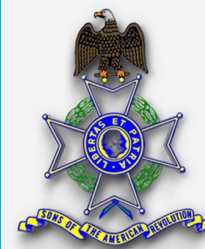




The Husker Patriot



Issue 46

1st Qtr 2022



African-American Patriots

From the Desk of the President

Presidents Message



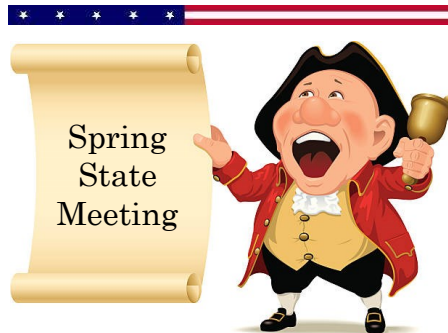
This will be my last message for the newsletter as your state president. It has been an honor to serve the society in this capacity. I believe that I was the first ever state officer sworn in by Zoom. Covid threw everyone for a loop.

In spite of the challenges, we continued to make progress. The state meetings were held both in person and with a zoom component for those unable to attend in person. The color guard has slowly expanded its ranks. A state historian and state chaplain have been appointed. Wreaths Across America has gained momentum. The newsletter has continued to exhibit excellence on the national level. Grave marking

has been scheduled to restart this year. Membership has continued to increase.

I feel comfortable in passing the gavel to the new officers. They will take your society to new levels. I wish to thank all the current officers and members for their support during my tenure. It has been the membership that makes the society a success.

Thank you,
Merle McAlevy, President NESSAR



Attention!! Attention!!

Nebraska Compatriots, Don't forget that the Spring State Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 24, 2pm, at the Main Lodge at Mahoney State Park outside of Ashland, Nebraska. We have a very full agenda for this meeting, including inducting new members, providing some medals and long time service recognition to some of our members, a discussion of the financial audit, constitution and by-laws, the Americanism Report, and other Officer's Reports. We will also be inducting our new slate of State Officers for the 2022-2023 term of service. We need as many of you in attendance as we can, to show support to your new officers, as well as being active participants in the Society. Hope to see you there! Thank you.



NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS

2020-2021

- President: Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, MD, Omaha
- 1st Vice President: Thomas L. Upton, Omaha
- 2nd Vice President: John C. Braisted, Lincoln
- Secretary: James L. Hoke, Lincoln
- Treasurer: John C. Braisted, Lincoln
- Registrar: Paul H. Burrigh, Omaha
- Deputy Registrar: Robert L. Knott, Jr., Omaha
- Chaplain: Dr. James Sly, Omaha
- Trustee: Fred Walden, Omaha
- Alt. Trustee: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln

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2020-2021

- President: Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, MD
- 1st Vice President: Thomas L. Upton
- 2nd Vice President: John C. Braisted
- Secretary: James L. Hoke
- Treasurer: John C. Braisted
- Chap. President: Paul H. Burrigh, Omaha
- Chap. Vice Pres: Dr. James Sly, Omaha
- Chap. President: James L. Hoke, Lincoln
- Chap. Vice Pres: Dale Wostrel, Lincoln
- Chap. Secretary: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln
- Past State President: Thomas Masters, Lincoln
- Past State President: John Parsons, Omaha
- Past State President: Robert Knott Jr., Omaha
- Past State President: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln
- Past State President: John W. Reinert, Lincoln
- Past State President: Fred Walden, Omaha
- Past State President: Dr. David K. Kentsmith, MD, Omaha
- Past State President: William S. Webb, Omaha
- Past State President: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln

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State Society News



Welcome New Members!

We have had quite a lot of movement on applications recently, and we have a number of new members to introduce to you.

Omaha Chapter

Mark A. Byars—#221675

Mark was approved on Feb 11, 2022 and is descended from Patriot, George Gibson (VA).

James D. Gansemer—#221676

James was also approved on Feb 11, 2022 and is descended from Patriot, Stephen Stow (CT).

Adrian Lane Sanders—#221456

Adrian was approved on Jan 21, 2022 and is descended from Patriot, George Fluker (NC).

Lincoln Chapter

Anton Deeths Kerrigan—#221677
Grant William Kerrigan—#221678

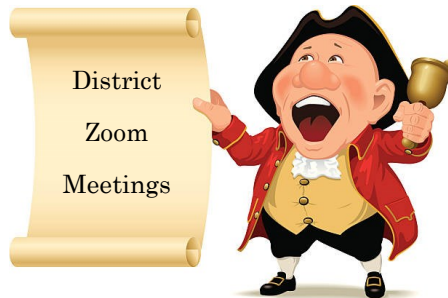
Brothers Anton and Grant Kerrigan were admitted on Feb 11, 2022. They are the grandsons of 45 year Omaha member, Jeff Deeths. They are descended from Patriot Jacobus Blauvelt (NY).

