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Bicentennial bits from the
DAR

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BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

By DOROTHY BARRETT

The oldest and largest of Women's Organizations, "The Daughters of the American Revolution" was organized August 9, 1890.

It is fitting that, during our Nations Bicentennial Year, we turn back thru the minutes of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and share with the public some facts not generally known about Gunnison's past and that of the county.

The first patriotic meeting held in the county was in the home of Mrs. Ruth Allen Lake, on March 25, 1916. (Mrs. Lake was the mother of Mayor Rial Lake and grandmother of Mrs. Roxanna Lake LeFevre, both still living in Gunnison). The meeting was for the purpose of organizing the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the D.A.R.

With this enthusiastic band of 18 patriotic women, led by the organizer and first regent of the Chapter, Mrs. Carra McClure Shackleford, much work was accomplished in the years to follow.

A benefit was sponsored at the "Unique Theatre" April 5, 1916 through the courtesy of Mrs. Lewis, manager of the theatre. For those who may not know, the Unique Theatre was later known as the West Theatre and was located on Main street. Kathryn's Reflection's, Flip and Finn and Waggin' Tail, along with Anna's Sweet Shop, now occupy the old theatre building. A six-reel feature, "The Seats of the Mighty," by Gilbert Parker was shown at this first benefit. \$48.15 was collected. Admission 25 cents per person.

It is hoped, in sharing highlights of these early meetings during our Bicentennial series, that there will be a renewal of patriotism and respect toward our flag, and our country, as well as to our community.

...Information obtained from the minutes and scrapbooks of Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

January 29, 1976



BIG CENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Founding the Red Cross

By DOROTHY BARRETT

By the end of its first year, the enthusiastic and dedicated D.A.R. membership of 25, plunged into the large task of organizing an American Red Cross for the Gunnison County. Mrs. Carra McClure Shackleford, the first Regent for the Gunnison Valley chapter of D.A.R., and the supporting officers, Mrs. E.R. Mapes, Vice Regent; Mrs. F.C. Sanford, secretary; Mrs. Carolyn Kelly, treasurer; Mrs. Henry F. Lake, registrar; Mrs. S.P. Spencer, chaplain, and Mrs. Mary Lawrence, historian, led the group in this endeavor.

A talk on Red Cross work, by Mrs. Henry F. Lake, stirred up deep feeling and spirited discussion on the need of work along this line. The results were a mass meeting of all citizens of the town of Gunnison and vicinity held April 2, 1917. Through the courtesy of Judge Stone, the County Court house was secured.

A second meeting of women was called by the Gunnison Valley chapter of D.A.R. on April 7, 1917, resulting in the organizing of the Gunnison Chapter of Red Cross. Its members were chairmen of the principal committees of the Red Cross.

During that first year, it is estimated that members made for the Red Cross 2,438 surgical dressings, knitted 150 garments, furnished 102 Christmas boxes to soldiers on the Mexican border, 20 comfort kits and collected garments for French and Belgian orphans. Generous personal and monetary contributions were made to the Red Cross organization throughout the War years. Sixty years later, the Red Cross of Gunnison has just been successful in opening a new office in the Health Center Building on Main Street.

Information obtained from Minutes and Scrapbooks of Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

February 5, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

The Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution, is one of the few chapters in the state of Colorado which has a Charter. The Charter was received and officially acknowledged at the meeting held in the home of Mrs. Carolyn Kelley, March 31, 1917.

The date on the Charter is March 25, 1916, which is the date the Chapter was organized. Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford, the Chapter's first Regent, received the Charter in behalf of the Gunnison Valley DAR Chapter from State Regent Mrs. Grace Tarbell. The Charter has a National Number, 1307.

Twenty-three signatures of the original membership are on the Charter and it is countersigned by Mrs. Tarbell. Two names of national officers appear in print. After nearly 60 years the ink has not faded, the signatures remain clear.

Pictures of Mary Washington and Martha Washington, mother and wife of George Washington, are on the Charter. There is a gold seal with blue and white ribbons, colors of the national society.

The Charter was recently found in the First National Bank of Gunnison where it had been stored and forgotten for nearly 40 years. It is considered a historical document. It was displayed in 1975 at the annual anniversary luncheon.

At present, there are seven members of the Gunnison Valley Chapter DAR who are descendents of Charter members. They are Ruth Spencer Eastman, Helen Easterly Winslow, Roxanna Lake FeFevre, Teri Winslow Hart, Priscilla Spencer Mendez, Barbara Spencer Ingils and Susan Spencer Danni. The names Easterly, Lake and Spencer are on the original document. Information from Minutes of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughter of the American Revolution.

February 12, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

The Gavel

By DOROTHY BARRETT

The highly prized gavel of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was presented to the chapter by the State Regent, Mrs. Grace Tarbell, at the date of organization, March 25, 1916.

"Ever to be used in Peace" were her words. This gavel was made from a piece of cherry wood, obtained from Washington's Inn built by George Washington in 1797.

The gavel was loaned January, 1921, to a former member of the chapter, Mrs. Eloise Spencer Nowels (sister of Mrs. Ruth Eastman), so that it might be used in organizing the DAR Chapter in Lamar, Colo.

It is still being used 60 years later by the current Gunnison Regent, Mrs. Ruth Stell, in opening the Gunnison DAR meetings.

Mrs. Carra McClure Shackleford gave the first rapt of that gavel on April 18, 1916. Few realized what the impact of her capable leadership of the DAR during the next nine years as regent would be on the citizens and town of Gunnison.

Mrs. Shackleford was always prominent in the social and club life of Gunnison, taking active part in organizations such as Federated Club Women, Women's Relief Corps, American Red Cross, and many others of that time. The early "Gunnison Republican," newspaper of the day, seldom had an issue published without the report of Mrs. Shackleford's activities and often her gracious hospitality in entertaining, described as, "so natural to the Southern Lady from Kentucky".

Judge and Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford moved to Gunnison in the boom days of the early 80s with their small son, James. He was married later to Hannah Spann. A daughter, Carra Parsons, was married to James R. Spann who was a prominent rancher at Jack's Cabin. Daughter Lila was married to John D. Harlan, then prominent man of Nome, Alaska. (Lila is still living in Seattle, Washington and is in her 80's.) Another daughter, Nannie, became the wife of Edward Foster Hart, a captain from Fort Sill, Okla. (Mrs. Hart is in her 90's and still active in Denver.)

Mrs. Marsh (Janie) Seraphine is the granddaughter of Judge and Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Spann (Carra Parsons) Mrs. Seraphine resides with her family in Gunnison. A sister Nancy Broswell, now resides in Denver. Information obtained from the minutes and scrap-books of Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

February 19, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Helping the Boys

By DORTHY BARRETT

With the surge of Patriotism, more men from the Gunnison area left for duty in the Armed Forces. The women began to do what they could for the comfort of the men who left. Much emphasis was placed on ways to secure money to purchase yarn for knitting garments and other comforts for the men of the Army and Navy.

The members must have been successful, for it is recorded that in the years 1817-18 that 61 articles were knitted for the Navy, the majority of which were sent through the State Regent to the "Whipple." A large box of books and a hogshead of jelly and fruit were sent to the Naval Hospital at Los Animas. (For the information of those who may not know, a hogshead is a container holding from 100 to 140 gallons.)

One hundred names of men on the "high seas" were placed among our women, who sent them papers, letters and gifts amounting to many dollars. We can always wonder the results of this volume of correspondence. There may be some among the citizens of Gunnison who won the "heart" of yon "laddie."

Other mention of activities in 1919. One hundred hot water bottle covers were sent to the Naval hospital at Los Animas. Through Opportunity School of Denver, the Chapter sent to a hospital in France, four hundred little garments made from old shirts and other cast off clothing for orphaned children. Through 1920, work continued in sending barrels of jellies and jams to the Fort Lyon hospital and prepared, at cost of \$10.00 for new ticking, thirty-five pillows to be sent there. Upon being informed that they were not needed, they divided them between the hospital, the soldier's home at Buena Vista, and the Florence Crittenton Home of Denver, along with knitted afghans. (Information from the Minutes and Scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution.)

