



The Husker Patriot



Issue 51

2nd Qtr 2023

Honoring Nebraska SAR Member's Patriot Ancestors



Private Dan Blackman (CT)
Floyd Cemetery, Floyd, Oneida Co., NY



Private Isaac Messenger (CT)
Concord Cemetery, Concord Twp., Lake Co., OH



From the Desk of the President

Presidents Message

Compatriots, Ladies, and Friends,

While things seem to slow down in summer, that is not necessarily the case for your Society.

Congratulations to both the Lincoln and Omaha Chapters which have shown growth this year, and to our Registrar and Secretary who have been diligently processing and receiving approval for new Compatriots as our Society ranks are growing, especially with our newer members out in middle and western Nebraska.



Additionally, plans are in the making for both a Board of Managers Meeting on September 9th

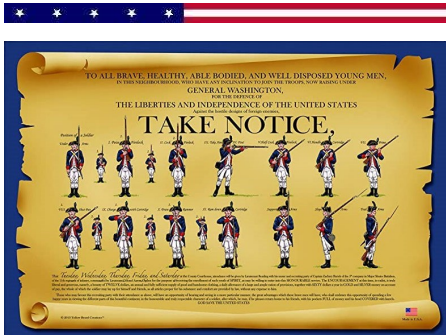
and our semi-annual State Meeting on September 17th. The State Meeting will be held once again at Mahoney State Park, in Ashland, at 2pm. The Board of Managers will meet at 11:30am. A separate email will be sent to the BOM with details soon.

The State Society Nominating Committee has also been busy producing a slate of officers for our 2024-2025 elections, which will be held at the September Fall State Meeting.

I am encouraged by, and gratefully for, the breadth of the contributions that everyone is making. The active participation we are seeing is evidence of our commitment to our Nation and Patriot forebearers who brought it into existence.

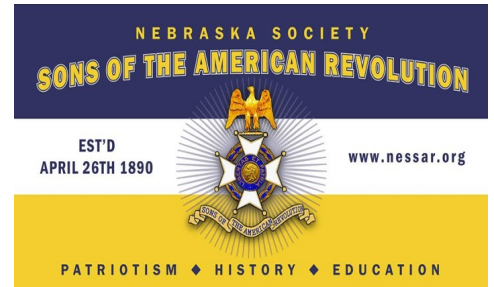
I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our meetings in September.

Thomas Upton
President, Nebraska SAR



Color Guard Recruitment

We need you! The Nebraska SAR Color Guard is looking for more men to march with us at events. Our calendar is continually growing with each year, and we need you men to join us to be able to continue to be the face of the SAR and be the front-line of the outreach to the different communities around the State. If you would like to join us, please reach out to Paul Burright at pburright72@gmail.com.



NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

2022-2023

President: Thomas L. Upton, Omaha
 1st Vice President: John C. Braisted, Lincoln
 2nd Vice President: Paul H. Burright, Omaha
 Secretary: Stanley Dale Wostrel, Lincoln
 Treasurer: William Webb, Omaha
 Registrar: Paul H. Burright, Omaha
 Deputy Registrar: Robert L. Knott, Jr., Omaha
 Trustee: Fred Walden, Omaha
 Alt. Trustee: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln
 Chaplain—Dr. James Sly
 Historian—John Reinert
 Eagle Scout Chairman—Ryan Fuller
 Awards & Medals Chairman—Ron Stites
 Flag Chairman—Drew Whittler
 First Responders Chairman—Open
 ROTC Awards Chairman—Open
 America 250 Chairman—Mark Byars

BOARD OF MANAGERS

2022-2023

President: Thomas L. Upton
 1st Vice President: John C. Braisted
 2nd Vice President: Paul H. Burright
 Secretary: Stanley Dale Wostrel
 Treasurer: William Webb
 State Historian: John Reinert
 State Chaplain: Dr. James Sly
 Lincoln Rep: James Hoke, President
 Omaha Rep: Mark Byars, Secretary
 Member at Large Rep: Open
 Immediate Past State President: Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, Omaha
 Past State President (Omaha): Open
 Past State President (Lincoln): Open

