

**Roanoke Public Libraries  
Virginia Room  
Margaret Lynn Lewis Chapter of  
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection**

**Collection Description:**

**Repository:** Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

**Accession Number:** 2024.02.26

**Title:** Margaret Lynn Lewis Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection

**Physical Characteristics:** 1 record storage box

**Donated by:** Nancy McDaniel

**Arrangement:** Documents are arranged chronologically.

**Creator:** Members of Margaret Lynn Lewis Chapter, DAR

**Reproduction Restrictions:** No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

**Processor:** Angela Stiefbold, October 2024

**Historical Note:**

The Margaret Lynn Lewis chapter of the DAR was organized in Roanoke in 1894 by Lelia Smith Cocke (Mrs. Lucian H. Cocke), who was its first regent (chapter leader). The chapter was named after Margaret Lynn Lewis, who emigrated from Scotland to near Staunton, Virginia, in 1832 with her husband John Lewis. They were the parents of Revolutionary War General Andrew Lewis.

DAR Members must have a documented ancestor who aided in the effort for American Independence. The purpose of the organization is to preserve and memorialize the history of men and women who were active in the effort of obtaining American Independence and to promote education regarding American history and citizenship. The Margaret Lynn Lewis Chapter donated time and money to a wide variety of efforts that furthered these goals. For several decades they sponsored a Good Citizen award to a local high school student. They also erected local monuments to memorialize patriotic causes and individuals.

Chapter members of note include Sarah Johnson Cocke (the second Mrs. Lucian H. Cocke) who, when she lived in Georgia, was a national charter member and one of the first vice-presidents general of the national DAR. Sally Smith Rowbotham (Mrs. Arthur Rowbotham) served as state regent and national vice-president of the DAR in the 1930s (though she had moved to Altavista, VA at that time). Willie Walker Caldwell (Mrs. Manley M. Caldwell), author and writer for *The Roanoke Times*, was a Republican national committee member. Several members were founders of the Roanoke Civic Betterment Club.

## **Scope and Content:**

This collection includes scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, photographs, and other memorabilia amassed by members of the Margaret Lynn Lewis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Items document the activities of the local, state, and national DAR, as well as colonial and local history. Coverage of the chapter's founding through the 1960s is limited. Materials created prior to the 1970s suffered water damage; there is reference in later documents to the flooding of a bank vault in November 1985 that affected the chapter's memorabilia trunk. Only portions of early scrapbooks were salvaged and included in the donated items. These and some later items showed signs of mold; once digital copies were made of them, they were discarded. Digital copies were also made of later scrapbooks to document page order and item placement; these were then disassembled to remove newsprint and protect photographs.

## **Digital Files**

1910s Ephemera – List of papers written by chapter members, 1894-1918, and list of chapter reports. Copies are in Folder 2.

*Virginia Gazette*, May 15, 1926 – Issue commemorating Virginia Resolutions for Independence, May 15, 1776. Document is in Folder 3.

Undated Clippings – Newspaper articles about the local, state, and national DAR and organization and members. Copies are in Folder 4.

1930s Ephemera – Newspaper clippings about colonial and local history, and the activities of the local, state, and national DAR, including Good Citizen awards. Other items include: remarks on Esom Hannan; list of inscriptions on tombstones at Fincastle; program of dedication of George Washington National Forest (1938); program of dedication of Stratford Hall (1935); *The Virginia DAR* newsletter (March 1934); documentation of chapter activities. Copies and some originals are in Folder 5.

1940s Ephemera – Newspaper clippings about: colonial and local history; the activities of the local, state, and national DAR (including 1943 national meeting held in Roanoke) and a Roanoke Children of the American Revolution chapter; Good Citizen awards; and obituaries of several members, including Willie Walker Caldwell. Other items include information on the Argonne Circle WWI marker and pages salvaged from chapter scrapbooks that document the activities and history of the chapter. Copies and some originals are in Folder 6.

1946-49 Scrapbook – Includes 1946-47, 1947-48, and 1948-49 chapter yearbooks; newspaper clippings on local, state, and national DAR activities (including a 1946 effort to lift the ban on Black artists using Constitution Hall), local history, member obituaries, and Good Citizen awards; programs of 1947 & 1949 Virginia

