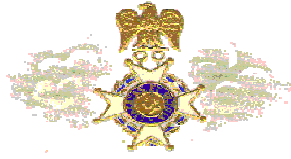


Sons of the American Revolution

HUSKER

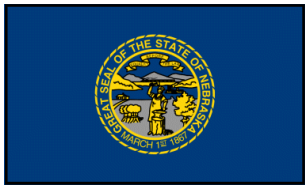
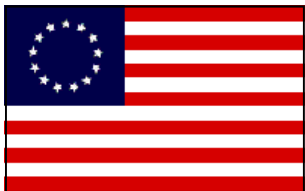
PATRIOT



Issue 3

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Spring 2011



Husker Patriot

Publisher

William Webb

Editor

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Webmasters

Dr. David K. Kentsmith, M.D.
Merle Rudebusch

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~NESAR/

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Nebraska SAR Society Spring Meeting Held April 10, 2011

Presidents Corner:

First of all I wish to express my personal thanks and appreciation to all of our Chapter and State Officers for their continuing service to our Society. Their expertise and leadership in this past year has been greatly appreciated and their continuing hard work greatly contributed to a most successful Annual Spring Meeting of our Nebraska Society. We are well into another year and I ask each of



you to resolve to attend your chapter meetings, participate in chapter activities by sharing your unique talents. We have many areas in which you may serve and once you become involved you will reap rewards. I look forward to working with all of you to expand our membership and to continue to reach out to the community to share our love of country and the principles of liberty our forefathers fought and died for.
LaVerne Stetson



SAR APPLICATIONS

Please mail all new member and supplemental application to our NE SAR State Secretary: **Compatriot 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"

Nebraska SAR Society Spring Photos



NESSAR Spring Meeting was held April 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President LaVerne Stetson 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 John Reinert. The President then called for the roll of Officers and then introduced the Past Nebraska SAR Presidents. After the introduction of members and guests we had the presentation of awards. The Essay winner, for our Eagle Scout award was Jacob Terneus, which was presented by Compatriot and Awards Chair Merle Rudebusch.

Volunteer Fireman Rhonda Cerny of the Linwood, NE Volunteer Fire Department received the Fire Safety Commendation Award. She couldn't be there and the award was accepted by State Fire Marshal John Falgione. Rhonda was later presented the award at the Linwood Fire Department with

her peers and family in attendance.

Fred Walden, Chair of the Audit Committee gave a report on the State Treasury. Treasurer William Webb gave the financial status of the State Society. Tom Masters gave the Registrars Report. National Trustee Fred Walden gave a presentation with slides on his trip to National SAR March 2011 Leadership meeting. Board of Counselors report by John Reinert. Bob Knott, Chair of the Awards Committee gave the report. Bob Knott requested approval for an Operating Procedures manual concerning the Committees used by the Nebraska Society. Merle Rudebusch discussed the Eagle Scout Revocable Trust Time Certificate. Merle Rudebusch and Bill Webb, Nominating Committee gave their report on the National Trustee and Alternate Trustee for 2011.

President Stetson, in New Business, discussed

the funding of cash awards other than for Eagle Scout and other donations. Merle Rudebusch saved framed copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights from a Lincoln Public School that was clearing their storage area. The framed documents were presented by the Lincoln SAR Chapter in 1948. Merle has arranged for the GAR Museum in Elmwood, Nebraska to house the documents. The framed documents will be presented to the GAR Museum by Lincoln Chapter Compatriot Merle Rudebusch during a program at the GAR Museum on May 28, 2011. Merle Rudebusch also advised that the Lincoln Chapter bought a copy of the new SAR Directory and has presented it to the Union College Library for their genealogy section.



Eagle Scout Jacob Terneus of Bellevue, Nebraska son of Michael and Denise Terneus received the Nebraska SAR Society's 2011 Essay Award at the Spring State Meeting of the Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution held at Mahoney State Park Lodge 10 April 2011. Jacob is pictured with his parents and 3 younger brothers along with (left) Past Nebraska SAR President and Eagle Scout Award Chairperson Merle Rudebusch and current Nebraska State SAR President LaVerne Stetson (right). After Eagle Scout Terneus received the award which included a monetary stipend, he was invited to read his essay on patriot Francis Marion. It was well received.



