

Bitter Root Chapter

The First One Hundred Years



Compiled and written by Andrea Phillip

Bitter Root Chapter MSSDAR

Missoula, Montana, 2019

Cover Photo by Linda Robinson

Bitter Root Chapter
Montana State Society
Daughters of the American Revolution

7-005-MT
Missoula, Montana

Organized May 17, 1919
Miss Finetta W. Ewing, Organizing Regent

Bitter Root Chapter: The First 100 Years

Compiled and written by Andrea Phillip from sources as listed, with first person interviews and accounts by Bitter Root Chapter Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Members: Andrea Phillip, Blanche Tate, Caroline Israel, Louanna Butler, Gloria Phillip, LeEtta Petersen, Kim Ashwell and Linda Robinson. Edited by Andrea Phillip and Gloria Phillip.

In 1911 and 1912, in Missoula, Mrs. Mabel K. Hall and Mrs. George P. Smith started a movement to form a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. By 1919, there were enough women who could prove descent from a war patriot of the American Revolution to start a chapter. Bitter Root Chapter was officially organized on May 17, 1919, and confirmed by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution on June 25, 1919.

The chapter signed an organization report prior to May 1919, dated April 19, 1919, but it was not accepted and was returned. One of the thirteen organizing members signing the report was a transfer member from another chapter who was not yet a true Bitter Root Chapter member. Her transfer had not yet been finalized before she signed the April 19, 1919 organization report. A second organization report was submitted and was officially accepted. This accepted organizational report was signed by twelve women on May 17, 1919. The twelve organizing members were: 1) Mrs. C.A. (Eva Coleman) Bolton, 2) Mrs. John (Eliza Schall) Buckhouse, 3) Miss Grace Buford, 4) Miss Finetta W. Ewing, 5) Mrs. W.P (Leonora Jenks) Forbes, 6) Mrs. A.J. (Lucinda Craig) Henry, 7) Mrs. John M. (Ethel Grey) Keith, 8) Mrs. David C. (Lenna Henry) Leaming, 9) Mrs. Fred R. (Dorothy Polleys) Mason, 10) Mrs. Ray H. (Francis Spalding) Nelson, 11) Mrs. John M. (Isophine DeMoss) Swango, and 12) Mrs. John A. (Grace Curtin) Urbanowicz. Two members, whose membership was confirmed on April 12, 1919, and are not listed on the May 17, 1919 organization report, are also organizing members. Their names are Miss Florence Irving, soon to be Mrs. R.A. Shannon, and Mrs. J.P. (Harriet Griffing) Irving; their membership was confirmed April 12, 1919. The chapter charter was held open for one year. Although Bitter Root Chapter never purchased the document, the following are also considered "Charter Members": Mrs. Lyman R. (Elizabeth Treleven) Barnett, Miss Harriet Bates, Mrs. John A. (Mildred Goodrich) Griswold, Mrs. George J. (Emma Ellis) Lennenstrend, Mrs. Theodore (Ruth Hunter) Lentz, Mrs. A.W. (Emily Reeves)

McKeown, Mrs. T.M. (Josephine DeMoss) Pierce, Mrs. Benjamin F. (Cynthia Crossman) Plummer, Mrs. Clarence (Mabel Brayton) Preston, Mrs. C.H. (Francis Bates) Putney, Mrs. T.V. (Tella Lennestrend) Rowe, Mrs. George P. (Helen Angell) Smith, Mrs. H. H. Parsons, Mrs. W.B. (Grace Stanton) Walker, Mrs. L.L. (Della Taylor) Wright, Miss Mable Fox, Miss Blanche Hyde, Miss Harriet Taylor and Miss Harriet Bates.

Bitter Root Chapter Organizing Regent was Miss Finetta W. Ewing. She was known for her efforts to start the chapter, then find and assist prospective members. She was Bitter Root Chapter Regent from 1919-1921. She was also a professional teacher. When she retired from teaching she moved to California. She passed away in 1936. Her sister was Mrs. A.J. (Lucinda Craig) Henry, another organizing member. Bitter Root Chapter's first elected officers were Miss Finetta W. Ewing, Regent; Mrs. R.A. (Florence Irving) Shannon, Vice Regent; Mrs. John Buckhouse, Secretary; Mrs. W.P. Forbes, Treasurer; Mrs. J.M. Swango, Registrar; and Mrs. R.H. Nelson, Historian.

The chapter selected the name Bitter Root for three reasons, according to the Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution State History, Volume 1. They are: 1) Every spring the Bitter Root Valley is covered with blossoms of the pink flower, 2) The Bitter Root Range of the Rocky Mountains stands as guardian to the west, while the Bitter Root River slips through enroute to the Pacific Ocean and 3) The bitterroot is the state flower. The state flower commonly known as the bitterroot was first described and recorded botanically by Captain Meriwether Lewis during the Lewis and Clark Expedition and its genus, *Lewisa Rediviva*, derives from Lewis's name. Bitterroot is now generally written as one word, but the chapter retains the original spelling of two words.

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 1919-1930

1919-1921 Miss Finetta W. Ewing, Organizing Regent

1921-1923 Mrs. L.R. (Elizabeth Treleven) Barnett, Charter Member

1923-1924 Mrs. J. M. (Harriet Griffing) Irving, Organizing Member

1924-1925 Mrs. J.M. (Ethel Grey) Keith, Organizing Member

1925-1927 Mrs. J.A. (Mildred Goodrich) Griswold, Charter Member

1927-1929 Mrs. Rutledge (Albertina "Tina" Brown) Parker

1929-1930 Mrs. John Ordenbrook

The 1920's minutes include descriptions of musical recitals, fun programs, tea party socials and beautiful table settings. After World War I had ended, the chapter adopted a French war orphan, with many gifts and letters exchanged. During those years, the chapter gave \$25.00 to a child feeding program, American Creeds were distributed to schools and support was given to veterans and the Angel-Ellis Fund. The Angel-Ellis Fund was to provide money and service for the adult female immigrants detained at either Ellis Island on the East Coast or Angel Island on the West Coast. It was understood by the members of the Daughters of the American Revolution that adult female immigrants had needs differing from those of adult male immigrants. It was further understood by the members that funding and services needed to be put in place to provide for those needs. DAR members pioneered a new way of thinking about and treating adult female

immigrants, which was later adopted by the U.S. Government. By 1925, the chapter had a resident membership of 41 members and 10 nonresident members. Mrs. J.M. (Ethel Grey) Keith was regent in 1925 when Bitter Root Chapter hosted its first state conference. In October 1925, a historical marker was placed by the members at Traveler's Rest in Lolo, Montana, commemorating Captains Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery. The marker has quite a story, and before reading it, there are a few things about the Gibsons to keep in mind. Mr. A.J. Gibson, architect, retired in 1909 to travel with his wife Maud in one of the first automobiles in Missoula. The Gibsons were the first Montanans to drive across both the Canadian and Mexican borders. They drove cross-country to both New York and Washington D.C. The story, to follow, is quoted from "Memorials and Memories", a program given on May 11, 1957, by Mrs. Rutledge (Albertina "Tina" Brown) Parker (Bitter Root Chapter Regent 1927-1929):

"Early in the 1920's the Anaconda Company presented the DAR chapters in Montana with twelve handsome copper plaques commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition into and through Montana in 1804-1805. Each plate weighed fifty-five pounds and all were beautifully executed in raised lettering upon the copper shield. Each carried the golden wheel, the symbol of our Society, and gave an accurate detailed description, based upon the writing of the explorers, of that particular spot along their course that the plate designated and commemorated.

Mrs. A.J. (Maud Lockley) Gibson was appointed chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Sites, and to her group went the responsibility of finding a suitable plot on which to place the marker the Company had presented Bitter Root Chapter, at its destination at Traveler's Rest on Lolo Creek, where the expedition had camped on its westward journey and again upon its return trip.

From the beginning bad luck dogged the undertaking. Aided by her husband, Mr. A.J. Gibson, Mrs. Gibson was successful in her search for a suitable stone on which to mount the marker, locating one of the right size and shape at Elk Park, that vast region south and east of Butte where Nature, in one of her more convulsive moments, had tossed, in tremendous heaps, millions and millions of stones in some gigantic, ancient upheaval.

The cost of getting the boulder selected to a loading platform was thirty dollars and the freight to Missoula forty dollars. The boulder was then transported to Lolo, and, being a heavy and cumbersome thing, the workmen had difficulty handling it, and in the unloading, the boulder was dropped. Evidently there was a flaw in its inner structure and, in landing, it split apart in such a manner as to preclude either piece being used for the purpose intended. Although the cost had been one hundred and twenty dollars to the moment, Bitter Root Chapter, upon recovering from the shock, whole-heartedly endorsed the finding of a second stone. The chapter's endorsement came for two reasons; that the arduous efforts of the Gibsons, so freely given, might not end in futility, and for the desire to make use of this most handsome and historic marker.

Another large piece of granite was found, and brought, successfully this time, to its resting place at the old intersection of the Lolo road with the main

thoroughfare running through the valley. The point finally chosen was not upon the actual camping site of Lewis and Clark, for that piece of land had long been in a farmer's field, and the farmer was adverse to having his land made accessible to the public, for fear of annoyance to his cattle. The confluence of the roads was then selected, being land over which the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition must have passed, as being a suitable and prominent display place." (Parker, Mrs. Rutledge (Albertina "Tina" Brown). Memorials and Memories Program, May 11, 1957, p. 3-4.)

On October 8th and 9th, 1925, Bitter Root Chapter hosted the first Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution State Conference in Missoula. On October 9, 1925, Bitter Root Chapter members had the dedication ceremony for the stone marker. Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Mrs. Verne D. (Mary Adella Kelly) Caldwell and National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Vice President General Anne Margaret Long were present. The marker was named "Traveler's Rest", the name the explorers Lewis and Clark gave a nearby creek. The plaque on the marker names every member of the expedition, including Sacajawea's baby Baptiste.

