

# NEBRASKA SOCIETY

## Sons of the American Revolution

### HUSKER

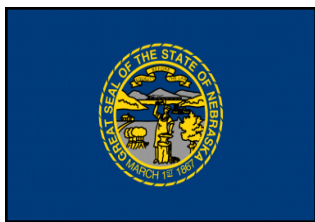
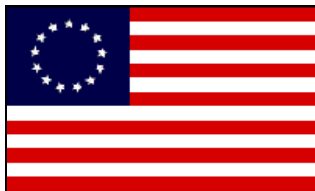
### PATRIOT



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### Husker Patriot

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## SHAWN KURT STONER NEBRASKA SOCIETY President's Message

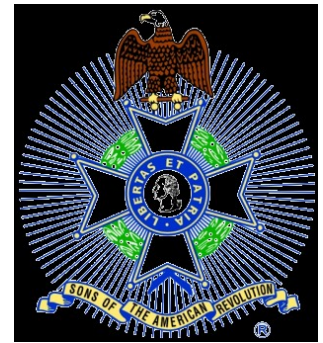
I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Bill Webb for his leadership and guidance of the NESSAR. Also, thank you to all of the quality gentlemen that have come before me as your President. It is my hope that I can lead as well as they have.

As a way of introduction, I am Shawn Stoner of the Lincoln Chapter NESSAR. I joined in June of 2011 and have 3 verified patriot ancestors with 6 supplementals in the works. It has been my honor to serve as the Lincoln Chapter Vice-President and President



and currently the Secretary. In addition to being your new NESSAR President, I am also the webmaster for NESSAR.org, and FaceBook administrator for our page. I encourage everyone to use these tools as you see fit. Anyone can post to the BLOG on the webpage, and it will automatically show on the FaceBook page. Please take advantage of these opportunities as it only serves to increase our visibility. Anyone who is interested in using the blog and wants instruction, please contact me.

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### SAR APPLICATIONS

Please mail all new member and supplemental applications to our NE SAR State Secretary: **Compatriot John Reinert, P.O. Box 83251, Lincoln, NE 68501-3251.**

If you need to contact Compatriot Reinert, he may be reached by phone at 402-432-9168 or by email at: [JR6@AOL.Com](mailto:JR6@AOL.Com)

*Infamous*



*"Brown Bess"*

### Resignation

President Webb regretfully submitted his resignation to the Board of Counselors as the President of the Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution effective April 25, 2018. He is unable to devote the time required to fulfill the duties of this position. The First Vice President, Shawn Stoner has agreed to complete his term of office pending approval by the Board of

Counselors at the Fall meeting scheduled September 23, 2018. This is in accordance with the By Laws : Sec 8, B which states in part: "The Board of Counselors have the power to fill any vacancy occurring or existing in the Society or Board of Counselors, and an officer so appointed shall act until the following annual election, or until his successor shall be chosen." This action will be acted upon at the Fall meeting.

## Nebraska Society Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting, scheduled for April 15, 2018 was cancelled due to icy roads and sidewalks. Temperatures hovered around freezing with misting rain and strong wind gusts making traveling and walking hazardous.

### EAGLE SCOUT JAKE SYKORA - HONORED



Pictured above, left to right are John Reinert, Secretary of the Nebraska Society, Eagle Scout Jake Sykora and Past State President Frederick (Fred) Walden. Jake was honored by receiving the coveted Eagle Scout Medal and Certificate and was awarded a \$500.00 Scholarship by the Nebraska Society. He was also awarded a \$200.00 Scholarship by our National Society for coming in 7th nationally. The following essay was written by Eagle Scout Jake Sykora:

### PATRIOTISM

To be patriotic, one must express devotion to and vigorous support of his/her country. This can come in many different forms, but aspiring to this spirit is a crucial part of being American. Having a sense of pride for this great country is not only right, but it should be expected. It is no surprise that the American forces in the Revolutionary War were called Patriots. No matter the odds, the Patriots were always courageous in standing up to the big beast that was called Great Britain. One such example was the Battle of Bunker Hill. The battle took place on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1775

outside of Boston. At this point, the war had just begun, and the American troops were unsure about their chances. Low on ammunition, and outnumbered two to one, the American forces showed great resolve. The British marched up Breeds Hill in three waves. The first two were turned around by a barrage of gunfire from the Patriots. During these attacks, the Patriots were ordered not to fire until they saw the whites of the eyes of the enemies in front of them. On the last wave, the British troops got to the bunkers, as the American troops ran out of ammunition. The Minutemen showed true bravery as they fought the Redcoats in the trenches, due to the cruelty of close quarters combat. However, in the end, the Patriot forces retreated—leaving Boston under British control.

At Bunker Hill, the British saw the most casualties they would experience in the entire war. While the Americans lost men too, it gave the Patriots a boost in spirit; they could really stand up to the Redcoats. The war carried on, with heavy losses from both sides, but battles like Bunker Hill kept the Patriots inspired. With this inspiration, the Patriots would go on to defeat the British, laying groundwork for the nation we are today. Without the pride and heroism shown by our troops, the lives of Americans could be vastly different. The war could have carried on longer, or we could have remained under British control, shaping history.

Many heroes gave their lives that day at Bunker Hill. Giving one's best to support the country they love, no matter the costs is the supreme measure of patriotism. It is still shown today in many ways, such as the soldiers who continue to serve our country. On a different scale, those figures who have a strong role in their community also show patriotism in many ways. In times like this, when the disrespectful actions of some disgrace this country, there will always be heroes

whose lights shine through. These figures who continue to act in support of their country can trace themselves back to those who fought in the Revolutionary War—the original Patriots.

### MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

While SAR members from the Lincoln Chapter were participating in Memorial Day services for veterans in the Wyuka Cemetery, Omaha Chapter Color Guard members were participating in honor ceremonies at the Omaha National Cemetery.

### WYUKA CEMETERY



Photo above was taken at the Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, Nebraska during Memorial Day ceremonies in May. Shown (Left-Right) are Compatriots Shawn Stoner, State President, John Braisted, State Treasurer, John Reinert, State Secretary, and Thomas Masters, State Registrar all from the Lincoln Chapter.

### OMAHA NATIONAL CEMETERY



Posting of the Colors at the National Cemetery.

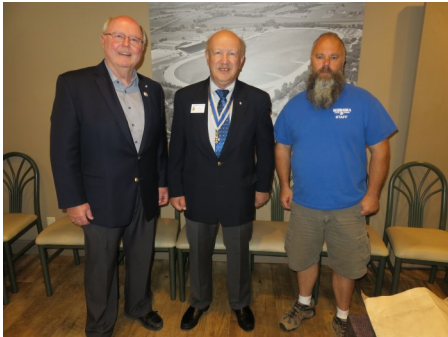
**Continued page 3 Column 1**

**Memorial Day:** During the presentation, the National Anthem was sung, the invocation was given, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. In attendance was U.S. Senator, Deb Fischer, U.S. Representative, Don Bacon, and several officers from Offutt AFB and the VA.



**Pictured above:** Color Guard Commander, Compatriot Chad Sherrets, right and Compatriot Paul Burrigh, left presented the colors, in conjunction with the Millard South, JROTC Color Guard, at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Omaha National Cemetery. The JROTC color guard presented the modern American flag, while the SAR presented the Betsy Ross flag. This co-presentation honored our fallen service members, from our very first veterans, to our current veterans.

**Ft. Atkinson Program Presented**



Presented By Paul Burrigh, Omaha Chapter. On 8 May 2018, the Omaha Chapter held its monthly meeting and Mr. Jason Grof, managing director for Fort Atkinson State Historical Park was our guest speaker. Fort Atkinson is located in Ft. Calhoun, NE, just north of the Omaha metro area. **Continued page 5, Col 2**



The above certificate was presented by the DAR to the SAR, in recognition of SAR members who are "Members at Large", including Sen. Louden, for participating in the DAR's State American Indian Project..

