



### **DAR in the Stacks, by Anita Bowser**

If you're interested in learning about the [Daughters of the American Revolution \(DAR\)](#), the library is a good place to start. A visitor to the library's genealogy department can pick up a brochure for the [General Richard Butler Chapter](#) – the local chapter, which explains where and when the group meets, membership requirements, and the organization's mission.

The DAR is a federally chartered service organization with its headquarters in Washington, D.C. Members must be able to prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. The organization is committed to historic education and preservation.

Efforts toward a local chapter began in 1917, according to a Butler Eagle clipping from June 16 of that year. On the previous afternoon, 15 local women met at the YMCA to form a temporary chapter. After some discussion, the group planned to apply to the state DAR regent for permanent, official status. Within a few years, interest had grown. An article titled D.A.R. Chapter is Organized appeared in the Butler Eagle on February 27, 1920 describing an organizational meeting of about 35 women at the Second Street home of Mrs. T. W. Phillips Jr.

A [vertical file](#) in the library's collection holds nearly 40 local newspaper clippings about the DAR published between 1917 and 2012, the majority of which focus on the organization and activities of the local chapter.

For anyone interested in DAR membership, the national organization has a comprehensive website including [free genealogy resources](#) using the DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS). The GRS is a collection of databases that provide access to the many materials the DAR has assembled over the years.

Additionally, the [Weir Room](#) collection at the Butler Area Public Library includes the three-volume DAR Patriot Index, Centennial Edition, and many other useful genealogy resources.