"Had the Bitter Root Chapter Committee for the Preservation of Historic Spots had the gift of prescience, it surely would have hesitated in selecting that particular triangle of ground, and of paying an additional one hundred and fifty dollars for the second stone and its placement, and twenty-six dollars and fifty cents for the permanent spot on which it rested, just for the privilege of bringing down on the committee's defenseless head a lot of unpleasantness, and very shabby treatment by the general public, of the gift the Anaconda Company had generously given to perpetuate the remarkable exploit of Captains Lewis and Clark.

At any rate, there was no cooperation shown forthcoming from the Lolo community. To the contrary, considerable resentment was manifested, unhappily leveled at the stone itself, for friction developed with the Lolo community over the matter. It may have been that the Lolo community disapproved the intrusion of another group placing the monument in Lolo. All the efforts made by the Bitter Root Chapter Committee for the Preservation of Historic Spots to placate the Lolo community were unavailed.

To add to troubled waters, the Missoula County Commissioners granted permission for the erection of a store building on the right of way of the Lolo road, at the spot already occupied by the stone marker, and sanctioned the removal of the stone marker to a place immediately adjacent to the building, so unreasonably close as to be almost against it in an effort to keep the monument out of the roadbed itself. Therefore, the stone became the deliberate repository of all the refuse and litter usually to be found outside the doors of a small country store.

The chapter complained to the Missoula County Commissioners, and the spot was kept cleaner for a temporary period, although nothing was done, as has been, in similar places, for other monuments, to beautify the spot, and make the

monument an attraction to the people passing or those living nearby. So, this very worthwhile project, undertaken by a small group of patriotic women at their own expense, in the high hope of preserving for all time the history of a noble accomplishment, even though it lay outside their own community, had the unhappiness of knowing their efforts were unappreciated and made futile, and the memorial itself desecrated.

Now that the Bitterroot Valley Road has been made Federal Highway #93, and the location of the intersection with the Lolo road has been placed farther south, and, in fact, nearer the camp site of Traveler's Rest than it formerly was, it was considered that we could consult the Highway Commission, now in charge, and persuade it to move the marker to the present intersection, which has a broad Y shaped entry quite suitable for the purpose. Our plea was that this point was a more proper setting, as it is the entrance to the Lolo canyon through which the expedition passed, and, further, the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Spots chose the confluence as being the most historic spot available. Also, being on the right-of-way, the monument would be protected from vandalism.

This venture into by-gone history left our treasury not only empty, but there was a deficit of one hundred and twenty dollars. Mrs. A.J. (Maud Lockley) Gibson and Mrs. J.M. (Ethel Grey) Keith each personally loaned the chapter sixty dollars to cover the indebtedness. To add to our financial embarrassment, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution at this time made a call upon us to help purchase the Montana Box within the new Constitution Hall, and also asked for a donation to the bells of Valley Forge. It was some time before we were able to repay our two civic-minded members for their aid.

This was probably the last important task Mrs. Gibson had in connection with the Chapter, for, in December, 1927, both she and Mr. A.J. Gibson were instantly killed when their automobile was struck by a train passing through Orchard Homes. The accident occurred on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1927, when a heavy snowstorm made visibility extremely poor. The Gibson car came to the Orchard Homes Crossing just as the train reached it, with disastrous consequences. The Missoulian newspaper reported at the time that the car windows were frosted and that Mr. Gibson was partially deaf, which may have prevented him from hearing the oncoming train. Upon entering the Gibson home that evening, friends of the family found it in its usual exquisite order with the kitchen table filled with gaily colored, frosted cupcakes and cookies to be used for the holidays.

Mrs. Gibson's dues, being still in the hands of our treasurer, were used with Chapter funds in a memorial to her. With the consent of the heirs, a rare and out-of-print dictionary in the Salish Indian language, fortunately for sale by its owner, was purchased. Her brother in Oregon, who had previously lived in Butte while editor of the Intermountain Mining News, sent us a book concerning the west, of which he was the author. Both books were placed in the Missoula Public Library as a memorial to Mrs. Gibson. Her antique candle molds were sent to Constitution Hall and Mrs. Keith later reported that she had seen them displayed in the museum there." (Parker, Mrs. Rutledge (Albertina "Tina" Brown). Memorials and Memories Program, May 11, 1957, p. 4-5.)

On February 22, 1928, U.S. Senator J.M. Dixon and Mrs. Dixon hosted the chapter, which had fifty members, at their home. At the March 22 -23, 1929 Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution State Conference in Anaconda, the chapters were instructed to change a component of the DAR Ritual. Mrs. Rutledge (Albertina "Tina" Brown) Parker wrote an interesting account of the instruction's affect. The following passage confirms that the Lord's Prayer was at one time part of the standard DAR Ritual. It features Bitter Root Chapter Organizing Member Mrs. W.P (Leonora Jenks) Forbes.

"An interesting incident occurred concerning Mrs. Forbes, one of our amusing members and pleasant hostesses. At the State Conference in Anaconda, the State Regent read a letter from the President General that stated that several of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution officers, when visiting the various chapters through the states, noticed that some in prayer said, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us", while others repeated, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors". She wished all chapters to note that the National Society preferred the wording, "Forgive us our debts, etc.". At our next chapter meeting, Mrs. Forbes's attention was called to this request, she being Chaplain and the chapter being in the habit of using the "Trespass" interpretation. Mrs. Forbes was reluctant to change, saying that her mother had taught her to say, "Forgive us our trespasses", that her church said it that way, and that she felt it was the proper way to say the prayer. There was a bit of conversation about it. Not that it mattered which way the prayer was said, since there were some among us who said it one way, and some who said it the other way. It was just the idea of the National Society telling us how to say our prayers.

At meetings immediately following a few forgetful members used the old order; others, remembering used the debt and debtor interpretation, while still others, stubborn souls, kept silent in protest. Above all others could be heard the clear voice of Mrs. Forbes intoning, "forgive us our DEBTS as we forgive our DEBTORS". As time went by, however, we were all again murmuring the old, familiar words.

At the year's end, when the officers were giving their reports, Mrs. Forbes was asked for hers. She arose. 'Madam Regent,' she stated, 'I have no report. I did have one assignment, that of changing the Lord's Prayer. Since I failed, thank goodness, in that attempt, I have nothing to tell you.' " (Parker, Mrs. Rutledge [Albertina "Tina" Brown]. Memorials and Memories Program, May 11, 1957, p. 6.)

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 1930-1941 and MSSDAR Regents 1931, 1940-1941
1930-1931 Mrs. M.B. Morrow
1931 Mrs. J.M. (Ethel Grey) Keith, MSSDAR Regent
1931-1933 Mrs. Frank Borg
1933-1935 Mrs. C.E. (Bleth "Polly" Wilson) Dobson
1935-1937 Mrs. Ray H. (Frances Spalding) Nelson, organizing member

1937-1939 Mrs. Clarence Smith

1940-1941 Mrs. C.E. (Bleth "Polly" Wilson) Dobson, MSSDAR Regent

1939-1941 Mrs. LeRoy McKenzie

By the 1930's, Bitter Root Chapter had 63 very active members involved in many local, Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution and National Society Daughters of the American Revolution projects. The Genealogical Records Committee was very busy with early Missoula marriages. In 1931, "Real Daughters", women whose father or mother rendered material aid to the cause of American independence, were in the news. The Missoula Sentinel, a newspaper later to become the Missoulian, published an article on October 27, 1931 about Real Daughter Mrs. Mary Priscilla Tillman, the daughter of Sergeant Flending Reynolds, who joined up to fight in the American Revolutionary War when he was 16. Mrs. Tillman was 93 at the time the article was published. In 1931, six other Real Daughters were still living. Montana's only Real Daughter has a DAR Real Daughter marker placed for her in Glendive. This Real Daughter was Mrs. Richard (Orpha Zilpha Parke) Bovee, daughter of Rueben Parke. She was born on May 11, 1811 in Greene County, New York. She died on January 16, 1913 in Glendive, Montana, at the age of 101 years, 8 months, and 2 days. She was buried in the Dawson County Cemetery in Glendive. The Yellowstone Monitor published an article about Orpha Parke Bovee on January 23, 1913. The headline was "Last 'Real Daughter' of the Revolution is gone". Margaret Drake DeGroot, Regent of Downer Grove Chapter, Downer Grove, Illinois, to which Mrs. (Orpha Zilpha Parke) Bovee had belonged, wrote that Orpha traced her ancestry to Thomas D. Parke, who was a companion of William the Conqueror during the Norman conquest of what would later become England. He was given title to land in northern England for his service. Orpha's great grandfather, Sir Robert Parke, through a royal land grant, came to settle his land in what would become Massachusetts. Orpha's father, Rueben Parke, fought in the Revolutionary War. Orpha told the Downer Grove chapter members that she remembered her uncle, Captain Almon Ford, and her grandfather, Smith Parke, talking of the Battle of Bunker Hill, a battle in which both had participated. Orpha Parke was married at the age of 22 to Richard Bovee, age 23, who was born on June 9, 1810. Orpha Bovee and her husband Richard had six children; five girls and one boy. They were Mary, Candace, Sarah, John, Eleanore, and Emma. Even though she was certainly busy at home, Orpha also taught school.

In 1931, Mrs. J.M. (Ethel Grey) Keith was our first Bitter Root Chapter member to become Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Regent! She was also a member of the Society of Colonial Dames. That year she headed up a group of Bitter Root chapter members in going to the state conference, over which she would preside, which was held in Lewistown, on March 26th and 27th. Mrs. Rutledge (Albertina "Tina" Brown) Parker, then MSSDAR Secretary, gave chapter members a program where she told of the trip.

"The (State) Conference that year was at Lewistown, and the spring being an early one in Missoula, the four of us who attended, Mrs. Keith, Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. Walford and I, donned our spring bonnets and new suits in honor of the

occasion. We reached our destination in one of those blizzards for which the plains of eastern Montana are noted, with snow-whipped winds so high we could scarcely walk the streets, and so cold we could not keep warm indoors.

