



The Husker Patriot



Issue 49

4th Qtr 2022

AMERICA 250!



From the Desk of the President

Presidents Message

Compatriots, Ladies, and Friends,

I hope that everyone had a blessed and joyous Holiday Season. Jane and I are fortunate in that our children and grandchildren all reside in the local area and we were able to celebrate together.

The past quarter has been busy with Color Guard activities and America 250 participation and planning. Congratulations are due to Compatriot Burrignt and Sly for earning their Bronze America 250 medals, for their participation in America 250 events, not just here in Nebraska, but within our district. Congratulations,



as well, to Compatriot Mark Byars for earning the National Lafayette Volunteer medal, with Oak Leaf Cluster, for his stellar work on the Patriot Research System Project in 2022.

Compatriots Wostrel and Webb have performed in an excellent manner in reaching out to Society members to process 2023 dues. Additionally, Compatriot Byars initiated letters to past members, who were dropped from the member rolls, inviting them to renew their memberships. We welcome those reinstated members back to the Nebraska SAR!

Compatriot Webb is currently working on the 2023 Budget and would appreciate input from any members on financial needs for Society programs for the 2023 fiscal year.

Speaking of 2023, the Nebraska SAR Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 16th, again at Mahoney State Park, and I am currently working on plans for planning meetings for the Board of Management (formerly State Counselors) and the State Executive Committee.

I will close wishing for a happy and prosperous New Year for all!

Thomas Upton
President, Nebraska SAR



“Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.”

“The name of American, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations.”

- George Washington, Farewell Address, Sep 19, 1796



NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

2022-2023

- President: Thomas L. Upton, Omaha
- 1st Vice President: John C. Braisted, Lincoln
- 2nd Vice President: Paul H. Burrignt, Omaha
- Secretary: Stanley Dale Wostrel, Lincoln
- Treasurer: William Webb, Omaha
- Registrar: Paul H. Burrignt, 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—Open

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

2022-2023

- President: Thomas L. Upton
- 1st Vice President: John C. Braisted
- 2nd Vice President: Paul H. Burrignt
- Secretary: Stanley Dale Wostrel
- Treasurer: William S. Webb
- Chap. President: Paul H. Burrignt, Omaha
- Chap. Vice Pres: Dr. James Sly, Omaha
- Chap. Secretary: Mark Byars, Omaha
- Chap. President: James Hoke, Lincoln
- Chap. Vice Pres: John Reinert, Lincoln
- Chap. Secretary: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln
- Past State President: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln
- Past State President: Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, Omaha

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Inside this issue:

State Society News	pg 3
Welcome New Members	pg 3
Member Anniversaries	pg 3
Revolutionary History	pg 4-5
Meet My Patriot	pg 5
Chapter Chatter	pg 6-7
Color Guard Dispatches	pg 8-9
Wreaths Across America	pg 10
Registrar Report	pg 11
Treasurer Report	pg 11
Society Information	pg 12
Patriot Bio Template	pg 13

State Society News



Welcome New Members

Omaha

- Anthony Robert Lang, Jr.—#224117
Omaha, NE
Patriot Samuel Strain (NC)
- John Robert Lang—#224118
Omaha, NE
Patriot Samuel Strain (NC)
- Jacob Robert Lang—#224119
Omaha, NE
Patriot Samuel Strain (NC)
- Joshua David Plueger—#224467
Omaha, NE
Patriot John Martin (NC)



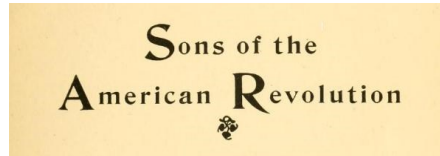
Supplementals Approved

- Nicholas John Mizaur—#160582
Omaha, NE
Patriot Peter Capp (PA)
Patriot Augustinus Hess (NY)
Patriot James Nash, Sr (MA)
Patriot James Nash (MA)
- Todd DeWayne Vetter—#220579
Omaha, NE
Patriot Timothy Hopkins, Jr (CT)

Reinstated Members

- Jeffrey Sill—#191610—Omaha
- Thomas Rahn—#193871—Omaha
- Donald Proett—#202773—Wahoo

Congratulations to all of these Compatriots. Thank you for your membership in the Nebraska SAR!



