

Public Relations Committee  
Patriots Chapter Number 231  
Jacksonville, Florida  
Chapter Committee Chairman: Dianne Boren

First of all, the most important area of Public Relations our chapter can boast of is our chapter's commitment. We have the outgoing President of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812, **Davine Roberts**, in our chapter. She is at every meeting, including the state and national ones. Further, we have six members who serve on the state society level: **Maria** Miller as Chaplain, **Betty Jane Stewart** as Registrar, **Beth Wilson** as Protocol Chairman, **Abaca Dowling** as Junior Membership Chairman, and **Mere Schwartz** as National Defense Chairman. We feel that the wonderful actions of our members in the public at large are the best public relations possible.

Secondly, the Patriots Chapter is enthusiastic about handing out JROTC and ROTC awards. We handed out ~~21~~ JROTC medals that were presented at ~~multiple~~ high schools in *Spring, 2015*:

1. Bartram Trails High School (Air Force) Mar 12
2. Clay High School (Navy) Apr 2
3. Andrew Jackson High School (Air Force) Apr 2
4. William M Raines High School (Navy) Apr 10
5. Wolfson High School (Army) Apr 15
6. Robert E Lee High School (Navy) Apr 17
7. Mandarin High School (Navy) Apr 23
8. Paxon School for Advanced Studies Apr 24
9. First Coast High School (Navy) Apr 24
10. Sandalwood High School (Air Force) Apr 24
11. Edward H White High School (Navy) Apr 24
12. Bishop Kenny High School (Navy) Apr 30
13. Ridgeview High School (Navy) May 8
14. Westside High School (Air Force) May 8
15. West Nassau County High School (Air Force) May 9
16. Middleburg High School (Navy) May 11
17. Allen D Nease High School (Navy) May 12
18. Orange Park High School (Navy) May 13
19. Terry Parker High School (Navy) May 14
20. Englewood High School (Army) May 15
21. Fleming Island High School (Navy) May 20

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And 3 ROTC medals were presented at Jacksonville University and University of North Florida in 2014- 2015:

1. Jacksonville University (Navy and Marine) Dec 3
2. Jacksonville University (Navy and Marine) Apr 22
3. University of North Florida (Army) Apr 23

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**1812 ROTC Pictures at University of North Florida 2015.JPG**



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1812 ROTC Pictures at Jacksonville University 2015.pub 2.JPG



### More Public Relations

The chapter had a special opportunity to support of the Martha Reid UDC Chapter's project of erecting an historical marker at Sawpit Bluff Plantation in Jacksonville, Florida.. Sawoit Bluff was not only the home of two important Florida women of the Civil War (why the UDC was interested), and not only the place where the Revolutionary Battle of Sawpit Bluff occurred, but the site where American Patriots stole a boat, rode up the river and shelled the house of William Fitzpatrick, starting an international incident in the War of 1812. We were invited tp participate with the Jacksonville area Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Children of the Confederacy, and Sons of Confederate Veterans in this historic event. What better way to show our love of history (especially

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the 1812 history) that to be a part of this multi-organizational, historic event? Lois Swan brought the Flag of 1812 and led the Salute to the Flag of 1812 in the program.

### Front and back of the Historical Marker Program

**Marker Text:  
Side 1**

Sawpit Bluff Plantation, located on Black Hammock Island, was built in the 1750s by Edmund Gray. The plantation was named for the sawpit excavated to accommodate the up and down motion of a vertical saw blade. The plantation house was constructed of tabby, an early building material made from shells, sand, and lime. During the American Revolutionary War in the British colonial period, an invasion force composed of Continental Army soldiers and Georgia militia encamped at Sawpit Bluff and engaged in fighting on May 14, 1777. Known as the Battle of Sawpit Bluff, and part of the larger Battle of Thomas Creek, this skirmish was one of the few battles of the Revolutionary War fought in Florida. The invading soldiers were forced to retreat after an attack by the loyalist East Florida Rangers and their Creek Indian allies. After the return of East Florida to Spain in 1783, Black Hammock Island was part of a land grant made to Juan Thorp. Thorp established a large estate on the island, called "Sawpit Bluff" or "Barranco de Acceradero." Used for growing Sea Island cotton and for raising cattle and horses, the plantation later passed to his daughter, Mary Thorp Smith.

