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# THE HISTORY OF THE SUFFOLK CHAPTER U.D.C.

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& RIDDICK'S FOLLY MUSEUM (RFM)

# The History of the Suffolk Chapter UDC

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The Suffolk Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was one of the earliest chapters in Virginia having been organized on June 12, 1896. At that time, there were two divisions of the UDC, the Grand Division and the First Virginia Division. The Suffolk chapter was in the First Virginia Division and was numbered 40. It was an auxiliary of the original Tom Smith Camp United Confederate Veterans. The two UDC divisions merged in 1903 which caused renumbering of the chapters based on their entrance dates. The Suffolk chapter was renumbered to Virginia chapter No. 33 in the year of the merger and was in the newly formed Virginia Division which consisted only of chapters located in the state of Virginia. The chapter's national number is 173.

The National organization of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans was formed in Richmond VA in 1896. The first Commander-in Chief of the National organization was J.E.B. Stuart, son of the famous cavalry leader. The Tom Smith Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans was one of the early camps established and believed to have been formed in 1896 as well. The SCV and the UDC have a long history of partnering together in Suffolk to honor and remember Confederate Veterans.

Anna Mary Riddick (21 Jul 1841–11 Nov 1936), daughter of Nathaniel and Missouri Ann Kilby Riddick, of Suffolk's historic Riddick's Folly House Museum, was a charter member of the Suffolk Chapter. Anna was elected the first President of the chapter, and served for 30 years. Following her many years of service, the chapter made her honorary President for the rest of her life.

Anna's family was loyal to the Confederacy during the War Between the States. Her father was a lawyer and a judge and served as a member of the VA House of Delegates for 17 years including the war years 1861-1865. Anna's brothers, Mills Edward served the Confederacy in the 9th VA Infantry, and John Thompson was a drillmaster at VMI and served on the CSA staff. Both brothers survived the war.

Anna Mary lost her fiancé, Sgt. Jonathan Smith who was killed at Malvern Hill during the Seven Days Battle near Richmond, and she never married. Her younger sister, Missouri (4 Aug 1848–26 May 1924) attended Dr. Dame's school in Danville VA during the war years. Following the war and the family's return to Suffolk, Missouri married Austin Chinn Withers, a Confederate veteran with the 39th VA Cavalry who served as a courier for General Jackson. They had six children. When widowed, she and her family moved back into the family home, Riddick's Folly, with Anna. Missouri Riddick Withers was a charter member of the Suffolk Chapter UDC in 1896. (Photo of Anna Mary Riddick age 92 RFM)



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Many of Virginia's early chapters were named after men and women who played a significant role during the Civil War but this chapter chose to name itself after its fair city of Suffolk. Suffolk, on the Nansemond River and bordered by Nansemond County, had a long history dating back to the early 1600's. Suffolk was established in 1742 on the site of John Constant's Warehouse. It was incorporated as a town in 1808. Lafayette visited it in February 1825. Suffolk was destroyed by fire in 1837 but it quickly rose from the ashes and by the time that the Civil War began, it had become a thriving community of businesses, homes, and churches. The community itself experienced the War Between the States first hand as it was of considerable strategic importance. In June, 1861, at the mouth of the Nansemond River, a Confederate battery of Portsmouth soldiers had an engagement with the Union ship, Harriet Lane, on June 5, 1861. The infamous Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler was attempting to clear a route for the capture of Suffolk but was not successful in that early attempt. The VA Historical Highway Marker No. K 261 relates the history and is located in Suffolk along Rt. 58 West from Portsmouth.



The town of Suffolk was occupied in May 1862 when Col. Charles C. Dodge's 1<sup>st</sup> New York Mounted Rifles rode into Suffolk and began the Union occupation that would last until the end of the war. Mayor Benjamin Riddick surrendered the town to Dodge with the assurance that peaceable

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citizens' rights would be protected. Additional Federal troops from Camp Butler, under the command of Brig. Gen. J.K.F. Mansfield quickly moved into Suffolk as local Confederate troops withdrew west to the Blackwater River. The Union Army used the old Nansemond County Court house at 524 North Main Street as a barracks and headquarters for much of the war with as many as 25,000 Union troops in the town. The following Virginia Highway marker K252 located on Main Street relates the history of the Siege of Suffolk. The Marker can be reached from Mahan St. .2 miles east of North Main Street.



Also located on Main Street is the Nansemond County Court House which was used as the headquarters for the Union troops for the entire time that the town was occupied by the Union.



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Kilby's Law Office which was located at 347 North Main St. served as a repository for valuable papers, books and church records that the local residents wanted to keep safe during the war years according to the esteemed Civil War historian James I. Robertson Jr. who wrote the book *Civil War Sites in VA A Tour Guide* and included this information on the Suffolk location. The front part of Kilby's law office structure still retained some of its 19th Century appearance at its same location when it was sold in November 2017 as a historic commercial property. Photo below.



Several locations are confirmed to have been used as hospitals in the Suffolk area during the siege of the city and some of those properties still stand! The Godwin House at 504 W. Washington Street (right across the street from the Constantia House where we meet!) was constructed in 1830 and called Whitehall. It was used as a federal hospital during the siege of the city according to Robertson's book. It is not open to the public but can be seen from the street.



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Another known hospital location is the old Providence church near the intersection of Kings Fork Rd. and Rt. 460. Today, the Providence United Methodist church is addressed as 4165 Pruden Blvd. Suffolk VA. A Virginia Historical marker UT28 stands close by that is titled *Civil War Cavalry Skirmish* and describes the December 28, 1862 attack by the Confederates on the Union soldiers at Providence Church who initially drove the enemy soldiers back toward Suffolk. The Federals repulsed the attack and forced the Confederates back west several miles to their main body of cavalry. Details regarding the hospital use are scant and since both sides held the location, it is likely that the old church served both Union and Confederate soldiers.



