

Patriot Acts

White Salmon DAR chapter continues service to country

By Jeanie Senior

White Salmon has one of the newest of Washington's 34 chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)—a venerable 115-year-old organization whose motto is "God, Home and Country."

White Salmon resident Cheryl Strong founded the Mount Adams Chapter in 2000, and served as its first regent, because she tired of driving to meetings at the DAR chapter in Vancouver.

Cheryl could have joined a DAR chapter in The Dalles, but "I live in Washington and I didn't want to belong to an Oregon chapter," she says.

JoAnn Hardin, the present regent, planned to join the DAR in Hawaii in 2000, just before she and her husband, Herb, decided to move to White Salmon.

Once here, she saw the announcement in the newspaper that a chapter had been formed.

A chapter needs 12 members to get started. Cheryl says she was delighted when Donna Everett, now the group's secretary, joined, along with her two daughters and a granddaughter.

The DAR welcomes new members. To be invited to join, a woman must be 18 or older and capable of proving direct descent from "an ancestor who aided in achieving

American independence."

Acceptable forebears showed their patriotism between April 19, 1775 (the battle of Lexington) and November 25, 1783 (when British troops withdrew from New York.) An ancestor, either male or female, can have served in the military, been a civil servant, been a signer of the Declaration of Independence or performed patriotic service—a list



Above, JoAnn Hardin shows copies of the DAR's Patriot Indices, a guide to help Americans research their Revolutionary War-era ancestors.

stretching from belonging to the Continental Congress to providing aid to the war wounded.

JoAnn's link is an ancestor who was a town selectman in New Hampshire, and voted with other

town council members to oppose the British regime and declare war on Britain.

Since digging deeper into her genealogy, she has found several other Revolutionary War patriots in other branches of her family.

To aid in the search for those ancestors, the Mount Adams chapter gave the White Salmon Valley Library a copy of the DAR's three-volume book Patriot Indices.

"You can look in those three books to see if you have an ancestor who qualifies as a patriot," says JoAnn, pointing out both men and women are included in the book.

Cheryl's patriot ancestor is Giles White, who was a private soldier in Massachusetts.

Cheryl, who grew up in Bremerton, was interested in the DAR before she knew of the patriot's existence.

"I wanted to belong," she says.

She embarked on a search to find ties to the Revolution.

"It was 1993 when I found a book in my grandmother's dresser drawer that said there was a (Revolutionary) soldier, and then the quest was over," she says.

An application to join DAR costs \$75. Money from the \$45 annual dues are divided among national, state and local chapters.

Nationwide, the organization has 171,000 members in 2,926 chapters, with a handful overseas in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

The DAR owns Constitution Hall, a museum, a library and a

repository of documents focusing on early America, all in Washington, D.C.

Monthly meetings of the Mount Adams Chapter include a program, often with a speaker who addresses events in American history.

DAR objectives focus on historic preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavor.

Members earn money for their projects by serving coffee, tea and cookies at the Gee Creek Rest Area on southbound Interstate 5, north of Vancouver. This year, they will work April 5 and 6.

"In doing so, we manage to earn quite a bit of money," JoAnn says.

The chapter gives in several ways.

It donates Campbell Soup labels to the DAR's Kate Duncan Smith



Cheryl Strong

School in Alabama and Crossnore School in North Carolina.

When members learned the

Oregon National Guard was sending school supplies to Iraqi children, they bought backpacks, filled them with supplies for second-graders and delivered them to the National Guard Armory in Hood River.

They also have sent money, Christmas cards and phone cards to the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. John C. Stennis*, which is home ported in Puget Sound.

"The DAR gives lots of scholarships, holds contests for students to write essays on women's issues, conservation, history," JoAnn says.

A Washington DAR chapter recently erected a marker at Fort Lewis to honor patriot Meriwether Lewis, who was co-leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the fort's namesake. ■

She Traveled the World

While working on family genealogy, JoAnn Hardin also is writing stories to document more recent family history.

"I didn't start until most people had passed away, and I could have gotten such great stories from them," she says, echoing a common regret. "Every average American's lineage is just as important as Thomas Jefferson, George Washington or whoever."

Some day JoAnn could write stories about her own life.

She grew up in Yakima, lived in Bozeman, Montana, and eventually got a job working as a stewardess—as flight attendants then were called—for now-defunct Pan American Airways.

"I'm an old-timer," says JoAnn. "I never flew on jets, only on propeller planes."

It was a job with more than a hint of glamor.

"That was a fun time," she says. "Stewardesses were only a couple of steps down below Hollywood."

With slower airplanes, layovers in foreign ports were longer. On extremely long trips, the planes flew with a double crew—one working, one crew resting.

JoAnn flew to Europe, South America and Africa.

"I was on the first commercial flight that tried to get into Argentina after Juan Peron was overthrown," she recalls. "We had to turn around and go back to Montevideo, Uruguay."

After JoAnn met her future husband, Herb, in Hawaii, she decided to give up flying and go back to school.

She eventually got a job teaching languages.

Herb worked at the University of Hawaii.

"After 40 years in Hawaii, we decided it was time for a new adventure, before we got too old," she says.

They moved their household to White Salmon. JoAnn says it is a choice they are happy about. ■



JoAnn with a young passenger traveling from Buenos Aires to New York in 1955, when JoAnn worked as a Pan American Airways stewardess. Founded in 1927, "Pan Am" was a major air carrier until its bankruptcy in 1991.