

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Person: Jane G. Dugger

Gen. Robert H. Hatton UDC Chapter, #329

Date: September 12, 2016

Gen. Robert Hatton UDC Supports Pickett Chapel Restoration

Phillip Hodge, a member of the Wilson County Black History Committee, spoke to the General Robert Hatton Chapter #329 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy on September 10, 2016. The members presented him with a small donation to benefit the restoration of Pickett Chapel. He delivered an informational talk on the history of Pickett Chapel, possibly Lebanon's most historic building.

Mr. Hodge concluded his remarks by stating that there were three reasons why Pickett Chapel matters. First, time and circumstance give it importance. Pickett Chapel is all that is left of the original town layout of Lebanon. It also survived the one of the largest dangers of the 19th century—fire. It is a brick structure. Secondly, it is significant due to its completeness. It is a complete site—building and grounds. There are archival records and also the memories of people still living that can be researched. And lastly, Pickett Chapel is important because it embraces the entire story of the original Lebanon and all of its people and history.

Jean Ayers presented an "Ancestor Minute" on her ancestor Wayman Mansfield Russell. He was born on Nov. 20, 1828 in White Co., TN. On Feb. 18, 1858, he married Nancy Young Gracey and they had five children. While serving in the Tennessee State Legislature in 1861, he voted against seceding. Yet he heeded his state's call and enlisted in the Confederate Army. He was paroled on May 1, 1865 at Greensboro, NC. His two brothers died in the war—John at Corinth, MS and William of typhoid. In 1878 Mr. Russell was elected the joint representative for White and Putnam Counties to the State Legislature. Wayman Mansfield Russell died on October 8, 1907 and received a Masonic funeral. He was the oldest member of the Sparta Masons at the time of his death.

Pamela Annette Dies, the chapter historian, asked the members "What was the Corwin Amendment?" The Corwin Amendment proves that slavery was not THE cause of the War Between the States. The Corwin Amendment was introduced in March 1861 by Ohio Representative Thomas Corwin and passed the House and a similar proposal also passed in the

Senate. The purpose of the amendment was to prohibit Congress from banning slavery. If slavery was THE issue dividing the country, here was the way to patch the rift. However, the Southern states continued to secede because slavery was not THE issue. In Abraham Lincoln's inaugural address he stated that he would send armed troops to collect the Southern tariffs. This was THE issue. And, by the way, in his inaugural address, Lincoln also stated he had no objection to the amendment.

During the meeting, President Jane Dugger called the members' attention to the 15th Anniversary of 9-11 on Sunday, September 11, 2016. She distributed a flyer to each member that stated: "In Remembrance of Those We Lost and in Honor of Those Who Helped, September 11, 2001."

Ruth Cato reported that the General Robert H. Hatton SCV Chapter had invited the members to attend its September 29 meeting to hear Ron Blair speak about his ancestor Col. Frank Wolford who was the Union commander during the May 5, 1865 Battle of Lebanon. Mr. Blair has written a book about Wolford.



General Robert Hatton Chapter #329 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy gives \$25 to the restoration of Pickett Chapel.

(L to R) Mary Scott, Ruth Cato, Phillip Hodge and Pamela Annette Dies.