Providence Methodist Church

Highway Marker at the Church



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Chapter member Shirley Warren is a member of First Baptist Church in Suffolk located at 237 N. Main St. and she shared that her church had also been used as a hospital during the war. Noted historian Kermit Hobbs is also a member and wrote a booklet "*The History of First Baptist Church 1827-2002*". He recorded that during the occupation of Suffolk by the Union that First Baptist Church was used as a Union Hospital. The Baptists had formerly met in the school building on Academy Hill. The Federal troops without reason before the cessation of hostilities burned the building on the hill. The Baptist church building used during the war survived but "all the seats and the pulpit were taken out and destroyed and many of the window sashes taken out and carried off". Hobbs also related that activities at the church were limited since "practically every preacher had either moved away or enlisted as a chaplain". The church was restored after the war but was moved to the back of the lot when it was replaced by a newer building in 1890 and then that building was replaced in 1954. So, the Civil War era building no longer stands.

Do you believe in ghosts? Karen Washburn, a local dramatist, who conducted a Ghost Walk tour for the Suffolk Visitor's Center in October 2019, related several ghost stories. She reported that an apartment building dweller at 328 Main St. reported seeing an apparition of a Confederate soldier in his apartment. Karen advised that the building location was once a Civil War field hospital for both Union and Confederate forces, and that bone fragments have been found on the building property that might have surfaced from surgeries and amputations once performed there. She also reported at the Historic Cedar Hill Cemetery when the Confederate monument at the cemetery was rededicated in 1999 that an unidentified figure appears in a video taken of the event. (Per our member Billie Earnest, she was a member of another chapter at the time but was the speaker at that event when the ghost appeared in the video taken of her program!) Karen also stated that the ghost of Anna Mary Riddick is believed to inhabit the Riddick's Folly Museum. But back to verified historical events!

When Major General John J. Peck arrived in Suffolk, he took over the Riddick mansion at 510 North Main Street for two years.



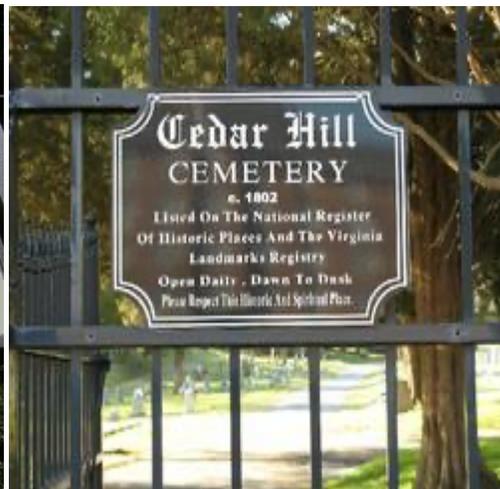
The Riddick Mansion, now a museum "Riddick's Folly" (RFM)

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Peck with his thousands (some estimates are as high as 60,000) of Union troops overran the small community of Suffolk. He arrested prominent Suffolk citizens who he suspected of supporting the Confederacy and sent them to confinement in Fort Norfolk. (Norfolk and Portsmouth were in Union control. ) Some citizens' homes in Suffolk were burned to the ground. Many civilians evacuated at the height of the occupation in April and May 1863 during the siege. During the war, the Riddick family members were serving in the Confederacy and the legislature, and the women and children were living in Richmond, Danville, Petersburg, and parts of NC. When they reunited in Suffolk after the war, they found that the soldiers and even local residents had ransacked the house, stealing the silver that had been buried in the back yard, and loading the furniture on trains leaving town. The house still bears the evidence of its occupation with signatures of Confederate and Union soldiers on the walls in the house.

General Lee sent Confederate General Longstreet and his forces to the Tidewater area along with the divisions of John Bell Hood, George Pickett, and Samuel French in February 1863 to protect Richmond from Union troops approaching the capital from Suffolk. In April, Longstreet built a line of breastworks along Rt. 10, only 1.5 miles northwest of Suffolk, and besieged the town in April and May 1863. A Civil War Trails Marker titled "Siege of Suffolk" "Bacon for the Confederacy" has been placed in Cedar Hill Cemetery near the Confederate Monument with photos of Hood, Longstreet, & Pickett.



It was during this siege of Suffolk that Gen. George Edward Pickett, before his fame at Gettysburg that we remember as Pickett's charge, would slip away to visit his sweetheart and soon-to-be wife, LaSalle (Sallie) Ann Corbell, of Nansemond County. Pickett frequently made all night trips from his headquarters on White Marsh Road all the way around Suffolk to visit Sallie. On one occasion, he narrowly escaped capture by a Yankee raiding party in Chuckatuck VA. He and Sallie were married in September 1863 in Petersburg VA when the general took a short leave for the wedding before returning to the war.

Sallie Corbell was educated at the Lynchburg Female Seminary in Lynchburg Virginia. Following her husband's death from scarlet fever in 1875, she took a job as a government clerk to support herself and son. In the 1880's, she became a popular writer and speaker. Her first book "Pickett and His Men" was published in 1899. She wrote for several national popular magazines and published a dozen books. She was a "liberated" woman long before some of us experienced Women's Lib in the 70's. Sallie Corbell is an ancestor of chapter member Billie Earnest who has a collection of Corbell and Pickett family memorabilia and photographs that she loaned to us for this article and to the History of American Women's online web site. You will want to check out Sallie Corbell Pickett's biography on the website listed in this history's References.

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Confederate General George Edward Pickett and wife Sallie Corbell Pickett



The siege in Suffolk was a series of skirmishes between the opposing forces. There were Confederate soldiers from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina that were wounded and killed during these skirmishes. The soldiers were treated at a hospital in Suffolk and some of those who died were buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery and honored and remembered by our chapter. On Lee's orders, Longstreet abandoned the siege, withdrew across the James River and rejoined Lee at Fredericksburg in May, 1863. Even though the siege was unable to dislodge the Union control of Suffolk, it was considered a success since the Confederates were able to forage for valuable supplies from the surrounding rich countryside, and contained any Federal advance against the Confederate capital of Richmond from the Southside.

