



The Iowa Compatriot

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

Nov. 19, 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.

Massing of the Colors and the History of Fort Des Moines

By Mike Rowley

On November 6, 2021, Fort Des Moines held a Massing of the Colors ceremony to salute servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans while also honoring those who trained at Fort Des Moines. Des Moines' history started with the construction of Fort Des Moines in 1843. It was built right at the joining of Raccoon and Des Moines rivers.



As a military garrison in Iowa, it was built to protect the Sak and Fox tribes. This also opened a path for new settlers in 1845, but Fort Des Moines only numbered 127 residents at the start. It was one of the major bases for the American Civil War.

As the U.S. entered World War I in 1917, training was just beginning for new recruits. Thousands of black Americans enlisted to join the fight against Germany. At this time, the federal government tried to limit the enlistments of black Americans. However, there was increasing political pressure from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to include training for black officers. The answer was Fort Des Moines.

Fort Des Moines became the site for the Fort Des Moines Provisional Army Officer Training School where black Americans received training for the U.S. Army before going to World War I. Only black officers who had completed college were allowed to go to training, which was limited to 1,000 officers. The camp spanned 400 acres at this time and welcomed the 25th Infantry prisoner guard. Eventually the 11th Cavalry arrived in 1904 and the 2nd Cavalry came in 1907. The 6th Cavalry would join in 1910. However, the cavalry soldiers would leave to go to the Mexican border in 1916.

Iowa SAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley and twelve-year-old Michael Carrington Williams-Thomas,

First Class Scout in Troop 178, at the Fort Des Moines Museum fifth annual Massing of the Colors

Veterans Day 2021: Reading Veteran Names at Glendale Cemetery

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley read a list of over 200 names of World War I veterans at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa. He also gave a talk about some of the veterans buried in the World War I section. IASSAR members David Lamb and Ron Rittel were also present for the ceremony. For more information, see the Des Moines Register coverage of the event at www.desmoinesregister.com/picture-gallery/news/2021/11/11/2021-veterans-day-ceremony-des-moines-glendale-cemetery/6374193001/



Left to right: Jack Porter, Matthew Harvey, Donald Leigh Pugsley, Mike Rowley, David Lamb, Ron Rittel, and Frank Hannah

Wreaths Across America on December 18, 2021 at Woodland Cemetery

By Mike Rowley

In 2008, the Iowa SAR was one of the first organizations in Central Iowa to support the Wreaths Across America program to honor, remember and educate about our veterans. In more recent years, the IASSAR has been a contributor to the WAA project at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines Iowa, where there are buried at least 1,281 War of 1812, Mexican/American, Civil War, Indian War, Spanish/American War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, and modern-day veterans.

This year, the Iowa SAR donated 12 wreaths at \$15 each. The donation was processed through Friends of Des Moines Parks with a 50% match, resulting in a contribution of 18 wreaths. In total, over 1,000 wreaths have been donated. On December 18 from 10:30 AM to noon, there will be a ceremony at Woodland Cemetery to lay Remembrance wreaths. If you would like to volunteer to place wreaths, you can register at <https://cityofdesmoinesparksandrecreationdepartment.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=55486>

Remembering IASSAR Member Jeremy Newton

Jeremy Matthew Newton was born September 5, 1975 to John Paul and Betty Marie (Wilmer) Newton in Harlan, Iowa. Jennifer Marie joined the family on August 2, 1978. Jeremy graduated from Mount Ayr Community High School in 1994, Ellsworth Community College in 1996, and Iowa State University College of Design in 1999. He married the love of his life, Sarah Jean Galloway, on August 7, 1999. They were blessed with three wonderful children; Will Matthew (2004), Anne Marie (2006), and Kate Marie (2009). His children brought him much joy and he was very proud of them.

Jeremy owned and operated his own landscaping business for a few years before joining the Ringgold County Sheriff's office as a deputy. He served his community for 6 years. He spent several years doing drafting work before joining the Ringgold County Assessor's Office. Jeremy accepted Christ as his Lord & Savior toward the end of his junior year in high school. He was a faithful member of the Mount Ayr Regular Baptist Church. Jeremy was an avid hunter who loved the outdoors and wildlife.

Jeremy passed away September 12, 2021. He was preceded in death by his sister Jennifer; grandparents Paul & Lucille Newton and George & Thelma Wilmer. Left to cherish his memory are wife Sarah; children Will, Anne, and Kate; parents John & Betty Newton; parents-in-law Robert & Carol Anne Galloway; sister-in-law Laura (Vova) Kisarets; nephew Ivan Kisarets; nieces Gabriella, Evelina, and Liliana Kisarets; along with many uncles, aunts, cousins, and many other family members.

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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.*