Member-At-Large

Charles Frederick Fisher—#221352

Fredd was approved on Jan 14, 2022, and resides in Kimball, NE. He is descended from Patriot, William Thompson (PA).

Congratulations to all of our new members and welcome to the Nebraska SAR!!
Huzzah!!



Attention Nebraska Compatriots!

Did you know that our North Central District Vice President-General, Chris Moberg, hosts District meetings every month on Zoom? Perhaps the post rider, carrying news of the meeting, succumbed to the cold, winter weather and could not get your post delivered in time...

Did you also know that for every member we have attend these meetings, we get points on our Americanism Report? Just like attending the State meetings?

Judging from our attendance, you may not realize we are leaving points on the table. At the meeting in February, Nebraska had a grand total of three members in attendance. Three members, out of one hundred. The two meetings before that, we had a grand total of 1 member. **We can do better!!**

VP-General, Moberg, takes a lot of time to set these meetings up and to find speakers to give these presentations. We have had presentations on the Patriot Chests within the District, the Americanism Report, field music of the Revolution, among other topics. The February meeting, for example, talked about a lot of the different medals and awards that the SAR has, that not only you can receive for your own service and work within the Society, but also awards, certificates, and medals we can give out, as a Society, to mem-

bers of the community that are not SAR members, which helps our Americanism Score as well. Check out our Americanism Scorecard Results on page 8 and 9 of this issue.

The meeting in March was about Supplemental Application Tips and Tricks, presented by Genealogist General, Bob Fish. We had 7 members in attendance.

Compatriot Paul Burright sends out notices of these meetings for VPG Moberg every month. Watch your email for them and we hope to see you online for the next District Zoom Meeting.



News from the Spring Leadership Meetings

Vice President—General, Chris Moberg, sent word of one new piece of exciting news to come out of the National Spring Leadership Meeting this past February.

As many of you know, members can earn the Liberty medal for recruiting and being the first line sponsor on ten new member applications. We have had a few of our Nebraska SAR members that have earned this award for their work on helping new members with their applications and sponsoring them into our Society.

Up until now, a member would receive the medal after 10 sponsorships and get oak leaf clusters for each consecutive 10 sponsorships. New Silver and Gold Liberty Medals were approved at this year's Leadership Meetings. More news on criteria for earning these new medals will be forthcoming.



REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

Black Patriots

With Black History Month occurring within our first quarter newsletter timetable, here are some interesting stories about African-Americans that fought for American independence.

Crispus Attucks

Crispus Attucks is considered to be the first Black Patriot., due to him being killed in the Boston Massacre in 1770. Attucks was commemorated by his fellow Bostonians as a martyr for freedom. Attucks was a whaler born in or around Framington, Massachusetts.

Shadrack Battles

A member of the tenth Virginia Regiment, Shadrack Battles of Albemarle County, Virginia—a carpenter in his civilian life—served his budding county well and with distinction, from the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown, Pennsylvania, in late 1777 to the fighting at Monmouth, New Jersey, and Savannah, Georgia, later on. One of at least five black men from Thomas Jefferson's home county of Albemarle to fight in the Revolutionary War, he took his honorable discharge at Augusta, Georgia.

Living into the nineteenth century, he went to court in 1820 to claim his pension...but he was so infirm at that point that he had to be carried to the courthouse on a litter. Some researchers, noting the entry "col." in his records, concluded he was a colonel and, thus, the first black

officer in the nation's history. Alas, he was only a private in rank—"col." meant "colored" in the parlance of the day, rather than colonel. Still he was proudly able to say in his pension papers that he served as his commander Clough Shelton's "right hand man."



African-American Patriot Memorial
Valley Forge National Historic Park

Billy Lee

Always by his master's side, in war and peace—called a servant rather than the slave he really was—Billy Lee was there with George Washington at every step. He served as a personal valet, frequent hunting companion before the Revolution, military orderly during the war—however needed. A slaveholder like so many of his fellow Virginia gentry, Washington purchased the then teenage "Billy" from Mrs. John Lee of Westmoreland county in 1768, on the eve of the Revolution. Until Washington's death in 1799, Billy Lee stayed with the commander in chief. In two falls in the 1780's, however, he broke both knees and, now crippled, could no longer travel extensively.

He turned to shoemaking at Mount Vernon.

When Washington died, Billy Lee was freed in his master's will. The former slave lived until about 1828, and sadly, in his later years may have become an alcoholic.