“Being a member is about knowing that you are not on your own and that you share experiences with other people.” - Anonymous



The Nebraska SAR Celebrates its Long Term Members!

5 Years

- Stephen Bothwell—Omaha
October 13, 2017
- Mel Burreight—Omaha
Aug 22, 2017
- Ryan Fuller—Omaha
Jan 2, 2017
- Hugh Nehls—Omaha
Dec 20, 2017
- Michael Reynolds—Omaha
Aug 22, 2017

10 Years

- Harry Merrihew—Imperial, NE
Mar 16, 2012

15 Years

- Timothy Fowler—Omaha
Jan 12, 2007
- David Kentsmith—Omaha
May 15, 2007

20 Years

- Fred Walden—Omaha
Nov 21, 2002

25 Years

- Thomas Corey—McCook, NE
Jul 23, 1997

30 Years

- Kenneth Paulson—Wakefield, NE
Aug 13, 1992

Please offer your Congratulations to these long time Nebraska SAR members when you see them. Their membership has meant so much to the Society and we hope to have them as members for many more years to come!



REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY



Worst of All Winters

Nobody had ever seen a winter like this one—possibly nobody in the entire eighteenth century. And here, in December 1779, to the “military capital of the United States,” came George Washington and his entourage of aides, servants, and Life Guards, plus an army of twelve thousand or more hungry, shivering men.

Awaiting them all behind New Jersey’s Watchung Mountains, located at the base of five mountainlike hills, was the village of Morristown and its cluster of fewer than one hundred homes. The wintering Continental Army should be safe here from British attack. As an early warning system, a string of beacons stretched outward from Morristown to far-flung outposts. In the event of a British advance, fires flaring up on platforms at the top of a series of poles eighteen to twenty feet high would give the alarm. The fires closest to Morristown would be spotted by men stationed in Washington’s “Fort Non-sense,” a hilltop redoubt built 230 feet above the village.



Washington had brought his ragtag army here in January of 1777 for a much-needed winter’s rest after the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. He and his army, then ranging from 3,000-7,000 in strength, spent an uneventful and mild five months here in early 1777, except for Wash-



ington’s order to have his men inoculated against smallpox. Up to 1000 men were laid low by the procedure before recovering.

The next wintering period was the tough one we always hear about, those harsh months at Valley Forge. But Valley Forge was nothing compared to the winter spent at Morristown two years later in 1779-1780.

Once again, the soldiers shuffled onto the scene and ate up an estimated 600 acres of timber in the process of building 1000 to 1200 log huts. They began to arrive in early December and again had to contend with snow. This time, though they found two feet already on the ground, which itself was frozen. And in this extraordinary winter, a total of 28 snow storms would barrel in the area. It already snowed four times in November. It would snow seven more times in December, another six in January, four in February, six more in March, and even once in April.

The January 2-4 storm was notable in that it snowed four feet with high winds causing drifts of over six feet. It was so cold that rivers and harbors iced over. The British in New York City found they could transport men and supplies

back and forth to Staten Island in New York Harbor over the ice. The Americans, for their part, mounted a fruitless raid in early January in which Lord Stirling led 3000 men and artillery in 500 sleighs across the ice to the British base on Staten Island. The assault proved fruitless because

the British had learned of the foray in advance “and retreated into their defenses in plenty of time.”

The failed raid gave George Washington unneeded headaches because some of the “so-called Jersey militia were no more than plunderers and brigands who played the militia role to destroy, to rob, and to plunder the island.” He now took steps to return identifiable looted items to the British, but it was too late. The stung British “struck back in retaliation by burning Newark Academy and Elizabethtown Meeting Hall and Church.”

Meanwhile, the wintery weather only continued. The ice and snow help up supplies that normally would have been transported by road, although the iced-over rivers sometimes served as substitute arteries of travel—by sled. Overall, however, the weather was a life-threatening nightmare for Washington and his 12,000 plus men. Washington called upon Congress, then the states, and finally on New Jersey in a desperate attempt to feed his men. “The men were reduced to eating birch bark, shoes, and leather belts to survive.”

