On Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1924, a meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Virginia Bitzer Hirst for the purpose of organizing a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mrs. N. H. Heaton of Leesburg Chapter, came to organize the new chapter. Miss Nannie McIntosh, (Treasurer of Leesburg Chapter) came with her and offered many helpful suggestions. Mrs. Heaton made a beautiful prayer. There being no business, the new business of organizing was at once taken up. The State (Division) By-Laws were read by Miss McIntosh.

The naming of the chapter was one of the first things brought before the meeting. The chapter was named in the honor of Col. E.V. White of Loudoun Co.

The following officers were elected for one year.

President- Mrs. Virginia Bitzer Hirst

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. – Mrs. J. V. Nichols

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. – Mrs. J.B. Hackley

Rec. Sec. – Mrs. Raymond Case

Cor. Sec. – Miss Fannie Reid

Custodian – Mrs. Terry Hirst

The dues of the organization to be one dollar a year.

The Charter Members were as follows –

Miss Clara Benedum  
Mrs. Nan Brewster Cornwell  
Mrs. Sarah Walter Case  
Mrs. Beauma Purcell Gregg  
Miss Annie Gregg  
Mrs. Virginia Bitzer Hirst  
Mrs. Ethel Fox Hirst  
Mrs. Kate Brown Hirst  
Mrs. Bessie Millner Hackley  
Miss Amy Howell  
Miss Elizabeth Heaton  
Mrs. Delia Ratcliff Merchant  
Miss Fannie Reid

Making fourteen chapter members.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> 1924 a call(ed) meeting was held at the home of Mrs. V. B. Hirst for the purpose of changing the name of the chapter. The members present voted to call the chapter “**The Lee**” and the president appointed the following committee to write the constitution – Mrs. Lynn Cornwell, Mrs. J.V. Nichols, Mrs. T.N. Carruthers.

At the June meeting in 1924 the new constitution was read by the chairman Mrs. Lynn Cornwell. The constitution was accepted as framed and read. The Sec. to record the same in the back of the minute book – but no trace of it has been found.

The following year 1925 our meetings were held in the Veteran of Foreign Wars room. The rent to be one dollar a month and to see that it be kept clean.

Our Charter was framed in Sept 1925.

In 1927 we presented the “South in War Times”  
We had 21 members in 1927.

In 1928 our Chapter had the following honorary members –

Mr. C.C. Wenner\*

Mr. Wm. Fletcher\*

Mr. John Schaffer\*

Col. Lucian Powell\*

Dr. J. E. Copeland\*

Dr. Charles Russell\*

Dr. Wm. Dodd

Mr. James Kilgour

Mr. Craven Lay\*

Mr. Gouchnauer\*

\*All were confederate soldiers except Dr. Dodd and Mr. Kilgour.

In 1929 we were still sending money for the endowment fund for the custodian of Lee Chapel at Lexington, VA.

In 1929 prizes were given the history classes in Purcellville school for the best essay on the “Life of Gen. Robert E. Lee”. Those winning prizes were – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Isabelle Nichols, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Margaret Emerick, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Fannie Nelson Lyon. The book “The Life and Letters of Gen. Lee” was given to the winners in each grade.

In 1933 money was wanted for Jefferson Davis Historical fund, our quota 51 cents a member with three years to pay. Also, quotas for three General U.D.C. funds namely, Restoration of Stratford (we sent 79 dollars), Jefferson Davis Historical Foundation and Mrs. L. H. Raines.

We presented Purcellville school a framed picture of General Robert E. Lee – the following minutes written by Mrs. Nichols will give the story. These minutes are now in UDC Scrapbook).

We had a letter from one of our members who lived in S.C. asking what VA. Representative would make a movement to have a monument to Gen. Lee and Gen. Grant at Appomattox. The UDC opposed it. St. (Senator?) George Tucker was the Representative.

At this same meeting Mrs. Merchant read a news article saying that a chapter in Norfolk had succeeded in having Gen. Lee's picture taken off the beer bottles.

In the minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> annual convention Lee Chapter was listed as one of the twelve chapters recorded as being in good standing.

We entertained the Fourth District Convention (Conference) April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 1933. At this meeting we had two distinguished speakers – Dr. Wm. Dodd, Prof. of History at University of Chicago, and Gen Billy Mitchell of the U.S. Army. In 1949 we entertained the District Convention (Conference) again.

In 1934, the Chapter gave a prize of \$3.00 to the student in Lincoln High School writing the best essay on the "Life of Maury". It was won by James Love, first year high school student.

On National Hospital Day – May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1951 Lee Chapter presented to the Loudoun County Hospital a mahogany hall table in memory of John E. Benedum, the last Confederate soldier in our town. The following inscription on a card placed under the glass on top of the table reads as follows= A gift of Lee Chapter U.D.C. Purcellville, VA. in memory of John E. Benedum - Confederate Soldier. The table to stand under the hospital memorial board and will bear a container of fresh flowers daily.

This covers a few of our activities in the past 34 years. Anyone who wants to add to or take away any event are invited to do so. My eyes are poor and I couldn't do a good job.

Faithfully yours,  
Bessie M. Hackley  
(b. 1877- d. 1969)

## 1924 CHARTER MEMBERS

In 1958, **Bessie Millner Hackley**, a long-standing President, shared this recollection of our humble beginnings starting way back in 1924. At the time of this recounting, Bessie would have been 81 years old, and with just a few corrections that we will address later, she did a pretty good job.

