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HISTORY OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA



WRITTEN BY
MRS. JOSEPH M. TOOMEY

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TO
THE GOLD STAR MOTHERS OF GEORGIA
THIS HISTORY
IS LOVINGLY AND REVERENTLY
DEDICATED

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JOHN G. EMERY
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

February 7th, 1927.

To the Women of the American Legion Auxiliary,
Department of Georgia.

Greetings:

It is with pleasure that I recall your natal day meeting at Columbus on July 4, 1921, which, by the way, happened to be my own birthday.

Later it was my high honor as National Commander of the Legion to sign the call for your first national convention at Kansas City and to officiate at the inauguration of that important session.

That the Auxiliary has been all and more than its name implies in your great commonwealth and in the nation, goes without saying. Permit me to wish you the fullest measure of prosperity and unbounded success in the service you are rendering.

Cordially yours,

JOHN G. EMERY.

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INTRODUCTION



During the great world drama of 1917 and 1918 the fighting men of America were engaged in the most stupendous struggle in the history of the civilized world. They faced the dangers and the horrors of war with the courage and valor that is to be expected from the sons of worthy sires. They proved to the European world that the men of the young Republic across the sea could love and laugh and sing and fight with a spirit so dauntless and true that all barriers were swept away before their onward march.

When the guns were silenced along the Western front and the armed forces of America turned their faces towards the homeland to again take up the tasks of every day life, they were faced with the great problem of re-adjustment. Those who some twelve or eighteen months before had gone away light hearted, carefree boys, came back to their loved ones serious-minded men with the shadow of a great adventure forever etched in deepening lines on their once boyish faces. It was then they felt the need of an organization through which they might keep alive the comradeship formed through the close association in camp and on the battle field.

When the American veterans had banded themselves together in The American Legion to carry forward their peace-time program of service to their Nation it was only natural that the women of their families, who had served so faithfully during the trying days of the war, should desire to continue serving with them. As the result of this desire the American Legion Auxiliary was organized.

Prior to the First National Convention of The American Legion in Minneapolis, Minn., November 10-12, 1919, a number of woman's organizations had expressed the desire to become the affiliated women's organization of The American Legion and a committee was appointed by the temporary National Organization of the Legion to consider these requests. After careful consideration the committee reported to the Minneapolis Convention that it deemed it advisable to found a new organization, to be organized as an auxiliary to the Legion, to carry forward the phases of Legion activities more suitably performed by women. This report was approved by the Convention and the following Article was written into the Constitution of the American Legion:

ARTICLE XIII

AUXILIARIES

SECTION 1. The American Legion recognizes an auxiliary organization to be known as the "Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion."

SECTION 2. Membership in the auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters of the members of the American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the men and women who were in the military or naval service of the United States between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and died in line of duty, or after honorable discharge, and prior to November 11, 1920.

SECTION 3. The auxiliary shall be governed in each Department of the American Legion by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by such Department of the American Legion.

By the time of the Second National Convention of the Legion, held in Cleveland, Ohio, September 27-28, 1920, thirteen hundred and forty-two local Units of the "Women's Auxiliary of The American Legion" had been organized.

They were scattered over forty-five states, but no State Department had been formed. Eleven thousand members had paid a national per capita tax to the National Headquarters of the Legion.

The call for the First National Convention of the Women's Auxiliary was issued by John G. Emery, National Commander, and the Convention was held in Kansas City, Mo., November 1 and 2, 1921. At this time three thousand and fifty-three Units had been organized with one hundred and thirty-one thousand members. Department organizations had been formed in forty-two states and the organization of Units had extended to every state, to Cuba, Panama and Alaska.

Representatives were present at the Kansas City Convention from practically every state in the Union and from two foreign possessions. A national constitution and by-laws, modeled on that of the Legion, was adopted. The Preamble of the Legion constitution was adopted with the insertion of the phrase, "to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion." The name of the organization was changed to "American Legion Auxiliary." Thus the organization of The American Legion Auxiliary was completed.