- DAR meetings and of 1948 national DAR meeting; documents related to The Bell Tower at Valley Forge, Tamasee DAR School, National Tribute Grove in Del Norte County, California, Kenmore House, and Stratford Hall.
- 1950s Ephemera – Newspaper clippings about: colonial and local history; the activities of the local, state, and national DAR; and obituaries, including Alice E. Holman Richardson. Ephemera related to a historical exhibit curated by the chapter and displayed at Heironimus department store (1950); donation of a plaque to Hollins College library in memory of Leila Maria Smith Cocke; national and state DAR activities. Pages salvaged from chapter scrapbooks document activities and history of the chapter and include some correspondence and the 1955-56 and 1958-59 chapter budgets. Copies and some originals are in Folder 7.
- 1960s Clippings – Newspaper clippings about: colonial and local history; the activities of local, state and national DAR; and obituaries, including Mrs. Adrian Davant Antrim, Sally Smith (Mrs. Arthur) Rowbotham. Also, a special issue of the *Botetourt County News & Fincastle Herald* focused on the history of Fincastle (1966).
- 1973-94 Binder – Newspaper clippings, ephemera, correspondence, and photographs documenting the activities of the chapter, state, and national DAR, including publicity for the Good Citizen and other awards, and about colonial and local history. Highlights include: photographs of ceremony donating portrait of Patrick Henry to Patrick Henry H.S.; chapter memorials to Maria A. Hambrick, Anne Richardson Sclater, and Ida Norman Schick; items related to the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Andrew Lewis (1981); programs for Roanoke Valley “Massing of the Colors” (1984, 1990); 1992 Constitution Week proclamation publicity; and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the chapter. Some historic items were also in the binder, including the plaque from a bench donated to Constitution Hall (moved to Folder 31); chapter by-laws (undated); and 1894 letters to Mrs. F. F. Barksdale of Roanoke, including an invitation to join the chapter signed by Lelia M Cocke. Original items in Folders 8-10.
- 1973-94 Ephemera - Newspaper clippings, ephemera, and photographs documenting the activities of the chapter, state, and national DAR, and about colonial and local history. Highlights include minutes of April 1978 meeting; photographs from May 1977 Annual Luncheon, 1985, 1987 ceremonies at the Andrew Lewis Monument, and memorial service for Anne Richardson Sclater; and correspondence received in the early 1990s. Original items in Folder 11.
- 1994-99 Binder – Newspaper clippings, ephemera, and photographs documenting the activities of the chapter, state, and national DAR, and about colonial and local history. Highlights include biography of Margaret Lynn Lewis and family; member obituaries; correspondence received; awards given; Massing of the Colors programs (1990, 1996); and McClanahan Cemetery restoration. Original items in Folder 13

1994-99 Ephemera – Newspaper clippings and ephemera about the chapter and about colonial and local history. Highlights include draft application and DAR membership certificate for Virginia Ruth Hosp Moore; Good Citizen Awards; and proposed chapter budgets (n.d., 1998-99). Original items in Folder 14.

2001-04 Scrapbook – Newspaper clippings, ephemera, and photographs documenting the activities of the chapter, state, and national DAR, and about colonial and local history. Highlights include Good Citizen Awards; Dorothy Riggle’s service to veterans; chapter by-laws, and chapter yearbook supplement for 2003-04. Original items in Folders 15 and 16.

*A Guide to Historic Salem* (2004) – published by *Salem Times-Register* and Salem Historical Society July 22, 2004. Original in Folder 17.

2005-07 Binder – Newspaper clippings, ephemera, and photographs documenting the activities of the chapter, state, and national DAR, and about colonial and local history, as well as correspondence received. Highlights include chapter yearbooks 2002-05 and 2004-07; yearbook supplement 2005-06; Good Citizen Awards; member obituaries. Original items in Folders 18 and 19.

2008-14 Scrapbook – Newspaper clippings, ephemera, and photographs documenting the activities of the chapter, state, and national DAR, and about colonial and local history, as well as correspondence received. Highlights include chapter yearbooks 2006-08 and 2012-13; yearbook supplements 2007-08 and 2008-09; Good Citizen awards; history and rededication of the Argonne Circle Monument (2012); play / narrated history of Margaret Lynn Lewis’s life (1991); and member obituaries. Original items in Folders 20-22. Also inserted in the book were a DAR scarf and DAR pin, moved to Folder 31.

2014-17 Binder – Newspaper clippings, ephemera, and photographs documenting the activities of the chapter, state, and national DAR, and about colonial and local history, as well as correspondence received. Highlights include chapter meeting minutes 2015-17; Asa Hall grave marking ceremony; current bylaws (2010) and proposed changes (2016). Original items in Folder 23.

