

## CONFEDERATE HEADSTONE RESTORATIONS

Although we have many more photos of our Confederate Headstone Restoration Project, unfortunately space does not allow us to display them all.

I wish to extend my gratitude and appreciation to my husband, Ken Fleming for all his hard work and dedication in helping us with these restorations. Each restoration ranges from \$350 - \$500 depending on the amount of work needed, but bless his heart, he always charged us about half of that! Ken is a member of the SCV Clinton Hatcher Camp in Leesburg, Va. Ken and his SCV Camp are now in charge of flagging all of Loudoun County, VA.

In addition to the Confederate Headstone Restoration Projects, we have built an excel database that has all of Loudoun County's Confederate Soldiers in it, which include, gravesite location & regiments.

Becky J. Fleming  
Lee Chapter President

### Lee Chapter Members 2015

**Back L-R** Becky Fleming, Pres.; Page Barrett; Mary Seekford

**Middle L-R** Shelly Mason (Registrar); Brenda DeJarnette; Victoria Daly; Rosalie Leigh; Susan Crouse (Vice Pres.); Michaela McIntyre

**Front L-R** Anne Frazer (Assistant Historian) Sheila James (Treasurer) Mary Alice Wertz; Jane Hirst Bogle & our beloved monument.



**CONFEDERATE MONUMENT REMOVAL**

**JULY 20, 2020**



A sad day indeed this was removing our confederate monument from a place it has graced for over 100 years. The events leading up to this decision is as follows:

In **2017** – The political climate was changing for the worse in regards to our history and heritage. In August 2017 our monument was vandalized and in Richmond they were throwing tarps over Robert E. Lee Monument in Charlottesville.

*“On Sept 2017 After long and heated debate over the Confederate war memorial at the steps of the old courthouse in Leesburg on Wednesday night, Loudoun supervisors did not pass a resolution asking the General Assembly to give localities the power to move war monuments. County Chairwoman Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large) had proposed that the county ask the General Assembly for the authority to move war monuments, which it currently cannot do”.* There are monument attacks everywhere.

By **January 2018**, there were many new bills prefiled in the House of Delegates, all to remove our monuments from any location regardless if it is in a cemetery etc. In Feb 2018 the tarp wars to cover Lee and Jackson in Charlottesville are ongoing. Discussion amongst Loudoun’s UDC & SCV are pursuing possible camera installations to protect our monument. Antifa attacks South Mountain. August 2018, Lee Monument is defaced with spray paint.

In **Feb 2019** we had Virginia Legislature trying to pass bills (House Bill 2377) to remove our monuments. Phyllis Randall Loudoun County BOS Chair, installs her friend Pastor Michelle Thomas as the new NAACP President for Loudoun County, replacing Philip Thompson. In November 2019, I was asked to be part of a debate at the BOS hearing on whether or not to keep the monument.

In **February 2020**, I decided to reach out to Judge Horne, as not only had he been quite the advocate for our monument during the restoration etc. years before but his mother was in the UDC and he gave me her Robert E. Lee book series, so what did I have to loose?

The email wrote as follows:

*Dear Judge Horne - As I am sure you are aware, many of our BOS members are ready to remove the Confederate monument before a single bill is passed by the State to allow local governments to do so. I received a call last night about an attendee of the Black History meeting and was told that Randall was telling all to basically be watching, over the next few months, to be ready for the march of removal. She was also said to have states in private that the removal was in the bag as she had 5 BOS going to vote to remove. Today I see in the newspaper Randall and followers clearly hell bent on taking it down.*

*There are so many folks still here in our lovely County that do not wish to have it removed. I remember, while working on the cleaning of the monument, I believe you mentioned that (something to the effect of ) it was protected by the National Register because the monument resides on the courthouse lawn. Research shows that the Loudoun County Courthouse is part of the Leesburg Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.*