Thursday, February 26, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Our Service Boys

By Dorothy Barrett

April 14, 1917, was the first recorded date soldier boys left Gunnison to join Uncle Sam's Army. The Shackleford brothers, Line and William, were from Missouri. They had been in the employ of James Spann (Mrs. Marsh Seraphine's father), for a number of years.

A large delegation of Gunnison folks were at train depot to shake hands with the noble boys, with "Hearty Goodbyes" the boys boarded the eastbound train. Comfort bags were the thought of the Gunnison Valley chapter of the DAR and helped to bring memories of loyal people in Gunnison while they were away.

The following week, "The Gunnison Republican," one of the daily papers, recorded the following article: "Line Shackleford, one of our soldier boys who left for Denver last week, Thursday, had an exciting time on the DR&G.

"While in the smoker enroute from Salida to Denver, he fell asleep. When awakened, he found he had been robbed. His watch and wallet were gone. He reported his loss to the conductor and pointed out the man whom he suspected. The conductor telegraphed to Pueblo and the suspect was arrested on leaving the train. The accused protested his innocence, but when searched, however, the wallet, watch, and three revolvers were found on the guilty party."

"Line won out in his first skirmish and it was hoped he would be successful in future battles."

A complete list of servicemen who left for World War I from Gunnison is not available. Through research of early newspapers, I have obtained a partial list of names. Others followed these first two in May 1917. These were: Jack Warner, who enlisted in Navy, Herbert Exter, received commission as an officer; Myron Herreck, was selected with 10 others from University of Colo. to go as an officer to Ft. Riley; Harold Exter joined as well as Young Dickerson; Orville French, Nicolls, French, Klenger Linton joined Aviator Corp.; Alter Berky--to Navy. He was son of Mr. & Mrs. E.C. Berky; July, 1917--Arthur Stanley enlisted as musician in Navy; Marshall Davis enlisted in Navy, and November 11, 1917--The Anderson Brothers enlisted in Forestry Branch as did George Ranch and Attorney Nash.

(Information from the Minutes and S Scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.)

Thursday, March 4, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

War Service Flag

By DOROTHY BARRETT

Much care and preparations were made for the purchase of a War Service Flag, to be presented to the town and county of Gunnison. Eighty dollars was the purchase price.

On Mother's Day, May 12, 1918, in a beautiful ceremony, members of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, marched behind the Knowles Fife and Drum Corps from the Boys Club to the courthouse lawn. The sons, daughters and grandchildren of the DAR served as pages. Thirteen in number, they carried the flag, representing the thirteen original states of the Union.

The flag was carried flat with the children encircled around it. The children, who lovingly and proudly carried the flag, were Ruth Spencer, James and Carrie Parsons, Nancy Spann, James Shackelford Jr., Mildred, Douglas and Anthony Spann, Pearl Coffey, Harriette and Lois Gray and Mary and Rial Lake (current mayor of Gunnison).

The Boy Scouts had charge of assigning places to relatives of the boys represented on the Service Flag, the veterans of Civil and Spanish American Wars, and the Gunnison Women's Relief Corps.

After the group reached the courthouse steps, a bugle call was given by M.A. Jencks, followed by prayer given by the DAR Chaplain, Mrs. Josephine Axtell Spencer (mother of Mrs. Ruth Eastman, great-grandmother of Mrs. Priscilla Mendez, Mrs. Barbara Ingle and Mrs. Susan Danni).

The flag was presented in a strong patriotic and touching address by Regent Mrs. Sprigg Shackelford (grandmother of Mrs. Janie Seraphine), who placed it in the safekeeping of Mr. Whallen, county commissioner, and of Mayor F.W. Comstock, grandfather of Douglas Spann. Mr. Whallen and Mr. Comstock responded that they would care for the Service Flag and put it in some public place where all could view it. When on occasion it was flown under the Stars and Stripes until sundown, it would be returned to its accustomed place. DAR minutes state it was hung in the Post Office.

The flag was raised by B.F. Anderson, Spanish War Veteran, assisted by Joseph Partch. Joseph was home on sick leave from Co. G, 137th Infantry. Charles Miller, also home on leave from the Marine Corps, Camp Mare Island, assisted.

These along with Judge Sprigg Shackelford, Son of the American Revolution and Henry F. Lake, veteran of the Civil War, comprised the committee of raising the flag.

The group assembled sang, "America," led by Mr. Fogg while the flag was being raised. As the gentle breeze bore the Stars and Stripes and the War Service Flag out, the Cross on the Service Flag was clearly outlined so all could see the beauty.

The roll call given in a clear voice was by Judge Ernest Nourse. One hundred sixty-four blue stars, representing boys who had entered the military service from Gunnison County, were arranged in the form of a cross upon the white background. One gold star upon the red border bespoke the tender memory of Clarence Downing of Marble. Clarence was the first boy in Gunnison County to give his life for his country in World War I.

Two red triangles represented the Rev. Mr. White and Dean Samuel Quigley of the Colorado State Normal School, later President of Western State College. Both of these men were leaving for YMCA work in France. A third triangle was added later to represent Ben Jorgensen, also working with YMCA.

Mrs. Sprigg Shackelford in her brief, but eloquent address, explained the significance of the "loyalty, devotion and self-sacrifice of the flower of our country's manhood whose patriotism is as red, whose souls are as white and whose Christian loyalty is as true blue as the Red, White and Blue of the Flag."

As the starry banner, with the Cross so clearly outlined, fluttered out upon the gentle breeze, to be entwined in the folds of the Stars and Stripes, one instinctively felt that while they belonged side by side in every crisis, there never was an hour since our country's birth when the flag belonged so near the cross as now.

NOTE: The building for the Boys Club was located where KGUC Radio Station and Gunnison Beauty Salon are now located. Mr. Quigley organized the club for Boys at the Western State College.

(Information obtained from the minutes and scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of DAR).

Thursday, March 11, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Red Cross

By DOROTHY BARRETT

Jack's Cabin Branch of the Red Cross was organized in October, 1917. By November 10, 1917, the Ohio Creek Branch was organized, having 18 Charter members. Baldwin also had a Red Cross Branch.

An advertisement of a scheduled DAR Benefit for Nov. 6, 1917, featured a seven-reel movie with Ethel Barrymore starring in "The Greater Power." Admission was 10 and 25 cents. The proceeds went to the Red Cross for purchase of yarn. A total of \$16.00 was cleared.

A beautifully colored, red, white and blue afghan was presented to the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the DAR by the Jack's Cabin Branch of the Red Cross. It was sent along with knitted afghans our chapter had ready to send to a hospital in France. Dr. C.A. Powers responded with great appreciation for these knitted items, sent to the American Red Cross Military Hospital No. 1, near Paris, France.

The practice of placing an 18 x 24 silk flag on the casket of each returned "Hero," as an offering instead of flowers, was started April, 1918. The staff was tied with DAR colors, blue and white. During the stress of the flu epidemic, two caskets returned without flag or draping of any kind. The DAR flag was the only mark to show they had made the supreme sacrifice for their country. It was voted and practiced through November, 1920, to continue placing the flag on the casket of any soldier who died in the county. Mrs. E.M. Collins later accepted this responsibility and continued the practice.

In 1927-28 two flags were placed on ex-soldiers caskets who had died during those years. They were Anthony Comstock and Alfred Besse.

For many years, similar flags were placed on the caskets of deceased DAR members and then presented to their family.

(Information obtained from the Minutes and Scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution....)

March 18, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Memorial services

By DOROTHY BARRETT

At the memorial service given, May 11, 1917, for the "hero dead" of World War I, there were eleven gold stars on the red border of the War Service Flag. The address was given by Maj. Charlesworth, of Delta, Colo. He said, "War is the most scientific game known to man, the stakes are the biggest."

