

## The BAR Tab

## New Castle, Delaware August 2023



August 2023

Dear Battell and Read Chapter, Associate and Prospective members,

And just like that Summer is over! Teachers and children are back to school and school buses are on the road. Please pay attention to the buses and be sure to stop accordingly as they pick up and drop off the children.

Our first Progressive Dinner was held on Saturday, August 26 and it was a great success! The food was fantastic and the hostesses creative!! We will plan this event again in the future.

Please make every effort to attend the **Saturday, September 16, 2023** regular chapter meeting. We have 23 members so the quorum is 12. However, two of our members will be at the Monarch Migration event representing our chapter as it is the same day.

We will formally present the Legacy Grant to Serviam Academy and the Junior Classroom Grant to Niki Keenan, Pleasantville Elementary School as well as swear in 2 "new" members...Lissa Hilsee and Jennifer Leary.

There will be a special presentation by Karen Jessee, **Bustles to Bras**, sponsored in part by Delaware Humanities. A few seats are being offered to chapter members of nearby chapters, USD1812, etc. Don't forget to bring

your donations for the Airmen's Attic Dover Air Force Base.

September 17 – 23 is Constitution Week. Jackie is taking one of the displays to the library in Smyrna, and the other will be set up at the New Castle Court House Museum. A proclamation for Constitution Week will be read by the Mayor (me!) at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 12.

We'll have some fun making no sew fabric pumpkins at DAR after Dark on **Tuesday**, **September 19**, **6:30** p.m.



Art on the Green is Saturday, September 23. We will several items available to sell for fundraising as well as promotion of the DAR and the Battell and Read Chapter. Please consider signing up to help for a couple of hours. We had a lot of fun last year!

On Thursday, October 5, at 11 a.m. we have been invited to participate in the Naturalization Ceremony at the New Castle Court House Museum. We are primarily hosting the reception and in checking with other chapters, they have provided water and cookies, and helped take photos of the new citizens with their certificates and families. A table will be set up on the Green or on the Plaza with these items. Chris Everhart is looking into the possibility of some donated items to give to the new citizens (20).

Bingo at the VA is getting organized so please reach out to Doris (<a href="kit40569@gmail.com">kit40569@gmail.com</a>) or Vivian Adams (Caesar Rodney Chapter <a href="kit40569@gmail.com">kit40569@gmail.com</a>) for more information or follow up. It looks like it will be fun and I hope to participate as well.

As we move into our second year, I would like to remind each of you how much I appreciate you. YOU are what makes this chapter successful! From the beginning my goals for the chapter have been to create and develop new friends and friendships, to encourage involvement in community service, preserving history, educating children, as well as honoring and supporting those who serve or have served our nation and have fun!

There are over 40 committees in the DAR...there is something of interest to everyone. Let me help you find it!!



Valarie Leary Organizing Regent

















# **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**Rebecca DeVore, Chair

September is here and we have two events coming up that we will be attending! Thank you to Nanette, Sherrye, Sandy, Debbie, Laurie and Janet for helping on August 5th we made over 100 seed bombs together and then had lunch. Thank you again to Nanette for hosting.

We will be participating at the Monarch Butterfly Migration event on September 16th. Nanette and I will be attending as we have our first meeting that day. The event is from noon to 4 pm. We will be selling seed bombs.

Our second event is Art on the Green. We are looking forward to participating in that event and expanding our sales with milkweed plants, jewelry, wristlets and more. There will be more information about signing up to volunteer. Please consider joining us for a couple hours that day. A sign-up link will be going out via email soon.

#### SERVICE TO AMERICA

As of August 31, 2023, we have <u>790.50</u> Service to America Hours logged for 2023, with the goal of <u>540</u> hours for the year.\*



We have accomplished our goal and more!
Can we double this?
Let's do it!

# DID YOU KNOW that the below activities ALL count as Service to America hours:

- Volunteering at local historical societies or associations
- Volunteering in schools, hospitals, and churches
- Volunteering with other lineage societies outside of DAR
- Transporting or sitting with those facing medical issues (non-family members)
- Service as a DAR chapter / C.A.R. senior society, state or national officer; committee chairman, vice chairman, cochairman, committee member, etc. This includes all planning, communication, board meetings, and committee meetings.

If you need help logging hours, or are unsure if your hours count, please contact Valarie.

\*That is 30 hours per member for the year and is also based on the # of members on January 1, 2023 which was 18.

Log your **Service to America** hours **here**!

