



Mollie Moore Davis 217 Tyler, Texas
United Daughters of the Confederacy®



Newsletter

Volume 20, Issue 4

December 2019

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Website: <http://molliemooredavis.org>
Bibliography Available Upon Request



"Grief and constant anxiety kill nearly as many women as men die on the battlefield."

Mary Boykin Chesnut



2018 - 2020 Mollie Moore Davis Officers

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MMD 217 President's Message

Ladies,

I don't know about everyone else, but I'm not mentally ready for it to be the Christmas season because it got here too fast this year. It's just not possible that 2019 has been the same length as previous years! As President of our Chapter, I had big plans for lots of activities that we haven't accomplished. We've done a lot and I'm grateful, but there's so much more to do, and just not enough time or energy. And, of course, the weather hasn't cooperated in many cases. I'm hopeful that all of that will improve in 2020. Christmas is such a special time... a time to celebrate the birth of Christ and also to reflect on 2019 and make plans for 2020. And, of course, it's the best possible time to cherish our family and friends. And our meeting on the 19th will be a wonderful time to do this! I hope to see everyone there!!

Always for Dixie,
Sarah Duncan Beene, President



Friendly Reminders for Meetings and Members

1. UDC DRESS CODE for all meeting is Business/Church Attire. Never denim or jeans, t-shirts, or overly revealing tops.
2. NO CELL PHONES "ON" at meetings. We must all remember our manners.
3. NO SHARING of Mollie Moore Davis 217 business information with anyone not in our chapter. Our Membership Information is PRIVATE and is not to be shared publicly or on social media. Information is solely used for Mollie Moore Davis 217 & UDC purposes.



UDC General News



One of our Real Daughters, Mrs. Iva Lee Benson Gainey from NC has had an accident. Her granddaughter informs us that Mrs. Gainey fell and broke her leg about three weeks ago.

When she was released from the hospital, she was moved to a skilled nursing facility. Here is her address. Please send cards and lots of love and well wishes. Mrs. Gainey is suffering from dementia also, but would still appreciate hearing from her "UDC family".



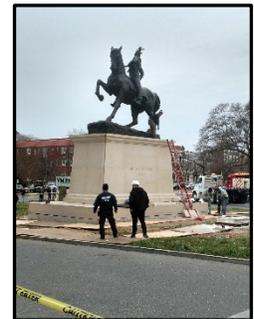
Please also remember our other Real Daughters and Randolph Relief Recipient this Christmas with cards. Their addresses are on our General Website.

Ms. Nelma Crutchers

President General, 2018-2020
"Education is the Key"



Texas Division Current News



Ladies,

I received the following pictures from our President General.

The statue is right next to our Memorial Building in Richmond. The name of the statue is "Rumors of War". It has a black man with dread locks, a hoodie, and tattered jeans, on a horse. I think the meaning of this statue is very clear and very upsetting. The first picture shows the side of our building where we enter and the new cement foundation for the statue.

PRESIDENT

Dorothy Norred
Texas Division, President 2018-2020



"DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY"

The South Has Voted That the Title be Distributed Among the Hundreds of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

The south which has been nearly rent in twain over the "Daughter of the Confederacy" controversy has solved the question with diplomacy and satisfaction.

It has decided that there can never be a successor to Miss Winnie Davis; and that the title "Daughter of the Confederacy" must die with her.

That Miss Lucy Lee Hill, who was the last child to be born of a confederate general at that time is the next in rank, in point of honor, and entitled to distinction at representative confederate gatherings. But without the title of "Daughter of the Confederacy."

Miss Hill at first accepted the title. But on learning that it injured the feelings of many, she rejected it in this singularly well chosen letter:

"It has given me much pleasure to know how many friends I have in this matter of the succession to the title 'Daughter of the Confederacy.' It is an honor unsought by me, and, with General Gordon, I say the title should die with the original possessor, Winnie Davis. There cannot always be a Daughter of the Confederacy, for I am the last one of a general's daughters to be born at that time, and with me it would end. Then, why not now? No greater honor could be paid President Jefferson Davis' daughter than to bury with



her the title she wore so proudly. I am content as I am, a confederate soldier's daughter.

