



## The Iowa Compatriot

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

May 12, 2021

*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.*

### 2021 IASSAR Spring Conference

By Kevin Parmenter

We will have our Spring Conference on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at Bennigan's, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Urbandale, IA 50322. There will be a brief social time between 11:30 AM and approximately 11:45 AM, followed by the meal. When you arrive, please let the host know that you are with the Iowa Society Sons of the American Revolution and that the reservation is in my name, Kevin Parmenter. The General Meeting will follow. Significant others are always welcome.

We will order off the regular menu. For those who have never been to Bennigan's before, they have a large number of menu items including soups, salads, burgers, sandwiches, and many other items. They have the usual selection of drinks and several dessert items are available as well. You can view the menu at [www.bennigansdesmoines.com/menu](http://www.bennigansdesmoines.com/menu). The dining area has gone through an extensive remodel and will look different than in our previous meetings. At this time, Bennigan's policies are that masks are required except when eating and that seating is limited to eight people per table.

We will hear from our various committees on the IASSAR's involvement in recent events and events yet to come. We will have a discussion around the pandemic in the past year and our continuing effort to keep IASSAR moving forward through these difficult times. Several awards will be presented. In addition, we will have an opportunity to greet William Wittich, our 2020 state winner of the Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest. We hope to see you there! Please RSVP to Doug Frazer, IASSAR Secretary-Treasurer at [dlfrazer@yahoo.com](mailto:dlfrazer@yahoo.com).

### 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events



The National American 250<sup>th</sup> SAR Committee promotes the commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States. One way that SAR state societies can support this mission is by locally commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of events leading up to the American Revolution. May 16<sup>th</sup> is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Alamance. We are grateful to David Lamb for volunteering to write an article in honor of this important event. Compatriot Lamb is a Life Member of the SAR and a Charter Member of the Iowa Society of the War of 1812.

### Alamance, a Prelude to War

By David Lamb

Fans of the mega-hit "Outlander" television series based upon the Diana Gabaldon novels regarding the adventures of the wildly fictitious characters of Jamie McKenzie Fraser, Laird of Broch Tuarach, and his time-traveling spouse, Claire Randall, were treated to a bit of North-American Pre-Revolutionary War history (of sorts) in season five of the series.

Both characters, having survived wars (in two separate centuries), plagues, pestilence, and the nefarious plots of various and sundry evildoers, have found themselves cast upon the shores of Colonial North Carolina in the post-mid-1700s. They begin new lives as ex-pats in the troubled American colonies of the British empire. Though of highly questionable historical accuracy, at least part of the storyline of season five deals with the very real social and economic problems that were besetting the American colonists of the period that would ultimately lead to bloodshed between groups of protestors and the British Crown.

Severe droughts that laid waste to the American landscape in the late 1750s and early 1760s left struggling farmers and small businessmen of the day in dire financial straits. A steadily rising influx of new European immigrants had also overburdened the normal agrarian supply chains and brought about a great deal of usurious lending that led to unbearable debts to many and inflicted further pain upon the already struggling economies of the southern colonies in particular.



In response to this, a local movement arose among the persecuted classes. “*Regulators*” attempted, through threats of violent insurrection, to reign in corrupt public officials who were seen as being unsympathetic to the suffering of the populace. Repeated outbreaks of violence by “*these Regulator rogues and scoundrels*” in the parlance of the times resulted in several increasingly bloody confrontations. By September 1770, when the Superior Court was in session, the actions of these *Regulators* had becoming increasingly violent and, when the North Carolina Assembly meeting in Hillsborough was interrupted, a full-scale riot ensued. Many local shops and private residences of the wealthier residents of the town were destroyed, and intervention by the Crown was called for.

Colonial Governor William Tryon had clearly had enough of these “*rogues*” and issued a call for militia to assemble, train, and pursue the known leaders of the movement. Just over 1,000 troops were raised. When word reached the leaders of the *Regulators*, they put out a similar call for adherents to their cause to assemble and bring the matter to battle.

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1771, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the “*Johnson Riot Act*” giving Governor Tryon the authority to pursue the instigators of the previous fall’s mischief and bring them to justice by use of armed troops after the “*Reading of the Riot Act*” had been made.



On May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1771, near Great Alamance Creek, Alamance County (near modern day Burlington), North Carolina the two forces met and what many historians believe to be the actual first shots of the American Revolution were fired. When the smoke cleared, the Regulators had been put to flight, leaving nine dead and an unknown number of injured (believed to be approximately sixty) on the field of battle. Seven of the movement's leaders were later hung.