The Nebraska Society honored Volunteer Fireman Rhonda L. Cerny of the Linwood Volunteer Fire Department with the Sons of the American Revolution Fire Safety Commendation Award. This was presented at the Linwood Fire Department with her family and peers in attendance during their monthly meeting 18 April 2011. Rhonda is currently serving as fire department secretary, fire prevention officer and firefighter. She has provided guidance to the East-Central Fire Prevention Coop, Northeast Fire Prevention Coop, and virtually aided every other fire prevention coop when they have requested someone to help get them on the right path of fire prevention. She will teach fire prevention wherever asked.



Fred Walden our State Trustee attended the NSSAR Spring Leadership meeting in Louisville, where he sat in on the Merchandise meeting, Website Seminar, Medals and Awards meeting, One Thousand Club/GWF Breakfast. He was a drop-in at the Council of State Presidents meeting as well as another where he received an award during the day on Friday. Fred was also invited to attend the Council of VPG's meeting by our NCVPG Mr. William Lees. There was also the Friday evening banquet. Saturday Fred attended the Leadership and Trustee luncheon and in the afternoon attended the Trustee meeting where some of the nominations for 2011-12 were announced. The final event was the banquet on Saturday night.

2011 Meetings and Events

May 6, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, Eastmont

5:00 pm Towers

May 10, Omaha Chapter Meeting, Venice Inn

6:00 pm

May 30 Wyuka Cemetery Walk

9:00 am

Jun 3, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, Eastmont

5:00 pm Towers



“If the American Revolution had produced nothing but the Declaration of Independence, it would have been worthwhile.” Samuel Eliot Morison, American historian 1887-1976

Jun-Jul-Aug 2011: No Meetings by Omaha Chapter

Jul 1, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, Eastmont

5:00 pm Towers

Aug 5, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, Eastmont

5:00 pm Towers

Sep 2, Lincoln Chapter Meeting, Eastmont

5:00 pm Towers

Sep 13, Omaha Chapter Meeting, Venice Inn

6:00 pm

NEBRASKA STATE SAR MEETING



Our Nebraska Trustee, Fred Walden attended the Dakotas Society annual meeting in April as prospective North-Central Vice President General. Fred gave a report on the development of the new National Library and improvements that are in stage two for the completion of the program. They entrusted to Fred a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be presented to National during the 123rd Congress in Winston-Salem, NC in July. They will certainly be recognized for this. Fred stated that this group of people are working very hard to display their American Heritage and remembering their ancestors and all Americans who have worked so hard to keep America free. The Dakotas now have 95 members, an all time high in 2010. They also awarded 15 ROTC medals at the college level and 8 JROTC medals at the high school level. Congratulations to all.

Last year Volunteer Fireman Bob Tichota was recognized by the Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution with the Fire Safety Commendation Award. When the State Fire Marshal suggested that come meet-year about tic saved illy per-fatal jumped chance.



They asked the young man where he had learned what to do in case of a fire or danger and he told them he had learned it from Bob Tichota. Fireman Tichota teaches Fire Prevention in schools and he was instrumental in getting this effort off the ground and helping it grow. I'm sure Bob will have other interesting stories to pass along in the future. We are so glad that Bob Tichota was available to come to our meeting this year and share this story with us.



William Lees, Vice-President General for the North Central Region attended the Nebraska Society's Spring State Meeting at Mahoney State Park Lodge 10 April 2011. He was the invited guest of Nebraska's National Trustee, Fred Walden who introduced and honored Compatriot Lees who is a WWII veteran and retired from the Air Force. VPG Lees has represented the north central region of the SAR which includes Iowa, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Minnesota for many years. He was a guest of the Omaha Chapter of the SAR in 2008. Compatriot Lees attended the Nebraska State Meeting with his wife Inez. They have been married 70 years and live in a retirement residence in Boone, Iowa. He commended the NESSAR in their increased participation. It was certainly a joy and a privilege for us to have the Lees attend our State meeting at Mahoney State Park.

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 three Newsletters published and distributed to our members. I would like to ask you now to take a good look at these Newsletters and let me know what you would like to see in future editions. 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 PATRIOT

(Part one of two)

By Richard Ewing

This is the first in a two part series on my Patriot ancestor William "Swago Bill" Ewing. In this first part we will explore why the Battle of Point Pleasant was significant and why it is considered to be the "First Battle of the Revolution". To give some perspective to the time frame let us remember that the Boston Massacre took place March 5, 1770 and the Boston Tea Party December 16, 1773. Two events certainly most people would connect to the Revolution. Our first Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia Oct 5th - Sep 26th 1774.