Prior to the UDC chapter being established, the Confederate Monument that is in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suffolk was built and dedicated on November 14, 1889. Confederate veteran Col. Thomas W. Smith (whose family entertained the Marquis de Lafayette in 1825 and who was president of First National Bank in Suffolk in 1889), provided the money, believed to be about \$1000.00, to erect the beautiful monument in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suffolk that is dedicated to the Confederate Dead. Col. Smith had planned to leave monies in his will for the monument to be built. However, he credits his wife, Harriett Borland Smith, for the early building of the monument as she encouraged him to build it while he was living and could enjoy its building and dedication in memory of his comrades.

A booklet was published in the year 1890 following the dedication titled *Ceremonies Unveiling of the Monument to the Memory of the Confederate Dead*. The booklet includes the identity of many of the esteemed guests including Governor of Virginia Fitzhugh Lee, nephew of General Robert E. Lee who was a Confederate cavalry general. Many local veterans of the war attended in gray.

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There is no record of a Ladies Memorial Association in Suffolk which often preceded UDC chapters and since the UDC chapter was not organized until 1896, there is no known local historical women's organizations participating in the dedication of the monument. However, there is a record from a booklet printed in 1890 about the dedication that on that day in 1889, over 5000 men, women, and children gathered in Suffolk for the occasion. From the booklet: *The following named ladies had charge of the arrangements for preparing and serving dinner at the Town Hall to the veterans and soldiers: Mrs. J. F. Lotzia, Mrs. A. C. Withers, Miss Anna M. Riddick, Mrs. J. H. Wright, Mrs. Dr. (Jane Evans) Briggs, Mrs. N. B. Leslie, Mrs. W. D. Wood, Mrs. Emma Lassiter, Mrs. Nellie Pipkin, Mrs. V. Bracey, Mrs. L. P. Harper, Mrs. J. M. Caulk, Mrs. J. C. Smith, Mrs. S. R. Dunn, Mrs. P. J. Keuodle, Mrs. F. M. Alford, Mrs. L.S. Baker, Mrs. A. H. Baker, Mrs. Calvin Nelms, Mrs. J. B. Pinner, Mrs. B. B. Ashburn, Mrs. J. H. Bedell and Mrs. S. P. Willock. They were assisted by a bevy of charming young ladies. At least five of the named women became charter members of the UDC: the two sisters, Miss Anna M. Riddick and Mrs. A.C.(Missouri Taylor Riddick) Withers and Mrs. Dr. Briggs (Don't you love the way Mrs. Dr. Briggs name was displayed!), Mrs. L. P. (Ida Lewis) Harper, and Mrs. John C. Smith.*

The monument was unveiled on November 14, 1889. John P. Hall of Norfolk Virginia is named as the designer. It is traditionally referred to as the Confederate Monument and is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and on the Virginia Civil War Trails which placed a marker about the Siege of Suffolk at the Confederate Monument.

The monument faces west on its corner lot in the cemetery. On the front of the monument on the base is engraved *CONFEDERATE DEAD*. On the back of the monument, also on the base, the engraving reads *1861-1889*.

On the right side of the statue facing south is engraved, *"This shaft on which we carve no name, shall guide Virginia's Youth – a sign-post on the road to fame, to honor and to truth. A silent sentry, it shall stand to guard thro' coming time their graves who died for native land and duty most sublime. "*

On the left and north side, the engraving reads *"With shouts above the battle's roar they join the legions gone before: they bravely fought, they bravely fell, they wore the Gray and wore it well. "*



There are currently 275 known Confederate soldiers' graves marked In Cedar Hill and there are unmarked graves as well so the number is believed to be closer to 300. Many markers have been

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placed on the graves by the Suffolk Chapter UDC and the Tom Smith Camp of the SCV organizations and many dedication ceremonies held. When Col. Thomas Smith died in 1912, he too was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery adjacent to the Confederate Monument site and a monument inscribed Thos. W. Smith marks his gravesite.

It was early in 1896 that meetings were held in Suffolk to discuss forming a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. With the town's storied history, the charter members honored its community in June, 1896 by naming its UDC chapter, Suffolk.

A charter was issued by the Virginia Division dated June 12, 1896 and numbered 173 with 15 members. The chapter was an auxiliary of the original Tom Smith Camp of Confederate Veterans. Tom Smith was still alive when the Tom Smith Camp of the Sons of the Confederacy and the Suffolk United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter were established. The Suffolk camp SCV and the Suffolk chapter UDC have partnered together for many years before both groups disbanded for some years and were later re-established.

In addition to Anna Mary Riddick and Missouri Taylor Riddick Withers, other charter members of the newly organized Suffolk Chapter in 1896 included Miss Catherine Whitehead, Miss Sarah A. Finney, Mrs. Lizzie N. Christie, Mrs. L. P. (Ida Lewis) Harper, Mrs. Dr. (Jane Evans) Briggs, Mrs. John M. Shepherd, Mrs. H.E. Smith, Mrs. Arthur (Missouri Kilby) Woolford- daughter of Missouri Taylor Riddick and Austin Chinn Withers, Mrs. W. A. Bass, Mrs. John C. Smith, Mrs. W.E. Hines, Mrs. W. McLeod, and Mrs. Frank Jones.

The first officers were Anna Mary Riddick, President; Catherine E. Whitehead, Vice-President; Mrs. Ida Lewis Harper, Secretary; and Mrs. Lizzie Christie, Treasurer. (Note: The newly organized chapter included a number of family members: mothers and daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces and cousins! Love of the UDC is still shared by family members in the Suffolk chapter today with two sets of three sisters as members!)

The UDC Charter from 1896 disappeared but according to an old newspaper article was found more than 20 years later among the papers of Mrs. Ida Lewis Harper, the first secretary of the chapter. Mrs. Harper had moved from the area and the document was found by the attorney Mr. J. Walter Hosier handling the estate following her death, and it was returned to the chapter. The charter was issued by the Grand Division of Virginia and was an Auxiliary of the Tom Smith Camp United Confederate Veterans at Suffolk VA. The signatures on the 1896 Charter were those of Catherine Noland Garnett, President and Ella H. Davis, Secretary of Grand Division of Virginia. Only three charter members were living when the charter was found: Mrs. John C. Smith, Mrs. W. E. Hines, and Mrs. Frank Jones.