Prince Estabrook

The gunfire was just beginning to abate April 19, 1775. Beaten down and bedraggled by their daylong running battle through an aroused Colonial countryside, the British troops who had marched out of Boston to Lexington, Concord, and back, now reached the relative safety of Charlestown Neck. Their angry p u r s u e r s — Minutemen, militia,

and others who simply picked up their muskets and joined in—wouldn't be able to pursue them into the city streets. Now, too, after the last flare-up of gunfire, the redcoats saw the rebels rescue a wounded black man—possibly Prince Estabrook of the Lexington Minuteman Company. Estabrook, a slave who volunteered for service, had been on the Lexington Common for the confrontation with the British early that morning. Destined to stay in the fight for freedom to the triumphant end in 1783, he indeed was wounded at some point in the first day's fighting with the British.

Peter Salem

Peter Salem, a black American militiaman fighting the Battle of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill on June 17, 1775, apparently fired the shot that fatally wounded British Marine Ma-

for John Pitcairn. Almost exactly two months prior to this battle, on the night of April 18-19, Pitcairn had been in charge of the redcoats who encountered American Minuteman on the Lexington Green and killed eight of them in the Revolutionary War's first eruption of real gunfire.

Prince Hall

Prince Hall encouraged enslaved and freed blacks to serve in the American colonial military. He believed that if they were involved in the founding of a new nation, it would aid in the attainment of freedom for all blacks. He is believed to be one of six "Prince Hall's" to have served for Massachusetts during the war. After the war, he lobbied for equal rights for African-Americans and hosted community events, such as educational forums and theatre events to help improve the lives of African-Americans. He also formed his own African-American Masonic Lodge, African Lodge #1 in the Boston area, where many of its original members were also Revolutionary War veterans.

Austin Dabney

Austin Dabney was an enslaved African-American, born in North Carolina and ended up moving with his master, Richard Aycock, to Wilkes County, Georgia in the 1770's. When the Georgia militia was called up for war, Aycock sent Dabney in his place. To address the concerns that Dabney was a slave, Aycock stated that he had been born free.

Dabney fought in Lt. Col. Elijah Clarke's unit. He was shot in the thigh at the Battle of Kettle Creek on Feb 14, 1779. He recovered from his wound but was crippled for life. Giles Harris, a white soldier who lived in the area, cared for Dabney and they created a close bond.

After the death of Aycock on Aug 14, 1786, an act of the legislature of the State of Georgia, officially emancipated Austin Dabney and authorized the State to pay Aycock's heirs £70 for Dabney's freedom. Dabney was granted 50 acres in Washington County, becoming the only African

American to be granted land by Georgia for his Revolutionary War service. He also received a state pension (an obligation later taken on by the federal government) starting at \$60 a year in 1789 and rising to \$96 in 1816.

James Armistead Lafayette

In 1781, after getting his enslaver's consent, Armistead volunteered to join the army under General Lafayette. Lafayette utilized Armistead as a spy, with him posing as a runaway slave. Armistead joined the camp of the turncoat, Brig. General Benedict Arnold, who was leading some British forces in the area. Pretending to be a spy allowed him into Arnold's confidence, to which Armistead was guiding British Troops through the local countryside. After Arnold moved north in the spring of 1781, Armistead joined General Charles Cornwallis' camp and moved freely among the British troops. They spoke openly around him about their plans and strategies, which he documented in written reports and delivered to other American spies. Much of the intelligence from his espionage were instrumental in helping the Continental forces defeat the British at Yorktown.

A loophole in the Virginia law allowing manumission of slaves who served as substitutes for their masters was utilized, as Armistead was a spy and not a soldier, so he remained the property of William Armistead after the war. However, in 1786, William Armistead was now a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, and with his support, and a testimonial of his service under General Lafayette, made by the Marquis himself, James Armistead petitioned the Virginia Assembly for his freedom.

On January 9, 1787, the Assembly granted his petition. James Armistead was now a free man and he added Lafayette to his name, in honor of the General he served under. In 1818, he applied to the state legislature for financial aid and was awarded \$60 for present relief and a

\$40 annual pension for his Revolutionary War service.

Jehu Grant

Jehu Grant, in his own words, "was a slave to Elihu Champlén who resided in Narragansett, Rhode Island," but ran away in August 1777 because he was afraid his master, a Tory, would sell him to the British on nearby ships. His master secretly was supplying the British with cattle, sheep, cheese, and other farm goods. Grant fled to Danbury, where he joined the Patriot forces as a wagoner. The following June his master tracked him down and demanded his return to Rhode Island—and slavery. Fortunately for Grant, Joshua Swan of Stonington, Connecticut, bought him from Champlén several years after the war and allowed him to work for his freedom. Now located in Milton, Connecticut, with Swan, the newly freed Grant married and fathered six children. In his old age he was denied a war services pension because he was a runaway slave at the time of his service.