On Feb. 20, 1921, the Daughters of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of DAR gathered at O'Leary's Drug Store (located in the vicinity of the present location of the Fabric Mart). As a body, they went to the Community Church. Flags decorated the platform and, back of the choir, our beloved Service Flag hung. After appropriate music, the minister, the Rev. Clem Davies, gave an inspiring address. He said that he "was going to resist the temptation to make the eagle scream and was going to talk upon the actual needs of our country today." He pictured the problems of our country so vividly that every person felt a longing to go out and fight single-handed, if need be, to overcome the evils.

After the service, Mrs. S.P. Spencer and Elizabeth Nourse went to the Service Flag and amid silence more eloquent than any words, lowered our flag and folded it away, forever. This was one of the most beautiful and impressive services to be seen.

The flag had 166 blue stars forming the cross in the center of the flag. When it was folded away, it had 309 blue stars. This addition of blue stars, after the flag was first raised, almost made a solid field of stars and the formation of the cross was hard to detect. There were eleven gold stars for those who had given their life for their country. These were placed on the red border.

The flag was sealed and placed in the First National Bank. Until recently, the flag could not be located. It has been found in the care of the American Legion and it will be displayed publicly in the Toggery window during the 60th Anniversary of the Gunnison Valley Chapter DAR, the week of March 25.

There was a Chapter Service Flag which honored husbands of members. There were ten blue stars on the Flag in 1922. Only one husband of a member, Capt. E.F. Hart, remained in the service at that time.

An honor roll, containing the names of the men who served during World War I representing Gunnison, was prepared by a talented student of the State Normal School. Lucy Spicer was the chapter historian at that time and compiled the war records. It was framed at an expense of \$10 and hung in the Post Office. Upon the frame is a brass plate containing the words "Presented by the Gunnison Valley Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution."

(Information from minutes and scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.)

March 25, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Annual Essay Contest

By DOROTHY BARRETT

The custom of sponsoring an annual essay contest by the Gunnison Valley Chapter of DAR was started in January, 1921. The essays to be written were to be on patriotic subjects. It is still sponsored each year by the chapter when the schools choose to participate. The first award went to Katherine Knowles for the winning essay from the eighth grade, "The Evolution of the Flag".

A public social was held Feb. 18, 1922, to honor the second year winners. None have been awarded in such a manner since. I thought it might be of interest to capture, from our Gunnison Valley Chapter Minutes, the account of these awards.

For the rural schools, Miss Blackstock, County Superintendent of Schools, and Miss Kansgen of the Normal School faculty, adjudged the essays. The title was "Revolutionary Heros: Which Two Deserved the Most Honor?" A \$2.50 gold piece was awarded to Carra Parsons of the Jacks Cabin School and Stephen Frazee of the city schools.

A beautiful winter day found the Gunnison Valley chapter, at 2:15 p.m., at the Normal School Building, ready to receive the invited guests, the Women's Relief Corps and Womens' Clubs of Gunnison, as well as the parents.

At the entrance door, Mrs. Wilbur Curtis and Eva Carpenter extended the first welcome, directing guests to the stairway at the head of which Mrs. J.R. Spann and Mrs. James J. Shackleford met the guests with greetings and advised the way to the cloak room.

Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford, Regent, and Mrs. Mary Lawrence, Vice Regent, received all guests at the door to the reception room. Four pages, Mary Lake, Katherine Knowles, Rowena Hetherington and Minnie Beals, carried wands trimmed with DAR Colors, blue and white, and conducted guests to seats.

The program opened with the DAR prayer read by Lucy Spicer. This was followed by salute to the Flag and "America" was sung by all.

After the welcome address by the Regent, Mrs. Lawrence then explained the modern methods of essay writing in our public schools and presented the \$2.50 gold pieces given as prizes. Both winners read their essays. One hundred guests attended this first public presentation of the essay awards. Dr. Ferris of the college faculty spoke on "Our Spiritual Heritage from the American Revolution". Mr. McMacklen of the Normal School Faculty also spoke at the occasion. (The Normal State School was the Gunnison High School for years. It was later added onto and is now part of Taylor Hall at Western State College.)

The guests were invited to remain for social chat and refreshments. Mrs. S.P. Spencer and Miss Elizabeth Nourse presided at one end of an attractively laid table. Mrs. Henry Lake and Mrs. C. F. Spencer (Mrs. Mae Porter) at the other, pouring tea while other Daughters distributed various "dainties".

This, passed the DAR's first public social function. There was no mention in these 1922 minutes of "paper cups" or "paper plates" but it was necessary to appoint a committee to check on crystal bowls belonging to the Domestic Science Department.

Information obtained from the minutes and scrapbooks of Gunnison Valley Chapter of Daughters of American Revolution.

April 1, 1976

BITS from the DAR

BICENTENNIAL

Winning Essays

By DOROTHY BARRETT

Since the DAR essay awards were given publicly in 1922, there have been many winners. Most of these essays have been written by eighth graders during their course of studies on the American Revolution.

However, some years entries were entered from the lower grades with the cooperation of teachers and school officials.

The winners of these essays, for the most part, have never received public recognition. A few names have been printed in the newspapers. Our research of records have given us the list of the following winners. Subject titles are available in most cases.

1921--Katherine Knowles, "The Evolution of the Flag."

1922--Cara Parsons, Steven Frazee, "Our Revolutionary Heroes."

1923--Helen Knowles, Virginia Watzling, "Our Duty to Our Foreign Born," "Citizens and Their Duty to Us."

1924--Contest was sponsored by the Isabelle Tourist Club on Patriotic Subject.

1925--Halcyon Trampe, "The Responsibility of the United States in World Peace."

1935--Katherine Farwell, "What Patriotism Means to Me."

1937--Naomi Salazar (a girl of foreign parentage), "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me."

1938--Margaret Dean, "Uncelebrated Patriots."

1939--Mary Ann Burton, "What I Owe Democracy."

1940--Jeannette Garner, title unknown.

1941--Audrey McCulley, "What Can We Do for National Defense."

Speaking Contest instead of essay:

1943--"What I have a Right to Expect in the Post War World)..8th grade. Lois Ann Stump, 1st prize War Stamps \$2.50 and Shirley Field, 2nd prize War Stamps \$1.00.

1944--Lewis Mekleson, "What Winning This War Means To Me."

1945--Janet Stegall, 2nd pl. Maxine Sievers, "My Job in the Post War World."

1950--Karen Rose Kleitz, 3rd John S. Walker, title unknown.

1952--Marsha Reed, "Thank You America."; Ronald Heckman, "Soil Conservation, One of Greatest" and Johnny Castona, "When U.S. Became a World Leader."

1958--Linda Lockhart, "How a Good Citizen Helps in a Local Community."

1959--Lee Ann Gern, "Good Citizenship."

1960--Dinah Hawkins, "Responsibilities and Privileges of Citizenship."

1961--Joy Edwards and Rudl Mergelman, "Water, Our Most Important Natural Resource."

1962--Robin McCrillis and Joyce Carpenter, title unknown.

1963--Fred McAllester, (6th grade), "Colorado Gold Rush"; Elna Kay Hicks, (2nd place), "Colorado Ute Indians" and Judy Thomas (3rd place), "Mesa Verde National Park." Cathy McHarg (7th grade), "Statehood of Colorado", Barbara Janis Martin, (2nd place), "Irrigation Builds a State"; Beverly Fisher (3rd place), "A Denver Pioneer Mint" and Marlene Watters (Honor Mentioned), "When the Ghost Town of Tincup Lived."

1972--Kevin Malone, title unknown.

1973--Susan Wadjakowski, (5th grade), "A Patriot of 1773;" Julie Sweetkind, (6th grade), Victoria Regeman, (Crested Butte).

1974--Susan Neeley, (6th grade).

1975--Kathy Baird, "The Life and Times of Paul Revere;" Bryan Barrett, "One of the Makers of America, Thomas Jefferson."

1976--Lisa Kallaus, (6th grade), "The Declaration of Independence;" Sandy Sangosti, (7th grade).

Information obtained from the Minutes and Scrapbooks of Gunnison Valley Chapter Daughters of American Revolution.

