

cluding part of the program when the entire group of participants, more than 100 in number appeared on the stage in silence while Canton's immigrant races assumed a new allegiance.

At the February meeting 1925 the Chapter entertained at the Canton Woman's Club the Americanization classes taught by Mrs. T. B. Albert and Mrs. Fremont Hamilton. About 65 women attended, several of whom took part in the program.

Guests from Germany, Mexico, Rumania and Czecho-Slovakia gave the program at the March meeting this year.

Canton Chapter, both directly and through the State Conference, contributes each year to the preservation of historic spots, to several schools for white mountaineers in the South and for the welfare of immigrants at Ellis Island awaiting admission to the United States.

Canton is justly proud of the National McKinley Memorial adjoining Westlawn Cemetery in the northwestern part of the city, in which lie the remains of the late William McKinley, Mrs. Ida Saxton McKinley and their two children. The monument since its completion is visited each year by many thousands of visitors, and has become internationally known. It was erected through the appreciation of a nation in loving remembrance of McKinley as a man in public life and as a President, the highest honor conferable by the people of this country.

Our chapter has been called upon to mourn the loss by death of our beloved Mrs. A. C. Brant, Mrs. J. J. Glass, Miss Grace B. Fife, Mrs. L. M. Jones, Mrs. Ray J. Bour and Mrs. Russell Burt, in the years 1925 and 1926.

One member of Canton Chapter, Mrs. Flora Babcock, of this city, is the grand-daughter of a Revolutionary soldier.

Regent 1925-1927, Mrs. James L. Beebout. Mrs. L. S. Nichols is present Regent.

(MRS. C. A.) EDITH M. PENTZ, Historian

CAPTAIN JOHN JAMES CHAPTER—JACKSON, JACKSON COUNTY
Organized October 28, 1916 Membership 41

Across the sea, the name of James is associated with history and events of more than passing interest. From an article upon the James family recently published by Frank Allaben Genealogical Co., the following extract is taken: One branch of the family traces its pedigree back to the Lady Godiva of Tennyson's poem. A line of baronets by the name of James, originally bore the name Haestricht, the designation of an ancient Lordship near Utrecht, Holland.

In Pembroke-shire, there is a tradition that an estate there was owned by thirteen successive proprietors, all bearing the name of William James. In our country the family has been prominent in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the New England States. One John James founded a family in Montgomery County, Pa. Captain John James came from Exeter, Rhode Island, and it seems only fair to suppose he was connected with some of the many James families who were early settlers of that state. It is said, that in Wales, there were two families of James, one of which was known as the "Little James" and the other was designated as the "Big James" tribe. It is impossible to say from which one of the various James families referred to, Captain John James is descended. From his stature and that of his sons, we might surmise he was of the "Big James Tribe." However, all that is really known of his history previous to his marriage at Preston, Connecticut to Esther Dennison, in the statement contained in the marriage record that he was formerly of Exeter, R. I. After his marriage he continued to live in New London County, Connecticut, and the births of his children are all found upon the town record of Preston. He was living there at the beginning of the Revolutionary War and from the records of Connecticut, we find he was one of the men "who marched from Connecticut towns at the Lexington Alarm." He is again enrolled as Sergeant at the siege of New London and feel sure his life was devoted to the cause of Liberty all through the struggle

for independence and that he was aided and encouraged by his wife, whose patriotism in those trying times was worthy of her lineage.

The close of the Revolutionary War was followed by a period of reconstruction and was natural time for the soldiers of the army to make radical changes: hence the movement to organize what was known as the "Ohio Company" found ample support in the New England States.

The first body of settlers forty-eight in number headed by General Rufus Putnam, landed at the mouth of the Muskingum River April 7, 1788, and christened their new home in honor of the French queen Marrietta. This has come to be known as the landing of the "Mayflower 2nd" and has been made the subject of song and story, almost as famous as its predecessor.

The second settlement was composed of about forty associates, the larger portion of whom had served as officers in the Revolutionary War, and at the close of the war retired with a brevet promotion. To a stranger it seemed curious that every house was occupied by a commissioned officer. It is said "that no settlement ever formed west of the mountains contained so many men of real merit, sound practical sense and refined manner." This beautiful spot was named "Belle-prairie or Beautiful Meadow" but the name has been shortened by usage to Belpre. The Ohio associates came from New England in four companies, several months apart and covering in all a period of two years.