Another charter was reported in a different newspaper article to have been issued on November 11, 1897 by the headquarters of the UDC at Nashville TN designating the charter members as Mrs. W. A. Bass, Mrs. John C. Smith, Mrs. W. E. Hines, Mrs. W. L. McLeod, Mrs. Frank Jones, Miss Anna Mary Riddick, Miss Catherine Whitehead, Miss Sarah A. Finney, Mrs. Lizzie Norfleet Christie, Mrs. L. P. Harper, Mrs. Jane Evans Briggs, Mrs. John M. Shepherd, Mrs. H. E. Smith, Mrs. Arthur Woolford, "and their successors" members of Suffolk Chapter No. 173. Missing from that list was Missouri Withers but she is listed in all other early documents

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However, the 1897 charter was also lost and on April 17, 1915 a charter was filed by the Recording Secretary of General, and signed and approved by Chapter President Anna M. Riddick that the 15 names of the charter members listed were accurate. That is the earliest charter that the Division and the Chapter currently hold. Wouldn't it be wonderful to one day discover the 1896 and/or the 1897 original charters?

One of the earliest annual activities that both the Suffolk United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter and the Tom Smith Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans holds is the annual Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was earlier called- celebrations that are ongoing today. There are currently 275 known Confederate veterans buried at Cedar Hill. Flags are placed on each veteran's grave on the Memorial Day and/or Veterans Day celebrations. Markers have been placed on the soldiers' graves and many dedication ceremonies held. Recently, chapter member Billie Earnest has been working with SCV member Lee Hart at Cedar Hill Cemetery to compile an updated list of known burials of Confederate Veterans at Cedar Hill Cemetery. Billie has researched the records of their Confederate Service. It currently is a book in progress in 2020.

Following is a list that highlights some of the other accomplishments and activities of the chapter through the years:

1903 The Grand and the First Virginia Divisions of the UDC merged and became the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The newly formed Virginia Division was only for chapters within the state. At that time, the Suffolk Chapter had grown to 35 members and the chapter sent Mrs. John C. Smith and Mrs. J. B. Pinner as delegates to the Division convention held in Norfolk VA.

1904 Current chapter members number 54. Officers are Anna Riddick, President; Mrs. J. C. Smith, Vice President; Mrs. Edward Norfleet, Treasurer; Mrs. L. T. Harper, Corresponding Secretary; and Miss Elise Urquhart, Recording Secretary.

At the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Cedar Hill Cemetery, the UDC dedicated a monument to unknown North and South Carolina Confederate soldiers who died in a Suffolk hospital during the War Between the States. An engraved stone was placed on the UDC lot "To the memory of N & S Carolina soldiers who died in Suffolk 1861-1862 Erected by Suffolk Chapter UDC 1904"



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- Earlier, the Daughters had purchased a cemetery lot in the cemetery for its memorial work. The lot is near the front of the cemetery and situated on a hill. There are granite squares, engraved "UDC" placed on each corner of the lot.
- An order was placed for 100 Confederate Shields to be placed on the graves of Confederate soldiers buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery. The metal embossed shields could hold both flowers and a Confederate flag
- 1906 The chapter completed the work of marking the graves of our Confederate dead with shields.
- 1907 A Chapter pin was created. Efforts to locate one of the pins has not been successful. If found, we would love to duplicate it for all current members to purchase.
- Gen. Laurence Baker, a locally renowned Confederate cavalryman died and was buried at Cedar Hill.
- At the annual Memorial Day services with the SCV, the chapter entertained the Confederate Choir from Portsmouth, a quartet of young ladies who sang songs of 1861.
- 1910 The Suffolk Chapter hosted its first Virginia Division Convention October 12-14 in Suffolk. Anna Riddick was in charge of the Historical Evening events. A string band entertained as did the Confederate Choir from Portsmouth.
- A number of Confederate Veterans attended in their gray uniforms.
- 1912 The chapter was instrumental in the establishment of a designated Memorial Day instead of any day appointed by the Mayor. Namesake of the SCV Camp, Tom Smith died and was buried in Cedar Hill.
- 1913 It was reported that the chapter missed its President who was absent mourning the loss of her nephew, Robert W. Withers who had died November 15, 1912 at the age of 37. He is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.
- 1915 Shields continue to be added at the cemetery, veterans are assisted, and the Memorial Day services continue.
- 1916 The Chapter worked together with the Red Cross to help plan activities to support World War I efforts. Flags and shields were placed on both Confederate and the Spanish American War veterans' graves.
- 1918 The Flu epidemic began in the fall and raged through the state.
- 1919 The Flu pandemic spread through the state and the Red Cross provided masks. The chapter continued to work with the Red Cross for World War I veterans.
- 1920 Between 1916-1920, the lost Original Chapter Charter was returned to Chapter President Anna Riddick by the Administrator of the estate of Ida Lewis Harper who was the first secretary of the Chapter.
- 1922 The members lobbied for observances of both Lee and Jackson's birthdays in the schools.
- 1924 Observance in the schools of Lee Jackson Day is recorded in the 1924 minutes as is the fact that a list of the Confederate soldiers buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery has been made.
- 1925 Confederate veterans who went to war with Lee and Jackson are remembered. There are less than 20 local veterans that are known to still be living "and have not crossed over the river and are resting under the shade of the trees" -Jackson's last words.