April 8, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Carra's arrival by stage

By DOROTHY BARRETT

At a meeting Feb. 24, 1917, a paper, "What has been done in Colorado by DAR," compiled by Mrs. Eloise Spencer Nowels was presented to the Gunnison Valley Chapter.

A correct map of the Santa Fe Trail with DAR markings accompanied Mrs. Nowels' paper.

Following the program on this most interesting subject, the meeting was given over to short talks upon early days in Colorado and especially in Gunnison and vicinity.

Amusing incidents of stagecoach travel, mining excitement, deep snow, early education advantages, church and Sunday Schools, and mountain fever victims were told. The Indian scare in 1879-1880 was mentioned and discussed. Women and children were placed in a cellar for safety.

Water was sold from a cart in Gunnison as late as 1892. Mrs. Shackleford, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Sills, Mrs. Van Aken, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Josephine Spencer, Miss Brown, and Mrs. E.B. Williams of Pitkin all contributed to the interesting stories.

Although, we do not have a record of all of these subjects as they were discussed, we do have the "Reminiscences of Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford", as written by Lawrence O'Leary. The account of her arrival into Gunnison is most interesting. We will share in part this arrival of Mrs. Shackleford in 1881.

"Heeding the call of the new West, as did so many professional men, Judge Sprigg Shackleford left Maysville, Ky, in 1880 for Colorado.

Behind him in the serene protection of the Southland, he left his young wife, Carra McClure Shackleford, and baby, Jim. Accompanied by Eliza White, the colored maid, Mrs. Shackleford arrived in Gunnison the following June and brought about a family reunion that laid the foundation for what has been throughout the years one of Gunnison's most prominent and respected families...a family whose home was known far and wide for its essence of genuine southern hospitality.

"For a southern lady, accustomed to the ease and quiet romance of life in the south, the final lap of the long trip, the journey by stagecoach between Salida and Gunnison via the now famous Marshall Pass, was surely a revelation. But Mrs. Shackleford enjoyed telling of the final part of the journey, and it is certain that one may sense as she re-told the tale, that she soon realized that this wasn't the wild and wooly west but a land of exquisite beauty, of new interest and of new romance even to a southern gentlewoman.

Six powerful horses drew the lumbering old coach up over the rough trail-like road, bordered always by a breath taking precipice, to the summit of the Continental Divide. At intervals of six miles during the climb, fresh horses were hitched to the coach. Great speed was made in the process of changing teams and, men in charge at each station, tried to out-do the others in speed. Fifty pounds of baggage was allowed each passenger and any remaining baggage had to be freighted over. Needless to say, transportation rates were very high.

An additional account of Mrs. Shackleford's arrival into Gunnison will be written into next week's *Bicentennial Bits*.

(Information obtained from the Minutes and Scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of Daughters of American Revolution...)

April 19, 1976,



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

REMINISCENSES, PART II

By DOROTHY BARRETT

"Local History Lives Again" was the program recently for the Gunnison Valley Chapter DAR. This program combined the theme to commemorate the Bicentennial, the Centennial, as well as the birthday of this chapter, which celebrated its "Sixty" years March 25, 1976.

The "Reminiscences of Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford" by Lawrence O'Leary were used. Mrs. Shackleford was Regent from 1916 until 1925 of the Gunnison valley chapter. Continuing the experiences of Mrs. Shackleford's arrival into Gunnison, which was started in Monday's Bicentennial Bits, will give further insight into the early history of the town of "Gunnison" and the area around it.

Upon reaching Gunnison, in 1881, Mrs. Shackleford found that Eliza was the first colored maid to arrive in the opportunity-frenzied young town. In fact, Mrs. Shackleford smilingly said that the maid was quite the most interesting member of the party.

When Mrs. Shackleford registered at the Palisade hotel and asked for a room, she was told that there were no unoccupied rooms but that she might share a bed with another woman. Where her maid would sleep, the clerk said he did not know. At any rate, Mrs. Shackleford spent her first night in Gunnison sleeping on a bed made on the floor.

Tired as she was after the long days journey, sleep did not come easily for the general noise and the music coming from the saloons and dance halls across the street were not conducive to the wooing of Morpheus.

In those days, fully half of the buildings on the main street were either saloons, dance halls or gambling houses.

The next day, Judge Shackleford, not expecting his wife so soon, rode into town on the back of a white burro. Coming as he did from the outlying settlement of Spring Creek, he was unshaven and not clothed in a manner befitting a barrister.

The Judge confidently supposed he would have time to put himself in shipshape for the meeting of his wife. Little did he know as he came down the street in all his rustic glory that she was watching for him from the hotel window.

Following the joyous meeting and two weeks' stay at the old Mullen house, the Shackelfords left by stage for Spring Creek. The first night of the journey was spent at Jack's Cabin and the second night at Buzzard's Roost, the gentleman bearing the name of Buzzard being the under-sheriff. (This stop was at the Bogan's camp, a mule skinner camp on Spring Creek. The location of Bogan's camp was later known as the How Come Ranch, then Gardner's Ranch, the present location of Char-B Resort.)

Upon arrival at Spring Creek, Mrs. Shackleford found that the cabin the Judge had built for her was the only one in the settlement having a wood floor and a shingle roof. Mrs. Shackleford and Liza were the only women in town and it is interesting to know that Mrs. Shackleford often spoke of the respectful attitude of the men, who despite their roughness, had never lost the inborn respect that man has for woman.

Spring Creek was destined to become another Leadville and for a while there was a great influx of people. Comforts were very few and even necessities of life were lacking. Mrs. Shackleford was the sole possessor of a wash tub in the entire settlement.

However, the Spring Creek boom was already on the decline, and after six weeks, the Shackelfords left the cabin which had cost several thousand dollars and returned to Gunnison, by way of Tin Cup, conveyed by a heavy, rough, two-horse wagon. A chair, none too steady, was fitted for Mrs. Shackleford's use during the trip, in hope that she might be more comfortable.

(Information obtained from the minutes and scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of Daughters of American Revolution...)

April 26, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

REMINISCENCES, PART III

By DOROTHY BARRETT

The following reminiscences of Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford are those shared by the Gunnison Valley Chapter DAR. The previous two articles of Bicentennial Bits gave most of those reminiscences, as reported to Lawrence O'Leary.

The Shackleford's next home, after the long trip over Cumberland Pass, was a log cabin which was near the La Veta Hotel. Here, in a frenzied town without sidewalks, without trees or grass, Mrs. Shackleford prepared to make her home. Gunnison, in 1881, was Colorado's foremost boom town and it was expected to become larger than Denver and to be the leading City of the state. Nothing was grown in Gunnison and at the time it was supposed that nothing would grow. Prices of food were fabulously high and twenty-five cents was the smallest medium of exchange. Eggs were ninety cents a dozen. Oysters sold for a dollar and a half a pint and butter could not be bought for less than one dollar a pound. Potatoes had almost as much value as the mineral men dug. On one occasion, soon after Mrs. Shackleford's return to Gunnison, she sent her maid, Eliza, to buy a peck of potatoes. The maid returned with a small paper sack full, reporting that the amount had cost two dollars.

But the gay and interesting social life was developing all the while, and it was not without its remuneration. The political life of the city, too, was virile and gave opportunity for the entertainment of many famous persons. General Grant visited the city in 1880 and Carrie Chapman Catt was in Gunnison during the early part of her woman suffrage campaign. Senators and governors spent much time in Gunnison and many of them were entertained in the Shackleford home.

Always, during those days of the eighties and nineties, there was excitement and frenzy, but through it all there was a surprisingly small amount of lawlessness. Contrary to many of the tales told of the Old West there was no excessive amount of crime. Mrs. Shackleford told that there were no Indians in or near Gunnison and that the first time she saw Indians was in 1910 when President Taft was in Grand Junction. At that time Chipeta, wife of Ouray, and her tribesmen were present.

Shortly before that, Ouray had become converted to Christianity and was forced to choose one wife from his many. Chipeta was the oldest of all of them and there were many younger and more beautiful, but the old chief was faithful to Chipeta and gave up the rest. A monument in the form of a teepee was erected near Montrose, Colo., to the memory of the old chief and his wife by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

These reminiscences were written prior to 1932 while both Judge and Mrs. Shackleford were still living. Judge Shackleford was the county judge at that time.

