

4-22-2014

## Sons of the American Revolution, Kentucky Society (MSS 541)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
Department of Library Special Collections  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 541    SONS of the American Revolution, Kentucky Society**

1 box. 12 folders. 248 items. 1905-1997. Originals or photocopies

SC2015.20.13

***ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY***

The Sons of the American Revolution was organized on 30 April 1889, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as the U.S.'s first President. The organization was conceived as a fraternal and civic society composed of lineal descendants of the men who wintered at Valley Forge, signed the Declaration of Independence, fought in the battles of the American Revolution, served in the Continental Congress, or otherwise supported the cause of American Independence. The National Society was chartered by an Act of Congress on 9 June 1906. The charter authorizes the granting of charters to societies of the various states and territories and authorizes the state societies to charter chapters within their borders.

On the evening of 8 April 1889, Governor Simon Bolivar Buckner called for a meeting of all interested and eligible Kentuckians to be held in the Senate Chambers in Frankfort. Thirty-one Kentuckians—both men and women—answered Governor Buckner's call and organized the Kentucky Society of the Sons of the Revolution. Counting seven who could not attend the initial meeting, 38 Kentuckians were enrolled as charter members. The female members—who represented about one-third of the original membership—were exempt from paying initiation fees and 25-cent annual dues. Governor Buckner was the society's first official member and Judge William Lindsay served as the Society's first president. Kentucky's was the fifth charter issued behind California, Delaware, Connecticut, and Vermont.

The National Society's first National Congress was held at Louisville's old Galt House on 30 May 1890. The Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890, so the early "honorary" female members transferred their membership to that organization.

Today the SAR seeks to maintain and extend: the institutions of American freedom, an appreciation for true patriotism, a respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, the unifying force that *e pluribus unum* has created—from the people of many nations—one nation and one people. The organization's headquarters and genealogical library is located in Louisville, Kentucky.

## **COLLECTION NOTE**

This collection is not an archive for the Kentucky Society. It consists of materials related to the state society that were removed from the papers of the Charles Duncan Chapter (Bowling Green) archives (MSS 540). Of interest is a 1905 manual for the state society that lists members and includes instructions on how to apply for membership and a listing of state meeting sites from 1972-1989 in Folder 9, and several Kentucky Society newsletters from the 1920s in Folder 7. Folders 10-12 contain lists of life members, 1982-1990, and minutes, correspondence and financial papers related to the Kentucky Society's Life Member Trust Fund, which was administered by local members during the 1980s.

## **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Kentucky Society, SAR</b>	<b>1905-1997</b>	<b>248 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Administrative papers – Constitution and by-laws included in larger publication	1976	2 items
Folder 3	Agendas	1976-1981	9 items
Folder 4	Minutes	1978-1995	4 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1976-1991	49 minutes
Folder 6	Financial Paper	1978-1996	10 items
Folder 7	Programs	1969-1997	44 items
Folder 8	Newsletters	1921-1987	8 items
Folder 9	Miscellaneous – Manual (1905), news clipping, state meeting location list, etc.	1905-1981	7 items
Folder 10	Life members – Applications and lists	1982-1990	20 items
Folder 11	Life Member Trust Fund – Minutes, financial papers, etc.	1980-1988	57 items
Folder 12	Life Member Trust Fund – Minutes, financial papers, etc.	1988-1990	37 items

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS 541 SONS of the American Revolution,  
Kentucky Society 1905-1997

Correspondence, minutes, financial papers and program material related to the Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, chiefly for the period from 1969 to 1997. Of special interest are papers related to the Society's Life Member Trust Fund.

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## **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Jobson, Robert C. – Correspondence B1,F11-12  
Lyne, Betty Boyd – Relating to B1,F11-12  
Lyne, Thomas Jefferson, Jr., 1913-1990 – Correspondence B1,F11-12  
Patriotic societies – Kentucky  
Patriotism – Relating to  
Rowntree, Gradie R., d. 1993 – Correspondence B1,F11-12

Jeffrey 04/22/2014