



Jubal Early Chapter #553 Newsletter

Rocky Mount, Virginia



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Chapter News

On Saturday, February 14, 2004, at the Woodmen of the World Building on Peters Creek Road in Roanoke, Judi Flowers, renowned authority on Victorian Era women and children's fashions, presented a program before 76 people. From subdued jewelry to bedskirt petticoats, Judi entertained her audience with limitless knowledge of her topic, as well as with true stories involving her consultant's work in moviemaking. Judi also shared some of her collectible treasures with the audience, including a "church egg", a pin box, a mourning fan, and a funeral invitation. We were fortunate to have a young lady in the audience who volunteered to dress in children's period fashions. Attendees included numerous people from the general public, as well as many UDC members.

A special thanks to all Chapter members who sold tickets, who brought refreshments, and who attended this very informative program. The response from the audience was overwhelmingly positive. Pictured below are members of the Jubal Early Chapter with Judi Flowers.



MARCH MEETING ONLY! We will meet March 6, 2004 (first Saturday), at The Franklin Restaurant on Rt. 220, north of Rocky Mount. March 13th we will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Roanoke. Our April meeting will take place April 10, 2004 at the American Legion Bldg. on Tanyard Road in Rocky Mount.



Newest Member- Patricia Langston

New member, Patricia Langston was born in Glade Hill, now resides in Florida with her husband of 38 years, Patrick. She is the mother of four and grandmother of seven.

Other News

The Confederate Heritage Parade will take place on April 4, 2004 in Richmond. The parade down Monument Avenue will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at Hollywood Cemetery with a ceremony in the Confederate section. There will be a military gun salute by re-enactors at the closing of the ceremony and shuttle buses will be available for transport back to the starting point of the parade. Registrations should be postmarked by March 10, 2004. No entrance fee is required. For more information, contact Jerry Well at wellsjl@msn.com.



Linda and Hazel, along with members of the Fincastle Rifles Camp of the SCV spoke to faculty and students at Minnick Education Center on January 28, 2004.

VETERANS REPORT by Linda All

General Report

The veterans at the VA Medical Center in Salem had a nice Christmas, in part due to your generous donations of money and Christmas cards. Voluntary Services was able to provide each veteran with several presents to open on Christmas Day. As always, I appreciate your generosity and concern for these hospitalized veterans.

On Valentine's Day, US Cellular provided the veterans with free long distance telephone calls. US Cellular has been graciously providing this free service to the veterans at the Medical Center for several years. As you know, many of the hospitalized veterans are indigent. This free service allowed them to call their families and friends from whom they have been separated for weeks, and in some cases, for months. We commend US Cellular for this expression of care and compassion for our veterans. - Continued on page 3.

Upcoming Events

March 13, 11:00 a.m. – St. Patrick's Day Parade, Roanoke.



March Meeting
Sat., March 6, 2003 - 12:00 noon
Franklin Restaurant, Rt. 220
See you there!

Confederate Ancestor of the Month



Each month the Jubal Early Chapter of the UDC features a Confederate Ancestor. The "Ancestor of the Month" for February is Skelton Washington Chitwood. The following information was supplied by Anthony Chitwood. The Jubal Early Chapter is proud to present his story.

Skelton W. Chitwood



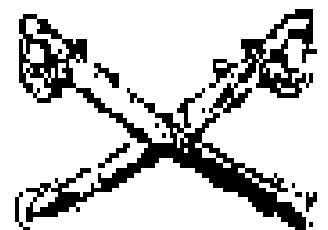
Skelton is seated on the far left, his wife Mary is seated on the far right. The others are 10 of their 13 children.

Skelton Washington Chitwood was born about 1843 in Franklin County, Virginia. He was one of five children of Naomi Chitwood, their father is unknown.