James Forten

Then there was the true enough hero of the naval war, James Forten, a powder boy all of fourteen years in age when his American ship, the *Royal Louis*, was forced to surrender to three British warships. When one of the British captains took pity on the young black prisoner and offered him freedom and an education in England if he would forswear his allegiance to the United States, Forten refused. "I was captured fighting for my country," he declared. "I will never be a traitor to her."

Like his fellow captured seamen, he would up in the British prison ship *New Jersey*, anchored in New York Harbor. There, he lost weight—and his hair—but survived.

Later in life, he stuck by his country once again, albeit under less trying circumstances. Offered the presidency of Liberia in Africa, he said no, he would rather continue being an American citizen.

Chapter Chatter

Omaha Chapter

At its meeting in January, the Omaha Chapter installed its new Officers for the 2022-2023 term.

President—Paul Burrright, Vice President—Jim Sly, Secretary—Chuck Real, Treasurer—Andrew Nehls, Registrar—Open



Omaha Officers—2022/2023

(L-R) Chuck Real, Jim Sly, Andrew Nehls, Paul Burrright

Omaha President, Paul Burrright, then presented outgoing President, Ben Harvey, with his Past President certificate and pin, in thanks for his service to the Chapter as President.



Past President, Ben Harvey
Current President, Paul Burrright

At their March meeting, the Omaha Chapter inducted two of its newest members, Jim Gansemer and Mark Byars. Each Compatriot had their member rosette pinned on their lapel by their first line sponsor and both spoke to the members in attendance about their Patriot ancestor.

Afterward, both Compatriots mustered in their Patriot into the Chapter Muster Roll, filling in all of their immediate service information.



Omaha Compatriot Jim Gansemer and his wife, Jackie

Congratulations to our new members. We are glad to have them in our membership.

Vice President, Jim Sly, also gave a presentation to the members on his Patriot Ancestor, Davis Ball. More talks about our member's Patriot ancestors will be coming in future meetings.

Lincoln Chapter

Past President, Laverne Stetson, presented one of Lincoln Chapter's newest members, Dennis Clare, with his member certificate. Compatriot Clare, along with his son, Daniel,



Omaha Compatriot Mark Byars and his wife, Nicki



Lincoln Compatriot Dennis Clare and Past Lincoln Chapter President, LaVerne Stetson

who lives out of state, were accepted as members from National late in 2021.

Welcome to the Nebraska SAR, to both of our newest Lincoln Chapter members.

American Heritage Luncheon

On Saturday, February 19, Lincoln SAR hosted the 9th Annual American Heritage Luncheon at Havelock Social Hall in Lincoln, NE.



Due to the pandemic, last year's American Heritage Dinner was cancelled, so it was great to be able to come together with our fellow Compatriots and members from other heritage organizations, for some good food, nice fellowship, and a great program from Humanities Nebraska speaker, Joe Starita.

This is the first year that this event was promoted as a luncheon, as opposed to a dinner, which seemed to work out beautifully. The weather was fantastic, and for those having to drive in from out of town, it was nice to drive home in the daylight.



There were many different organizations represented again this year, including the SAR, of course, as well as the DAR, Daughters of 1812, General Society of the War of 1812,

Huguenots, The Mayflower Society, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, General Society of Colonial Wars, Colonial Dames, and many others.

James Hoke, current Lincoln Chapter President, was the emcee of the event.

At these American Heritage events, there is always one table set up to honor our POW/MIA military members. The table is shown below. This has been an ongoing tradition at these events.



Omaha Chapter President, Paul Burright, set up a small display of SAR memorabilia and artifacts, including a pin from National Congress in 1915, a brass letter opener from National Congress in 1924, an SAR Independence Day celebration ribbon from 1893, and a Nebraska SAR Washington's Birthday event card from 1928, among other items. The members in attendance enjoyed the display.

Our program speaker for the afternoon was Joe Starita from Humanities Nebraska. Joe is a Professor with the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at UNL. He wrote the book "I am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice". He gave a fantastic program, beginning with the Ponca Indian Tribe in



Nebraska who was led by Standing Bear. He chronicled the involuntary move of their entire village and way of life, from Northwest Nebraska to the Indian Territory and what is now Okla-

homa. The trip was very hard on the tribe, and many died, including a girl named White Buffalo Girl, who died outside of the town of Neligh, Nebraska, not far into their journey, as the weather was terrible during this particular spring. The townspeople of Neligh and their leaders were so moved by the tribes plight, and the military's insistence that the tribe keep marching south, that they vowed to take care of White Buffalo Girl's gravesite, and the town continues to do so, to this day.

