

CLOVER LAND

Marquette Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

By Agnes Kelsey Hill

THE Marquette Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized October 14th, 1903, in the brick house on Arch street, known as the Dollar House.

We began our chapter life with five officers and seven lay members, but noting this waste of official material, at our second meeting we created two more offices, giving us seven officers and five lay members. There can be no question but that we were properly directed in the way we should go, from the very beginning.

We met once a month from October to May inclusive, at the different homes of the members. Our programs were mostly given to a study of Colonial history and customs with Alice Morse Earle as our mentor. After the program we had cheering cups of tea usually served by the hostess in grandmother's best tea cups.

Our dues were, and still are, two dollars a year, half of which goes to the National Treasury. One of our early problems was how to be generous and efficient philanthropists on our chapter income of twelve dollars a year. Do not tell me that women are not financiers. I remember our answering one call for assistance in our first year by a generous donation of one dollar, and the recipients were not overcome with gratitude. In another instance we donated a dressed doll—another dollar gone—and when the recipient sniffed, the chapter murmured in surprise at the ingratitude of woman. We donated two dollars of our twelve to the building of Memorial Continental Hall, our beautiful National Home in Washington, and they were not thrilled by our self sacrifice!

When we reached the affluence of sixteen members we offered five dollars in two prizes for historical papers in the Eighth grade of the public schools. Later we changed our offer to gold medals for these historical papers, and continued these prizes for several years.

Early in our chapter life we had the pleasure of welcoming to our ranks our first Real Daughter, Mrs. Caroline Whipple Eddy, and her association with us proved a pleasure and inspiration in our future meetings. She was a descendant of Abraham Whipple who headed the expedition which burned the Gaspee, the actual beginning of the Revolutionary War; while her father, Ethan Whipple, served three years in a Rhode Island regiment in the same war.

Mrs. Eddy came to Marquette with her husband in 1859, and the brave spirit of the pioneer was hers as long as life remained. We like to remember this gentle lady, whom we think Mary Wilkins Freeman might have used as a prototype for her straight backed heroines of New England fiction. We also like to remember that one of the first pensions granted a Real Daughter by the National Society was given to Mrs. Eddy after three years of solicitation on our part, and that this pension helped make pleasant her declining years.

As the chapter grew in numbers, our activities increased; our charities expanded; and our programs grew into Year books that were of profit and pleasure to us.

In 1907 an abiding place of our own came to us through the kindness of the husband of our regent, who gave us quarters rent free for several years. Here we welcomed our first visiting State Regent, Mrs. James P. Brayton of Grand Rapids, and entertained her with a program consisting of "Leaves from Our Family

Trees." As we severally contributed our "Leaves", the good lady was heard to murmur that as far as she could judge, she was descended from the only private who served in the War of the Revolution.

On this occasion we had our first evening reception, when our women friends came in to rejoice with us that a State Regent had discovered there was an Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and where three Sons of the American Revolution showed the courage of their fore-fathers by joining us, despite our overwhelming numbers.

In February, 1909, Mrs. Sarah Van Eps Harvey became a member of the Marquette Chapter, giving us the distinction of two Real Daughters. Mrs. Harvey was the wife of that distinguished engineer, Charles T. Harvey, who designed the first elevated road in New York City, and who was the builder of the first lock of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal. Mrs. Harvey was a woman of great charm and courage, a worthy companion of her brilliant husband; and many were the fascinating stories she told us of their early days in the Upper Peninsula before it became Clover-Land; how she followed her husband over dim lit trails through the wilderness, sometimes on horseback, sometimes with dog sleds over the trackless winter plains; other times canoeing through swift waters, trusting their lives and belongings to a frail birch bark canoe.

The chapter's distinction of having two Real Daughters was of short duration, since within a month of Mrs. Harvey's admission to the chapter, Mrs. Eddy, our first Real Daughter, was laid to rest in Park Cemetery.

Mrs. Eddy's birthday in April had been celebrated each year as Real Daughter's Day, making it the social meeting of the year when the chapter entertained its members and friends, and this custom has been retained. A monthly remittance of Mrs. Eddy's pension, coming after her death, was turned over to the chapter by the National Society, and this became the nucleus of a Memorial Fund which has

been further increased by donations each Real Daughter's Day.

This Memorial Fund is in the hands of a committee and many are the kindly and gracious uses made of it. Flowers are sent to the sick and shut-ins as well as used in decorating the graves of deceased members. Flags are given to our sons, and D. A. R. spoons are presented to our daughters, on graduation days. I could tell of other and kindlier deeds of service, but, peradventure, the left hand should strive to forget and the right hand should not record benefactions made possible by this fund.

Fortunately for our desire to be of service our membership increased largely, and we passed the day of depending upon pantry sales for funds, wherein we joyously bought each other's goodies to take home to our hungered families. Thanks to an inspiration of one of our regents, who started the chapter in the sale of flags, we now saw Marquette homes and public buildings brave in bunting; and while we rejoiced in "Old Glory flung to the breeze", we also rejoiced in the uplift of our chapter treasury.

