



2012-2015

"Our Flag Was Sold There"

U.S.D. 1812



United States Daughters of 1812

Benjamin Hardin Chapter

Columbus, Georgia



2012-2015

"Our Flag Was Sold There"

Volume 7, Number 2

Fall 2014



Lawson and Taylor Ragan in front of the Capitol Building

**DC or Bust
By Regina Ragan**

From June 26-July 4, 2014, two of our Juniors, Taylor and Lawson Ragan, went on a family trip to Washington, DC. On the way up, we stopped at King's Mountain, NC and toured the battlefield where several of our ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War. The 1 ½ mile walk around the battlefield was very interesting. It was all uphill, or so it seemed.

On the second night we got to Alexandria, VA where we stayed. We toured several of the Smithsonian museums on the first day in DC. Lawson went on his first subway ride. This was also Lawson and Eric's first trip to DC. On June 29th, we went through a few more Smithsonian museums. At the Smithsonian Castle, we saw the actual University of Alabama game football for Bear Bryant's 315th career win against Auburn no less, making him the "winningest coach in college football."

We went to the Museum of American History and saw the American flag that flew over Ft. McHenry during the War of 1812. It was amazing and so impressive. From there, we walked to the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial. We saw all of the monuments in between those three. It seemed like we walked 100 miles that day.

We decided to take it a little easier the next day. We made a picture in front of the White House and then went on to Ford's Theatre and the house where Lincoln died. That afternoon we toured Old Town Alexandria. A really nice lady gave us a tour and told us the history of Christ Church. She was actually weeding the flower beds when we walked up. She was very knowledgeable about Alexandria's history.

We decided to go to Arlington National Cemetery the next day and took the trolley tour. We were able to see the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and saw a wreath presentation by a family of a soldier that was buried that day. It was a very humbling experience—especially having been a military family. We also toured Arlington House. The Lee family had an unbelievable view of Washington.

We spent our last day at Mount Vernon. They have so many artifacts from the Washington family that make the tour so interesting for the kids. Lawson got some English and American boxwood plants that were grown from clippings of boxwoods that George Washington had planted in the 1790s. So far, two of the four plants are still living.

Taylor, Lawson, and Eric had never been to most of the places we toured in Washington, DC. The last two days were very hot and humid because of Hurricane Arthur that was scheduled to come ashore the night we left.

On the way back to Georgia, we stopped by the Stonewall Jackson Shrine which turned out to be the farm where he died after having his arm amputated during the War Between the States.

We were in and out of rain from the outer bands of Hurricane Arthur on the way home. Luckily, the impact of the hurricane was not very strong on us. Everyone was exhausted when we got home. Taylor said that seeing DC helped our country's history make more sense, and it lets you see where our history really started. We saw history that spanned the colonial era through the Civil War to the present.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

November 11 at 11 AM at The Wynn House

Hostesses: Anne Wilson and Nancy Adams

Program: Ann Williams Garner

Lunch Reservations Deadline

Thursday, November 6, 2014

Please send your \$12.00 check to

Nancy Adams, 2004 Highpoint Drive

Opelika, AL 36801

Make check payable to

Benjamin Hardin Chapter, USD1812

SCHOOL NEWS



The following is a letter from Brett Loftis, CEO of Crossnore, published in the summer issue of the school newsletter.

Our children still face the crippling manifestations of the trauma they experienced before coming to us. There are still nightmares, countless tears, and eyes filled with mistrust and anger. We use all the best tools to support our children as they fight for healing and stability, but there are many days when it seems like the “system” itself is the greatest enemy.

We battle a system that treats children like property and capriciously moves them from place to place. A system filled with overworked and undercompensated workers that must adhere to laws and policies that are not written to protect children. We battle a system that would rather pay for hospitals and jails than excellent therapy and healing professional parenting. Be not mistaken, we are still at war

There are days when we see the all challenges facing our children and we feel overwhelmed and even helpless. It is in those times when we hold onto promises that are greater than any man can offer. We are reminded that this battle belongs to the Lord.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39)

With God’s guidance and the support of His people, our children are winning the seemingly insurmountable battles that they face. They are learning to trust, they are feeling safe again. They are catching up in school and excelling academically. Our children are graduating high school and experiencing success in college. Because of The Crossnore School, children are breaking the cycle of poverty, abuse and dependency. With God’s help, they are becoming victorious!

Thank you for joining us in this war for our children – they are worth it.

The Crossnore School
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(828) 733-4305
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www.facebook.com/crossnoreschool

Martha’s note: There’s a very good short documentary narrated by the late Phyllis Crain on youtube. “Miracle Mountain : A Hidden Sanctuary for Children”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rp8LaWwzbsc>

BICENTENNIAL MINUTE

The 200th anniversary of two major events will occur before our March meeting.