(Information from the minutes and Scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter Daughters of American Revolution.)

May 6, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Your flag and my flag

By DOROTHY BARRETT

On March 31, 1917, Mrs. Sprigg Shackelford presented to the Gunnison DAR chapter a framed copy of "My Flag and Your Flag." This neatly framed poem was to be given to a school child for meritorious work along patriotic lines.

The picture was presented by Mrs. Laura H. Mapes, to be hung in the Colorado Street School building, that all children might enjoy and claim a share in the patriotic poem.

Letters of thanks were received from the children for the poem, "Your Flag and My Flag," presented to them from the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Those writing the letters were: Pearl Cofer, representing fourth grade; Margaret Owen, representing fifth grade; Bryon Hewett, representing sixth grade, George Berg, representing seventh grade, and Virginia Cooledge, representing eighth grade.

The Colorado Street School was torn down before the Chipeta Hall at Western State College was built. It was not known what happened to the picture. Recently, Mrs. Margaret (Jim) Yale was looking at the showcase in Ruland Junior High School. There on the back of a bottom shelf was the framed picture, as it had been presented in 1917. It had survived several moves as time and progress necessitated changes in school buildings.

With the Bicentennial year in progress, we searched for a copy of this poem. Several Gunnison citizens told me they learned the poem when they were in grade school. Mrs. Merle Blomenkamp, former teacher in the Gunnison schools, as well as Past Regent for the chapter, provided me with a copy. It reads the same as the original copy.

YOUR FLAG AND MY FLAG

*Your flag and my flag,
And how it flies today,
In your land and my land,
And half a world away!*

*Rose-red and Blood-red,
The stripes forever gleam;
Snow-white and soul-white---
The good forefather's dream:*

*Sky-blue and true-blue,
With stars to gleam aright..
The gloried guidon of the day;
A shelter through the night.*

*Your flag and my flag!
To every star and stripe
The drums beat as hearts beat
And fifers shrilly pipe!
Your flag and my flag---
A blessing in the sky:
Your hope and my hope---
It never hid a lie!*

*Home land and far land
And half the world around,
Old Glory hears our glad salute
And ripples to the sound.*

*Your flag and my flag!
And, Oh! how much it holds---
Your land and my land--
Secure within its folds!
Your heart and my heart
Beat quicker at the sight!
Sun-killed and wind-tossed--
Red and blue and white.
The one flag--the great flag--
The flag for me and you
Glorified all else beside,
The red and white and blue.*

---Wilbur D. Nesbit

Information from the minutes and scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of DAR.

May 13, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

We depend upon each other

By DOROTHY BARRETT

It was written by Regent Mrs. Sprigg Shackelford, "Living as we do in a small town, we depend largely upon each other for our social pleasures, so each meeting opens with a luncheon." The "elaborate" luncheons continued regularly with few exceptions until 1925.

Thirty-two members and guests met on Feb. 24, 1917, at the home of Mrs. Blackstock. Mrs. Ernestine Lambdin and Mrs. Fannie Cofer were co-hostesses for the occasion. A small handpainted hatchet served as a place card for each guest, the tables served so happily by the younger daughters, one tiny maiden, a veritable Martha Washington.

On November 24, 1917, at the home of Mrs. Frank Comstock, with Mrs. Ernestine Lamblin and Mrs. Alma Easterly Van Voorhes as co-hostesses, members and their families were served lunch after which conversation and music from the "Edison" concluded a delightful evening.

Nine members and one guest met at the Curtis ranch on Nov. 27, 1920. After a "short ride in crisp wintery air, they were served at a beautifully appointed luncheon table with ready response." Miss Elizabeth Nourse assisted Mrs. Wilbur Curtis as co-hostess.

Yuletide decorations upon the table and throughout the house added much to the cheer and spirit of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" two days before Christmas, December 23, 1920. The hostess, Mrs. Frank Comstock, served the Christmas supper to 10 members and guests.

A merry sleigh ride followed a bountiful and appetizing luncheon, Jan. 28, 1922, at the home of Mrs. Wilbur Curtis with Mrs. Guertha Beals as co-hostess.

The Gunnison Valley Chapter of the DAR's sixth birthday was fittingly observed, March 25, 1922, at the home of an organizing member, Mrs. S.P. Spencer.

Seventeen members and one guest were present. An elaborate luncheon, with the crowning delight of a birthday cake, was thoroughly enjoyed. The wish was for "Many happy returns of the day" and the hope that this small but loyal band of Daughters would accomplish good and patriotic work "another March twenty-fifth proclaims us seven years old."

The group "motored" to the home of Mrs. J.J. Shackelford at Jack's Cabin, May 26, 1923. The day was warm and sunny and the roads good. It was only a short time until all were there, and a delicious luncheon was served.

Hunters provided an abundance of "Wild Mallard Duck" which was roasted to a turn. This proved a rare treat as the members gathered October 27, 1923, at the home of Mrs. J.R. Spann with Mrs. Sprigg Shackelford and Mrs. James Shackelford assisting. The luncheon was served to 19 members and two guests.

As guests of Mrs. S.P. Spencer, Mrs. C.T. Spencer (Mrs. Mae Porter) and Miss Ruth Spencer (Mrs. Ruth Eastman), the Gunnison Valley Chapter of DAR was treated to a delicious luncheon, nicely served in the stately dining room at the LaVeta Hotel, Jan. 26, 1924.

This was the first mention of a luncheon being served other than in the members' homes. Dinners later were also served at the "Tea House," "The Ole Town Pump" and "Ole Mullins House" dining rooms.

These are only a few of the many lovely luncheons served by gracious hostesses in those early days. Mrs. Margaret Sanford, Mrs. Henry Lake, Mrs. Mary Lawrence, Miss Lucy Spicer and Mrs. E.M. Collins were among others who served these elaborate luncheons.

For the most part, these ladies prepared these meals on coal and wood cook stoves. There was no mention of a dishwasher, but one can visualize carefully polished silver, gleaming china and glassware and much enjoyment. There were annual fish fried and picnics at the Nourse, Curtis and Spann Ranches for members and their families.

At a luncheon and "splash party" at Waunita Hot Springs, Mrs. Charles Gilbert Davis of Chicago entertained the chapter on July 14, 1928. (We do not have a picture of the swim suit styles used at that party)

May 20, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

The American Creed

By DOROTHY BARRETT

Under the leadership of Mrs. Sprigg Shackelford, Regent for the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the DAR, the custom of reading the American Creed and presenting a copy of the Creed and a small silk flag to those applicants taking out citizenship papers became a regular ceremony in Gunnison.

The first such ceremony held by the Gunnison Valley Chapter DAR was for the spring term of District Court held in April, 1921.

Mrs. J.R. Spann, Mrs. Sprigg Shackelford, Mrs. Clinton Spencer (Mrs. Mae Porter) and Mrs. S.P. Spencer represented the Daughters at the first presentation ceremony in 1921. Mrs. S.P. Spencer presented the American Creeds with the small flags pinned to them. Seven new citizens received their naturalization papers at this spring session of District Court and on September 19, 1921, nine more foreigners were received into full American citizenship.

With a very impressive ceremony, usually held twice a year, (April and September), many leading citizens assisted the Gunnison Valley Chapter of DAR. On one occasion, the Rev. Father Kerr gave a talk in which he emphasized the responsibility which accompanied this newly granted privilege. He turned to the courtroom audience and talked to his parishioners as well as to the newly made citizens.

Others who made the new citizenship speeches and assisted at the ceremonies from time to time were Mr. Macklan, principal of the Normal State High School (located on the Western State College Campus and now part of Taylor Hall); Mr. Rogers, High School principal, and Mr. E.L. Dutcher.

Dr. J.S. Ferris of Western State college stressed the fact in his remarks, on one occasion, that we have no "hyphenated Americans, that now they are Americans and have no further ties with their native lands." R.G. Porter (later to become Judge Porter) gave the welcome address to the new citizens in 1935 and again in spring term of court in 1940.