The banquet was served in the hotel's large dining room, which had immense plate glass windows on the front and side, and guests sat at the tables in evening gowns and overcoats. However, nothing detracted from the enjoyment of the elaborate meal the hostess chapter served, nor from the gaiety of the program that followed. The likeness of the famous statue, Prairie Mother, which, placed upright on the plate when served, looked so gay and lifelike in her pink sunbonnet and voluminous skirts, the banqueters were hesitant to devour her, and confined themselves to nibbling at her gingham instead." (Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Centennial History, compiled by State Regent (1990-1992) Iris McKinney Gray, Vol. 5, 1894-1994, p. 23.)

In 1932 Mrs. J.M. Keith helped the members celebrate George Washington's 200th birthday at the chapter's February 22, 1932 Colonial Tea. The function was hosted by Mrs. W.W. Dixon and Mrs. Frank Borg, with Mrs. J.M. Keith and Mrs. H.H. Parsons presiding. The members were dressed in colonial dress. They sang patriotic songs and danced the minuet. Mrs. Helen Fleming, dressed as George Washington, and Miss Marjorie Crawford, dressed as Martha Washington, led the dancing. In 1933, happenings at a national level included outgoing U.S. Vice President Charles Curtis addressing the Daughters of the American Revolution, to urge the deportation of aliens attempting to overthrow the government.

In 1935, former chapter regent (1921-1923) Mrs. Lyman R. (Elizabeth Treleven) Barnett presented a gift from her daughter, Miss Grace Barnett, to the chapter. The gift was a cover plate for the yearbooks. Miss Grace Barnett originated and sketched the plate's design. It was later described in an article in the January 1936 DAR Magazine as the state flower, the bitterroot, in the foreground, with the Bitterroot Mountains in the background. The article further states that, "Both the flower and the mountains are linked in early Montana history, and therefore are dear to the hearts of chapter members". During the Great Depression of the 1930's, members were busily concerned with the gathering of clothing and its distribution to where it was needed most. In 1938 the chapter donated a facsimile of the Shrine of the United States Constitution to Missoula County High School. For years we gave a \$10.00 gold piece to our chapter's Outstanding History Student of the year. The first recipient of the award was a high school student who was outstanding in the study of American History. The student, K. Ross Toole, won for his pioneer story, "The Baron's Cravat". He went on to become a well known and beloved Missoula University of Montana professor and author. At the state level, boxes and dollars were given by the chapter to the orphan's home in Twin Bridges and the Florence Crittendon Home in Helena. Donations also went to the veterans at Fort Harrison in Helena and the State Indexing Fund. On a national level, the chapter donated several books to the NSDAR Library, Constitution Hall, and all three DAR Schools. Bitter Root Chapter also was responsible for changing the name of "Gibbons Pass" to "Lost Trail Pass".

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 1941-1951

1941-1943 Mrs. N. Dixon

1943-1945 Mrs. W.W. White

1945-1947 Mrs. Robert Kitt

1947-1949 Mrs. E.L. Spottswood

1949-1951 Mrs. C.W. Frederickson

In the 1940's, Bitter Root Chapter held fundraisers and bought war bonds, actively supporting our country and troops during World War II. Fundraising efforts for the chapter included a "DAR Cookbook", to be sold in 1941, which listed husbands' favorite recipes. It was dedicated to "To Man". In 1940, Mrs. C.E. (Bleth "Polly" Wilson) Dobson was our second Bitter Root Chapter member to become Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Regent. She served in that capacity one year.

Bitter Root Chapter formed its "Junior Member Chapter" in 1940, for members aged 18 to 35 years. The "Junior Member Chapter" began with nine members, quickly to grow to twelve members, including Virginia Caroline Reilly, an active go-getter, who by 1940 at the age of 34 had done more than many do in a lifetime. She earned a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1929, studied acting in Pasadena, California and performed in its community theater, danced and acted in various stage productions in New York, co-starred with Jackie Cougan in a road production of the play "What a Life", worked in Chicago as a radio continuity editor for the National Safety Council and as a writer for the station WBEZ, taught in the Chicago public schools, and directed the Tournament of Roses Festival in 1932. In 1946 she would become the wife of Judge Emmet Glore, who was the first Montana attorney to be appointed as a full-time aide to the Montana Supreme Court. Mrs. Glore went on to work in education in Missoula, teaching Latin at Hellgate High School, until she retired in 1972. Her family wrote the following limerick about her.

"Virginia Reilly is graceful and tall,
She can cartwheel with never a fall.
In a costume gay
On our circus day
She performed to the joy of us all."

A fun, motivational, intelligent, and independent woman, she was passionate about DAR. In 1940, Virginia helped to head up the Bitter Root Junior Member Chapter. She worked tirelessly on the Genealogical Records Committee to find new members. By 1943, Bitter Root Chapter was the largest DAR chapter in the state of Montana. The chapter had grown to 100 members, with 21 in the Junior Chapter. The Bitter Root Junior Chapter had the distinction of purchasing the first "Berman Metal Detector", at a cost of \$350, to be placed by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army to where it was most needed. This was the first of ten such detectors to be given nationally by our junior members. During the war years, hundreds of hours were donated by chapter members to the Red Cross and the Veteran's Hospital. All of the Bitter Root Chapter members

contributed to the Blood Plasma Fund and 90% of the members individually bought U.S. war bonds, in addition to seven U.S. war bonds bought by Bitter Root Chapter. Many hours were devoted to making and filling "Buddy Bags" for the troops going through Missoula on trains. In 1943, garments were donated by the members for a "Victory Exchange," with Miss Sarah J. White in charge. Mrs. H.W. (Juliet Minson) Gregory, Sr. worked many hours as a volunteer during both World War I and World War II, including as a U.S.O. (United Service Organizations) hostess during World War II. She became one of the forty-four United States women appointed by President Eisenhower to the National Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service.

In 1947, Mrs. H.W. (Juliet Minson) Gregory, Sr. ran for Missoula Mayor on the republican ticket. Mrs. Gregory campaigned under the slogan "Choose Between a Full-time and Half-time Mayor!". She stated, "I am running for Mayor of Missoula on a firm, fearless platform with a plan." Mrs. Gregory won the election against the democratic nominee Edward Dussault on April 7, 1947 by 30 votes; 2520 to 2490. As Missoula's first, and to date only, woman mayor, she served a single two-year term, 1947-1949. She was Woman of the Year in Politics for 1948. One of the first items on her agenda was the controversial action to install parking meters in Missoula's downtown. Two downtown business men filed suit against the city and Mayor Gregory. District Court ruled against the city and it appealed. Eventually, the case was heard by the Montana Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the city and Mayor Gregory. In March of 1948 the Montana Supreme Court decision stated, "There are many cases sustaining the validity of the use of parking meters as an aid in regulating motor vehicle traffic, which has become so serious a problem in the cities of the country". Mrs. Gregory, as Mayor of Missoula, worked to provide funding for police and fire department budgets, and to pave Higgins Avenue. She also helped pave the way for women to become more involved in local politics. In the 1950's Mrs. Gregory, who earned a B.A. in sociology and anthropology in 1955, taught second grade at Lowell School in Missoula until she retired in 1962. From 1956-1957 Mrs. Gregory served as the Bitter Root Chapter Regent. She was very active in many clubs and organizations, some political. However, she never failed to remind the membership during meetings, as the need arose, that DAR protocol was to keep one's personal politics out of chapter discussions.

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 1951-1961

1951-1953 Mrs. Clarence Shively

1953-1955 Mrs. R.E. Lemire, Sr.

1955-1956 Mrs. R.H. Mertz

1956-1957 Mrs. H.W. (Juliet Minson) Gregory, Sr.

1957-1959 Mrs. David Jackson

1959-1961 Miss Katherine Craighead

In 1951-1953 Mrs. Clarence (Janet Hobb) Shively was Bitter Root Chapter Regent. As Bitter Root Chapter Regent, she led the chapter in participating in the first Citizenship Day on September 17, 1952. During 1952-1953 the chapter by-laws were revised. Bitter Root Chapter's DAR School Committee was busy as usual in sending supplies to schools. On October 25, 1953 members packed four boxes for the Daughters of the American

Revolution “Approved Schools”. Mrs. Emmet (Virginia Caroline Reilly) Glore wrote a skit depicting the conditions of Crossnore School. Mrs. Lee (Lucille Stewart) Bass joined Mrs. Glore and other members in presenting the skit to the chapter on November 21, 1954 at the home of Mrs. C.H. Frederickson, with Mrs. John Hightower acting as hostess. The skit was introduced and presented to the acclaim of the members. Afterwards, boxes of clothes and school supplies were packed up and sent to Crossnore School. The members were to continue providing supplies to schools throughout the 1950’s.

By 1957, Bitter Root Chapter membership was over 80 members and 218 women had been members since 1919 at one time or another. One of Bitter Root Chapter’s very active members was honored in 1957. Known as Miss Florence Irving in 1919, she was an organizing member. She married shortly thereafter and became Mrs. R.A. (Florence Irving) Shannon. The honoring for her in 1957 was for her many active years in the chapter, for which she “participated in no small measure in its young life, helped it grow to its present maturity and stature, and earned in its services the respect and admiration of its membership”. (Parker, Mrs. Albertina “Tina” Brown Rutledge. “Memorials and Memories”, Program, May 11, 1957). Other members mentioned with Mrs. Shannon were Mrs. Warren Wilcox, Mrs. E.E. Hershey and Mrs. C.R. Prescott. Mrs. R.A. (Florence Irving) Shannon is listed as Bitter Root Chapter Vice Regent under Regent Miss Finetta Ewing for 1919. Mrs. Shannon did not follow Miss Ewing to become a regent until later in 1961-1963. She was noted for her many terms as secretary for the chapter, particularly in the 1920’s. Mrs. Shannon, Bitter Root Chapter’s last living organizing member, passed away on March 25, 1985. Bitter Root Chapter members went as a group to her funeral, where Mrs. Milton “Mitch” (Ruth Wigfield) Phillip shared the DAR membership history of Mrs. Shannon, including her many years of DAR service on the chapter’s behalf.