National Headquarters of the Auxiliary was established at Indianapolis, Indiana, where National Headquarters of the Legion was already located. In 1925 the first unit of the Indiana World War Memorial was completed and the National Headquarters of the two organizations moved from temporary quarters into this beautiful stone building.

So great was the appeal of The American Legion Auxiliary to the heart of American womanhood that it grew rapidly year by year until at the time of the Miami Convention, October 22 to 25, 1934, its membership had increased to three hundred and eighty-seven thousand, four hundred and eighty-seven.

The principles and ideals upon which America was founded are high in the hearts of the women of the Auxiliary. They are striving to keep unsullied the bright colors of idealism which has guided the nation, and to bring to the citizens of America a fuller realization of the responsibility of citizenship.

The care of the pale, broken men who gave their health for their country, and of the children whose fathers gave their all for America, has required the expenditure of much thought and energy, but the women of the Auxiliary have responded with a devotion to service seldom equaled and never surpassed by any other organization.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent. Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the great war; to inculcate a sense of individual obligations to Community, State and Nation, to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good-will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and to contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the American Legion Auxiliary of the Department of Georgia.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTS

Section 1. The objects of this organization shall be the same as those of the American Legion.

ARTICLE III. NATURE

Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian organization of women.

Section 2. The American Legion Auxiliary shall not be used for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of a salaried elective or appointive office shall hold any office in the American Legion Auxiliary of the Department of Georgia.

ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This organization shall be composed of the duly constituted Units attached to the Posts of the American Legion within the State of Georgia.

Section 2. All the circulars and instructions shall issue from the American Legion Auxiliary of the Department of Georgia.

ARTICLE V. ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Membership in the Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of members of the American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of all the men

and women who were in military service of the United States between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 and died in line of duty, or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible to membership in the American Legion.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership and dues shall be paid annually.

Section 3. No person shall be a member at any one time of more than one Unit.

ARTICLE VI. DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Section 1. The legislative body of the Department of Georgia, American Legion Auxiliary shall be the Department Convention to be held annually at the same time and place as the convention of the American Legion.

Section 2. Representation in the Department Convention shall be by Units. Each Unit shall be entitled to two delegates, one of whom shall be the President, and one additional delegate for each twenty-five members or major fraction thereof whose current dues have been received by the Department Treasurer, thirty days prior to the meeting of said convention, and to one alternate for each delegate.

Section 3. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority vote of the delegates present from her Unit.

Section 4. A quorum shall exist at a Department Convention when sixty per cent of the Units are represented as provided above.

ARTICLE VII. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Section 1. The annual Department Convention shall elect a President, a National Executive Committeewomen, an alternate National Executive Committeewomen, two Vice-Presidents, Historian and a Chaplain by a majority vote, and when so elected shall serve until the installation of their successors at the next annual convention, except in the case of the National Executive Committeewomen whose term shall be prescribed by the National Constitution. No person shall be eligible to the office of President for more than two terms consecutively.

Section 2. The President shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer subject to confirmation by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. All Past Department Presidents in good standing with their local Units shall be members for life of the Department Executive Committee, without vote except the first Department

President who shall have vote, and life delegates at large to the Department Convention with vote to be exercised with their respective Units.

ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between Department Conventions the administrative power shall be vested in the Department Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the Department officers, one representative from each Congressional District and the chairman of Standing Committees.

Section 2. The term of office of representatives shall begin with the adjournment of the annual convention at which they are elected and shall end at the adjournment of the next annual convention.

Section 3. Members of the Executive Committee shall be delegates-at-large to the Department Convention with vote to be exercised with their Units.

ARTICLE IX. UNIT ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Any ten or more persons eligible for membership and who desire to form a Unit may make application for a charter to the Department President through their local Post.

Section 2. The application must be duly approved in writing thereon by duly elected officers of the Post of the American Legion to which it is to be attached. The charter will be issued by the National President and National Secretary upon receipt of the application properly executed and approved by the Department President, and when granted shall remain in force until voluntarily surrendered by the Unit or until forfeited for cause.