The story continues with Standing Bear's journey back to Nebraska to bury his son upon their ancient tribal lands which resulted in his arrest. The resulting court case had a lot of publicity for Omaha and the State of Nebraska and set the precedent for Indian rights under federal law.

The luncheon closed with President Jim Hoke presenting his wife, Linda, with the Lydia Darragh Medal for her support during his tenure in many different officer roles through the years.

It was another great event put on by the Lincoln Chapter and we hope to see you at the 10th annual luncheon next February!



AMERICANISM REPORT 2021



Our Americanism Report has been turned in to National, and even through the pandemic, we had a pretty decent year of events and items that we achieved points for, though we have much room for improvement, in every category.

Section 1—Media Publicity—130 pts

We scored our typical amount of points here for having an operational and updated website, and for the Omaha Chapter's meeting ad in the SAR magazine. We can do better for achieving points here by contacting news outlets with events and awards to non-SAR members for coverage.

Section 2—Speakers Bureau—70 pts

We scored minimal points here, without an established Speakers Bureau, but we did score for 3 presentations made. Did you know that we get points for presentations you make, even to your SAR chapter or society, but we get many more points if you present to a non-SAR organization? Let us know if you make any presentations throughout the year!

Section 3—DAR/CAR support—20 pts

Again, extremely minimal points received here for our support with a couple of DAR events. Did you know that we get points if you attend a DAR meeting or event? Let us know if you go to any so we can get your points counted!

Section 4—Youth Programs—175 pts

This section is so much lower than it usually is, but we had many fewer ROTC awards than normal, again due to the pandemic. 2022 should be better! We do not, however, generally have any other youth awards that the State Society sponsors, other than the Eagle Scout, which we did not have one last year. We are leaving a lot of points on the table that we could get, if we would just look at expanding what awards we do, and expanding throughout the State of Nebraska.

Section 5—Public Service Programs—170 pts

Again, this section was much lower than we would normally get, but we did not have any Fire, Police, or other public service medals that we gave out in 2021. The only points we received were for the two parades the Color Guard was a part of, and an event in North Platte that was attended by Compatriot Shawn Stoner. There is so much room for improvement in this category!

Section 6—Historic Sites & Celebrations—0 pts

We got no points for this section, but it is very difficult, with our geography, to have points here.

Section 7—Patriot Records and Grave Markings—210 pts

We did not do any grave markings in 2021, though we do have some planned for 2022, so our point total should increase this year. We did get points for members putting out flags on graves during Memorial Day, and we had a grand total of 2 Patriot Biographies submitted for 2021. That total is ridiculous! In the Patriot Research System, only 9% of all Patriots listed in the PRS have a biography attached to them. Nebraska is absolutely contributing to that abysmally low number. Get your Patriot's biography written this year so we can get some points back in this section!

Section 8—Color Guard—230 pts

The Color Guard had a good year in 2021, getting back to events, but we really need to increase our membership in the Color Guard, as we are leaving events on the table that we could be a part of, but don't have the members who can participate.

Section 9—Medals and Awards—15 pts

This is a terrible number for this section. We gave out absolutely no non-member awards of any type. This could be corrected by giving out something as simple as flag certificates. We do have 1 medal awarded already for 2022, the Lydia Darragh medal, so let's keep this going and recognize some people who are not amongst our membership. We also only gave out 1 medal as a State Society, at the Fall meeting, so this also needs to be corrected, though we need people to step into roles to be recognized for their work within the Society.

Section 10—National Society Service—490 pts



AMERICANISM REPORT 2021



We received points here for donations made to different National Society endowments and funds for special projects. We also received points for having an elected National Trustee and Alternate Trustee. We also received points for members working with special projects, such as the PRS volunteer work, etc. This is the highest point total we have received in this category, to date.

Section 11—Membership—1470 pts

We receive points for number of members paying dues on time, new members, reinstatements, as well as accepted supplemental applications for the year, of which we only had two.

Section 12—Meeting Attendance—355 pts

We receive points here for all members in attendance at State, District, and National meetings. Point totals increase per member from the lowest attending a State meeting, to the highest attending a National Congress. Bonus points are awarded for those who attend in Continental or Militia uniform.

Total Americanism points—985

Total President's Cup Award points—2350

We are eligible for both awards, based on the amount of categories for which we achieved points.

