

## DAR Real Daughters

When the Daughters of the American Revolution was formed in 1890 107 years after the end of the American Revolution it was estimated that there was less than a dozen daughters of Revolutionary patriots still living.

However an amazing 770 Daughters would be verified as "Real Daughters" and members of DAR.

A Real Daughter is a daughter of a Revolutionary Patriot who became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. A True Daughter is a daughter of a Revolutionary Patriot who was not a member of DAR. Many died before their applications were approved. The term Real Daughter with a capital R and capital D was not the only name associated with these women in the early years of our society. They were also called true daughters, veritable daughters and own daughters, before the term Real Daughter was finally widely accepted. Some graves have been incorrectly marked as Real Daughters of women who actually died before the Society was even organized.

Illinois has 34 Real Daughters and an additional 10 are buried here but were members in other states.

District III has four, three were members of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter and one a member of Stephen Decatur Chapter.

Letitia Green Stevenson's Real Daughters are:

Lydia P Bullard Cloys who died in 1903 at the age of 99 years, she was born in Massachusetts the daughter of Aaron Bullard who served as a corporal and died at age 85.

Elizabeth Bush died in 1899 at age 97; she was the daughter of Henry Bush of Pennsylvania. Henry served more than one enlistment. He was captured at the Battle of Long Island and held on a prison ship for 5 months, later he was an officer in the "Seven Months Men Company" Her chapter said she is from the same line as the two Presidents Bush.

Elizabeth F Brown Lennon died in 1906 at the age of 83. She was a twin and the youngest of 9 children of Samuel Brown of Massachusetts second marriage. Elizabeth's mother died when she was 2 yrs old and her father died at age 78 when she was 5 yrs old. Her father served as a Minute Man and fought at the battles of Concord, Lexington, and Bunker Hill, He later served under Col. Benedict Arnold as a Lt, and was captured at Quebec and held on a prison ship for 8 months. Elizabeth transferred her DAR membership in 1900 to the Denver Colorado Chapter. She was the only Real Daughter to become a member in Colorado.

Stephen Decatur's daughter Jane A Russell Mc Coy was a daughter of James's Russell's second marriage and was 10 when her father died. James Russell had been a Sgt in the Continental Line and served under the Marquis de Lafayette.

These women in many instances were the youngest daughters of a large family; several were one of 20 siblings, and most the child of a late or third marriage.

Mary H Washington, the first Real Daughter was honored with a bust placed in Memorial Continental Hall in 1912.

Eunice C Jones of Portland, ME was a cousin of Nathan Hale, the youngest of her family of 20 children. Her grandfather, Capt James Merrill, her father and three of his brothers fought under General Washington and she also had 15 cousins in the war.

Emily Gerry was the only Real Daughter with ties to the new government. her father Elbridge Gerry was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and Vice President under James Madison

Henry Pool's daughters Sara & Mary joined the DAR on June 5, 1929. At the time of his youngest daughters birth Henry Pool was 90 and his eldest child was 64. .

Carolyn Randall died in 1942; the years between the birth of her father and her death were 177. Wouldn't this blow the mind of a genealogist working on papers?

The last Real Daughter was Annie Knight Gregory who died in 1943; she was 100 and the daughter of Richard Knight who had been born in 1767. Her mother was, Sara Bery, his second wife.

At least Twenty five and perhaps more lived 100 years, and many passed their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday making anything younger seem like youth.

These daughters were the living links and active participants in the History of our country. They had the first hand stories of the hardships from the soldiers who fought for our freedoms.

DAR Chapters began to actively seek out the Real Daughters for membership. The Joseph Habersham Chapter in Georgia had the most Real Daughter members at 31.

The state of Massachusetts had the most Real Daughter members with 120, closely followed by Connecticut with 106, and New York with 91.

The Report of the Daughters of the American Revolution to the Smithsonian in 1900-1901 presented a "catalogue" of 551 Real Daughters.

In Atlanta, Chapters even placed advertisements in news papers to recruit daughters of Revolutionary War soldiers. They received responses as far away as Texas and Virginia.

These were very interesting women from all steps of life:

Lydia Couch, who lived 95 yrs, said her daily and regular use of **Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey** keeps her appetite and digestion good and she slept well.

Mary Hargin who died at 97 attributed her long life to simple living, eating when she wanted and what she wanted and sleeping when tired. Her memories included living in Chicago when there were only 11 houses on Michigan Avenue.

Sophia Dolson Andrews was born in New York in 1829 and died in Des Moines, IA in 1924. She was the 1<sup>st</sup> Regent of the Abigail Adams Chapter;

she was a teacher and an accredited correspondent in the Iowa Legislature. She attended college at age 13 and started teaching at age 14. Her father Johannes Van Dolson lived 86 yrs.

Julia A Demary & Elizabeth Russell were the only twins and were born when their father was 81. He was so thrilled he ran out into the street and called his neighbors to come see them. He lived to age 95 and died of a sun stroke after attempting to shingle his roof on a hot summer day.