Wrote Washington as early as December 16 (to Joseph Reed): “We have never experienced a like extremity at any point of the war.”

Weeks later, on March 18, the commander in chief wrote to the Marquis de Lafayette, then visiting in France: “The oldest people now living in this country do not remember so hard a winter as the one we are now emerging from.” In addition,

Dr. James Thacher, traveling with Washington's entourage for much of the war period, wrote in his journal about the same time that it had been the "most severe and distressing" winter "we have ever experienced." Further, "an immense body of snow remains on the ground." And, worse yet: "our soldiers are in a wretched condition for the want of clothes, blanket and shoes; and these calamitous circumstances are accompanied by a want of provisions."

Unsurprisingly, the truly harsh conditions contributed to a high number of desertions and even mutinous moments. More than a thousand men deserted the army that winter despite the threat of a death sentence if caught. Then, in a late-May incident, "two Connecticut regiments returning to Morristown from an extended tour of outpost duty found no pay and no food waiting for them," recalled an account. Furious, the men talked about marching for home, "foraging for food on the way." An officer trying to reason with them was stabbed with a bayonet, but suffered only a superficial wound. A Pennsylvania officer then urged them to remember their cause and the face that their leaders were suffering with them. "Pennsylvania troops were brought over if necessary to put down the revolt, but eventually everything settled down and the mutiny ended."

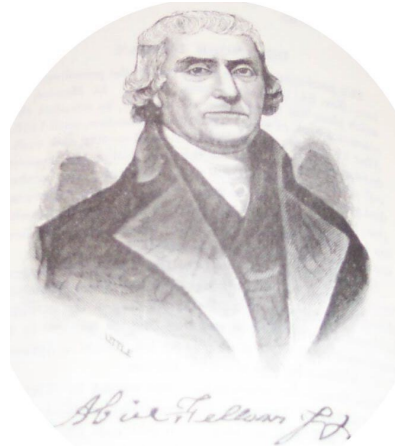
The shortages in pay and supplies continued, with many of the troops left resentful of their fledgling government's failure to support them. Fortunately, the worst winter of the century at last ended. It would remain a bitter memory for many, but the fact that Washington's more professional army of 1779-1780 lost only 86 men to disease and exposure, compared to the thousand or more lost at Valley Forge two years earlier, in what was a much milder—but more famously remembered—wintering period for the Continental Army.

From: The Best Little Stories from the American Revolution

MEET MY PATRIOT

Abiel Fellows, Jr. (P-157214)

By: Todd Vetter (#220579)



Abiel Fellows, Jr. was born in Canaan, Litchfield County, Connecticut, on October 1, 1764. His parents were "Deacon" Abiel Fellows (1734-1812) of Plainfield, Windham County, Connecticut, and Elizabeth Roe (died 1770) in Huntington, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. At the age of 41, Abiel married his third wife, Dorcas Hannah Hopkins (1787-1866), on October 17, 1805. Mrs. Dorcas Hopkins was the daughter of Timothy Hopkins, who also served in the American Revolution.

Abiel, the youngest of 5 children, received a common-school education. At the age of 15, he went out with the Connecticut militia, with Gates' and Schuyler's Army. He was with his uncle, who commanded a division at the battle of Freeman's Farm, October 7, 1777, and at Saratoga, October 17, when Burgoyne surrendered. He then returned home, but shortly after, re-enlisted, remaining in the service until peace was proclaimed. For his service, he drew a pension of \$96 annually. He was a Colonel in the War of 1812; his regiment was with Perry in the battle of Lake Erie, September 10, 1813; afterwards joining General Harrison.

In 1784, Abiel Fellows, Jr., located in Huntington Township on land allot-



ted in 1776 to his father, one of the proprietors of the township. For some year prior to 1810, he was Colonel in the Pennsylvania Militia, and at the same time, held office of Justice of the Peace. In 1811-13, he was one of the commissioners of Luzerne County. In October 1820, he was a candidate for Congress in the 10th Congressional District but was defeated by George Denison, Esq.