*Not sure how to begin to fight this but I just cannot set by and meekly watch it happen. You are a wealth of knowledge regarding the courthouse, courthouse grounds, and historical/legal matters involving the monument. I am at wits end but am willing to do my due diligence to make a difference as I am not a stranger to hard work. Do you have any suggestions on how we can even begin to take a stand on this?*

*HIS RESPONSE:*

**Dear Becky: I cannot become involved in this conflict. T.D. Horne**

On **May 31, 2020** the following email was sent from our UDC President General Nelma Crutcher

*Ladies,*

*This is a very sad day in the history of UDC. Saturday night about midnight, in the dark of night as cowards usually travel, there was a riot in Richmond. These people with a directed agenda hit various Confederate monuments down Monument Row spraying graffiti and attempting to bring them down. Then they turned on us.*

*Our building was covered with graffiti, windows were broken all across the front, in the dining room, in the pantry and across the very back.*

*The breaking point was when the curtains hanging out of the Goodlett Library window were set on fire and our building blazed. Thanks to the quick actions of Mary Valentino, Business Office Manager the majority of our building was saved.*

*When the riots started, Mary was at home and with the problems in Richmond she decided to monitor, from home, the security cameras surrounding the building. When she saw the people (about 150-250 people) approaching our building she called the police and then me. As she watched the mob of protesters on her phone she sent pictures to me. When she saw the smoke and then flames coming from the building she called the fire department. The police came with lights flashing and sirens on and the rioters left running. The fire department was close behind. Had it not been for Mary's dedication to her job, monitoring our building (on her time off) and calling the authorities, we might have lost everything.*

*Mary, Teresa Rhone and Terry O'Donahue all went to the building to assess the damage. They had to wait for the fire department to allow them to enter the building. It appears the fire was contained in the Goodlett Library but smoke and soot has covered every inch of the building and there is water damage to parts of the building. Teresa tells me all of the books in the Goodlett Library have some sort of damage but it can be days before a complete assessment can be made. She thought the shelves storing the Division History books and whatever else was in that area are a total loss.*

**June 2020** Governor Northam announced the removal of the Lee Statue in Richmond while back home there were protesters on the courthouse lawn with people climbing on top of our monument hanging antislavery signs on him to take him down as we stood helpless unable to respond.

With SHPS (organization comprised of local UDC & SCV members) well on its way and we were working with Steve Price (attorney & SCV Clinton Hatcher Camp member) on the ownership of the monument and how to present it filing with the BOS.

On June 17, 2020 after talking in length with Steve Price on the ownership topic I (Becky Fleming) issued the following email to the SHPS members.

*Due to the recent Loudoun Times Mirror article which states "Loudoun Clergy and Faith Leaders Group call for Leesburg Confederate statue's removal" we have been advised by Steve Price, our attorney, to move forward with Plan B effective immediately, (Pre-Hearing) before any other haters step forward to claim it. He further stated that we state that we will pay for the move. I inquired about the necessity of having some sort of plan in place for storage (contract or something) to present to the Board at the time of claim, but he said no, not necessary.*

*On to the ownership. I will try and be as transparent as possible here by including my correspondence with Steve Price over the past few days (below) regarding the ownership aspect of the monument and who should reclaim it. It is of the Lee Chapter's member's opinion that the rightful owner should be the Lee Chapter as this Chapter is the one, for the past 15 years, has worked earnestly with the County & BOS to restore, represent, educate & defend it. When the original Loudoun Chapter went defunct those members came to the Lee Chapter (attached is one of the original transfer from the 1950's). It wasn't until a few years ago, that this Chapter was re-charted thus the newly created Loudoun 170 was formed. (More facts below). When speaking with Steve this morning, Ginger (Stephens - included in this email), upcoming new President of Loudoun Chapter, had reached out to him regarding her thoughts to the Loudoun Chapter being the rightful owner/claimant of the monument. He further stated he felt since Loudoun Chapter 170 was named (in my research) the original Chapter, that Loudoun 170 should be the claimant as it would be the best chance of us getting the monument returned to us. Although I do not agree with Ginger Stephens nor Steve Price, I, on behalf of Lee Chapter 1842, hereby withdraw our Chapter from this equation and will concede to the advice of the attorney. (As I was assured it was in name only and that we would be responsible for its storage & funding of removal & true ownership)*