The society of the United Daughters of the Confederacy which is a very strong force throughout the south will now have the added honor of dividing among them the proud title which Miss Davis not only wore, but wore with distinction. She never forgot what was due the "Daughter," and she conducted herself as though she were a queen.

The Daughters of the Confederacy, the women of the north will be interested to know, is the only strictly patriotic organization of its kind in the world for women.

MISS LUCY LEE HILL, THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO SUGGESTS THAT THE TITLE "DAUGHTER OF THE CONFEDERACY," BE DIVIDED AMONG ALL THE "DAUGHTERS." SHE REFUSES TO SUCCEED MISS WINNIE DAVIS.

"Daughters of the Confederacy". the South Has Voted That the Title be Distributed among the Hundreds of the Daughters of the Confederacy

Age-Herald | Sunday, Oct 23, 1898 | Birmingham, AL | Vol: 24 | Issue: 227 | Page: 14



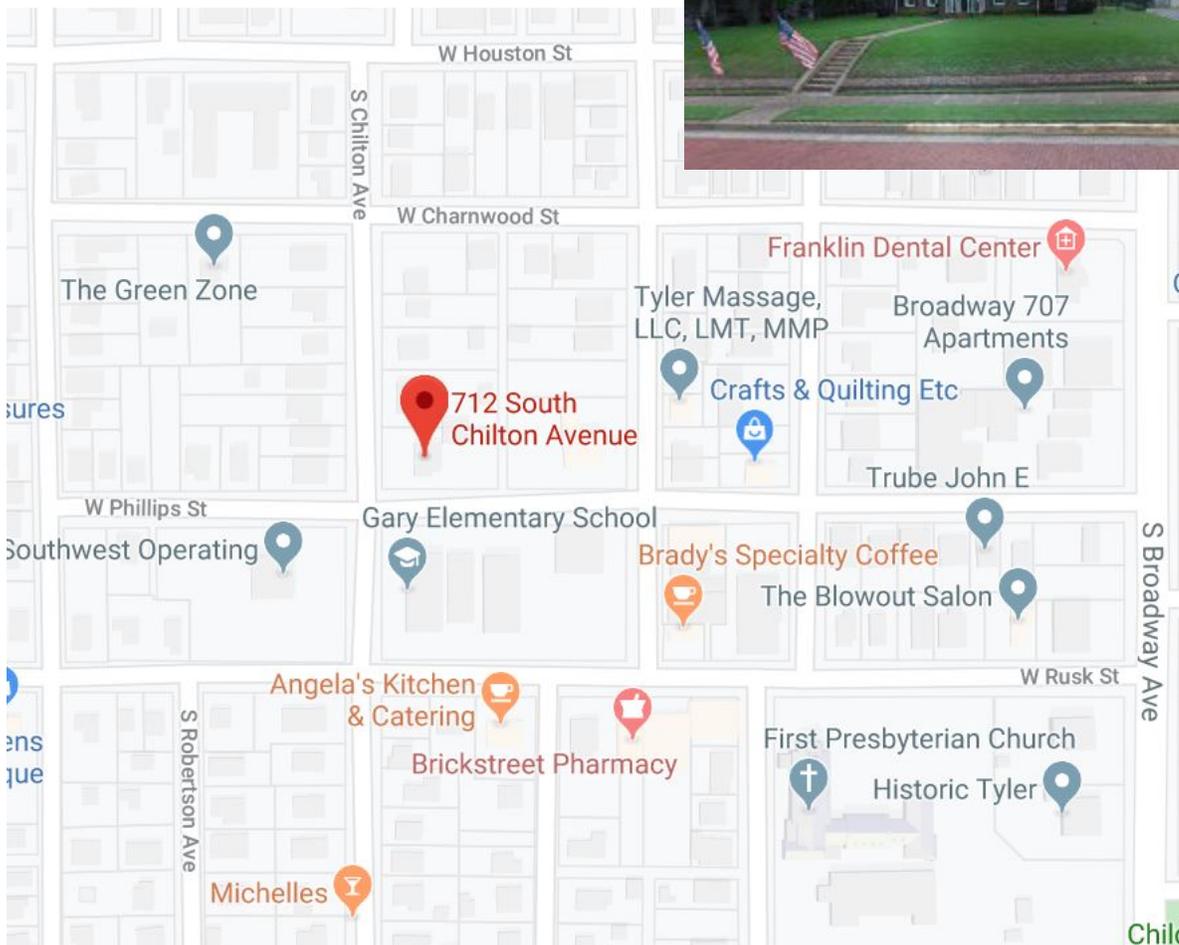
Chapter Current News

Hello MMD 217 Members!!

