

Husker Patriot

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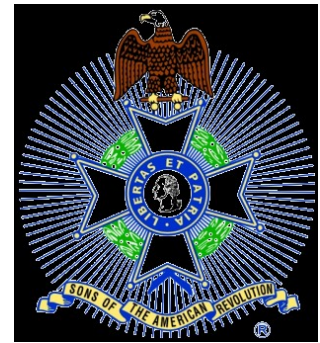
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**Nebraska SAR Society Fall Meeting
Held September 11, 2016
President's Message**

“During our Pledge to the Sons of the American Revolution which we recite together at meetings, we began with the word “WE”. We pledge to honor the sacrifices of our hero ancestors and defend and preserve the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic. Today, united as a patriotic and service oriented organization, we try to recognize acts of patriotism and of good individual citizenship. Our awards programs celebrate special individuals who demonstrate these attributes. We come together to recognize today’s patriots and great citizens formally



and publically at both our Chapter and State meetings. It is our challenge as a patriotic society to keep that focus. It is a struggle to resist being divided from each other and our mission because of our individual differences or to be distracted by motivations other than Patriotism and service to our communities and nation. No matter our common interests, we Nebraskan SAR members are challenged because we are separated by distances as well as the rural nature and our small State population density. We have only two



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**

Infamous



“Brown Bess”

Message from the NESSAR Treasurer – William S. Webb The membership year for 2017 is upon us and the dues letters will be in the mail the first week of October. At the conclusion of the membership drive last year we had 107 paid members in the Nebraska Society SAR. This number includes five members having a life membership in the National Society and two of these members have a life membership in the Nebraska Society. Many thanks go to all the members that renewed their membership last year and a special thanks to the 34 members that donated more than the required dues. In addition to the regular dues paid for National, State and Chapters your donations provide support for our efforts in the following programs: Eagle Scout Scholarship, recognizing our public servants in Fire Safety, Emergency Medical Services & Law Enforcement and to those individuals, companies and government agencies that fly the United States Flag for Patriotic purposes. Your donations make a difference, regardless of size. We must always remember that what we do as members of the SAR, allows us to carry on our founding fathers’ values and our collective membership enables this.

Nebraska Society Fall Meeting

The Fall meeting was opened with the Posting of the Colors. President David Kentsmith called the meeting to Order. There was a Quorum. This was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the SAR. Rev. Dr. James Hoke, CH (Col), USA (ret.) State Vice President gave the 9-11 Memorial Oration— Remembering First Responders and this day in history. Past Nebraska SAR Presidents were introduced as well as the members and guests. Awards were given to Police Officer Alan Grell, Fireman

Dallas Fletcher and Judith Moore. See stories within this Newsletter. Next, was the Awards from National. A call for a vote of the Minutes of 10 April 2016 Spring Meeting was made. There were no corrections or additions. There was a motion to approve and second. All approved. **Officers Reports** were given by President David Kentsmith; Secretary John Reinert; Treasurer William Webb; Deputy Registrar Robert Knott; National Trustee Fredrick Walden and Vice President General Thomas Parsons. Other Committee Reports by William Webb

and Robert Knott Publicity and Robert Knott, Medals & Certificates. **Old Business:** Discussion concerning the Society providing SAR grave markers for deceased members. **New Business:** Appointment of Chairmen for the Audit Committee. Shawn Stoner discussed upgrading the Web Site and its funding. After closing remarks by President Kentsmith members were asked to recite “Until We Meet Again”. The meeting was adjourned with the Retirement of the Colors. **More information in the 4th Quarter.**

NEBRASKA SOCIETY AND CHAPTER AWARDS PRESENTED DURING 3RD QUARTER 2016

Fireman’s Award



Dallas Fletcher is Lincoln Fire and Rescue’s selection for the Sons of the American Revolution Award.

He has demonstrated a commitment to public safety and the civic traditions of our Nation. Dallas has served in the Fire and Emergency Services profession for over 20 years. He began his career as a volunteer firefighter with the Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department where he has been instrumental in spurring a great deal of progress in the areas of response, training, and administrative functions. He currently serves as the Chief of Valparaiso Fire, and has overseen the successful construction of a new fire station that will greatly enhance the services provided to the community. Additionally, Dallas has been an outstanding employee for the City of Lincoln Fire and Rescue Department since he began in March of 2002. Throughout his career with us, he has shown a desire to elevate the performance of his peers through training. He is currently assigned to Truck 1 A-shift, where he is part of a highly com-

petent and engaged team that sets the standard for performance on emergency scenes. Furthermore, he willingly volunteers to serve as an adjunct instructor; in this capacity, he has developed and delivered training curricula to the entire department in the areas of individual and company firefighter survival and rescue. He recognizes that our departments role in the community is to serve with passion and competence, and he readily displays these traits every day, both on and off-duty.