The Americanism Report is a way for us to see what we are doing in the community to 1) get the SAR name out to the people, 2) promote patriotism within the community, and 3) recognizing the community and our SAR members for their great work in and out of the Society. We should strive to have an Americanism Chairman in each chapter, and each chapter should be working toward the greater Americanism results.

Let's strive for improvement in our numbers and better effectiveness in our community outreach in 2022!

- Paul Burrignt—NESSAR State Americanism Chairman



Meet My Patriot



Jacob Faust (P-156936)

Jacob Faust was born December 25, 1757 and died on July 27, 1834. He was the son of Phillip Lebs Faust (P-156952) and Magdalena Albrecht, who had immigrated to Berks County, Pennsylvania from, ironically, given the service of four sons, including Jacob, and Phillip himself in the Revolutionary War, the Germanic principality of Hesse (home of the Hessian troops that served the British Army). Phillip was born in the Hessian town of Langenselbold.

Enlisting at the age of 21, Jacob's service is documented in the preceding Patriot Service Description. In addition to that record of his service, however, there is a plaque for Berks County veterans of the Revolutionary War near his grave at the Zion Red Church near Orwigsburg, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. That plaque include service in Captain Ladich's Company of the Berks County Militia. A biographer for the Faust family history notes that Captain Ladich's Company was also known as the Frontier Rangers. According to that biographer, the Ranger Company roamed along the western edges of the colony to dissuade both native Americans and British troops from threatening the isolated settlements in the area.

In 1782, while still in the militia, Jacob married Elizabeth Kieffer. After his marriage, he purchased 300 acres of land in Brunswick Township. There he built a large two-story red brick and quarried native stone house that is still occupied today. Nearby, he built a grist mill that has since been turned into a house that remains occupied today. Jacob and Elizabeth were the parents of 14 children that included 7 sons and 7 daughters.

Submitted by Chuck Real #216406



Merle A. Rudebusch
SAR #145095



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Merle A. Rudebusch of Lincoln, Nebraska, born in Randolph, Nebraska, who passed away on January 11, 2022, at the age of 88, leaving to mourn family and friends.

He was predeceased by : his parents, May Rudebusch (Shipman) and John D. Rudebusch. He is survived by : his wife Arlene Rudebusch (Lambrecht); his children, Lori Ryman (Robert) of Elmwood, NE, Sharon Poindexter (Mark) of Bellevue, NE, Michael Rudebusch (Tonya) of Seward, NE, Phillip Rudebusch of Lincoln, NE and Robert Rudebusch (Michelle) of Castle Rock, CO.; his grandchildren, Elizabeth Pitts (Shane), Kristin Ryman, Daniel Rudebusch, Mikayla Rudebusch, Victoria Rudebusch, Lukas Rudebusch and Haylee Rudebusch; and his great grandchild McKenzie Pitts.

Compatriot Rudebusch was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution for 26 years, having been approved on Aug 25, 1995 by proof of descendancy from Patriot Stephen Shipman, Jr (CT). A mere 4 months later, on Dec 18, 1995, he proved his descendancy to another Patriot, David Durrell (MA). Compatriot Rudebusch was very active within the Lincoln Chapter and the State Society, giving his time to many different offices and chairmanships, most recently as the long-time chairman of the state Eagle Scout Award. In 2019, Nebraska produced a National Eagle Scout winner.

Compatriot Rudebusch did not just enjoy his Revolutionary War heritage. He was also heavily involved in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865. He was a member of Shiloh Camp in Lincoln, and was a past Department Commander for the Department of Nebraska, SUVCW.

Lt Col Gary Watson Gray
SAR #188474



Omaha Chapter member, Gary Gray, passed away on February 25, 2022, at the age of 83.

Lt Col Gray was born May 19, 1938, in Springfield, MO. He was descended from Patriot Benjamin Head who was a Captain in the Virginia Militia and purchased a wagon and team for the Revolutionary cause.

He was accepted into the Nebraska SAR on August 27, 2013.

Rest in Peace
Fellow Compatriots

Introducing our NESSAR Chaplain



Compatriot James Sly (Omaha Chapter) has been appointed as the Nebraska State Chaplain. Compatriot Sly was ordained to preach the Christian Gospel in 1980. He has served in churches in Michigan, Nevada, Virginia, Italy, and Nebraska. He has earned an Associate in Applied Science in Security Management, Bachelor, Master, and Doctor of Religious Education, Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, Doctor of Theology, and Doctor of Philosophy in History/Archeology of the Middle East.

