

**Husker Patriot**

**Publisher**

William Webb

**Editor**

Robert L. Knott, Jr.

**Webmasters**

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

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# NESSAR Fall Meeting October 15, 2011 at 1PM

**Presidents Corner:**

I hope everyone had a great summer, despite the heat and flooding. We must now look forward to the next six months. The Annual Nebraska State SAR Fall Meeting will be October 15th, at 1 PM, again in the Lodge at Mahoney State Park. This will be a great time to see old friends and be a part of this great organization. We will be presenting awards to some very deserving individuals, one



from the Emergency Medical Services and one from Law Enforcement. It is important that all members attend these functions, especially the Fall and Spring Meetings. These Meetings make it such an easy way to remember and honor the sacrifices that our ancestors made for this great nation. Please get involved in a Chapter and attend the State Meetings. The Nebraska Society needs your involvement. Thank you for all your support.



**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](mailto:k-NESAR@Q.COM)

*Infamous*



*"Brown Bess"*



Fred Walden, left, at the microphone, Jim Say at the podium and David and Kitty Kentsmith in front of the American Flag. Photos taken at the 121st National Congress.

## What Takes Place at the National Congress

Each year the SAR holds its governing Congress at a selected hosted State site. This year the 121<sup>st</sup> Congress was hosted by the North Carolina State Society in Winston-Salem. The Congress is the body that directs the operation and focus of the SAR over the next year and elects National Officers for the next year. Each State SAR Society like Nebraska is represented by a delegation representative of the size of the State Society. The size of Nebraska allowed us 5 voting delegates based on its size of 90 dues paying members. The State Delegation is headed by the State Society President who can credential up to 5 Nebraska attendees to be voting members. This year the role as head of the delegation fell to Fred Walden the State

Vice-President who also is the individual elected last year to be the Trustee. Only three Nebraska State Society members attended – Fred Walden, James Say and David Kentsmith.

The State Society nominated dual member James Say (Illinois and Nebraska) and David Kentsmith to be Trustee and alternate Trustee. At the National Congress nominees for the position of State Trustee and alternate Trustee names submitted 30 days before the Congress are elected to be representatives for the State Society at all SAR National Meetings for the next year and until the next National Congress. All costs for attendance is paid for by the individual attendee and no Society money is used to support their expenses. One can expect to pay out of pocket about

\$700—\$1,000. Anyone nominated for Trustee must agree to attend the National Congress.

Once the Congress is called into session by the National SAR President General, all delegates meet as a: “meeting of the whole” to adopt rules, regulations and establish guidelines for the function of SAR operations for the next year. New officers are elected and new Trustees nominated by States are approved. The budget for the next year and approval of operating plans is done by majority vote. Elected Trustee and alternate are authorized to be voting members representing their State Society at any national SAR meeting during the next year until the next Congress.

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Fred Walden current Nebraska State 1st Vice-president was elected Vice-President General at the 121st National SAR Congress. Fred will represent the North Central Region (NE, IA, MN, No. and So. Dakota). The Congress was held July 2011 in Winston Salem, North Carolina. VP Walden replaces interim VP General William Lees who was from the Iowa Society. Fred was nominated for the National office by the Nebraska State Society and his nomination supported by the Regional Societies. At the National Congress, VP Walden accepted formal recognition by the President General on behalf of the Dakota Society for the Dakota Societies check for \$1000.00. The money was given to the SAR toward the fund drive for the Center For the Preservation and Advancement of American Heritage. The above picture shows Fred Walden being sworn in as the Vice-President General of the North Central Region.



James Say, dual Nebraska and Illinois Society member and Col. (ret) David K. Kentsmith, MD Omaha Chapter President and State SAR Secretary were elected National Trustee and Alternate National Trustee respectively, at the 121st National Congress in July held at Winston-Salem, NC. Say and Kentsmith were nominated for these positions at the Nebraska State meeting in April 2011. They will serve in these positions through next Summer. As National Nebraska Trustee and Alternate, they will formally represent Nebraska at the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 leadership meetings held at the National Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. Compatriot Say was raised in the Norfolk, Nebraska area. He attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska where he obtained BA and MBA degrees. He also received a JD from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. His wife Kathy is a graduate of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Jim recently served past President General Sympton as parliamentarian.



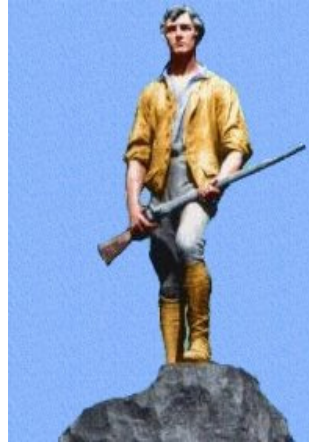
VPG Fred Walden and wife Jan being presented to National Congress attendees at Initiation Banquet.