### **ART ON THE GREEN**

### **September 23, 2023**

- A-frame sign to advertise
- Membership Materials – trifold and brochures
- Monarch Butterfly Display



### For fundraising:

- Milkweed seed balls
- Earrings (Rebecca)
- Oyster Shell Ornaments and Ring Trays
- Wristlets

Volunteers will be needed to staff the tent! Please plan on attending AOTG and giving a couple hours (or more) to your chapter! This is an excellent opportunity to fundraise and promote the Battell and Read Chapter, and the DAR.

# SERVICE TO VETERANS/PROJECT PATRIOT

As a chapter we voted to work on small and large move out kits for the Hope Center.

Thanks to
Janet R. for
estimating the
cost of each kit:
\$110 for the
small and \$310
for the large.
There are a



number of donated items at my home that need to be inventoried. The sign-up list will be updated accordingly. Discussion on how to go about procuring donations and/or funding will be discussed. Stay tuned!



We are still accepting potential sponsors. So please forward 2-3 potential sponsors to Doris or I and we will send out the letters. Please include the address and a contact name if at all possible. A phone number for follow up would be great!

Remember \$5 of every wreath sponsored returns to the chapter! Our goal is 300 wreaths!

https://shorturl.at/hsvW1 to sponsor a wreath, or use the form included with this newsletter.

#### **APPLICATION / TRANSFER STATUS**

Antoinette's AIR has been answered and has been submitted for Peer Review before sending on to National.

Hannah Witcher is nearly complete.

Mary Ellen Craig and Sandra Clay are getting close!

NOW is the time to get friends or family members to join us! Do you know someone who is hesitating?

Please invite them to a meeting or activity. Also, if they join before October 15, 2023, they are considered a Charter Member.

#### DAR LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Rebecca DeVore - Chair

Four of our members, Debbie, Tracy, Denise and Rebecca are finishing up the New Members class this month. We are going to be working on a project together in September and finishing up by October 5th. We are looking forward to sharing our project together with you.

If you are interested in taking the New Members class and finding out more about the DAR organization, please text Rebecca at (302)563-4336. If you have any questions, please ask any of the members taking the course.

### **GENIE TIPS - CENSUS RECORDS**

Sherrye Eaton

Census records in the United States began in 1790 and have been taken every ten years since. They are taken to show population estimates and to collect other data. The data collected from respondents directly through the questionnaires taken at a residence or business helps to determine how much money is distributed amongst states and counties. It helps communities get schools, hospitals, roads, etc.

The census asks questions pertaining to persons living in a household, such as:

- 1) # of people living in the home and their names
- 2) the sex, age, and race of each person
- 3) relationship status to the head of the household
- 4) real estate and personal property value

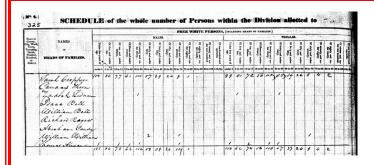
- 5) naturalization status
- 6) illiterate or not
- 7) occupation
- 8) place of birth and other miscellaneous data

Census records between 1790 – 1840 do not list the above in the information. They only list the head of household and the number of persons living in each age group. It was not until 1850 that the above information was taken for each household. Sometimes people do not show up on a census because the census taker misinterprets the head of household's writing or had to complete the census themselves do to members of the household being illiterate. This may cause mistakes to be made because the census taker will spell a surname the way it is pronounced not as it is spelled.

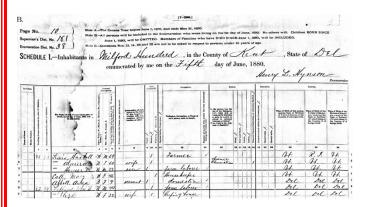
Census records are currently available to the public to view from 1790 to 1950, except for the 1890 census which was destroyed in a fire in 1921 at the United States Department of Commerce in Washington, D. C. The 1960 Census will become available in 2030, the 1970 Census will be available in 2040, and so on.

Census records are rich in data and should be the first place you look for your family history. These records will help you find clues you missed, interpret new finds, or confirm you are on the right track. It can help you make family connections across generations.

Below are three examples of census records for 1830, 1850, and 1930. Notice the differences in information for each census record.







#### **HISTORY CORNER**

Denise Dyson

"Remembering Jennie Wade"



The Battle of Gettysburg took many lives, but it was a miracle that numerous civilians were notamong the slain. With the battle taking place in the streets and throughout the town,

the people who lived in Gettysburg were fortunate to survive. Except for one.