*On to the vote.*

*Our attorney, Steve Price, would like to begin:*

- 1. The process of filing a ownership claim and requesting the return of the monument to the rightful owner Loudoun Chapter 170 (pre-hearing before the end of the month)*
- 2. The claimant will take responsibility for the funding of the removal of said monument*
- 3. The claimant will be storing the monument but not submitting any documentation as to where etc.*

*Please let me know by Thursday, June 19, 2020 by 9:00 am. My vote would be yes.*

*A letter was sent by legal counsel to Loudoun County BOS Chair Phyllis Randall last Friday (June 26) stating the UDC Loudoun Chapter 170 is the proper owner of the Memorial and wished to have it returned to their control.*

In an article published on the Loudoun Times-Mirror website today (June 29), along with some other dubious comments, Chairwoman Randall has declared "I certainly support the United Daughters of the Confederacy retrieving their statue."

**July 7, 2020** - As of 9:37 p.m. on July 7, 2020, the Confederate Veterans Memorial is acknowledged as the property of Loudoun Chapter 170 of the UDC by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in a vote of 9-0. It is to be removed from the Courthouse grounds by September 7, 2020, by the UDC, which will be granted access and cooperation by the County.

Not even a week later we were told by a Loudoun County employee in the General Services department that Phyllis Randall had already instructed them to build a crate, (which was then finished) under the courthouse to put the monument in permanently so it never saw daylight again. They were planning on attempting to reverse the decision of the ownership at the next Board Meeting Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup>. More discussions amongst the attorneys where Steve Price, our attorney reiterated to them that they could not touch that monument until September 7<sup>th</sup> deadline had passed. Not trusting Phyllis Randall and her band of cronies, a call to arms was made and immediate plans started forming to remove the monument under the cover of darkness Monday July 20, 2020.

**Below is an "After Action Report" filed by my husband (Chief Coordinator) Kenneth Fleming (SCV) of the removal of our beloved monument.**

#### **After Action Report for Monday July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Loudoun Confederate Monument Rescue and Recovery**

On Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>, after several weeks of off and on negotiations between Loudoun's County Attorney Leo Rogers and Attorney Steven Price, who was representing the Southern Historic Preservation Society (SHPS), I received a call advising me to make contact with Mr. Andy Barrington, Assistant Director of the Loudoun County Department of General Services. I was instructed to set up a meeting between Mr. Barrington, Russell Fink, a supervisor with R.E. Lee Electric Company out of Newington, Va. and myself. The R.E. Lee Electric Company was the company that had volunteered their services and their equipment to remove the Silent Sentinel monument located on the courthouse grounds in Leesburg. Attorney Price advised me that county Attorney Rogers would not sign off on a blanket liability waiver and that Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet had instructed Attorney Price to contact Mr. Barrington, who would work out the details with our coordinator to get the job done. I made contact with Mr. Barrington on Thursday morning the 16<sup>th</sup> and was able to get the tentative date for our meeting of Friday morning the 17<sup>th</sup>, which would be dependent upon Mr. Fink's availability. I then reach Mr. Fink about mid-morning and locked in the date and time of 1000 hrs. Mr. Barrington agreed to the time and date and asked that we meet at 114 Edwards Ferry Road, a county building that housed an office that we could use if needed. On Friday July 17<sup>th</sup>, Andy Barrington, Tom Tippet, (Assist. Division Manager with General Services), Russell Fink and Dave Dill of R.E. Lee Electric Co. and myself, met in the parking lot at 114 Edwards Ferry Road and began to lay out the final plans to reclaim the Confederate Monument in front of the old Courthouse. Both Andy and Tom made it quite clear that they were employees of the county and would have to do what they were told to do, even though they did not personally agree with the order. The five of us walked to the courthouse complex, where we did a walk thru of the job site. It was at this time that I discovered a large wet area with standing water in front of the gates that any equipment would have to pass through in order to enter the courthouse grounds. Tom immediately called for a county crew to come to the Law Library next to the courthouse lawn to reroute drain lines from the two large AC condenser units located on the roof of the Law Library that drained into the courthouse lawn. During our meeting, it was decided that because the Board

