

## Mildred Lee Chapter 74, UDC Martinsville, VA Chapter History

The Mildred Lee Chapter 74, United Daughters of the Confederacy, was first organized as a Memorial Association on 17 September 1895, by Mrs. N. H. Hairston and her sister, Mrs. M. L. Zentmeyer, for the specific purpose of erecting a monument to the Confederate Soldiers of Martinsville and Henry County who paid the supreme sacrifice in the War Between the States, 1861-1865, and to save from oblivion the memory of the Unknown Confederate Soldier who was killed in Stoneman's raid in April 1865 on Jones' Creek and to mark all Confederate graves in the county.

The Memorial Association met 3 April 1896 in the pastor's study of the First Methodist Church of which Mrs. Hairston and her sister were members. A UDC Chapter was formed and chartered 13 July 1896 as an auxiliary to the Stuart-Hairston Camp 64, Confederate Veterans. The Mildred Lee Chapter 74 merged with the Virginia Division, UDC with the following charter members enrolled and officers elected:

Mrs. L. L. Gravely  
Mrs. N. H. Hairston  
Mrs. Peter Hairston  
Mrs. C. P. Kearfott  
Mrs. M. M. Mullins  
Mrs. T. A. Ranson  
Miss Annie Reamey  
Mrs. O. C. Smith  
Mrs. H. C. Smith  
Mrs. S. P. Waller  
Mrs. H. S. Williams  
Mrs. M. L. Zentmeyer

### OFFICERS:

Mrs. N. H. Hairston.....President  
Mrs. H. C. Smith.....Vice-President  
Mrs. S. P. Waller.....Treasurer  
Mrs. M. M. Mullins.....Secretary  
Mrs. C. P. Kearfott.....Historian  
Mrs. T. A. Ranson.....Custodian

The name 'Mildred Lee' was chosen in honor of the youngest daughter of our immortal hero, General Robert E. Lee, who is nationally and internationally honored and revered as one of the greatest Christian Leaders of all time.

The cornerstone of the Henry County Monument was laid on 3 October 1896 and the Daughters, after five years of continuous struggle and sacrifice, unveiled and dedicated the beautiful

monument of Virginia granite and Italian marble on the Court House lawn on 3 June 1901, witnessed by a crowd of eight thousand persons, among whom were two hundred Confederate Veterans, who were presented with their Crosses of Honor.

The monument is flanked on both sides by two huge cannons presented to the chapter by the War Department, Washington, D. C. through the untiring efforts of Mrs. Hairston and courtesy of the Hon. Claude A. Swanson from the fifth Congressional District to secure them. The cannons were shipped from Fort McHenry where they had served in the Coastal defense during the War Between the States.

Perhaps no chapter has created history more worthy of admiration than has the Mildred Lee Chapter so full of interest, inspiration and promise from its organization to the present time.

These Daughters, so few in number, yet so mighty in service, left not only the monument, a perpetual memorial to the Confederate Veterans who sacrificed their all for their country and which is a testimony and crowning glory to their love, loyalty, sacrificial service and success. But they also left an imperishable inheritance of cherished Christian ideals, patriotism, independence and courageous leadership. They could not have left a greater nor richer heritage.

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