Mary Virginia "Jennie" Wade, age 20, was killed outright on the morning of the third day as she mixed dough for biscuits to feed the hungry Union soldiers.

(due to the length of this excellent article, it is included at the end of the newsletter)

# What's a QUORUM? And why should I care??

Our by-laws state that a quorum is 50% + 1 of our membership. We have 23 established members, and 12 is the quorum.

A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. A meeting quorum is required at our chapter meetings for the purpose of conducting and voting on new chapter business. Without it we can't make motions, change bylaws, initiate group projects, purchase items, donate money, and so forth. Please plan to attend as many meetings as possible so we can meet the quorum needed to achieve our chapter goals.



September 16, 2023, 10:30 a.m.: Regular Chapter Meeting, New Castle Public Library Community Room; Special Guest: Karen Jesse, Bustles to Bras

September 16, 2023, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.:

Monarch Migration Celebration (Rebecca and Nanette will be attending)

**September 19, 2023, 6:30 p.m.:** DAR After Dark Meeting/Social – DIY Fabric Pumpkins

**September 23, 2023, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m**.; Art on the Green – All hands on deck please!

October 5, 11 a.m. – Naturalization Ceremony, New Castle Court House Museum

October 21, 2023: Delaware State Fall Meeting. Jonathan's Landing, Magnolia, Delaware \*The Fall Meeting falls on the date of our normally scheduled chapter meeting. An alternate chapter meeting date will be discussed.

October 25, 2023, 6:30 p.m.: DAR after Dark

November 18, 2023, 10:30 a.m.: Regular

Chapter Meeting, TBD

November 25, 2023, 6:30 p.m.: DAR After

Dark Meeting/Social

December 2, 2023: Chapter Holiday Tea

**April 27, 2024:** Delaware State Conference, Smyrna, Delaware.

October 19, 2024: Delaware State Fall

Meeting, Odessa, Delaware.

April 26, 2025: Delaware State Spring

Conference, Lewes, Delaware.

# Remembering Jennie Wade by Diana Loski





The Battle of Gettysburg took many lives, but it was a miracle that numerous civilians were not among the slain. With the battle taking place in the streets and throughout the town, the people who lived in Gettysburg were fortunate to survive. Except for one.

Mary Virginia "Jennie" Wade, age 20, was killed outright on the morning of the third day as she mixed dough for biscuits to feed the hungry Union soldiers.

About 170,000 soldiers converged on the town of about 2,400 during the first three days of July in 1863. The men who fought at Gettysburg all needed nourishment and drink, especially with the hard fighting, long marches, and working in the sultry summer heat.

The reason Jennie Wade is remembered by so many is that she gave up her life as she attempted to serve the Union soldiers – and therefore her country.

Jennie Wade was the second daughter born to James and Mary Wade on May 21, 1843. Her sister, Georgia, was almost two years older, having been born on July 4, 1841. Another daughter, who died in infancy, and three brothers followed: John, Sam, and Harry.<sup>1</sup>

Jennie was born in a two-story Federal style clapboard home, located on the corner of Baltimore Street and Wade Avenue. The family rented the house, and James Wade, a tailor, used a portion of the building for his business. The Wade women assisted James, and all became expert seamstresses.<sup>2</sup>

Within a few years, the family built a home on the corner of Breckinridge and Washington Streets.

When Jennie was just seven years old, her father was arrested for larceny and convicted to spend two years in prison. His time in jail must have worsened him, for Mary Wade later appeared in court to have him declared insane. Mr. Wade was sent to the Alms House, a place for the destitute and mentally ill that was located north of town, near the future part of the battlefield known as Barlow's Knoll.<sup>3</sup>

The conviction of Mr. Wade brought shame to the family and thrust them into poverty. Jennie and Georgia labored with their mother as seamstresses to bring in enough money for them to subsist and feed a family of six. The boys, too, rented themselves out for labor. Young Sam soon apprenticed for James Pierce, a prominent butcher who lived just one block from their home. Since Gettysburg was

a thriving crossroads town, there were several carriage-making businesses. Jennie and Georgia often helped with the creation and mending of carriage tops. Jennie met her close friend, and later beau, Johnston "Jack" Skelly, who also worked at times with the carriage companies, but was also a stone cutter. Another childhood friend, John Wesley Culp, worked as a tailor. As the carriage business fell off, Culp's employer, William Hoffman, moved his business to Shepherdstown, Virginia (now West Virginia). Culp went with him in 1856, just five years before the war erupted. One of Jack Skelly's brothers, Edwin, also moved to Virginia with Mr. Hoffman.<sup>4</sup>

When the war came, Edwin Skelly returned to fight for the Union. Jack also enlisted. Wesley Culp remained in Virginia and joined the Confederacy – much to the chagrin of his family and the populace of Gettysburg.