In May 1774 the Indians had already been incited in making attacks upon the inhabitants below the Ohio River and the frontiersmen were calling for support. It is an established fact that emissaries of Great Britain were inciting the Indians to hostilities against the frontier for the purpose of distracting attention, and thus preventing the formation of any Unionization of the colonies. These and other events show that we were in fact in a state of war with England even though it had not officially been declared yet. **The Battle of Point Pleasant**, took place on October 10th 1774. It preceded Lexington and Concord by six months and even though it was fought under the British flag, it was strictly fought by

American patriots. This battle generally regarded as the first battle of the Revolution aided the American cause by it having such a devastating effect on the Ohio Indians that it was at least two years before they were able to make any other attacks. It is believed by many historians to have been conceived by the English for the very purpose of distracting the colonies thoughts away from independence. At the very least had the battle been lost the course of history would have forever been changed and the Revolution itself would have likely been snuffed out and forgotten or at least severely delayed and allowing the British to establish sufficient forces and arms to quell any organized resistance. The battle of Point Pleasant also became a training war for men who were not yet hardened to bloody conflict. It tested the nerve and found it in great abundance in Morgan's sharpshooters; it battle trained the men for King's Mountain and for the Cowpens; it steeled the men who would later follow George Rogers Clark through the swamps on his conquest of the Illinois. In winning the battle the Virginia Militia derailed the British expansion of Canada south to the Ohio River. The key is the importance of the Quebec Act. If Point Pleasant had been a British victory Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan would be Canadian, consistent with the Quebec Act. . As Vir-

ginia victory it displaced British authority from the Ohio Valley, preserved Virginia's sovereignty over present day Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and lands west. Giving to the fledgling American empire an area that now comprises five states; the very heart of the new forming Republic. The Battle of Point Pleasant was the first decisive conflict of the Revolutionary War; for had the issue been otherwise and had it turned out as Lord Dunmore expected and hoped it would, the people of the Colonies would have submitted, they would have acquiesced in the tyranny of the English crown. They would be in a frontier war with the Indians and would have been unable and unwilling to engage in a war for independence. Failure to defeat the Ohio tribes would have meant fighting a two-front war during the critical early stages of the Revolution before the Saratoga victory, October 17, 1777, and the resulting French alliance. Such a two-front war might have brought defeat to the infant independence movement. Thus by the swift and decisive winning of the battle it enabled Virginia (instead of having to protect her frontier) to go into the Revolution with battle tested men. If the Indians had destroyed the Virginia Militia at their remote encampment, Virginia would have been weakened just as the Revolution was beginning to start. It was that same militia that later expelled Lord

Dunmore and the British Army from Virginia. Thus keeping Virginia from falling under British this preserved the lines of control and communication for the colonies, and forced the British in turn to get their reinforcements from Quebec "through the wilderness of Saratoga" rather than the established roads from Alexandria, VA. Had Point Pleasant been lost perhaps George Washington himself may have been reluctant to have accepted the job to command the troops in the north, and decided to stay instead in Virginia to protect his ancestral home, Mt. Vernon. In the end, without the victory at Point Pleasant, the United States would have found its western boundary to have been located along the Allegheny Mountains, with Kentucky and the Old Northwest Territory having remained British Indian Territory.

The Battle of Point Pleasant made possible the settlement of the Kentucky wilderness in the next years of 1775 and 1776. These settlements became a basis of operations, for General George Rogers Clark in his conquest of the Illinois Country in 1777-1778; Creation of Illinois County, by the Virginia Assembly in 1778, meant the civil government was extended to the Mississippi. The Treaty Convention at Paris in 1783, made that river, and not the crest of the Alleghenies, the western boundary of the new American Nation.