In the last company was Captain John James and family consisting of his wife Esther Dennison James and their ten children. The settlement of Belpre at this time consisted of the forty families before mentioned, who lived in log houses near the river bank. Into one of these Captain James and his family moved and began the life of pioneers. Scarcely were they thus settled than they were brought face to face with a famine caused by the rotting of their crops and the history of the starving time of the Pilgrims in Old Plymouth was repeated on the banks of the Ohio. No sooner had this calamity been overcome than the settlers were assailed by one yet more dire. Believing that they were safe from any possible attack by the Indians in the winter season, they failed to enclose their block-house with palisades or make any system of defense, such as the placing of sentinels to watch for danger. By their carelessness they thus brought upon themselves the attack which is known as the "Massacre of Big Bottom," and which was followed by years of Indian Warfare. When at last the Indian War was ended, the families who had been so long and intimately associated together in "Farmers Castle," left their historic garrison to make once more homes for themselves in the land forever reclaimed from the savages. Near the site of Farmers Castle is the thriving village of Belpre, and just across the river lies the prosperous city of Parkersburg, tributes to the thrift and energy of a band of New England Pilgrims. Between the two towns lies the beautiful and historic island made famous by the names of Aaron Burr and Harmon Blannerhassett. Previous to its occupancy by the latter it was divided into farms which were occupied by early settlers. One of these was Captain John James and family from which alas one son was missing, having been killed by the Indians. They moved to Blannerhassett Island where they lived for several years. About 1798 he purchased a tract of land in West Virginia seven hundred acres in extent, six miles from Parkersburg. Captain James lived only a short time after moving his family to their new home, his death occurring at the close of the eighteenth century, the latter part of which, has proved so eventful for him and his family both in New England and in the "Old North West."

A movement had been in progress for some time to organize in Jackson County, Ohio, a chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution that would bear the name of Captain John James and preserve and honor the memory of a man, who by his service to his country and a long and useful life is entitled to the respect and veneration of his descendants. The establishment of this chapter had long been the desire of the descendants of John James but making it an actuality was the work of Mrs. Kate Chestnut McCurdy, urged and encouraged by Mrs. Joseph Benson Foraker of Cincinnati both of whom are of the James line. October 28, 1916 at the residence of Mr. James Chestnut was held the inauguration dinner of the Captain John James Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. The date chosen for the ceremony was

a happy one since it preceded the State Meeting at Lima, thus making it possible to have the presence of a number of women prominent in the order, and inspiration to the newly formed chapter of sixty members, a lusty infant prodigy, unique in the annals of Daughters of the American Revolution we are told. Another unique feature is that sixteen of the names on the charter derive from a common ancestor John James. It would be a pleasure to mention especially each of the speakers of the evening but having said that Mrs. Austin C. Brant State Regent's talk on organization, emphasized by her charming personality, made the new Daughters of the American Revolution feel that they belonged and loyalty to country and cause is also a heritage to privilege and responsibility to the nation "we" helped to save. We must be content to add that each speaker brought to the feast vivacity without lightness, earnestness without solemnity.

Charter Members—Miss Lily D. Long, Mrs. Lyda Long Brown, Mrs. Nellie B. Harriman, Miss Pauline Gilliland Miss Margaret Gilliland, Miss Emily Messenger, Miss Lois Messenger, Miss Gladys P. Speelman, Mrs. Betha M. Schellenger, Miss Dorothy Schellenger, Mrs. Lena Martin Claar, Mrs. Marcella Bannon Campbell, Mrs. Nan James Brisbane, Miss Jeanette Chestnut, Mrs. Kate Chestnut McCurdy, Mrs. Fannie Paine Newell Mrs. Edith Mattmiller Paine, Mrs. Ophelia Stephenson Foster, Mrs. Ora Lively Harshbarger, Mrs. Anna Stanton, Mrs. Cornelia Stanton Distal, Mrs. Elizabeth Stanton Regan, Mrs. Sadie McKinniss Cook, Miss Bessie Cook, Miss Mayme Steele, Mrs. Verna Steele Hayes, Mrs. Marie Steele English, Mrs. Luella Steele South, Miss Daisy Steele, Miss Frances Armstrong, Miss Mary Armstrong, Mrs. Blanche Armstrong Jones, Miss Frances Jones, Miss Bertha Sternberger, Mrs. May Dungan Sternberger, Mrs. Ophelia Scurlock Sternberger, Mrs. Rosalind Longley Sternberger, Mrs. Elizabeth Sternberger Dickenson, Mrs. Ada Sternberger Michael, Mrs. Emma Dungan Schellenger, Miss Alice Hurd, Miss Jessie Hanna, Miss Julia Hanna, Mrs. Ada Jones Carrigan, Mrs. Millie Stephenson Gahm, Mrs. Mable Gahm Kinnison, Mrs. Gertrude Hollister Martin, Mrs. Sarah Ames Williams, Mrs. Kate Bodkin Poore, Mrs. Bertha Borges Stephenson, Mrs. Elizabeth Kithkart Morgan, Mrs. Edna Loomis Evans, Mrs. Anna Ewing Miller, Mrs. Mame Sutherland Ervin, Miss Dorothy Eldridge.

Mrs. Kate Chestnut McCurdy, Regent 1916-1917.

Secured seven new members three of whom were life members. Contributed eight dollars to George Washington Memorial. Knit and sewed for Red Cross. Patriotic talks were given.

Mrs. Sarah Ames Williams, Regent, 1917-1918.