Law Enforcement Award



Officer Alan Grell has been a police officer

with the City of Lincoln since December 1, 2005. Most all of that time has seen Officer Grell assigned to the Southwest Team. A major portion of that team is the east and west “core” areas, which is the neighborhoods surrounding the state capitol. This area is densely populated and consists mainly of rental properties, making it one of the busiest areas in

the city for police services and an area in which Officer Grell patrols and thrives. Officer Grell has taken on the task to coordinate instruction to all street officers in the use of the 223 Patrol Rifle during the year 2016. It’s a critical time for new officers as they learn how to apply their academy instruction to real life situations. In addition to the training conducted by Officer Grell, he is also a member of the LPD Honor Guard and a past member of the LPD Hiring Panel. In addition to serving the citizens of Lincoln, Officer Grell also serves the citizens in and around Greenwood, Nebraska as an active member of the Greenwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, having played a role there for the past twenty years, twelve of which were serving as the peer-elected Fire Chief. He has been, without a doubt, deserving of more than the five commendations he received in 2015. Some of those commendations were citizen-initiated, for instances when Officer Grell took the time to listen to victims of crime, spending additional time, if need be, to allow them to use him as a sounding board and a kind and compassionate ear. One of Officer Grell’s most famous traits is his downplaying of his role in many of these situations, explaining that he’s “just doing my job”. Officer Grell takes extreme pride in his work each and every day. He is a true team player who is a role model for both new and veteran officers.

Arlene Rudebusch receiving the Lydia Darragh Medal.



Nebraska Society President John Reinert presented Mrs. Rudebusch the Lydia Darragh Medal acknowledging the countless Eagle Scout presentations she has attended, provided the centerpieces at Heritage Dinners, continues to march with the DUV and is a rallying point for younger CAR members at our annual Wyuka Cemetery Memorial Day Services. Her constant support has been of greatest benefit to our State Society and "I am thankful for her service".

SharonAnn Green Louden receiving the SAR/DAR Medal of Appreciation.



Nebraska Society President John Reinert presented the SAR/DAR Medal of Appreciation to Mrs. Louden. President Reinert acknowledged her efforts to secure new members for our Society, for promoting the creation of a new chapter in the western part of our state, and for contributing several newsletter articles to the Husker Patriot. In addition, her work to establish the Lue R. Spencer DAR Genealogical Libraries in both Grand Island and Alliance, overseeing the creation of a Nebraska State Veterans Cemetery in Alliance, and efforts to restore a local pioneer cemetery north of Ashby, Nebraska

Judith Masters Moore receiving the SAR Medal of Appreciation.



Judith is a 50-year member of the DAR and has been a Chapter Regent in both North Carolina and Nebraska as well as the Registrar in North Carolina. She started a Chapter for Daughters of American Colonist, is President of the Nebraska Huguenot Society and has served as the Registrar for the Nebraska Mayflower Society. Judy received this award for 15 years of service to the Nebraska SAR by doing extensive genealogical research for hundreds of applicants helping complete their applications for membership working directly with her brother Thomas Masters, our State Registrar and her nephew John Reinert our State Secretary. The medal is gold in color and bears on the obverse a relief of Molly Pitcher.

SAR Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition Presentation



2016-17 Meetings and Events

- Sep 13, Omaha Chapter Meeting 6:00 pm, Gorats
- Oct 7, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers
- Oct 11, Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:00 pm, Gorats
- Nov 4, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers
- Nov 8, Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:00 pm, Gorats
- Dec 2, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers
- Dec 13, Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:00 pm, Gorats
- Jan 6, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers
- Jan 10, Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:00 pm, Gorats
- Feb 3, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Eastmont Towers
- Feb 14, Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:00 pm, Gorats

This Certificate was presented by Nebraska State President David K. Kentsmith to his grandson Brant Steven Smith. Bryant earned this Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding achievement, as evidenced by his exceptional leadership and citizenship, in the obtainment of the rank of Eagle Scout. President Kentsmith also presented the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Certificate for Eagle Scouts too. David gave Brant copies of the enlistment papers for his two direct ancestors Byron Bates and James M Smith who were 18 years old (his age) when they enlisted in the Illinois Regiment of the GAR. With the SAR Certificate he gave him a listing of the 11 approved SAR patriots, his ancestors, 3 of whom were at Valley Forge with George Washington. Many family members were also in attendance. The Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held Sunday 28 August in Boulder, Colorado.

