

The State
2-13-87

Honoring Gladden

USC chapter of national DAR will observe American History Month with ceremony

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The life and accomplishments of Mexican War hero Gen. Adley Hogan Gladden will be celebrated Saturday by the University of South Carolina chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution in ceremonies at USC's Solomon Blatt Physical Education Center on Wheat Street.

The ceremony is being held as part of the group's observance of American History Month Feb. 1-28, said Edie Purvis, first vice regent of the DAR chapter.

The celebration is particularly fitting, Mrs. Purvis said, during the 200th anniversary of the Constitution and the 30th anniversary of the chapter's founding.

The 2:30 p.m. program will feature a prelude and postlude to be performed by the 282nd U.S. Army Band, an address by Lt. Gov. Nick Theodore and remarks about Gladden from Walter B. Edgar, director of the Institute of Southern Studies at USC.

Other notables scheduled to appear on the program include Congressman Floyd Spence and Richland County Councilwoman Leone Castles.

"We couldn't think of a better day, or a better way, to say, 'We the people love America,'" Mrs. Purvis said.

Gladden, commander of the Palmetto Regiment, was born in the Fairfield District of South Carolina on Oct. 28, 1810.

He moved to Columbia as a cotton broker in 1830. While in Columbia, Gladden purchased several acres of land near Pickens Street. It is on that land the historical marker me-

morializing Gladden's heroism is located.

Gladden earned most of his distinction as a leader of the Palmetto Regiment. The regiment was a group of volunteer soldiers who responded to a call from President James Polk to help free Texas from Mexican rule.

In December 1846, the Palmetto Regiment left the state for battle. Gladden was elected major by members of the regiment.

The Palmetto Regiment distinguished itself as the first company to raise its state flag over Mexico City.

Following the battles of Chapultepec and the Belen Gates, Gladden was elected commander of the regiment.

An article in the *Camden Journal*, dated Oct. 8, 1852, said, "Our townsman, Col. Gladden, has won on the field of battle distinction and renown ... and the distinguished fame of this gallant Regiment will not only be safe but preserved inviolate under his lead."

Both the state of South Carolina and the City of Charleston presented Gladden with commemorative swords after the war.

Following his service in the war with Mexico, Gladden returned to Columbia and was elected intendant, that is, mayor of the city, for two terms. He also served as captain of the governor's guard, adjutant general of the Third S.C. Militia and bursar of South Carolina College, now USC.

In 1852, Gladden moved to Louisiana, where he lived and worked for 10 years. When the Civil War broke out, Gladden, by then a brigadier general, joined the Confederate forces under the command of Gen. Braxton Bragg.