Skelton enlisted in Salem, Virginia on 2 February 1863 in Company G, 37th Virginia Cavalry. The most noted battle for the 37th Cavalry was in June 1864 in Lynchburg, Virginia. They, along with several other under the command of Confederate General Jubal Anderson Early stopped Union forces under the command of David Hunter. Union forces retreated and headed back through Liberty (now Bedford). At dawn, General Early sent the 37th Cavalry in pursuit of Union forces. Early's cavalry was in poor condition, having fought Hunter daily for almost two weeks on his march to Lynchburg. There was no way the battered cavalry, under General McCausland could halt the retreat. Their failure was not due to a lack of determination. Early made a futile attempt for three days to catch Hunter.

The only other engagement was at Hanging Rock, near Salem, Virginia. There a small band of Confederates under McCausland fell upon Hunter's Artillery caissons. They managed to destroy several wagons and spike several cannons before being driven away. Early decided to rest his weary troops and set up an encampment rear Roanoke. Hunter surprised everyone by retreating into the Kanawha Valley.

After the war was over, Skelton came back to Franklin County where he settled down. He married Mary Elizabeth Sink on 30 December 1866. Skelton and Mary had 13 children and he made his living as a farmer. Mary died 9 August 1919 and Skelton died shortly thereafter. According to the 1920 census he was living in Franklin County. The exact date of his death is unknown.



VETERANS REPORT - continued from page 1
by Linda All

Current Needs

Ongoing needs at the VA Medical Center in Salem include instant coffee (regular and decaf), 5 pound canned coffee (regular and decaf), instant creamer, 5 pound bags of sugar, Sweet 'N Low, coffee filters, coffee stir straws, large print puzzle books, handheld games such as Solitaire and Tic-Tac-Toe, soap, deodorant, lotion, shampoo, large and x-large shower shoes, phone cards, stationary with stamps, large numbered Bingo cards, and large print magazines and books.

Voluntary Services has numerous activities and funds for which we require monetary donations, including the "Paper for Vets" Program which provides daily newspapers for the veterans, bus passes, cable TV service, internet service for the Day Treatment Program and for Web-TV connection, \$5 canteen books for indigent patients for the purchase of small items in the Canteen, and off-site bowling and swimming therapy programs.

The Palliative Care program needs CD/cassette tape boom boxes with remote controls and head phones, stress reduction videos, and CDs. They welcome the donation of used CDs if they are in good condition – all kinds of music are needed. They also have monetary needs for various purchases including vibro acoustic speaker pillows, a TV/VCR, and a large storage cabinet.

If you would like to donate any of these items, or wish to make a monetary donation, I will be happy to collect your donations at Chapter meetings.

Craft Ideas

There are two handcrafted items that are much in need at the Medical Center. This is a good activity for you sewers and crocheters, including those who are unable to attend meetings and events due to distance or poor health.

(A) One such item is a stoma bib to cover a patient's tracheostomy. A tracheostomy ("trach") is a surgical opening in a patient's throat, through the neck under the chin, to assist with breathing. In addition to being uncomfortable, trachs are also often a source of embarrassment for the patients. A stoma bib covers the trach and eases the patient's self-consciousness. These bibs also are a sanitary precaution. A stoma bib measures 4.5" by 5". Washable crochet cotton is preferred. Since white shows soiling, other colors are recommended such as navy blue, green, brown, and black.

Using a size 5 crochet hook, the instructions to crochet a stoma bib are:

Chain 42 stitches.

Make 1 single chain (SC) in second chain from the hook, then in each chain across (40 stitches). Chain 2 and turn.

Make 1 double chain (DC) in the top of each stitch across the row. Repeat this row 12 times. There will be 13 rows in all. Chain 3 and turn.

Make 1 triple chain (TC) in the top of the next 4 stitches.

DC in the next 30 stitches. TC in the last 5 stitches.

Chain 50 stitches. Then SC back to last 3 stitches. Then TC in next 4 stitches.

DC in next 5 SC.

SC in next 20 stitches.

DC in next 5 stitches.

TC in next 5 stitches.

Chain 50.

SC back in each chain and then tie off.

Then add two rows of chained stitches, one on each end, to tie around the patient's throat. Be sure to add extra length to accommodate neck swelling.

(B) The other handcrafted item is a remote control tote. Remote controls to TVs, radios, and boom boxes often get lost when bed linens are changed. A tote can be tied to the bed, or a nearby table, to prevent it from getting lost or inadvertently discarded.