Bessie Millner Hackley was born 11 September 1877 to her parents Pryor Reynolds Millner and Sarah Kate Reynolds. Bessie married Dr. James Bernard Hackley, Sr. and they both lived on Main Street, Purcellville, Virginia. The house still stands and is located across the street from Purcellville Library. Bessie and her husband are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Hamilton, Virginia.

Bessie was the granddaughter of *Capt. Pryor Reynolds who served with the 45th N.C. Co*  
*A.*

Bessie Millner Hackley was a Charter member of the Lee Chapter and was elected Vice President at their first meeting in April 1924. She later served as our Chapter President for 25 years, from 1928 – 1953.

Bessie's granddaughter, **Trudy Hackley Dawson**, was in attendance at our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration to honor her grandmother. She shared photos of Bessie and their home built in 1905.



**BESSIE MILLNER HACKLEY**

THE LEE CHAPTER PRESIDENT  
1928-1953



DR. J.B. & BESSIE HACKLEY  
HOME ON MAIN ST PURCELLVILLE - BUILT 1905  
ACROSS FROM THE LIBRARY

The second Lee  
Chapter meeting, on  
May 12, 1924 was  
held at this home.

## CHARTER ORGANIZATION MINUTES 1924

*the Lee Chapter No. 173*  
*U. D. G. No. 1842 Purcellville, Va*

*Charter members - April 5, 1924*

*Miss Clara Benedum Paid*  
*Mrs. J. N. Carruthers (Virginia Purcell)*  
*Mrs. Nan Brewster Cornwell*  
*Mrs. Sarah Walter Case*  
*Mrs. Beauma Purcell Gregg*  
*Miss Anne Gregg*  
*Mrs. Virginia Bitzer Hirst*  
*Mrs. Ethel Fox Hirst*  
*W. H. Brown Hirst*

**This is the first page of the  
1924 Lee Chapter  
Charter Organization  
Minutes**

**CHARTER ORGANIZATION MINUTES 1924**

## April 5, 1924

On Saturday April 5, 1924 at 2 p.m. a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. V.B. Hirst for the purpose of organizing a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Mrs. W. H. Heaton, Chairman of the Fourth District of the Virginia Division, and President of the Leesburg Chapter came to organize the new chapter here. Miss Nannie McIntosh, Treasurer of the Leesburg Chapter also came and gave many helpful suggestions.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Heaton, who made a beautiful prayer. There being no minutes the new business of organizing was at once taken up.

The By Laws of the state chapter were read by Miss McIntosh. The forming of the new chapter was one of the first things brought before the meeting. By the vote of those present the chapter was named in honor of the late Col. E.V. White of ...

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## CHARTER ORGANIZATION MINUTES 1924

April 5, 1924 – Continued, Page 2

Loudoun Co.

The following officers were elected to serve for one year:

- Pres. – Mrs. V. B. Hirst
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. – Mrs. J. V. Nichols
- 2<sup>nd</sup> “ ” – Mrs. J. B. Hackley
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rec. Sec. – Mrs. Raymond Case
- Treasurer – Mrs. W.S. Steele
- Corresponding Sec. Miss Fannie Reid
- Custodian – Mrs. Terry Hirst

The election of the Historian was deferred until the next meeting.

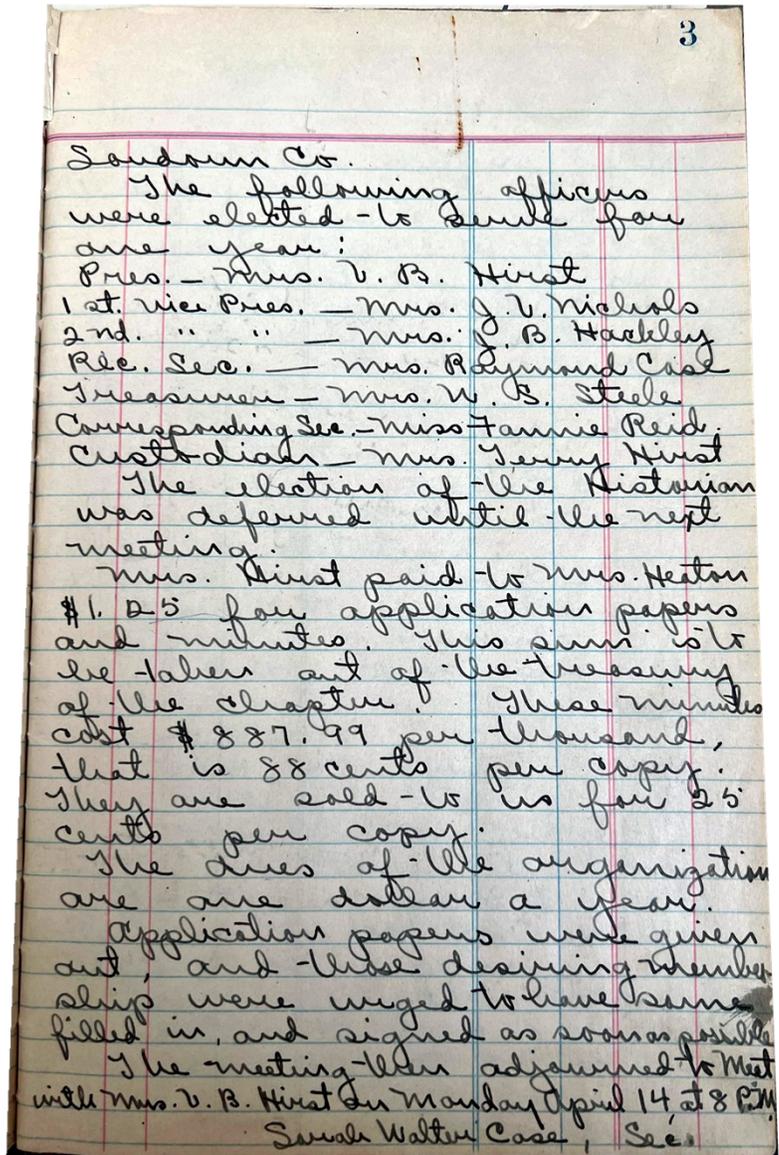
Mrs. Hirst paid to Mrs. Heaton \$1.25 for application papers and minutes. This sum is to be taken out of the treasury of the chapter. These minutes cost \$887.99 per thousand, that is 88 cents per copy.

