

## **A HISTORY OF THE CENTENNIAL - MAURY CHAPTER 2296**

Mathew Fontaine Maurey Chapter 2267 organized December 1, 1958 in Richmond. Centennial Chapter 2296 organized April 19, 1961 in Richmond. On June 30, 1984, the Centennial Chapter merged with the Matthew Fontaine Maury Chapter #2296, and out of this union the Centennial-Maury #2296, emerged. This merger combined the best elements of the two merging chapters and produced a vigorous and growing entity.

Mrs. Edna Bowles, a devoted and knowledgeable member, came to us at the time of the merger and we cherish and appreciated the wisdom she brought with her.

From 1993 - 1997, Mrs. Faye Self Oliff Barnes (Mrs. E.B.) served as president of the Centennial-Maury Chapter. Under her outstanding leadership the chapter worked to save the Confederate Home for Ladies for whom it was established many years prior. However, after a court battle, the effort was overpowered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. During Faye's administration, the chapter continued to maintain the confederate marker located on Brook Turnpike in Richmond.

In 1997, Mrs. Tracey Mulvaney was elected president and served for one year.

In 1998, Mrs. Sharon Loving became president of the Centennial-Maury Chapter and served in this capacity until 2006. During her time of office Sharon worked diligently with the Skylark chapter Children of the Confederacy which Centennial-Maury chapter sponsored. Under her leadership, the CofC had numerous accomplishments.

Jean Frawner (Mrs. John L., Jr.) was elected president of Centennial-Maury chapter in 2006, and is currently serving in that capacity.

In November 2002, at the General Convention in Richmond, the Chapter bestowed two Military Service Awards to John Frawner, Jr. and Paul L. Self.

On October 29, 2006, Centennial-Maury Chapter, assisted by Skylark Chapter CofC, held a service at Old Church United Methodist Church in Shanghai VA to dedicate a grave marker for Dr. Bland. We cherish the name of Dr. Beatrice Bland who was "inherited" from Matthew Fontaine Maury Chapter. She was a founding member of the Virginia Division CofC, served as UDC Division Third Vice President and Historian, received the Winnie Davis Medal, the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal, and the Robert E. Lee Award. Dr. Bland was elected honorary President of Virginia Division in 1994. Dr. Bland handled her obligations as an officer in a witty and intelligent manner, which one may expect from a great teacher, but seldom encounters in daily life.

In addition to Dr. Bland serving as a Division officer, Sharon Loving served as Division Third Vice President and Mary Vial (Mrs. John C. Jr.) served as Division Registrar.

Jamie Maupin from the Skylark chapter CofC served as President of the Virginia Division CofC and Vice President of General CofC.

The Chapter has a Scholarship Fund, members attend the Memorial service at the Confederate Chapel, and the Lee, Jackson, Maury Memorial service, places a wreath at the monument of Matthew Fontaine Maury in Honor of his Birthday, volunteers at the Memorial Building, Memorial Regional Medical Center, American Cancer Society, Hanover Tavern, Hanover Correctional Center, McGuire VA Hospital, Fisher House and other charitable institutions.

Revised July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, by Cynthia Ledbetter

Except for a two-year sabbatical, Jean Frawner served as Chapter President from 2006 until she was no longer able to continue due to her health problems in 2021. She passed away on Aug. 21, 2021. Jean was known as a President with “a steady hand on the gavel”, and led the Chapter with her proficiency, patience, and compassion for everyone. She served the U.D.C. for many years holding various offices. She was respected and loved by all.

Cynthia Ledbetter stepped up as acting President of Centennial-Maury Chapter, until installation of officers being elected as President by her chapter.