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 our Patriot did for our country. We're only an email away.

We now have twenty four 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 or the Publisher Bill Webb at webb.w@q.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 Robert Chandler

"MY AMERICAN REVOLUTION ANCESTORS"



PRIVATE/SERGEANT PETER OTT, SR.

Somewhere in the area of what is now Germany, my fifth great grandfather, Peter OTT, Sr., born about 1731/3, responded to the recruitment effort (Waldo Patent) by Samuel Waldo and with about 1,500 others emigrated in 1752/3 from the Rhineland to the settlement of Broad Bay (Waldoborough/Waldoboro), Lincoln County, Maine. Dissatisfied because of severe problems with Indians allied with the French, political intrigues about land ownership and poor land quality, Peter, in 1763/4, sold out and moved over the mountain to a settlement at Goose River (Rockport) on Penobscot Bay between Camden and Rockland. Here he homesteaded with his wife, Elizabeth, raised two children, Peter, Jr., and Elizabeth, established and ran the local tavern and cattle pound while becoming prominent in local affairs.

When the Lexington/Concord war news reached the area, "Peter Ott's Tavern" was the local hot spot for news, mail and heated discussions because numerous Tories were in residence, too. Many of the men immediately left for the Boston area to join the fight. Most of the remaining men formed into militia units. Peter's son, who also served in the war, and daughter both have interesting tales of adventure during the war era. Peter had three known military deployments: His first, as a Private, was with Captain Plumber's Company which was stationed at St. Georges for

six months in 1776 for defense of sea-coast. This service was primarily for watching out for small British craft carrying "coasters" (marauders) who fired buildings, stole weapons and supplies, killed livestock, and physically harassed the residents. These local men who served as such became the first revolutionary coast guards.

The second deployment was in July 1777 as a Sergeant in Captain Crosby's Company which was raised for a six-month expedition against St. John's River, Nova Scotia. However, he served only 45 days as the expedition was severely defeated by British forces and sent scurrying over sea and land to safety.

His last deployment came in the summer of 1779 as a Private again in Captain Ulmer's Company which participated in the ill-fated Penobscot Expedition. This Expedition was an attempt to drive the British out of that part of Maine because the British garrisoned at Halifax, Nova Scotia, had established a foothold and were trying to bribe and incite the Indians and Tories to "cause mischief".

Peter died December 20, 1825, and is interred at Camden's Mountain View Cemetery beside his son and daughter-in-law. His and Peter, Jr.'s sites both are marked with DAR markers and had American flags when I visited. I was pleased to see these patriots were being remembered, their final resting places well cared for and their services appre-



ciated. Today's "Peter Ott's (Steakhouse and Tavern)" is neither the original building nor site but, instead, a modern

restaurant in downtown Camden on a side street by the water. However, Peter's home (and original tavern) still stands occupied on the "ol' Rockland Road" (US 3) with a large American flag flying high over the front yard. I daresay he likes that—he certainly did earn it.

Postscript: During the war of 1812, a British naval party commandeered Peter's boat and forced him and the local fisherman with him to row the party up the river to Belfast so they could scout the target they were planning to attack. During the night both escaped and warned local American military units of the British presence, which information prevented the attack. At this time, Peter was 74 years young and nearly blind.

NEBRASKA SAR COLOR GUARD



Nebraska compatriots, I'm proud to announce that the Nebraska Society of the SAR has joined many other states by implementing Color Guard units! We held our first event at the April State Meeting with a Posting of the Colors ceremony at the opening and close of the event. The SAR Color Guard hearkens back to the Color Guards of the American Revolution. Historically, a Color Guard was used during battle to escort and protect the flag. Color Guards were comprised of soldiers who would carry the flag, carry arms to protect it, and drummers and fifers who relayed commands in the turmoil of battle.