The dues of the organization are one dollar a year. Application papers were given out and those desiring membership were urged to have same filled in and signed as soon as possible.

The meeting then adjourned to meet with Mrs. V.B. Hirst on Monday, April 14, (1924) at 8 P.M.

Sarah Walter Case, Sec.

1924 CHARTER MEMBERS



## Mrs. Sarah Walter Case, Former School Teacher

Special Dispatch to The Star

PURCELLVILLE, Va., June 8.—Mrs. Sarah Walter Case, 59, former school teacher, died last night at Loudoun Hospital after a long illness.

Born in Winchester, Va., she had been a resident of Purcellville since her marriage to the late Raymond Case 37 years ago. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Walter.

Mrs. Case taught school in Loudoun County before her marriage to Mr. Case. She was active in Red Cross work and was a former member of the board of directors of the Loudoun Red Cross Chapter.

She was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and a member of Lee Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Her husband died seven years ago. She is survived by two sons, F. Gardner Case, Purcellville, and George W. Case, Montgomery, Ala.; three sisters, Miss Margaret Walter, Winchester; Miss Edith Walter and Mrs. Erle Carter, Baltimore, and a brother, Frank G. Walter, who lives in Michigan.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. (EST) tomorrow at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Burial will be in Hillsboro Cemetery.

*Sarah Walter Case*, was the appointed secretary for the first Lee Chapter meeting in April 1924. At this meeting she was elected to be the official "Recording Secretary - Mrs. Raymond Case" for a one-year term, according to these minutes.

Sarah "Walter" Case was born 25 May 1892 to her parents Franklin Gardner Walter & Sallie Gold Kurtz Walter of Winchester, Virginia. Before marriage Sarah was a Loudoun County school teacher and was also on the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross. Sarah was also active in Red Cross work. She lived in Purcellville, Virginia in 1920 with husband Raymond Case; They are buried at the Hillsboro Cemetery just outside of Purcellville. Her obituary states she was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Lee Chapter UDC.

Sarah was a real daughter. Her father, Frank Gardner Walter served with the 39th Battalion VA CAV and on Sarah's application her father wrote his own story on the application (see below) and even signed it.

Sarah was a Charter Member of the Lee Chapter.

Remarks:

I joined my Company A 39 Battalion Va Cavalry  
at Berryville  
on duty at Gen R. E. Lees Headquarter then on  
march to Gettysburg and was with it until  
the surrender at Appomattox. I was  
at Appomattox Station when a prison  
train was captured by Federal Cavalry on  
day before Surrender.  
Frank G. Walter  
Co A. 39 Battalion  
Va Cavalry

May 12, 1924 –  
(Second Meeting)

On Monday evening May 12 at 8:00 P.M., the regular meeting of the U.D.C. was held at the house of Mrs. J.B. Hackley with the president Mrs. Virginia B. Hirst presiding.

A full attendance was not reported, however the business of the evening was carried on by the Chapter members in attendance.

After prayer, led by the president, the minutes of the last meeting were read by Fannie Reid in the absence of the Sec.

The reports from the various committees were given and other unfinished business completed.

Plans were formulated for the program to be held June 2 at the home of Miss Elizabeth Heaton, under whose direction the program will be given.

The remaining time was spent in relating interesting confederate stories which were much enjoyed.

Fannie Reid, Sec.

## 1924 CHARTER MEMBERS

May 12, 1924.

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**Miss Fannie Reid**, was elected the “Corresponding Secretary” at the first Lee Chapter meeting April 1924. Fannie is also listed as a Charter Member. Being Corresponding Secretary, was Fannie’s whole life. Frances Hazel “Fannie” Reid was born 22 April 1900 to her parents, George David Reid & Eliza Jaque Reid; Miss Frances Hazel Reid, also known as Miss Fannie, was born in Fauquier County, Virginia. She lived in Hume with her aunt and brothers, and then moved to Purcellville when she was 12 years old. Miss Fannie graduated from Lincoln High School and attended the Wilson Teacher College and

Strayer Business College in Washington D.C. 1920 Census shows Fannie living on Mt. Gilead with her Aunt Alice Corder;

In June, 1921, when Ms. Fannie was 21 years old, she began her career at the Loudoun Times Mirror newspaper as a secretary. She was then promoted to Bookkeeper, Editor, and then Associate Publisher of the newspaper. At times, Miss Fannie was also a reporter. She loved to meet people and discuss all things of interest as she reported news for the newspaper. She enjoyed politics, and would often be seen walking about town socializing and debating with others.