Husker Patriot Co-Editors

William S. Webb
webb.w@q.com

Paul Burright
pburright72@gmail.com

Webmaster

Mark A. Byars
markabyars@gmail.com
www.nessar.org

Inside this issue:

State Society News	pg 3
Welcome New Members	pg 3
Spring State Meeting	pg 3
Revolutionary History	pg 4
Meet My Patriot	pg 5
Chapter Chatter	pg 6
ROTC Awards	pg 7
Color Guard Dispatches	pg 8-9
Patriot Grave Markings	pg 10-11
Spring State Mtg—cont.	pg 12
Society Information	pg 13
Patriot Bio Template	pg 14

State Society News



Welcome New Members!

Robert Thomas Moss #226271
Patriot William Milliken, Sr (NC)
Omaha Chapter

Timothy John Hoffman, Jr. #226272
Patriot Henry Kemmerer (PA)
Omaha Chapter

William Marshall Heard #226502
Patriot Robert Morris (PA)
Member-at-Large—Wymore, NE

Dalton Scott Heard #226503
Patriot Robert Morris (PA)
Member-at-Large—Wymore, NE

Jackson Marshall Heard #226504
Patriot Robert Morris (PA)
Junior Member-at-Large
—Wymore, NE

Brandon Kersey Johnston #226620
Patriot Conrad Gentzler (PA)
Omaha Chapter

Robert Allan Loutzenheiser #226721
Patriot David Perry (CT)
Member-at-Large—Hastings, NE

Howard James Cunningham
#226827
Patriot Daniel Martin (RI)
Omaha Chapter

Thomas Nichols King #226828
Patriot Andrew Dennis (PA)
Lincoln Chapter—Crete, NE

Spring State Meeting

The Nebraska SAR held its Spring State Meeting on Sunday, April 16 at Mahoney State Park in Ashland, NE.

Along with the usual business portion of the day, numerous awards and medals were presented to SAR members and non-members, alike.

Member medals and certificates that were presented are:

- Silver Good Citizenship Medal
Jim Sly



- Bronze Color Guard Medal
Paul Burrignt
Chad Sherrets
Jim Sly
John Braisted

- Bronze America 250 Medal
Ron Stites
Mark Byars
Terry Springer
John Braisted

- Silver America 250 Medal
Paul Burrignt
- State Distinguished Service
John Braisted



- Certificates of Appreciation for their work on State By-Laws and Constitution

Mark Byars
David Kentsmith
Bill Webb
Bob Knott
John Reinert
Jim Sly

Non-member medals and certificates that were presented are:

- Lydia Darragh Medal
Pauline Parsons



Continued on page 12—

REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY



How Far Would He Have Gone?

“When he fell, Liberty wept.” So wrote Abigail Adams to her husband John in Philadelphia in the immediate aftermath of the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The British had suffered more casualties by far than the Americans but the Patriot leadership of Massachusetts found one loss especially difficult to bear...for Dr. Joseph Warren had been one of their most active, most dedicated, most inspiring leaders from the beginning. Typical of this Patriot propagandist and political organizer, too, he had gone to a hero's death in battle.

Who knows, in that difficult birthing period of a great nation, how far he might have gone in helping to bring Patriot ideals to fruition; what ranking he might have attained in the Pantheon of Founding Fathers?

As in the case of many others who fell before the revolutionary storm, however, the promise of his presence was no longer...was gone. Irrevocably. “Not all the havoc and devastation they [the British] have made has wounded me like the death of Warren,” lamented Abigail. “We want him in the senate; we want him in his profession; we want him in the field. We mourn for the citizen, the senator, the physician, and the warrior.”

Only 34 years old (an a widower at that) when he died, Warren had emerged from a Harvard education and brief career as a schoolteacher to become a widely respected doctor in Boston in the early 1760's. By the 1770's, he was spending more and more time with the Boston area's Patriot leaders. Among his friends were both John and Samuel Adams, James Otis, John Hancock, and Paul Revere.