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- 1926 Four Confederate veterans who died during the year have their graves marked. The Women's Club of Suffolk was established and purchased the Lehman house built in 1885 at 223 Banks St. and established the first public library in Suffolk. The UDC chapter had a Confederate Shelf in the library and over the years donated many historical books.
- 1927 Mrs. W. E. (Mary Benn Kilby) Hines elected as only the second president that the chapter has had after Anna Mary Riddick served for more than 30 years. Anna Mary is given the title of Honorary President for the rest of her life. Public schools are observing Lee & Jackson's birthday annually at the chapter's request.
- 1934 The UDC General celebrates its 40th anniversary. Honorary President Anna Mary Riddick, age 93, attends the chapter celebration in September.
- 1936 Anna Mary Riddick, charter member, first President for 30 years, and Honorary President died November 11 1936 at the age of 95 and is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery.
- 1937 The chapter's annual report included the loss of Anna Mary at age 95 and described her as "a perfect type of Virginia gentlewoman".
- 1938 Additional Confederate markers are placed and currently, all Confederate veterans' graves in Cedar Hill Cemetery are marked
- 1942 The grave lot for unknown Confederate soldiers was placed under perpetual care. Another Confederate grave is marked with a government headstone. The chapter entertained servicemen from the U. S. Army and Navy Air Corps.
- 1943 All members pledged to buy war bonds and stamps, and one member pledged ten percent of her income for the purchase. Members are volunteering for the Red Cross and Civil Defense as well as entertaining men and women in the armed forces.
- 1944 The chapter has 17 sons or grandsons serving in the military. Members continue to volunteer and support the war efforts and minister to service men and women.
- 1945 Flowers and gifts were sent to two remaining Confederate widows before they passed away this year.
- 1946 The Registrar's files were placed in a fireproof building in the city, exact location unknown. Books and magazines are donated to the Women's Club library.
- 1948 Five folders of Confederate magazines are given to the Suffolk Women's Club Library.
- 1949 Additional Confederate magazines placed on the Confederate shelf in the Women's Club library.
- 1950 The chapter planted red and white azaleas around the Confederate Monument and also on the lot with the monument placed by the chapter in 1904.
- 1953 Three Confederate Days sponsored by the chapter with the cooperation of the Retail Merchant's Association are celebrated. Confederate flags, caps, and pins were sold.
- 1956 The chapter is working on a plot of Cedar Hill Cemetery to show where all of the Confederate soldiers are buried and when completed, the list will be filed with the Clerk of the Court. (That list has been lost.)
- 1959 Blueprint of the Cemetery made that when marked will show each location of the Confederate soldiers buried there. (The location of the blueprint is not currently known.)
- 1960 The chapter used the radio to broadcast if anyone knows of an unmarked Confederate soldiers grave to contact the chapter who will arrange for it to be marked.

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- 1966 The chapter disbanded.
- 1968 Miss Nettie Cowling assumed the presidency and personally paid \$85 in dues for 17 members to restore the chapter and it was in good standing July 1968. Unfortunately, Nettie was ill and died December 19, 1968. According to a July, 1969 letter in chapter files, the chapter treasurer Miss Mamie Kelly had turned in chapter funds to the Division. The letter states that the members were too elderly to carry on.  
Not until 1997, was the Chapter re-established.
- 1995 The Tom Smith Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans was reinstated into the national organization.
- 1996 In October, Betty Hart, Louise Buck, Patricia Outland and Regina Derby met at Bunny's Restaurant with the purpose of reactivating the Suffolk Chapter of the UDC. Woody Walker of the Tom Smith Camp initiated the meeting. They were joined by Joyce Eades of Richmond to share information about the UDC. Current UDC members from Newport News, Richmond and Wakefield attended and offered assistance with applications and actions needed.
- 1997 Several meetings were held to assist the new members with applications.  
The Suffolk Chapter 173 was reactivated and a new charter issued on July 7, 1997.  
Charter members were Paula Lynne Johnson Barber, Regina Rountree Derby, Jeri Lyn Herto Gelbaugh (yes, that is the correct spelling), Betty Stewart Hart, Joan W. Johnson, Julia R. Meekins-James, and Kendall A. Richardson. The UDC General officers who signed the charter were President-General Hilda Kelly Bell and Recording Secretary Sharon M. Bledsoe. The newly elected officers of the reactivated chapter were President Regina Derby, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Betty Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Trina Bungard (joined another chapter and the office of 2nd VP was not replaced), Recording Secretary Jeri Gelbaugh, Treasurer Kendall Richardson (transferred to NC and replaced by Louise Buck pending membership approval), Registrar Paula Barber, Historian Joan Johnson, and Recorder of Crosses Julia Meekins-James. The officers were busy opening a bank account, obtaining an IRS number, and finding a place to meet.  
The officers chose the Constantia House behind the R. W. Baker Funeral home located at 509 W. Washington St. where it continues to meet. The meeting house originally stood in Cedar Hill Cemetery but in 1994, Robert N. Baker III organized laborers with the help of family and friends, and deconstructed the house, moved it into the backyard of the funeral home and reassembled it piece by piece. Currently, the building is used by different civic, church and volunteer organizations. The funeral home occasionally uses it as a reception hall. Baker's does not charge the organizations to use its facilities. Our chapter currently makes an annual donation to a scholarship fund in appreciation for its use.

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The Constantia House

- 1997 The Constantia House is a replica of the JOHN CONSTANT House named after an early settler of Suffolk. The original house was built about 1720. The Constantia Chapter of the D.A.R. rebuilt it in 1926. It was relocated to its present location in 1994. The Suffolk Chapter 173 meets here on a regular basis.
- In May of '97, the newly formed chapter re-established its annual tradition of joining the Tom Smith SCV Camp by honoring Confederate Veterans buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery on Memorial Day. The chapter established a cash Sunshine Fund to minister to its members.
- Members also attended their first District meeting in May, and five members of the chapter attended the 102<sup>nd</sup> VA Division Convention held October 10-12 in Staunton VA. And, at the holiday season, a joint Christmas party was held with the SCV.
- 1998 The chapter participated in a reception to honor former Gov. Mills Godwin. An annual ministry of donating items to Veterans' hospitals was established. Services held at Holly Lawn Cemetery for the reburial of Frederick March, a former prisoner at Point Lookout MD.
- In October, the chapter returned to the Tom Smith SCV Camp the old Confederate flag that the city had kept in storage since 1933 and when it was discovered by the city, it was presented to our UDC chapter and we returned it to the SCV.
- 1999 Former VA Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr. died and was buried in Cedar Hill.
- 2000 In May, toiletry items were delivered to the Veterans hospital and in Dec., Christmas cards were sent to Veterans.
- Chapter members toured Blandford Church and Cemetery in Petersburg and the Crater. We held fundraisers for projects
- 2001 Cornerstone and a plaque was placed by the UDC at Cedar Hill in 2000. Plaques on pillars were placed around the Confederate monument by the Tom Smith SCV Camp following their restoration work at the cemetery. The Confederate monument was rededicated in 2001 following the restoration work by the SCV and the UDC.

