



James Monroe Chapter No. 549 *Jack Jouett Camp, Heroes of 76*

National Sojourners, Inc.
Charlottesville, Virginia

Proudly Serving the Cause of Patriotism

At a meeting of James Monroe Chapter No. 549, held at King Solomon's Lodge in Crozet, VA on Wednesday the 5th day of October 2016, with the following present:

Goldie Tomlin
Jeff Hodges
Randy Geck

Jim Fields
Kent Schlusel
Robert Simpson

Scott Fielding
Kirk Sheap

Ed Crebbs
Hank Booth

Visitors: None

Ladies present: Susan Hodges, Sara Tomlin, Charlaine Crebbs, Sylvia Fielding, Judy Schlusel, Norma Sheap, Carol Geck, and Helen Fields

Opening: President Crebbs called the meeting to order at 6 pm. Brother Geck gave a prayer before we ate a delicious pot luck meal with the main course provided by Lady Charlaine. President Crebbs opened the meeting in proper form at approximately 1850 hours.

Officers present were: President: Ed Crebbs; First Vice President: Jim Fields; 2nd Vice President: Kirk Sheap; 3rd Vice President: Scott Fielding; and Secretary/Treasurer: Kent Schlusel.

Purpose: President read the Purpose of the Order followed by the opening prayer led by the chaplain.

Introductions: President welcomed everyone and our FACE representative Brother Geck.

Announcements:

Chapter:

- 1) The chapter is also scheduled to present flags at Barboursville Lodge on 8 October 2016.
- 2) On 17 October 2016, the chapter will be a flag deposal ceremony at the open air meeting for Widow's Sons' Lodge.
- 3) 20 October, Linn-Banks Lodge (Madison) would like a flag presentation
- 4) Brother Goldie Tomlin announced that the annual for the Toys for Tots program has started. He urged those present to take a box and place them in strategic locations for collection of toys. Checks (make them out to Toys for Tots) and cash will be accepted. Our goal this year is to exceed our seven (7) boxes of toys and \$1100 that we gave last year.

- 5) Bro Jim Starcher has been back in the hospital and back home in the past several weeks. His family has had a recent death also.
- 6) Everyone was pleased to have Bro Hank Booth at the meeting and is still making progress on his recovery from his automobile accident.

Camp:

- 1) Commander Crebbs announced that the Jack Jouett Camp will meet at King Solomon Lodge on 29 October 2016, at 9:30am, to practice for a degree and for the Traitor Play.
- 2) The “Traitor Play” will be presented to Cabell Lodge on 2 November 2016.

Reading of Minutes: The minutes of the August 2016 meeting were approved as distributed to the members via email. Motion to accept was made, seconded and passed.

Report of Treasurer: (3 Aug 16—5 Oct 16)

Checking Account Balance: Current as of 5 October 2016	\$4512.01
Camp Followers Fund:	\$30.68
(no change)	
Chapter Fund:	\$1793.85
Staples for Printing -\$39.91	
FACE for hotel -\$110.83	
Flag Fund:	\$50.24
(no change)	
Youth Leadership Fund:	\$1016.07
Donation +\$150	
Unrestricted Fund:	\$1621.17
(no change)	
TOTAL:	\$4512.01

Reading of Communications:

--On Thursday, 27 October 2016, Scottish Rite Building in Baltimore, MD, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, his Deputy, and several other Grand Officers will be initiated into the National Sojourners. Lunch will be served (\$5.00). All are invited to attend.

--On Sunday, 13 November 2016, an open Encampment will start around 1:30pm at the Thomas J. Shryock Masonic Lodge in Hollywood, MD. There will be a “Retiring of our Flag” ceremony, Folding of the Flag, Toast to the Flag, and a Camp Follower Degree. This is open to everyone.

Presentation of Petition: Membership, 3rd Vice President Scott Fielding presented two petitions.

Secret Balloting on Petitions: One petition was accepted and one petition was declined. Appropriate notifications to the petitioners will be made.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Americanism: Letters will be going out soon on our program to the various JROTC, ROTC units. In addition, letters will be going out to youth groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, DeMolay, JROTC) on our Youth Leadership Conference.