After bearing their four children, his wife of just nine years, the former Elizabeth Hooten, died in 1773. By this time, Warren himself was a recognized leader of the Patriot cause in the highly restive Boston area. Indeed, he may have taken part in the Boston Tea Party in late 1773, an it is a matter of record that earlier, both before and after the “Boston Massacre” of 1770, he made speeches protesting the presence of British troops. A leading member of the Committee of Correspondence, he worked with Samuel Adams to communicate with other colonies about the Patriot cause. And it was Doctor Warren, his medical practice all but abandoned, who drafted the Suffolk Resolves that electrified members of the First Continental Congress in 1774.

It was also Dr. Warren who sent Paul Revere and William Dawes on their way to Lexington the night of Apr 18, 1775, to warn that the British would be on the march that very night.

The next ay, he rode to the scenes of battle between the militia an redcoats to treat the wounded—and to help organize harassing militia attacks on the British. It again was Dr. Warren who, ina real propaganda coup, composed a narrative of the events on that fateful Apr 19, combined it with sworn statements from participants and local newspaper articles, then somehow managed to deliver the entire pro-Patriot package to England for public dissemination two weeks before the official report arrived from British authorities in Boston.

Soon elected President of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, Warren was at the center of the entire colony's post-Lexington activities and was instrumental in organizing the siege of Boston by an army of New England militia. Although he had no military experience, the Boston physician accepted appointment as a major general of the militia just three

days before the Battle of Bunker Hill. He favored that role over a far less risky choice of serving as the besieging army's physician general.



General Joseph Warren

When the British challenged the American occupation of Bunker Hill and adjoining Breed's Hill on the Charlestown peninsula on June 17, 1775, Warren hurried to both battle sites to volunteer his services. He wound up in the American redoubt on Breed's Hill, fighting alongside militiamen of all ranks as the British mounted their three frontal assaults that afternoon. The last march up the hill, ending in hand-to-hand combat, finally carried the day.

Doctor Joseph Warren, among the last to relinquish the redoubt, bleeding from a bayonet wound in one arm, tried to rally his compatriots for yet another stan. Who knows what else he might have accomplished? The fatal bullet took him behind the ear.

As Abigail Adams said, Liberty no doubt wept over this loss, especially.

From: Best Little Stories from the American Revolution, pp 96-98

MEET MY PATRIOT



Life Memberships

James Emmons (VA)

P-154799

James Emmons was born Oct 2, 1761 in Fauquier County, Virginia and die Apr 5, 1839 in Pokagon, Cass County, Michigan. James was married to Sarah Kirk (1763-1853) if Fauquier County on Feb 1, 1784. This marriage produced 12 children.

Although a young boy, he served in the Revolutionary War, enlisting for his first tour on Oct 1, 1780, under Captain Miner Winn and marched from Fredericksburg, VA to Hillsborough, NC. Immediately after arriving in Hillsborough, Captain Winn resigned an Emmons was placed in Captain Francis Triplett's company which was under the commands of Colonel William Washington and Colonel John Howard. Under Colonel Washington's command, Emmons fought at Rugeley's Mill on Dec 4, 1780 and then in the Battle of Cowpens on Jan 17, 1781. After Cowpens, Emmons and others from Virginia marched about 600 prisoners from Cowpens, northward to Salisbury, NC. On Feb 28, 1781, Captain Triplett discharged Emmons and the other at Salisbury after delivery of

the prisoners. James Emmons' first tour was from Oct 1, 1780 to Feb 28, 1781.

James Emmons served a second tour, this time as a substitute for his brother William, who was married with children and had been drafted. Emmons again served as a Private from August 1781, now with Captain Thomas Helm's Virginia Company. Emmons fought at the Battle of Yorktown and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis on Oct 19, 1781. His second tour ended in early November, as he and other marched Yorktown prisoners to Winchester, VA, and was there discharged.