of Supervisors were scheduled to meet the following day, Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup>, and because they possessed the power to reverse any decision made during the previous meeting, that if the ground dried enough for equipment to cross the now saturated wet spot, we would do the job on Monday night, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Andy would examine the area on Monday morning and call me by noon to give me the go- or no-go assessment. The library annex parking lot at North Street and Old Waterford Road was chosen as our staging area location for all equipment and personnel to meet. We were to meet at that location at or before 2200 hrs. and the town of Leesburg was not to be notified until after the fact. Andy would notify Tom at 1700 hrs. on Monday afternoon and no permits would be obtained and no one was to talk with anyone about the time or date of the job at hand. We walked back to the office on Edwards Ferry Road where we met Major Cox of the Loudoun County Sherriff's Department. Major Cox would also advise his men to be at the courthouse security office before 2200 hrs., but would not advise them why until they arrived for briefing. All agreed that no one except those directly involved were to know what the night would hold. Russell further advised the group that, *"If a group of people were assembled in the area of the courthouse, he and his crew would just keep driving, all the way back to Newington."*

On Sunday afternoon I drove to Bobby Lowery's residence in Round Hill, to pick up one of the 6-ton construction trailers that would be used to transport portions of the granite stone base structures. On both Saturday and Sunday evening, I drove to Leesburg to personally examine the progress of the effort to dry up the wet area behind the gates.

On Monday morning July 20<sup>th</sup>, at 0821 hrs. I received a call from Andy, giving me the go ahead to proceed with plans to do the job. I immediately began to make the calls to notify the personnel that would take part in the reclamation process of the Confederate monument, telling them that we were a go for 2200 hrs. that night. The first to be called was Will Schneider, then Chase Schneider, Tom Wright, Mike Thomas, Russell Fink and Allen Cochran. Additionally, I notified Attorney Price and SHPS President Becky Fleming that Monday night would be our go date and 2200 hrs. our start time. Following all notification's, I went to Loudoun Lumber to pick up 30 sheets of particle board plywood, which would be used to protect the brick sidewalks and any areas of the courthouse lawn where any vehicle would be operated. Loudoun Lumber had agreed to supply SHPS the material needed at five dollars per sheet, a savings of over twenty-three dollars per sheet. From Loudoun Lumber I proceeded back to Bobby Lowery's saw mill where I loaded 30 - 3"x4" x3' support planks which would be used to set each section of the stone base on for transport and storage. From Lowery's, I returned home, dropped the trailer and headed to Browning Equipment to pick up Chase Schneider, taking him to his home to get his ¾ ton pick-up truck. From Chase's home, we drove to Dana Malone's residence to pick up his 6-ton trailer with two-foot side boards which would be used to transport the bronze monument portion of our monument. This equipment was also taken back to the Fleming residence, where a mattress and box spring, donated by the Marty Beamer family, a guide rope, a heavy duty dark brown tarp and two heavy duty ratchet straps were loaded into the trailer before taking Chase back to his work place. The single axle dump truck was hitched to the Lowery trailer that had been picked up on Sunday and a final check of all equipment was performed. At 1605 hrs., after a strong thunder storm with heavy rain had passed through the area, I called Andy to confirm that conditions were still good enough at the courthouse to continue, to which he responded, "Yes, let's go with it". courthouse complex. I advised Andy that he had better sit on her, keep her away from the work crew and the work area and that if she started running her mouth or creating any kind of scene, I could not and would not guaranty her safety or that we would not stop, drop what we were doing and leave. He guaranteed me that he would stop them from creating a scene and would prevent them from interfering.

