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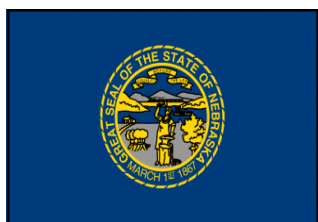
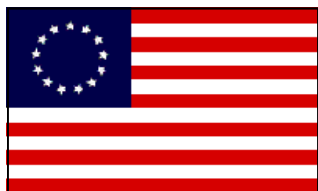


PATRIOT

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Husker Patriot

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Inside this issue:

The Presidents Corner	1
NE Meeting & Awards	2
Meetings and Events	3
Longtime Members and	3
1812 Rededication	3
Members Corner	4
Meet My Patriot	4
Chapter Activities	5
Nebraska Society	6
Officers	
ROTC/JROTC Pictures	6

Nebraska SAR Society Spring Meeting Held April 14, 2013

President's Corner During my last year as the Nebraska Society president, I look forward to working with all of you to expand our membership and to continue to reach out to the people in our community to share our love of country, the principles of liberty, our Constitutional Republic and the obligation we have to our forefathers. As always, for me, the highlight of the day during our Society Spring Meeting at Mahoney State Park on Sunday, April 14th was the Awards Ceremony.



We had some outstanding individuals and it was my honor and privilege to present to them their awards. Also, we had two individuals who received longevity Certificates. One for being a member of the SAR for 60 years. These awards and their stories are within the pages of this Newsletter. We are off to a great start in new members so far this year with ten being approved by National. Great work. Fred Walden



SAR APPLICATIONS

Please mail all new member and supplemental application to our NE SAR State Secretary: **Compatriot Dr. David K. Kentsmith, M.D. 16902 S. HWY 50 Springfield, NE 68059 - 4827** If you need to contact Compatriot Kentsmith, he may be reached by phone at 402-253-2577 or by email at: **K-NESAR@Q.COM**

Infamous



"Brown Bess"



Robert Chandler and Robert Hale receiving longevity Certificates from President Walden.



President Walden with Major Marvin at the ROTC Awards ceremony at Creighton Univ.



Lunch at Mahoney State Park during Nebraska SAR Spring Meeting.

NESSAR Spring Meeting was held April 14, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Walden at 2:00 pm. A quorum was certified by the Secretary. After the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the SAR there was the Invocation by Compatriot Rev. Dr. James Hoke. The Secretary announced all the State officers and members of the Board of Counselors were present except Omaha Vice-President Thomas Conley. The President then introduced the Past Nebraska SAR Presidents. After the introduction of members and guests we had the presentation of awards. President Walden had the honor to

present some special awards to deserving individuals: Distinguished Service Medal to Robert Knott; Patriot Medal to John Parsons and the Meritorious Service Medal to LaVerne Stetson. President Walden then presented longevity awards to two individuals: Robert Hale for 60 years and Robert Chandler for 20 years. The President then called for the Officers' Reports. Dr. David Kentsmith gave the Secretary's report; Vice President John Reinert gave the status of the Audit Report; Treasurer William Webb gave the financial status of the State Society; Registrar Thomas Masters and Robert

Knott gave the report on new applications and supplementals. Handouts were provided to the members. John Reinert gave the report on the Board of Counselors. Robert Knott, Chairman of the Awards Committee gave his report and handouts were provided to the members. There was a discussion concerning the requirements to earn the new Nebraska SAR Medal as well as the color of the drape to be used with the Silver and Gold Medal. After some discussion it was felt we should continue working on establishing a third Chapter in the western part of the state. Cont'd on page 5, Column 3

NEBRASKA SOCIETY AWARDS PRESENTED DURING SPRING MEETING AT MAHONEY STATE PARK

BY NEBRASKA STATE PRESIDENT FRED WALDEN

Robert L. Knott receiving the Distinguished Service Medal from State President Fred Walden.