Dr. Sly served as a Security Police/Security Forces member in the USAF for 20 years. His first squadron commander asked him to serve as the unofficial chaplain, as it was a classified squadron without an official chaplain. The squadron had a 95% divorce rate due to the nature of the operation. He spent most of his off duty time conducting marriage counseling for the members for 4 years. He conducted funeral and memorial services for several members killed in classified combat operations.

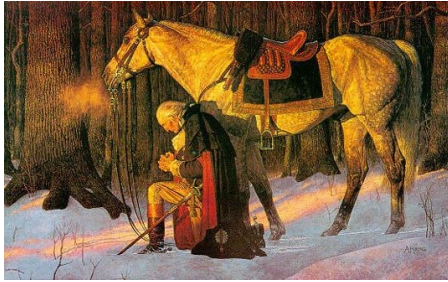
Dr. Sly has been a member of the Nebraska SAR since August 2013. He has been a member of the NESSAR Color Guard since 2019 and is currently the Omaha Chapter Lieutenant. He served 2 years as Chapter Secretary and is the current Chapter Vice President.

Dr. Sly is willing to provide prayer for all NESSAR members. He can be reached at DrJSlySAR@gmail.com or send a text to (402) 972-1525.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

-by Chaplain Jim Sly



The Washington's Prayer at Valley Forge painting was presented to me on my last day teaching at the Capital Baptist Bible Institute in Annandale, VA in April of 1999. President's Day is approaching, as I write this, and I decided that this was an excellent time to reflect on the Judeo-Christian heritage handed down to us by our Founding Fathers, and especially George Washington, the "Father of our Country". George Washington was born February 22, 1732 on a modest plantation in Virginia. The son of Augustine and Mary Washington, he was baptized into the Episcopal Church.

Tragically, George lost his father when he was only 11, and his mother worked hard to raise him as a committed Christian. She admonished him before he left home as a young soldier: "Remember that God is our only sure trust. To Him I commend you." She added: "My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer." Washington followed the counsel of his own mother. The proof is in a well-worn 24-page journal filled with prayers copied in his own handwriting that he titled: "Daily Sacrifice." The very first entry, called "Sunday Morning," reads as follows:

"Almighty God, and most merciful Father, who didst command the children of Israel to offer a daily sacrifice to Thee, that thereby they might glorify and praise Thee for Thy protection both night and day... I beseech Thee, my sins, remove them from Thy presence, as far as the east is

from the west, and accept of me for the merits of Thy Son Jesus Christ..."

In his Sunday Evening entry, he wrote the following:

"Let me live according to those holy rules which Thou has this day prescribed in Thy holy word... Direct me to the true object, Jesus Christ the way, the truth and the life. Bless, O Lord, all the people of this land."

Washington has often been called a Deist, but his God was no impersonal force, no distant deity, no celestial clock-maker watching His creation wind down as deists believe, but a personal God, whose Son died on the cross for sinners. Washington's God cared about people, watched over those who followed the example of Jesus, and played an active role in world events. America's greatest her and first President was no deist, but a devout, Bible-believing Christian. "Thou gavest Thy Son to die for me," wrote Washington, "and Thou has given me assurance of salvation..."

In addition to his faithfulness to pray, young Washington was also diligent about reading the Scriptures, which he always kept near his bed. It was a life-long practice. According to those close to him at Mr. Vernon, he would get up at 4am, spend an hour in his library, kneeling before a chair, a candle on the stand next to it, with an open Bible on the seat. Then again at 9 or 10pm, he would retire to the library for another hour of the same. He spent at least two hours a day in prayer and Bible study.

George Washington cannot be understood apart from his Christian commitment and worldview. His numerous references to God's providential hand in the formation of our nation were not just rhetoric, but based on his understanding of Scripture and

his personal experience. Throughout the duration of the French and Indian War, he tried desperately to get a chaplain for the Army. After one wasn't granted, he became not only the commander-in-chief of the armed forces of Virginia, but their chaplain as well. For two years he conducted worship services for his men on Sundays. Washington continued to bring his faith to bear on his role as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and presidency. His biblical worldview permeated his public and his private life, as evidenced by his orders, his speeches, his conduct, his church attendance, and his devotional life.

After a life full of public service, Washington declared in his Farewell Address: "Of all the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports." In other words, the twin pillars that hold up the American government are Christianity and morality. Washington continued: "Therefore, in vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism that seeks to subvert these great pillars." Do not let anyone be called a patriot who tries to remove Christianity and morality from America—an admonition that needs to be heard in our day.

Indeed, before he became President, Washington sent a letter to the state governors that concluded with these words: "I now make it my earnest prayer that, God... would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion (speaking of Jesus), and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation."

So believed George Washington.