TREATY OF GHENT: DECEMBER 24, 1814

The American victory on Lake Champlain led to the conclusion of U.S.-British peace negotiations in Belgium, and on December 24, 1814, the Treaty of Ghent was signed, ending the war. Although the treaty said nothing about two of the key issues that started the war—the rights of neutral U.S. vessels and the impressment of U.S. sailors –it did open up the Great Lakes region to American expansion and was hailed as a diplomatic victory in the United States.

News of the treaty took almost two months to cross the Atlantic, and British forces were not informed of the end of hostilities in time to end their drive against the mouth of the Mississippi River.



BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS : JANUARY 8, 1815

The Battle of New Orleans was the last major battle of the War of 1812. The fight took place on January 8, 1815 when 7,500 British soldiers marched against 4,500 U.S. troops led by General Andrew Jackson. Jackson defeated the British just 30 minutes, halting their plans to attack New Orleans and establishing himself as a national military hero.

The American public heard of the Battle of New Orleans and the Treaty of Ghent at approximately the same time, fostering a greater sentiment of self-confidence and shared identity throughout the young republic.

Source: History Channel

FASHIONS AND MORE DURING THE WAR OF 1812

Ladies were not to be denied the right to look their best, even during wartime. The August 2014 *News-Letter* has a very interesting article titled “Perfect Propriety, Fashion and Deportment in the Regency Era.” Ladies of the new United States of America were greatly influenced by the sometimes risqué French style, although they still followed rather rigid rules of decorum as laid out in “Regency Etiquette.” Please read this interesting look into society of the Regency Period in the August 2014 *News-Letter* on page 14.



Strange as it may seem, Dolley Madison made friends with a some-what scandalous young woman of Baltimore – Elizabeth (Betsy) Patterson Bonaparte. Betsy was quite a beauty who considered herself bound for great things. She was courted by and soon married Napoleon Bonaparte’s young brother, Jerome, on Christmas Eve in 1803. She was 18, he was 19. Her wedding gown (*blush*) allowed one to see the movement of her legs and the outline of her hips. This in Baltimore where all the other ladies were adhering to “Regency Etiquette.” However, the couple became the *Brangelina* of their day.



Dolley Madison

Betsy was rejected by Napoleon who had other plans for his siblings, and eventually Jerome left her and remarried. Betsy spent the rest of her life trying to get an imperial title their son.



Betsy Bonaparte

“Over the years, Elizabeth did not lose her ability to set tongues wagging. She continued to wear French styles, and she rode in a coach decorated with the Bonaparte family crest. Further, instead of modestly withdrawing from society after her divorce, as most women in her position would have done at that time, she boldly maintained her place as one of the most fashionable and influential women in the new nation. In fact, her mastery of aristocratic French forms of dress, behavior, and speech made her welcome

in elite circles at home and abroad. She even became a friend of Dolley Madison while the latter was first lady.” This paragraph from the *Encyclopedia Britannica*

A copy of a letter from Elizabeth (Betsy) to Dolley offering to shop in Baltimore for fashionable things not available in George Town is shown at the top of the next column. It is possible to read many such letters at the University of Virginia Digital Library.

The Dolley Madison Digital Edition
The University of Virginia Press [v. 2007.07]
©2004, 2007 by the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia

Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte to Dolley Payne Todd Madison

Baltimore 22 of November 1813

My Dear Madam.

*I shall be in Washington in a few days. Should you wish me to execute any commissions in articles of Dress &c. for you (before my departure) which may not be found in George Town at present: I shall esteem myself extremely flattered by such a proof of your confidence in the desire to serve you by which I am ever actuated. There are in the Shops in Baltimore French Gloves Fashions &c: & the little taste possessed by me shall be exerted, in Selecting, if I obtain your permission, whatever you may require. I will have the happiness of delivering them in Person. . . . Permit me, my dear Madam, to renew the expression of my sensibility for the Kindness with which you distinguish me—& believe me to be with the highest respect & affection. Your obliged humble servant.
E. Bonaparte*

GETTING TO KNOW JAMES MADISON

James Madison (1751-1836) was a planter, a scholar, the Father of the Constitution, and the fourth President of the United States. Although Madison was not considered a commanding public speaker, he was one of the most effective delegates at the 1787 Constitutional Convention, thanks to his diligent study and keen analysis of the republic as a form of government. He was a skillful legislator, serving in the Virginia Assembly, the Continental Congress, and the first four Congresses of the United States.