Robert, as an active participant is a "doer" always willing to take on or volunteer for any task in the State and local SAR "just getting it done". As Omaha

Chapter Secretary and President was directly responsible for increasing participating membership by 200 %. As State SAR President during 2008 & 2009, he helped unify the State organization and insured the re-writing of the State Constitution and by-laws. Three years ago, initiated and began publishing a quarterly, highly illustrated State Society newsletter. He also authored an illustrated procedure manual for the State Awards Program. President Walden said, "Your accomplishments certainly warrant this presentation."

John T. Parsons receiving the Patriot Medal from State President Fred Walden.



John has served as the Omaha Chapter President 2000—2001, Omaha Chapter Treasurer 2006 to the present time, Nebraska State President 2004—2006, State National Trustee 2011 to the present, member

State Board of Counselors—advisory to the State President. As State President he was instrumental in re-vitalizing the State Society and increased membership at least by 200 %. He re-established Jr. ROTC awards program especially for the Omaha Chapter at 15 local high schools in Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa area. He revitalized the Omaha Chapter in initiating regular monthly meetings, recruited and increased membership by 300 % and was the 1st sponsor on over 15 new membership applications. President Walden said, "It gives me great pleasure to award this Patriot medal to you."

LaVerne E. Stetson receiving the Meritorious Service Medal from State President Fred Walden.



LaVerne has served two years as the President of the Lincoln Chapter, two years as the State President and is currently Secretary / Treasurer of the Lincoln Chapter. He has and continues to

produce outstanding results as an officer of the Nebraska Society. LaVerne continues to produce outstanding results as an officer of the Nebraska Society. While State President he was instrumental in creating the State Audit Committee as well as the State Constitution and By Laws Committee and served well in their update, rewriting and approval process LaVerne has done an excellent job in all that he has been asked to do and continues to be a strong advocate of the SAR and gives 100 percent. President Walden said, "It is my pleasure and honor to present to you this Meritorious Service medal."

LONGTIME MEMBERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES AT STATE MEETING

One of the most important aspects of our Society and the SAR is keeping up our membership. What better way of showing our support for the Sons of the American Revolution and patriotism for our country than continuing our membership in this organization. One of our Compatriots receiving a Certificate was Robert H. Hale, from Des Moines, Iowa who has been a member for 60 years. Mr. Hale's father was also a Nebraska SAR member out of the Lincoln Chapter and his brother John who lives in Georgia is also an active member. Also receiving a Certificate was Robert V. Chandler, from the Lincoln Chapter who has been an active member for over 20 years.



Robert H. Hale receiving his 60 year Certificate from President Fred Walden at our Spring State Meeting. Robert V. Chandler is shown at our Spring State Meeting receiving his 20 year Certificate from President Fred Walden.



Thanks to all of the longtime members who know the importance of continuing our membership in this great organization.

ROTC & JROTC AWARDS

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

Dr. David Kentsmith, M.D.

- Fred Walden
- John Parsons
- Robert Knott
- Bill Webb
- Thomas Conley
- Jason Huff
- Richard Ewing
- Chaplain James Hoke

The following are the ROTC and JROTC Cadets who received awards:

- William Lane, Jr.-Benson HS
- Christopher Hopkins, Bellevue East HS
- Seth Sturch, Bellevue West HS
- Cody Anderson, Burke HS
- Atley Christensen, Jr., Central HS
- Troy Flud, North HS
- Mario Jimenez, Northwest HS
- David Crosby, Omaha South HS
- Ben Thornburg, Papillion-LaVista South
- Aleisha Stanford, Plattsmouth, HS
- Jesse Way, Creighton Univ.
- Jason Rogers, Univ. of NE Omaha
- Ryan Grealish, Univ. of NE Lincoln
- Alyssa Selberg, Univ. of NE Lincoln
- Peter Hansen, Univ. of NE Lincoln



In remembrance of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, U.S.D. 1812 rededicated a historical plaque placed at Central High School over 100 years ago. In attendance were Compatriots William Webb, Robert Knott and Fred Walden. Robert Knott brought Greetings from the Sons of the War of 1812 and State President Fred Walden brought Greetings from the Nebraska SAR.