Section 3. The minimum membership of the Auxiliary Units shall be ten.

Section 4. Units shall be given the name and number of Posts to which they are attached.

Section 5. Units shall use the Unit Constitution as prescribed by the Department.

ARTICLE X. FINANCE

Section 1. The revenues of the Department shall be derived from dues and such other sources as may be determined by the Auxiliary Units in convention assembled.

Section 2. The amount of annual dues shall be determined by each Department Convention for the ensuing year.

Section 3. The annual dues, both Departmental and National, shall be collected by each Unit and transmitted to the Department Secretary-Treasurer with proper councilor therefor.

Section 4. The books and accounts of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant, whose report shall be submitted to the annual convention.

Section 5. All persons handling funds of the Department shall be bonded through the National Organization.

ARTICLE XI. DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Department Executive Committee after notice and a hearing shall suspend or revoke the charter of a Unit which violates the Constitution, or which fails adequately to discipline any of its members for such violation, and may provide for the government and administration of such Unit during such suspension or upon such revocation.

ARTICLE XII.

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

Section 1. Any member in good standing in a Unit removing from her Unit or Department shall be entitled to a transfer certificate from her Unit, stating her membership and the duration thereof.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Department Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the Department Secretary to the several Units and members of the Department Executive Committee by mailing same to them thirty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention; and provided further, it may be amended by twenty-four hours notice and by two-thirds vote of the Convention.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Department Executive Committee shall meet at the convention city immediately preceding the holding of the Annual Convention, and within twenty-four hours after the adjournment of the Annual Convention, and at such other times as a meeting thereof shall be called by the President or any five members of the committee. One-fourth of said committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The Department President shall appoint subject to ratification by the Department Executive Committee, a Finance Committee to be composed of three members, who shall be charged with the preparation of the annual budget and the handling of funds under that budget and such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Between conventions, all vacancies in the offices of the Department shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Department Executive Committee, and said committee may delegate this authority to the President, subject to the ratification of the committee at its next meeting.

Section 4. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of the Department officers shall be referred to and determined by the Department Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Department President to preside at all of the Department convention assembled and the Department Executive Committee, to appoint members of the constituted committees and create such other committee and appoint members thereon as she deems advisable, and to appoint all officers not otherwise provided for with the approval of the Department Executive Committee. She will be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office.

Section 2. The First Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in her absence. By virtue of her office she shall be chairman of the Program Committee of the annual convention.

Section 3. The Second Vice-President shall assume the duties of President in the absence of the President and the Vice-President. By virtue of her office she shall be chairman of the Membership Committee.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Department Secretary to record proceedings of the Department Convention, and Department Executive Committee meetings, and keep all records of the Department. She shall transmit reports and bulletins of all Department standing committees and send out all literature and calls of meetings. In the event of the death or resignation of the Department President, the Department Secretary shall immediately summon the Department Executive Committee for the election of a successor.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Department and she shall account for the same. She shall sign all checks in disbursing the funds of the organization, and shall make reports upon the condition of the Department Treasury when called for by the Department President.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the Historian to compile the Historical record of the Department and to keep accurate record of deaths, which may occur among the members of the Department and forward said names to National Headquarters.

Section 7. The Chaplain shall offer prayer at the opening of each day's business of the Department Convention, and shall perform such other duties as the President may direct.

ARTICLE III. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. All officers shall be installed on the

last day of the convention and with the Executive Committees shall assume the duties of their respective offices.

ARTICLE IV. REPORTS

Section 1. All officers and chairmen of committees shall furnish a report annually at the convention.

ARTICLE V. CHARTERS

Section 1. In addition to the revocation as provided in the Constitution Unit charters may be cancelled or suspended. The Department Executive Committee may order the suspension of the charter for a period not to extend beyond the closing of the next succeeding Department Convention as a disciplinary measure, or pending action relative to final revocation. A cancellation shall be in order where two or more Units merge, where a Unit voluntarily ceases to function, or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary within a department.