Miss Fannie was director of the Loudoun County Historical Society, and a founding member of the Loudoun Business and Professional Women’s Club. In 1987, Miss Fannie published a book about the history of local newspapers titled, *Inside Loudoun: The Way it Was*. To many who worked with her at the newspaper, and in the community, Miss Fannie was known as “Loudoun’s living history.”

Miss Fannie worked with the newspaper for 73 years and worked hard to study and preserve the history of Loudoun County. Because of her contributions to Loudoun County, an elementary school in Leesburg was named for her. “Frances Hazel Reid Elementary School”. Sadly, this school was on the list to be renamed because of her association with the cause but still remains today the Frances Hazel Reid Elementary School.

Fannie was the granddaughter of *Jonas Cornwell 38th VA Battalion Fauquier Artillery.*

## **CHARTER ORGANIZATION MINUTES 1924**

June 2, 1924 -  
(Third Meeting)

The regular monthly meeting of the U.D.C. was held June 2, at the house of Elizabeth Heaton. Mrs. V. B. Hirst presiding.

The meeting was opened with the Lord's Prayer, after this the new constitution was read by the chairman, Mrs. Lynn Cornwell.

The constitution was accepted as framed and read. The secretary to record same in the minutes.

The President appointed Mrs. W. S. Steele and Mrs. T.W. Carruthers to select flowers for Mr. Simpson and Mrs. J.E. Benedum.

There being no further business Mrs. E. J. Hirst asked the members to meet at her home for the next regular meeting.

The group decided on meeting the first Monday in July at 8 P.M. A program of interest to any southerner followed the business of the evening.

Sarah W. Case, Sec

June 2, 1924. 9

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The meeting was opened with the Lord's Prayer, after this the new constitution was read by the chairman, Mrs. Lynn Cornwell.

The constitution was accepted as framed and read. The secretary to record same in the book of minutes.

The President appointed Mrs. W. S. Steele and Mrs. T. W. Carruthers to select flowers for Mr. Simpson and Mrs. J. E. Benedum.

There being no further business Mrs. E. J. Hirst asked the members to meet at her home for the next regular meeting.

The time decided on being the first Monday in July, at 8 P.M. A program of interest to any southerner followed the business of the evening.

Sarah W. Case Sec.

# 1924 LEE CHAPTER'S SIGNED CHARTER

**United Daughters of the Confederacy**



Hereby authorizes and empowers

*Amy Virginia Howell*  
*Clifford W. Weston*  
*Joseph Allen Hachey*  
*Catherine Brown Hirst*  
*Sarah Helen Case*  
*Lucie M. Cross*  
*Louise Hilgard Nichols*  
*Lucie Boyd*  
*Delia Proffitt Merchant*  
*Marie Augusta Carmel*  
*Ethel Dot Hunt*  
*Virginia Rebecca Hirst*  
*Lucile H. DeLoe*

and their successors to associate themselves together under the name and designation of *The Lee Chapter* No. *1842*  
**United Daughters of the Confederacy**  
to be located at *Carrollville* in the County of *Letcher*  
State of *W. Va.*

The said *The Lee Chap. No. 1842* is authorized to perform all acts pertaining to the purposes of this Association and to enact for its own government such By-Laws, as may be deemed necessary provided they do not conflict with the Charter or Constitution of this Association.

In Testimony of which we have hereunto affixed our signatures at *New York* this *July 14* day of *1924*

*Alice Walker Garrod* PRESIDENT  
*Elizabeth Steele Smith* SECRETARY

NO. 1000007 - MEMBER PHOTO, 100, 1000000000



The Lee Chapter Charter  
Signed by

Amy Virginia Howell  
Elizabeth R. Heaton  
Bessie Millner Hackley  
Katherine Brown Hirst  
Sarah Walter Case  
Annie M. Gregg  
Louise Kilgour Nichols  
Fannie Reid  
Delia Radcliff Merchant  
Nannie Brewster Cornwell  
Ethel Fox Hirst  
Virginia Bitzer Hirst  
Lucille W. Taylor

# CHARTER ORGANIZATION MINUTES 1924

July 7, 1924 -

(Fourth Meeting)

On Monday evening July 7, the regular business meeting of the U.D.C. was held at the house of Mrs. A.T. Hirst.

The President called the meeting to order and then led in the Lord's prayer.

The minutes of the June meeting were read by the sec.