After the war, James Emmons married Sarah Kirk in 1784, as stated earlier. The couple moved from Virginia to Stokes County, NC, about 1800 and then back to Giles County, VA, in about 1807. From there, they moved to be near children in Cass County, Michigan in 1834, where he died in 1839. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery, located in Dowagiac, Michigan. James Emmons made his living as a farmer his entire life.

By: Scott Peterson #214317
Omaha Chapter



Four more members have joined the exclusive ranks of Life Members in the Nebraska Society. Please welcome them.



Ward Heasty Reesman, III



Ward Heasty Reesman IV



Adam & David and Ensign



“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team!”

- Phil Jackson

Chapter Chatter

Omaha Chapter

At the Omaha Chapter's May 9 meeting, Chapter President and State Registrar, Paul Burrig, inducted new Member-at-Large Chad Callenius into the Nebraska SAR.

Compatriot Callenius lives in Norfolk, NE, and was supposed to be inducted at the Spring State Meeting, but due to rough weather that day, was not able to make the drive. He instead made it down to the Omaha Chapter meeting and was inducted into the society at that time. We welcome Compatriot Callenius into the Nebraska SAR!



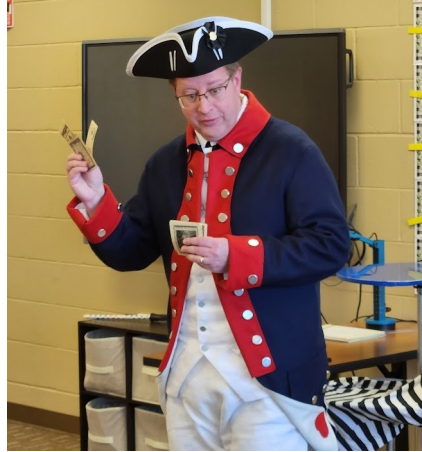
Omaha Patriot Chest

The Omaha Chapter continued to build momentum with its Patriot Chest presentations in early April.

Compatriot Mark Byars delivered 11 presentations to 376 fifth-grade students and teachers at Anchor Pointe, Bennington, Heritage, Pine Creek, and Stratford Elementaries in Bennington Public Schools.

These students had recently completed their social studies curriculum on the American Revolution, and were eager to ask questions and

explore items in the Patriot Chest, taking special interest in the tea, lantern, fife, coins, and currency.



The presentation covered key events and people of the Revolution, what a soldier's life was like in the Continental Army, the important roles that women and children played in supporting the Revolutionary cause, and upcoming 250th Anniversary



events to celebrate. The district recognized the presentations in its weekly newsletter that circulates to 4,000 families in northwest Omaha, and invited us back for presentations next spring!



Compatriot Byars
Patriot Chest Presentations
Bennington Public Schools

Lincoln Chapter

The Lincoln Chapter inducted two of its newest members, Adam Ensign and his father David Ensign, into the Chapter during their April Chapter meeting on April 1.

Congratulations to both of them and welcome to the Lincoln SAR!



L-R - Lincoln President Jim Hoke,
State Secretary Dale Wostrel,
Adam Ensign, LaVerne Stetson,
(seated) David Ensign

Members At Large

One of our newest members, Compatriot Richard Hulse, helped his wife and her DAR sisters with the Sioux Lookout Chapter, mark the graves of all of the ancestors of DAR members who are buried in the North Platte Cemetery in North Platte, NE. There are 45 ancestors of DAR members buried in North Platte. They held a very nice ceremony on Memorial Day, placing flags and reading their names, along with the names of their Revolutionary War Patriots. Biographical information was also given.



Compatriot Richard Hulse with
members of Sioux Lookout
DAR Chapter—North Platte, NE



In April and May, members of the Omaha and Lincoln Chapters presented Bronze JROTC medals and Silver ROTC medals to deserving cadets around the Omaha and Lincoln metro areas.

They are earned for recognition of their hard work in academics, leadership, and military bearing.