Jack, who was two years older than Jennie, was twenty years old when he enlisted. He corresponded regularly with his childhood friend, and she began to look forward to his correspondence. During the first two years of the war, the couple's friendship began to blossom. While there is no proof of an engagement, it was clear that Jack and Jennie were more than friends.

In the midst of the war, Georgia married her sweetheart, John Louis McClellan. Mr. McClellan was the son of John McClellan, the owner of what is now The Gettysburg Hotel. He was well known, and liked, in the town. A bachelor, Mr. McClellan never married John Louis's mother; the public seemed to look the other way at this indiscretion.<sup>5</sup>

Jennie was needed even more by her mother to help with work, as Georgia soon became pregnant. The mother-to-be lived nearby in a rented home at the top of the hill on Baltimore Street, while her husband was absent fighting for the Union.

Jennie showed ardent patriotism. In addition to supporting her beloved Jack, her oldest brother, John, also joined the Union army when he was old enough to enlist, shortly before the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.6

When General Buford's Division rode down Washington Street, past Jennie's home, many of the girls of the town stood in a line, singing patriotic songs and passing out water, flowers, and bread. Jennie was unable to join them as she worked fastidiously on her brother's uniform to alter it to fit him. The next day, July 1, the battle began in earnest west of town.

Jennie felt uncomfortable living in her clapboard home on Breckinridge Street. Her sister, Georgia, had given birth to a son, Louis Kenneth McClellan on June 26th, the day the Confederates first invaded the town. The baby has been named "the youngest veteran of the Battle of Gettysburg".

Tillie Pierce recalled that Jennie "was standing a short distance off" and "screamed at the top of her voice...'If the Rebs take our Sam, I don't know what I'll do with you folks!" Tillie was aghast that Jennie would hold the Pierces responsible when it was clear they could not control the outcome of the situation. Thankfully, the Confederate officer returned Sam Wade to his family, and he went to Georgia's house up the street.9

With her sister indisposed, Jennie cooked and cleaned while her mother helped with the baby. On July 2, the battle raged nearby, and a shell struck the house. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but a hole was torn in the plaster wall that separated Georgia's side of the house with the neighbors who rented

the other side. 10

When she could, Jennie filled a pail of water and took it to the troops who were marching to their deployment. Many soldier accounts record the young woman who gave them biscuits and water, which they greatly appreciated.<sup>11</sup>

On the evening of July 2, Annie Culp Myers, who lived with her husband on Middle Street, heard a knock at the door. Opening it, she was overjoyed to see her brother, Wesley. Sporting the gray Confederate uniform, Wes served with the 2nd Virginia Infantry, part of the famous Stonewall Brigade. He slipped away from his post to see his sisters, Annie and Julia. He mentioned seeing Jack Skelly in Winchester, Virginia, badly wounded in his arm. Private Culp told his sister that Jack gave him a message for Mrs. Skelly, but he didn't find her at home. When Annie asked to hear the message, Wesley was circumspect and said only Jack's mother could know. The following morning, shortly after dawn on Culp's Hill, Wesley Culp was killed.<sup>12</sup>

The bombardment of artillery and musketry on Culp's Hill at first light on July 3, 1863, must have woken Jennie and the rest of the inhabitants of the house. At about 8 a.m., Jennie went to the kitchen and began making dough for biscuits to feed the Union soldiers.

It is not known who fired upon the house, or if the house was even a target. From somewhere north of the McClellan house on Baltimore Street, a soldier fired his musket, and the bullet penetrated the outer door, then pierced the inner door leading to the kitchen and slammed into Jennie Wade. The bullet found its mark in her heart, and she fell dead without a sound.







Inner Door

Mrs. Wade saw her daughter fall and exclaimed, "Georgia, your sister is dead." 13

A few Union soldiers helped Mrs. Wade, Georgia, and the boys, including the newborn child, to the cellar. Jennie's mother insisted that Jennie be brought along as well. Wrapped in a quilt, Jennie's body was carried by a soldier across the gap in the wall made by the artillery shell the previous day. They waited in the cellar the rest of July 3.