Christmas is near and I know Santa likes to bring bling to our members!! I have MMD Chapter pins for \$45 for purchase and I can help you with other insignia that you want to add to your ribbons!!

I am looking forward to our presenting our December Program. It will be holiday related and if you love Christmas poetry, I think you will love this!! As you come to our meeting at my home, you may park in the front, back parking lot or along the sides near the school. Gary Elementary does not have students this year, so plenty of parking is available. My address is 712 S. Chilton at the corner of Chilton and Phillips.

UDC Love,
Tami Hurley, Vice President





Chapter Current News

Before we begin 2020, let's remember what President General Nelda Crutcher tells us, "Education is the Key". This is the perfect time to spend time with our loved ones during the holidays and help to educate them about our heritage in the South. Not only should we encourage the adults in our family but also the youth so that they will all gain an appreciation about the Confederacy. Perhaps a book on the Confederacy might be in order for a Christmas gift!

Remember Cole Goodson as he continues his studies at the University of Texas at Tyler with a major in Computer Science and minor in Business Administration. He is our recipient of the Ora Mayfield Scholarship for the Fall 2019/Spring 2020 semesters. It is with the young folks like Cole that the importance of preserving their heritage in the Confederacy will remain a focal point in educating others. Let's continue to support the young folks as they are our future. Be generous with your commitment to education through the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Susan Bradley Newman, 2nd Vice President



Chapter Current News

Hello Daughters,

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. I know my family had a feast - we overcooked and had leftovers for days. I am so thankful to be able to spend time with family and friends during this time of year.

We continue to receive reservations for our MMD Birthday celebration & BBQ. If you plan to attend, send your payment to me as soon as possible. Just a reminder, reservations are now \$30 per person through March 27th. Also, we will have our famous silent auction - make sure you are looking for those items now that you want to donate to one of our best fundraisers.

I will be sending in Per Capita for our chapter in soon. Again, if you know any members that have not paid dues, please ensure you reach out to them.

I hope each of you have an amazing holiday season, and enjoy this blessed time with your family.

Michelle Threadgill, Treasurer



Chapter Current News

Dearest MMD Ladies,

Plans are still in the works for several Military Service Awards to be presented at our event in April. Hope you are making plans to attend as we honor these veterans!

Christmas is almost here and it brings all the wonderful memories of past years. One of my favorites memories is watching the Charlie Brown Christmas program. And the most important part is hearing Linus tell the story of our Savior's birth from the Bible. I know Charles Schultz had to fight with television producers to allow this to be included as it was religious content! A few years ago, I read how when Linus begins to speak, he drops his precious security blanket. I believe this was done to purposely demonstrate that with Jesus, we have the perfect security we will ever need!

May all of you have a safe and blessed Christmas and a joyous and happy New Year! Love to all!

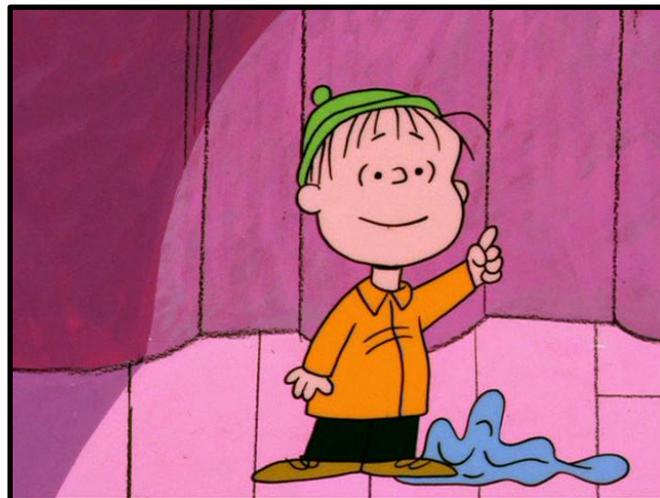
Luke 2: 8-14

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

Love to All,

Paula Patterson, 3rd Vice President, Registrar, Recorder of Military Service Awards