## Remembering Culloden

By David Lamb

On April 16, 1746, the Jacobite forces under Charles Edward Louis Casimir Stuart (remembered by history as "Bonnie Prince Charlie") engaged a far larger English Army under the Duke of Cumberland on a wind and rain swept *Drumossie Moor* near Inverness, Scotland. This last battle to be fought on British soil brought to an end the fabled "*Rising of '45*" and pretty much marked the end of the Highland Clan system throughout Scotland.



*Painted porcelain portrait of "Bonnie Prince Charlie" inherited by David Lamb*

In the ranks of the rebels that day was a young eighteen-year-old man named Thomas Erskine Askey. He was born in Antrim, Northern Ireland in 1727 after his own grandparents, and subsequent parents (Thomas Erskin Aspey and Ellenor Stephenson), had fled there from reprisals over an earlier Jacobite uprising in which the Erskine's of Renfrew-shire had played a major role. (The use of the assumed name of "Aspey" instead of the birth-name of Erskine was an attempt to further hide from the English Crown seeking the leaders of the uprising of 1683).

Following the defeat of the Jacobites, young Thomas managed to flee Scotland and eventually arrive in the American Colonies under the name of Thomas Erskine Askey as one of the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian immigrants of the period. Erskine settled in Path Valley, Pennsylvania during the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

Erskine was listed as a Lieutenant from Cumberland County. On July 15, 1763, he was commissioned as Ensign in the Pennsylvania Regiment which was under the command of John Penn. In effect, the war helped open up new land to the settlers and, in particular, the Scotch-Irish backwoodsmen. A part of his share was the Bald Eagle tract, which was the uppermost land of the "officer's survey" and the most westerly tract according to the map of the original surveys. This area was named after Bald Eagle, a Seneca Indian who was one of the more notorious Indian leaders in the Alleghenies.

Askey joined the Continental Army when the British began threatening the cause of Liberty, and in 1777, he was raised to the rank of Captain for the remainder of the Revolutionary War. After the war, Thomas Askey stayed in the service of the new nation until his discharge in June of 1784. He was then about 57 years of age. He lived out his days in Centre and Lick Counties, Pennsylvania and died in his bed in 1807.



*Headstone of Thomas Erskine Askey, ninth great-grandfather of David Lamb*

Thousands of Scots and Irish fled reprisals of the English Crown following Culloden. Many others came for economic reasons. A check of the names of rosters of soldiers who rallied to the cause of the new nation in 1776 will find large numbers of Scottish and Irish surnames.

On April 16, 2021, members of the Scots and Scots-Irish diaspora all over the planet noted the one-hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of a far-off battle. Many of the survivors of that engagement came to a new land only to fight in another war against the English Crown.

## **Iowa Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day**

On Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, Mike Rowley represented the Iowa SAR at the Iowa Vietnam Veterans Recognition event at the Vietnam War Monument at the Iowa State Capital Grounds in Des Moines, Iowa.



*IASSAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley with three-year Vietnam War veteran Paul Morris*

## Upcoming DAR Monument Dedication in Springville, Iowa



The Iowa SAR contributed funds to the DAR for the restoration of the Nathan Brown Monument. In appreciation, the DAR sent our society a formal invitation to its dedication that reads as follows:

### *Dedication of Nathan Brown Monument*

*The Nathan Brown Monument Restoration dedication will be on May 22, 2021 at 1 pm at the Springville Cemetery, Springville, Iowa.*

*Without the help of people like you this restoration could not have been completed. We appreciate your help with this project and look forward to thanking you in person.*

*Mayflower Chapter, Marion-Linn Chapter, Ashley Chapter – National Society Daughters of the American Revolution*

*Springville Historical Society  
Masks Required | Rain or Shine – Bring Umbrellas*

We hope that you will be able to attend!

## Memorial Day Heroes

By Mike Rowley

Heroes are often ordinary individuals that do extraordinary things for others without any expectation of reward or adulation. While there are many to choose from, front and center are certainly the men of Company M, 7th U.S. Volunteer Infantry. This was a company of Black men mostly from the Des Moines area who, after serving their country in the late 1890s during the Spanish/American War, returned home to jobs that others might avoid.

Abe Crockett and James Gillenwater returned to coal mining and died early deaths as a result. Earnest Jones did not live beyond 38 and Robert M. Miller died at the age of 38 with the occupation on his death certificate listed as, "U.S. Soldier Spanish/American War." George Taylor served in the Civil War and 35 years later served in Company M. After his return to Iowa, he served as a police officer for 14 years.

Walk any cemetery this Memorial Day and real heroes will not be hard to find. You just have to learn their stories.

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*Let us remember our obligation to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution,  
The Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.*