Colonel Fellows and his wife moved to Kalamazoo County, Michigan, where he died on August 18, 1833. His widow, Dorcas, died there on May 19, 1866. They had 13 children.

The History of Kalamazoo County, Michigan records a story about Abiel Fellows, Jr. "Just prior to his death, in 1832, when he was 70 years old, he carried for Lyman I. Daniels, who was acting Colonel, and was also land-agent for parties in Detroit, with important papers and some money. He rode a horse, carrying the papers and money in saddlebags and reached Detroit in 3 days, a distance of 165 miles, and after transacting his business, made the return trip in 3 days. Lyman Daniels said he was the only man he could find with sufficient courage to undertake such a perilous journey. He was brought up a strict Presbyterian; was generous, benevolent, ambitious, courageous, and of a strong genuine temperament. He died a year later at the age of 71."



Chapter Chatter

Omaha Chapter

During Veteran's Day, Compatriot Ryan Fuller was visiting Mt. Vernon, which as all should know, was President, and General, George Washington's house and where he is entombed.

Compatriot Fuller was able to lay a carnation, provided by the local DAR, at the tomb on Veteran's Day.



Thank you Compatriot Fuller, for sharing your visit to Mt. Vernon with us.

The Omaha Chapter held its Year in Review and Chapter Recognition meeting in December.

President Paul Burrignt presented the accomplishments of the Chapter over 2022, as well as the events that the Color Guard participated in, as the face of the organization.

The Chapter also gave out some recognition for member anniversaries, Color Guard, and America 250.

President Paul Burrignt inducted our newest member, Josh Plueger, into the Omaha Chapter. Josh is descended from Patriot John Martin (NC).



Past State President, David Kentsmith, was presented his 15 year anniversary pin and certificate.



Other anniversary pins and certificates were also presented, however the Compatriots were not able to be in attendance at the meeting. We will get those sent out to those members so that they have them, including Past State President, Fred Walden for 15 years, Tim Fowler for 10 years, and Ward Reesman for 40 years of membership! Congratulations to all of our members!

Andrew Sullivan was presented with his Chapter Color Guard pin, as he has marched with us for 2 years in various events, and is a consistent contributor to our Chapter Color Guard.



Paul Burrignt and Jim Sly were presented with the Bronze America 250 medal for their contributions and participation at America 250 events around Omaha and the rest of the North Central District. State President, Tom Upton, presented the medals.



“Give recognition where it is due. Compliments stimulate more effort and desire to improve.” - Bruce Lee

“Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others, belong to us as well.” - Voltaire

“Don't work for recognition, but do work worth of recognition.” - H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Flag Certificates

Flag Certificates were given out this quarter at four different businesses in the Omaha area.

Tactical 88 off of I-80 and Hwy 370, always flies their flag and shows their patriotism. CEO Shae Degan and Marketing Executive, Randy Goodwin, were excited to be presented the Flag Certificate from the SAR!



Village Pointe Toyota was also presented with a certificate for their display of the American Flag outside of their dealership. General Manager, Terry Zimmerman, was very excited to receive the certificate and told Flag Chairman, Drew Whitler, that he wanted to get it framed and posted on the wall inside the showroom and on their various social media outlets.



Business #3 to receive a flag certificate was 1st National Bank in West Omaha. Branch Manager Warren

Young, graciously accepted the on behalf of the branch.



Lastly, Chick-Fil-A received a flag certificate as well. Their location in West Omaha always has a flag flying outside their restaurant. General Manager, Brian Shaw, accepted on behalf of the restaurant.



Thank you to these businesses that patriotically fly the flag, and thank you to Flag Chairman, Drew Whitler, for recognizing these businesses!

If you know of a business location, organization, or just your neighbor down the street that always has a flag flying outside their business, office, or home, that you would like to recognize, get with Flag Chairman, Drew Whitler, so that we can properly recognize their patriotic display of flying the flag.

As a reminder to our Omaha Chapter members, we recently approved our new Chapter Constitution and By-Laws in 2022. The By-Laws state our standing committees within the Chapter, and their duties and responsibilities.

As a result, here are the Chairmen of each committee, as well as the few open positions we still need filled for the rest of this term in 2023.

