

**NSDAR Taneycomo Chapter
Forsyth, MO
Taney and Stone Counties, MO**

Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, lineage-based service organization for women who are descendants of a person (s) who participated in the Revolutionary War.

Genealogy plays a determining role in becoming a member. Each member is required to prove her lineage to her Revolutionary War ancestor. That ancestor may not necessarily have fought in the war but may have provided civil service such as serving on a jury or supporting the cause by donating supplies or paying a supply tax. Our chapter has a large lineage research committee that works to help prospective members with the application process. Initially, at a time when patriotic organizations were cropping up at a rapid rate, DAR was founded at a meeting held in October of 1890 at the home of Mary Smith Lockwood after the Sons of the American Revolution reportedly refused to allow membership to women. In attendance at the Lockwood meeting were co-founders Eugenia Washington, a great-grandniece of George Washington, Ellen Hardin Walworth, and Mary Desha. The organization is configured into three entities; National, State and County chapters. The Taneycomo Chapter of the National Society of DAR consists of 82 members from Taney and Stone Counties. Taney County was named in honor of Mr. Roger Brooke Taney. Taney was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Andrew Jackson and served from 1836 until his death in 1864. In the early development of Missouri, Judge Taney had paid a visit to the area. It was decided that this visit was ample qualification for the naming of the county in his honor. The construction of the Powersite Dam on the White River near Forsyth, MO in 1911 through 1913 resulted in the lake that was formed and called

NSDAR Taneycomo Chapter

“Taneycomo”, a contraction of Taney County, Missouri, “Taney-Co-Mo”.

Taneycomo chapter’s first meeting was held on February 1, 1960 at the home of Organizing Regent, Miss Frances Lacy McConkey and attended by 15 qualified members. Miss McConkey was born in 1901 in Forsyth, MO. She was an only child and was active in music, reading, recitations and took part in Sunday School and other church functions. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from what is now Missouri State University. She taught English in Michigan City, Indiana until the 1950’s, when she returned to and resided in Taney County until her death in January, 1971. Due to the efforts and diligence of Miss Frances Lacy McConkey, Taney County Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its 60th anniversary in the year 2020.

DAR’s motto is “God, Home and Country” with emphasis on education, patriotism and historical preservation. Our chapter is involved with all three including:

- Participation in events such as hosting a reception table for our country’s naturalization ceremonies
- Carrying out cemetery restorations and clean-ups
- Taking part in Branson’s annual Veterans Day parade
- Observing Constitution Week by obtaining proclamations from local mayors and donating supplies to local classrooms
- Sponsoring an annual American History Contest for local children, grades 5 – 8 who submit essays on a designated topic. Grades 9 – 12 submit essays on the topic of Christopher Columbus (in 2021 the topic will be changed to “Patriots of the American Revolution”). Good Citizens Awards are presented to a student from each high school, who exhibits the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their

NSDAR Taneycomo Chapter

homes, schools and communities and are chosen by their teachers and peers. All are recognized at the annual George Washington Tea.

- Providing lap blankets, popcorn and Christmas goodies for Mount Vernon Veteran's Home
- Organizing genealogy workshops for the public which are held in conjunction with White River Valley Historical Society
- Selecting veteran (s) or active-duty personnel to apply for the opportunity to become "Patriot of the Month". If awarded, the winner is recognized at a monthly meeting with a certificate and a quilt provided by Quilts of Honor
- Honoring ROTC students at Branson High School and College of the Ozarks
- Awarding local churches and non-profit organizations with Community Service Awards
- Sponsoring a local teacher to submit an application for a classroom need through the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund
- Participation in a "Clean Up the Trail" event at Mark Twain National Forest as part of our conservation program. This was the first time a DAR chapter had participated

The Taneycomo DAR Chapter started with 15 members at their first meeting in February, 1960. We are now 82 members strong, ranging in age from our twenties to our eighties. During the sixty years that our chapter has been in existence, our country has been through many trials and significant growth. It is certainly a privilege to continue what our ancestors created with community service and love for our heritage.

Sixty Years of the Taneycomo Chapter DAR

By Renee Benson

THE TANEYCOMO CHAPTER OF THE Daughters of the American Revolution ("DAR") currently has approximately 80 members ranging in age from their twenties to their eighties. The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, patriotism and honoring the patriots of the Revolutionary War, with its motto of "God, Home, and Country". We are not a political organization and do not rely on any funds from the government, but maintain our national, state, and local properties ourselves. Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join the DAR. She must provide documentation for each statement of birth, marriage, and death, as well as of the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor. Interestingly, a Patriot was not always a soldier. Sometimes he provided Civil



Miss Frances L. McConkey (left), and Mrs. L. Bentley Cash service, such as serving on a jury or as road overseer, sometimes he took the Oath of Allegiance, and sometimes he, or she, supported the Revolutionary cause by donating supplies or paying a supply tax.