Fred submitted the following concerning their road trip to Winston-Salem, North Carolina to attend the 121st SAR Congress: It was a beautiful drive, Nebraska to Louisville, Kentucky down through Arkansas over into North Carolina. One hill we went down was 26 miles long. We stayed overnight in Asheville, then arose the next morning and made our way into Winston-Salem, North Carolina. At the convention with our room's on the 18th floor. We arrived on the eighth of July and stayed through the 14th of July. During this period we took two bus tours, one to the old town and another bus tour to see the ancient Village of how the settlers might have once lived who came there in 1730's.

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## 2011/12 Meetings and Events

Aug 5, Towers 9:00 am	Lincoln Chapter Meeting,	Eastmont
Sep 2, Towers 9:00 am	Lincoln Chapter Meeting,	Eastmont
Sep 13, Inn 6:00 pm	Omaha Chapter Meeting,	Venice
Oct 5, Towers 9:00 am	Lincoln Chapter Meeting,	Eastmont
Oct 11, Inn 6:00 pm	Omaha Chapter Meeting	Venice
Oct 15, Mahoney State Park 1:00 pm	Fall State SAR Meeting,	The Lodge



“I ask, Sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people. To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them.” George Mason-Co-author of the Second Amendment.

## Continued

Nov 4, Towers 9:00 am	Lincoln Chapter Meeting,	Eastmont
Nov 8, Inn 6:00 pm	Omaha Chapter Meeting	Venice
Dec 2, Towers 9:00 am	Lincoln Chapter Meeting,	Eastmont
Dec 13, Inn 6:00 pm	Omaha Chapter Meeting	Venice
Jan 6, Towers 9:00 am	Lincoln Chapter Meeting,	Eastmont
Jan 10, Inn 6:00 pm	Omaha Chapter Meeting	Venice

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This year Fred Walden, past National-Trustee for Nebraska was nominated and elected to fill the position of Vice-President General for the North Central Region (NE, IA, MN, North and South Dakota). There are 15 Vice-Presidents General who make up the Executive body of the National Organization and provide advice and consent to the President General and his officers during the year. Vice-Presidents General represent regions of the United States and overseas—Europe, Asia and South America as well as Mexico.

Submitted by David K. Kentsmith, MD, Nebraska Alternate Trustee and Omaha Chapter President.

## 121st National Congress Photos



Vice President General Fred Walden talking to past Vice President General William Lees.



Newly initiated National President General Larry J. Magerkurth from California—showing actual signet ring worn by George Washington which he is wearing as a part of his initiation.

### Eagle Scout Certificates

Did you know that SAR members can present SAR certificates to Eagle Scouts at their Court of Honor? Merle Rudebusch, our Eagle Scout chairman has the certificates and a one page listing of the presentation dialogue. These certificates are not mailed to the Eagle Scout. They must be presented at the Court of Honor. If any SAR member knows of a pending Court of Honor, offer to present a certificate and contact Merle for the certificate and the presentation form. His phone number is 402-488-5489. This also is an opportunity to advertise the SAR Eagle Scout scholarship and interest in membership in SAR.



Left: VPG Fred Walden and wife Jan standing in line with other Vice Presidents General waiting to be introduced at the National Congress.

## 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 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 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](mailto:chiefknott@aol.com) or the Publisher Bill Webb at [webb.w@q.com](mailto: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 two of two)

By Richard Ewing



In the last installment we learned the significance of the Battle of Point Pleasant; now let's learn more about one of the participants of that battle my patriot William "Swago Bill" Ewing. William was born 1756 Dec 24. Knapp's Creek is what it is called today. But the first white man's name, given to it some 261 years ago, was Ewing's Creek, in honor of James Ewing (William's Father) the pioneer who first settled on it as early as 1750, to be one of the county's first settlers. It flows in a range of mountains that separate Southern West Virginia and Virginia, in today's Pocahontas Co., WV. It was on Ewing's Creek where William was born. There is not much known about William's early childhood other than he had three sisters Jeanet "Jenny" Ann, Elizabeth, Jane "Susan Jane", He also had an older brother named John. John and Jenny Ann would become well known later in an event known as the Clendenin Massacre where they were made captives of the Shawnee under the command of Chief Cornstalk who later was the main antagonist in the Battle of Point Pleasant. John became known as "Indian" John for being held captive by the Indians. We do know that in the year 1774 William "Tomahawked". Tomahawking to the pioneers was a method of staking out a claim on land.