**Side 2**

In 1801 and again in 1812, life on Sawpit Bluff was disrupted by conflicts between American settlers migrating south from Georgia and the Spanish colonial government. During the War of 1812, an American military force under the leadership of General George Matthews, invaded the region in quest of Spanish territory as part of the conflict known as the Patriot's War. The invaders stole a boat from the Smith family. After the war, the daughter of Mary Smith, Mary Martha, grew up at Sawpit Bluff Plantation and married Florida's fourth territorial governor, Robert Raymond Reid. During the Civil War, Mary Martha Reid was the Matron of the Florida Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. Sawpit Bluff Plantation was also the childhood home of her sister Rebecca, wife of CSA General Joseph Finegan, who won the Battle of Olustee. Unable to keep up with the taxes on the property, Mary Smith lost the land, which fell into disuse and returned to swamp. It remained unchanged until the late 1970s. Little is left of the old house except a few tabby remains.

**This marker was erected in 2015 by Martha Reid 19, United Daughters of the Confederacy for the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States.**

**A FLORIDA HERITAGE SITE  
SPONSORED BY THE MARTHA REID CHAPTER 19, UNITED  
DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY AND THE  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**Dedication and Unveiling of the  
Sawpit Bluff Plantation Historical Marker**



**By the Martha Reid Chapter 19  
United Daughters of the Confederacy®  
Saturday, May 30, 2015  
Black Hammock Island Community Club  
15770 Sawpit Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32226**

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Inside of Marker Program

Call to Order and Welcome.....Sonya Eason, President  
UDC Prayer, Lord's Prayer.....Katherine Owens  
Florida Division UDC Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.....Kristan VanNederynen  
William P Duval Chapter, DAR  
and Phelan VanNederynen  
Battle of Thomas Creek Society, CAR

Salute to the Flag of 1812 .....Lois Swan  
Patriots Chapter, USD 1812

Stars Spangled Banner.....led by Sonya Eason, President

Salute to the Confederate Flag.....Sarah VanNederynen  
Florida Division Historian, CofC  
and Jensen King Clark  
Raymond Jenckes Reid CofC

Old Folks at Home.....led by Sonya Eason, President

UDC Opening Ritual: Please stand

**PRESIDENT:** Daughters of the Confederacy, we are gathered this day in the sight of God, to strengthen the bonds that unite us in the common cause; to renew the vows of loyalty to our sacred principles; to do homage unto the memory of the gallant Confederate soldiers, and to perpetuate the fame of their noble deeds unto succeeding generations. To this end we evoke the aid of our Lord. Hear my prayer, O God; Attend unto my prayer.

**RESPONSE BY ALL:** From the ends of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to a rock which is higher than I.

**PRESIDENT:** For Thou, Lord, art good and ready to forgive and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee.

**RESPONSE BY ALL:** Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer, and attend to the voice of my supplications.

Greetings from Special Guests

History of the Marker.....Dianne Boren, Monument Chairman  
Move Outside for Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony

Dedication and Unveiling.....Sonya Eason, President,  
Katherine Owens, Florida Division Chaplain,  
Dianne Boren, Florida Division Poet Laureate

Group pictures by the Marker

Inside for meeting continuation

Blessing of the Lunch .....Katherine Owens  
Florida Division UDC Chaplain

Prize for Best Hat

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the US**

I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the Republic for which it stands – one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

**Salute to the Flag of 1812**

All hail to thee, fair Flag of 1812, under whose stars and stripes our fathers fought for Liberty and Justice. We pledge to thee our loyal hearts and thus salute thee.

**Salute to the Confederate Flag**

I salute the Confederate flag with affection, reverence, and undying remembrance

**The Star Spangled Banner**

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

**Old Folks at Home**

Way down upon the Swanee River, far, far away,  
There's where my heart is turning ever, There's where the old folks stay.  
All up and down the whole creation, sadly I roam,  
Still longing for the old plantation, And for the old folks at home.  
All the world is sad and dreary, Everywhere I roam;  
Oh, dear ones, how my heart grows weary,  
Far from the old folks at home!



Patriots Chapter Members Dianne Boren, Anita Eastman, Jo Ann Bragg, Sonya Eason with Pinkie Flannery in front, Lois Swan, Jean Mann, Anita's Daughter, and Davine Roberts

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Magazine Article in November UDC Magazine (National Publication)



Confederate Memorial Day commemorated by Auburn Guards Chapter 2677 members at Pine Hill Cemetery with the Tallahassee SCV Band and speaker John Sophocleus.

**Auburn Guards Chapter 2677, Auburn**

Auburn Guards Chapter 2677 has been busy this year with activities related to their cause. In November, they marked the graves of two UDC ladies in Pine Hill Cemetery in Auburn. Both ladies had been members of the UDC for well over 30 years. The Chapter dedicated those graves at their November meeting, and they placed a wreath at the Veterans Memorial in Auburn on Veterans Day.