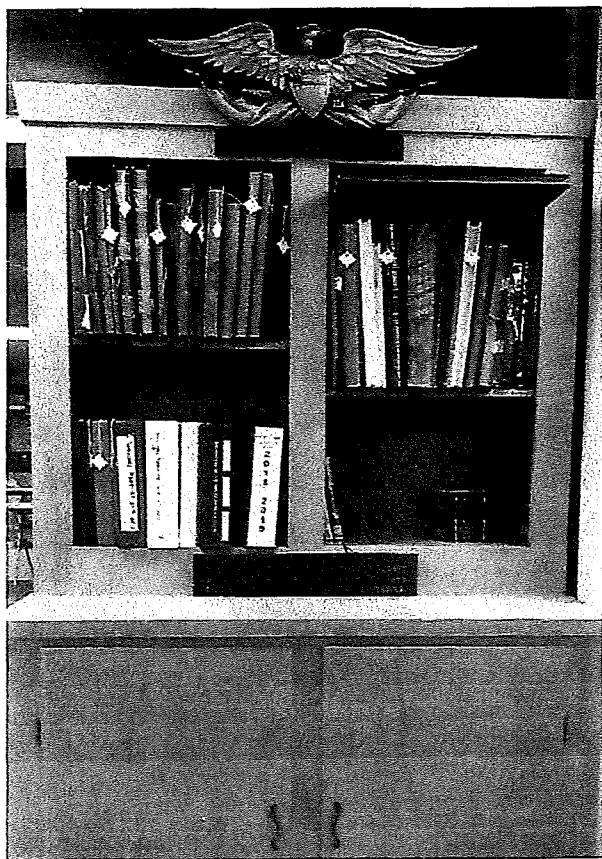
The Taneycomo chapter celebrated 60 years on February 1, 2020. The chapter started with fifteen members and held their first meeting on February 4, 1960 at the home of Miss Frances McConkey. The officers were installed at this meeting by Mrs. Bentley Enoch, State Vice Regent. The first chapter regent was Miss Frances L. McConkey, who held the position from 1960-1964.

In the 60 years Taneycomo Chapter has existed, there have only been 18 ladies who have served as regent. Two of our members have also served as Past Southwest District Directors, Miss Frances McConkey and Mrs. Kathryn Anderson.

As times have evolved, so has the chapter. When the chapter first started, members would meet in different homes where a lunch or tea would be served along with the meeting and program. The ladies would also be wearing dresses or suits as



Back (l-r): Mrs. K. H. Rinehart, Mrs. Cash, Miss McConkey, Mrs. Freeland, and Mrs. D. P. Jones
Front (l-r): Mrs. J. Ingenthron, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. J.A. Weidmann



Taney County DAR scrapbooks in cabinet donated to the WRVHS from Taney Hills Library

fitting of the times. Today we are more casual except when wearing our official insignia, as we love our bling! We alternate meeting times so all our members have a chance to attend even if they work outside of the home, and meet at either the White River Valley Historical Society or the Community Presbyterian Church, both in Forsyth.

We currently have an active chapter that participates in lineage research, working with veterans, celebrating Constitution Week, naturalization ceremonies, adopting the Roller Cemetery, providing books and materials to schools and encouraging schools to participate in DAR-sponsored essay contests. We partner with the WRVHS to co-host monthly research classes and have placed all of our past scrapbooks on loan in the WRVHS research library for others to enjoy.

Our chapter is currently working to establish the new Braxton Mabry Children of the American Revolution chapter in our area. Any boy or girl under the age of twenty-two is eligible for membership who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join. ✎

Continued from page 19

they were living in Llano County, Texas, where Peck was again a hotel proprietor). They never came back to Forsyth.

Parrish Hotel Became The Hotel Forsyth?

In the April 3, 1890 issue of the Taney County News (published by James A. DeLong) it mentions the Parrish Hotel where Mrs. M. E. Frazier was the Manager. This was the same hotel that Peck Miller bought. The Parrish Hotel was mentioned in the Taney County Republican dated, January 19, 1899: "J. C. Parrish contemplates building a fine dwelling on his lots opposite the Parrish Hotel in the near future."

There's a dwelling located across and up the same street from Hotel Forsyth on West Benton Street, which is where Ira Parrish, nephew of J. C. Parrish, was living later. In an item in the December 20, 1900 issue gives us the best clue: "The old pool hall facing the Parrish Hotel has been fitted up by Messrs. Parrish and Tolerton for the display...packed with toys, glassware, china set dolls, toys for boys and dolls for girls". This proves that Peck Miller bought the former Parrish Hotel on Benton Street.

The Hotel Forsyth disappeared from the landscape some time in the latter 1930s or early 1940s. It is not known if it was torn down or if it burned.

There's a little more information on each of the other hotels in old Forsyth, at the end of the larger article in the Peck Miller notebook at the White River Valley Historical Society Library. ✎

SOURCES

White River Valley Historical Society Winter 2019 Quarterly; Obit for E. P. Miller in The Western Spirit Newspaper of Paola, Kansas; Fort Scott Kansas City Directory in 1907; Probate records for E. P. Miller in Paola, Miami, Kansas; Taney County Republican, July 3, 1913; Taney County Republican, Sept 20, 1917; 1890 Taney County News; 1896 Taney County Republican; 1899 Taney County Republican; Obit for David B. Miller in The Western Spirit; Publication Date: 20/Feb/ 1903; Publication Place: Paola, Kansas, United States of America; Ancestry.com. Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2019. Retrieved on May 9, 2020; Taney County News published on Apr 3, 1890 by James A. DeLong.