

The History of  
LOUDOUN 170  
Leesburg, Virginia

Loudoun 170 was originally chartered on November 11, 1897, in Leesburg. Its Division Number is 29. The Chapter became inactive in 1951. Loudoun 170 was rechartered on July 16, 2010, in Leesburg, VA with 13 members.

The Charter Members were:

Sheila Custis Compisi  
Anna Phillips Peach  
Rebecca Fosco Copenhaver  
Kelly D. Peach  
Deborah Custis Davis  
Julie E. Ferguson-Rogers  
Tamara Lison  
Kelli Varnado Rhymes  
Mary L. Mireles  
Deborah Peach Smallwood  
Kerry Lynn O'Neill  
Avis Aplin Stephens  
Amanda Lynn Peach  
Ginger R. Stephens

These members have served as Chapter President since Loudoun 170 was rechartered:

Ms. Ginger R. Stephens	2010-2012
Mrs. Dawn Diehl	2012-2014
Mrs. Gail Itschner	2014-2016
Ms. Kerry O'Neill	2016-2017
Mrs. Dawn Diehl	2017-2020
Ms. Ginger R. Stephens	2020-2022

In 1906, Loudoun 170 raised \$3,000 to place a monument to the Confederate soldiers from Loudoun County, Virginia. One of their major fundraisers was a small sock sent to every household in Loudoun County. Each home was requested to donate their spare change so future generations would remember the Confederate soldiers.

The Loudoun County monument was made by Frederick William Sievers. The Loudoun County Confederate Monument is known as the Silent Sentinel. At the time it was commissioned, Sievers had made one other Confederate monument for Abingdon, Virginia. He would later be commissioned to make the Stonewall Jackson monument on Monument Avenue in Richmond, VA and the Robert E. Lee monument at Gettysburg.

In June 2020, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted to remove the Confederate Monument from the Loudoun County Courthouse grounds and return it to Loudoun 170. The gentlemen of Clinton Hatcher 21 coordinated the removal of the monument and transported it to

a location where it will be safe until a new home for the monument can be located. Until its removal, Loudoun Chapter members placed a wreath at the monument during Leesburg's Memorial Day Observance. Since the monument's removal, the Town of Leesburg has continued to include Loudoun Chapter in its annual observance and the Chapter wreath is placed at placards listing the names of all Confederate and Union soldiers who died during the War Between the States.

Since it was rechartered in 2010, Loudoun 170 has cleaned and painted iron crosses on the graves of Confederate veterans in numerous cemeteries in the Loudoun County area. These include Union Cemetery in Leesburg, Sharon Cemetery in Middleburg, Ivy Hill Cemetery in Upperville, North Fork Cemetery in Lincoln, St. James Cemetery in Lovettsville, and Rhoadesville Baptist Church in Rhoadesville. Loudoun Chapter's work with iron crosses and Confederate grave maintenance have earned the Alice Whitley Jones Banner for the outstanding historical preservation project in Virginia Division twice (2017 and 2021).

Loudoun Chapter raised the funds to conserve The Last Meeting print at Balch Library in 2016. The print was cleaned and conserved in 2017.

In 2014, Chapter Member Dawn Brady passed away from complications related to the flu. Loudoun Chapter started the Dawn Brady Memorial Scholarship in her honor. The corpus was completed in 2015 and the scholarship was established to reimburse students for their books up to \$500 per semester. Our first recipient was a member of Loudoun 170, Samantha Bain.

Loudoun Chapter members have served Virginia Division in the following offices:

Ginger Stephens	Fourth District Chairman	2011-2013
Ginger Stephens	Division Second Vice President	2015-2017
Dawn Diehl	Division Recorder of Military Service Awards	2015-2017
Ginger Stephens	Division President	2017-2019
Dawn Diehl	Fourth District Chairman	2019-2021
Dawn Diehl	Division Vice President	2021-2023
Ginger Stephens	General Convention Rules Chairman	2016-2018

In 2011, Loudoun 170 became a co-sponsor of the Antonia Ford 885 Children of the Confederacy Chapter with Fairfax 1410.