# The History of the Suffolk Chapter UDC

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- 2001 Our own Billie Earnest is 6th District Chairman for the VA Division UDC. The Suffolk Chapter members visited Pamplin Park Confederate Heritage Days near Petersburg.
- 2002 Members attended the Suffolk City Council meeting to support the Mayor's Proclamation declaring April as Confederate History Heritage month.
- 2002 The Suffolk Chapter was one of the hostess chapters for the VA Division Convention held in Hampton along with the Bethel and Pickett Buchanan Chapters. Members toured Endview and Lee Hall Plantations on the Peninsula.
- 2003 Crosses of Military Service were bestowed.
- 2004 Civil War Days were observed in Suffolk April 3rd and 4th. Portrait of Gen. Laurence Baker was unveiled and is on display at the train station. New monument placed on Gen. Baker's gravesite and a pyramid of cannonballs crafted by Lee Hart was placed. A memorial Rock garden was created by the chapter. A sidewalk was installed and an engraved granite plaque added.



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- Chapter President Kathy Richardson attended memorial and burial services on April 17th, 2004 for the recently recovered Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley's 8-man crew in Charleston SC.
- 2005 Member Betty Hart continued her work that began in 2004 of identifying & photographing grave sites of Confederate soldiers buried in Cedar Hill and creating a reference book. The chapter has utilized this valuable resource numerous times to place flags on graves and hold Memorial Day ceremonies. Betty will never be forgotten for this work.  
Rock Garden in Cedar Hill Cemetery restored by members.  
President Billie Earnest participated in period attire in hosting visitors to Suffolk's Historic District.  
Members toured Somerset Plantation in Creswell NC.
- 2006 The VA Division Convention was held in Suffolk October 8th & 9th.
- 2007 This is the 200th Anniversary of Lee's birthday and the 10th Anniversary of the Chapter Re-chartering.  
The chapter hosted the 6th District Conference in Suffolk on March 24th.  
Donations were made to the Alzheimer's Association.  
A program was presented by Katheryne Hamilton on her black Confederate Ancestors who were free blacks living in Nansemond County and joined their neighbors in serving in the Confederacy. Grave markings and dedication for 11 Confederate soldiers made at Oakland Christian Church in Suffolk.  
After months of preparation and combined efforts of the Tom Smith SCV Camp and several other SCV Camps, the Suffolk Chapter of the UDC, and the Riddick Folly's Museum staff, a ceremony was held at the Old Blandford Church and cemetery in Petersburg VA to dedicate the headstone and Iron Marker of Sgt. Jonathan Reynolds Smith 6th VA Infantry, who was killed at the Battle of Malvern Hill July 1, 1862. Jonathan was the love of Anna Mary Riddick, our chapter founder and first president.
- 2008 The chapter presented Betty Hart with a Winnie Davis Medal for her service and contributions to the chapter and the community.
- 2009 Guest speaker Judge Wm. Wellington Jones of Suffolk whose great-grandfathers Jared Wellington Spitler of Staunton and Wm. Turner Jordan M.D. of Driver were Confederate veterans. Judge Jones had fond memories of attending a Confederate Veterans Reunion with his great-grandfather Spitler.  
Chapter members visited Jamestown.
- 2010 A Memorial Bench to Confederate Veterans engraved 2009 was placed at Cedar Hill Cemetery on February 29, 2010 by our chapter and the SCV camp. The granite bench is engraved as follows: "Not for fame or fortune, not for place or rank Not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity But in simple obedience to duty as they understood it These men suffered all, sacrificed all, dared all and died", a quotation from the UDC Ritual Book. Suffolk Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy is also engraved.

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Speakers included the VA Division President Suzanne Townsend and SCV Commander Mike Pullen. On the same date, a grave marker was dedicated for Mrs. Lacy G. Edgerton, Past President of the Virginia Division from 1953-1955 by Chapter President Becky Sharrett. SCV member Lee Hart placed and dedicated a marker for his grandmother, Mrs. Hannah D. Hart, third President of the Suffolk Chapter from 1929-1931. Headstones were placed on five Confederate veterans' graves. Military Service Awards were presented by the chapter and flags were placed on Confederate Veterans graves at the annual Memorial Day ceremonies at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Cards and gifts were sent to veterans at Walter Reed Hospital.

Members visited Fort Monroe and the Chamberlain Hotel overlooking Fort Wool.