It was a great honor to serve in the Color Guard during the Revolution, just as it is today. Today, we are forming Color Guard units in both our Omaha and Lincoln chapters. Members of the chapter units combine for state-level events. Members assemble uniforms much like those that their patriot ancestors wore. Much like doing genealogical research, understanding what uniforms and gear our ancestors used can be very rewarding as well!

This is a great way to share our love of country and our ancestor's place in history. The Color Guard is the most visible face of the SAR in the public's eye. It gets the public, both young and old, excited to learn about the American Revolution and helps us

achieve the goals of the SAR. If you would like to find out more, feel free to contact myself for the Omaha chapter or Shawn Stoner (shawnstoner84@gmail.com) who is President of the Lincoln chapter. Respectfully,

Chad Sherrets
OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com
 NSSAR #191611
 Nebraska SAR Color Guard Commander

Senator Louden at State DAR Conference 2016



Senator LeRoy Louden was a guest at the Nebraska State DAR Conference held in Kearney March 31 – April 2, 2016; State Regent Kathy Ocasio presiding. Senator Louden brought greetings from the Sons of the American Revolution and shared information on the collaboration between the DAR and SAR in providing for the needs of new mothers and their infants on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Louden has also been very active the past two years in providing support to the DAR's library collection housed in the public library of Grand Island and also at the Knight Museum in Alliance. Senator Louden was recognized by Regent Ocasio with a certificate of appreciation for his efforts. Louden and other members of the SAR also took a moment to recognize HODAR (husband of DAR-Kathy Ocasio) Bob Ocasio for his strong support of Regent Ocasio and the efforts of the state organization.

“My SAR membership to me is a connection with those members of my family who lived in times even more difficult than ours. One of the great-

PASSING of Emmanuela Chandler Wife of Compatriot Bob Chandler



We were saddened to hear that Emmanuela (Lilian) Chandler, wife of Lincoln Chapter member Robert V. Chandler, passed away July 13, 2016 following a long and difficult battle with

cancer. Besides being a long time companion to Compatriot Chandler, Lilian worked as an insurance agent and assistant cashier for Cassar and Cooper in Valletta, Malta, until her marriage in 1969, and thereafter, became a homemaker. Her major hobby was sewing, and she was a professional seamstress. She also knitted and participated in a Lakeland women's bowling league for more than 20 years, once winning a national doubles champions. She is survived by her husband, Robert V.; son, Lt. Colonel Vernan A. (Lisa); granddaughter, Katelyn, all of Lincoln; sister, Silvana Cachia Caruana (Edward); brothers, Anthony Bonello (Victoria), Ronald Bonello (May) and Adrian Bonello, all of Malta; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Presidents Message cont from page 1 SAR chapters in spite of efforts to create more especially more in the western part of the State. The times we live in seem to be an era of divisiveness politically and socially which only compounds being together as a Society and remaining focused on common goals. Let us work harder to come together finding commonality as our patriot ancestor heroes did to create this great nation using our Society to foster and celebrate what brings us together rather than what can divide us.”

est challenges facing any Secretary of the Treasury is to look up at the picture of Alexander Hamilton and Albert Gallatin and think to himself ‘I hope that I can hold together the wonderful institution these two men established.’” Joseph W. Barr, Secretary of the Treasury.

THE STORY OF PICKENS CEMETERY SOUTH CAROLINA

This story is being continued in this issue from the 2nd Quarter of the



Husker Patriot with: **Modern History and issues concerning the future of Pickens Cemetery.**

Presented by Nebraska Compatriot
Robert Garrison

Carl Robert Garrison, Lt Col, (Ret'd) worked alongside his father restoring the cemetery to its present state. In 1960, when I was nine years old, Pickens Cemetery had become totally overgrown with kudzu, poison ivy, honeysuckle, thorn bushes, along with brush and weeds of every variety. Honestly, you couldn't see ten feet from anywhere you stood in the cemetery. It was a complete jungle. My father decided something had to be done, and he was the one to do it. Of course, I was included in this project. He told me it would take a long time – probably several years, but I wasn't really listening. Besides, what nine year old kid understands a time period longer than a few minutes?! Dad wasn't exaggerating one bit. It took the two of us over seven years to clean up an area just slightly smaller than an acre square. (Think of a football field, including both end zones, for a close approximation of an acre). Of course, we only worked on it most Saturday afternoons (Dad, like most men in the South in that period, worked at his regular job until noon on Saturday) and holidays. We couldn't use a tractor for fear of damaging tombstones and we didn't own a chain saw, so we used hand tools and hard work: regular axes, brush axes, sling blades, hoes, heavy rakes, pruning shears, shovels, a crosscut saw and anything else that would work. The closest thing to a "power tool" we had was an 18 inch wide Homelite lawn