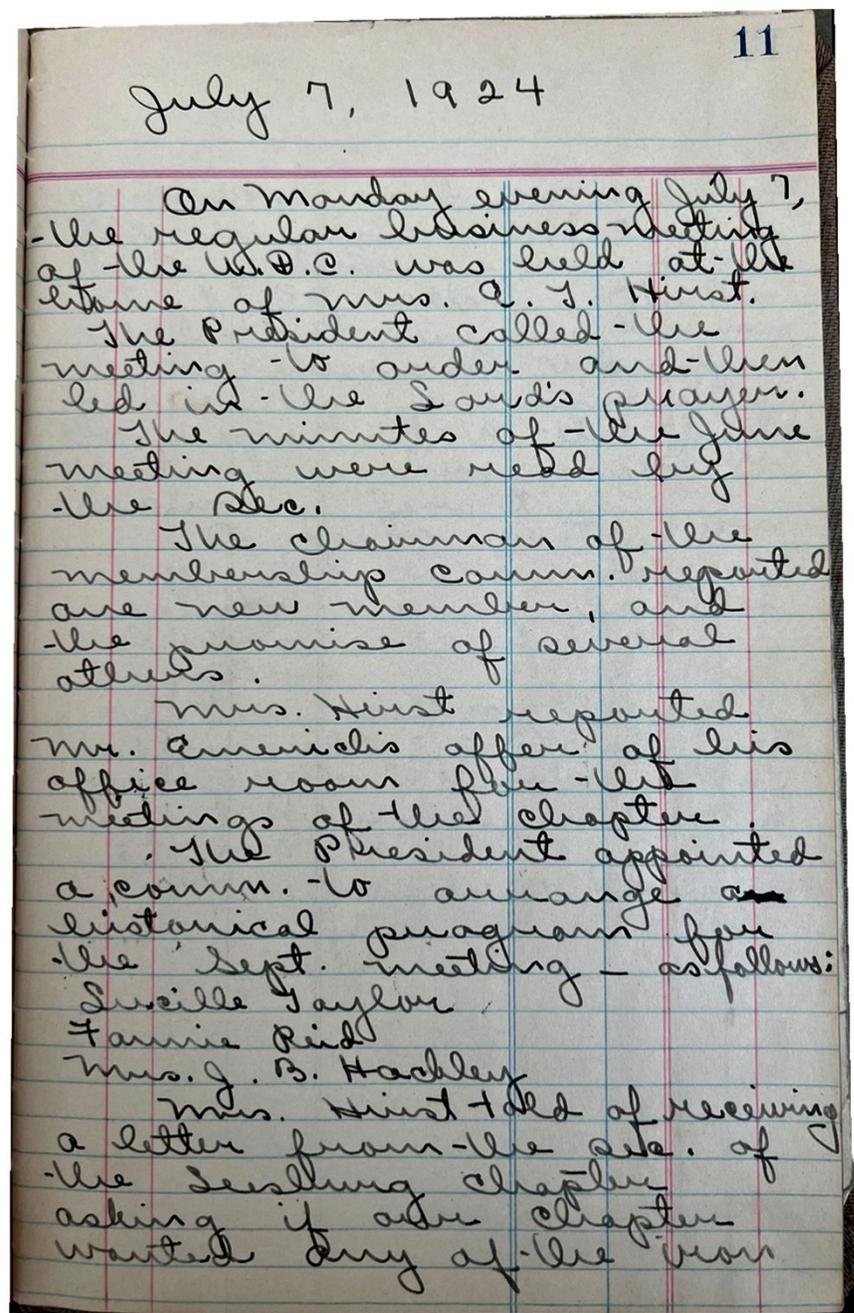
The chairman of the membership comm. Reported our new member, and the promised of several others.

Mrs. Hirst reported Mr. Emerick's offer of his office room for the meetings of the chapter.

The President appointed a comm. to arrange a historical program for the Sept meeting as follows:

Lucille Taylor  
Fannie Reid  
Mrs. J. B. Hackley

Mrs. Hirst told of receiving a letter from the sec. of the Leesburg Chapter asking if our Chapter wanted any of the iron.....



# CHARTER ORGANIZATION MINUTES 1924

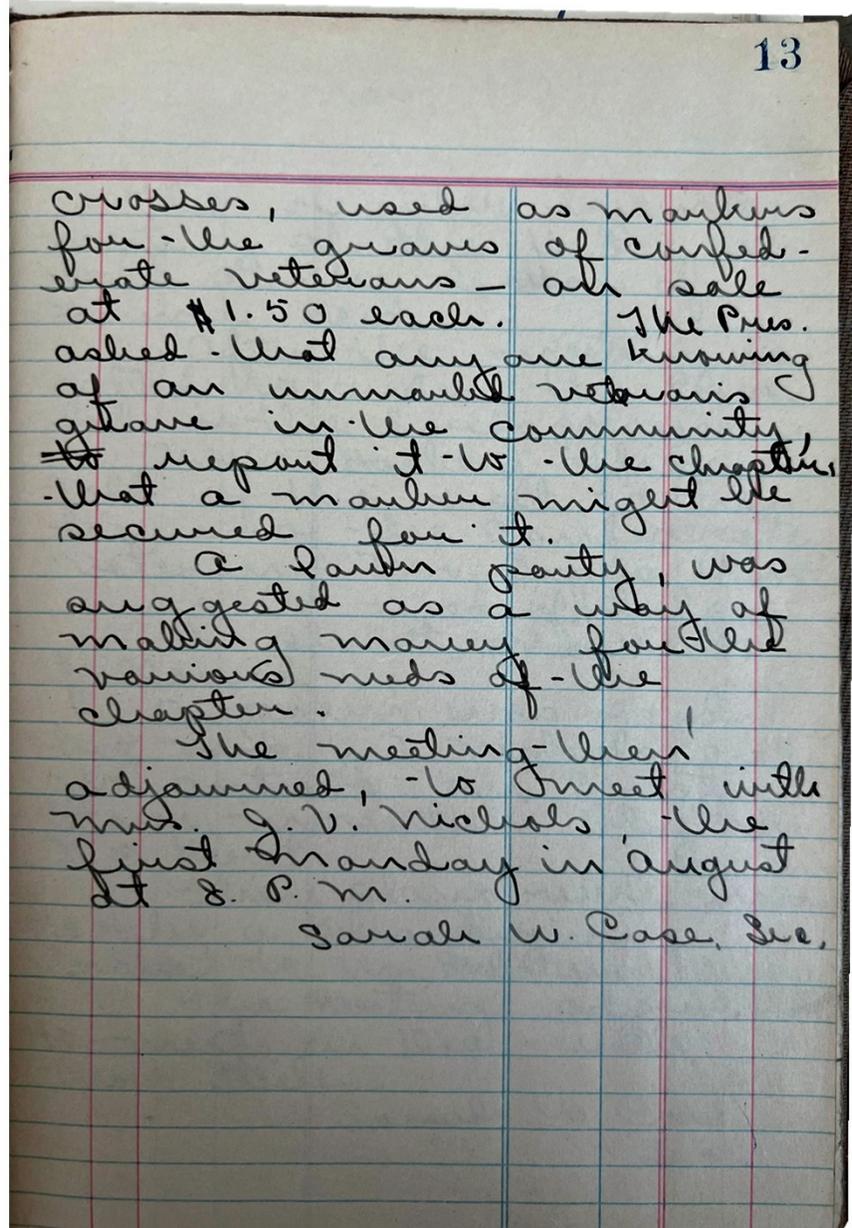
July 7, 1924 – Page 2  
(Fourth Meeting)