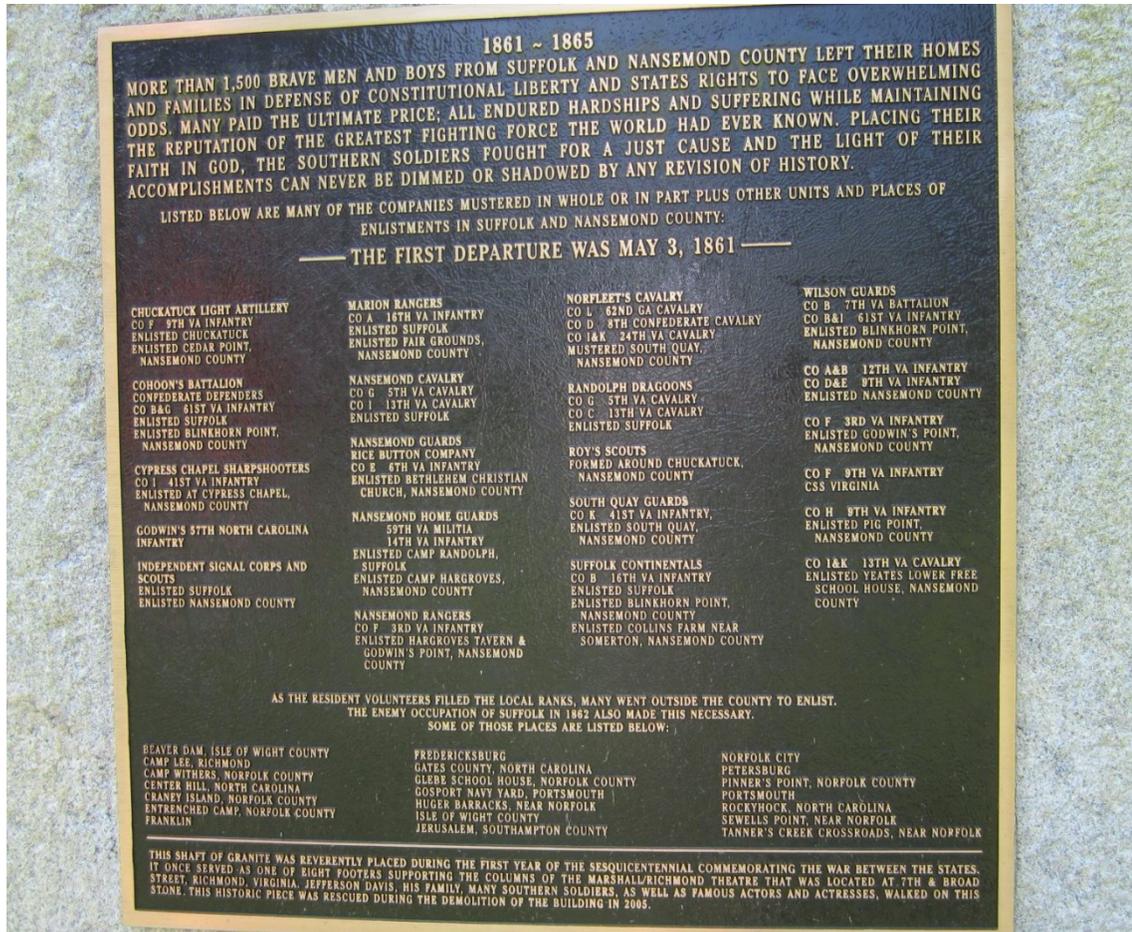
An article was printed in the UDC magazine this year on the Memorial Day Ceremonies.

2011 Susan Carraway of our chapter served as Sixth District Chairman VA Division UDC.

In this the Sesquicentennial year of the War Between the States, the chapter and the SCV camp dedicated the Militia Monument at Cedar Hill Cemetery that recognizes the companies from Suffolk and Nansemond County who were mustered into Confederate service in 1861. There was a reenactment of the 175 troops leaving Suffolk on May 3, 1861 and of the farewell speech at the train station. (The UDC refers to the monument as the Militia Monument and the SCV calls it the Enlistment Monument. Whatever it is called, it is a beautiful bronze, brass, and granite memorial to the many men, old and young, black and white who left their homes to serve with their family, friends, and neighbors in the War of Northern Aggression.

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The Militia Monument

- 2012 Members traveled to Emporia to participate in a Sesquicentennial event.
- 2013 Donations were made to purchase foot cream for soldiers in Afghanistan.  
We placed a flag pole and American flag at the Confederate Monument in Cedar Hill Cemetery.  
Members continued their volunteer work at Riddick's Folly Museum.  
The Chapter hosted the 119th VA Division Convention at the Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk from October 2nd-5th.
- 2015 Collected canned goods for local food pantry. Delivered Christmas cards and gifts for veterans at the VA Hospital in Hampton.  
Members participated in depicting life in Suffolk at Riddick's Folly House Museum.
- 2016 Nancy Parker started a portable library to bring to meetings for members to check out books, magazines, and newspapers related to the chapter or the Confederacy.  
The chapter committed to replacing the Shields that were on the Confederate soldiers' graves in Cedar Hill Cemetery originally placed beginning in 1905. Many have disappeared, others are damaged or rusted.  
A mold was ordered so that the shields which hold a flag can be manufactured.  
Betty and Lee Hart and Billie Earnest participated in starting this project.

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New and old shields

- 2016 Members participated in many field trips: Fort Huger, Chippokes Mansion, Isle of Wight Museum, Bacon's Castle, Schoolhouse Museum, the African-American Museum and a Tour of the Civil War Battlefields in Suffolk.
- 2017 Several members participated in presenting American Girl Doll Histories and volunteering at Riddick's Folly Museum.  
A successful Southern Tea event was held for fundraising with hard work by many members and enjoyed by all attendees.  
The chapter began the work of documenting the locations of the Confederate soldiers' graves and placing Shields on graves.
- 2018 The chapter hosted the 6th District Conference.  
Charter member and officer Betty Hart passed away and was buried on Valentines Day in Cedar Hill Cemetery where she had volunteered so many hours.
- 2019 In March, an article titled "LaSalle Corbell Picket and Her Soldier: Widow of General George E. Pickett and UDC Honorary President of General" written by her descendant and our Chapter member Billie Earnest was published in the UDC Magazine  
In April, a dedication service was held to dedicate the UDC marker placed at former charter member Betty Hart's grave . Ms. Kathy Arth, UDC General Grave Markers Chairman, traveled from MD to dedicate Betty's grave marker as did many family members and UDC & SCV friends. VA Division UDC President Ms. Ginger R. Stephens attended the annual Memorial Day services as did the SCV VA Division Commander Johnny Neville. It was reported that 90 shields have been placed on Confederate soldiers' graves earlier this year and nine of our members read the names of the 90 Confederate veterans honored. Work will continue placing shields until all known graves are marked. Many members made personal donations to purchase shields.
- 2020 Two articles written by Suffolk chapter members Susan Carraway and Dee Smith were published in the March issue of the UDC Magazine on the Riddick family members of Suffolk.  
The Pickett Buchanan Chapter in Norfolk VA disbanded after many years of service and our chapter was pleased to receive four of their members who transferred.  
Due to the Corona (Covid 19) Virus pandemic, Memorial Day ceremonies were cancelled as were UDC chapter meetings in the spring, Reminiscent of the 1918-19 Flu epidemic, large gatherings are prohibited and masks are required.

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In late May of this year of 2020, the Black Lives Matter organization that unfortunately contained Antifa members and groups of criminals began their destruction in Richmond. The national UDC headquarters building in Richmond was defaced, windows broken, and the building set on fire which caused its closure for months and its reopening date is still not known. Thankfully, UDC staff was monitoring the building and their actions prevented more destruction.