- Constitution and By-Laws committee—Chaired by Chapter VP, Jim Sly
- Nominating Committee—will be activated in 2023
- Membership Committee—Chaired by Chapter Registrar, Martin Berman
- Budget & Finance—Chaired by Chapter Treasurer, Andrew Nehls
- Audit—Chaired by Chapter VP, Jim Sly
- Publicity—**Open**
- First Responders—**Open**
- Eagle Scout—Chaired by Craig Noah
- ROTC—Chaired by John Parsons
- Flag—**Open**
- Color Guard—Chaired by Capt. Paul Burreight
- Medals and Awards—Chaired by Ted Powell
- History—Chaired by Chapter Historian—**Open**

If you would like to take on an open role within the Chapter, please let an Officer know, as well as if you would like to serve on one of these committees. The Chapter Constitution and By-Laws are posted on the Omaha page of the Nebraska SAR website.

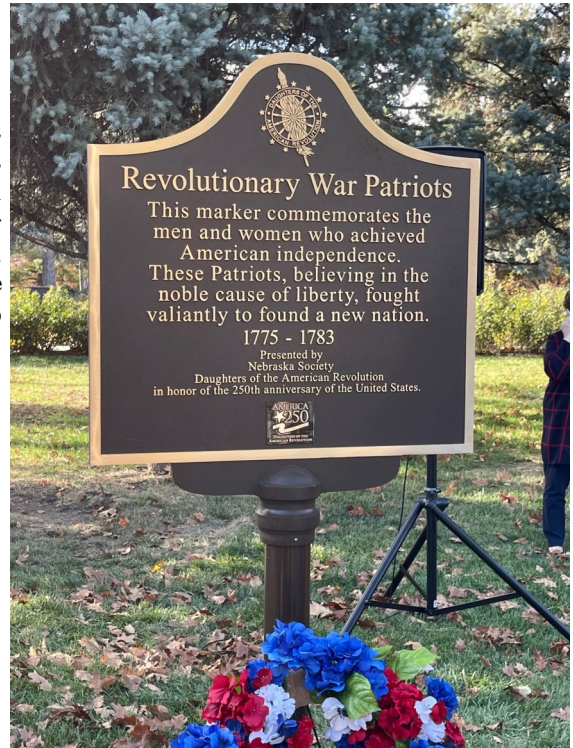


DISPATCHES FROM THE COLOR GUARD



November 6, 2022—Memorial Park—Omaha, NE

The Nebraska SAR helped support the Nebraska DAR in the dedication of their America 250 marker at Memorial Park in Omaha, NE. This marker is the first of four planned markers throughout the State of Nebraska by the end of 2023. This was our largest Color Guard muster since our 1st Compatriot Grave Marking back in 2019. We had 10 guardsmen mustered for the event, including our North Central District Vice President-General, Chris Moberg, from Minnesota, and Former VP-G, Mike Rowley, from Iowa. We truly appreciate them both making the drive in from out of town to participate with us!





DISPATCHES FROM THE COLOR GUARD



November 13, 2022—Veteran’s Day Parade—Lincoln, NE

Our luck with great weather for the Lincoln Veteran’s Day Parade, finally ran out. While it was sunny for the parade, the temperature was in the low 30’s and the wind was quite blustery! While the weather was chilly, it was not Valley Forge cold, and for that we were thankful!! If there was one thing our ancestors did, it was dress in layers, so we all did fine, especially once the procession started moving.

We had a number of members muster for the parade. Commander Chad Sherrets, Paul Burreight, Shawn Stoner, John Braisted, and prospective member Adam Ensign, all marched with banner, flags, and muskets. Nebraska SAR President, Tom Upton, Terry Springer, and DAR member Evelyn Braisted all rode in President Upton’s car behind the Color Guard.

Thank you to everyone who participated. It was another outstanding event as the face of the Nebraska SAR!!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2022

Wreaths Across America is a nationwide event that was held this year on Saturday, December 17, at 11am CST. The event was started at Arlington National Cemetery in 1992, by Morrill Worcester, to honor the veterans buried there. It was a quiet tribute for many years. Then in 2005, a photo of Arlington, with all of the wreaths adorning the gravesites, circulated the internet, and the



event gained popularity, and grew exponentially, nationwide. Today, over 2.2 million wreaths are laid at over 2000 locations nationwide. It has grown into a great public event to honor our country's veterans over the holidays.

