



**Enemund Meullion Chapter
Louisiana Society
15 July 2023
Meeting Minutes**

<http://www.lassar.org>

<http://sites.google.com/site/emclassar>

The regular bimonthly meeting of the Enemund Meullion Chapter of the Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution was held at Broken Wheel Brewery in Marksville, LA.

President Mike Lee called the meeting to order with thirteen members and eight guests in attendance. Lee welcomed everyone and asked for an introduction of guests.

Chaplain Clyde Neck opened the meeting with the Invocation. Pat Ryan led the Pledge of Allegiance and then Vice President Eric Irby led the Pledge to the SAR.

President Lee introduced Charles Riddle III, who discussed the history of Avoyelles Parish. Three factors shaped Avoyelles to what it is today: 1) Captain Henry Miller Shreve cleared the Great Raft, which opened up the Red River to navigation in 1837. Two major landings on the Red River – Gorton’s Landing and Point Maigre – allowed for steamboat transportation and commerce. 2) 1855 Yellow Fever Epidemic – 10% of the population died in Marksville alone. 3) The Flood of 1927 – farms and homes were lost. Riddle searched through old files of his father’s and of his grandfather’s after Hurricane Gustav. His grandfather had a photography book, showing pictures of Tent City, where refugees went in Marksville after the flood. He plans to write a book about the flood using his grandfather’s files, especially letters from Huey P. Long. Riddle’s grandmother discovered old newspapers from 1842-1876 in the 1960s. Riddle read an excerpt from the first front page of the Expositor.

President Lee presented Riddle with a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation. Riddle was also given a jar of fig and lemon preserves made by Pat Ryan.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the previous meeting’s minutes.

Secretary/Registrar Brent Morock reported that the current chapter account balance is \$3,270.26. He stated that the chapter has 76 members – 67 regular, 1 dual, and 9 junior.

James A. Morock, Sr., M.D., (“Dr. Morock”) stated that one Law Enforcement Medal will be presented at the September meeting to Sgt. Bobby Branton of the Alexandria Police Department. Another candidate from Pineville Police Department

might receive an award at the same meeting. Mike Sawrie contacted Alexandria Police Department about Life-Saving nominees. Chief Chad Gremillion nominated Samuel Terrell. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to award Terrell the Law Enforcement and the Life-Saving Awards.

Marlene Sawrie extended an invitation from the Loyalty Chapter DAR, the host chapter, of the SW District LSDAR Constitution Week Luncheon at 11:30 AM at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Alexandria, LA, on September 21st. Honorable Joseph H. L. Perez-Montes is the guest speaker. Cost is \$40 per person. RSVP, by August 31st.

In announcements, President Lee stated that the next chapter meeting will be on Sept 16th at 11:30 AM at Forts Randolph and Buhlow Visitors Center in Pineville, LA.

Dr. Morock purchased the headstone to honor Captain Turner Bynum and the chapter tentatively plans to hold the grave marking ceremony on 29 Oct 2023 to commemorate the anniversary of the chapter's founding. Purchase was previously approved by the chapter at prior meeting.

LASSAR Ladies Auxiliary Vice President Cheryl Morock stated that the auxiliary has 64 members. She already bought the chapter's auction items – gumbo bowls and platters – for the April 2024 LASSAR Annual Meeting & Banquet in Lafayette, LA. A \$2500 check was donated to the LASSAR for the Youth Awards program last year. \$3000 was donated in 2023.

Edmond O'Quin reminded Riddle to discuss the campaign to erect a statue of Solomon Northup of *Twelve Years a Slave* at the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse in Marksville, LA. Emmy and Academy Award winning artist Wesley Wofford was commissioned by the Solomon Northup Committee for Commemorative Works to create a statue to be unveiled mid-Summer 2024.

With no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn. Neck offered a closing prayer and then Al Pitts led the SAR Recessional.

Brent Morock

Secretary