The cellar features a recreation of Jennie's body lying during the battle. Second picture is a drawing of what it might looked like during that time of the year

On Saturday, July 4, the battle had ended. It was a rainy Independence Day, and Georgia's birthday. The family procured a coffin and buried Jennie in the yard, with her apron containing a photograph of Jack Skelly and with flour and dough sticking to her hands.

The grave of Jennie Wade was eventually moved to Evergreen Cemetery. In 1901, a tombstone was dedicated with funds raised by the Iowa Women's Relief Corps – of which Georgia McClellan was a member. A few years later, a flagpole supporting Old Glory was placed beside the grave. The flag flies over it day and night. The Women's Relief Corps sends two flags each year for the grave.<sup>14</sup>



Jennie's Monument

Jack Skelly succumbed to his wounds about two weeks after Jennie died. The three childhood friends were spared the sorrow of losing each other.

Regardless of her early fate, Jennie's short and difficult life demonstrated kindness and patriotism. She risked, and lost, her life because she wanted to help the soldiers battling for her town and her nation. As we remember her birthday from the spring of 1843, we also remember one taken far too soon, like so many who fought at the Battle of Gettysburg and beyond.

Sources: Alleman, Tillie Pierce. At Gettysburg: Or What a Girl Saw and Heard of the Battle. New York: W. Lake Borland, 1889 (reprint: Gettysburg, PA: The Shriver House, 2005). Culp, Wesley, Personal Accounts File, Gettysburg National Military Park. The John W. Johnston Account, Jennie

Wade File, Adams County Historical Society (hereafter ACHS). Kennell, Brian A. Beyond the Gatehouse: Gettysburg's Evergreen Cemetery. Gettysburg, PA: The Evergreen Cemetery Association, 2000. Louis McClellan Obituary, The Gettysburg Times, February 13, 1941. U.S. Census, 1860 and 1870, Cumberland Township, PA, Ancestry.com. Skelly Family File, ACHS. End Notes:

- 1. Johnston Account, Jennie Wade File, ACHS.
- 2. The Wade house, the only white house on the corner of Washington and Breckinridge Streets, still stands. It is privately owned.
- 3. U.S. Census, 1860, 1870. The Alms House no longer stands.
- 4. Wesley Culp File, GNMP. Skelly Family File, ACHS.
- 5. Kennell, p. 21.
- 6. Johnston Account, Jennie Wade File, ACHS.
- 7. The Gettysburg Times, Feb. 13, 1941.
- 8. Alleman, p. 24.
- 9. Ibid., pp. 24-25.
- 10. The opening made by the shell is still intact and easily seen at the house where Jennie was killed.
- 11. Johnston Account, Jennie Wade File, ACHS.
- 12. Wesley Culp File, GNMP.
- 13. Johnston Account, Jennie Wade File, ACHS.
- 14. Kennell, p. 52. The grave was, for a time, in a local churchyard before being moved to Evergreen.
- 15. Johnston Account, Jennie Wade File, ACHS.

Author's Note: Louis K. McClellan was not the only newborn at the Battle of Gettysburg. David McConaughy's daughter also gave birth shortly before the battle.



### 2023 Wreath Sponsorship Order Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local and community cemeteries each December for National Wreaths Across America Day.

Your donation will ensure the placement of a veteran's wreath for one or more veterans laid to rest at the participating location of your choice.

All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form. Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America
PO Box 249
Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.

Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by visiting:

Wreaths Across America

You should be the only one to enter your credit card information at checkout on the Wreaths Across America website. For your security, do not share this information with anyone else who offers to place an order for you.

If you prefer to pay with a check, please complete this form and mail it along with your check to Wreaths Across America at the address listed in the box above.

To split your donation between multiple groups and/or locations, please list the IDs and dollar amounts for each.

CHECK#		CHECK DATE		SPONSOR NAME FOR DISPLAY If different than name on check.	
GROUP ID(s)	DE0112P	DE0112P	DE0112P	EMAIL ADDRESS	
LOCATION ID(s)	DEVMBE (BEAR)			PHONE #	
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)				MAILING ADDRESS	

#### SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.

IN MEMORY OF REQUEST	The "In Memory Of" Name will be listed on the Wreaths Across America online Remember Wall, along with your personal message.
NAME FOR MEMORY WALL POST	
SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

IN HONOR OF REQUEST	An email will be sent to your chosen recipient from Wreaths Across America letting them know of your donation of sponsored veteran wreaths in their honor.
RECIPIENT NAME	
RECIPIENT EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	