mower that Dad had cut off the front half of the deck, exposing about one third of the blade. It was dangerous, but it did yeoman work for many years. Some days, we measured our progress in square inches – it was that tough. But I was in heaven the whole time because I had my father all to myself. I learned a lot from Dad in that cemetery: work, family history, and becoming a man. I have to admit that I was sad when we finished – those were good times that I still look back with fondness on today! In late fall of 1967, Pickens Cemetery was truly beautiful. After the cleanup was finished, the cemetery again entered a period of benign neglect. In the late 1980s, some local young vandals broke several tombstones and did other damages which caused many problems, some of which are only now being addressed. I graduated from Clemson University in 1973, receiving a commission in the US Air Force, where I spent almost 26 years as a fighter pilot, instructor pilot, communications/radar officer, and logistics planner. But I came home on leave almost every year, and so always kept in touch with my cemetery roots. In 1999, I retired to Thermopolis, Wyoming, but retirement gave me plenty of time to work on the future of Pickens Cemetery.

In 2004, I spent the late spring and entire summer clearing away both fallen and standing dead trees, resetting fallen tombstones, clearing brush, and generally putting the cemetery back in order. I was also able to identify several previously unknown graves by the "homemade" engraving on the field stones. During this period, I also completed a new comprehensive map, on which I numbered each grave to give an easy method to keep track of new information. Years earlier, I had begun researching and writing a register of all of the cemetery's occupants. In its earliest editions, it was simply a list of graves. Later, I added birth and death dates, then close relationships with other cemetery occupants (wife, husband, father, mother, son, daughter, etc.), and finally including a short paragraph with some interesting information on each person. The map is now in its 4th edition, and the Register is in its 15th edition, with the 16th edition being updated now and will soon be published on the website. In the 1990s, I began to think seriously about the future of the cemetery. My

first cousins (the grandchildren of the earlier mentioned Dr. Andrew L. Pickens) owned about 99% of the cemetery, and my sister owned the other tiny slice. But I had two main areas of concern: (1) I wanted to ensure that the cemetery would be maintained in the future, especially after I'm buried there; and (2) I wanted to see information on the cemetery and its occupants gathered and made available to anyone who is interested, especially the related descendants. I began searching for an organization which could and would maintain the cemetery after my time was gone. This search proved to be both surprising and saddening: It seemed that groups wanted the "title and name" of "owning" the cemetery, but were not willing to assume the hard work of maintaining the grounds. Soon a related concern became apparent: Who could be buried in the cemetery in the future? As I was looking for this "cemetery grounds maintainer," I was also making genealogical contacts and gathering information about the cemetery occupants from many and varied sources. In several containers at my family homeplace, I found lots of information, enough to even consider writing a book on the cemetery that would encompass a summarized genealogy of almost everyone buried there. Much of the information had originally been gathered and written by my father's maternal uncle: Dr. Andrew L. Pickens (see above). "Uncle Andrew" had undertaken the first serious effort in the late 1920s to gather and record correct and true information about the cemetery. His father (Robert Welborn Pickens, 1847-1948) and grandfather (William Smith Pickens, 1823-1907) were important sources. W. S. Pickens actually knew the original owner of the homeplace/cemetery: Capt. Robert Pickens, the Revolutionary War veteran. The long life of Robert W. Pickens was a huge help in consolidating information (a side note – he was the last surviving Confederate veteran in upstate South Carolina). Both men were passionate about both family history and the cemetery. Also, there were many descendants of cemetery occupants who were alive and still living in the local area. Around 1928, Uncle Andrew drew the first map of the cemetery, locating every grave. He also arranged with the Veterans Administration (VA) for many veteran headstones.