Ralph Walker stressed in a speech to these "new citizens" their duties to the United States to be loyal, to serve, and aid financially in keeping our Democracy.

The new citizens impressed many with their love of the small flag which was presented to them. It was noted, on one occasion, that one of the new citizens "kissed his flag" when it was pinned on him.

The American Creed was placed, by the DAR, in the coal mine offices at Crested Butte, Somerset and rural schools as well as the public school rooms. The children were soon to have committed it to memory as a regular school assignment.

Mrs. Ralph Walker (Florence) served as state chairman of "DAR Manuals for Citizenship" and was very dedicated in this effort to assist those aliens interested in becoming naturalized citizens. These manuals were printed in a number of native languages. Mrs. Herbert Andrews was chairman of the local DAR chapter committee, which assisted these applicants in their studies to become citizens.

In 1941, a copy of the DAR Manual for Citizenship was furnished to a teacher in the C.C.C. camp here.

Two names listed as becoming citizens in April 1954 were Mary Cozetto and Nunviata Luchetta. After this date, we do not have record of the ceremony being held. It was later discontinued in Gunnison and moved to Denver as fewer persons made applications to the District Court for Naturalization papers.

The DAR Manual for Citizenship is still being distributed to those wishing to study for their naturalization papers. Through Mrs. Ruth Stell, present Regent of Gunnison Valley Chapter, new citizens at Anchor Point, Alaska, were sent these DAR Manuals as well as flags, flag codes and other materials to help these new American Citizens.

(Information obtained from the Minutes and Scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution).

May 31, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Charter Members die

By DOROTHY BARRETT

On February 2, 1921, the Gunnison Valley Chapter members were saddened with the loss of one of their Charter Members, Mrs. Cynthia H. Easterly. (Grandmother of Mrs. Helen Winslow).

Mrs. Easterly had been admitted to the Daughters of the American Revolution on Sept. 4, 1914. This was before the Gunnison Valley Chapter was organized. Her signature appears on the Chapter Charter, one of the few Charters issued in the State of Colorado.

The Chapter was again saddened with the loss of another Charter Member, Mrs. Carra Shackleford Spann, July 13, 1924. Mrs. Spann was survived by her husband, a prominent rancher, James R. Spann of Jack's Cabin. She was also survived by four children, James and Carrie Parsons, Nancy and Janie Spann. (Mrs. Nancy Breswell resides in Denver, Colo. and Mrs. Janie Seraphine in Gunnison)

Mrs. Spann was the daughter of our Regent, Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford, and Judge Shackleford. In a memorial tribute to Mrs. Spann, the Gunnison Valley Chapter recalled her gentle presence, her fairness, her patriotism, and her unflinching interest in the affairs of our Society, and we realized that none could come in contact with the power of her personality without being benefited thereby.

With this feeling of deep loss for a devoted Daughter, the Gunnison Valley Chapter DAR established the "Carra Shackleford Spann Student Loan Fund" in her honor at Western State College.

Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford and her husband Judge Shackleford started the Memorial Fund with their contribution of \$25.00. Contributions in 1926 from the members soon brought the total to \$131.51, the amount deposited to the fund.

In order to obtain proper State Credit for this Chapters efforts towards promotion of education, the funds were mailed to Washington, D.C., then to the State Treasure and then sent to the Student Loan Fund.

The Memorial Fund established in 1925 to honor Mrs. Spann was a part of the Margaret White O'Leary Student Loan Fund. The fund was used to assist College Students with their education. By 1927, 23 Western State students had used the Carra Shackleford Spann Loan Fund. This was certainly a lasting tribute to one who had given much to her home and community with unselfish devotion to duty and loyalty.

(Information obtained from the Minutes and Scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution).



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

Student Loan Fund

By DOROTHY BARRETT

To keep the Carra Shackleford Memorial Student Loan Fund active, the Gunnison Valley Chapter DAR held an annual food sale as their project to contribute at least \$50.00 annually. The money for this fund was sent to the State DAR Treasurer who sent the check back to the Memorial Student Loan Fund at Western State College in Gunnison.

In the year 1933, a check for \$25.00 was reported to have been deposited in a Boulder Bank. The bank closed, like other banks at that period of history during the "Depression Years." Seemingly our efforts and funds were lost for that year. However, in 1934, our minutes and Treasurer's records show that the Boulder Bank was reopened and the Memorial Fund check for \$25.00 was received at Western State.

In 1940, Mrs. Clarence Adams, who had been the State Regent and felt very close to the members of the Gunnison Valley Chapter DAR, left, as a last request, that a contribution of \$1,000.00 be donated to the Carra Shackleford Memorial Student Loan Fund. Her husband and son carried out her wishes.

The high esteem held throughout Colorado for Mrs. Sprigg Shackleford and for her daughter, Carra Shackleford Spann, brought many donations from other DAR Chapters of Canon City, Salida, Montrose, Delta, Grand Junction, Leadville, Aspen, and others.

At the end of the first year of the "Memorial Fund", one student who had received aid, wrote a play entitled "The Machine Age", for which she received \$250 and \$25.00 for right to publish along with additional Royalties. The first recipient of the "Memorial Fund" won honor for herself, her college and those who had aided her by winning first prize in the historical division of a one-act play contest. Her prize play depicted the coming of the railroad and the sewing machine into the Ozark Region.

Many members of the Gunnison Valley DAR served as board members on the Student Loan Fund. In 1934, Mrs. Ruth Lake was appointed to the board, filling the vacancy created by the death of Miss Eva Carpenter of W.S.C. Other members were Miss Lucy Spicer, Miss Josephine Spencer, Mrs. Pearl Casey, Miss Ada Kansgen, and Miss Frances McQuat.

By 1944 the total contributions from this Chapter's efforts had totaled over \$900.00 This along with other contributions was a great boast to this worthy cause for "Education of Students at Western State College."

In 1953, the remaining money in the Carra Shackleford Spann Student Loan Fund was consolidated into the Margaret White O'Leary Loan Foundation Fund.

The Gunnison Valley Chapter DAR was grateful to all, who had helped during the twenty-seven years of assisting the program to aid the students attending W.S.C. The "Carra Shackleford Memorial Student Loan Fund" can never be fully measured as to the benefits received.

(Information obtained from the Minutes and Scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution...)

GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES, Monday, June 21, 1976



BIG CENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

The Price They Paid Would You Have Signed The Declaration of Independence?

By DOROTHY BARRETT

"The Declaration of Independence Comes Alive"...was the title of the program presented to the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on Oct. 26, 1974. The following information was given as a three part presentation by Mrs. Margaret Watters, Mrs. Marion Pittman and Mrs. Dorothy Barrett.

Mrs. Watters recounted the events leading up to the Colonists' Declaration of Independence from England, which at first had not been the issue and was held in little favor by the Colonists. Continuing acts of oppression and especially the hiring of mercenary soldiers by the British Monarch, finally led to the formal Declaration of Independence.

After listening to the recorded tape of the "Declaration of Independence," Mrs. Barrett's comments were on what the "Declaration of Independence means to us today." The Constitution of the United States, which followed the same general line of thinking as the Declaration, has been so altered in meaning during the years by Supreme Court decisions that only the Declaration of Independence as framed by our forefathers stands unaltered. The challenge was thrown out..."Can we keep America Independent?"

Mrs. Pittman's remarks in regard to what happened to some of the less well known signers of the Declaration of Independence should be of interest.

What kind of men were they? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the Revolutionary War.

What kind of men were they? Twenty four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, and well educated. They signed the "Declaration of Independence" knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. They signed and pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

CARTER BRAXTON of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties so to pay his debts and died in rags.

THOMAS NELSON'S home was destroyed at the Battle of Yorktown and he died bankrupt.

JOHN HART was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying, Their children fled for their lives. He lived in forests and caves returning home after the war to find his wife had died and his children gone. He died a few weeks later from exhaustion and a broken heart.