Bronze JROTC medal recipients:

- Omaha Westview HS
Thor Tzimisces



- Omaha North HS—Andre Toney



- Omaha Central HS
Angel Inda



ROTC Awards

- Omaha Bryan HS
Maria Varvaez-Sanchez



- Omaha Buena Vista HS
William Bryan
- Omaha Burke HS
Filiberto Padilla
- Omaha Northwest HS
La Kbaw Htoo
- Omaha Benson HS
Eh Htee Kue
- Omaha South HS
No cadet name available
- Bellevue West HS
Benjamin Storm
- Bellevue East HS
No cadet name available
- Plattsmouth HS
No cadet name available
- Lincoln Northeast HS
No cadet name available

The Nebraska SAR also presented Silver ROTC medals and certificates to deserving cadets at ROTC units at our Universities in Omaha and Lincoln.

Recipients of the Silver ROTC medal are selected by their Commanders for their military bearing, leadership potential, attitude, academic achievements, and overall excellence.



Silver ROTC medal recipients:

- University of NE—Lincoln
Army Cadet Brianna Denton
- University of NE—Lincoln
Air Force Cadet Laura Nitzel
- University of NE—Lincoln
Navy Midshipman Abigail
Thibodeau
- University of NE—Omaha
Air Force Cadet Edward Berger



- Creighton University
Army Cadet Reuben Joseph



Thank you to all of our presenters who volunteered their time to represent the SAR and personally hand these deserving cadets our SAR ROTC medals and awards.



DISPATCHES FROM THE COLOR GUARD



Sunday, April 30, 2023—Lincoln, NE

On Apr 30, the Nebraska SAR Color Guard participated in the 3rd America 250 Marker dedication at Antelope Park in Lincoln, NE.

There was a great crowd assembled for the dedication, and nearly all of the Nebraska SAR Color Guard was mustered, including guests from the rest of the North Central District, VP-G Chris Moberg from Minnesota, and former VP-G Mike Rowley from Iowa. There were also other Nebraska SAR members, State Secretary Dale Wostrel, Lincoln member David Ensign, Member at Large Chad Callenius, Omaha member Chuck Real, and soon to be Lincoln member Tom King in attendance for the ceremony, and it was a wonderful show of support for the DAR and this national program to honor our Patriot ancestors.



Sunday, May 14, 2023—Alliance, NE

The Nebraska DAR dedicated its fourth marker memorializing the 250th Anniversary of our nation's founding at the Alliance Veterans Cemetery on Sunday, May 14. Nebraska SAR Compatriots Allyn Sheldon and Mark Byars fell in with American Legion Post #7 to present the colors for the ceremony. Though the weather was cold, damp, and blustery, spirits were high as these western Nebraskans recognized the service and sacrifice of their Patriot ancestors. All attendees were presented with a challenge coin from the Nebraska Veterans Administration to commemorate the event.





DISPATCHES FROM THE COLOR GUARD



Saturday, May 27, 2023—Omaha, NE

On May 27, the Nebraska SAR Color Guard participated in the Patriotic Productions Parade in downtown Omaha. This was the first year that we participated in this parade. We had great attendance from our Color Guard members. Mustering for duty were Commander Chad Sherrets, Paul Burrignt, Jim Sly, John Braisted, Terry Springer, Mark Byars, Andrew Sullivan, and Allyn Sheldon. Joining us to help us carry the banner were Dallas Burrignt and new member Chad Callenius. We thank them for their service during this event, as their help allowed us to have more flags on display during the parade. It was our largest Color Guard to muster for a parade, as of this date. We also met up with some of our friends from the Nebraska DAR, who carried the Birth of a Nation banner for our section of the parade.



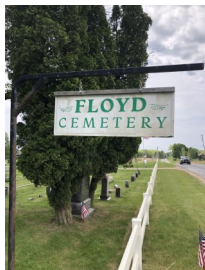
Saturday, June 10, 2023—Elwood, NE

On June 10, members of the Nebraska SAR Color Guard supported the Omaha Chapter, Nebraska DAR in dedicating a 5th America 250 Marker at the Gosper County Courthouse in Elwood, NE. This marker was an addition to the 4 markers that were dedicated by the Nebraska DAR in other various parts of Nebraska, and this one was funded by the bequest of Omaha DAR member Dorothy Wilken Abbott, who is also an Elwood native. Omaha members Mark Byars and Allyn Sheldon, and Lincoln members John Braisted and Terry Springer traveled to Elwood in support of this historic marker.