From 1959 to 1961 Miss Katherine Wheeler Craighead was the Bitter Root Chapter Regent. She was a history teacher at Hellgate High School and the secretary for the Delta Gamma Missoula Alumnae Chapter in Missoula at that time. Her father, Dr. Edwin B. Craighead, was President of Tulane University in 1904, then President of the University of Montana in 1912. Craighead Hall is named after him. Miss Craighead would hold chapter meetings in the Craighead family home at 605 South 2nd Street West, Missoula. The house is now listed in the McCormick Neighborhood Historic District and on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of the houses on that street designated in the register as the “Three Sisters”. Miss Craighead would serve refreshments in the beautifully furnished library, which was full of excellent books on shelves which ran from floor to ceiling around the room. We so admired her broad knowledge which stemmed from her voracious reading. Miss Craighead was a very well-informed, reflective woman with firm convictions about the rights of the individual within a democracy or a republic. Although by nature a quiet person, at a meeting she could and would gamely debate an issue in her calm, steady voice with Mrs. H.W. (Juliet Minson) Gregory and/or Mrs. Emmet (Virginia Caroline Reilly) Glore. This would follow meeting protocol, of course, and usually ended having taught us all something new. She

stressed the members' need for interesting, accurately informative programs at chapter meetings.

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 1961-1971

1961-1963 Mrs. R.A. (Florence Irving) Shannon, Organizing Member

1963-1965 Miss Beatrice Willsey

1965-1967 Mrs. R.H. Mertz

1967-1969 Mrs. C.W. (Mary Rodes) Leapheart

1969-1971 Mrs. Helen Tyler Johnson

In the 1960's Bitter Root Chapter was busy working to assist local schools with obtaining additional teaching materials and books, and promoting conservation and anti-litter programs. Chapter fundraisers, such as white elephant auctions, Christmas cookie sales and bake sales provided funding for paper, disposable fountain pens, carbon copy paper, ditto machine supplies, and binders. Clay was dug from the East Missoula clay pits and delivered in four pound bags to ten Missoula School District #1 grade schools. With the Bitter Root Chapter Conservation Committee's encouragement, members planted a tree each year from 1963-1969, and donated small trees, shrubs and plants to area schools.

From 1967-1969, Mrs. C.W. (Mary Rodes) Leapheart was the Bitter Root Chapter Regent. Beautiful, independent, self-assured and stately, Mrs. Leapheart was also a very kind, courteous and soft spoken woman to whom hospitality was second nature. Raised in Kentucky in the late 1800's to be a "southern belle", she married C.W. Leapheart and they lived briefly in Missoula. They left Missoula to be homesteaders for four years on a thousand acres outside Arvada, Wyoming, taking along their first child Mary. There they lived in a one-room cabin with a screened in porch. Finally, they returned to Missoula. They lived north up Rattlesnake Creek outside of Missoula on ten acres they called Mount Jumbo Fruit Farm, growing and harvesting fruit from apple, cherry, pear and plum trees. C.W. Leapheart became the dean of the University of Montana Law School, a position he kept for forty years, and Mary gave birth to twins Bill and Betty.

Regent Mary Leapheart revived the Good Citizen Teas she remembered fondly from years past. Before hosting the tea, the chapter Good Citizen Committee, and other members as needed, would work with the high schools in the chapter's "area", then travel to each high school and personally award the school's Good Citizen. Sometimes this might be done at a formal evening award ceremony or it might be done during the day at a school assembly. The chapter's Good Citizen "area" included Missoula and the high schools out of the five valleys leaving Missoula in each direction. Trips were made to Frenchtown, Alberton, St. Regis, Seeley Lake, Drummond, Arlee, Ronan, Polson, Florence, Stevensville, Corvallis, Hamilton, Darby and three high schools in Missoula; Hellgate, Sentinel, and Loyola-Sacred Heart. After all the school Good Citizen Awards were given to the students, Bitter Root Chapter hosted a Good Citizen Tea at a later date, inviting all the school Good Citizen Award winners and their parents to an early (noon) high tea, served at a member's home. At this event the Bitter Root Chapter Good Citizen winner was announced and awarded. Members hosted the event attired in formals, hats and gloves, and visited with the students and their families. Tea with lemon or milk,

coffee with sugar and cream, scrumptious mini delights, fancy cookies, tiny tea sandwiches and homemade cream mints were served. Sometimes a fancy hors d'oeuvre would be added to the menu, but not too often. These formal Good Citizen Teas were very popular, and done in this fashion through the 1970's. In 1970, after hearing a program on conservation given by guest speaker Lillian Hornick, who worked for the forest service, chapter members helped pick up litter on Earth Day, April 22nd. The chapter sponsored students from Lewis and Clark Grade School and Sentinel High School to attend a student conservation convention in Helena.

Mrs. Bruce H. (Helen Tyler) Johnson was Bitter Root Chapter Regent from 1969-1971. Her mother, Mrs. (Beatrice "Bea" Carter) Tyler was at her side at the meetings. In addition to having an ancestor who fought in the American Revolution, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Tyler were descendants of the prominent kama'aina Lane Hawaiian family, which began with the marriage of an Irish sea captain with the name of Lane and a member of the royal Hawaiian family. Ancestors in the Lane line were double revolutionists, as they smuggled in arms for the failed Hawaiian Revolution (against the United States). Helen Tyler grew up in Honolulu and married Bruce Johnson in 1943 in San Diego, while he was in the Army Air Corps during World War II. The family moved to Missoula in 1943, where Helen became active in DAR with Bitter Root Chapter. She worked for Mountain Bell and was the first woman to enter into their men's career system, working through their apprentice, journeyman, and master programs. She, like Mrs. H.W. (Juliet) Gregory before her, wasn't afraid to try new things. She wasn't going to let being a woman keep her from the work she wanted to do. She retired in 1982, then joined the Peace Corps and served with them from 1985-1989. While in the Peace Corps in North Yemen, she took refuge in the American Embassy, as Muammar al-Qaddafi was hiding near by. U.S. warplanes had bombed Qaddafi's residence in Tripoli, Libya, in a failed attempt to kill Qaddafi. Vice President George Bush's wife Barbara Bush kindly called each of Helen's children to tell them that their mother was safe.

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 1971-1981

1971-1973 Mrs. Milton "Mitch" (Ruth Wigfield) Phillip

1973-1975 Mrs. Raymond (Alda Jaime May Bailey) Spaulding

1975-1977 Mrs. Earl McConnell

1977-1979 Mrs. Emmet (Virginia Reilly) Glore

1979-1981 Mrs. George (Barbara Bass) Chilcott

In the 1970's the practice of chapter members dressing up branched out from the formals of the Good Citizen Tea. Chapters hosted meetings at least once a year where members came dressed up as an ancestor or favorite historical figure, then acted as that person for the program part of the meeting, answering member questions "in character", or else gave a brief 3-5 minute presentation on the person they were representing. These were very fun and enjoyable programs for all present.

In 1971 Mrs. Milton "Mitch" (Ruth Wigfield) Phillip became Bitter Root Chapter Regent and served in this office until 1973. When asked by her daughter Andrea Phillip how she became active within the chapter, Mrs. Phillip replied, "Mrs. Johnson was the chapter

treasurer and was looking for someone to take over the office. Nobody spoke up wanting to do it, so I said I would do it and I've been busy ever since." Mrs. Phillip, a professional genealogist, published articles on her family lines and submitted them to the DAR National Library and the New York Public Library. Mrs. Phillip enjoyed holidays and encouraged members to dress in costume or masks for the October meeting. She led members in singing carols and directed members in playing holiday songs with bells. Mrs. Phillip also enjoyed working on chapter fundraisers. Each December she loved being the auctioneer at the chapter's silent auction. Many a member left with something they may or may not have intended to buy, but did, being caught up in the moment and the fun. Mrs. Phillip organized and hosted Bridge Marathons in her home as chapter fundraisers several times.

Mrs. Phillip loved to have company and often hosted meetings in her home. Those who hosted home meetings usually had "kitchen stories" to share with the members of what had transpired in the kitchen before and after the dessert was served, usually involving family members or pets. One such story follows. It involves the meeting protocol in use at the time which expected that members did not take seconds of a served dessert nor enter the kitchen of a meeting home unless they were hostesses. Snack trays were set up in the kitchen and served to the members in the living and dining rooms. When Mrs. Phillip was hostess at her home for a chapter meeting she liked to serve cream puffs, her husband's favorite. During one meeting, Mr. Milton "Mitch" Phillip was unseen in the kitchen, polishing off a cream puff, when who but indomitable Mrs. H.W. (Juliet) Gregory, Sr. walked into the kitchen. She was surprised to see him and he was surprised to see her. Caught in act, he asked if he could be of help, and she said she was wondering if she just might have another cream puff. Mitch was happy to hear this. He said that she sure could have another one, and he would have another one with her. This tickled Mrs. Gregory, as, she said, she had never heard of anybody having seconds at a meeting. So they both enjoyed their second cream puffs in the kitchen and nobody was the wiser until Mitch shared the story with the family at dinner.

Mrs. Phillip loved to have fun and wanted everybody included to enjoy themselves too. While attending a State Conference in 1974, she noticed that, on one day of the conference, the regents had a scheduled breakfast to attend while the rest of the attendees were left on their own. She began getting these ladies together with her for breakfast, to visit and have fun. Ruth had a theory formed from her genealogical research that she liked to share. Her theory was that most people with ancestors who migrated to America during colonial times very likely had at least one American Indian ancestor. Thus the name "Indian Breakfast" was born and stuck for this breakfast group at MSSDAR State Conference. Mrs. Phillip was very proud of all her ancestors, but particularly favored those of American Indian and/or Scottish descent. She enjoyed being the Montana State Society American Indian Chairman perhaps more than any other DAR office she held. It was a goal of hers to find a different ancestor for each of her four children to use to join either DAR or SAR. She made that goal eventually. While she and her daughter Andrea both joined DAR on the same ancestor, her other two daughters, Rochelle and Gloria, and her son Douglas each went into DAR or SAR on their own different ancestor. She loved

to meet and help members and prospective members with their search for ancestors and the stories that went with them.