All over Virginia and the US beginning in May and continuing for months, Confederate monuments have been destroyed. Suits were filed to prohibit the destruction and Daughters donated to help pay legal fees. Even though legal action was taken and is still pending, it did not prevent the extensive damage or removal of memorials. Memorials to JEB Stuart, Robert E. Lee, Confederate Soldiers, Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and even the Viet Nam and WWII Memorials on the National Mall were defaced and damaged. Rioting and vandalism have prevailed for months particularly in the capital city of Richmond Virginia. The UDC is paying guards to ensure the safety of the headquarters building as it is being restored. Insurance does not cover all of the expenses and members are making donations to cover costs of removing asbestos and installing special secure windows.

In July of this year of 2020, Govern Northam and mayors in Virginia removed any remaining Confederate statues and memorials. Only memorials in cemeteries still stand. It is heartbreaking for those of us who have so many Confederate ancestors who never owned a slave to be maligned, to see the remembrances of Confederate soldiers placed by Ladies Memorial Associations at the end of the 1800's and early 1900's destroyed, and the truth untold of the reasons for the war.

The Executive Board of the Chapter made changes to its policies in June to protect its members and the locations of the Chapter's meetings. Unknown guests will not be invited to our meetings until members of the executive board have met with them, received identification, and approved an invitation.

Billie Earnest and Lee Hart completed the placement of the Confederate shields and documentation on the location of the Confederate graves in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

In September and October, sisters Sandy Bolen, Debbie Coffman, and Dee Smith prepared Internment forms on the soldiers that are buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery and sent them to be entered on the UDC General website. 233 forms were prepared and forwarded for division and general approval and entered into the database.

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2020 Even without regular meetings, our members continue to research, preserve history, and maintain cemeteries. This first known history of the chapter with contributions from many of our members was distributed by email to chapter members in August 2020. Some revisions and updates to the chapter history have been made and distributed by email in November, 2020 following our first meeting since the pandemic began.

As the Suffolk Daughters have for over a hundred years, we will continue to honor our Confederate Ancestors and preserve Confederate history. It is our plan to resume regular meetings in the 2020-2021 UDC year and continue our ongoing work at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

# The History of the Suffolk Chapter UDC

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## References:

*A Guidebook to Virginias Historical Markers* Compiled by John S. Salmon University Press of VA 1994

*Ceremonies Unveiling of the Monument to the Memory of the Confederate Dead* Booklet Printed 1890 in possession of Billie Earnest

*Civil War Sites in Virginia A Tour Guide* by James I. Robertson 5th printing 1991 and  
*Civil War Sites in Virginia A Tour Guide* by James I. Robertson & Brian Steel Wills 2011

*Providence United Methodist Church A Continuing History Began 1827 (1827-2002)* published by the church. Copy provided by the church to Dee Smith

*Suffolk A Pictorial History* by Kermit Hobbs and William A. Paquette 1987 pub. by The Donning Co

*The History of First Baptist Church Suffolk VA 1827-2002* by Kermit Hobbs, loaned by Shirley Warren

*The Occupation of Suffolk By the Yankees During the War Between the States* A Paper read by Mrs. Emma L. (Emily Louisa) McGuire Ferguson (1859-1929) before the Chapter of the UDC of Suffolk VA Copy in Suffolk Library copied by Billie Earnest & loaned for this history

*The Siege of Suffolk The Forgotten Campaign April 11-May 4 1863* by Steven A. Cormier 1989 pub. H.E. Howard Inc.

*The Virginia Landmarks Register* pub. by VA Dept of Historic Resources 1999

*The War Ends in Suffolk* Newspaper article in the Suffolk News Herald Apr 25 2015 by Kermit Hobbs

Minute Books of the VA UDC Division: The Suffolk Chapter reports copied from 1903-1964 by Betty Hart VA Division Minute Books -1997-2019 Current president holds. Reviewed by Dee Smith and Sandy Bolen

Personal Binders of Billie Earnest and Betty Hart with copies of old minutes, newspaper articles, correspondence, photos, & copies of approved early charter member applications. Includes Suffolk Chapter Minutes Handwritten from 1953-1964 & Suffolk Chapter Minutes Oct 1996-2012

## Internet websites:

[Providenceumc.org](http://Providenceumc.org)

<https://www.suffolkva.us/818/Cedar-Hill-Cemeteries>

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/highway-markers/>

<https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2009/01/lasalle-corbett-pickett.html>

# The History of the Suffolk Chapter UDC

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## Appendix Suffolk Chapter UDC Presidents 1896-2021

1. Miss Anna Mary Riddick 1896- 1927
2. Mrs. W.E. (Mary Benn Kilby) Hines 1927-1929
3. Mrs. Hannah D. Hart 1929-1931
4. Mrs. W. R. Frazier 1931-1940
5. Mrs. Clyde S. Nelms 1940-1941
6. Mrs. M. A. Cross 1941-1946
7. Mrs. G. Lloyd Bell 1946-1954
8. Mrs. Paul A. Delcuze 1954-1957
9. Mrs. T. A. (Dora C.) Jordan 1957-1964
10. Miss Nettie Rae Cowling 1964-1968  
Chapter disbanded 1966 Restored with payment of all members' dues by  
then President Cowling then disbanded again 1968

Chapter reactivated in 1997

11. Mrs. Richard L. (Regina Derby) President 1997-1999
12. Mrs. Larry (Joan W.) Johnson 1999-2003
13. Mrs. William (Kathy) Richardson 2003-2005
14. Mrs. Billie (Frank) Earnest 2005-2007
15. Mrs. Susan (Jeffry Scott) Carraway 2007-2011
16. Mrs. Becky (John) Sharrett 2011-2015
17. Mrs. Nancy (James) Parker 2015-2017
18. Mrs. Susan (Jeffry Scott)Carraway 2017-2019
19. Mrs. Nancy (James) Parker 2019-2021
20. Mrs. Nancy (James) Parker 2021-2023
21. Mrs. Billie (Frank) Earnest 2023-

Content of history 25 pages including Cover, References pages, Appendix of Presidents  
Revised Article 7525 words, 23 photos