Sarah Van Nostrand was born in New Jersey in 1788 and lived her entire life within 3 miles of where she was born. She died in 1893 at the age of 105.

Louisa Capron Thiers died at the age of 111 making her the oldest Real Daughter. In 1914 just after her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, she wrote a letter to DAR Stating she had visited the wigwams of the Oneida Indians in New York, played on the banks of the Erie canal as it was being dug, rode in the first boat, called the Pumpkin Seed, rode on the first railroad, went down the Hudson river in one of the first steamboats at the rapid rate of six miles per hour when it took 6 weeks to cross the ocean in a sail boat.

Louisa cast her vote for President Coolidge at age 110.

Her father Seth became a Doctor after serving in the Revolution.

Sarah Anderson Kendrick, born 1822 was only 4 when her father died. After becoming a widow she moved to Cincinnati, OH where during the Civil War for 18 months - she took charge of the hospital. Cincinnati was a very important city for the Union as Camp Dennison was close to the city.

Angelina Loring Avery joined DAR in 1895 and was a member for 42 yrs till her death in 1937. Her father Samuel Loring lived 75 yrs and the life span of father and daughter was 171 yrs.

Betsey Foster died in 1903 at age 92. She opened her home as a station for the Underground Railway.

Mary Keyes was a member of the Princeton, IL Chapter and was a missionary with her husband the Rev. Nathaniel Abbot Keys in Syria.

Eunice Russ Ames Davis born in 1800 to Prince Ames & Eunice Russ Ames. Both of her parents were biracial, being of African and American

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Indian descent. She became an officer of the Boston Female Anti Slavery Society. Eunice died in 1901 outliving 2 husbands, 3 children and survived the entire 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Sophronia Fletcher who died July 17, 1906 was one of the first female physicians and one of the oldest members of the Medical Profession. Born in 1806 in New Hampshire she was part of the first graduation class of the Boston Female Medical College, she was first a teacher and then combined both occupations when she became a professor of Anatomy & Physiology at Mount Holyoke College.

Lydia Moss Bradley who died in 1908 was the daughter of daughter of Zealy Moss of VA. She inherited her husband's \$500,000 estate when he died unexpectedly in 1867; she had 6 children, all of whom died young. Lydia took over the reins of the First National Bank of Peoria, IL where her husband had been president and served as board director for 25 yrs. In 1897, she founded Institute now called Bradley University, endowing it with her entire estate of 2 million dollars.

The DAR Chapters treasured their Real Daughters and several created "pensions" for the Real Daughters living in poverty, in some cases these pensions were a Real Daughter's only source of income. National then took up the cause of supporting these overlooked women and even petitioned the United States government to provide pensions. As a result some did receive a U S pension but not all.

In 1901 a resolution was passed to appropriate money for the support of those Real Daughters who are in need. This proud tradition continued even through the years when money was scarce. An example was Real Daughter Caroline Randall who was consistently given a pension from DAR until her death in 1942. In a letter written by her in 1926, Caroline said "My pension I receive from the D.A.R. society provides for all my necessities at present and I am very comfortably place".

Sophronia W Yorke was found by her chapter to be in poverty and great need. The State DAR Society of NH provided her a comfortable home, saw that she received a National Pension and then the State Society provided an equal sum; they also provided her with fuel, clothing, and medical attention

At Congress in 1895 the idea was proposed to present each Real Daughter with a souvenir spoon as a gift from the National Society. They decided to use the Official Sterling Silver Souvenir Spoon already being produced. Every spoon was engraved with the daughter's initials on the back, and the message "Presented by the National Society DAR" on the bowl. This spoon designed by J. E. Caldwell features a woman sitting at a spinning wheel on the handle tip with flax running down the length of the handle and spread into the letters "DAR" on the bowl. The top of the handle also has 13 stars for the original Colonies and a banner with DAR's motto at the time "Home & Country". These spoons initially sold for between \$1.50 and \$3.00. This spoon without the inscription now sells new for \$155.00. One of these vintage spoons sold on E-Bay in February 2011 for \$481.00.

The National Society received many letters of gratitude. One daughter Hannah Hess wrote "the spoon shall ever be sacred to me while I live and at life's close shall be bequeathed to my posterity as a patriotic heirloom.

As you can see these women led interesting and varied lives; they were in control of their destiny and dealt with the hardships of their time in history.

The following picture is from the program book of the 1915 Illinois DAR State Conference which was held in Bloomington, Illinois.

Four Real Daughters attended:

Mrs. Mary Smith Kimery from the Farina Chapter, Farina, IL.  
 NN 94363 - She was born in 1833 and died in 1917

Mrs. Josephine E Wodetzki from the Abraham Lincoln Chapter, Lincoln, IL.  
 NN 14831 - She was born in 1829 and died in 1923

Miss Clarissa M'Manners from the Christopher Lobinger Chapter, Henry, IL  
 NN 96519 - She was born 1834 and died in 1916

Mrs. Jane M'Coy from the Stephen Decatur Chapter, Decatur, IL  
 NN 45272 - She was born 1820 and died 1916.

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