....crosses, used as markers for the graves of confederate veterans – on sale at \$1.50 each. The Pres. asked that anyone knowing of an unmarked veteran's grave in the community, report it to the chapter, that a marker might be secured for it.

A lawn party was suggested as a way of making money for the various needs of the chapter.

The meeting then adjourned, to meet with Mrs. J.V. Nichols the first Monday in August at 8 P.M.

Sarah W. Case, Sec.



# CHARTER ORGANIZATION MINUTES 1924

November 1924

The regular business meeting of the U.D.C. was held at the home of Fannie Reid.

After the meeting was called to order the Pres. led in the Lord's Prayer.

Mrs. Hackley then told of the visit to the home of the Confederate veteran Mr. Tippo, who is so in need of help.

A short program followed\_\_

A poem was read by Mrs. J.V. Nichols and article on great Stone Mountain by Mrs. V. B. Hirst.

Then plans were made to take a Thanksgiving basket to Mr. & Mrs. Tippo.

The meeting adjourned to meet in Dec. with Mrs. Steele.

15  
nov. 1924

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The meeting adjourned to meet in Dec. with Mrs. Steele.

Sarah W. Case,  
Sec.

Sarah W. Case, Sec.

## 1924 CHARTER MEMBERS

**Mrs. Virginia Bitzer Hirst**, was elected Lee Chapter's first "President", serving from 1924-1926. She was our oldest member, signing the Charter at age 67.

"Jennie" was born 13 September 1857 to her parents John W Bitzer & Amanda Lovett Bitzer; 1900 Census shows Virginia & her husband John Townsend Hirst living on Mt. Gilead with their three children.

Jennie died 12 Feb 1936 and is buried in Lincoln Cemetery, Lincoln, Va. just outside of Purcellville.

Jennie was the niece of Conrad Bitzer of the 8th Virginia.

**Mrs. Lucille W. Taylor** Born 2 September 1891 in Purcellville; Her parents Bailey M. Taylor and Clara H. Osborn; She too lived on Mt. Gilead with her husband Herman Piggott whom she married in 1931. Both are buried in Lincoln Cemetery, Lincoln, Va. Lucille, a Charter member, was elected Lee Chapter's First Registrar in December 1924.

Lucille was the granddaughter of Joseph C. Osburn, 7th Virginia Cav.

**Mrs. Nannie Brewster Cornwell** – Born 20 June 1898 to Oscar Brewster & Nannie Edna "Austin" Brewster of Arkansas. She was the wife of J. Lynn Cornwell. In 1930 J Lynn Cornwell and Nannie lived in their home on Main Street in Purcellville where he ran a grocery store. Both are buried in Hillsboro Cemetery, Hillsboro, Va.(Loudoun County). Nan was a Charter Member of the Lee Chapter.

Nan was the granddaughter of Alphonse Brewster 9th Ark. Infantry

**Mrs. Louise Kilgour Nichols** – Born 14 Dec 1889 to her parents Harry Kilgour & Florence "Leslie" Kilgour. Louise married Joseph VanDevanter Nichols from Mt. Gilead. In the 1930's the couple lived on Main Street in Purcellville, VA. Louise & her husband are buried in Hillsboro Cemetery just outside of Purcellville. She was a Charter Member of the Lee Chapter.

Louise is the niece of Thomas Martin Leslie 6th VA CAV – Thomas joined under age and was killed in Strasburg 1862. He is buried at Arnold Grove Cemetery in Hillsboro Cemetery just outside of Purcellville.