For a 13" by 5" tote, you will need one 14"x14" piece of sturdy colorful fabric, thread, and 2 yards of twill tape, cording or ribbon (nothing slippery) for ties.

To sew a tote:

1. Cut the tie material (tape, cording or ribbon) into two 1-yard pieces. Fold each piece in half lengthwise, wrong sides together.

2. Pin or baste a folded end of each tie to the right side of the fabric. This should be 2" down from the top of the fabric on either side. Folds of

the ties align with the raw edges of the fabric.

3. Fold the fabric in half widthwise, right sides together.

4. Stitch side seams using a 1/2" seam allowance, catching the ties in the stitching. Reinforce the ties by stitching again within the seam allowances.

5. Finish the raw edges – zigzag, bind, pink, etc.

6. Turn the top raw edge under 1/2". Turn under again another 1 1/2" (to the point where the ties are attached). Pin. Edgestitch along the fold to secure the hem.

7. Turn right side out and press.

I hope those of you who sew and crochet will have the time to make these much needed items. For those of you who do not sew or crochet, donations of fabric material and crochet yarn would be very helpful for those members who are interested in making stoma bibs and remote control totes.

Fundraising Event

On Saturday, April 3, 2004, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the Roanoke Civic Center Auditorium, the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council is sponsoring "Red, White and Bluegrass", a program of patriotic, gospel and bluegrass music provided by the Roanoke Fiddle and Banjo Club. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. The admission price is \$5.00 at the door; no tickets will be sold beforehand. This is a fundraising effort by the RVVC to raise money towards the purchase of a much-needed wheelchair van for the VA Medical Center in Salem. I encourage you to attend this event to support our veterans. Bring your family and friends and enjoy an evening of traditional American music.

Chapter Project

A little known unit at the VA Medical Center is the nursing home. There are ninety beds in the VA nursing home which is divided among two floors. This facility is always full with more veterans waiting to get in. The veterans in the nursing home are predominantly male; there are sometimes 2-3 female residents.

As I have briefly mentioned at a previous Chapter meeting, I would like for the Jubal Early Chapter to donate Veteran Shoeboxes for the residents on at least one floor at the nursing home, i.e. 45 shoeboxes. That means each of us would prepare at least two shoeboxes.

I suggest that you bring your shoeboxes to me at the May Chapter meeting. I will turn them in as our Memorial Day tribute to the nursing home residents. If this project works well, I would like to make this an annual project for our Chapter. If we do this project in the future, we may want to have a reception for these veterans and personally give them their shoeboxes.

Use any size shoebox, or any comparably-size box with a lid. Decorate the outside of the box, including the lid, with decorative wrapping paper. Fill the boxes with items for men, or items that are non-gender, i.e. appropriate for male or female. Since there are only a few female residents, I'll do shoeboxes for them this year so we don't have too many boxes for females that can't be used in the nursing home.

Fill your shoeboxes with anything you think would be useful and enjoyable for the veterans, including toiletries, phone cards, stationary with stamps, handheld games that do not require batteries, sugar-free hard candy, large print magazines or books, handkerchiefs, large print playing cards, and white cotton socks. Please do not include any glass items or any item that contains any amount of alcohol.

Conclusion

In this day and time with shrinking budgets as a result of federal government cutbacks, and more indigent veterans, the needs at the VA Medical Center are great. Voluntary Services, whose task it is to coordinate efforts with local veteran military groups and charitable organizations such as the UDC, depends on volunteers like you to help them provide a comfortable and caring life for hospitalized and nursing home veterans. Again, I appreciate your generous gifts and donations in the past, and encourage you to continue giving to these veterans.

Also, I ask for your continued prayers for the VA Medical Center veterans as some continue to suffer health problems from war-related and service-related injuries, as some suffer from terminal illness, as some are in programs to overcome substance abuses, and as some are in treatment for mental health as well as rehabilitative and reconstructive therapies. They gave so much for our country, and have asked for so little in return. They are indeed true heroes who deserve much respect and dignity.