“Memorials–Dedications–History” Binder – List of markers placed by the chapter through 1939. Information on the following monuments: General Andrew Lewis Monument; Maria A. Henry Hambrick Gravestone; Argonne Circle Doughboy Memorial; George and Martha Washington Oaks (Ferdinand Ave.); Patrick Henry portrait given to Patrick Henry H.S.; Elm for American Veterans (2006). Written histories of: Andrew Lewis, Margaret Lynn Lewis, John Lewis, Andrew Lewis, and Lewisburg; the chapter’s Virginia DAR Pin. An 1895 copy of a letter of condolence to Mrs. Adalai Stevenson. Photographs of: 2008 Annual Commemoration of Lewis Family; monuments placed by chapter; Bell from Lewisburg Graded School; unidentified events; copy of portrait of Margaret Lynn

Lewis; 2006 Tree Dedication (and negatives); Lewisburg, WV and Ferdinand Monument (and negatives). Original items in Folder 24.

Founding Members Binder - Chapter's founding, early and significant members and their ancestries (and biographies for some): Lelia Maria Smith Cocke; Nannie M. Cowper Barksdale; Sarah Carrington Lathrop Bransford; Agnes Alexander Jones Butler; Amelia Coleman Gordon Christian; Mary Marshall Daniel; Mary Sturat Anderson Gooch; Maria Antoinette Henry Hambrick; Alice Peyton Terry Jamison; Mary Lila Terry; Lulie Lee Terry; Martha Leftwich Terry Goodwin; Mary Tinsley Kindred; Julia Cilley Lazell; Mary Ingles Lewis; Agnes Palmer; Pauline Massie; Ida Martha Digges Miller; Eleanor Mitchell Fry; Lucy De Jarnette Penn Warren; Annie Hawes Penn Wellford; Annie Shackelford Smithey; Ida Whittemore Soulé; Sally Hunt Staples; Ida A. Norman Schick; Sarah Cobb Johnson Hagan Cocke; Sally Moss Smith Rowbotham; list of charter members; list of chapter regents (1894 through 2006). Original items in Folder 25.

### **Container List:**

#### Box 1

- Folder 1: Constitution & Bylaws of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (ca. 1894) – Also includes list of national leadership, 1894.
- Folder 2: 1910s Ephemera – See description of digital file
- Folder 3: *Virginia Gazette*, May 15, 1926 – See description of digital file
- Folder 4: Undated Clippings – See description of digital file
- Folder 5: 1930s Ephemera – See description of digital file
- Folder 6: 1940s Ephemera – See description of digital file
- Folder 7: 1950s Ephemera – See description of digital file
- Folder 8: 1973-94 Binder, part 1 – See description of digital file
- Folder 9: 1973-94 Binder, part 2 – See description of digital file
- Folder 10: 1973-94 Binder, photographs – See description of digital file
- Folder 11: 1973-94 Ephemera – See description of digital file
- Folder 12: Mayor's Proclamations (1990, 1992) – Designating Constitution Week
- Folder 13: 1994-99 Binder - See description of digital file
- Folder 14: 1994-99 Ephemera – See description of digital file
- Folder 15: 2001-04 Scrapbook – See description of digital file
- Folder 16: 2001-04 Scrapbook, photographs - See description of digital file
- Folder 17: *A Guide to Historic Salem* (2004) – See description of digital file
- Folder 18: 2005-07 Binder – See description of digital file
- Folder 19: 2005-07 Binder, photographs – See description of digital file
- Folder 20: 2008-14 Scrapbook, part 1 – See description of digital file
- Folder 21: 2008-14 Scrapbook, part 2 – See description of digital file
- Folder 22: 2008-14 Scrapbook, photographs – See description of digital file
- Folder 23: 2014-17 Binder – See description of digital file

- Folder 24: “Memorials–Dedications–History” Binder – See description of digital file
- Folder 25: Founding Members Binder – See description of digital file
- Folder 26: Award Certificates, 1961-2000 – Presented by the national DAR to the Margaret Lynn Lewis Chapter.
- Folder 27: Good Citizen Award– Materials and photographs related to recipients Daryl Phelps (1985), Jason Trompeter (1998), Jason Paul Cruff (2002), Mark Hickman (2003), and Chen Lin (2007)
- Folder 28: Photographs – Photographs of: 1994 exhibit on the history of the chapter; the Margaret Lewis desk at the Bath County Historical Society; dedication of Maria Hambrick’s headstone; and photographs of other, unidentified chapter events
- Folder 29: Miscellaneous Loose Items – Copies of: 1952 endorsement of Mrs. Arthur Rowbotham to be Honorary Vice-President General; 1955 invitation to unveiling of plaque to Lelia Smith Cocke at Hollins College library; 1992 letter from David Bowers, Roanoke City Mayor, thanking for voter registration efforts; 1992 letter to the editor by Mary Wirsing regarding prayer in schools.
- Folder 30: *Virginia DAR News Bulletin* – Aug. 1997, Aug. 1998, Aug. 2004
- Folder 31: Commemorative Items – Plaque from bench in Constitution Hall, Washington, DC; DAR Pin; DAR Scarf.