In 1977-1979 Mrs. Emmet (Virginia Caroline Reilly) Glore, an active member for many years, finally graciously consented to be Bitter Root Chapter Regent, after declining to be nominated for the position for many years. She tackled her regency with her usual zest. Several interesting historical programs were given. Mrs. H.W. (Juliet) Gregory, Sr. spoke of her memories of being Missoula City Mayor and her place as a woman in politics. Mrs. Earl McConnell spoke of her years of being a teacher in Missoula County. She told of the changes she had seen in local schools and how school districts had been redrawn over the past forty years. She informed the chapter of how the neighborhood grade schools, which had students attending from first through eighth grade, were to be changed according to a new "middle school" concept. Mrs. Milton (Ruth Wigfield) Phillip gave a presentation on "Researching Your Indian Roots", based on her own personal research journey.

It was the custom of the chapter to hold a fall meeting every year in the bitterroot valley. The chapter met in Stevensville at the Bass Mansion. Mrs. George (Barbara Bass) Chilcott told the members the story of how her grandfather Dudley Bass came to the bitterroot valley in 1864 with his brother William. The Bass Brothers started the Pine Grove Fruit Farm with 320 acres and later expanded their land to 1000 acres. They began shipping produce to New York and Canada. The brothers built a sawmill and a grist mill. They also raised hay, grain and unique livestock, such as Durham cattle and Norman-Percheron horses. Bass Peak, Bass Canyon, Bass Creek, and Bass Crossing are all named for the Bass Brothers. The brothers married sisters Etta and Virginia Emmett from Vermont, with Dudley marrying Etta. Virginia Emmett Bass was known as the first white woman to see the bitterroot valley. Mrs. Chilcott's mother, and long-time chapter member, Mrs. Lee (Lucille Stewart) Bass, added information on the Bass Mansion, designed by architect A.J. Gibson in 1910. The Bass Mansion is listed on the National Registrar of Historic Places. Members were told anecdotes and history about the mansion and invited to take a tour given by Mrs. Chilcott. Although the mansion had been sold in 1959, the Bass family was allowed access by the new owners. Mrs. Chilcott and Mrs. Bass concluded the program by showing the membership their collection of antique family dresses. Mrs. Chilcott had worn her grandmother's, Mrs. Helen (Hall) Stewart's, wedding gown for her own wedding to George Chilcott in 1947. The wedding was held in the Bass Mansion. Mrs. Bass spoke of the importance of animals in the family's history. She said that her horse, Topsy, had changed her life, and without Topsy, she might have never become Mrs. Bass. The Stewart family had bought Topsy from the Bass Ranch for Lucille. One day Lucille Stewart and Lee Bass were riding their horses, quite distant yet still within sight of each other. Topsy became headstrong on Lucille and trotted over to see her old stable mate. While Topsy visited her old friend, Lucille and Lee became better acquainted and that was that.

In 1979-1981 Mrs. George (Barbara Bass) Chilcott was Bitter Root Chapter Regent. She held several meetings at her house in Stevensville on Barbara Lane. Members were greeted by a huge pet sheep tending the lawn. Regent Chilcott was very loving and

compassionate towards children. Chapter programs featured national and international events. The chapter raised funds to add to the Good Citizen Award Scholarship and provide supplies for local schools. Regent Chilcott loved to play bridge and another Bridge Marathon fundraiser was held, which Mrs. Milton (Ruth Wigfield) Phillip organized. Regent Chilcott and her husband had four sons, 14 grandchildren and 15 foster children. The couple started the Chilcott Memorial Scholarship Fund in Stevensville at the Rocky Mountain Bank to assist young people.

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 1981-1990

1981-1983 Mrs. Lloyd (Helen) Eikert

1983-1985 Ms. Andrea Phillip (Mrs. Douglas Frandsen)

1985-1987 Mrs. Anthony (Myrna Sparkman) Terzo

1987- 1990 Mrs. Thomas A. (Louanna) Butler

In the 1980's we became liberated from a prior meeting protocol! It was the non-official, yet expected and upheld, "wear-a-dress-to-the-meeting" dress code. While many members continued to attend meetings in dresses, it was no longer a requirement. We started wearing "nice pant suits" and similar pant attire to meetings to which we always wore "Sunday best" dresses before. Meeting protocol continued to change. We allowed ourselves to cross our legs, not just at the ankles, and to sit back in chairs as opposed to sitting erectly forward with one's back not touching the chair's back. The formals slowly disappeared, except for at State Conventions, and some special chapter events, such as awarding the ROTC Medal at the University of Montana, which at the time was an awards ceremony/formal ball combination. High tea went the way of the lost. Good Citizens were awarded at the Missoula Public Library at the Good Citizen Award Tea; tea, coffee, punch and cake being served. However, we still dressed up in costume or special clothes for fun! Regent Helen Eickert hosted an event to honor members Mrs. Emmet (Virginia Caroline Reilly) Glore, Mrs. R.A. (Florence Irving) Shannon, organizing member, and Mrs. Ruth Laing with 50 year membership certificates. Members came to the event wearing special hats, of which each wearer told their hat's unique story. Afterwards, all member hats were doffed simultaneously, with a curtsy, in honor of these three outstanding members.

In 1983-1985 Ms. Andrea Phillip (Mrs. Douglas Frandsen) served as Bitter Root Chapter Regent. Ms. Phillip attended Bitter Root Chapter meetings often prior to obtaining her DAR membership on December 6, 1974. Her mother, Mrs. Milton (Ruth Wigfield) Phillip promptly helped her become an active member of Bitter Root Chapter. In the seventies, Ms. Phillip noticed that, besides her, Mrs. Bruce (Helen Tyler) Johnson and her mother were the youngest members present at meetings. This was a concern. After Mrs. Anthony (Myrna Sparkman) Terzo joined Bitter Root Chapter, she and Andrea made a count of only two junior members for the chapter. Myrna and Andrea brought their little ones to meetings, learned about DAR protocol, and took committees and offices as asked. During her regency, Ms. Phillip was still a junior member. It was a daunting task to learn to apply Robert's Rules of Order, which were strictly to be held during meetings, with so many outstanding, well known, and formidable chapter members, while attempting to follow member protocol. With the chapter's consent, Regent Andrea Phillip set a chapter

goal to foster a growing chapter membership. Fortunately, the chapter had a fantastic foursome of energetic genealogist members willing to go above and beyond to help others join the Daughters of the American Revolution, Bitter Root Chapter in particular. They were: Mrs. Dennis (Blanche Harper) Tate, Mrs. Larry (Caroline "Carol" Church) Israel, Mrs. Emmet (Virginia Reilly) Glore, and her mother, Mrs. Milton "Mitch" (Ruth Wigfield) Phillip. This group worked closely and often, for many meetings and hours, to meet this goal. With these wonderful women working the membership committee, the chapter membership grew amazingly! Mrs. Tate was the "runner" to get needed signatures, driving often to obtain them personally. Regent Andrea Phillip continued a custom from prior years and made Regent's Calls with her mother. They visited both prospective members and chapter members in their homes or had them over to theirs to become more acquainted.

The chapter celebrated its 65th birthday in 1984 with a lovely birthday cake presented by Mrs. Dennis (Blanche) Tate and Mrs. Larry (Carol) Israel with several new members and prospective members attending. The chapter meetings were quite lively. After the President General's Message or a National Defender article was read, it was up for discussion, and discussed it certainly was, to the interest and edification of all present. In 1984, the Bitter Root Chapter Good Citizen Award winner, Tracy Morin of Arlee, was awarded Montana State Good Citizen at State Conference. This broke a long wait for a state Good Citizen winner from Bitter Root Chapter. The last winner before Tracy Morin was Sue Kathleen Higham from Missoula, winner of the Montana State Good Citizen Award in 1966. The chapter also had a record number of schools contacted in the Five Valleys area for the American History Month Essay Contest. Meanwhile, things didn't always go according to program for Regent Andrea Phillip. At the Saturday, April 25th, 1984 meeting, Mrs. Milton (Ruth) Phillip announced that her daughter was unable to be present and run the meeting due to "the conflict of giving birth". Regent Andrea Phillip to date is the only Bitter Root Chapter regent who was unable to preside over a meeting due to such a conflict.

In 1985, another bridge marathon financed a 100% contribution for Liberty Love. Chapter members Mrs. Blanche Tate and Mrs. Carol Israel were working at the time to preserve records on Missoula and area marriages, and bible records. They also found, after a long Missoula County Courthouse hunt, the previous marriage records work done by the 1930's Genealogical Records Committee of Bitter Root Chapter. They restored and expanded the information of these records. Mrs. Tate and Mrs. Israel were honored by the Missoula Public Library as outstanding volunteers for their hours of devotion and work. Mrs. Tate and Mrs. Israel were honored similarly by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution as well. Their genealogical research and writings found a home in our NSDAR Library in Washington D.C. as two donated bound volumes.

Mrs. Anthony (Myrna Sparkman) Terzo was Bitter Root Chapter Regent from 1985-1987. Her sister, Mrs. Charles (Mary Sparkman) Chesbro, joined the chapter. It was a wonderful time of fun meetings with the membership focusing on sponsoring school activities such as the History Essay Contest, sent out as broadly as the Good Citizen

Contest still was. The American History Committee mailed information on the contest to the grade schools and middle schools found in Frenchtown, Alberton, St. Regis, Seeley Lake, Drummond, Arlee, Ronan, Polson, Florence, Stevensville, Corvallis, Hamilton, Darby, Missoula School District #1 and St. Joseph's Elementary School. At the Good Citizen Award Tea, Good Citizen contest winners were awarded. Two Outstanding American History Teachers and the 1986 Montana State Good Citizen, Timothy J. Campbell of Missoula, were also awarded. Mrs. H.W. (Juliet Minson) Gregory was awarded a Community Service Medal by the mayor of Missoula for her many years of community service. The members provided refreshments after the awards were given.

