This is written to submit to the Missouri 2021 Bicentennial Commission on behalf of the Stukely Westcott Chapter, National Society Daughters of American Colonists. As regent, it is my honor to be able to relate the history of our organization.

The Stukely Westcott Chapter of the Daughters of American Colonists was organized in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri on 24 January 1951. Our chapter is part of the Missouri State Society Daughters of American Colonists founded 26 May 1921, which is part of the National Society Daughters of American Colonists which was incorporated 25 April 1921. Both our state and national organizations are celebrating their centennial in Missouri’s bicentennial year. We will celebrate our 70th year in Southwest Missouri.

Any woman who is a citizen of the United States of America, is of good moral character, and has attained her eighteenth year is eligible for membership. Members must prove lineal descent from those men and women who were actual residents of America when it was under foreign government as colonies. Service must be prior to July 4, 1776 in any of 27 qualifying capacities.

In 1951, fifteen women had proven their eligibility for membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists. State Regent Emily Stapleton installed the first group of officers for the Stukely Westcott Chapter at the Springfield home of Mrs. Frank Young. Organizing Regent Areta Compton Montieth Vance named the chapter in honor of her ancestor, Stukely Westcott.

Stukely Westcott was an Original Proprietor of the Providence Plantation in 1638; member of the Colonial Assembly; General Assistant to the Governor of Rhode Island; and Co-Founder, with Roger Williams, of Providence, Rhode Island.
Organizing members in 1951 were:

- Areta Montieth (Mrs. Clarence), Regent
- Acsha Hanna (Mrs. Arthur), First Vice Regent
- Blanche Young (Mrs. Frank), Second Vice Regent
- Maude Stigall (Mrs. L. E.), Chaplain
- Edith Middleton (Mrs. E. B), Recording Secretary
- Edith Ferbrache (Mrs. F. M.), Corresponding Secretary
- Winona Weidmann (Mrs. Jack), Registrar
- Elizabeth Vinton (Mrs. Wm.), Treasurer
- Era Hold (Mrs. Fred), Historian
- Mildred Meador (Mrs), Librarian
- Cleo McKinney (Mrs. John), Auditor
- Marnelle Thomsen (Miss), Parliamentarian
- Blanche Brockett (Mrs. E. E.)
- Fern Mollica (Mrs. Stephen)
- Madge Wood (Mrs. Wm.)

The Object of the Society is:

- Patriotic, Historical, and Educational;
- to make research as to the history and deeds of the American colonist and to record and publish the same;
- to commemorate deeds of colonial interest;
- to inculcate and foster love of America and its institutions by all its residents;
- to obey its laws and venerate its flag—the emblem of its power and civic righteousness.

We currently have 31 members and meetings are held seven times a year. Every year we work to promote the Object of the Society in many ways. Our members are encouraged to fly the American flag at their home, promote patriotism within their family and community and promote civic responsibility by voting and contributing to their communities. We have a strong presence in the area with our support of the Mount Vernon Veteran’s Home in numerous ways including providing snacks, personal hygiene items, Bingo funds, supporting their home cooked meal program, and adopting veterans at Christmas. We collect manufacturer coupons to send to a commissary in Guam for our service men and women to use and award Jr ROTC medals to deserving young people in our area high schools. Member Fran Black regularly
volunteers at the Veteran’s Home. The ladies in the photo below are preparing to deliver Christmas gifts to the lady veterans at the Mt Vernon Veteran’s Home.

Several of our members have participated in educational programs aimed at fourth grade students in our area teaching children about Colonial America. A program using the Colonial Trunk is aimed at the life of children in the Colonial era and bookmarks are presented to the children after the program. We donated several historical/genealogical books to local libraries along with several copies of “Colonial Klaus”. Sales of this book, which was purchased by many of our members, provided support necessary to complete the design, production, and printing of a new children’s book entitled *Colonial Klaus in Thomas Jefferson’s House* by Laura Macaluso. Funds from the sale go to support projects at Poplar Forest, Jefferson’s retreat, near Lynchburg, VA.