Point Pleasant gave us some immense figures in the Revolutionary War; men like Gen. Andrew Lewis and Gen. Daniel Morgan. One could also argue that the battle also gave us George Rogers Clark; although he took no part in the battle itself he was a scout with the Dunmore division of the army. Morgan's sharpshooters were organized almost immediately after the battle was fought. It was on their way home Morgan learned of the Continental Congress held in Philadelphia and he immediately organized his now tested men into an alliance that was sworn to do battle for freedom and independence. Cornwallis after his surrender at Yorktown remarked to Morgan that he commanded the most magnificent regiment in the world. Andrew Lewis won fame in the Battle of Point Pleasant, and when Washington was made Commander-in-

chief he insisted that Lewis was more capable for the trying position and urged that he be selected instead. We know the importance the Battle of Point Pleasant, but how do we know it was part of a larger British plot to dissuade patriot attentions from fighting with the mother country? Let's review some facts that show the duplicity of Dunmore. Lord Dunmore was the last Royal provincial Governor of the territory. It is well known that Lord Dunmore was an enemy of the colonists, his efforts to induce the Indians to cooperate with the English and thus reduce Virginia to subjection is undeniable. With the hostilities against the crown building in the Colonies the Colonial Assembly recommended the formation of a committee to communicate their concerns to leaders in Great Britain. Dunmore immediately dissolved the Assembly. Dunmore saw rising unrest in the colony and sought to deprive Virginia militia of supplies needed for insurrection. The Second Virginia Convention had elected delegates to the Continental Congress. On 23 March 1775, Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give me Liberty, or give me Death!" speech at the Second Convention and the accompanying resolution calling for forming an armed resistance force made Dunmore think it prudent to remove some Gunpowder. Dunmore gave a key to the commander of H.M.S. *Magdalen*, and ordered him to remove the powder, and threatened to lay Williamsburg in ashes at the first sign of insurrection, provoking what became known as the Gunpowder Incident. April, 1775, before the Virginians had all returned home from Point Pleasant, The battles of Lexington and Concord had occurred. Dunmore then led the British war effort in Virginia and proclaimed freedom to all slaves who should take up arms against the "rebels", and declared martial law throughout Virginia. He next sent marauding parties and began to lay waste to the Virginia countryside. Virginians quickly organized militias for defense, and repulsed Dunmore at Great Bridge, VA. He withdrew to his ships at Norfolk, and when the town would not furnish supplies to him, cannonaded the town and set it on fire. Ironically, just 14 months after supposedly being allies at point Pleasant, it was Gen. Andrew Lewis and his colonial militia who were instrumental in expelling Dunmore and the British Army from Virginia. Before his expulsion, Dunmore sought to enlist American Indians as allies - the very Indians defeated by the Virginia colonial militia at Point Pleasant. It is believed that Dunmore had collaborated with them all along and deliberately isolated the colonial militia under Lewis and directed the Indians

to attack the sleeping militia before Dunmore and the British Royal Army arrived, in hope of eliminating the potentially troublesome colonial militia. That Dunmore was duplicitous and aided the Indians at Point Pleasant seems to be incontrovertible, and Dunmore's actions in the following year, 1775 would further point this out. General Lewis was so convinced immediately following the battle of Point Pleasant, of the treachery of Lord Dunmore. Lewis refused to obey any more of Dunmore's orders, and thus became the first American officer to disobey a superior British officer, and informed General Washington of his reasons. Further evidence of the collusion of the Indians with Dunmore at the time of the battle, It is known that Blue Jacket, a Shawnee chief, visited Dunmore's camp on the 9 Oct. the day before the battle and went straight from there to Point Pleasant, and that Indians went to confer with Dunmore immediately after the battle. Dunmore on the day of the battle remarked, "Lewis is probably having hot work about this time." The battle is not generally known due in part that the Militia, commanded by Gen Lewis, was formed and recruited en route to Camp Union, as they were on their way to the mouth of the Kanawha, (the place agreed upon for the uniting of the two wings of the forces, the other wing commanded by Dunmore himself), and thus no official roster was being prepared. The continuing events of the Revolution came so profusely and so fast as to preclude any further discussion or recording of the far-reaching significance of the battle of Point Pleasant, until much later in 1787, at the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, where Virginia patriotically contributed a large and generous part of the Northwest Territory to the United States, a direct result of the victory at Point Pleasant. This event being on the fringes of the distant frontier also did not have the communications to facilitate getting the word out on the battle and its significance. Had the battle taken place in a more populated New England city no doubt it would be recorded and taught to every school student today. Regrettably the educators of America and the textbooks taught in our schools are unspoken to this most exceptional historic event, the Battle of Point Pleasant should be made a part of the curriculum so our descendants should know the story of the men who fought in that battle. In the next installment I will cover more about the battle and Swago Bill before and after his service in this battle on the frontier.