While in Congress, Madison met and became smitten with vivacious Dolley Payne Todd. After a brief courtship spanning the spring and summer, 26-year-old widow Dolley Todd married 43-year-old James Madison on September 15, 1794. As Madison continued to rise in the political ranks, first as Thomas Jefferson's secretary of state and then as two-term president of the United States, Dolley served as a dynamic political partner, national hostess, and first lady.

As President, Madison strove to carry out his principles of republican government, even while waging the divisive War of 1812. When James Madison addressed his war message to Congress on June 1, 1812, he listed “a series of acts hostile to the United States as an independent and neutral nation.” In the prior decade, Great Britain began the practice of seizing American sailors, impressing them into the British navy, and capturing American ships and cargoes. Through a series of Orders in Council, Britain prevented the United States from trading with ports controlled by France. Madison also blamed Great Britain for inciting native tribes against the United States. Madison concluded by reminding Congress that under the Constitution, it was their decision to declare war. After a 79-49 vote in favor of war in the House of Representatives and a 19-13 vote in the Senate, war was declared against Great Britain on June 18.

The war was fought in several theaters. On the high seas, American frigates such as the USS Constitution were surprisingly successful in ship-to-ship encounters. Along the Canadian border, the American army failed in several

(Continued on page 4)



Registrar Lynne Allen Tate (left) inducted new members Leslie Search, Jeannine Jackson, and Judith Lowery to the Chapter at the August 12, 2014 meeting. They were welcomed enthusiastically by the Chapter.



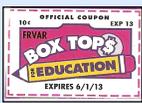
GSUSD 1812 President MG Whittle has chosen this beautiful anchor pin for her administration. The purchase of one of these pins will help fund her projects.

The pins are \$20 each. Chapter members should place their orders through the Chapter President, who will then distribute the pins to the members.

Send your \$20 check made to Benjamin Hardin Chapter USD 1812 to: Regina Ragan, 847 Heiferhorn Trace, Columbus, GA 31904-1267.

CHAPTER DONATIONS

Please make a special effort to bring **Box Tops, Labels for Education and at least three books or magazines to the meeting. Everyone needs to participate!**



AN 1812 JUMBLE

ROFT CNREMHY -----

THENG -----

DAMINOS -----

REBLIATOM -----

Answers in Winter 2015 issue.

(Continued from page 3)

attempts to invade Canada. On the Great Lakes, the American fleet won control of Lake Erie and created a stalemate on Lake Ontario. British troops raided American coastal towns and burned the public buildings of Washington, DC, but were defeated in significant battles at Baltimore's Fort McHenry and at New Orleans.

The Treaty of Ghent, signed by American and British diplomats on Christmas Eve 1814, and ratified by the U.S. Congress in February 1815, ended the fighting and returned both sides to their pre-war boundaries.

While the slight, soft-spoken Madison gained a reputation as shy in public, he was relaxed and charming with those he knew well. Dolley Madison's cousin Edward Coles, who served as Madison's secretary, wrote,

In height he was about 5 ft. 6 in., of a small & delicate form; ... few men possessed so rich a flow of languages, [or] so great a fund of amusing anecdotes, wh[ich] were made the more interesting from their being well timed & well told. His ordinary manner was simple, modest, bland & unostentatious, retiring from the throng & cautiously refraining from doing or saying anything to make himself conspicuous. This made him appear a little reserve[d] & formal ... Under all circumstances he was collected & ever mindful of what was due from him to others, & cautious not to wound the feelings of any one.

Madison's friend James Kirke Paulding recalled, "He was a man of wit, relished wit in others, & his small bright blue eyes would twinkle most wickedly, when lighted up by some whimsical conception." As writer and friend Margaret Bayard Smith remembered, "his conversation was a stream of history."

Source: Montpelier Website



NSUSD 1812 HISTORY

The National Society United States Daughters of 1812 was organized on January 8, 1892 by the founder and first president, Mrs. Flora Adams Darling. The organizing president was Mrs. William Gerry Slade who was president for eighteen years, 1897-1915. The first publication of the Society was reprinted in the December 1936 issue of the News-Letter. It sets forth the purpose and spirit of the society.

Regulations of the Society are set up in conformity with the period of our national history from its inception as a republic in 1784 through the War of 1812.

On 25 February, 1901, the Society was incorporated by an Act of the Fifty-Sixth Congress (Session II, Chapter 472) and approved by President William McKinley as the National Society United States Daughter of Eighteen Hundred and Twelve. This was one of the first woman's organizations to receive such a national charter. At the close of the administration of Mrs. William Gerry Slade in 1915, thirty-five state societies had been organized with an enrollment of 3,758 members.