In December, Chapter members placed wreaths and flags at the 75 known Confederate graves in Pine Hill and a larger wreath at the Confederate Monument to honor the 98 unknown soldiers buried there.

In January, members made a trip to the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery to see the 34th Alabama Infantry flag that had just returned from the conservators as a result of the Chapter's donation of \$8,000 to have the flag preserved last year. They also visited the Alabama Voices museum at the Archives.

In April, the Chapter celebrated Confederate Memorial Day with John Sophocleus as their speaker and the SCV Tallahassee 1921 String Band as entertainment. In commemoration of the 150 Sesquicentennial, Mr. Sophocleus spoke on the battles toward the end of the

War, and the band played southern favorites.

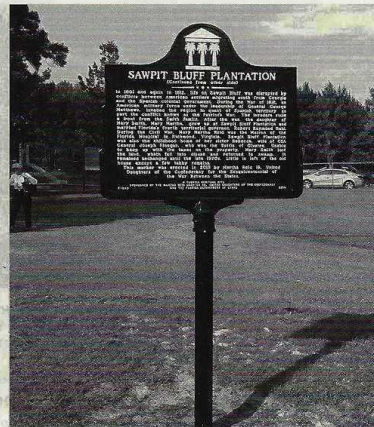
Other programs given by members included the War in Tennessee, the First Flag, and historical sites related to the Confederacy in Washington, DC.

The Chapter gave a matching scholarship to Auburn University in the name of CofC Chapter, the Auburn Cadets. The Chapter gave over \$1,000 in gifts to Haddie's Home, where underprivileged girls reside.

Chapter members attended Winter Board, the Jefferson Davis District meeting and the Division Convention, all in Montgomery this year. Two members are Alabama Division Committee Chairs, and one member is on the Norman V. Randolph Relief General Committee. Chapter members had eleven supplementals approved by the Assistant Registrar of General. The Chapter purchased \$200 in Insignia.

**FLORIDA**  
**Martha Reid Chapter 19,**  
**Jacksonville**

May was an important meeting for Martha Reid Chapter 19. They placed an official Florida Heritage Historical Marker at the site of Martha Reid's childhood home, Sawpit Bluff Plantation. It was approved by the state of Florida in December 2014 and declared a



Martha Reid Chapter 19 placed an official Florida Heritage Historical Marker at the site of Martha Reid's childhood home, Sawpit Bluff Plantation.

Florida Heritage Site. The marker was unveiled and dedicated May 30, 2015, during the Chapter meeting.

The dedication took place at a community park on Sawpit Road. It was the final point of the project that had taken three years of research, planning, fundraising, filling out legal applications, and meeting with city officials, park officials, state officials and the local community civic association. Members were proud that the marker was officially erected in time to be a UDC Sesquicentennial Event.

The site of Sawpit Bluff is especially historic. Not only is it the site of the childhood home of Chapter namesake Martha Reid and her sister Rebecca Finegan, but it was the site of an event that took place during the War of 1812. Additionally, it was the site of the Revolutionary War's Battle of Sawpit Bluff, which occurred on May 14, 1777. There were only four battles of the American Revolution that took place in Florida, so this is, indeed, significant. The Sawpit Bluff Battle was an extension of the Battle of Thomas Creek.

The Chapter was pleased to have in attendance Florida Ex Division President Pinkie Flannery. Helping officiate in the dedication was Florida Division Chaplain Katherine Owens. Rounding out the dedication ceremony was President Sonya

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Eason and Monument Chairman Dianne Boren. Attending were Martha Reid Chapter members and other UDC members, DAR members and the Patriots Chapter, Daughters of 1812. Two city councilmen were represented, as well as the President of the Black Hammock Island Civic Association, Wayne Shortridge and Jacksonville Historic Preservation Chairman Joel McEachin.

Karen Roquand received her new member certificate, and awards were given for the "Best Hat," an annual event in May. Lunch followed the meeting. It was a happy event!

***Tampa Chapter 113, Tampa***

Tampa Chapter 113 members are ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work on the new Chapter year, refreshed and ready for the challenges that lay ahead. By the time this article is published, the Chapter will have welcomed five new members: Claudia Schaker Conner, Bonnie Francis McCredie, Merry Lucinda Schaker Dale, Bobbie Gilliam Ammons and Peggie Musselwhite Slade. They will also have presented a ten-year continuous membership pin to Cynthia Cloud Bedell, as well as five approved supplementals.

Although officially a UDC project, the local DAR and Patriots Chapter USD 1812 were also included in the information and celebration at the erection of the marker.

The chapter is proud to have 6 members who serve on the state society level. 4 chapter members attended the 2015 Associate Council in Washington, DC.

Our chapter looks forward to another successful year.