LYMAN HANN and GEORGE WALTON of Georgia suffered confiscation of property and imprisonment.

JOHN MORTON of Pennsylvania died eight months after signing the Declaration, ostracized by relatives and friends. His dying words were: "Tell them that they shall acknowledge it to have been the most glorious service that I ever rendered to my country."

Few Americans have ever read the Declaration...only 1,321 words long, even though it explicitly sets forth the principles that are the cornerstone of our nations freedom.

Who, among us today, has the courage to uphold the "Declaration for the future Independence of the United States of America?"

WOULD YOU SIGN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TODAY...WERE IT HANDED TO YOU?

THOMAS JEFFERSON, who drafted the "Declaration of Independence," retired after 40 years of public service to his home, in Monticello. His estate had run down and his furniture was auctioned off to help his financial difficulties. His life ended quietly on July 4, 1826--the 50th Anniversary of the "Declaration of Independence." His principles and beliefs are still being tested 200 years after the first draft of the document was approved on July 4, 1776.

JOHN ADAMS, who signed the "Declaration," wrote to his wife the next day that the great event "should be solemnized by future generations with pomp, parade and bonfires from one end of the Country to the other with acts of devotion to God almighty from this time forward forevermore."

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE said about the "Declaration" on its 150th Anniversary in 1926, "There is a finality about its self evident truths that is exceedingly restful...no advance, no progress can be made beyond these propositions.

"If anyone undertakes to deny these truths, the only direction in which he can proceed historically is backward to the time when there were no rights of the individual. These principles have their source and roots in religious convictions. Unless the faith of the American people in these religious convictions is to endure, the principles of the "Declaration of Independence" will perish."

The "Spirit of 76" is the key to survival and revitalization of the Republic to a sweeping victory for the union of God and Country...one and inseparable then and now and forever.

Thus, our "Declaration of Independence" was, and remains today, one of the most profound acts of religious faith in all history.

(Information obtained from the minutes and records of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution...)

, July 1, 1976



BICENTENNIAL

BITS from the DAR

"The Rainbow Route"

By DOROTHY BARRETT

Few visitors into the Gunnison Country for the first time in 1976, realize that in 1915-1916 much excitement was made over the fact that when the "Rainbow Route" (as it was called), which was near completion, would mean that for the first time automobiles could travel from Pueblo to Salt Lake City. Until 1916, the Western Slope was accessible to other parts of the country only by rail or stage coach.

The Chamber of Commerce made plans to advertise the "Rainbow Route" stating: "The garden spot of the State is right here but outside people don't know it." Much pressure was made to have the "Rainbow Route" opened before any other road in Colorado.

On Aug. 20, 1915, a motor tour of Colorado was planned, "Trails and Town Tour," a 900-mile trip. No one had toured the State in an automobile for pleasure. This tour was scheduled for Sept. 7, 1915. The scheduled time for travel from Salida into Gunnison was five hours. This tour was later cancelled and no such tour was made.

According to the *News-Champion*, the portion of the road from Canon City to Salida took 100 men working night and day for more than two years to complete. Men from the Prison at Canon were used. The cost was approximately \$150,000. Formal opening on this portion of the "Rainbow Route" was held on Sept. 21, 1915.

The big celebration on the completion of the portion of the "Rainbow Route" over Blue Mesa was held at the Halfway House on Oct. 19, 1915. Gunnison County Commissioner (Gillaspey) who had had charge of the road through Gunnison County had the idea to build the Halfway House to aid travelers.

Gillaspey's slogan was "See America, see Colorado, above all see Gunnison County with its wealth of scenic beauty."

Three hundred and fifty Montrose and Gunnison folks met and shook hands for the day of celebration at the Halfway House. (Not all arrived in automobiles.)

A big picnic was held, dancing, fishing, mountain climbing, and exploring for big game was a part of the celebration. It took two hours from Gunnison for most cars to travel 37 miles. The President of "Women Good Roads Club" and Mrs. George Eastman of the "Womens' Relief Corp." presented a flag for the Halfway House.

She was the mother of the late "Pete" Eastman and Mrs. Ernestine Spann.

It was reported by the *News-Champion*, in August, 1916 that since the opening of the road over the Blue Mesa, 748 automobiles had passed the Halfway House.

The three main auto routes across the United States, recommended in 1918 by the *Auto Blue Book*, included the "Rainbow Route" from Salida to Grand Junction.

Answering the general criticism of the American Automobile Association that the road signs were not numerous enough to properly inform the visitor, the newly organized Gunnison Valley Chapter of DAR voted at their second meeting held April 18, 1916, to work on this as a project.

A Denver chapter generously donated \$15 towards the "DAR Rainbow Markers."

The money was returned by the local chapter since the Gunnison Valley Chapter of DAR chose marking this portion of the route as their own project and with great pride.

Recently, Mrs. Margaret Flick was kind enough to present to Regent Mrs. Ruth Stell, the "DAR Rainbow Marker" which had been placed on Monarch Pass and pointed the way to Gunnison for many tourists. It was thought this marker had been destroyed. Plans are being made to have this early "historical marker" restored if possible (It would be appreciated by the GVC DAR if anyone having a picture of this sign as it was on location on Monarch Pass would contact Mrs. Stell, 641-2101, or Dorothy Barrett, 641-0751.

Additional signs were placed by the DAR on telephone posts along the entire route and periodically had them repainted. On Sept. 27, 1930, it was decided that the highway signs marking the "Rainbow Route" were no longer necessary and were removed when the State Highway Commission ordered all but authorized signs removed.

The Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was pleased to have played a small part in marking the "Rainbow Route." Tourists now come into Gunnison with relative ease, thanks to modern roads and automobiles. A few still adventure to take the tour over "Old Monarch Pass" (recommended generally as a four-wheel drive road) and realize the early adventure into Gunnison held real thrills for the motorists.

(Information obtained from the Minutes and Scrapbooks of the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.)

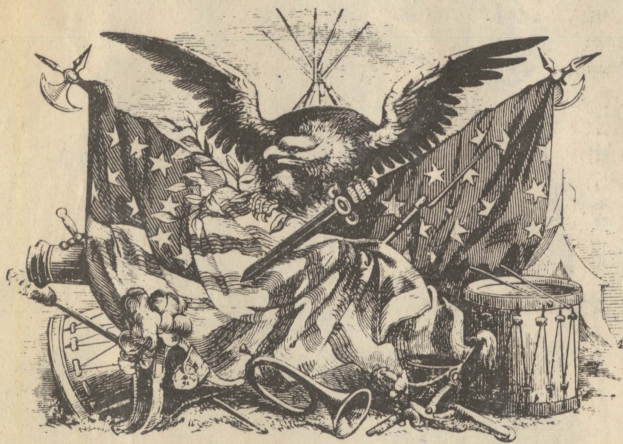
DAR dedicates post office; also honors citizens

Just 100 years ago Gunnison's first post office opened on Oct. 2, 1876, and to commemorate that event, the Gunnison Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on Oct. 2, 1976, held a ceremony at the post office located at the Pioneer Museum grounds to dedicate this building as a historical marker.

This designation was procured through the National DAR.

A plaque inscribed with the names of the 16 postmasters and their periods of service was placed on the building. Mrs. Evelyn Frasier, wife of a former postmaster, read the list of names.

Regent Ruth Stell conducted the ceremony which opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the American's Creed led by



Margaret Yale, Flag Chairman. The flag saluted was a 38-star flag exactly like the one flown over the post office 100 years ago. Colorado was the 38th state to enter the union.

Charlie Page, Bicentennial-Centennial chairman for Gunnison County, summarized the Bicentennial-Centennial activities that had been carried out during the year. He was followed by Calvin D. Wright, present Postmaster, who recounted the changes which have taken place since the post office was first opened.

In contrast to this, Ben Snyder, the main speaker of the ceremony, former postmaster for 29 years and president of the Pioneer Museum, reminisced about some of his experiences during his term of service.

Snyder and the board of directors of the Museum gave permission for the placing of the plaque on the old post office building which had been moved to the museum grounds and restored several years ago.

