

The Franklin Press

Established 1886



SAR: Working to maintain Revolutionary War graves

The Silas McDowell Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution that serves the western mountain region of North Carolina has as one of its missions to identify, preserve, and ensure that Revolutionary War veteran's graves are properly marked.

This past week, chapter president Tom Long and genealogist John Ruble spent the day in Macon County searching for, finding, and then cleaning and helping to preserve the headstones of six Revolutionary War veterans. Using genealogical research, three veterans were found in the cemetery of the First United Methodist Church in Franklin, and the other three were at the Sugarfork Baptist Church in the Ellijay community east of Franklin. The chapter continues to build its list of veterans' graves in Western North Carolina and recently located a patriot's grave in Cullowhee.

Long and Ruble use the same biodegradable cleaning solution and procedures to clean the headstones as are used in the Arlington National Cemetery. "We treat these graves like those of our own family members as we hold in great reverence what these men did in helping to establish our country," said Ruble. The chapter has located 12 patriot graves in the Western North Carolina region.

Those graves cleaned last week at the First United Methodist Church included William Trammell, William Addington, and Weimer Siler. At Sugar Fork Baptist Church the headstones of Daniel Bryson, David Fulton, and Jesse Fulton were cleaned. Long and Ruble also took GPS coordinates and photographed the headstones for inclusion in the national Sons of the American Revolution graves registration database.

The group is searching for descendants of the patriots who might still be living in the area. The Sons want to ask the families for permission to place a permanent marker at the grave designating the person as someone who participated in the American Revolution. Earlier this year, nearly 75 people attended the ceremony to honor Samuel Monteith (1756-1840) who served under General Griffith Rutherford in this area and who is buried in Sylva.

The Silas McDowell Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution serves Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties in the Mountain District of the North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Every other month meetings are held at the Boiler Room restaurant in Franklin on the third Monday of the month. Anyone with an ancestor tied to the American Revolution is welcome and encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Chapter president Tom Long at (828) 321-3522 or tomeaglenc@aol.com.