Held market to raise funds for shelter house at Camp Sherman. Gave card and thimble party to pay our apportionment, three dollars per capita to the Hostess House at Camp Sherman. Sewed and knit for Red Cross. Contributed to third Liberty Loan of National Society.

Mrs. Ora Lively Harshbarger, Regent, 1918-1919.

Gave History of Ohio compiled by our townsman, Mr. D. W. Williams (husband of our Ex Regent) to National D. A. R. library, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. May Dungan Stephenson in memory of her mother, Mrs. Mary Ann Dungan, presented a piano and pianola to the chapter to be disposed of in some way, proceeds to be devoted to World War Relief by the chapter. Sewed and knitted for the Red Cross. History of Capt. John James Chapter presented to State Historian.

Purchased two Blue Stars. Assisted in welcoming our own Battery F Regiment home from over seas. Contributed fruits, vegetables, fruit juice, cookies, jellies, pies etc., often for Camp Sherman. Many members visited the soldiers at Camp Sherman.

Mrs. Ora Lively Harshbarger, Regent, 1919-1920.

Bought one hundred posters for Jackson Public and County schools.

Piano sold to Candy Shop netting us about \$100.00.

Mrs. Ora Lively Harshbarger, Regent, 1920-1921.

Bought fifty copies of the American Creed. Gave one gold medal to member of history class in Jackson High School having highest grade. Gave a benefit party to aid us to pay our Caroline Scott Harrison quote of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each of our thirty active members.

Mrs. Ora Lively Harshbarger, Regent, 1921-1922.

Gave twenty-five dollars to relief committee and offered our services in

soup kitchen. Members personally made donations for same cause. We were interested in \$50,000 bond issue for schools, and met with other organizations.

Organized Kitchen Cabinet Orchestra. Gave concerts at M. E., Presbyterian and Christian Churches in Jackson; also at Centerville and Rocky Hill, netting \$200.00. Gave concerts at Portsmouth and Sciotoville for benefit of Sciotoville M. E. Church; donated them all proceeds. Gave three gold medals to high and eighth grade history pupils.

Miss Bertha Sternberger, Regent, 1922-1923.

Contributed five dollars (\$5.00) to the southern mountain schools; also gave five dollars to old trails road.

A sum given to the public schools for history reference books.

Miss Bertha Sternberger, Regent, 1923-1924.

Gave ten dollars (\$10.00) for Memorial to the Soldiers of the World War. This gave us two blue stars. Sent box to Ellis Island. Contributed to Harding Memorial Fund. Contributed to Valley Forge Choir for Ohio Sunday. Pieced compass quilt. Material and quilting furnished by an out of town member, Mrs. Cora Sternberger Evans of Columbus, Ohio. Sold the quilt for \$45.00.

Sent box to Crossnore School.

Mrs. Gertrude Hollister Martin, Regent, 1924-1925.

Endorsed Memorial for Jackson County., Soldiers project. Ten dollars to opportunity class public school. Sent box to Ellis Island. Contributed to Martha Berry school.

Mrs. Gertrude Hollister Martin, Regent, 1925-1926.

Bought two health bonds benefit of milk fund for schools in Ohio. Contributed to Jefferson Monticello home. Bought gold star for Washington Memorial in honor of Wesley Morgan. Sent Ellis Island box. Furnished names of our Sixteen Revolutionary Soldiers to Governor Vic Donahey for his book. Moved to order two markers for the John Hanna and John Stephenson graves, these are the only two soldiers who have full records on file.

Miss Lily D. Long, Regent, 1926-1927.

*At Blannerhassett lies the bones
Of one of freedom's bravest sons—
John James a Captain in the strife,
Wherein he ventured youth and life
To overthrow the tyrant powers
And freedom give this land of ours.
Years after he was laid to rest,
Upon his native island's breast
Descendants here, set up this shrine
Preserving to all future time
The Revolutionary fames
Of Patriotic Captain James.*

Health bond was purchased for the benefit of milk fund of Ohio. Most members bought \$1.00 worth of Christmas health seals in addition to the bond for benefit of same cause.

I will add another Historic Spot worth mentioning, the "Indian Mound" in the old Jamestown graveyard, a suburb of Jackson, State Route 11, which was part of the farm of Major John James, son of Captain John James. Major James was born in Connecticut June 11, 1772, came to Point Hamer, Ohio in 1788 and to this county in 1807. The first Methodist Church in Jackson was organized in his home with twelve charter members: his youngest daughter, Eliza James being the youngest member, only eleven years old, who married Andrew Long and was the grandmother of the present Regent and Historian of this chapter, after whom the latter was named. She lies buried on this mound with John and Nancy James, her father and mother, Andrew Long her husband, her sisters, Julia Hoffman, wife of Jackson's first lawyer, Harmeon Miller one of our first school teachers, and an only brother, Dennison James named for a kinsman, Ex Governor Dennison, and other relatives lie buried on this spot sheltered by three oak trees that have stood the storms for almost a century.

LYDA LONG BROWN, Historian