

Presentations given by Mark Byars

Your American Story – is your group interested in learning more about the SAR and how to research patriot ancestors? This presentation provides an overview of the Nebraska SAR and its history, mission, and current activities. It also provides guidance on completing a membership application and describes useful tools for genealogical research and finding your patriot ancestors. *(For adults, 45 minutes)*

The Patriot Chest – this presentation highlights the key people, places, and events of the American Revolution with a hands-on, “show and tell” approach. The presenter appears in colonial uniform and uses 1770s replicas of household goods and military items to describe the life of American colonists, service in the Continental Army, and the path to American Independence. *(For youth ages 10 and up and Adults, 45 minutes)*

1774: Threshold of Revolution - this presentation describes the chain of events starting with the Boston Tea Party (December 1773) that ultimately led to a war that started at Lexington & Concord (April 1775). Understanding the often overlooked events of 1774 - the Intolerable Acts, the meeting of the First Continental Congress, and the establishment of local authority as British colonial government collapsed - are key to understanding why the Revolutionary War began and why local government is organized the way it is today. *(For youth ages 15 and up and Adults, 45 minutes)*

General Who?: Three Revolutionary Leaders We Should Know More About – we all know familiar stories of General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette, but what about the 200 other generals who led Americans in the Revolution? This presentation tells the stories of three generals who made critical contributions in the War of Independence, but have not enjoyed the publicity of their more famous counterparts. *(For youth ages 15 and up and Adults, 45 minutes)*

Dunmore's War and the Battle of Point Pleasant - America's last colonial war – fought just six months prior to the Battle of Lexington – had important implications for the American Revolution. This presentation tells the story of how a violent conflict in the Virginia backcountry in 1774 impacted the American Revolution and shaped the men

who would lead the independence movement in the South. *(For youth ages 15 and up and Adults, 45 minutes)*

Washington's Farewell Address (*coming October 2025*) – George Washington's parting words to the nation upon his retirement as President shared the hard-earned wisdom of a man who served the cause of American Independence for more than 40 years. Hear straight from the source his advice for a free and prosperous nation, and learn why his message is as relevant today as it was 250 years ago. *(For youth ages 15 and up and Adults, 45 minutes)*

About the Speaker

Mark Byars, a proud fifth generation Nebraskan, works as a financial executive in the cattle feeding industry. He received his BS in Accounting, Finance, and Economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and his MBA from Northwestern University. A voracious reader and life-long history buff with more than 30 years of genealogical research experience, Mark lives in Omaha with his wife, Nicki. An active member of the SAR, Mark serves as the Vice President of the Omaha Chapter. At the state level, he serves as Registrar, Membership Chairman, and America 250 Chairman. At the national level, Mark is a member of the SAR Patriot Research System Special Projects Team, the America 250 Committee, and serves as Nebraska's Alternate Trustee to the National Society's governing board. He is also a member of the General Society of Colonial Wars and the National Society of Descendants of American Farmers. He has delivered more than 50 presentations statewide and is willing to present anywhere in Nebraska or neighboring states.