We were thus enabled to carry a scholarship in the Berry School for poor mountain whites at Rome, Georgia, where fifty dollars, with his own work, pays the tuition and living expenses of a student for one year. We paid the expenses of one student—Mark Batson—in this school for four years, and on graduation there he won a scholarship at the Georgia Polytechnic, where he took further honors. Since that time we have been helping with a young girl's expenses at the Berry School; and it seems to me that nothing has been more worth our while than the giving of this opportunity for self education and advancement to these sons and daughters of poor mountain whites, who have been barred by their poverty and isolation from the education that is young America's birthright.

We were by this time definitely on the map and in 1913 received our third visit from a State Regent, Mrs. Arthur Maxwell Parker of Detroit. Mrs. Parker was especially enthusias-

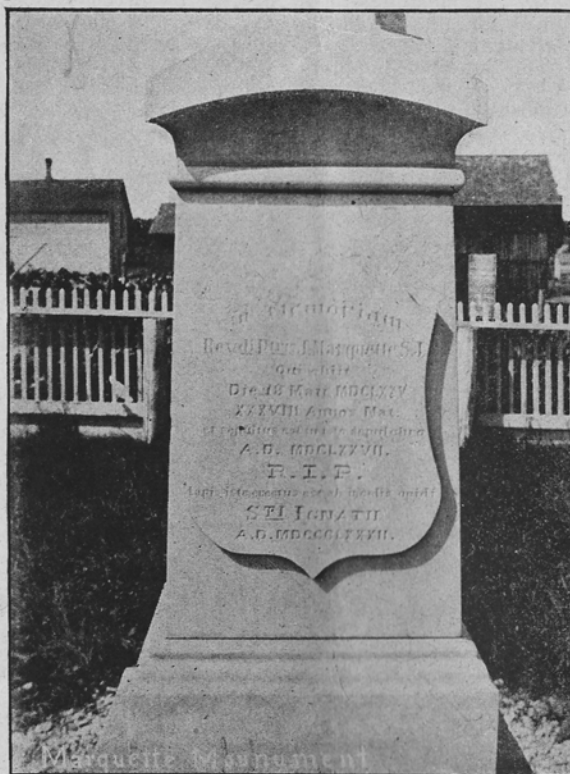
tic about work for the boys of our foreign population; and with the inspiration of her visit and advice to guide us, our Boys' National Club was organized that year with a devoted leader and very able committee in charge. The School Board very kindly gave us the use of two rooms in the basement of the North Marquette school house for this club. One room was fitted up with books, games, a piano, and a pool table, and was designated the Reading Room. Here the Boys' National Club—at first once in two weeks and later every week—held their business meetings, learning something of parliamentary procedure, and much we feel of loyalty and patriotism. The second room, with the aid of a hundred dollar donation by the city, was fitted up as a gymnasium; the boys were divided into classes and there enjoyed their weekly drill and sports. The next summer the boys, with some other North Marquette boys, worked hard in making a playground near the school building. Here they played baseball and basketball and later under a playground director they won playground pennants and excelled in various athletic contests. The boys also had competitive home gardens at this time under the direction of a garden committee, and made very creditable showings with their vegetables at the County Fair.

The Club has now grown to a membership of eighty, too many for one room or for one committee to handle. They have therefore been divided into senior and junior divisions, each division holding one evening meeting a week. Once a month the two divisions hold a joint meeting in one of the school rooms, with some special entertainment planned for the occasion. There have been many "story hours", our musical friends have been very kind, different business men have given talks before the boys at these meetings; and the boy's standards of right living and being have improved notably. They have drawn up their own rules of conduct; have adopted a constitution and by-laws of their own devising; and they choose with care the members who represent them each year at the Older Boys' Conference of the Upper Peninsula.

Of these boys twenty-four have enrolled as Troop No. 4 in the Boy Scouts of Marquette, holding weekly meetings with a Scout Master in the clubrooms. This with the other activities of the club, has increased the use of the clubrooms from one evening in two weeks to three evenings each week. In the Inter-Scout First Aid Contest this troop won first place; and two of its members were recently asked to give an exhibition of their work during Child Welfare Week. They are also showing their patriotism in working their own general garden and potato patch on donated land north of the city. This acreage has been plowed, potatoes planted and garden seed sown by the boys under the Scout Master's supervision. Each boy is credited with his work and will be given proportionate share of the products. Twenty of the boys in the Junior Division have home gardens this year working under the direction of one of the Senior boys. Two of the early members of this Boys' National Club have joined the Colors and are now serving in the regular army.

We feel that the women who have given so freely of their time and worked so faithfully with these boys, should be very proud in the realization that the boys have learned well their lessons of patriotism and right standards of living. They should also

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Pere Marquette Memorial at St. Ignace