At 2200 hrs. the stake body truck and its crew along with the plywood truck and trailer left the annex parking lot and headed toward the courthouse complex, followed by Andy and Tom. Upon arrival, Andy unlocked the gates while the rest of the crew hustled plywood and rubber mats. As the plywood was being laid, the first and smallest of the two crane trucks arrived at the courthouse complex. Plywood was literally laid under his tires as he pulled through the gates and onto the lawn. As the first crane backed to the monument, two men from the rigging crew were already up on the monument placing straps around the bronze portion of the monument creating a cradle around his waist and crotch and removing the single bolt that held him to the stone base. As David Dill was swinging his boom around to the overhead position above the statue, the second, larger crane arrived at the courthouse complex and pulled up onto the sidewalk at the North King Street walk in gate. The operator, Tommy Jenkins, quickly set his outriggers and swung his boom over the courthouse fence and over to the bronze statue that was being placed on plywood that had been laid on the sidewalk between the stone base and the North King Street walk in gate. The hook from the first crane was removed from the sling cradle and the hook from the second crane was attached. As the bronze was again lifted by the second crane, Chase Schneider pulled up in front of the large crane truck and backed into position. The bronze

statue was lowered into the trailer and laid down on the mattress and box spring, covered with the large, heavy tarp and secured with the two heavy duty ratchet straps. Within less than 20 minutes of the first vehicle arriving at the courthouse complex, the bronze statue had been reclaimed and was on its way to its temporary home, out of harm's way.

While the bronze statue was being secured, the rigging crew and stone mason were already hard at work placing slings around the top granite stone of the monument. While this was happening, I was taken back to the annex parking lot to retrieve the single axle dump truck and trailer to head back to the courthouse complex. When I returned to the courthouse complex, Andy and Chair Randall and Vice Chair Saines had arrived and were standing in the yard over by the Law Library. They had completely missed the reclaiming and exit of the bronze statue portion of the monument, thanks in great part to Andy. As I pulled up alongside the large crane parked on the street side of the courthouse fence, the first stone was being lifted and swung over the iron fence and was then placed in the back of the dump truck bed on 3"x 4"x 3' wooden spacer boards. The second large stone was also placed in the back of the dump truck alongside of the first stone in the same manner. Then, the next row consisting of two long flat granite stones were stacked one on top of the other on 3"x 4"x 3' wooden spacer boards and then lifted as one unit and placed on the trailer being pulled by the dump truck. Once strapped and secured, the dump truck was pulled forward ahead of the plywood truck and trailer and the stake body truck was backed into position in front of the large crane. With the long stones removed, the base stone layout and design was now visible. The six-piece stone base created a sort of frame like barrier around a mixed pour concrete center. Its age allowed for somewhat easy separation of the granite stone from the concrete. After close examination of the base stones, Russell made the determination that the stake body truck of R.E. Lee's would be capable of hauling all six sections of the monument base. I called Mike Thomas at 2318 hrs., who was standing by at the annex parking lot and advised him that his truck and trailer would not be needed and that he was free to go. Each piece of the six-piece monument base was carefully freed from its setting, strapped and lifted off of the original foundation and carefully set on the plywood covering the brick sidewalk between its original location and the North King Street gate. The second crane hook was attached to each piece and one by one each piece was lifted and loaded into the stake body truck and placed on 3"x 4"x 3' wooden spacer boards. With the last piece of the stone monument loaded and secured, the crane on the courthouse lawn was wracked, down riggers secured and carefully moved from the courthouse lawn. At 0002 hrs., once all equipment had been moved into position on the street and all tools were secured, our caravan headed north on North King Street out of Leesburg. Members of the security/escort team that had return to the courthouse complex after completing their first important task, along with the remaining volunteer ground crew members reloaded the plywood and rubber mats, policed the entire area and then at 0017 hrs. dispersed from the courthouse complex area.

