

CAPTAIN WENDELL OURY CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Virgil Childress Grogan

Captain Wendell Oury Chapter, DAR, takes its name from an ancestor of both the organizing Regent and the first Chaplain of the Chapter - Mrs. W. S. Swann, organizing Regent, and her aunt, Mrs. H. P. Wear, Chaplain.

Captain Wendell Oury, who is listed in Heitman's Register, assisted in establishing American Independence by serving under Daniel Brodhead, with the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment, from August 9, 1776 to October 16, 1777. It has been impossible to follow the military movements of this regiment but it is known that Brodhead was in command at Fort Pitt; so it is possible that much of Oury's service was on the western frontier.

Descendants of Wendell Oury have varying ideas about the place of his birth. One version is that he was born in Germany and then founded the family in Pennsylvania. Another branch thinks that early in the 17th century, Wendell and a brother named Van left Scotland and went to France for a few years. After that they went to the New World and settled in Pennsylvania—records in Pennsylvania do not show a Van Oury. The name of Wendell Oury has not been found on lists of Immigrants, so it is just possible that he was NOT the Immigrant of the Oury family. Mention of a Captain OURRY who served at Fort Bedford under St. Clair during the frontier troubles gives rise to speculation as to whether this man might have been the father of Wendell and Van, and perhaps others. Time and place elements would seem to be "right."

Going back to the known facts concerning Wendell Oury, he married Catherine Peterpenner and they had 8 children:

Elizabeth Rader
William Laster
Thomas
George
Christopher (Stuffle)
Rebecca Steele
John
Margaret

The closing events of Wendell Oury's life are shadowed by the lapse of time and by differing versions of family traditions. One branch of the family thinks that he went from Pennsylvania to Virginia, where he lived for a time at Wytheville. A year after peace was declared, he left his home carrying \$1,000 in gold and was never afterward seen nor heard from. It is also said that Wendell Oury owned the land where Greensburg (near Pittsburg) now stands. Still another version is that the land was located at the present site

of Braddock, Pennsylvania, and he decided to move to Virginia. Leaving his family camped in Max Meadows, he started west with the idea of buying land. He was last seen entering a covered bridge five miles east of present-day Wytheville. At any rate, the exact time and place of the death of this Revolutionary Soldier has never been determined. But in the 1790 South Carolina Census a Wendell Oury shows up owner of 15 slaves.

George Oury, son of Wendell, is said to have served in the Revolutionary War, as a Drummer Boy. He was born in 1767, married first Elizabeth Adams. They were the parents of two sons: Marius (died young) and Augustus, born 1795. George Oury's second wife was Nancy Sanders and they had:

- Catherine, married Richard Mathews
- Robert H.
- John Sanders (1807-1875) married Julia Ryan
- Senah Foster
- Nancy Long
- Elizabeth Sanders
- Malvina
- Wendell

Mrs. Wear's sister, the late Miss Eunice Oury, did much research on the Oury family and from her, Mrs. Wear has received materials, as well as a beautiful oil portrait of George Oury (1767-1828).

John Sanders Oury (1807-1875) married Julia Ryan and they had a family which included the following children:

- Susan married Dr. E. D. Boaz
- Mary Ann married Mr. Bailey
- Alice married Winston Coleman
- George Gains (1832-1868) married Amanda Acree (1840-1905)
- Effie Everett married William P. Gatlin
- Vinnie Vernon
- Numa married Hugh P. Wear
- John Rudy

George Gains Oury who married Amanda Acree had the following children:

- Burnice B.
- Ducie D.
- Junie Ross
- Eunice E.

Effie Everett Oury who married William P. Gatlin had Gray Acree who married W. S. Swann.

On September 2, 3, and 4, 1947, Dr. Winona Stevens Jones, State Regent, DAR, was in Murray as the house guest of Mrs. Warren S. Swann.

A meeting of interested persons was called on September 3 at the home of Mrs. Swann. There a tentative organization was formed. Those attending this meeting were:

Miss Margaret Campbell	Mrs. D.F. McConnel
Mrs. Zelna Carter	Mrs. Rob Mason
Miss Beatrice Frye	Miss Marilyn Mason
Miss Berenice Frye	Mrs. W.W. McElrath
Mrs. P.A. Hart	Miss Alice Keys
Mrs. Cleo Gillis Hester	Miss Erie Keys
Miss Halene Hatcher	Miss Ilee Keys
Mrs. W.S. Swann	Mrs. G.B. Scott
Mrs. H.P. Wear	Mrs. Barney Watson
Mrs. R.H. Woods	Mrs. J.D. Rowlett

In October, the National Society approved Mrs. Swann as Organizing Regent, and notified Dr. Jones of the approval of the formation of a chapter. The next meeting of the group was held February 17, 1948, at the home of Mrs. R.H. Woods. At that time the Constitution and By-laws were adopted. On March 13, 1948, the group met in the home of Mrs. W.E. Blackburn for the final organizational meeting. The membership roll at that time was:

Mrs. E. J. Beale - Historian
Mrs. W. E. Blackburn - Recording Secretary
Mrs. Price Doyle - 2nd Vice Regent
Miss Beatrice Frye
Miss Berenice Frye
Mrs. P. A. Hart - Librarian
Miss Halene Hatcher - 1st Vice Regent
Mrs. Cleo Gillis Hester
Mrs. D. F. McConnell - Treasurer
Mrs. J. D. Rowlett - Register
Mrs. W. S. Swann, Regent
Mrs. Frances Taylor Watson
Mrs. H. P. Wear - Chaplain
Mrs. R. H. Woods - Corresponding Secretary

In April, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution formally approved the Captain Wendell Oury Chapter. On May 8, 1948, at the home of Mrs. W. S. Swann, the new chapter held its first meeting as a full fledged chapter.

The family of Wendell Oury, a Revolutionary soldier and patriot, has contributed a great deal to the development of America through their lives. They have been eager to serve in both peace and war. Equally, the members of the Wendell Oury Chapter, of the DAR, have made contributions to the community and the nation, thereby, hoping to preserve the heritage of the Revolutionary Fathers so that they will not be forgotten nor dimmed.