

Local USD group hears about recent bicentennial events

SUBMITTED BY EVENT ORGANIZERS

The Lookout Mountain Chapter, National Society United States Daughters of 1812 (USD1812) and Keetoowah Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Colonists (NSDAC) recently held their joint meeting and luncheon at the Dalton Golf & Country Club. Several people shared information and Meloye Brown presented the program about recent 1812 bicentennial events in Baltimore and New Orleans.

She noted, "There could have been no more thrilling and inspiring backdrop for the General Society War of 1812 (GSW1812) Triennial Meeting than the celebration of the Defense of Fort McHenry and 'The Star-Spangled Banner.' Over the week-long celebrations, 'The Star-Spangled Spectacular' in Baltimore told the history of Baltimore's role in the war and how the city's defenders stymied the British. The inner harbor was festooned with banners, full of vendors, events and visitors, as it hosted tall ships and navy vessels from the U.S. and other nations. Proud Baltimore rolled out the red, white and blue carpet for all."

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine was the first fort built by the U.S. government in 1797. Francis Scott Key's original handwritten copy of "The Star-Spangled Banner," on loan from the Maryland History Museum, was on display at the visitors center.

A wreath was laid at the statue of Gen. George Armistead, commander of the fort, the monument having been dedicated by the GSW1812 exactly 100 years before.

A new historic marker detailing the history of the GSW1812 was dedicated, as well as two new firing cannons given by the GSW1812 and the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pictured are Martha Locke (president, Lookout Mountain Chapter, National Society United States Daughters of 1812), Meloye Brown (speaker, member of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 and National Society Daughters of the American Colonists) and Melissa Burchfield (regent, Keetoowah Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Colonists).

USD1812. Participants had the opportunity to assist in unfurling a 30 by 42-foot, 15-star flag inside Fort McHenry, which required more than 200 hands to hold.

Brown discussed what a great privilege it was to join members of the General Society War of 1812 and the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 in New Orleans for the celebration of the Bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans. Many present were descendants of the militia led by Andrew Jackson to defend New Orleans and protect America's sovereignty in the historic battle.

On Jan. 8, 200 years to the hour of Jackson's great victory, clear skies and frigid temperatures greeted participants under the 15-star American flag at the Chalmette National Battlefield for the Commemoration Ceremony led by the United States Park Service.

Music was provided by the United States Marine Corps Ceremonial Band, and the invocation was offered by the Ursuline Sisters of New Orleans,

who had prayed all night before the battle. At the outset of the Commemoration Ceremony was the traditional wreath-laying at the Chalmette monument that has commemorated the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans for more than a century.

Program participants included Louisiana Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, New Orleans Mayor Mitchell Landrieu and Great Britain's Ambassador to the United States Sir Peter Westmacott, among others. Following the Chalmette Battlefield ceremony was a wreath-laying ceremony at the statue of Andrew Jackson in Jackson Square, with remarks by Landrieu and Westmacott, among other dignitaries.

Participants then went to the historic Cabildo for a luncheon reception hosted by the Chalmette Chapter of the United States Daughters of 1812. Commemorative events capped off with a salute to those who fell in the battle who are buried in the oldest cemetery in New Orleans — St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.

Murray Living

Mountain Talk

Brad and Ezma Tankersley Celebrated

Littleberry Jackson Grave Marking Ceremony - October 31, 2015 the Lookout Mountain U.S.D. of 1812 Dedicated marker for U.S.D. Veteran Littleberry Jackson buried in the Eton Cemetery Eton, Georgia. Littleberry served in Virginia 83rd Millitia and South Carolina Nash's Regiment. Pictured left to right: Lois Kranz, Gail Eason, Martha Locke President, Freida Boyles Descendant, Melissa Burchfield, Marie Hill Descendant, Deborah Sifton, Sue Crawford, Eugenia Cavender.





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Pictured from left are Gail Eason, Cheryl Lindsey, Robbin Wheatley, Martha Locke, Deborah Sitton and Loriann White.

History, duties of society recounted

SUBMITTED BY LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS OF 1812

The United States Daughters of 1812 National Society (NSUSD1812) was founded Jan. 8, 1892, by Mrs. Flora Adams Darling on the 77th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 is a nonprofit, non-political women's service organization for descendants of patriots who aided the American cause during the War of 1812. Presently the USD1812 has 165 chapters in 42 states.

The Georgia State Society was organized June 18, 1901, by Miss Virginia Arnold of Atlanta. There are many Georgia Chapters, but the local area Lookout Mountain Chapter No. 437 was chartered April 24, 2010, by Organizing President Louise Ramage Otting from LaFayette. LaFayette continues as home base but members of this chapter are from several counties including Whitfield, Catoosa, Murray, Gordon and Floyd with meetings held in these areas. Charter members are

Organizing Regent Louise Otting, Melodye Brown, Martha Brown, Eugenia Cavender, Sue Crawford, Martha Locke, Danielle Otting-Warren, Robbie Rockholt, Lauren Smith and Peggy Whaley.

With patriotism and preservation of history being the main focus, the purpose of the USD1812 is clear: "The purpose of this society shall be to promote patriotism, to preserve and increase knowledge of the history of the American people by preservation of documents and relics, the marking of historic spots, the recording of family histories and traditions, the celebration of patriotic anniversaries, teaching and emphasizing the historic deeds of the civil, military and naval life of those who molded this government between the close of the American Revolution and the close of the War of 1812, to urge Congress to compile and publish authentic records of men in civil, military and naval service from 1784 to 1815."

Many members fly the American Flag 365 days per year. Some of the local area projects include flags presented to schools; monies donated to Wounded Warrior Project; Women In

Military Service Action (WIMSA); Wreaths Across America project; reworked cellphones sent to soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq; provide comfort items to veterans in local nursing homes; awarded four JROTC medals; sent \$10,000 to soldiers for soldier coupon project. In addition to the patriotic aspect, the local area USD1812 support Secret Santa Toy program, plus food is donated to The Salvation Army and Ronald McDonald House.

"Membership growth has been consistent as members and prospective members enjoy researching and discovering ancestors that served in the War of 1812," said Martha Locke, president of the local chapter. "Many of these ancestors served in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812."

Currently the local area chapter has several prospective memberships and transfers pending. All documentation for each person from the member to the ancestor has to be proven. Once this has been validated, it is easier for someone else from that lineage to prove and join. For more information, interested persons may contact Sue Crawford at (706) 278-6800.