It is interesting to note that in our chapter’s earliest history we were instrumental in assisting to develop a Genealogical Department in the Springfield Public Library beginning with the purchase and placement of all DAC lineage books that had been published at this time. This department has grown to a very large collection of genealogy and local history books, digitized records, databases, and media housed in The Library Center (the headquarters branch) which includes a Local History & Genealogy Department used by genealogy researchers nationwide. Our chapter and many of our members utilize and continue to donate to this wonderful resource.

Each month our chapter meetings have reports and/or programs that address some type of Colonial History or other events of interest. Recent topics included various aspects of colonial life, colonial women, colonial food, colonial holidays, colonial words, and Missouri colonial history as well as monthly reports from chairs of our committees of the Flag of the United States of America, College of the Ozarks, the DAC publication Colonial Courier, Veteran's Service, Conservation, and National Defense. Recently, we have had programs celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote with the League of Women Voter giving a program on voting. We celebrated the 75th anniversary of V-J Day with a speaker from our local history museum about the USS Missouri, the battleship where the Japanese signed their surrender 2 September 1945. A highlight of the past few years has been our Annual Colonial Thanksgiving Dinner prepared by member Jeanette Alston and served in her home to members. A colonial theme is selected and then she prepares a meal with authentic recipes. Members enjoy this meal prior to our November meeting. We have had to postpone our planned “Jeffersonian
Thanksgiving” this year due to COVID, but instead will celebrate with a Jeffersonian Spring Luncheon this year to celebrate our state and national societies 100th anniversary. We plan to continue this fun event each year. The photo below was taken after our Benjamin Franklin Thanksgiving dinner, complete with our $100 bill napkin.

One of our favorite projects for the past few years has been gathering toys and other items for Harmony House. Harmony House provides safe and secure emergency housing to families escaping domestic violence. We are in contact with them prior to Christmas and assist them in whatever needs they may have. This is generally in the form of toys for the children who are there but may also include hygiene items and things for older children. This is our December “Christmas Party” each year and we enjoy it very much. The picture below is prior to our trip to drop off the gifts.

Last year, our Regent Pat Hass’ project was to place a historical marker at a local church that started as a Methodist Protestant Camp Ground around 1840 where circuit ministers would organize days and nights of non-stop preaching near Pierson Creek. It is mentioned in one of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s books as they passed through on their way to their new home in Mansfield. The church began in 1888 and has been in continuous service since. A marker dedication service was held 2 June 2019 at the Mt. Pisgah Methodist Church and was well attended. There are plans to place another marker in 2021 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rader, Missouri, which has been in continuous service since 1871 and will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2021.

In reviewing our 70-year history, it is interesting to note that many of the activities we currently do, have been done by our DAC sisters for the past 70 years – since the beginning of our chapter. It is good to look back and see that history and now be a part of continuing those activities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to change plans and do things a bit differently, but we are still actively working to support our veterans and service men and women, promote patriotism, preserve history, and support our communities. A popular project this year has been with several of our members making and donating numerous masks for front line workers and others early in the pandemic when materials were scarce. Our dedicated members will continue to work hard to support the object of our society. Thank you for this opportunity for our organization to be considered for inclusion in the snapshot of Missouri Legacy organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Boyd, Regent
Stukely Westcott Chapter

National Society Daughters of American Colonists Springfield, MO

Figure 1 - L-R: Dee Dosch, Fran Black, Pat Haas, and Sally Bueno.
Figure 2 - Members Front Row L-R: Carmen Boyd, Pat Haas, Margaret Maulin. Middle L-R: Pat Ferguson, Connie Bogner, Jeanette Alston. Back Row L-R: Sandra Walker, Pat Dickens, Anne Keller, Sharon Brown, Fran Black, Sally Bueno.
Figure 3 - Front Row L-R: Connie Bogner, Sandra Walker, Janet Aricui, Dee Dosch. Back Row L-R: Pat Dickens, Martha Pickering, Wilma Bradley, Pat Haas, Anne Keller, Jeanette Alston, Margaret Maulin, and Fran Black.
Figure 4 - DAC members, church members, and guests gather at the marking dedication at Mt. Pisgah Methodist Church, just east of Springfield, Greene County, MO.
Figure 5 - Masks made by the Chapter members.