

President General's Thank You

Madam State Regent

Madam President General

New Albany, Indiana, is located on the Ohio River, across from Louisville. In the center of New Albany and located in the Downtown Historic District is a house that sits back off a main intersection and is not easily noticed. That house today belongs to Piankeshaw Chapter . They have owned it for nearly a century. It is the oldest standing building in New Albany today.

This House, the Scribner House, was built in 1814 by Joel Scribner, one of three brothers who founded New Albany. During the period Joel lived in the house, it was the center of activity; for short periods of time it was used as a school and as a church meeting place. Today it is still a center of activity for the chapter and the community.

William Scribner, Joel's son, next lived in Scribner House, followed by Harriet Scribner, known to our chapter members as "Miss Hattie". She was a member of our chapter. In 1917, Piankeshaw Chapter purchased the house from Miss Hattie for \$1,500.

Miss Hattie's arrangement, when she sold the Scribner House, was for her to live there for the remainder of her life. On September 8, 1917, the Chapter held its first meeting in the newly-owned House. Miss Hattie gave the program that day. On September 20 – twelve days later – Miss Hattie unexpectedly passed away. She certainly left her family home in good hands.

Our ownership and care of the Scribner House has allowed us to put more focus on our mission of Historic Preservation.

One of our early members brought a troop of Girls Scouts to tour the house and to learn about its history and the history of New Albany. From that time until today, we have given tours for over 60 years. Approximately 1,000 third grade students tour annually, allowing us to carry out the mission of Education.

In fact, Joel Scribner set up an endowment for the education of New Albany children. That fund is still in existence today, and each year provides a scholarship for a worthy student.

In 2014, the Bicentennial of our chapter house, we began a restoration of the property in phases, starting with the House itself. To date we have restored the west and north sides of the house as well as the rehabilitation of the 22 windows in the house and 6 windows in the summer kitchen. During this time, there has been an on-going concern that the newly restored sides might be exposed to water damage. The roof was at least 18 years old. We had found some water damage on the ceiling of the top porch. It was imperative that this work needed to be done.

After receiving the estimate for the roof work, it seemed to be an opportune time to write a grant request from DAR's Special Projects Grants. Although we were aware of a great deal of competition, there was a real need to submit a grant request.

The ladies of Piankeshaw Chapter were extremely happy and pleased when we heard that we would receive this matching grant funding for \$7,000.00.

Our chapter would also like to send our thanks to Dianne Janis, the National Chairman of the Special Projects Grants, for her help in answering our questions during the writing of this grant.

The current roof of our chapter house will have a new historically correct roof made from sawn cedar shingles; before the shingles are installed the roof will be covered with sheathing and a felt paper. The roof is in two parts, the main house and the two-storied back porch; these two sections will be invisibly seamed to insure no leakage between the sections. Box gutters with copper linings will be installed on the front of the house; copper flashing will be on the chimney.

Madam President General, it is interesting to note that our restoration project began this past Tuesday, the week you came to Indiana.

The Chapter has a signed covenant with the Indiana Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology that insures that all restoration work will adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for historic home preservation.

Piankeshaw Chapter continues to Celebrate America by partnering with multiple New Albany organizations.

Each year at Christmas the chapter holds a Victorian Tea to thank the community for their support.

This work will insure long term protection of our chapter house. Piankeshaw Chapter seeks to keep and maintain the historic character of the Scribner House to promote the community's interest in their "home place".

Restoration of this historic New Albany treasure is essential for the Scribner House's longevity as a landmark and as an educational site. It will assure that the Scribner House remains into the third century.

Madam President General, I am honored to be able today to thank you and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for their generous funding of this grant to our chapter.

The Chapter would like to present you with a copy of our book, The Scribner House of New Albany. It was published for the House's Bicentennial.

You were unable to visit our historic home during this trip, but you can take a tour at your leisure by reading Chapter 6, A Walking Tour of Scribner House.

Our ladies again would like to thank you for the generous grant.