Section 2. Any Unit failing to meet the obligation imposed upon it by the Constitution and By-Laws or by rulings of Convention or Executive Committee, or ceasing to function from one Department Convention to the next as an American Legion Unit, or refusing to pay the per capita tax due Department and National Organizations, shall, upon order of the Department President surrender its charter. Upon failure to surrender each charter, immediate steps may be taken for its revocation.

Section 3. Units suffering the revocation of their charters may appeal from the decision of the Department President and the Department Executive Committee as prescribed in the National Constitution.

ARTICLE VI. PARLIAMETARY RULING

Section 1. Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the American Legion Auxiliary of the Department of Georgia, unless changed by the rules adopted by the convention or by provisions contained in the Constitution and these By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at any Department Convention by a vote of a majority of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been read at said convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote thereon.

CHARTERS ISSUED TO GEORGIA UNITS

No.	City	Name of Post	Tem. Charter	Per. Charter
1	Atlanta	Atlanta	2-17-21	10- 6-22 (Cancelled)
(This Post consolidated 4-4-24 with the Henry Thomas Ross Post, No. 78 to form the Argonne Post No. 1).				
1	Atlanta	Argonne	4- 4-24	4- 4-24
2	Americus	John D. Mathis	1-17-21	6-22-23
3	Macon	Jos. N. Neel, Jr.	7- 8-21	10-16-22
4	Augusta	Louis L. Battey	3-14-21	3-29-23
5	Rome	Shanklin-Attaway	2-24-25	5-24-25
6	Milledgeville	Morris-Little	9-23-25	10-20-25
7	Gainesville	Paul E. Bolding	10- 6-22	1- 2-23
(Reorganized 5-29-30).				
8	Crawfordville	Roy Dozier		3-15-29
9	Brunswick	Brunswick	6-18-25	8-18-25
10	Waycross	Ware County	3-18-21	7- 5-22
11	Blakely	P. H. Fitzgerald		5-31-28
12	Cleveland	White County	5-13-24	(Cancelled)
13	Valdosta	Valdosta	5-29-21	9-26-22
14	Elberton	Edmund B. Tate	3-23-26	5-26-26
15	Griffin	Troy D. Barnett	3-28-21	4-27-23
16	Cleveland	Roy Head		5-31-32
17	Dublin	Laurens County	3-14-21	(Cancelled)
(Reorganized)				
19	Eatonton	Putnam County	3-17-25	6-20-25
20	Athens	Allen R. Fleming	2-18-24	7- 7-24
21	Tifton	Tift County	1-16-22	12-11-22
22	Washington	Jerome A. Wooten	3-28-23	6-28-23
23	Fort Screven	Amaroc	10- 3-21	11-21-22
24	Perry	Robert Collins		3-19-29
25	Barnesville	Leon Martin		5-11-28
29	Marietta	Horace Orr	5-14-26	6-28-26
30	Albany	Albany	1- 9-24	5- 7-24
31	Thomasville	T. L. Spence, Jr.	1- 5-23	4-27-23
32	Covington	Newton County	5-15-22	5- 2-23
34	Forsyth	Tom Hollis	6-10-24	10-20-24
35	Columbus	Chas. S. Harrison		1- 2-31
36	Savannah	Chatham County	4-14-21	10-16-22
37	Madison	Calvin George	3-14-21	9-26-22
38	Cordele	Crisp County		2- 8-28
41	Moultrie	Thomas S. Teabeaut		7-21-27
42	Cartersville	Carl Boyd	2- 8-21	3-12-23
43	Louisville	Ransom S. Rabun		1-10-27
44	Canton	Thomas M. Brady	2-18-24	5-27-24
46	Lawrenceville	Lawrenceville		6-19-30
47	Calhoun	Paul Gwin		6-18-27
48	Quitman	Wilbur Oglesby	5- 2-22	6- 2-23
52	Jesup	Woodrow Wilson	4-12-22	10-16-22
(Reorganized)				
53	Winder	John Rich Pentecost	5- 4-26	5-11-26
56	Jefferson	Albert Gordon		7- 7-33
57	Newnan	Alvin Hugh Harris	1- 1-24	4-25-24
58	Tallapoosa	John Eaves		6- 2-27
61	Maysville	Henry Gillespie	6-16-24	1- 9-31
62	Bainbridge	Bainbridge		12-27-24
(Reorganized)				
63	Augusta	Richmond	4-22-24	8-12-32
64	Monroe	Linsey-Garrett	6-14-26	(Cancelled)
65	Brookhaven	Asa Warren Candler		6-28-26
66	Decatur	Harold Byrd		32
75	LaGrange	Baxter L. Schaub		6-12-31
(Reorganized)				
76	Fort Valley	Frederick Withoft		3-17-34
77	Conyers	Rockdale County		2- 1-33
78	Atlanta	Henry Ross Thomas	5- 7-21	1- 9-31
(Reorganized)				
80	McRae	Telfair	2- 7-24	10- 6-22
81	Thomaston	Peter Thurston		2-20-31
84	Clarkesville	Habersham		5-20-24
(This Post consolidated 4-4-24 with Atlanta Post No. 1 to form the Argonne Post No. 1).				
80	McRae	Telfair	1-18-22	12-19-22
81	Thomaston	Peter Thurston		6-22-28
84	Clarkesville	Habersham		4- 6-32