It should be noted that two uniformed Leesburg Police officers were assigned to stay in front of the courthouse complex on North King Street. From the moment the second crane arrived on site in front of the courthouse, until everything was done, they diverted all traffic traveling on North King Street between Market Street to North Street. Both Officers were given this assignment at no additional cost to SHPS. Chief Gregory C. Brown also arrived at the courthouse complex shortly after Randall and Saines and stayed with them until we were done. I was later told that he did so as a deterrent to trouble, in order to keep an eye on them as well as to keep things under control should anyone step out of line. Additionally, we learned from Attorney Price that on Tuesday, the Loudoun Times Mirror attempted to gain a copy of the courthouse grounds security video tape by means of a "Freedom of Information" request, but Sheriff Chapman had denied the request, saying that to release the video tape could place county employees in harm's way.

This After-Action Report was submitted by;

*Kenneth M. Fleming*

Kenneth M. Fleming

Project Coordinator,

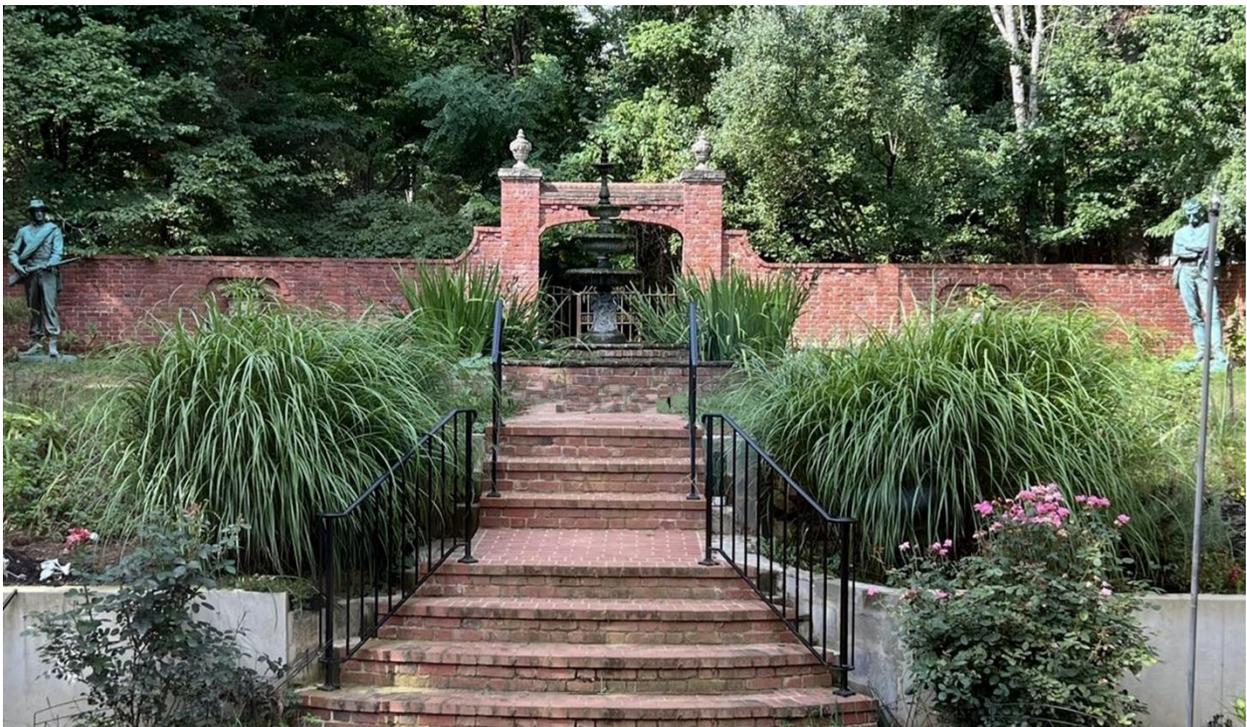
It is to the best of my knowledge, a true and correct account of the monument reclaiming project which occurred on Monday night July 20th, 2020.