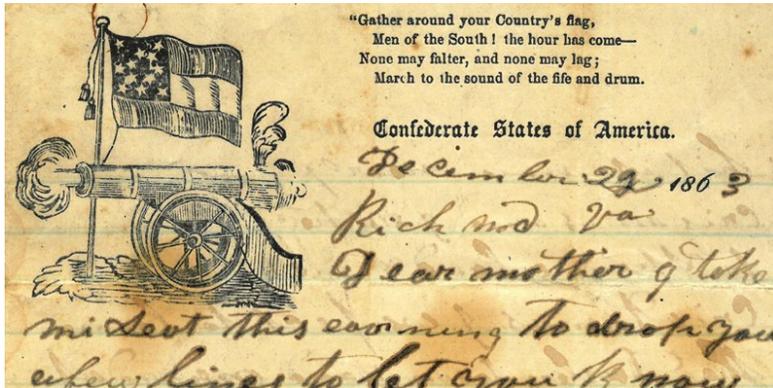




Chapter Current News

In all of my internet wanderings one of my favorite sites is “The American Civil War Museum.” I recently came across a letter written by a Confederate soldier to his mother a couple of days before Christmas in 1863. While this letter was written so long ago it still speaks of the heartbreak of war. I pray that as you read this letter you will think of the many soldiers that will be away from their families this Christmas and upcoming year and offer up a prayer of safekeeping for them.

Loretta Tomlin, Historian



Three days before Christmas in 1863, Nathaniel J. Cundiff, a soldier in the 10th Battalion, Virginia Heavy Artillery, took up pen and paper to write to his mother in Bedford County.

Punctuation has been added, but the original spelling has been retained.

December 22, 1863

Dear Mother:

I take mi seat this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and doing the best I can and I hope if theas lines should reach your hands they may find you and all the family well and doing well. Mother, I have drawed me a blanket [drawn ie: been issued] and am making very well. Times is very hard here, everything to eat is hie and scarce her[e]. We get very light rashens hardly a naugh to live on and I am afraid that times wil get wors in stid of beter as I don't see any hops of Peace.

It is now nearly Cristmas and I expect to spend a lonesome Cristmas. I expect to be on the Darby town road on guard at Christmass. I would be very glad to be at home to spend mi cristmas at home with you. But there isn't any chance for me to come a tall. Mother, the most of the company is well. James Howell and James Morris are both well at this time.

Mother, I don't her of mutch fiting a going at present. Mother, you must write to me and give me all the news of the neighborhood. Write how all hour friends and relatives is geting on. Tell them all I would be glad to see them all.

Mother, they have got Steven Witt in castle thunder [a jail located in Richmond]. He was on gard in Richmond and on his post some things was missplaced and they arested all the men that wer on that post tho he is clear of doing any thing that was rong about hit so he will get out clear shortly clear and safe. Mother, write how brother Calvin is geting on. I haven't any news to write to you at this time. I will haf ter come to a close. You must write to me often. I remain your son untill death.

From N.J. Cundiff to Mrs. Mary Cundiff



Chapter Current News

It has been a very difficult two weeks for me as my older brother passed away in Hilo, Hawaii, after a yearlong illness. He died just two days before Thanksgiving and we were unable to attend his memorial which was one week ago, December 7th. Distance can make situation like this even more difficult. I have received many nice cards and very loving words.

One of our members sent us a nice “thank you” card. We sent her a “get well” card from Mollie Moore Davis chapter and she thanked us for remembering her. Betty Browning was thinking that we didn’t know about her stroke and she was correct. We learned about it at the last meeting, but she actually had the stroke back in April. It has been a long road to recovery, and still a long way more to go. She is dealing with the muscles in her leg and she is unable to walk or stand on her own. Please keep Betty in your prayers. So, if any of our precious members are ill or have any sorrow, let us know. We do care.

We are approaching the most wonderful time of year, Christmas. Prayers for all to stay well and have a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year.

“Jesus Christ The Son of God. He is the breath of life within us, the fountain that refreshes us. He is the grace that frees us, the truth that renews our minds. He is the way that guides our steps, and the love that fills our hearts. He is the fullness that gives us joy.”