It was the same as putting a fence around it. A man only needed to determine what land he wanted and then walking the perimeter chopping his mark into trees to mark it as his. William's land when it was surveyed later was found to be 745 acres. When he tomahawked his claim, William aimed to take in all the headwaters of Swago Creek. William's first cabin was near the foot of Swago Creek. Thus William was bestowed the nickname of Swago Bill. There is a tale that has passed down through the ages. It illustrates the quirky Ewing Humor that Swago Bill was said to have in abundance. It seems that a man named Alexander Waddell went to the woods with his axe to lay out his own site, but before beginning his line, he laid his axe by a tree and started out on a prospecting trip, to see where the best available land lay, with a view to enclosing it. While thus engaged, William happened along and found the axe and suspected its mission. As a joke, Swago took the axe, and with typical Ewing mischievous humor began to blaze a line around the best of the land. When Waddell returned, he was much dismayed to think he had lost the land he wanted so much. William only carried the joke far enough to plague his neighbor and then gave up both the axe and the line he had started, and Alex completed it and took in a good-sized plantation.

William occupied his land the same year he laid claim to it and was living on it when Lord Dunmore's War broke out. William had to have been south of Swago Creek at the time of the War, because he went out with the Botetourt men. If he would have still been on Ewing's Creek, he would have gone with the Augusta troops. William was only 17 when the call to arms came in August of 1774. There may have been many inducements offered to make enlistment a glowing thing, such as promise of adventure or a grant of land, but the main thing among these incensed frontiersmen was the prospect of a march into enemy territory, having at the scoundrels who were making life so miserable, and being done with them once and for all. William had an incentive to as well against the old Chief who had murdered and held captive much of his family during the Clendenin Massacre that had occurred years before. Swago Bill enlisted in Captain Stewart's company, part of the regiment commanded by General Andrew Lewis. The company formed at Camp Union, not far from the site of the Clendenin Massacre, near Lewisburg. Some of the officers wore the regular military uniforms, however the enlisted men wore no uniforms most were in the distinctive dress of the borderer...hunting shirt, leather leggings, breeches of domestic make, and caps made from the skins of wild animals or knit from wool, typical of the pioneers.

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They carried either flintlocks or muskets, bullet pouches, hunting knives, and tomahawks. "Arriving at the Ohio, General Lewis encamped, awaiting the arrival of Lord Dunmore. Neither knew exactly where the other was, and it also seems neither knew exactly where the Indians were, but the Indians apparently knew every move of the Virginians from the time they were called to arms. The Indians were discovered only by accident. Captain Stuart, in his "Memoirs", recalled the opening incident of the battle: "Two young men were sent out early to hunt for deer, and went up the river two or three miles, they fell on the camp of the Indians, who fired on them. One was killed. The other escaped and got back into camp just before sunrise. He stopped before my tent, and I discovered a number of men collecting around him as I lay in my bed. I jumped up and approached him to know what was the cause of the alarm, when I heard him declare that he had seen about five acres of land covered with Indians as thick as they could stand one beside the other." Instantly the drums beat to arms, and the men rolled out of their blankets, started from the ground, looked to their flints and priming, and were ready on the moment. Lewis immediately ordered out his brother, Colonel Charles Lewis, and 150 troops. They had not marched quite half a mile from camp when about sunrise and attack was made on the division by the united tribes of Indians, in number not less than 800 and by many thought to be 1,000." "It was a day long bloody battle royal. Never before had such a large mass of Indians been squarely met by a mass of hardy Virginians. The lines lengthened to a more than a mile on each side and the average distance apart was only six rods. Both sides fought from behind trees, logs, stumps and brush and tree tops. It was every man for himself. The din of musketry was all that could be heard and that was continuous." The American forces fought in Indian fashion, keeping as much as possible behind trees, logs, or anything that provided protection. William was behind a tree when another soldier, rushing for cover, pushed him from his position and took it for himself. Instantaneously the soldier fell dead, shot through the head by an Indian bullet. William would have received the shot if he had not so unceremoniously been shoved aside.

The turning point in the battle:

Swago Bill was one of a party of soldiers who skulked under cover of the banks of Crooked Creek to a point from which they attacked the Indians from the rear the fight was so bloody for a short time that Crooked Creek ran red with blood. The Indians mistook the little band of soldiers to be the arrival of fresh troops from the east, and from that time on, they directed their efforts at getting their men back across the Ohio," by the end. The Virginians lost many brave men - 81 it was said, including two colonels, Charles Lewis & John Field. The Botetourt commander, William Fleming, was wounded, as were three men in Captain Stuart's company, Charles Kinneson, William Clendennin and Thomas Ferguson. The number of Indians killed and wounded would never be known for they were continually carrying off their dead and throwing them into the river. The Redman's only dying desire was that his body might not fall into the hands of his pale-face opponent. His loss has been stated at 233. It was divine providence or sheer luck that anyone survived and that the Virginians won this battle with the deck stacked against them as it was. This is of course what Dunmore was counting on and why he was so surprised that the Indians under Cornstalk were so soundly defeated. Dunmore's treacherous plan was to have the bulk of the Virginia Militia wiped out and to have the Colonies involved in an Indian border war to dissuade them from thoughts of Revolution with England. His plan failed with the victory. Three years later in 1777 William was said to have back at Point Pleasant then a member of Captain Matthew Arbuckle's company of militiamen. Arbuckle and his troops had been ordered to Point Pleasant, to police the frontier in that area and to construct a fort, replacing Fort Blair, which had burned down for unknown reasons. The Revolutionary War was well underway by this time. William Was also said to be at the fort when Chief Cornstalk was being held there and was murdered in his cell by a mob of angry soldiers who wanted revenge on him. It appears however that William's two years at Point Pleasant comprised the extent of his Revolutionary War experiences. Neither family folklore nor written records place him anywhere else. Later in November 1785 William marries a daughter of one of his neighbors the McNeils. Mary was just a