**DAR 2018 SPRING MEETING**



**Senator Louden** presents greetings from NES-SAR President William Webb at the DAR Spring meeting held in Grand Island, Nebraska March 24, 2018. Shown at the podium

is Ms Connie Plettner, Nebraska D A R State Regent. Madam State Regent, I bring greetings from the Nebraska Society Sons of the American Revolution on your 116<sup>th</sup> State Conference here in North Platte, NE. As of January 2018, our Nebraska Society has 102 members state wide. We are working on the 30th issue of the Husker Patriot and preparing for the spring meeting to be held on April 17 at Mahoney State Park where we will present a \$500.00 stipend to the Eagle Scout with the winning Essay. A \$100 stipend is recognizing a Fire Safety Officer with a Certificate of Commendation and we are presenting a Certificate of Commendation recognizing a civilian that flies the United States flag. The Lincoln and Omaha

**2018-19 Meetings and Events**

**Omaha Chapter does not hold meetings in June, July and August**

- Jul 4, Independence Day**
- Jul 6, Lincoln Chapter Meeting 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers**
- Aug 3, Lincoln Chapter Meeting 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers**
- Sep 7, Lincoln Chapter Meeting 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers**
- Sep 11, Omaha Chapter Meeting 6:00 pm, Gorats**
- Sep 23, NE State Meeting 1:00 pm Mahoney State Park**
- Oct 5, Lincoln Chapter Meeting 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers**
- Oct 9, Omaha Chapter Meeting 6:00 pm, Gorats**
- Nov 2, Lincoln Chapter Meeting 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers**
- Nov 13, Omaha Chapter Meeting 6:00 pm, Gorats**
- Dec 7, Lincoln Chapter Meeting 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers**
- Dec 11, Omaha Chapter Meeting 6:00 pm, Gorats**

Chapters are preparing to present ROTC medals in April and May to Cadets that Demonstrate Superior Leadership Abilities. The Lincoln Chapter presents Certificates of Recognition to Scouts that demonstrate leadership skills. Members active in Western Nebraska were featured in the last issue of the Husker Patriot as they helped finish the Perrett-Stansbie Pioneer Cemetery, a Historical Preservation project sponsored by the Sandhills Chapter, NSDAR. Members helped with fencing equipment bids and installation, tombstone setting, mowing and the installation of a sign at the cemetery and on land facing the North Ashby Road. SAR members have helped your American Indian Committee deliver books to the Pine Ridge Reservation B E A R program. We wish you a successful conference and thank you for the invitation.

## Members' Corner

We are looking for articles for our Newsletter about our members Patriots. Would you be willing to put together an article about your Patriot? It could be one or two pages long or even a paragraph. If you go up to four or five pages we could have a continuation into the next Quarter's Newsletter. These articles would then be available for all of our members to enjoy. If we can assist you in any way with putting something together just let us know. An article would be such a great way to pass down to our future generations what your Patriot did for our country. We're only an email away.

We now have thirty one Newsletters published and distributed to our members. I would like to ask you to again take a good look at these Newsletters and let us know what you would like to see in future editions. We did receive several votes of confidence on the outline and direction the newsletter is moving, however, we do need more input from fellow compatriots in our chapter news and general submissions. Are there areas of interest that you would like included? How well are we meeting your needs? If you have any stories and/or pictures you take at any of our events that you can share, please contact the Newsletter Editor Bob Knott at [chiefknott@aol.com](mailto:chiefknott@aol.com) or the Publisher Bill Webb at [webb.w@aol.com](mailto:webb.w@aol.com). This is your Newsletter and we want it to be as informative and interesting as we can make it. That's where you can help.