PATRIOT GRAVE MARKING—DAN BLACKMAN (CT)

BY: MARTIN BEERMAN (135089)



I first visited Floyd Cemetery in Floyd, Oneida County, New York, searching for the grave of my Patriot 5th Great Grandfather, Dan Blackman, in 1989.

Dan (never Daniel) Blackman was born in 1758 to Abraham Blackman (1705-1788) and his second wife, Abigail Sims (1717-1813), in Hebron, Tolland County, Connecticut. He married Ruth Fairfield, born 1759, daughter of Massachusetts Revolutionary War Patriot Nathaniel Fairfield (1730-1817) and Judith Pierce (1732-1775) at Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, on March 26, 1786.

Following the death of his wife, Ruth, between 1801 and 1818, Dan married second his maternal first cousin once removed Elizabeth Payne (1758-1832), of Hebron, daughter of Joseph Payne (1729-1797) and Elizabeth Sims (1740-1823).

In Pittsfield, Dan operated a horse stable. Later, in Floyd, where he lived by 1810, he was a farmer. When he applied for a pension for his Revolutionary War service in 1818, he was granted a pension of \$4 per month.

Revolutionary War Service: Musician, Capt. Brigham's Company, Col. Chandler's Regiment, Connecticut Line, May 8, 1777 (Hebron) to August 1, 1778 (Peekskill, Westchester County, New York). *Revolutionary War Pension Application #45286.*

During my 1989 visit to Floyd, I was able to locate the grave of one of his nine children, a daughter, Elizabeth Gray, who died in 1855. She is buried with her husband, Joseph Gray, and their daughter-in-law.

But no Dan Blackman. Was he buried in Floyd Cemetery in an unmarked grave when he died April 17, 1830? Is he buried in another cemetery near his home in Floyd? Or was he buried on the farm where he lived, a not uncommon practice for this period on the New York frontier.

Beyond his probate record, providing his date of death and list of heirs, subsequent research on-and-off over the next 30 years failed to yield any clue of where he was actually buried.

When I retired in 2021, I started the process to place a memorial gravestone for Dan Blackman adjacent to the gravestone of his daughter, the only on his nine children known to have died in Floyd. I decided to also place a memorial stone for Dan Blackman's son, also Dan Blackman, a private in the New York Militia in the War of

1812. He never married and had no children. I descend from another of Dan's sons, Nathaniel, who left Floyd after his father's death and settled in Grafton Twp., McHenry County, Illinois.



I contacted a funeral home in the adjacent town of Rome to ask for a contact at the cemetery. Floyd Cemetery is a small, rural cemetery with no office. The funeral home provided me the names of the cemetery board president and secretary. I wrote to each and received a reply. Yes, I could place memorial stones at Floyd Cemetery to the two Dans.

My wife, Jane, and I visited Floyd in August of 2022 to finalize the site and plan for the gravestone dedication. I subsequently ordered the stones provided without charge by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The stones shipped within a few weeks and arrived safely in Floyd.

We visited Floyd again this past May 20 for a special dedication of the two side-by-side stones. We were honored by the presence of Oriskany Battle Chapter NSSAR, Holland Chapter NSDAR, Flor Schuyler Chapter CAR, Henry P. Smith Post #24 American Legion, and members of the Floyd Cemetery Board.

Special thanks to Floyd Cemetery Association Treasurer (formerly Secretary) Marian Clarke; Floyd Cemetery Association President Dave Koenig; Holland Patent Chapter NSDAR Regent Barbara Granato; and Oriskany Battle Chapter NSSAR President George Gydesen for remembering and honoring a now unforgotten Revolutionary War Patriot and his son for their service in the earliest days of our nation's history.