For the past couple of years, the Omaha Chapter has been fundraising partner, getting friends, family, and Nebraska SAR members, to donate to sponsor a wreath for the event at Omaha National Cemetery.



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members, to donate to sponsor a wreath for the event at Omaha National Cemetery.

The Chapter received 117 wreath sponsorships for 2022, which is an improvement on prior years. The Officers of the Omaha Chapter plan to increase our efforts in 2023 and do a few more things within the com-



wreath first, to place it on their loved one's grave. Afterward, the rest of the public volunteers grabbed wreaths and fanned out among the remaining tombstones to honor the dead, laying 3200 wreaths.

The Omaha Chapter wanted to give a big Thank You! To all of you who volunteered at the ceremony, or took the time to sponsor a wreath for the event. It is very much appreciated and we thank you for supporting Wreaths Across America and the Omaha SAR!



Year End Registrar Report

<u>New Members Approved—14</u>		<u>Supplementals Approved—13</u>	<u>Reinstatements—3</u>	
Adrian Sanders	Fredd Fisher	Compatriot Nick Mizaur—8	Thomas Rahn	Jeffrey Sill
Mark Byars	Jim Gansemer	Compatriot Chuck Real—2	Donald Proett	
Anton Kerrigan	Grant Kerrigan	Compatriot Andrew Sullivan—1		
Carroll Marcellus	Damian Corrigan	Compatriot Drew Whitler—1	<u>Active Applications still in process</u>	
Robert Wolf	Craig Noah	Compatriot Todd Vetter—1	New at National—4	
Anthony Lang, Jr.	John Lang		Supplemental at National—5	
Jacob Lang	Josh Plueger	<u>We had a total of 31 new member inquiries online in 2022.</u>	Pended—7	
			Applications being worked/still finding proof documents—10	

We had a lot of good movement this year on applications and Compatriots submitting Supplemental Patriot applications. We started our DAR referral program this year and had some success, with 4 of our new members this year coming from DAR referrals. There are more in the pipeline for 2023. Even though we had a few apps that did not pass muster and were pended for further proof, this is the most approved applications we have had in a single year in quite some time.

Congratulations to all new members and approved supplementals. We are continuing to receive a good number of new member inquiries online and are following up on those. We are still in need of a Chapter Registrar for the Lincoln Chapter. If you are willing to help, please contact the State Registrar. If you have a referral for a new member, please have them contact the State Registrar.

Year End Treasurer’s Report

This report summarizes the conclusion for the membership renewal year. The status of the State Treasury is in fine shape for the upcoming year.

103 members renewed their membership. This translates to an 89 % retention rate with 43% making a donation to the events we support. The budget that will be presented at the State meeting in April focuses on the following expenses: secretarial and registrar expenses, state newsletter "Husker Patriot", meeting room at Mahoney State Park, First Responders, Eagle Scout Scholarship, Color Guard, Flag Certificates, Wreaths Across America, America 250, Grave Markings and recognition for the service of our fellow Compatriots..

It is with regret that four members passed away during the past year. These members will be memorialized through a contribution of \$50 each to the Eagle Scout Scholarship CD.at the time the CD matures.

A special thanks to all Compatriots for supporting our endeavors. This support is really appreciated.

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, Stan 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

1st Quarter 2023 Meetings and Events

Saturday, Jan 7—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

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

Saturday, Feb 4—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Tuesday, Feb 14—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha NE

Saturday, Feb 18—American Heritage Luncheon, Lincoln, NE, 12pm

Wednesday, Feb 22—Washington's Birthday

Friday, Mar 4—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 11:00am, Gere Branch Library, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, Mar 11—DAR America 250 Marker Dedication, Kearney, NE

Tuesday, Mar 14—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse, Omaha, NE

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

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



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

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

List Revolutionary War service information and list source.

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

SAMPLE BIO

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

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

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

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