

Manassas Chapter 175, Manassas, Virginia
Founded July 21, 1896

Founding Members

Mrs. Elisia E. Meredith, President		
Mrs. Alice T. Buck, Secretary		
Mrs. Thurston Wolfe, Treasurer		
Mrs. J.B.T. Thornton	Mrs. Maggie Barbour	Miss Florence Herrell
Miss Salina Taylor	Miss Lillian Hixson	Miss Effie Nelson
Miss Nellie Clarkson	Miss Fannie Simpson	

The Manassas Chapter has experienced a brilliant career since its inception in the year 1896. when the ladies listed above met at the hotel "Cannon House" situated on Railroad Avenue and South Main Street in Manassas to form the Chapter. At the time, the population of Manassas was limited, possibly less than one thousand people and more than half of this number were of Northern sentiment, having come into the community after the close of the War Between the States, so there were few families of Confederate ancestry. From meager records it appears that Mrs. James Mercer Garnett, President of the Grand Division, had succeeded in eliciting the interest of a few Confederate women of Manassas in organizing a Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. In the Chapter's *History*, Ethel Rebecca Maddox Byrd wrote in 1973 that there was no more fitting place for a UDC Chapter than Manassas, where "only a few miles distant once raged two of the great battles of the War, victories for the Confederates in each battle, though no greater carnage was ever recorded." Over the years the Chapter has helped organize the Commemoration of the Battle of First Manassas. The Chapter's works have also included maintaining the Manassas Confederate Cemetery and awarding scholarships, as well as donating numerous books and the UDC Magazine to the public library system. We remain dedicated to the service and memory of the Southern ladies who came before us and to the memory of the valiant men who fought for the South.

~ Lest We Forget ~he speaker.

About 1900 the chapter presented a portrait of Jefferson Davis to the Ruffner Public School and with an elaborate presentation program, the Governor of Virginia was the speaker.

In 1908 the chapter invited the state convention to Manassas. The local millionaire built a beautiful fifty room hotel for the event. But a short time before the convention, the hotel caught fire and burned to the ground. There was a scramble to secure accommodations, and the good people of the town opened the doors, and the convention became referred to as one of the most beatifical and inspiring.

They gave generously to the Red Cross in World War I and invested \$500 in War bonds during World War II. They were known to have crocheted many lap Afghans for the amputees at area hospitals.

When the Bull Run Chapter of Groveton merged with the Manassas Chapter of the UDC in 1942, they brought with them the responsibility of the cemetery. There being little or no funds to

maintain the cemetery and to secure a caretaker. The US Government offered to preserve and protect the cemetery as part of the Manassas National Battlefield Park the Manassas UDC Chapter petitioned the court to transfer the deed to the government. On May 1, 1973, the deed was executed transferring Groveton Cemetery for Confederate Soldiers to the US Government.