MORE PICTURES OF OUR SPRING ANNUAL MEETING



Awards Chairman Bob Knott, Fireman and Mrs Bob Tichota, State Fire Marshal and Mrs John Falgione and NES-SAR President LaVerne Stetson.



Awards Chairman Bob Knott, Fireman Rhonda Cerny with award and LaVerne Stetson, NES-SAR President.



Compatriot Fred Walden presenting ROTC Cody Steen the SAR ROTC Medal and Certificate.



Compatriot Ewing presenting Cadet Arissa Benham the SAR JROTC Medal and Certificate.



Eagle Scout Committee Chairman Merle Rudebusch, Eagle Scout Jacob Terneus and NES-SAR President LaVerne Stetson.



Fred Walden presenting JROTC Cadet Austin Garrett the SAR JROTC Medal and Certificate.



Volunteer Fireman Rhonda L. Cerny of the Linwood Volunteer Fire Department with Awards Committee Chairman Bob Knott and State President LaVerne Stetson who presented Rhonda with the Award.



NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS

2010-2011

President: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln

1st Vice President: Fred Walden, Omaha

2nd Vice President: John Reinert, Lincoln

Secretary: Dr. David Kentsmith, M.D., Omaha

Treasurer: William Webb, Omaha

Registrar: Thomas Masters, Lincoln

Deputy Registrar: Robert Knott, Omaha

BOARD OF COUNSELORS

2010-2011

Chairman: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln

1st Vice President: Fred Walden, Omaha

2nd Vice President: John Reinert, Lincoln

Secretary: Dr. David Kentsmith, M.D., Omaha

Treasurer: William Webb, Omaha

Registrar: Thomas Masters, Lincoln

Deputy Registrar: Robert Knott, Omaha

Chapter Vice President: Thomas Conley

Trustee Fred Walden at the Dakota Society Annual Meeting



MORE SPRING PICTURES



Dr. David Kentsmith with Cadet Andrew Butler, UNO ROTC.



Dr. David Kentsmith with Cadet 1st Sgt Britney Cooper, Bryan HS JROTC & LTC Mark T. Strehle, Unit Comdr.



John Parsons with Cadet Andrew Montgomery, Plattsmouth HS JROTC.



Air Force Junior ROTC, NE 951
 Plattsmouth High School
 1912 East Highway 34
 Plattsmouth, NE 68048
 PH: (402) 296-3322 (ext 2173)
 FAX: (402) 296-3342



9 May 2011

The Plattsmouth High School Air Force Junior ROTC Awards Night was held at the school's auditorium on Wednesday, May 4th. John Parsons presented the Daughters of the American Revolution Award and scholarship check to Cadet Laura Brink. Your continued support of our cadets is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

 Michael P. Milburn, Col, USAF (Ret)
 Senior Aerospace Science Instructor



President LaVerne Stetson with Cadet Joseph Ely, Lincoln Northeast JROTC.

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

- Dr. David Kentsmith
- Dr. Judd Patton
- Ray Harris
- President LaVerne Stetson
- Bill Webb
- Fred Walden
- Richard Ewing
- John Parsons

ROTC & JROTC Cadets who received Awards:

- Cody Steen - Creighton U.
- Owen Barger - UNL
- Jared Mar - UNL
- Timothy Guenther - UNL
- Andrew Butler - UNO
- Chris Brocket - Bellevue E. H.S.
- Patrick Noyes - Bellevue E. H.S.
- Taylor Scott - Bellevue W. H.S.
- Brandon Estes - Benson H.S.
- Britney Cooper - Bryan H.S.
- Austin David - Burke H.S.
- Dayton Druen - Central H.S.
- Joseph Ely - Lincoln NE



John Parsons was asked to present the JROTC Award and Scholarship check from the local DAR Chapter to Cadet Laura Brink, Plattsmouth HS JROTC.

- Tyler Flud - North H.S.
- Austin Garrett - Northwest H.S.
- Juan Rodriquez - Omaha South H.S.
- Arissa Benham - Papillion South H.S.
- Andrew Montgomery - Plattsmouth H.S.

Long before Twitter, instant messaging, email, etc information was disseminated by tacking bits of information on wooden posts. The phrase **"Keep Me Posted"** originated during the Colonial Period when items of interest were actually tacked on huge wooden posts where people gathered.



Awards Chair Bob Knott, Bob and Mrs Tichota, State Fire Marshal John and Mrs Falgione and State President LaVerne Stetson.