PATRIOT GRAVE MARKING—ISAAC MESSENGER (CT)

BY: PAUL BURRIGHT (200016)



Honoring our Patriot ancestors through grave marking ceremonies has been a long, time-honored tradition within the SAR. On Saturday, June 3, Omaha Chapter President Paul Burright and Omaha Chapter member Mel Burright had the privilege of participating and honoring their Revolutionary War Patriot Isaac Messenger, who is buried in Concord Cemetery in Concord Twp., Lake County, Ohio.

Isaac Messenger was born Sep 26, 1745, in West Simsbury, Hartford County, CT. He was the son of Isaac Messenger (1717-1801) and Hannah Alford (1724-1811). Isaac and Hannah had 15 children, 10 of them being sons, and 8 of those sons served the Patriot cause.

In 1770, Isaac married Anna Ward, born 1751, daughter of Gamaliel Ward (1694-1774) and Damaris Holcomb (1713-). Isaac and Anna had 8 children, including a daughter, Olive, who married my 5x Great Grandfather Cornelius Burright.

Isaac served in Captain Amasa Mills' Company, Col. Roger Enos' Regiment of the Connecticut State Troops in 1778. His unit was part of the detachment that built the first fortifications at West Point, under the command of General Washington. Isaac served directly with 5 of his brothers within the same company, while another brother was with the 7th Regiment at Bunker Hill, and another was with the 17th Continental Regiment and fought at the Battles of Long Island and White Plains.

After the war, Isaac farmed in Connecticut and moved to upstate New York by 1810. In 1816, weather conditions were so poor that historians now call it "the year without



a summer". There was frost every month of the year, and 6"-8" of snow fell on June 6, killing all the crops throughout much of the New England region. Isaac, and many of his extended family, moved westward to Ohio, settling in Concord. Isaac and Anna were both in their 70's when making this cross country move to the new frontier.

Isaac died May 8, 1839, at the age of 93, and Anna died Aug 31, 1850, at the age of 101. Both are buried together in the Concord Cemetery in Concord, Lake County, OH.

In attempting to get a Patriot grave marking ceremony set up for Isaac, I was able to talk with Ed Hanlon of the Ohio SAR, who put me in contact with Steve Hinson of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter, OHSSAR. The Northeastern Chapter hosted the ceremony and did all the logistic work in talking with the sexton of the Concord Twp. Cemetery and the Concord Twp. Board to see what would be allowed in the cemetery and ordering the SAR Patriot stone marker that the cemetery allowed. In addition to honoring Private Messenger, we also honored Revolutionary War Patriots Oliver Brown (CT), Samuel Hayden (CT), Thomas Huntoon (NH), Samuel Rogers (NH), and Bartholomew Vrooman (NY), who are all buried in Concord Twp.



I was able to participate in the Color Guard, representing the Nebraska SAR as a descendant of Isaac Messenger, and Mel participated in the ceremony by leading those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. We also presented a wreath on behalf of the Omaha Chapter SAR at the gravesites during the ceremony. We picked up my uncle, Dallas Burright, on the way, so we had 3 descendants of Isaac Messenger in attendance.

Special thanks go out to the Northeastern Ohio Chapter, Ohio SAR; the New Connecticut Chapter, Ohio DAR and the Mary Chesney Chapter, Ohio DAR (who presented wreaths, gave recognition of, and laying roses on, the graves of the wives and a daughter of the honored Patriots, as well as being in period dress); Concord Twp. Trustee Chairman Morgan McIntosh; and Concord Twp. Sexton Karen Warner for all of their help and participation in honoring not only Isaac Messenger, but all six Patriots during the ceremony, for their service and sacrifice for the cause of Liberty!

Spring State Meeting, Cont.

Continued from page 3—

- Martha Washington Medal
Kitty KentSmith



- Eagle Scout Medal and \$500 Scholarship
Nathan Delaney



Culper Spy Ring, the Best Spy Ring of the War

Eagle Scout Essay, by Nathan Delaney

The Revolutionary War was not just a battle of brute force but a battle of intelligence. One way the Continental Army gained intelligence on the British was through their spies. The most famous spy ring during the Revolutionary War was the Culper Spy Ring.