God Bless,
Paula Warren

In Memoriam

Debbie Bullington’s dad, Kent, passed December 12th, 2019. He had a heart attack last week, got better, then took a turn for the worse. He had kidney failure, and passed. Please keep the family in prayer.

New Address

We just received word that our June Elliott has moved to an apartment at Garden Estates #162. Her phone number is the same. She would appreciate cards and visits.

June Elliott
Garden Estates #162
2055 W Grande Blvd
Tyler, TX 75703-3587

Please update June’s address in your Yearbook.

Thanks,
Mary June Goodson



Historical Content

December 25th, 1862

The day has been too restless to enjoy, or even to realize that it was Christmas. All day reports of the advance of the Confederates, and our consequence excitement. Just as we were sitting down to dinner, we heard repeated reports of cannon. We hurried from the table and found the (Union) troops all hastily marching off. They expected a fight, I was told by one, as the Confederates were near town. We could eat no more dinner, the girls and myself, so it was carefully put away till we could enjoy it.

In the evening I went over to Mr. Woods' to see how the old people were bearing their burden, and to take them something nice from the dessert we could not eat. Found them all very quiet, but sad enough. The poor old gentleman's head looks whiter, had his fore head more wrinkled than before they (Union troops) came to intrude on his sweet, quiet home. As I returned home I saw the troops (Union) marching back again, like the King of France. The guard was withdrawn at night, which was rather singular, but all is quiet, and so "I will lay me down to sleep and take my rest, for it is Thou, Lord, who makest me to dwell in safety."

Excerpt from the diary of Cornelia Peake McDonald

On the night of March 11, 1862, Cornelia Peake McDonald began her diary. Her husband, Angus W. McDonald III, had requested she write about all of the events taking place while he was away fighting for the Confederacy. They lived in the war-torn town of Winchester, Virginia. This town was occupied numerous times by both armies.

Cornelia once told a Yankee soldier who dared to set foot on her back porch as if he owns the place "that he was entitled to six feet of Southern land if he needed it, and that we would joyfully give him every one of them, but more than that they never would have."



**MRS. M'DONALD'S DEATH
AT FAR ADVANCED AGE**

—

**END COMES AFTER SHORT ILL-
NESS AT DAUGHTER'S HOME.**

—

**BRILLIANT WOMAN LONG A RES-
IDENT OF LOUISVILLE.**

—

BURIAL IN RICHMOND, VA.

—

After a short illness, Mrs. Cornelia McDonald died last night in Henderson at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. Henry Lyne, with whom she had lived for nearly five years. She was 86 years of age. Funeral services will be held in Henderson, after which the body will be taken to Richmond, Va., for burial in Hollywood cemetery.

Mrs. McDonald for thirty years was a resident of Louisville, having come here from Virginia. She was a woman of brilliant attainments, filled a prominent position here and was widely beloved. During her residence here she was a member of Calvary Episcopal church. She was a daughter of Dr. Humphrey Peake, of Alexandria, and the widow of Col. Angus McDonald, of Winchester, Va. Col. McDonald died in the last year of the war between the sections.

Following the war Mrs. McDonald came West with her children of whom six survive her. They are Alan McDonald, of San Francisco; Kenneth McDonald, of Louisville; Roy McDonald, of Pittsburg; Donald McDonald, of Louisville; Hunter McDonald, of Nashville; Mrs. J. H. Lyne, of Henderson. A sixth son, Harry P. McDonald, of Louisville, died five years ago.



Christmas during the War Between the States was a very different holiday from what we know in the 21st Century. The holiday was not one of much merriment and festivity in the South. This was a time of reflection and somberness. Christmas Eve was a night for singing carols, reading, and telling stories of Christmas long ago. On Christmas Day most people attended churches to reflect upon the birth of Christ, the blessings of God, and to pray for their loved ones that were far away. A family dinner with small gifts would follow church in some households. Others would not have any gifts, as the blockade continued to tighten and many items became scarce. Later that day, it was time to visit friends and neighbors.