**MRS. VIRGINIA B. HIRST**  
PURCELLVILLE, Feb. 12—Mrs. Virginia Bitzer Hirst, 78, widow of John T. Hirst, prominent club woman, church worker and social leader, died at her home in Purcellville at 5:30 this morning from pneumonia, following an illness of several months.  
Mrs. Hirst was a life-long resident of Loudoun County and had been living in Purcellville for 50 years. She was a member of St. Peters Episcopal Church, Lee Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy; Purcellville Garden Club, the Home Interest Club and the Ladies' Board of Managers of the Loudoun County Hospital.  
She is survived by two sons, J. Terry Hirst, Leesburg and Purcellville; Dr. Virginius B. Hirst, New York, and one daughter, Mrs. William Couper, Lexington, Va. Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2 P. M. from the residence, conducted by the Rev. A. L. Ribble. Interment will be in the Lincoln Cemetery.

# CHARTER ORGANIZATION MINUTES 1924

December 1924

On Tuesday evening Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, the regular meeting of the UDC was held at the home of Mrs. W.S. Steele.

After prayer led by the president the minutes of the last meeting were read by Ethel Hirst in the absence of the secretary.

Treasurer's report was as follows:  
Amt of dues deposited May 12<sup>th</sup> - \$12.00

Amt. deposited from lunch \$30.50  
Gift from Mrs. Popkins \$1.00 Total \$43.50

Money paid out as follows:  
Flowers \$10.00; Millner & Speir for blankets \$3.75; Nichols & Paxson for vest \$2.50; C.K. Davis for merchandise \$7.70; Lynn Cornwell for groceries; \$2.75; Total \$26.70

Balance in Bank: \$16.80

The next step was to elect a Registrar for the Chapter, this having not been done before.

Lucille Taylor was nominated and unanimously elected Registrar.

Dec. 1924

On Tuesday evening Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> the regular meeting of the U.D.C. was held at the home of Mrs. W.S. Steele

After prayer led by the president the minutes of the last meeting were read by Ethel Hirst in the absence of the secretary

Treasurer's report was as follows:

Amt. of dues deposited May 12 <sup>th</sup> .	\$ 12 00
Amt. deposited from lunch	30 50
Gift from Mrs. Popkins	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 43 50 Total

Money paid out as follows:

7 Lodgers	\$10 00
Millner & Speir for blankets	3 75
Nichols & Paxson for vest	2 50
C. K. Davis for merchandise	7 70
Lynn Cornwell for groceries	2 75
	<hr/>
	\$ 26 70
Balance in Bank	16 80

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# CHARTER ORGANIZATION MINUTES 1924

December 1924

(Page 2)

The certificates were then signed by the pres. and registrar then given out to each member.

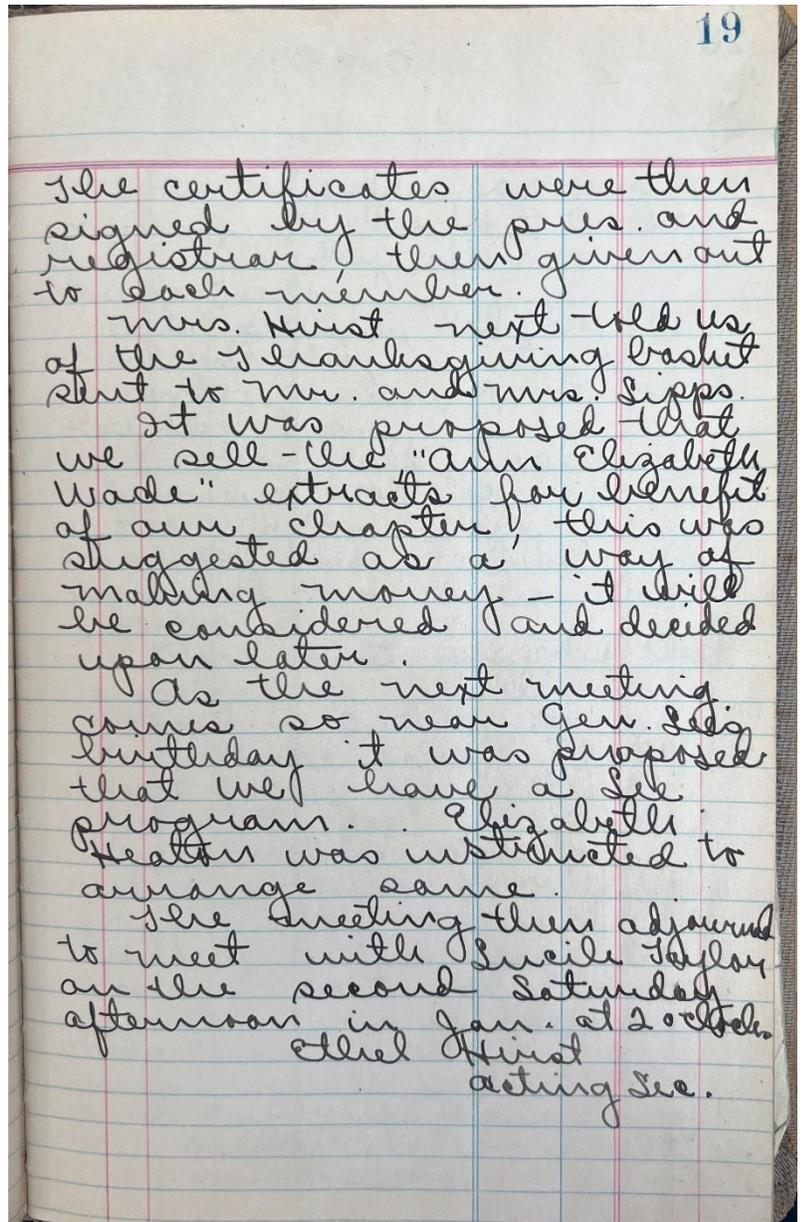
Mrs. Hirst next told us of the Thanksgiving basket sent to Mr. and Mrs. Tippo.