When the British took control of New

York, General George Washington needed a way to gain intelligence on the British. Together, Washington and major Benjamin Talmadge organized the Culper Spy Ring. The ring was made up of soldiers and civilians, both men and women. Spying was inherently dangerous, and those who were caught, like Nathan Hale in 1776, could be hanged without trial. Since secrecy was critically important, many of the ring's members didn't even know the names of their fellow spies.

Because of the huge risks associated with going behind enemy lines, Talmadge arranged for regular citizens to gather and share knowledge during their everyday lives and activities. For example, Robert Townsend, owner of a coffee shop and mercantile in New York, may overhear something from a gathering of British elite in his shop. At the same time, Austin Roe, a tavern owner in Long Island, would regularly travel between Long Island and New York when purchasing supplies. Roe would stop at Townsend's shop and pick up messages hidden in the goods and supplies. Roe would return home and hide the items on a local farm owned by Abraham Woodhull. Woodhull would get word to a neighbor, Anna Strong, who would hang clothes on her clothesline in a certain way to send a message. Caleb Brewster would see the clothes and know here to pick up the message from the farm. Brewster would then deliver the messages to Talmadge.

The ring also worked to capture British spies like Major John Andre, who worked closely with Benedict Arnold. Later, a tip from Anna Strong, would lead to the capture of Benedict Arnold himself. Washington also used the Culper Spy Ring to spread disinformation. He had members exaggerate the size and strength of his army when talking to British supporters. He would also send people to pretend to be traitors of the Continental Army to spread false messages of the military's plans and advances.

The Culper Spy Ring helped seal the fate of the British when in 1780, the

ring gathered knowledge on the Red-coat's plans to surprise attack the French troops enroute to aid the colonists. With advance notice of the attack, Washington was able to better prepare his defenses causing the British to have to call off the surprise attack.

The Culper Spy Ring was never discovered by the British military and achieved more success than any other American or British intelligence network during the war. The Culper Spy Ring was one of the most thriving spy rings and was critical in helping the Continental Army outsmart the British Army and win the war.

Works Cited:

- "Culper Spy Ring." *George Washington's Mount Vernon*, www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/culper-spy-ring/.
- "Culper Spy Ring." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.*, www.britannica.com/topic/Culper-Spy-Ring.
- History.com Editors. "The Culper Spy Ring." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 19 Mar 2010, www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/culper-spy-ring.



Eagle Scout Chairman Ryan Fuller,
Eagle Scout Nathan Delaney and
Parents

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, Dale Wostrel at dwestrel43@gmail.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 Burright.

Contact information for Compatriot Burright:

Paul H. Burright

1311 N. 208th St

Elkhorn, NE 68022-6940

Email: pburright72@gmail.com

3rd Quarter 2023 Meetings and Events

Tuesday, Jul 4—Independence Day Parade, Ralston, NE

Saturday, Aug 5—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, Aug 19—2nd Annual Omaha Chap. Picnic, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Omaha, NE, 12:00pm

Saturday, Sep 2—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, Sep 9—BOM meeting, 11:00am, Sean O'Casey's, 140th & Center, Omaha, NE

Tuesday, Sep 12—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

Sunday, Sep 17—State Fall Meeting, 2pm, Mahoney State Park, Ashland, NE

Sunday, Sep 17—Constitution Day

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 into your Society newsletter!

Social Media and Online Presence



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

Nebraska SAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NebraskaSAR

Omaha SAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR



Write your Patriot's Biography!

We currently have a Patriot Biography Project going on at National, as well as a project for America 250! for the Nebraska SAR with biographies in the works. It is an extensive project with a lot of biographies to compile and organize!

We need your Patriot's biography, and we need your help to complete these projects!

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 Nathaniel's that participated in the American Revolution. They were father and son from Northampton, Hampshire, Massachusetts. Nathaniel Sr was the 4th in an unbroken line of 7 Nathaniel's 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 many 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.

Please send in your completed Patriot Biographies to Paul Burrright at pburrright72@gmail.com.

Don't let someone else write the story of your Patriot Ancestor!