2012-13 Meetings and Events

- Jul 5, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am Eastmont Towers**
- Jul 9, NO Omaha Chapter Meeting**
- Aug 2, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am Eastmont Towers**
- Aug 13, NO Omaha Chapter Meeting**
- Sep 6, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am Eastmont Towers**
- Sep 10, Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:00 pm Venice Inn**
- Sep 22, Nebraska Society Meeting, 1:00 pm Lodge, Mahoney State Park**
- Oct 4, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am Eastmont Towers**
- Oct 8, Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:00 pm Venice Inn**
- Nov 1, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am Eastmont Towers**
- Nov 12, Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:00 pm Venice Inn**
- Dec 6, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am Eastmont Towers**



State President Fred Walden and his wife Janet traveled to Kearney, NE where Fred brought greetings from the Nebraska Society of the SAR during the Nebraska State DAR Conference, held from March 21 through the 23rd. Also in attendance was DAR President General Merry Ann Wright who was the Guest of Honor. Fred and Merry Ann had the opportunity to discuss various activities of interest between the two Societies.

Member's 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 eleven Newsletters published and distributed to our members. I would like to ask you to again take a good look at these Newsletters and let me 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 "My American Revolution Ancestors" By LaVerne Stetson



Levi Stetson

My ancestor was Levi Stetson born in Abington, MA. in June of 1747. In the Revolutionary War, he was a Corporal in Capt. E Hamblin's Co. in 1775 and a Sergeant in Captain Nathan Snow's company in 1777. Both companies were from Abington, MA. Levi was the fifth son of Peleg Stetson and the 5th generation of Coronet Robert Stetson who came to Scituate, Massachusetts in 1632. After the Revolutionary War he and his wife Elizabeth Pratt moved to Plainfield, MA where he died in March of 1826. Levi and Elizabeth had nine children. Their fourth son Whitcomb Stetson is my direct ancestor. I am the 11th generation from Coronet Robert Stetson. Our family is traced two earlier generations in Modbury, England. The record says he was assigned to a secret mission and the following accounts give the story of the secret mission to Rhode Island in which Levi Stetson was a participant.

Secret Expedition to Rhode Island

Excerpts from an article by Sandra Ball: In April of 1777, as the Revolutionary War raged throughout all the lands of the now-declared United States of America, a little-known decision by Congress led to a dangerous mission calling on the ranks of the state of Rhode Island. British troops occupied Newport Island at the time, and it was the feeling of all that they should be removed. On April 16th, Congress resolved to recommend to the General Assembly of Rhode Island that with the assistance of both Massachusetts and Connecticut, they were to use all their power to rid the island of the unwanted troops. The recommendation was accepted wholeheartedly, and the preparations for attack began immediately. General Joseph Spencer was selected by General George Washington to take command. For the attack to be effective, it was agreed that it must be kept secret. So much pains were taken to fulfill this wish that it became known as the

"secret expedition." 1 Soldiers for the expedition were called up on September 22, 1777, consisting of one-half of the militia of Rhode Island and members of both the Massachusetts and Connecticut militias. All in all they formed a formidable army of 10,000 men, willing and eager to fight for the cause of freedom. The men were mobilized, trained, and then stationed at a little town called Tiverton near a stone bridge. The plan was to attack the British by boat but there was a lengthy delay in the preparations. It was nearly October before the expedition was ready for the attack. Richard M. Bayles, a historian of the nineteenth century, stated that the "delay caused great dissatisfaction among the troops, especially among those from Massachusetts; they attributed it to the want of tact and energy in their General." 1 With a sincere, but perhaps naive hunger for action-little did the men know of the terrors and blood of war-they waited for battle. General Spencer on leaving his Cont.'d on Page 5, Col 1