No.	City	Name of Post	Tem. Charter	Per. Charter
86	Cedartown	Jos. S. Brewster	4-30-25	8- 5-25
87	LaFayette	Ross Graham	5-22-22	(Cancelled)
	(Reorganized)		3-25-24	8- 6-24
88	Manchester	Manchester		1- 2-31
89	Greensboro	N. C. Overton		6-22-33
90	Statesboro	Dexter Allen		10-27-27
91	Adel	Cook County		6-24-27
92	Carnesville	Franklin County		8-13-32
94	Tennille	Washington County		7-19-32
96	Warrenton	Reese-Hyman	5-29-23	9-19-23
98	Ashburn	Dewey Hulsey		2-27-29
99	Fitzgerald	Mars-McDonald		1- 2-33
100	Ocilla	Jeff Davis		6- 4-34
101	Gordon	Quinn-Lindsey		3- 2-32
103	Swainsboro	Emanuel County		5-11-28
104	Toccoa	Stephens County		4-22-27
105	Fayetteville	Fayette County		7-31-31
106	Clayton	Rabun County		8-12-32
108	Metter	Candler County		10-20-25
109	Hartwell	Hart County		4-23-29
112	Dalton	Dalton		7-19-32
113	Sylvester	C. A. Brownlee	3-17-24	8-14-24
	(Reorganized)			1- 2-32
115	Nashville	Otranto		2- 8-28
116	Morgan	Grover W. Calhoun		5- 7-28
118	Roberta	Crawford County		3- 4-29
119	Homerville	Suwanee River		6-20-30
120	Waynesboro	Burke Light Infantry	5-22-22	3-23-23
121	Blairsville	Ira Weaver		1- 2-31
123	Donaldsonville	Seminole	9-26-22	1- 5-23
124	Butler	Butler		2- 7-30
126	Eastman	Dodge County		6-16-31
127	Buford	Ivy Woodward		5-27-27
128	Richland	Morton-Richardson	2-17-21	9-11-22
129	Summerville	Chattooga County		4-18-27
133	Dawson	Davis-Daniel	3-17-24	6-17-24
	Charters issued by National Headquarters since June 1, 1934.			
26	Baxley	Altamaha		1- 1-35
39	Danielsville	Madison County		3-25-35
125	Hawkinsville	John W. Holt		1- 1-35
132	Unadilla	Mashburn Murray		2-15-35
135	Savannah	Savannah		1- 1-35
	National Headquarters is holding the charter applications for the following Units pending receipt of membership applications properly filled for the names signed to the application for charter:			
50	College Park	Lyle-Brewster		
122	Cairo	Grady County		
136	Lindale	Robert J. McLain		

The Birth of The American Legion Auxiliary In Georgia



Early in January, 1921, a group of National and Department officers of the American Legion made a tour of Georgia in the interest of organization work. Meetings were held in various places and preliminary steps were taken for the organization of Auxiliary Units throughout the State. National Adjutant, Lemmuel Boles, John M. Slaton, Jr., of Atlanta, and Ben Hogue of Americus were among the speakers at these meetings and each of them tried to impress upon the Posts the importance of forming a Unit whereby they might secure the support and co-operation of the women of their families in carrying forward the many phases of Legion activities.