### MEET MY PATRIOTS

Presented by Thomas Masters

“MY AMERICAN REVOLUTION ANCESTORS”



David Gale Bright was born 9 Aug 1740 Greenbrier Co., VA. David had Public Service in PA during the Revolutionary War. He died 7 May 1808 in Schaefferstown, PA. He was a miller by trade and followed his business for several years near Schaefferstown. He then moved to the Swatara Valley above the Blue mountains in Berks County, about 20 miles north of Schaefferstown. Here he met a neighbor's daughter Mary Grant and they were married in 1770. She was born 1751 in Heidleberg Twsp., Lebanon, PA / Shoofferstown, PA. She died in 1836. His immediate area there became part of Pinegrove when it was organized in 1771. His name was written Brecht until 1783. In 1784 he moved to Greenbriar county, Va. where he did some farming until his death. SAR Patriot Burial records list his burial in Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading, Berks Co., PA, so he may have returned from Virginia before his death. His will was written in Greenbriar County. His father Michael Bright, the elder, emigrated from the Palatinate, Germany, in 1726, arriving here at the age of 20 and settling near Schaefferstown, PA. At that time there were but three counties in the Province of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Bucks and

Chester. Schaefferstown was in Chester county when the elder Michael Bright (then written as Brecht) arrived, and was one of the oldest towns in the state. In 1729 Lancaster was established, and Schaefferstown was included with that county and later became Lebanon county. David's family consisted of: Wife: Mary Gail Grant (1751-1836) and they were married in 1770. David and Mary's Children: -Mary (Polly) (-1844) m. Henry Ingle (1764-1822) of Philadelphia and they had seven children. -Michael (1771-1833) married Barbara Miller, ten children -David Grant (1775-1851) moved to Botetourt Va. where he married Miss Graham in Fincastle, Va. in 1800. This same year he moved to Plattsburg, N.Y. at the advice of DeWitt Clinton. He moved again in 1812 to Norwich, Chenango County, N.Y. In 1820 he moved to Madison, Ind. where he died. -Jesse W. (1773-1856) had a son Jesse who lived in Greenbriar co., Va. -Elizabeth abt 1785 married Moore, moved to area of Colorado Springs, Colorado, one child Ann. -George (1782-1873) born in Pinegrove Twp., then Berks Co., m. 1st Mary M. Neal (1787-1827), moved with father to Greenbriar, Va. in 1785. Had 11 children with his 1st wife and three children with his 2nd

wife, Ann Connell. -Margaret (1780-), m. Mr. Graham. David's parents: Johann Michael Brecht (1706 - 1794) Marguerite Simone Brecht (born 1708 and died 1778). David's siblings were: George Adam Bright (1731 - 1804) Johann Brecht (1732 - 1814) Peter Brecht (1738 - 1793) David Brecht (1740 - 1808) Christiana Bright Pechin (born 1747 and died in 1835) Find A Grave Memorial# 47249821.

### OMAHA CHAPTER NEWS

#### Maps Across Nebraska



Presented by Dr. Merle McAlevy. Pictured at the left are Compatriots Harvey & McAlevy. Compatriot McAlevy has been collecting maps for

over thirty years. As he acquired them he would study them and **Cont'd** on page 5 Col 1

**MAPS: Cont'd** From page 4, Col 3 make a determination on their significance how they would change over the years as explorers discovered actual landmarks. 18 maps were presented with descriptions of how they changed with new discoveries as people moved West. The maps presented and discussed are as follows:

- French Map from 1750 showing different colonies of the various Countries population the North American continent
- Map from 1702 showing California as an island.
- English map of trading routes in Canada from 1795
- Lewis and Clark map from 1814 showing details that were not known before this time.
- Voyage up the Missouri River by H.M. Brekenridge, 1816-1836
- "A Tour of Exploration Past the Rocky Mountains" from 1838-1837, a story of wagon trains heading West.
- A Book on John C. Fremont's Expeditions – 1836 showing elevations and geography of the mountains.
- Exploration & Survey of Great Salt Lake, Utah by Stansbury – 1850, showing more details of the river systems and the mountains.
- Oregon Trail Maps, 7 maps that folded out for different legs of the journey.
- Map of Emigrant Road from Independence Missouri to San Francisco – by T.H. Jefferson
- Map from the 1930's showing the Nebraska trails
- Railroad Exploration map from 1857, first map to show the Gadsen Purchase after the Mexican War.
- Map of North America from 1828
- Map from 1846 – **First map showing Nebraska on a map**
- Map from 1852 – It showed Nebraska on the Canadian border
- Kansas/Nebraska Act map – 1854
- Map from 1861 – Gold Discovered in Colorado and Nebraska panhandle is shown
- Map from 1863 – Idaho & Mon-

tana separate from the Dakotas & Wyoming

All in attendance learned a lot and enjoyed the presentation.



**Compatriot Charles G. Reynolds** was initiated in the Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution during the May meeting of the

Omaha Chapter NESSAR by President Thomas Upton. Compatriot Reynolds' patriot ancestor was William Reynolds. Compatriot Reynolds gave a brief but informative sketch of his service.

### **Atkinson: Cont'd from Page 3, Col. 1**

Fort Atkinson is located in Ft. Calhoun, NE, just north of the Omaha metro area. The Fort was the first military post west of the Missouri River and was established in 1820. At its peak, it housed the U.S. Army 6th Infantry and had 1200 soldiers stationed there. They are currently in the first year of a 3 year Bicentennial Celebration at the Fort. The year 2018 will be focused on the War of 1812, and there are living history weekends the first weekend of every month through October. You can find more information about the Fort and schedule of upcoming events at <http://outdoornebraska.gov/fortatkinson/>.

Thank you to Jason Grof for giving us some history and insight into this very historical fort.

### **B. Goldwater**

Membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is a proud reminder that members of my mother's family brought us independence, and reminds me always of my continuing responsibilities to freedom



**Compatriot Lance Allen Overmyer** was initiated in the Nebraska Society Sons of the American Revolution during the April meet-

ing of the Omaha Chapter NESSAR by President Thomas Upton. Compatriot Overmyer's patriot Ancestor was John George Overmyer. Compatriot Overmyer gave a brief but informative sketch of his service. A more detailed biographical sketch will be presented in a future edition of the Husker Patriot.



At the Omaha Chapter April Meeting was **NSSAR** member **Roy William Prather** from the SAR Chapter in Liberty, Missouri. He was invited to our Chapter meeting by Compatriot Fred Walden, Nebraska Past State President. Compatriot Prather's son is the Pastor at the 1st Baptist church in Omaha and has moved to Omaha. We hope to see him in our future meetings. Pictured above is Omaha Chapter President Thomas Upton on the left and Nebraska State Secretary John Reinert on the right.

**ROTC/JROTC AWARDS**

The following Cadets received recognition for their high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing and general excellence. They were presented the Sons of the American Revolution Medal & Certificate.

**Cadets receiving recognition:**

- Tradjon Bradley-North
- Nathan Waltemath-Central
- Isaac del Angel Hernandez- Northwest
- Roger Hernandez-South
- Heather Clever-Benson
- Sean Nutting-Burke
- Michael Kuhn-Bryan
- Britney Huff-Millard South
- Cole J. Shotkoski-Plattsmouth
- Komlan Akakpo-Bellevue East
- Matthew Hunter-Bellevue West
- Anthony Vu-Papio South
- Carter Dowding-Lincoln Northeast
- Joshua Saddler-UNO
- Alexander Belin-Creighton
- Bethany Vinton -Univ of NE Lincoln
- Luke Babington-Univ of NE Lincoln
- Christopher Haidvogel-Univ of NE Lincoln

**SPECIAL THANKS** go to all those Compatriots who presented during the ROTC and JROTC Awards ceremony at the various schools:

- William Webb
- Fred Walden
- Paul Burrignt
- Tom Jones
- Dr. David Kentsmith
- Ben Harvey
- Tom Upton
- Robert Knott
- John Parsons
- Ron Stites
- Richard Ewing
- Hugh Nehls
- Dr. Merle McAlevy

**COLIN POWELL**

“Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.”