Levi Stetson Cont.'d from Page 4 quarters one morning during the long wait, found the following verse, written in large letters, placed in full view of the public: "Israel wanted bread, The Lord sent them manna; Rhode Island wants a head, And Congress sends— a Granny!" After this, the Major-General was forever known as "Granny Spencer," a less than satisfying but probably not altogether unwarranted nickname, as long as he remained in Rhode Island. As the summer waned and autumn came in full force, a night was finally chosen for the American forces to cross over from Tiverton to the Island, and a large fleet of boats was prepared for the embarkation. The plan was to take the enemy by surprise in the middle of the night. Col. Hawes, Colonel of one of the Massachusetts militia regiments which was to be among the first to embark, made a speech to his regiment "encouraging them to behave like men, and to win for themselves the title of heroes and patriots in their country's cause." Although seldom seen in the history books, the Colonel's words were indeed inspiring. "Perhaps," said he, "this night will be our last, but if it is, let us go to sleep in the arms of glory."2

Inspired as the men may have been, they could not fight Mother Nature. For good or ill depending on who offered an opinion, heavy gales of wind arrived, dashing hopes of the boats making safe passage. 2 The attack was postponed and the embarkation point changed to a landing place above Fogland Ferry. Again the weather was against them, and since the British were now aware of the attack, some of the boats were

fired upon. The whole affair was abandoned at that time, the value of secrecy quenched by the enemy having gotten information of their plan. The troops had become uneasy, some of their earlier courage and hastiness chilled by reason and the arduous wait, and so many of the men had already marched off that it was said there were only about 5000 troops left. In the end, it would not matter. On October 17, 1777, a flag arrived at Newport from Providence, with the news of the surrender of the British General, Burgoyne, and his army to the American forces. General Spencer's "secret expedition" was over, harshly branded a failure. A court of inquiry was later held in Providence, and a report was issued exonerating General Spencer from fault, and assigning the cause of the expedition's failure to Palmer's brigade. It was concluded that they were to supposed to have the boats ready the first night set for the attack. Much blame was also placed on the bad weather.

Sources: 1. History of Newport County Rhode Island by Richard M. Bayles, L.E. Preston & Co. 1888 2. Spirit of '76 in Rhode Island on Sketches of the efforts of the Government and People 3. History of Rhode Island, by Rev. Edward Peterson, John S. Taylor, Pub. 1853.

What my Membership means to me: "My membership in the SAR is highly prized and appreciated by me. The associations are enjoyable, as well as inspiring. In addition, my membership in this patriotic organization serves to revive a full appreciation of the sacrifices made by our forefathers for the establishment of our great Republic. The priceless principles of government which have been handed down to us by the founding fathers should ever be maintained and cherished by this and all succeeding generations."

William M. Tuck—U.S. Congressman (VA)

Cont'd from Page 2 (Spring Mtg) After a discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed that the requirements for the Nebraska Medals be amended as follows: For the Silver Medal which is classified as a Chapter Medal the following are **deleted**: Paragraph 2 b, that reads: 3. Presenting the principal program for at least two meetings. Paragraph 2 b, that reads: 4. Writing an article for the Society Newsletter. For the Gold Medal which is classified as a Society Medal **the following are deleted**: Paragraph 2 c, that reads: 3. Presenting the principal program for at least two meetings. Paragraph 3 b, that reads: 4. Writing an article for the Society Newsletter on the Members Patriot. **Paragraph 6** which indicates that the earned medals and oak leaf clusters would be supplied by the NESSAR Medals and Awards Program at no cost **is changed** to read as follows: 6. Respective secretaries will submit by name, requests listing qualifying service per year to the NESSAR Medals & Awards Chairman, who currently is Shawn Stoner at shawnstoner84@gmail.com, no later than 31 December for presentation at the subsequent annual meeting. Members earning the silver and gold medals as well as the bronze, silver and gold oak leaf clusters will be eligible to purchase them from the NESSAR Medals & Awards Chairman. Members who met the requirements set forth in paragraphs 2b and c above in past years, are considered to have earned the right to purchase and wear these medals. If anyone has concerns or ideas, please contact Fred Walden, Nebraska Medal Committee Chairman at fred.walden@cox.net. Also, there was a consensus we should continue working on establishing a third Chapter in the western part of Nebraska. It was felt there are sufficient members who live in the western part of the state to warrant another Chapter. Shawn Stoner of the Lincoln Chapter will continue looking into this possibility.