Cont'd on Page 7, Col 1

Cont'd from Page 6, Col 3

This work by Uncle Andrew brought another "information concern" to my attention. There are 272 graves in Pickens Cemetery, and in the early 1990s, at least 125 of those graves were marked by nothing more than a field stone (a rock picked up from the local area and placed at the head of the grave as a substitute for a commercial marker). As of this writing, 69 of these field stone marked graves contain a currently unknown person. Who are these people? I knew who some of them were from Dr. Pickens' documents and also my Grandmother (Lura Pickens Garrison) had pointed out to me all those that she knew. The problem was that even with my cemetery map and register, if a person was not intimately acquainted with Pickens Cemetery, there was NO WAY that they could find their ancestor. This was a major problem, one that had to be solved.

In the period 1787 to 1850, obtaining a commercial tombstone was very expensive, not to mention arduous and very involved. For example, Maj. James Anderson's (died 1813) marker almost certainly was manufactured in Charleston and was brought over 250 miles to Pickens cemetery. I'm convinced that his was the first commercial marker in the whole cemetery. Capt. Robert Pickens' father, also named Robert, has a later style tombstone, even though he died in 1787. By the way, his grave is thought to have the oldest birth date in Anderson County (1697). Many of the graves were simply marked with stones picked up by the families. Probably most of them thought they would purchase a commercial stone in the future, but "the best laid plans of mice and men oft go astray." This appeared to be especially true in the death of children. We have to remember that a 30% child mortality rate was common, and 50% was not unheard of at the time. It is so sad to see and think of the heartache that mothers and fathers were forced to endure. My grandmother, Lura Pickens Garrison, often related to me that her father (the Robert Welborn Pickens mentioned above) and mother considered their greatest accomplishment to be the raising to adulthood of nine out of ten children. Yet they were still grieving for Prudence Irene Pickens (1886-1889) when they passed away. Gradually, the number of field stone marked graves grew, and the

number of forgotten people's graves marked by those field stones also increased. Some of those field stones have crudely engraved initials or abbreviations, but the elements have degraded many of those chisel marks over the years. Uncle Andrew also noted that descendants of buried ancestors took advantage of his studies and information to mark graves that were previously unknown. This caused some confusion, as some of these descendants did not have precise information or precise memories about what some older relative had passed on to them. Many of the oldest graves had been previously covered/marked with a structure similar to a small log cabin to keep wolves and wild hogs from excavating the graves for food. It also made for identification that could be swept away by the weather in a few short years. Only well after the War Between the States did commercial tombstones become close to universal, but even into the 1930s, some graves were still being marked by a field stone. So this problem of field stone markers came to my attention.

In 2004, while I was cleaning the cemetery, I counted 125 field stone marked graves – almost half of the total graves! I either personally knew or had documents on the location and occupant of many of these graves, but the problem was obvious: How could I make known "to the world" the identity of these graves, when it was very hard to locate the field stones even with a map? It took a while to figure out a plan, and much longer to save money for it and then put it into execution. In May, 2011, I finalized the arrangements with a local monument company to make and install new, modern markers with the names deeply engraved. I added birth and death dates and husband/wife, mother/father, and son/daughter if I had learned that information. It took almost five years to finish that project, but now every known grave is marked with at least a name that should be easily readable for the next hundred or more years. This effort resulted in the purchase of 56 new tombstones, with 19 for children's graves and 37 for the adults. The only project left is to repair the tombstones broken by vandals in the attack mentioned above and a few others which have succumbed to time and climate. This project should be completed by

2018. At an "open house" in 2013, a lady approached me with tears running down her face, "Thank you so much for all these new markers. I had always heard and read that my 5th great grandfather was buried here, but nothing could tell me where. Now you've cured that. You'll never know how much that has meant to me." Needless to say, I could easily write "Paid in Full" across the entire bill for those new markers with great happiness. But there was more to come in the area of collecting and disseminating information. My research into writing a book about the cemetery and its occupants had uncovered that to do it the way I wanted to do it would be prohibitively expensive (color pictures of every marker, pictures of people buried there, family histories of at least most of the people, etc.). There would also have to be new editions published regularly because I was always uncovering new information that was "vitality" important. More expense. The cheapest estimate I got from a publisher was \$50,000 for the first 100 copies (limited to 150 pages), and with black and white pictures. New editions would be a whole new deal! In other words, for this ole' country boy, it was way over my head. I could not afford it under any circumstances. But then came the Internet and the proliferation of websites. Now I could update information as much and as often as I desired, and any number of color pictures were limited only by my ability with a digital camera! A Pickens Cemetery website was just made to order for my concerns. It took about a year to create the website. Of course, what I don't say is the many years I had already been collecting data and information. Many people from many families were extremely generous in their help. They opened their hearts to this project and helped in many ways. You can check the results yourself! www.pickenscemetery.org That's all you need.