SOCIETY INFORMATION



Contact Information Update

If you, as a Nebraska SAR Member, have recently had a change of address, telephone number, or email contact information, please inform State Secretary, James Hoke at chaphoke@hotmail.com.

Help us keep our records up to date!



SAR Applications

Please submit all applications through the online application system at www.sar.org. If you have any questions, contact the State Registrar, Paul Burrigh.

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2nd Quarter 2022 Meetings and Events

Friday, Apr 1—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 10:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Apr 11—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Sunday, Apr 17—Easter Sunday

Sunday, Apr 24—Spring State Meeting, 2pm, Mahoney State Park, Ashland, NE

Friday, May 6—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 10:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, May 10—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Monday, May 30—Memorial Day

Friday, Jun 3—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 10:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, Jun 11—Compatriot Grave Marking, President General, Sterling Fann Mutz—Lincoln

Tuesday, Jun 14—Flag Day

Saturday, Jun 18—Omaha Chapter, Prospect Hill Cemetery, Clean Up Day—9am

From the editors—*The Husker Patriot* will be published on the first week of following quarter. For example, the 2nd quarter ends on June 30. The 2nd quarter newsletter will be published the first week of July.

Follow this deadline schedule to get information, articles, and photos in to the editors (contact information on page 2):

1st Quarter—Mar 15, 2nd Quarter—Jun 15, 3rd Quarter—Sept 15, and 4th Quarter—Dec 15. Thank you for your help getting quality content in to your Society newsletter!

Social Media and Online Presence



Nebraska SAR is online! Visit the Nebraska SAR website at www.nessar.org.

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Write your Patriot's Biography Today!!

If anyone needs a template to write your Patriot's biography, you can follow this example.



_____ was born _____ to _____ and _____ in _____ and died _____ in _____. He married _____ of _____ (Birth year-death year) on _____ in _____. This marriage produced __ children; _____ (full name year of birth and death i.e. John Smith 1745-1803). He married second, _____ (in format for first wife, children if any).

List anything that is known of his life; occupation, family life, anything of interest.

List Revolutionary War service information and list source.

This does not have to be long and detailed. A short bio of 200 to 500 words is all that is requested. Below is a sample biography.

SAMPLE BIO

Nathaniel Phelps Sr was one of 2 Nathaniels that participated in the American Revolution. They were father and son from Northampton, Hampshire, Massachusetts. Nathaniel Sr was actually the 4th in an unbroken line of 7 Nathaniels who lived and died in Northampton.

Nathaniel Sr was born 13 Dec 1721 to Nathaniel Phelps and Abigail Burnham in Northampton and died 29 Oct 1789 in Northampton. He married Elizabeth Childs of Deerfield, MA (1724-1769) on 19 Mar 1750 in Northampton. This marriage produced 8 children; Burnham Phelps 1752-1772, Elizabeth Phelps 1753-1767, Abigail Phelps 1755-1756, Nathaniel Phelps 1757-1833, Elijah Phelps 1759-1760, Elijah Phelps 1761-1837, Anna Hannah Phelps 1763-1819 and Rufus Phelps 1766-1826. He married second, Rebecca Child.

Nathaniel was a talented and renowned mason, brick layer and stone carver. There are a large number of extant tomb stones in the Northampton and Deerfield cemeteries as well as others in the area. "Phelps was married to a member of the Childs family of Deerfield, which may explain why the Albany Road Burying Ground (Deerfield) has a number of stoners from his shop, identifiable by their simple design, circular face, stylized headgear and wings carved on pink to beige sandstone." Nathaniel was the dominant stonecutter of the area from the 1750-1770's; he went bankrupt in the 1770's but continued his craft until his death, passing his talent and business to his son Elijah. *Historic Deerfield Magazine*, Autumn 2002 p. 5.

Nathaniel Sr served as a minute man in Captain Ebenezer Strong's (the future father of his son Nathaniel) company of volunteers, 2nd Hampshire Company regiment; service against the insurgents at Northampton May 6, June , 15, 16 and 17, 1782, 4 days, by order of Elisha Porter, Sheriff; company marched for support of the government at Springfield, Northampton and Hadley. Interestingly he is listed in the Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War as Nathaniel Phelps Jr! Also note his advanced age of 61, he obviously thought there was something worth fighting for the true embodiment of the Patriot spirit.

Send your Patriot Biography to Compatriot Paul Burrright at pburrright72@gmail.com.

He will send it in to the National Patriot Bio Committee to be included under your Patriot in the Patriot Research System, will add it to the rest of our filed biographies for our America 250 project, and will include it in a future edition of *The Husker Patriot*.