



The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution

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We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifice established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and solemnly pledge to defend them against every foe.

Children of the American Revolution Marks Civil War Veteran Grave

Frederick Wagner was born on April 2, 1841 in France. During the Civil War, he served in Company B of the 7th Iowa Infantry. He spent most of his life in Iowa as a mason and a train conductor. Frederick died on January 6, 1911 and was buried in Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa. His grave remained unmarked for 110 years. On Saturday, April 3, 2021, the Tallgrass Prairie Society of the C.A.R. assisted Iowa SAR members Doug Frazer, Robert Niffenegger, Mike Rowley, and David Rowley in installing a military headstone for Frederick Wagner. John Cebuhar was also in attendance. He and his brother Michael received SAR Certificates of Appreciation for their many volunteer hours and generous donations for the upkeep of Veteran graves.

The C.A.R. members helped dig the hole, pour the cement, and move the headstone into place. They then held wreath ceremonies for Wagner and two other Civil War veterans (ancestors of several of the C.A.R. members) who are also buried in Woodland Cemetery. C.A.R. members also replaced worn or missing flags in the cemetery as part of the C.A.R. Day of Service. To stay up to date on all the latest Iowa C.A.R. activities, be sure to follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iowanscar.



Mike Rowley (far left in a Civil War uniform), Robert Niffenegger (in the middle with a baseball cap and sunglasses), David Rowley (in the middle in a War of 1812 uniform), John Cebuhar (far right), and the C.A.R. at the Frederick Wagner grave marking.

C.A.R. State President Raises over \$2,900 for Iowa Veterans Cemetery



Grant Petersen is the Iowa Children of the American Revolution State President. Each year, a state president must choose a project for the duration of their term in office. Grant's project was to raise money for the Iowa Veteran's Cemetery located just a few miles west of Des Moines on Interstate 80. In 2020, Grant announced the theme "Preserving our Heritage by Honoring Iowa's Heroes" and set up a web site to raise money. The web site included a video introduction from Grant, a shop, a sign-up form to attend the December Wreaths Across America event at the cemetery, a photo gallery, social media links, and much more. The online shop provided options to purchase lapel pins, cemetery cleanup kits, wreaths, and direct donations to the cemetery. By the end of the project, Grant and the Iowa C.A.R. raised over \$2,900 for the cemetery. The money raised will go toward the general upkeep of the cemetery. Grant is currently pursuing membership in the Iowa SAR, and we look forward to welcoming him as a new member!

Upcoming DAR Monument Dedication in Springville, Iowa



Nathan Brown is one of only two known Revolutionary War soldiers to be buried in Linn County, Iowa. He was born on July 22, 1761 in Salem, New York. During the American Revolution, he served as a private in the New York Regiment of Colonel Crane under Captains Stevens, Chapman, Lawrence, and Keeler. Nathan Brown died on November 25, 1842 and was buried in Linn County, Iowa. A monument in his honor was commissioned in 1886 but has deteriorated over the years. The first major damage to the monument occurred from a tornado in 1977. The Marion-Linn, Ashley, and Mayflower DAR chapters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa have spent six years raising \$44,000 to restore the Nathan Brown Monument. Work began on the morning of August 10, 2020. That afternoon, a severe derecho swept through the area damaging the monument even further. Undaunted, the restoration work proceeded and is now finally complete. The DAR will hold a rededication ceremony on Saturday, May 22 at 1:00 PM in Springville, Linn County, Iowa. Color Guard members from Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska plan to participate in what has become a district wide event. If you are interested in participating, contact Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley for more information.

Passing of Iowa SAR Past President Warren Murdock Horner

On December 7, 2020, Warren Murdock Horner passed away in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the age of 83 due to COVID-19. Compatriot Horner became a member in 1993 through the influence of a distant cousin who was married to Iowa SAR member Bob Millett. Warren was a descendant of Dr. Gustavus Brown Horner who was born on February 28, 1761 in Port Tobacco, Maryland and died on January 24, 1815 in Warrenton, Virginia. He enlisted in 1776 and was a Surgeon's Mate from 1778 to 1783. Warren and Muriel Horner enjoyed many Iowa SAR meetings and festivities with the Millets, and by 1997 Warren was president of the Iowa Society, despite living in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Soon afterwards, however, President Warren's work in Minnesota made it difficult for him to continue to actively participate in the Iowa SAR leadership. He remained a life member of the National Society of the SAR and a dues paying member of the Iowa Society through 2021. We are saddened to hear of the passing of one of our past presidents, and we appreciate the 28 years that he supported our society.

The Iowa Society History Medal

On March 25, 2021, the Iowa SAR was contacted by Nancy Geiger concerning a History Medal that was awarded to her mother in high school. Nancy provided pictures of the medal that she had found. The obverse of the medal has the seal of the SAR, with the figure of a Minuteman grasping a musket in his right hand in the act of deserting



the plough for the service of his country. He is surrounded by a constellation of 13 stars. The image is encircled by a band containing the legend "Iowa State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, organized Sept. 5, 1893." The reverse of the medal indicates that it is a High School Medal awarded to Mary Platt, with her name inscribed in cursive. There is an encircling band with the legend "For excellence in the study of the history of the United States." Nancy also had a Commencement Exercises program from the Hudson High School dated May 30, 1929, indicating that Keith G. Crowther, Secretary of the Bunker Hill Chapter of the Iowa SAR, presented the History Medals. Nancy asked if we could provide more information about the medal. The SAR Magazine archive on www.sar.org is an invaluable resource for looking up SAR history. An October 1910 issue states the following:



"The Iowa Society has been seeking to influence educational processes along patriotic lines. With the intent to stimulate the study of the history of the United States, in 1907 the Society authorized the bestowing of a bronze medal upon the student of each college in Iowa who should during the year do the best work in the study of the history of the United States. In 1909, sixteen medals were bestowed on college students and six on students in high schools, the high school medals being gifts of individual members of the Society. These medals have no intrinsic value to appeal to the student, yet are sought with eagerness and highly prized by the winners, and the testimony of educators is that these competitions are exerting a wholesome, stimulating influence in the schools and producing the result desired in stimulating patriotic thought among the student body of our people."

Mary Platt graduated from high school at the age of 15 and married high school classmate John Iseminger 15 years later. They created a home in which civics, United States history, and general cultural knowledge were emphasized. Throughout the years, Mary did not mention the medal to her children, but kept it safe in a small box with her jewelry. A 1930 district report from the archive indicates that the Iowa SAR had given 800 history medals in high schools and colleges since the program began. While it is unclear what became of the program after that, it is gratifying to know that the many awards that the Iowa SAR presents can have a lasting impact, not only on those who receive them, but also on the generations that follow.

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The Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.*