**July 2024:** The removal of our monument was a tragic event indeed. I do however feel very grateful for the end results and very proud to be a part of another historic event in time. All the village of supporters for the cause came out in droves to help us. We all feel our ancestors would be so proud of what we accomplished in saving our beloved monument. A monument erected for the confederate soldiers who fought with such honor & much courage in 1861-1865.

Ending this story on a happy note. I am happy to report that our beloved monument is tucked away safely as we work diligently to place it back in its rightful place for all to enjoy. We also have in its company the Alexandria, Virginia monument, owned and loved by the Mary Custis Lee Chapter Division No. 2, also waiting its return to its rightful place as well as the Fairfax County Marr monument. Pictured below left is Loudoun's Monument and right is Alexandria's monument.

Lee Chapter No. 173, celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this July 2024 but it also marked a personal anniversary for me. It has been 20 years this past May since I first started the journey to save Loudoun County's Confederate Monument.

Becky J. Fleming  
Lee Chapter President





Left to right: Brenda DeJarnette, Rosalie Leigh, Victoria Daly, Dawn Diehl (Virginia Division President), Mary Seekford, Page Barnette, Becky Fleming (President), Shelly Mason (Registrar).

JULY 14,

1924 – 2024

On July 14, 2024 Lee Chapter 1842, celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary. It was held at the Purcellville Train Station, Purcellville, Virginia. On display was our original Charter (pictured above left); original Charter minutes, photos of our Charter members from 1924 and their applications, numerous scrapbooks, and plenty of Lee Chapter memorabilia.

Virginia Division President, Dawn Diehl gave opening remarks and graciously pinned each Chapter member with their 100<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary Pin. Becky Fleming, President introduced the guests which were descendants of several Charter Members.