Gunnison Valley Chapter Bicentennial Chairman Dorothy Barrett acknowledged help from the many people who have contributed in making this celebration of our country's first 200 years a success.

The Daughters of the American Revolution have three objectives. They are historical, educational, and patriotic. The National Society of the DAR has provided a Special Award which may be given only in the Bicentennial year for outstanding efforts by citizens who have helped to celebrate this historic event of our lifetime.

The Gunnison Valley Chapter feels there are many in the community who are worthy of this honor.

Mrs. Barrett presented framed awards to Charlie Page as Bicentennial-Centennial Chairman, to Roger Pepperd and Keith Jackson of KGUC Radio for keeping the community aware of the Bicentennial activities as they occurred; to Margaret Flick for keeping the history of Gunnison alive through her newspaper column; to



POST OFFICE DEDICATION--Ben Snyder (left), Ruth Stell (center) and Dee Wright were all part of last Saturday morning's Daughters of the American Revolution dedication at the Pioneer Museum. The D.A.R., represented by Mrs. Stell, dedicated Gunnison's first post office as an historical marker. A

Helen and Tony Mendez for allowing their store window to be used for DAR historical displays; to Ben Snyder for the great effort to preserve our history through the Pioneer Museum; to Kyle Lawson, managing editor of the *Gunnison Country Times*, for his efforts in this Bicentennial-Centennial year to keeping all aware of Gunnison's 102 years of history; to Roy Rogers, representing the Bruce-Frew Post No. 54 of the American Legion, for its many patriotic en-

deavors including the 4th of July Parade, to Marion Pittman, public relations chairman of the DAR, for recording the local chapter's efforts in the Bicentennial year; to James Stell, for the hours of work aiding the DAR in their project, and to Regent Ruth Stell for assuming all the extra duties during the Bicentennial year and especially for her compilation of both Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties Cemetery Records, copies of which are in national, state and local libraries.

GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES, Monday, October 4, 1976

A History of Gunnison

Postmasters

By BEN SNYDER

On Oct. 2, 1976, the Gunnison Valley chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a ceremony at the Pioneer Museum grounds presenting a plaque with the inscription of the names of the 16 men and women who were appointed Gunnison postmasters during the past one hundred years.

As one of their many patriotic projects and as part of Colorado's program celebrating the Centennial Year, the DAR dedicated Gunnison's first post office as a historical marker. This designation was procured through the National DAR and a plaque was placed on the old log post office building.

Very appropriately the ceremony was held exactly one hundred years to the day when Alonzo Hartman was appointed Gunnison's first postmaster--Oct. 2, 1876. He held the office for 10 years.

Hartman is perhaps the most famous of our pioneers. He was the U. S. Government Indian Agent here, one of the first cattlemen in the valley, and a very active civic leader. Of the five children his wife Anna bore him, only a daughter survives. She is Mrs. Henry M. Cunius, now living in California.

Frank Adams was Gunnison's second postmaster. He was appointed March 29, 1886, and served

until 1890. In the early 1880s he ran a grocery store and was a city councilman and mayor for several years. Historical records reveal very little about him but he was not related to any of the other Adams families who have been prominent in the county.

Sprigg Shackelford was appointed to the position Feb. 25, 1890, holding the office until 1894. He was a typical southern lawyer and was Gunnison County's district attorney and judge for several terms. His son, James Shackelford, owned a large cattle ranch at Jack's Cabin and was postmaster at Baldwin, Colo., for a number of years. Jim Jr. is presently living in Denver.

PATRICK DALY was the fourth postmaster. A genial Irishman and a bachelor, he was county treasurer at one time and was appointed postmaster March 19, 1894, serving four years.

On June 3, 1898, Mathew C. Deering took over the office holding it until January, 1901. He was Gunnison county's fourth sheriff and the town's fifth postmaster. His son, Melvin, owned the Parlin store and was postmaster there for many years. Mel Deering's son, Matt, succeeded him as Parlin's postmaster and storekeeper. He retired several years ago and still

makes his home at Parlin with wife, Marion.

Gunnison's sixth postmaster was George W. Summers who received his appointment Jan. 16, 1901. After four years service, he was succeeded by his wife, Nellie R. Summers, who held the office from March 1, 1905, until December, 1911. Later Mrs. Summers served the county as assessor for several years. She was the mother of Mrs. Kate (Bryan) Eastman and the grandmother of Frank, George, and Gene Eastman, all living, and Dan Eastman who recently passed away.

B. Frank Martin became Gunnison's eighth postmaster December 20, 1911, serving until July, 1915. He was the father of Clyde Martin, a local railroad engineer for many years, later owning a book store and drug store. His wife, Florence, was Mrs. Henry F. Lake's sister and Mayor Rial Lake's aunt.

Martin G. Wenger was a clerk in the local office and was appointed acting postmaster July 8, 1915. Four months later he was promoted to postal inspector and had an outstanding record in that position before retiring about 15 years ago.

Harry R. Aikin was a telegrapher and dispatcher in the local Rio Grande railroad depot for many years. He became to 10th to hold the postmaster

position and served from Oct. 20, 1915, to March, 1919.

Patrick J. Hurley was appointed acting postmaster March 7, 1919, and resigned about a year later because of failing health. A daughter, Mrs. Charles (Mary) Childress, resides in Paonia.

On Feb. 18, 1920, Paul C. Boyles received the appointment and held the office for 18 years. He operated a steam laundry and was proprietor of a book store before becoming postmaster.

MATHIAS J. SCHMITZ was to succeed Boyles but after two attempts to take over the office he resigned on account of failing health. Matt had worked $\frac{1}{2}$ the courthouse for many years as deputy county clerk under Sam C. Hartman, nephew of Alonzo Hartman, and later as deputy county treasurer. His nephew, Ernest Miller, lives in Cedaredge.

Ben Snyder took over from Boyles on April 1, 1937. His appointment was effective Feb. 17, 1937, but he delayed assuming the office as he had to resign and check out as county treasurer. He retired in December, 1965, after nearly 30 years in office.

Forrest F. Frasier, who had been a clerk for many years, was appointed postmaster Dec. 30, 1965, and served until his death in November, 1972. Forrest

was in the automobile business here in 1940-1941 before joining the military.

After serving 14 months in the U. S. Navy during World War II, Calvin D. Wright took a clerk job in the local office July 1, 1946. Following the retirement of Dick Owen he was made assistant postmaster Oct. 23, 1965. Upon the death of Frasier, Wright took over the official duties of the office Nov. 3, 1972. Postmaster Wright is now the senior employee in the Gunnison post office with more than 30 years service.

In 1956, the Gunnison office had the distinction of being one of the smallest post offices to cancel a commemorative stamp "First Day Cover." The Colorado Division of the Izaak Walton League had held their annual convention in Gunnison and sent a resolution to the post office department in Washington recommending the Gunnison office be selected to issue the commemorative First Day Covers for the pronghorn antelope stamp of the Wildlife Conservation Series.

When Gunnison received a letter from the Department asking if it could handle the issue, the local Post Office replied that it could, not knowing what a big job it would be. The staff was flabbergasted when it received instructions to hire 35 women to affix the stamps

to the covers, adding the Department would send Gunnison a million stamps for this purpose. The first inclination was to write back saying the local office hadn't anticipated the enormity of the job and didn't have room or the facilities to handle it. However, the staff didn't want to reveal its embarrassment so it proceeded to make room in the basement for the women to work. The Elks Lodge was kind enough to lend several tables and 40 chairs. The date of issue was set for June 22, 1956.

There were more than a million stamp collectors at that time with about half of them usually wanting first day covers. By June 6th, Gunnison had received 70,000 covers (envelopes addressed back to the senders accompanied by a note and money for the stamp or stamps to be affixed) from the collectors. Most requested only a single stamp, a few two to three stamps, and many wanting a square "Plate Block" of four containing the only number on each sheet of fifty stamps.

The project was not finished until June 30. The two cancelling machines showed the staff had run 461,000 covers through with the June 22, 1956 postmark. Collectors in every state in the nation and 60 foreign countries received the covers.