MORE PICTURES AND STORIES



JROTC Cadet Seth Sturch, Bellevue West HS, receiving his SAR Medal and Certificate from Compatriot Robert Knott.



ROTC Cadet Jason Rogers, Univ. of NE Omaha, receiving his SAR Medal and Certificate from Compatriot Dr. David Kentsmith, MD.



JROTC Cadet Aleisha Stanford, Plattsmouth HS, receiving her SAR Medal and Certificate from Compatriot John Parsons.



JROTC Cadet Mario Jimenez, Northwest HS, receiving his SAR Medal and Certificate from President Fred Walden.



JROTC Cadet Ben Thornburg, Papillion-LaVista South receiving his SAR Medal and Certificate from Compatriot Richard Ewing.

Quote by Patrick Henry, March 23, 1775: Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

Benson High School Magnet JROTC Students will take part in D - Day Parade. The National D-day 70 Years Committee has selected **Benson JROTC** to participate in the D-Day Memorial Parade. Twenty-five cadets and their instructors were chosen to represent the **State of Nebraska** and will have opportunity to tour historic battlefields and experience history firsthand. In order to take part in this educational opportunity, the cadets need to raise \$75,000 to cover air fare, in country transportation and lodging fees. D-Day June 6, 2014 will mark the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings and the Liberation of Europe. The French Village of Sainte-Mere-Eglise will host the D-Day 70th Anniversary Parade and the American Musical Salute to liberation. This event has been recognized



**NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS
2012-2013**

- President: Fred Walden, Omaha
- 1st Vice President: John Reinert, Lincoln
- 2nd Vice President: Dr. David Kentsmith, M.D., Omaha
- Secretary: Dr. David Kentsmith, M.D., Omaha
- Treasurer: William Webb, Omaha
- Registrar: Thomas Masters, Lincoln
- Deputy Registrar: Robert Knott, Omaha
- Trustee: John Parsons, Omaha
- Alt. Trustee: Dr. David Kentsmith, MD., Omaha

**BOARD OF COUNSELORS
2012-2013**

- Chairman: Fred Walden, Omaha
- 1st Vice President: John Reinert, Lincoln
- 2nd Vice President: Dr. David Kentsmith, M.D., Omaha
- Secretary: Dr. David Kentsmith, M.D., Omaha
- Treasurer: William Webb, Omaha
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- Deputy Registrar: Robert Knott, Omaha
- Chap. President: William Webb, Omaha
- Chap. Vice President: Thomas Conley, Omaha
- Chap. Secretary: Richard Ewing, Omaha
- Chap. President: Dr. James Hoke, Lincoln
- Chap. Vice President: Shawn Stoner, Lincoln
- Chap. Secretary: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln
- Past State President: Merle Rudebusch, Lincoln
- Past State President: John Parsons, Omaha

by numerous veterans associations, community organizations, and military and government officials and will provide participants and spectators an opportunity to salute those men and women who have and continue to sacrifice for our nation. Benson's JROTC program is asking for monetary donations to assist in their goal of \$75,000 to cover air fare, in country transportation and meals for 25 Cadets and their Instructors. The Omaha SAR Chapter has donated \$250.00 towards their efforts.