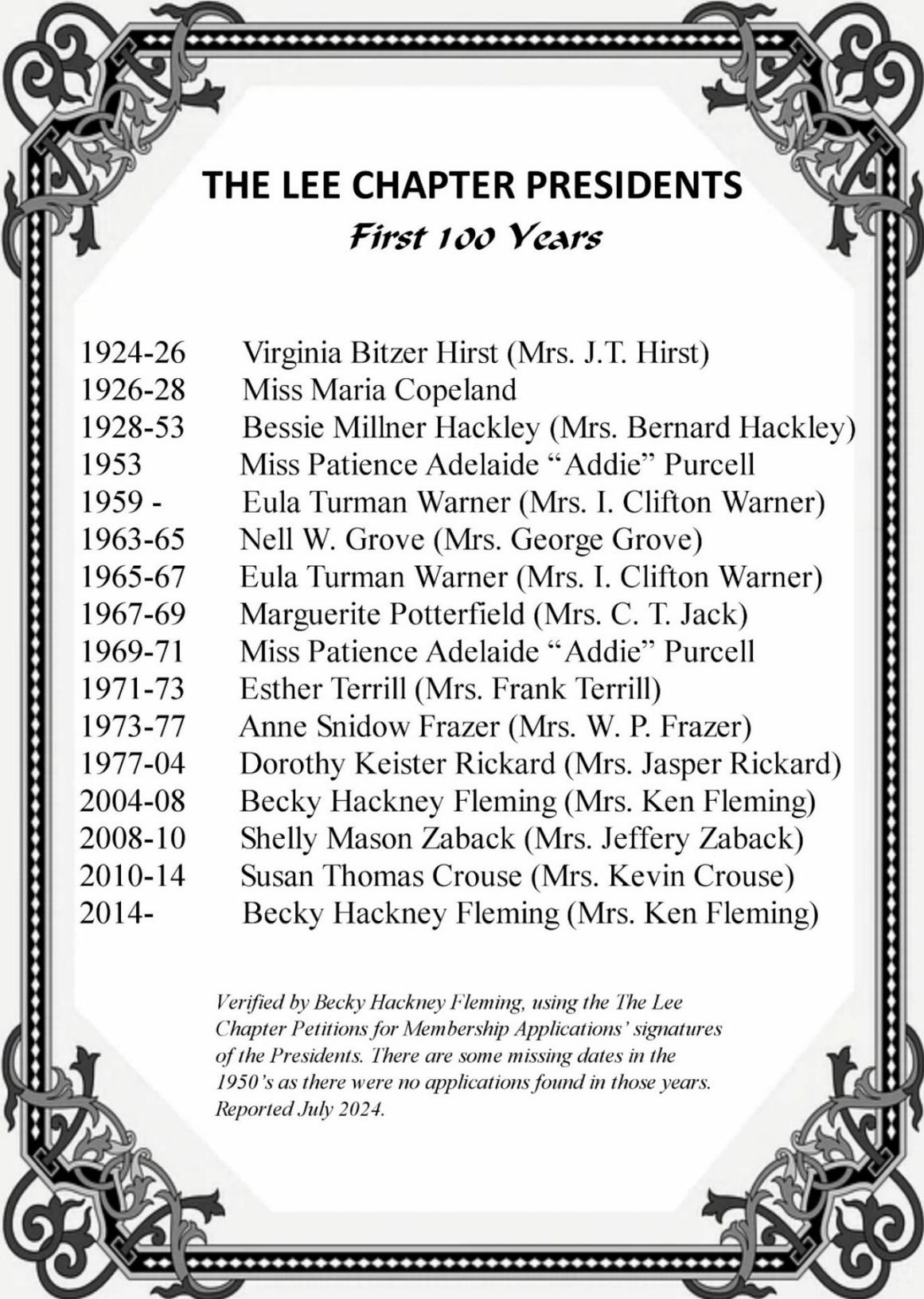
- Trudy Hackley Dawson granddaughter of Bessie Hackley
- Charlie Schneider great niece of Clara Benedum
- Page Barrett, UDC member, granddaughter of Delia Ratcliff Merchant.

Becky also gave a brief history on each of the Charter Members and history on the 100-year old Chapter. A small luncheon & celebratory UDC cake was served.

Lee Chapter has in their archives all their members applications, original signed Charter, original charter organization minutes book; 50<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary Pin; UDC wooden gavel; 1932 Photo of General Robert E. Lee that was donated & returned in 2004.

Becky J. Fleming  
President





## THE LEE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

### *First 100 Years*

1924-26	Virginia Bitzer Hirst (Mrs. J.T. Hirst)
1926-28	Miss Maria Copeland
1928-53	Bessie Millner Hackley (Mrs. Bernard Hackley)
1953	Miss Patience Adelaide "Addie" Purcell
1959 -	Eula Turman Warner (Mrs. I. Clifton Warner)
1963-65	Nell W. Grove (Mrs. George Grove)
1965-67	Eula Turman Warner (Mrs. I. Clifton Warner)
1967-69	Marguerite Potterfield (Mrs. C. T. Jack)
1969-71	Miss Patience Adelaide "Addie" Purcell
1971-73	Esther Terrill (Mrs. Frank Terrill)
1973-77	Anne Snidow Frazer (Mrs. W. P. Frazer)
1977-04	Dorothy Keister Rickard (Mrs. Jasper Rickard)
2004-08	Becky Hackney Fleming (Mrs. Ken Fleming)
2008-10	Shelly Mason Zaback (Mrs. Jeffery Zaback)
2010-14	Susan Thomas Crouse (Mrs. Kevin Crouse)
2014-	Becky Hackney Fleming (Mrs. Ken Fleming)

*Verified by Becky Hackney Fleming, using the The Lee Chapter Petitions for Membership Applications' signatures of the Presidents. There are some missing dates in the 1950's as there were no applications found in those years. Reported July 2024.*