month short of being 14 years old but she was about the healthiest specimen of girlhood that ever grew up on the Blue Ridge. William was already a man just five weeks short of 29 when they were wed in nearby Lewisburg, West Virginia on November 16, 1785 the fact is recorded at Lewisburg, WV. They set up housekeeping at William's cabin on the Swago Creek. William and Mary had ten sons and two daughters. In time they would have 81 grandchildren. I descend from their youngest son Andrew born 1809. In the spring of 1810 Swago Bill and Mary decided to join many of their neighbors who had moved years earlier to the western part of Gallia County, OH, across the Ohio River from Point Pleasant, where government land could be bought for \$2.00 an acre. William's aim was to get out of the mountains and procure more arable land for his ever-growing family. William had bought the entire northeast quarter of Section 11, 160 acres in all. It was in 1812 that Swago Bill Ewing built a two-story cabin of hewn logs the first in the north-western part of Gallia County. Among William's other credits was that he served as a Justice of the Peace most of the time he lived in Gallia County. In 1820 the only children left at home were Sarah, Jacob, Abram, George and Andrew; by that time Swago Bill was 63 and apparently ailing. He drew up his will on 8 January 1820 he started it with "being weak in body". The will however lie on a shelf for almost three years. William turned 65 on Christmas Eve, 1821. He lingered on through to the early fall of 1822. It was on 7 October 1822 – just three days short of the 48th anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant - that William Ewing closed his eyes for the eternal rest. In later years the DAR caused a flag to be placed on his grave as testimony to William Ewing's service in the Revolution. He is buried on the family Grave site in Ewington, OH. Ewington Ohio is a village located about two and one-half miles nlt was laid out in 1852 by George Ewing son of William Swago Bill Ewing. George named the town in honor of his father. orth of Vinton, Ohio. . Ewington had a population in 1880 of eighty-five. It still is there today my family and I visited there some years ago, and perhaps someday we will get back there again and do a more extensive exploration of that small town.

**MORE PICTURES AND STORIES**

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Fred and Jan's trip:

We attended several meetings, and discussions along with receiving awards for Nebraska, the Dakotas and Minnesota chapters. We were privileged to see James Say and David Kentsmith sworn in as our new Trustee and Alternate Trustee. It was my privilege to be sworn in as the new North Central Vice President General for Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas. Along with this there was shopping for items for our personal enjoyment. There were a couple evenings where we got away from the hotel on our own then more shopping, then out to dinner. The hospitality of the people from North Carolina was very generous and they went out of their way to make it very hospitable and enjoyable for all and we enjoyed the luncheons and evening entertainment. I highly recommend that all members try to attend a national meeting, and get to learn more about our American heritage.

Your Compatriot, Frederick A. Walden



Newly Initiated National SAR President Larry J. Magerkurth (CA) wearing authentic George Washington Signet ring (red stone) presents official replica of George Washington ring (in box) to retiring President General Sympson at National Congress Initiation Banquet.



Fred Walden accepting certificate for Dakota SAR Society for \$1,000 contribution for the Center For Preserving America's Heritage



Jim Say Conducting Awards Ceremony – PG Sympson presenting certificate to newly initiated National President General Larry J. Magerkurth.



Our SAR compatriot Wally Quest, who served three terms as the Omaha Chapter President, two terms as the Nebraska Society President and Vice President General of the North Central Region,



**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

celebrated his 100th birthday August 27th with his family and many friends. Wally was honored by the Omaha Chapter with a Flag Ceremony for his flying "our" flag for so many years. Michael Wheeler, Chairman of the Omaha Chapter Flag Committee said "It was a great honor for me as well as other members of the Omaha Chapter who are here today to be a part of this ceremony, to recognize Wally for showing such patriotism to America during his lifetime." Other members attending were William Webb, Dr. David Kentsmith, Michael Wheeler, Fred Walden and Robert Knott.