Compatriot Paul Burrignt, of the Omaha Chapter, is shown presenting the JROTC Medal and Certificate to Cadet Isaac del Angel Hernandez from Northwest High School.



Past State President Compatriot Dr. David Kentsmith is shown presenting the JROTC Medal and Certificate to Cadet Heather Clever of Benson High School.



Cadet Carter Dowding, from Lincoln NorthEast HS is shown receiving the JROTC Medal and Certificate from State Treasurer John Braisted.



Compatriot Paul Burrignt, Omaha Chapter Secretary is shown presenting the JROTC Medal and Certificate to Sean Nutting, Burke High School.



Shown is UNO AF Cadet Joshua Saddler receiving the Silver ROTC Medal from Past State President Dr. David K. Kentsmith, MD.



Above photo shows Cadet Komlan Akakpo, from Bellevue East receiving the JROTC Medal and Certificate from Past State President Robert Knott.



Compatriot Richard Ewing, Past Omaha Chapter Secretary, is shown after presenting the JROTC Medal and Certificate to Anthony Vu from Papillion South HS.

**DAVID PETRAEUS**

“Leadership is an individual sport, one that has to be fine-tuned to each of the people that reports to you. Leaders also need to provide the direction, energy, encouragement and inspiration for each person who reports directly to the leader as well as for the overall organization.”

**ROTC/JROTC AWARDS (Cont'd)**



Shown is Creighton University Cadet Alexander Belin receiving the Silver ROTC Medal and Certificate from Past Omaha Chapter President Dr. Merle McAlevy, MD.



The above photo shows Cadet Matthew Hunter of Bellevue West receiving the JROTC Medal and Certificate from Compatriot Ron Stites of the Omaha Chapter.



Above photo shows Cadet Roger Hernandez, from Omaha South receiving the JROTC Medal and Certificate from Omaha Chapter Compatriot Thomas Jones.



The above photo shows Cadet Nathan Waltemath, from Omaha Central High receiving the JROTC Medal and Certificate from Past State President and Vice President General of the North Central Region Frederick A. Walden.



Above photo shows Cadet Cole J. Shotkoski, Plattsmouth HS receiving the JROTC Medal and Certificate from Past State President John Parsons.

**DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER**

“The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.”

**President’s Col: Cont’d from Pg 1**

I have spent some time recently thinking about where we have been as a State Society, where we are now and where we are headed. Currently, we have a strong and stable society, but we cannot and must not rest on that and assume this will continue. Many, many dedicated and hard-working members have been toiling a long time to keep us afloat and growing. However, as in all cases, when a small group of individuals work for long periods of time, fatigue starts to set in and can lead down a slippery slope. We cannot and must not allow the work done by those who came before us be in vain.

Therefore, I would like to focus our attention the next couple of years on Recruitment and Retention. I am going to ask us all to look at our time,

abilities and willingness to work on these issues. More will be shared on this in future issues of the Husker Patriot.

Speaking of which, our newsletter editor/publishers are at the point that they are asking for some help. Bob Knott and Bill Webb have been the driving force behind this newsletter since the fall of 2010 and have done an incredible job. Even winning 2 national awards for our society newsletter. If anyone, has the skills that would allow you to help by taking over some of the responsibilities of the newsletter please reach out to one of the three of us. My fear is if we do not get new blood in the mix, the newsletter may fold and we do not want to see that happen!

On a positive note, Chad Sherrets, has done a great job in starting a Color Guard for the NESSAR, and membership is growing with at least 3 members in each the Lincoln and Omaha Chapters! It is my hope that we will be able to use the Color Guard as a tool to create community awareness of the SAR as well as a recruiting and educational tool.