January 8th, 1921, the first Georgia Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary was formed in Americus. Major James Fort, Ben Hogue, Commander of the John D. Mathis Post, Americus, Dan Chappel and Brown McLendon were instrumental in the organization of this Unit and to them the Department gives credit for the initial steps in the life of the American Legion Auxiliary in Georgia.

The first group of officers of the Americus Unit were Mrs. Lawson Stapleton, President; Mrs. Walter Rylander, Vice-President; Mrs. Charles Hudson, Secretary; and Miss Maude Sherlock, Treasurer. These women hold the enviable title of being the first to serve in this capacity in Georgia. A temporary Charter was issued to this Unit by National Headquarters on January 17th, 1921, this being the first Charter issued to a Georgia Unit.

On January 14th, a Unit was organized in Richland and a temporary Charter was applied for. This Unit therefore ranks as the second organized in Georgia and chartered

by National Headquarters. It was through the efforts of Mrs. Harry M. Dixon of Richland, that this Unit was organized, she having called a meeting of the women of her town who were eligible to membership in the Auxiliary, at which meeting she served as organizing Chairman and later as the first Unit President.

Other Units organized during the first half of 1921 and receiving temporary charters from National Headquarters were:

Thos. S. Teabeaut, Unit No. 41, Moultrie	2- 8-21
Atlanta, Unit No. 1, Atlanta	2-17-21
John B. Ryals, Jr., Unit No. 38, Cordele	3-14-21
Laurens County, Unit No. 17, Dublin	3-14-21
Louis L. Battey, Unit No. 4, Augusta	3-14-21
Chatham County, Unit No. 36, Savannah	3-14-21
Ware County, Unit No. 10, Waycross	3-18-21
Valdosta, Unit No. 13, Valdosta	3-29-21
Troy D. Barnett, Unit No. 15, Griffin	3-28-21
Chas. S. Harrison, Unit No. 35, Columbus	4-14-21
Baxter L. Schaub, Unit No. 75, LaGrange	5- 7-21
Jos. N. Neel, Jr., Unit No. 3, Macon	7- 8-21

PRE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

In March, 1921, A. L. Henson, Commander of the American Legion, Department of Georgia, called a meeting of the Executive Board of the Legion, the commander and adjutant of each Post and the president and secretary of each Auxiliary Unit within the State.

This meeting was held in Macon on April 4th, with about one hundred Legionnaires and Auxiliary members present. Nearly all of the Units, then organized in Georgia, were represented. The business session was held in the ballroom of the Dempsey Hotel, during which speeches were delivered by National Adjutant Lemmuel Boles; Department Commander, A. L. Henson; Mrs. W. O. Kinney, President of the Macon Unit; Basil Stockbridge, Past Department Commander; and Rodney S. Cohen of Augusta.

At one o'clock the meeting adjourned without any definite steps having been taken towards Department organization but the ideals and purpose of the American Legion and its Auxiliary had become clearer to each woman present and that day's good work was destined to bear fruit within a few short months.

After adjournment the officers and delegates assembled on the mezzanine floor of the Dempsey Hotel where lunch was served. During the lunch hour a delightful musical program was rendered by Miss Grace Larrimore, director of the Musical Department of Wesleyan College, and Miss Blanche Neel of Macon. Miss Larrimore charmed the audience with her rendition of "The Sweetest Story Ever Told" and "An Indian Love Song." She was followed by Miss Neel who sang "Deep River" and "Your Eyes Have Told Me So."