Mrs. Thomas A. (Louanna) Butler served as chapter regent from 1987-1990, being the first member to serve as regent for three consecutive years. She had been a Chapter Regent from 1978-1980 for the Colonel John Mitchell Chapter in Anchorage, Alaska. She was and still is well known during election time as the best longtime election official in Missoula. Mrs. Butler's three year regency was very busy for her, as not only did she co-chair and serve as chapter host for the 85th State Conference in 1988, Montana was getting ready for State Centennial celebrations, and our chapter was participating. Together, with the local Sons and Daughters of the American Pioneers, Bitter Root Chapter made a Centennial Float for the Missoula Centennial Parade. The chapter was very fortunate to have chapter members' husbands willing to help. These men were Mr. Dennis Tate, Mr. Thomas Butler, Mr. John Robinson, and others. These men worked many hours on the float with member direction and assistance. State Regent (1988-1990) Shirley Hand Groff's "Regent's Summary" says the following on the float:

"She spent her first year making her official visits to the state's chapters and planning a Montana Centennial Float as her regent's project. This float was a cooperative effort with the Montana Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers and Mrs. Groff, who drove the vehicle pulling the float, entered it in the summer of 1989 in the patriotic and Montana Centennial parades in Butte, Missoula, Great Falls, Helena, Bozeman, Kalispell, and Dillon. The float, which was designed by Bitter Root Daughter Mrs. Charles Chesbro, won third place in Missoula, second place in Helena and Dillon, and the sweepstakes competition in Kalispell. Mrs. Groff personally publicized the events with letters to the local newspapers, and she received three nights of news coverage on the Helena television channel."
(Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Centennial History, compiled by State Regent (1990-1992) Iris McKinney Gray, Volume 5, 1894-1994, page 27.)

Mrs. Charles (Mary Sparkman) Chesbro, with Mr. Chesbro's help, was able to secure the local Boy Scouts of America to march in front of the float with a flag during the Missoula Montana State Centennial Parade. Mrs. H.W. (Juliet Minson) Gregory said at the time, "It is the men behind the women supporting our work who deserve our praise and gratitude". We are most thankful to those family members who supported our projects in the past and continue to do so today, much of which support goes on unseen. The chapter dedicated four American flags and two Montana flags to the State Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Rose Park, Missoula, on Veteran's Day in 1989.

The late 1980's into the 1990's was a time of chapter financial shortage. It became also the time of envelope cancellation fundraisers. Chapter member Mrs. Charles (Mary Sparkman) Chesbro was the Lolo postmaster, a job she performed for 21 years. Mrs. Chesbro was therefore in a knowledgeable position to save the chapter financially through envelope cancellation fund raising efforts, a very effective way to raise money. She would come up with a cancellation plan, get it approved by the United State Postal Service, carry it out from start to finish, and we chapter members would then sell those subsequent special envelope cancellations. In 1987 she started an envelope cancellation project for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The September 17, 1987 cancellation of the envelope was "Montana Society DAR 85th Annual State Conference Salutes the U.S. Constitution". These were sold by members locally and at the Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution conference. They were also sold at local post offices. In 1989 she started another special envelope cancellation project for our Montana State Centennial Celebration in 1989 to raise chapter funds. This cancellation featured Missoula and nearby cities, as well as St. Mary's Mission. The cancellation was pictorial and designed by Doug Robinson, a local artist. The project was a wonderful idea, as it enabled Montana communities and places to further participate in the Montana Centennial, yet would provide funds for the chapter. There were also to be at least ten different stamps, each designed by students in a contest. Those having the best historical design, for a given Montana site or city, or portraying the bitterroot flower, would win. Their stamp design would be made and they would receive a full set of ten envelopes, each with a different stamp designed by the contest winners. The winning students would then be in competition against each other for the best design of all the stamps. The different sites/cities students could choose for their stamp design were Missoula, Lolo, Florence, Stevensville, Victor, St. Mary's Mission, Corvallis, Hamilton and Darby. They could also choose to design a bitterroot stamp to represent our Bitter Root Chapter. The finished student designed stamps entered in the contest were all in different colors and were very historically representative. The student winning as the best design of all the stamps was Jeremy Presta. He was awarded a \$100 savings bond, donated jointly by Bitter Root Chapter and the U.S. Postal Service. Participating libraries received a set of the stamps, a Montana flag, and a United States flag. Participating schools received a 4 inch by 6 inch Montana Centennial Flag and stand. The envelopes were cancelled on November 8, 1989. Chapter members dressed up in 1889 dress and took a post office or public building in each town and sold the envelopes.

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 1990-2000 and MSSDAR Regent 1992-1994

1990-1992 Mrs. John (Marjorie Shuyler) Robinson

1992-1994 Mrs. Thomas A. (Louanna) Butler, MSSDAR Regent

1992-1994 Mrs. Charles (Mary Sparkman) Chesbro

1994-1996 Mrs. Grant (Norma) Baker

1996-1998 Mrs. Vernon (Kansie) Starcher

1998-2000 Ms. Andrea Phillip (Mrs. Douglas Frandsen)

In 1990, Ms. Andrea Phillip (Mrs. Douglas Frandsen) became both the 1990 MSSDAR Outstanding Junior and the 1990 Northwestern Division Winner, to her surprise. She

received a phone call informing her of the award while at work as the School Librarian at Washington Middle School. After the call, her students reprimanded her for getting so excited in the library.

From 1990-1992 Mrs. John (Marjorie “Marge” Shuyler) Robinson was Bitter Root Chapter Regent. She was the Bitter Root member who gave a facelift to our ceremonies celebrating new U.S. citizens. Twice a year, Bitter Root Chapter hosted the Bitter Root Chapter Naturalization Ceremony for new citizens, held at Federal Court, Missoula. Regent Robinson organized bakers, sandwich and coffee makers to put together a treat for after the ceremony. The members set up and cleaned up. Before the ceremony, members welcomed and visited with the potential new citizens. During the ceremony, members gave flags and congratulations to the new citizens, who had studied with citizenship materials the chapter had provided. After the ceremony, members served and visited with the new citizens. Mrs. Robinson worked on the chapter’s naturalization ceremonies for many years. To this date, they are still going strong. Regent Robinson, ever a historian at heart, held informative meetings including one held at St. Mary’s Mission, where the chapter celebrated the NSDAR Centennial, and a Christmas dinner at the Marcus Daly Mansion. During Desert Storm the chapter made and provided yellow ribbons, one foot by five foot in size, to hang on public and private flag poles under the American Flag in honor of the armed forces serving in the Persian Gulf conflict. Throughout the years, Mrs. Robinson gave many outstanding programs to the chapter on the U.S. Constitution.

In 1992 Mrs. Thomas A. (Louanna) Butler was our third Bitter Root Chapter member to become Montana State Regent! She served in that capacity two years. A highlight of State Regent Mrs. Thomas A. (Louanna) Butler’s state term is having two National Society DAR winners. They are: 1) Lu Ellis, 1992 winner of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Volunteer Award, who volunteered at the Miles City Veterans Hospital, and 2) Maureen McNellis, the Oro Fino Chapter 1993 Good Citizen for the year, also awarded the 1993 National Society Outstanding Good Citizen Award in Washington D.C. Maureen went on to medical school and is now a physician in Helena.

State Regent Butler was very busy with her schedule. A typical “final” DAR State Regent Travel Schedule for meeting with the state chapters had State Regent Butler completing thirteen chapter meetings, a state conference organizational meeting, and a state board meeting within the dates of September 12th to November 21st. State Regent Butler’s Project was to provide a central location for members to do genealogical research. She was distressed that MSSDAR members did not have a central Montana depository for records on ancestors with which to conduct research. She wondered where in Montana such resources were. Mrs. Dennis (Blanche) Tate began to look in libraries around Montana. She found that most of the research resources, including a set of National Society DAR ancestor indexes, were in the Paris Gibson Library in Great Falls. This library was later to house a genealogical society, an archival area and our MSSDAR repository. The State Historical Society gave their collection of National Society DAR ancestor indexes to the Helena Genealogical Society, located in the Helena Library. The

chapter at Anaconda also had the only complete set in the state of the National Society DAR ancestor indexes. When the Anaconda chapter disbanded, the set went to the Anaconda Public Library. Mrs. Tate found that Butte also had a large library of genealogical resources. Although State Regent Butler was unable to provide a central Montana location for members to do genealogical research, her state regency, with the aid of Mrs. Tate, did establish, at that time, where the National Society DAR genealogical resources were. At the National level, State Regent Butler attended both the 101st and 102nd Continental Congress. At the October 1993 National Board Management meeting in Washington, D.C., State Regent Butler finalized plans for the Northwest States Breakfast, which Montana co-hosted with Alaska at in 103rd Continental Congress in 1994. State Regent Butler presided at the 91st State Conference on March 17-19, 1994. At the conference, the Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its Centennial Birthday.

From 1992-1994, our super fundraiser, Mrs. Charles (Mary Sparkman) Chesbro, was our Chapter Regent. She was an avid University of Montana Grizzly fan, so some chapter meetings were often planned around games. She was a wonderfully friendly person that didn't mind pitching in on any job. Mrs. Chesbro continued in her chapter fundraising efforts, including hosting rummage sales at her house. All her fundraising projects were extremely successful. Mrs. Chesbro started our chapter in doing joint projects with other service groups, such as the Boy Scouts of America. During this time, genealogist members Mrs. Dennis (Blanche Harper) Tate and Mrs. Larry (Caroline "Carol" Church) Israel compiled Revolutionary War records on microfiche to donate to the Montana Family History Center in Missoula.