Thinking a little farther into the future, there will be a swell of interest in the SAR as we get closer to the 2025-2026. It will be the 250th anniversary of the Revolution and we need to be ready to meet the needs of those interested as the time grows closer. It’s going to come to us much faster than we realize. Therefore, I would like to have us, collectively, start thinking of opportunities to promote ourselves as we approach those years.

I hope that I can see most of you at the upcoming Fall State meeting, Sep 26, 2018 at Mahoney State Park. Since we were unable to have our Spring Meeting, due to inclement weather, it will be a very busy meeting with many awards to present and business to get through. I hope that you can all put it on your calendars and plan to attend.

**Tony Blair**

“The art of leadership is saying no, not yes. It is very easy to say yes.”

## MORE PICTURES AND STORIES

### HISTORY OF THE PURPLE HEART



**Benjamin Harvey**, Vice President of the Omaha Chapter, was the **featured speaker** for their February meeting and his topic was the History of the Purple Heart medal. His talk was thoroughly enjoyed and it was decided that we would include his topic in this Newsletter for the benefit of all members.

Following the British surrender at Yorktown the American war for independence was assured, but with the peace treaty ending the war over a year from being consummated the Continental Army had to be maintained as a deterrent to any unlikely new attacks by the British. This placed General Washington, Commander in Chief, in a difficult position since the Continental Congress provided no funds for payment of wages or food for the Army. Gen. Washington was a resourceful leader and as he attempted to overcome obstacles he faced he was blocked by Congress. The promotion of troops to higher rank (a traditional form of reward) was not allowed, because Congress feared the high wages it would cause. In August 1782 at his headquarters in Newburgh, NY Gen. Washington established the **BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT** which he described as "The figure of a heart on purple cloth or silk with the word **MERIT** stitched on it edged with a

narrow border or binding". The award was to be presented to enlisted ranks for "Not only for instances of unusual gallantry, but for extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with due reward" The wearer was permitted to pass all sentinels, receive salutes and be accorded the privileges of a commissioned officer, but without the rank or command.

There are three known recipients of the **BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT** although there were undoubtedly many others. The three recorded recipients are Sgt. Elijah Churchill, Sgt. William Brown and Sgt. Daniel Bissell. The **BADGE** received by Churchill is on display at the **PURPLE HEART HALL OF FAME** in Windsor, NY. Sgt. Brown's **BADGE** was stolen in the 1920's and years later discovered in an old barn in New Hampshire and is now in the possession of the Society of the Cincinnati. Sgt. Bissell's **Badge** was lost in an 1813 house fire. Upon the disbanding of the Continental Army in June 1783 the **BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT** slipped into oblivion. America, a new country, distanced itself from European ways and customs and the military was no exception and was not prone to presenting awards in the "old world" tradition. In 1847 Congress authorized a "Certificate of Merit" awarded during the Mexican/American War. Early in the Civil War the U.S. Congress approved the **MEDAL OF HONOR** for enlisted sailors and petty officers, but not for commissioned officers. Shortly thereafter in 1862 President Lincoln established the **MEDAL OF HONOR** for the Union Army including enlisted and officers.

On 22 February 1932 (200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Washington's birth) Gen Douglas MacArthur the nation military chief of staff signed general order number three creating the Purple Heart award. The order states: "By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart, established by Gen Washington at his Newburgh, NY headquarters 7 August 1782 during the Revolutionary War is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements". Thus following the lineage back to the



### NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS 2018-2019

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 Past State President: Fred Walden, Omaha  
 Past State President: Dr. David K. Kentsmith, MD, Omaha  
 Past State President: William S. Webb, Omaha

**BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT**, the nation's oldest military award. From 1932 -1942 the Purple Heart was awarded for meritorious service. In 1942 the Purple Heart award was designated as an award presented to combat personnel wounded or killed in action and continues under that definition through the present day.

**Should any Nebraska member have an address, telephone or email update please notify the State Secretary John Reinert at email jr6@aol.com**