During the afternoon the delegates were driven out to Idle Hour Country Club where they were entertained by the Macon Unit. Punch and light refreshments were served by the following group of matrons and young ladies: Mrs. Roland Neel, Mrs. Walter A. Isaacs, Mrs. Will Dunwody, Miss Augusta Worsham, Misses Mary Lane, Ann Mercer and Beulah Smith.

The various Units were represented at the

business meeting by Mrs. J. N. Neel, Miss Blanche Neel, Mrs. R. Taylor, Mrs. J. A. Dunwody, Sr., Mrs. J. C. Haire and Mrs. R. N. Stovall of Macon; Mrs. W. C. Elrod, Atlanta; Mrs. Frank E. Fleming, Augusta; Mrs. John W. Bennet, Waycross; Mrs. E. F. Travis, Griffin; Mrs. R. S. Roddenberry, Moultrie; Mrs. Harry M. Dixon, Mrs. Curtis Dixon, Richland; and Mrs. W. E. H. Searcy of Griffin.



MRS. FRANK E. FLEMING
PRESIDENT, 1921-1922

Lila Erwin was born in Savannah, Ga. She was married to Mr. Frank E. Fleming, of Augusta, Ga., and four children were born to them, namely; Marion (Mrs. W. Cyrus Bailey); Frank E., Jr., John Moragne and Erwin.

Mrs. Fleming was president of the Soldiers' Relief Association of Augusta and active in Red Cross work during the World War. She is eligible to membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through her two sons, Frank E., Jr. and John Moragne, who

served one year on the Mexican Border and two years in the World War.

She organized and served as first President of the Louis L. Battey Unit of Augusta; Assisted in organizing and served as first President of the Department of Georgia; served as National Committeewoman for two years, 1921 and 1922. Served as National Vice-President of the Southern Division in 1922-1923; was one of the organizers of the National organization of 8 and 40; and the Aloha Presidents, giving the latter organization its name. She served as National President of the Past President's Parley in 1926-1927 and as National Historian in 1926-1927, and 1927-1928 and 1928-1929.



MISS MOINA MICHAEL
"THE POPPY LADY"

Miss Moina Michael, the daughter of John Marion Michael and Alice Sherwood Wise, was born on a farm near Good Hope, Ga.

During the World War, Miss Michael served on the Staff of the Y. W. C. A. Overseas Headquarters, at Hamilton Hall, Columbia University.

Miss Michael is known as the "Poppy Lady" for she gave to the world the idea of wearing the Flanders poppy as a memorial to the World War dead.

Through the Poppy Program, which was developed from the inspired thought of Miss Michael, the American Legion Auxiliary has given employment to thousands of disabled veterans; has brought them cheer and comfort while ill in the hospital and has cared for their helpless families while they were in need.

ORGANIZATION

The Georgia Department of the American Legion Auxiliary was organized in Columbus, Ga., July 5th, 1921, during the third annual convention of The American Legion. The call for convention was issued by Allen L. Henson, at the time Commander of the Department of Georgia. The convention was held in the Chase Conservatory of Music, Tenth Street and Third Avenue.

On the previous day the women, who were in Columbus for the purpose of organizing the Georgia Department of the Auxiliary, had attended the opening session of the Legion Convention which was held in the Springer Opera House. A number of distinguished persons were present at this meeting, among those seated on the stage being; National Commander John G. Emery; Major-General Peter C. Harris, Adjutant General, U. S. A.; Allen L. Henson, Commander of the Georgia Department; J. G. C. Bloodworth, Department Adjutant; General Walter H. Gordon, Commander, Fort Benning; Colonel Paul B. Malone; Colonel Henry S. Wagner; Walter A. Richards, Commander Charles S. Harrison Post, and a number of women prominent in patriotic circles throughout the State.

The meeting was called to order by the Department Commander and after the invocation by Rabbi I. L. Rosenthal of Columbus, an address of welcome was given by Dr. Solon B. Cousins for the city of Columbus and one by General W. H. Gordon, Commander of Fort Benning.

National Commander John G. Emery