It was proposed that we sell the "Ann Elizabeth Wade" extracts for benefit of our Chapter, this was suggested as a way of making money. It will be considered and decided upon later.

As the next meeting comes so near General Lee's birthday it was proposed that we have a Lee Program. Elizabeth Heaton was instructed to arrange same.

The meeting there adjourned to meet with Lucile Taylor on the second Saturday afternoon in Jan. at 2 o'clock.

Ethel Hirst  
Acting Sec.



## 1924 CHARTER MEMBERS



**Katherine "Ethel" Fox Hirst** Born 17 July 1893 to her parents William Alexander Fox & Katherine "Fravel" Fox; Married to Julian T. Hirst and buried in Lincoln Cemetery, Lincoln, Va. In the 1930, she and her husband JT Hirst was living with his mother in Purcellville.

Ethel was the granddaughter of *John Henry Fravel, Chews Battery, Laurel Brigade VA.*

Ethel Hirst was the mother of **Jane Hirst Bogle**. Jane was a Lee Chapter member who died suddenly on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Jane was member of the St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the DAR, and Colonial Dames XVII, Daughters of the Confederacy.



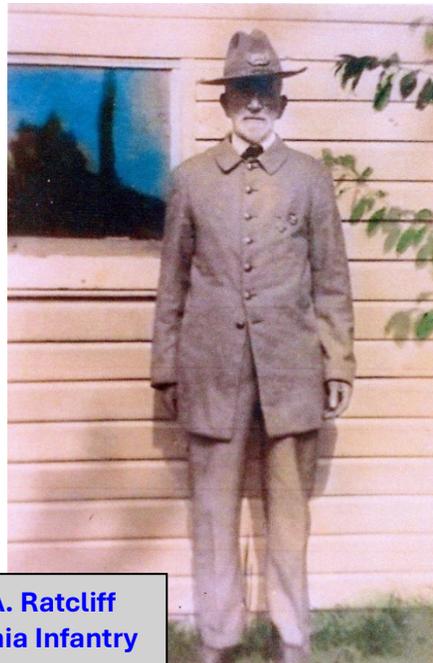
**Delia "Ratcliff" Merchant** Born 12 January 1879 to her parents James Ratcliffe & Susanna Howison Ratcliffe of North Fork (outside of Purcellville); 1900-1940 Census shows Delia living with her husband Tilden Merchant on Mt. Gilead. Delia was buried at Lakeview Cemetery in Hamilton, VA in 1936.

Delia was the daughter of:

*James E Ratcliffe - 49th Virginia Infantry*

Buried at North Fork Cemetery. Restoration to his final resting place was done by Ken Fleming in 2012.

Delia Merchant was the grandmother of **Page Barrett**. Page is a member of the Lee Chapter. Page was present at our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and spoke on behalf of her grandmother.



**James A. Ratcliff**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry**

## 1924 CHARTER MEMBERS



**Clara Ann Benedum** – Born 8 July 1884 to her parents John E. Benedum & Liza Adams. Clara *was the first member of our Chapter*, but was not there when the Charter was signed. Signed a Demit to join The Lee Chapter on May 7, 1924 – Leaving Blue Ridge Chapter which she joined 18 March 1911. Clara never married. The 1910 Census shows Clara living with her parents in Purcellville, 3 houses down from Bessie Hackley.

Clara was the daughter of – *John E. Benedum, 8th Virginia.*

Clara's grand-niece, **Charlie Schneider** was present during our 100th Anniversary Celebration on July 14, 2024, to honor her Great Aunt and is applying to be member of the Lee Chapter. Clara's nephew (Charlie's father), **Chase Schneider** is a member of the Clinton Hatcher SCV Camp. Both Chase Schneider and his son (grand nephew) **Will Schneider**, were

instrumental in their assistance in removing our confederate monument in Leesburg, Virginia to a safe location in July 2020.

**Catherine Brown Hirst** – Born 25 August 1868 to her parents William Brown & Louisa Johnson Brown; She lived with her husband Edwin Thomas Hirst in the Mt. Gilead District. She died in 1953 and is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Hamilton, Virginia. Catherine “Kate” was listed as the Corresponding Secretary, in 1951.

Catherine was the granddaughter of *William Brown of the 2nd VA Batt Co H.*

**Annie Mayo Gregg** – Born 1 Dec 1888 to her parents Daniel Gregg and Laura “Bitzer” Gregg; Perhaps related to our first President Virginia Bitzer Hirst. She was an employee at the Veteran's Administration for 32 years. 1910 Census shows Annie living with her father Daniel in Purcellville; She is buried in Lincoln Cemetery, just outside of Purcellville;

Annie is the niece of *Henry H. Gregg –35<sup>th</sup> Reg VA Battalion CAV*