Also, during this time, Santa Claus was waiting for Thomas Nast, a northerner, to start drawing him. Those drawings would not appear for another 20 years, long after the war had ended. In place of Santa Claus was the original St. Nicholas. The children’s book, “Twas the Night Before Christmas”, was written and published in 1823. It was originally titled “A Visit from St. Nicholas”. This beloved Christmas poem was read and enjoyed in homes both in the North and the South. Likewise, many homes at this time did not have a Christmas tree. They were becoming popular but not fully accepted. Homes were still being decorated with green branches and homemade decorations. A *Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost Story of Christmas* by Charles Dickens first appeared in 1843 and was widely read. This little book was making a change in the Christmas holiday with its’ emphasis on joy, family and merriment.

What will Christmas look like to our great great grandchildren? We never know what life will be like in the future. All we can do is speculate how life will have changed. I hope my great great grandchildren are still enjoying many of the traditions our ancestors began and we as a family continued.

Let us enjoy every moment of this Christmas to its fullest and thank God for his many blessings he has bestowed upon us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Patty Williams, Editor

Mollie Moore Davis 217
Newsletter 2018-2019

Best in Texas Division

Best in UDC General
Division



*Patty Williams, Newsletter Editor
and Sarah Beene, MMD 217 President*



*Dena Kantz - Hangers of Hope, Sabrina
Wrinkle - activity director of The
Heights, and Susan Newman – 2nd Vice
President of MMD 217*

12 Cloth Protectors
presented to
residents of The
Heights of Tyler



Benevolent

Donations - Time/Talent (not church)

Donation of Items and Value

Monetary Donations

Other Donations

Confederate Flags

Purchased (Any Item with Confederate flag)

Confederate flags placed on graves by member

Confederate flag Flown/Displayed by member (# of days)

Other

Heritage Preservation

Letters/call/emails

Randolph Relief/Real Daughters

Cards to RR members (#) or (\$)

Cards to Real Daughters (#) or (\$)

Cards to UDC members

Patriotic Activities

Citizenship/Naturalization Hours or \$

US flag flown outside of home

Services to active duty military (ex.care packages)

Cards/letters to active duty military

Any other patriotic activity

Southern Literature The literature and arts must relate to the South during the period of the Confederacy, either wartime or pre- and post-war years.

Books read - Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry

Southern books donated

Textbooks Reviewed

Texas or US (form available)

UDC Meetings/Events

Mollie Moore Davis Meetings/Events

Other UDC chapter events

UDC Conventions/Forums/Events

Visits/Pictures Taken

Monuments/Memorial Markers

Confederate Sites

Other Activities

Hours of Genealogical research (personal or others)

Save the Date....April 4, 2020

After repeated requests for her return,

Mollie Moore Davis 217

Tyler, Texas

proudly invites you to join us as we hear,

Teresa Roane, UDC Archivist,

continue her presentation of "Minorities in Confederate Military:
Combat Support...or Hidden in Plain Sight, Part II"

and celebrate

Mollie Moore Davis' April 12, 1844 Birthday

and

the 122st Anniversary of our April 9, 1898, Chartering

First Assembly of God Church, 5309 Rhones Quarter Road, Tyler, Texas 75707

Register early to receive our Convention Special Rate.

For additional information, please contact Sarah Beene at 903.561.1946 or DixieRoots@aol.com

**Barbecue and Awards Luncheon
Saturday, April 4, 2020, 11:00 am**

Names Attending Chapter/Camp Office Held

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Individuals Attending	Convention Special -- Postmarked no later than November 30, 2019	\$25.00	\$ _____
	Forum Special -- Postmarked no later than February 29, 2020	\$30.00	\$ _____
	Regular Registration -- Postmarked no later than March 27, 2020	\$35.00	\$ _____
_____ Children	6 -10 years	\$ 8.00	\$ _____
_____ Children	5 and under		Free
	Amount of check		\$ _____

Please respond early, but **no later than March 27, 2020.**

Please detach, complete the registration form, make your check payable to Mollie Moore Davis 217, and mail to: Michelle Threadgill, Treasurer, 19298 Fawn Creek, Flint TX 75762



Upcoming Events

December 19 Christmas Chapter Meeting
 Tami Hurley's Home
 712 S. Chilton Ave. Tyler, TX

January 16 Chapter Business Meeting
 10:00 AM
 5309 Rhones Quarter Road, Tyler, Texas



Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the organization

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 Patty Massey Williams
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