

History of the Griggs County Red Cross Chapter

A mass meeting was called for the purpose of organizing an Auxiliary of the American Red Cross Association on April 21, 1917, in the Gymnasium at Cooperstown, N. D. Mrs. E. W. Blackwell was elected temporary chairman, and Miss Hazel Hartman temporary secretary. Information in regard to the work of the Red Cross was discussed by Mrs. Benjamin Tufte and Mrs. F. L. Barke. The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers and the following were nominated and elected: Mrs. J. N. Brown, chairman; H. P. Hammer, Vice-president; Rev. T. E. Sweger, Rev. W. L. Bennett, Rev. L. McKinnon, Rev. P. A. Thoreson and Rev. Hewson, honorary vice-chairmen; Miss Grace Hutchins, Secretary Mrs. W. G. Schannach, treasurer.

Pursuant to a call by the chairman for a meeting of the Red Cross Auxilliary at the Gymnasium on May 27, 1917, those present proceeded to organize a Chapter of the American Red Cross to take the place of the Auxilliary organized on April 21st. It was the opinion of those present that the larger interest of the work required that this reorganization take place, and the Griggs County Chapter was duly organized with the following permanent officers: John A. Syverson, Chairman; H. P. Hammer, Vice-Chairman; Grace Hutchins, Secretary; Melvin Hanson, Treasurer; Mrs. E. W. Blackwell, Superintendent of Women's Work.

A meeting of the Chapter officers and workers was called by the Chairman to meet in the Court House on Sept. 13, 1917. Judge N. C. Young then director for North Dakota was present and in his official capacity effected a change in the administrative plans of the Chapter. This being in conformity to the rules and regulations of the national organization. Miss Grace Hutchins having resigned as Secretary, Melvin Hanson was elected to fill this vacancy, and E. W. Blackwell was elected Treasurer. The Executive Committee of the Chapter consists of the Chapter officers and the following named persons: W. G. Schannach, Rev. W. L. Bennett, A. M. Baldwin, (last named now deceased). On Sept. 1, 1917, Mrs. E. W. Blackwell resigned as Chairman of Women's Work on account of ill health and Mrs. Chas. Houghton was elected to fill this vacancy, which position she has held up to the present time. Mrs. Will H. Carleton was elected Superintendent of the knitting department and Mrs. E. S. Hamilton was elected Superintendent of the surgical dressing department of the Chapter. Mrs. Alexander S. Anderson of Chicago, an official Red Cross nurse organized a surgical dressing class of twenty members. This was the first instruction given in this work.

In addition to the parent organization the following named Branches have been organized:

Sutton Branch, with the following officers: A. J. Moffatt, Chairman; A. J. Melgard, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Adolph Kjelson, Superintendent of Woman's Work, also Executive Committee.

Hannaford Branch, with the following officers: Dr. R. D. Benson, Chairman; P. A. Anderson, Secretary; O. M. Westley, Treasurer; Mrs. C. O. Dunnum, Superintendent of Women's Work, also Executive Committee.

Binford Branch with the following officers: Dr. J. R. Truscott, Chairman; Dr. E. F. Ringlee, Vice-Chairman; C. E. Peterson, Secretary; Oscar Greenland, Treasurer; Mrs. F. Lewis, Superintendent of Women's Work, also Executive Committee.

Jessie Branch with the following officers: Robert Thorn, Chairman; Harry St. John, Secretary and Treasurer; Otto E. Retzlaff, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Harry St. John, Superintendent of Women's Work, also Executive Committee.

Walum Branch, with the following officers: Eric O. Wallin, Chairman; A. P. Nelson, Vice-chairman; O. A. Gilbertson, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Elmer Wallum, Superintendent of Women's Work, also Executive Committee.