Program, 2nd Vice President: Bro Kirk Sheap presented a program on the "Facts and Myths of the United States Flag":

On Saturday, the 14th of June, 1777, the Continental Congress in Philadelphia met in a short session to mainly deal with financial matters. However, after completing that business, it passed a brief resolution that read in its entirety: "Resolved, That the Flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white: That the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." No mention was made as to who introduced this resolution or if it was done by committee nor were any directions given as to the dimensions of the flag, the size of the union or canton in which the stars were to be placed, the shape of the stars and their arrangement within the union, the size of the field where the stripes were located, or even the shape of the flag.

Who designed the flag? Was it "Betsy" Ross as so many believe? The "Betsy Ross" story appears to be a family tradition, having first been publicized in March of 1870 by William J. Canby, her last surviving grandson. Unfortunately there is no documentation to support this story. In fact, the date given by William for her meeting with General George Washington, Robert Morris and Col. George Ross, the uncle of her late husband, John Ross in Philadelphia was a year before that of the 1777 Flag Resolution.

Why were the particular colors and the use of stars and stripes to represent the state? Many now feel that the use of stars in the canton to represent the states may well have been influenced by Freemasonry. A number of those who signed the Declaration of Independence were Masons as were many others of our Patriot ancestors. The "Bennington Flag" of 1777 has been felt to be a predecessor from which the design of our Stars and Stripes was derived but now many feel that this flag instead dates from the War of 1812 or even later, the semi-centennial or even the centennial of the Declaration of Independence and its design is instead derived from the Stars and Stripes. If it does indeed date from the 19th century, it still represents the patriotic fervor of our ancestors whose efforts, determination and sacrifices gave rise to our nation and the liberty with which we are now blessed.

What was flown as a national flag by many of our forces during the Revolutionary War? It was the "Continental Colors" which displayed 13 stripes of alternating red and white in the field and the "King's Colors" or the flag of our former mother country in the canton. It was not until after the British finally departed American soil in November 1783 that General Washington and the Board of War of Congress finally agreed to an arrangement for the Army's use of the new flag. All of the paintings depicting the use of the Stars and Stripes by American forces during the Revolutionary War are in error. The selection of alternating stripes in the field of the flag may have been influenced to a 1765 Sons of Liberty flag that flew in Boston and contained nine alternating red and white stripes in its field.

As for the colors of the flag, many feel that they were simply derived from the colors of the flags of our mother country, the red, white and blue of the King's Colors and of the Red Ensign. There is no official explanation for the significance of the colors of our flag. The closest came from Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, who wrote in 1782 that white signified

purity and innocence, red signified hardiness and valor and blue signified vigilance, perseverance and justice.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

--Our area representative (and member of the chapter) Brother Randy Geck bought greetings from the National President and National Commander. He announced and discussed the mid-winter conference on 7 January 2017 in Orlando, FL. This is a working conference unlike the annual conference that will be held in June 2017 in the city of Sacramento, CA.

--Brother Geck explained in more detail the significance of having the Grand Officers of Maryland become members in the Sojourners (27 October 2016). He expanded on the Veterans Day weekend events that will take place in Hollywood, MD. There will be a military lodge on 9 November, a parade on 11 November, and then the previous announce events on the 13th of November.

--The Chapter was thanked for its support to the FACE conference. The conference itself was very successful. He then passed out pins to all the members present as a thank you.

--To the surprise of Lady Susan Hodges, Brother Geck presented to Lady Susan the Camp Follower of the year for work in increasing membership in our chapter.

--Brother Tomlin received a certificate for being a "heavy lifter" for our Chapter.

--Next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, 5th of December 2016**. The meeting will take place Shadwell Restaurant off of US 250 in Albemarle County (near Pantop's area). We will order from the menu and collect toys and money for the Toys for Tots program.

The gravel was passed to all in attendance. Everyone thanked each other for the fellowship of the meeting and thanked Lady Charlene for the main course. Many welcome back Brother Hank Booth.

Closing: The meeting was closed in proper form by President Crebbs at approximately 2030 hours.

Submitted

Kent Schlusel
Kent Schlusel, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved:

Edgar M. Crebbs
Edgar M. Crebbs, Jr., President 2016-17