The 1939 Marian Anderson incident was brought again to the Bitter Root Chapter's attention in 1993. This incident had been a source of controversy for the DAR, off and on through the years, since it happened. Abigail Van Buren, through her popular column "Dear Abby", was lambasting the DAR over it. Abigail Van Buren held a false assumption as truth, which she published in her column. The false assumption was that the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in 1939 had refused to allow a famous singer, Marian Anderson, to perform in Constitution Hall because of her race, which was African American. In response to the "Dear Abby" columns, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution President General Mrs. Donald Shattuck Blair sent out in April 1993 an official "Statement Issued by the President General" to the all chapters on the matter. This statement was also published in the April 1993 issue of the DAR Magazine. In it she clearly stated that the bookings for Constitution Hall were done in advance. The bookings for April of 1939 were printed and released to the public prior to the booking request for Miss Anderson, in the October 1938 issue of the DAR Magazine and subsequently in each monthly issue through April 1939. Miss Marian Anderson sang at Constitution Hall in 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1960, and in 1964 began her farewell tour with a concert there. The President General went on to state, "The National Society does not practice discrimination and its members represent a number of different races." Constitution Hall was dedicated in 1929 and home to the National Symphonic Symphony until the 1960's. Miss Marian Anderson's agent, Sol Hurok, requested to use Constitution Hall for Miss Anderson for Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939

and was told it was already booked by the Symphony. Mr. Hurok did not request an alternate date. In 1931, the famous American tenor and composer Roland Hayes, who was African American, had performed in Constitution Hall. The Hampton Choir had also performed there and many other artists of various races. In any case, a false assumption of racism by the Daughters of the American Revolution took its ugly root in ignorant minds. In the Morning News Tribune, for Thursday, April 22, 1993, in "All Letter to Editor", a letter from Joy Wiseman of Tacoma was published. Wiseman was commenting on the "Morning News" column of April 9, 1993, by Ellen Goodman. Goodman had stated in her column that the DAR barred Marion Anderson from performing at the NSDAR auditorium, Constitution Hall. Joy Wiseman wrote in her responding letter that Constitution Hall was requested for Marian Anderson for the same day it was already booked for the National Symphony. Wiseman further wrote, "Since its dedication in 1929, Constitution Hall has been used by all races." However, for her New Year's Eve "Dear Abby" column, Dec. 31, 1993, Abigail Van Buren, in looking back over the year stated, "Marian Anderson, first black to sing at the Lincoln Memorial, after having been spurned by the DAR, died at 96". Next Abigail Van Buren published in her Feb. 7, 1994 "Dear Abby" column a letter signed as Raleigh, N.C., which refuted the racism allegation, explaining the prior booking and that Constitution Hall did not practice segregation. Abigail Van Buren did not respond to this letter in the same day's column, but responded by printing another letter in her "Dear Abby" column on March 14, 1994. Abigail Van Buren published the letter signed Newton S. Friedman, Attorney at Law in Duluth, Minnesota. Mr. Friedman wrote that the letter from Raleigh, N.C. was "racism". Abigail Van Buren shot back her response to Mr. Friedman directly after his letter. It is, "Dear Mr. Friedman: Evidence received. Evidence believed. Thank you." On Friday, May 6, 1999, The Missoulian published that day's "Dear Abby" column under the heading, "Let's look ahead to harmony, says DAR". Abigail Van Buren had published the letter, "Dear Abby, no more brickbats for the DAR. Just give this tiny point of light a chance to flourish and burn brightly for others to see and emulate", signed by Virginia L. Rau, Regent, White Alloe Chapter of the D.A.R., Kansas City, MO. Abigail Van Buren responded, "Dear Virginia L. Rau: Consider it done". After stirring up charges of racism for the DAR, it may have seemed very well to Abigail Van Buren to just drop the matter without a recant or apology. Perhaps the publicity rendered by using the 1939 Marian Anderson incident for charging racism, without first checking the facts, or in total disregard for the facts, made and still makes, the false accusation, or libel, of others worth it to some. The result for Bitter Root Chapter, after these columns were published, was to make it much harder to find schools willing to help students enter the DAR Good Citizen Contest or compete in the American History Essay Contest. The whole affair affected public perceptions of the Daughters of the American Revolution very negatively each time it was raised, from 1939 on, even though the allegations were and remain completely false. Abigail Van Buren, now dead, never did recant or apologize.

Mrs. Grant (Norma) Baker was Chapter Regent from 1994-1996. She had a commanding presence and very firm convictions. Chapter members remember her proposal, as regent, that the members return to a "dresses only" dress code for chapter and state DAR events. This was met by stunned silence by the members as Regent Baker waited for a motion to be made. No motion forthcoming from the floor, Regent Baker proposed a show of

hands, to gauge where the membership stood on the issue. All those in favor were called first. No member hands from the floor were raised. That settled the issue and our freedom of speech, expression through one's choice of clothing, was upheld. We remained liberated!

Mrs. Vernon (Kansie) Starcher, a veteran, served as Chapter Regent from 1996-1998. Mrs. Starcher donated money on the chapter's behalf to the Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. and to the Veteran's Hospital and Administration Center Fort Harrison, in Helena. Since 1991 she was a member of the Veterans Affairs Service Advisory Council as a Deputy Representative for Veterans Hospital and Administration Center Fort Harrison in Helena. She worked to retain and obtain members and raise money for the chapter. She hosted several rummage sale fundraisers and worked to update the Bitter Root Chapter Scrapbook's appearance. The scrapbook was spruced up with a tooled leather cover, which could be reused for each new regent's term, and embossed with a tinted bitterroot flower on the front. During 1998, Regent Starcher was quite ill, having cancer, and this information she quietly shared. Ms. Andrea Phillip followed Mrs. Starcher as regent, becoming Chapter Regent for a second time from 1998-2000. During Ms. Phillip's first term as chapter regent she was given several boxes of chapter effects, including minutes, programs, scrapbooks, and other realia, from terms prior, some quite historic. These boxes had been passed on from regent to regent, each storing them until their regency was done. Sadly, Mrs. Starcher's condition had worsened quickly and she passed away before arrangements could be made for the boxes to change homes. Regent Phillip contacted the family to arrange a suitable time to collect the chapter boxes. The boxes had multiplied since she had last seen them. Two trips later, and seeing that the boxes in her house covered a six foot by seven foot space when stacked four feet high, she decided something had to be done. With the chapter's consent, she went through the boxes to tidy the contents up and organize them. After that she contacted the Mike and Maureen Mansfield University of Montana Library to make arrangements to place their contents safely into the library archives, and delivered them. The items are available in the Bitter Root Chapter Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution archives of the Mike and Maureen Mansfield University of Montana Library to this date.

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 2000-2010 and MSSDAR Vice Regent 2007

2000-2002 Ms. Carol A. White

2002-2004 Mrs. Jolanda (Nicholes Puccinelli) Hritsco

2004-2006 Mrs. Thomas A. (Louanna) Butler

2006-2008 Mrs. Larry (Kim Tyler) Ashwell

2007 Mrs. Charles (Mary Sparkman) Chesbro, MSSDAR Vice-Regent 2007

2008-2010 Mrs. Frank (Bonnie) Huber

From 2000-2002 Ms. Carol A. White was our chapter regent. Throughout the 2000's our chapter was busy donating flags and supporting memorials. The chapter donated flags to the Missoula Public Library when their meeting room flags were stolen. The chapter donated flags for the Vietnam War Memorial at the Missoula Memorial Rose (Park) Garden and for the veterans' "Avenue of Flags" at Missoula Cemetery. The chapter donated small flags and flag brochures to Missoula County Public Schools for student

use. Our chapter also lost our Bitter Root Chapter flag at a state conference, sometime between 2000 and 2004. Chapter member Mrs. John (Marjorie “Marge” Shuyler) Robinson replaced it. Mrs. Bruce H. (Helen Tyler) Johnson’s son, Bruce H. Johnson Jr., helped lead an 18 man committee to place a Montana State Korean War Veteran’s Memorial in Missoula at the Memorial Rose (Park) Garden. He is an artist and donated the original design and artwork for the memorial. It features a map of Korea and a soldier looking down at the helmet of a fallen comrade. Our chapter donated \$500 toward this memorial.

In 2004, Mrs. Jolanda (Nicholes Puccinelli) Hritsco was awarded MSSDAR Outstanding Junior. Mrs. Charles (Mary Sparkman) Chesbo ran another envelope cancellation fund raiser with Lewis and Clark featured in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of their travels with the Corps of Discovery. There were five envelopes available either singly or in a full framed group set. The envelopes sold as cancelled September 13, 2005. The five were: 1) “Corps of Discovery at Traveler’s Rest”, by Edgar Samuel Paxson, 1913, at Missoula Museum of the Arts, 2) “Captain Meriwether Crossing the Clark Fork”, by Edgar Samuel Paxson, at Missoula Museum of the Arts, 3) “Lewis and Clark in the Bitterroots” by John F. Clymer, at Clymer Museum of Art, Ellensburg, Washington, 4) “Lewis and Clark at Ross’ Hole”, by C.M. Russell, Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana, and 5) “Journey of Lewis and Clark”. Ms. Andrea Phillip and Mrs. John (Marjorie Shuyler) Robinson presented a program based on the book Spirits of America: The Social History of Alcohol, by Eric Burns. After they presented information from the book, members read aloud colonist parts from a Reader’s Theater written by Ms. Andrea Phillip of the book. It was based upon the daily doings of the colonists as given in the book. Afterwards, home brewed spruce ale was served. It was similar to that drank by the colonists and made by Andrea’s son Matthew Frandsen. Mrs. Thomas A. (Louanna) Butler was elected to serve as Chapter Regent for a second time, from 2004-2006. Regent Butler carried on with chapter fundraising projects and chapter membership building.

In 2006, Mrs. Larry (Kim Tyler) Ashwell was our Chapter Regent. She served until 2008. The membership was well-read. During her regency, 80% of the membership subscribed to the DAR magazine. Her regency focused on the Good Citizen Award. For the two years of her regency, the chapter had 16 participants writing essays for the award from Missoula County. Regent Ashwell worked to find community members to judge the student essays. The essay judges included Missoula Mayor John Engen, Mr. Chris Warden from the Washington Corporation, and Dr. George Price from the University of Montana. The Good Citizen Award Ceremonies were held in the meeting room of the Missoula Public Library. Regent Ashwell also provided services for veterans at the Veterans Hospital and Administration Center Fort Harrison in Helena, Montana. Once a month, all year, she took the veterans cookies, stamps, and hand crocheted lap robes. Those helping to make the robes were Regent Ashwell, Mrs. Frank (Bonnie) Huber, and Mrs. Robert (Helen) DoBell, Senior. Mrs. DoBell, Senior and Mrs. Helen Tyler Johnson became 50 year members during Mrs. Ashwell’s regency. Mrs. Jolanda Hritsco was actively organizing Children of the Revolution activities, with her two children participating. An outstanding program during Mrs. Ashwell’s regency was held at the

Military Museum at Fort Missoula on soldier graves. The program was so moving that many members donated to the museum as soon as the program was over. Mrs. Ashwell was a chapter volunteer working 25 hours a week at the Montana State Veterans Center for 7 ½ years. She did administrative work and assisted with anything that came up needing help. She retired from this volunteer work in 2017.