In 2014, my first cousins, the four grandchildren of Dr. Andrew Pickens, and I began seriously discussing the future of the cemetery, and they decided to deed it to me so I could make certain improvements and then deed the whole church and cemetery land (about 3 acres) to Southern Wesleyan University (SWU) in Central, SC. I had been **Cont'd on Page 8, Col 1**

MORE PICTURES AND STORIES

Cont'd from Page 7, Col 3 in exploratory discussions with SWU for about a year. Their history department was eager to add the cemetery to their local historical holdings. The thing I was very happy about is they considered the maintenance of the cemetery to be a privilege, not a burden. I believe they are thinking of student volunteer workers under professorial supervision. This was the first and only organization that I had talked with over several years trying to find one who would maintain the cemetery and keep it presentable. No one in the Pickens family wanted to let the cemetery fall back into the jungle state that it had been in 1960, so maintenance was a priority for all of us.

But a big shock awaited us. When my cousins and their attorney were in the final process of getting all the deeds together so we could transfer the church and cemetery property to SWU, they found another deed which transferred the cemetery to the Three and Twenty School District Trustees. Unknown to anyone, my Great Grandfather, Robert Welborn Pickens, in the later years of his life, was having the same problem that we were having: finding someone he could trust to manage and care for the cemetery. The only answer he evidently could come up with at the time was the local school district trustees. His logic was simple: there would always be a school, so there would be a district and trustees in the local area who would be familiar with the cemetery and its needs. It was an excellent solution for the time, so in 1935, he deeded the cemetery to the trustees. Problem solved! Or so he thought. But one problem solved is another one created. Unfortunately, Three and Twenty School District would soon disappear, legally speaking. In 1957, Anderson County reorganized its educational system, doing away with several "one room schoolhouses," and their respective districts and trustees. To replace those schools, they built Wren Elementary/High School and dissolved Three and Twenty, Airy Springs, and several other districts.

This has left us with a large legal problem, but an attorney and time will solve it. I hope to complete the transfer of Pickens Chapel and Pickens Cemetery to Southern Wesleyan University by the end of 2016.

The following is a list of all of the Revolutionary War veterans that are buried in the Pickens cemetery. Perhaps someone might find a "family" or "related" name that requires further investigation. Anyone wanting more information on anyone buried in the cemetery may email Compatriot Garrison at crgarrison51@hotmail.com.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS BURIED IN PICKENS CEMETERY

1. William Waddle (Virginia Artillery)
2. Joshua Smith (Lt, Georgia Militia)
3. James Anderson (Maj, Virginia Militia)
4. John Hamilton (SC Militia)
5. Peter McMahon (SC Militia)
6. Samuel Barr (SC Artillery)
7. Andrew Hughes (NC Militia)
8. Alexander Oliver (SC Militia)
9. James Watson (SC Militia)
10. Aaron Boggs (SC Militia)
11. Rucker Mauldin (GA & SC Militia)
12. Joseph Smith (SC Militia)
13. Job Smith (SC Militia)
14. Charles Wilson (SC Militia)
15. Benjamin Smith (SC Militia)
16. John Wilson (SC Militia)
17. Robert Henderson (SC Militia)
18. William Wilson (SC Militia)
19. Robert Pickens (Capt, SC Militia)
20. Michael Dickson (Maj, SC Militia)
21. James Dickson (SC Militia)
22. Michael Smith (SC Militia)

PROBABLE REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS BURIED IN CEMETERY

23. Hampton Smith
24. Meade Smith
25. Robert McCann
26. Abram (Abraham?) Nalley (Nally)

War of 1812 Veterans – 5
 Seminole or Florida War – 1
 War Between the States – 7
 Spanish American War – 1



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What My SAR Membership Means to Me:

In these times of tension and stress, it is vitally important that all of us recall with pride the heritage and the principles of equality of opportunity upon which this country was founded.—John A. Love, Governor of Colorado.

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