In 2007 our Lewis and Clark marker at Traveler's Rest, the huge stone boulder, was destined to move again. The actual site of where the Corps of Discovery rested was finally determined through ground testing for mercury. Mercury was an ingredient of Dr. Rush's Pills, with which Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark dosed ill Corps members. This product of elimination (pun intended) helped accurately determine the area that the marker was to be moved to. The new spot was about ¾ of a mile west on Highway 12 from where Highway 12 intersects Highway 93. A move of the marker to this nearby area testing positive for mercury would guarantee the marker's site as one of the few in the United States with physical confirmation of being where the Corps of Discovery expedition had actually been. The new area where the marker would be moved to was to become Traveler's Rest State Park. The chapter marker was very much wanted to be a part of this new historical park. But, how would the chapter move the marker? The stone marker was every bit as large and heavy in 2002 as it was when first placed 82 years prior in 1925. The chapter looked for someone to do the job. A bid to move the marker came in at \$2000. Member Mrs. Monty (LeEtta Holden) Petersen volunteered that her husband had a truck that could move the marker once it was lifted onto it. Mrs. Dennis (Blanche Harper) Tate's daughter, Lisa Tate, knew the family of DG Crane Company. DG Crane Company, owned by Harold Davis, provided the crane to lift the stone marker. Mike Davis, Harold's son, worked the crane to lift the marker. Scott Petersen, chapter member Mrs. Monty (LeEtta Holden) Petersen's son, drove the truck that moved the marker. The stone marker was moved without mishap. DG Crane Company did not charge for the use of the crane. Mike Davis and Scott Petersen did not charge for their labor. Monty Petersen did not charge for the use of his truck. All labor was done for free. Mrs. Charles (Mary Sparkman) Chesbo got the Boy Scouts of Lolo to replant the area the marker had been moved from with donated seeds and plants. The chapter gave Mike Davis and Scott Petersen each a \$50 gift certificate in thanks for their work. The stone marker was moved safely and successfully for the third time for \$100. This cost was \$196.50 less than the total cost of the first placing of the marker eighty-two years earlier.

During this time, Mrs. Charles (Mary Sparkman) Chesbro was proposing starting a Trivia Tournament as another fundraising project, or reviving bridge tournaments similar to the Bridge Marathon fundraisers Mrs. Milton "Mitch" (Ruth Wigfield) Phillip ran. Mrs. Chesbro was full of great ideas of things to do with and for DAR. She was always a part of any committee where favors were made or craft use was needed. Her son, Jon Chesbro, was also helpful and made the flag stands used in the Missoula Public Library meeting room for his Eagle Scout Project. In 2007, Mrs. Chesbro was Montana State Vice Regent, and would have most likely become our fourth Bitter Root Chapter member to be Montana State Regent, but, tragically, she passed away from cancer. Our chapter

provided a special pictorial cancellation service at the Missoula Public Library in our dear Mary's honor. She is sorely missed.

From 2008-2010 Mrs. Frank (Bonnie) Huber was our chapter regent. After completing her term as Bitter Root Chapter Regent, she organized the Kulix Chapter in St. Ignatius. She is the first Bitter Root Chapter member to become Organizing Regent of a different Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution chapter.

Bitter Root Chapter Regents 2010-2020

2010-2012 Ms. Laura Cork

2012-2014 Mrs. Byron (Linda Nyquist) Robinson

2014-2016 Mrs. Byron (Linda Nyquist) Robinson

2016-2018 Mrs. Dennis (Blanche Harper) Tate

2018-2020 Mrs. Dennis (Blanche Harper) Tate

In 2012 Mrs. Byron (Linda Nyquist) Robinson became our first chapter regent to serve two terms back-to-back, making four consecutive years, until 2016. Her focus was on re-establishing communication and retaining and obtaining members. The chapter maintained a calling tree, which kept members in touch with one another, giving meeting and other information to all members. Regent Robinson and members located new, interesting meeting places outside members' homes. During her regency, Bitter Root Chapter's by-laws were rewritten.

In 2016 Mrs. Dennis Armfield (Blanche L. Harper) Tate became our chapter regent and continues in that capacity to date. When she completes her regency in 2020, she will be the second chapter regent to serve two terms back-to-back, making four consecutive years. During the autumn of 2017, she initiated a fundraiser called the "Mercantile Project". Central to this project was the artwork of member Mrs. Eugene David (Nancy Jen Mathews) Schmitz, who had done a wonderful painting of the Missoula Mercantile in days gone by. The project was to make mounted blocks and stationery cards of the painting for sale. The fundraiser eventually made over \$1600. On February 11, 2017, Miss Gloria Phillip, Bitter Root Chapter Native American Committee Chairman, presented an acclaimed program. It was called "Chief Looking Glass and the Nez Perce Flight". The program was based on Miss Gloria Phillip's Native American historical research. She presented new information on the topic with a fresh view. The program was so insightful and informative that the members clamored for copies of it. As it was a work in progress and was not copyrighted, Miss Gloria Phillip had to decline. During Regent Tate's regency, the Bitter Root Chapter's by-laws were rewritten once more. In the spring of 2018, the chapter hosted the 115th MSSDAR State Conference. MSSDAR State Regent Jane Lee Hammen presided. The autumn of 2018 found the chapter discussing the Traveler's Rest Marker again, not to move it, thankfully, but on how best to clean it. On August 16, 2018, Bitter Root Chapter hosted a naturalization ceremony at the Missoula Federal Court, welcoming 33 new citizens!

Their work with libraries and genealogical records has never stopped for Mrs. Larry (Caroline "Carol" Church) Israel and Mrs. Dennis (Blanche Harper) Tate. They have

been indexing vital records from the Missoulian for the Missoula Public Library for 40 years, being awarded Missoula Public Library Volunteer of the Year award several times. Both have served many times on the Bitter Root Chapter Lineage Research Committee and the chapter Genealogical Records Committee. Their work with bible records is also ongoing. As bible records become available, they photo copy them or type them onto acid free paper. Once they get some accumulated, they send them to the National Society DAR Genealogical Records committee. Mrs. Israel has worked for over 37 years teaching people how to research their ancestors. She is willing to help anyone. She has a story about helping a prospective member who couldn't understand why a copy of her marriage certificate was required. "You have to have a marriage record," Mrs. Israel said. "Everyone knows it," the prospective member replied, meaning that she was married and to whom. Mrs. Israel then said, "But they don't in D.C." The prospective member got the needed certificate copy and her papers were moving along.

Each year in May we have held and do hold a chapter memorial in tribute to those members who have passed away during the preceding twelve months for whom we were unable to honor with an individual memorial held during a chapter meeting closer to the time of their passing. Miss Gloria Phillip held the office of chapter chaplain for four terms, 1998-2000, 2012-2014, 2014-2016, 2016-2018, and filled in as chapter chaplain intermittently. She did her best to honor the departed members. Miss Gloria Phillip wove into her services biblical texts pertinent to the departed member, talking about the member in light of the text. This made her services as chaplain stand out. Other outstanding Bitter Root Chapter chaplains lauded within the chapter minutes are Mrs. John (Marjorie) Robinson and Miss Katherine Craighead.

Many other activities have been worked on and provided with hours and dollars throughout Bitter Root Chapter's lifetime and continue today. Over the years, our chapter has consistently helped and supported potential new citizens through the naturalization process and hosted the Bitter Root Chapter Naturalization Ceremony in Missoula. Award programs still include the Good Citizen Award for high school seniors, the Outstanding ROTC Cadet Award at the University of Montana, which entails presenting awards to four top cadets of the Army and Air Force, the Outstanding History Teacher Award, and the middle school American History Essay Contest awards. Bitter Root Chapter is the first chapter to complete a survey of Montana's pre-1890 cemeteries. Our DAR Marker at Traveler's Rest State Park has provided our chapter with a weighty project, whether it was placing it initially, moving it, or keeping it in good repair. Bitter Root chapter members have many opportunities to be busy with our wonderful DAR activities, projects, committees, conferences and fun. In September 2018 we listed 74 members. We continue to look for new DAR members. Several of our members are excellent genealogists, and they are very willing and able to help anyone interested in tracing her ancestors and joining Bitter Root Chapter.

For this document it seems fitting for 100th year of the Bitter Root Chapter MSSDAR to list the full roster of Bitter Root Chapter officers for 2019. They are:

Regent: Mrs. Dennis Armfield (Blanche Harper) Tate

Vice Regent: Mrs. James (Janet Hockert) Loran
Chaplain: Ms. Barbara Abrams Fowler
Recording Secretary: Miss Elizabeth C. Tomlinson
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. C. Monty (LeEtta Holden) Petersen
Treasurer: Mrs. Byron Scott (Linda Nyquist) Robinson
Registrar: Mrs. Eugene David (Nancy Mathews) Schmitz
Historian: Mrs. Thomas O. (Betty Atchison) Hilmo
Librarian: Mrs. Michael (Angela "Angie" Bigelow) Breidenbach

Through the years there are many examples of members holding chapter offices, sometimes in conjunction with state offices, while also manning chapter and/or state committees, and other DAR tasks. The unifying remark made about many of our chapter regents is that they were seen to "hold the chapter together." This is a reflection perhaps on the enormous task of being a chapter regent and how very much work is required of one. It is a well-deserved appreciation of their hard work and dedication. However, the membership also holds the chapter together. It is the many dedicated, hard working, office fulfilling, fund raising, committee working, award giving, and untold more members which deserve our appreciation and thanks too. Without them, all of these many DAR women over the years, our chapter would not have made it to its hundredth year. We are very thankful for all of them, we are still here, and we wish those who follow us the best for the future.

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