



The Iowa Compatriot

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

May 14, 2023

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.

Eagle Scout Contest Presentations

By Ryan Yoder

Robert Burken was presented the winning cash prize of \$500 for the 2022 Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest on March 26th at the DeWitt American Legion Post 238, during Troop 29's spring Court of Honor. Robert earned his Eagle award in August of 2022 and is currently a senior at Central DeWitt High School.



Left to Right: Michael Burken, Alicia Burken, Robert Burken, Scoutmaster Arnie St. John, and Ryan Yoder

Trevor Milne was presented the runner-up cash prize of \$250 for the 2022 Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest on March 14th. The presentation was at the Bettendorf First Presbyterian Church during Troop 89's spring Court of Honor. Trevor earned his Eagle award in July 2022 and is currently a freshman at Carthage College in Illinois.



Left to Right: Ryan Yoder, Trevor Milne, Crystal Milne, Loren Milne, and Scoutmaster Talbot Berry

Ryan Yoder presented both awards and gave those in attendance some background about the Eagle Scout Contest as well as an introduction to the SAR and its mission and goals.

War of 1812 Award of Merit Presented at the University of Dubuque

By Larry Hoelscher



On April 20th I went to the University of Dubuque to present an Iowa Society of the War of 1812 medal and certificate to Sean R. Wright. The annual ceremony presents an outstanding ROTC cadet with an Award of Merit. Sean is a sophomore at the University of Dubuque.

General Society of the War of 1812



presents

The War of 1812 Award of Merit

To

Cadet Sean R. Wright

*In recognition of outstanding achievement in studies
and distinguished attainment in the R.O.T.C. program.*

W. F. Schul
VPG - Military Awards

March 2, 2023
Date of Award

Stephen M. Malin
President General

Large Turnout for Burial of U.S. Marine Veteran with No Family

By Randy Lyon



Rain clouds parted long enough on April 20th, 2023, for as many as 150 people to attend the “unaccompanied” (no family) burial of Veteran David Yoder.

Compatriots Justin Blood and Randy Lyon attended in uniform. Also present were many members of active duty Army and dozens of members of the American Legion. The ceremony was held at the National Cemetery at Rock Island.

Three Weeks of Deafness: Quarterly VAVS Meeting in Iowa City

By Randy Lyon

I attended my first VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) meeting in Iowa City on April 20th. As the newest member, I took with me observations I had made while serving as a volunteer at the Dubuque VA Clinic. I noticed veterans turning in hearing aids that were malfunctioning. As I helped some of the veterans with the paperwork, they reported that it took up to three weeks to get the hearing aids returned.

As the meeting was coming to an end, the director asked if there were any questions. Somewhat surprised because I had never been there before, he called on me. I asked what could be done to eliminate this time gap. I wondered how any of those present would deal without being able to hear for three weeks.

The conversation began immediately with a man who had worked as a driver before the pandemic. He reported that in most cases he could take hearing aids from the clinics and return them repaired in the evening.

Latching onto the comment, I asked three questions:

1. How could the VA repair service in Iowa City and/or Davenport reduce their response time?
2. Could local clinics establish repair services with a local repair shop?
3. If #2 were possible, could an association of local organizations interested in veteran welfare either pay for these services or supplement funds from the Iowa VA to pay for these services?

The director said that he would check on each of these items. The next meeting is in May. Upon returning to my local VA, I communicated the issue I had raised and was thoroughly commended for doing so. They had advocated for a permanent position “in house” but had not been successful. They will contact the director of audiology in Iowa City and get back to me in a week or two. I showed them the telephone listings of at least six local businesses which made repairs so that they would have this information.

I’ve already had discussions with a member of the local American Legion and feel certain that their organization would be in total agreement with the goal of getting hearing aids back to their users in much quicker time.

Board of Managers Election

By Chris Moberg

During the March 23rd joint Iowa SAR/1812 Zoom meeting, a slate of Iowa SAR officers was presented for the 2023 through 2025 term to be voted on at the subsequent meeting. At the April 27th Zoom meeting, the slate of officers was again presented. This time, Justin Blood was nominated to fill the empty Chaplain position. Members present then voted and the officers were unanimously elected. Please see the last page of this newsletter for the current list of Iowa SAR officers.

University of Iowa ROTC Stands Tall

By Randy Lyon

For anyone wondering about the status of the ROTC program on the University of Iowa campus, stand easy. It was my privilege to attend this year's ceremony in the National Guard armory and sit with four of the members of this year's class. One was majoring in chemistry, another pursuing a career as a physician's assistant, the third was working on a law degree, and the fourth was completing classes in environmental studies.

There were approximately 150 cadets in attendance. Among those receiving special commendation were cadets who received high scores for physical fitness. The tests included pushups, pullups, pulling a weighted sled, and holding a plank position for at least a set amount of time. One cadet received a perfect score of 600.

Special recognition went to the members of the five and nine-member groups who competed in the Ranger Recon competition. This year the University of Iowa nine-member team won at the regional and district levels and competed as one of 48 international teams at West Point.

About 30 groups were scheduled to make presentations to individual cadets. Not every group sent a representative, so the commanding officer would have to present the awards in their place. I'm glad the SAR had a representative there!!

Cadet Nicholas Brooker received the Sons of the American Revolution Silver ROTC Medal. A meeting at 0630 can be a wonderful experience!



Restoring the Bay Church Cemetery Memorial

By Randy Lyon



Back Bay Church is located southeast of Delhi in Delaware County. The church was erected in 1873 and restored in 1996.

This monument was dedicated in August of 1865 in memory of the 14 young men from the area who gave their lives in the Civil War. Their names are inscribed on the four sides. The monument plays a central role in an annual Decoration Day service. The program closely follows the first service which occurred on May 30th, 1866.

Over the decades, the monument has become covered with algae and lichens. Beginning in April, a concerted effort of members of the Sons of Union Veterans and compatriots of the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has been made to restore the monument as near as possible to its first appearance. Thanks to Mike Rowley, who provided excellent clues to the work, including the materials needed, and the Iowa SAR, who authorized the purchase of D2 cleaning solution, that effort has realized significant success.

In working on the monument it has been discovered that the cap has several cracks and the entire monument moves slightly in a strong wind. It is planned that the SUVVCW in Dubuque (Dennis Geesaman, Randy Lyon, and Matt Schwalm are members of both groups involved in the restoration) will submit a request for funding from the state organization to repair these issues.

Appreciation Week for Wives and Care Givers of Our Veterans

By Randy Lyon



After suggesting Military Wives Appreciation Day at the Iowa SAR/1812 Zoom meeting earlier this month, the realization that I had painted myself into a corner came to me. Initially the appreciation was scheduled only for wives and only on Friday, May 12th.

I volunteer five days a week at the VA clinic in Dubuque. How was I to determine whether a female accompanying a gentleman into the clinic was a wife, daughter, or a driver from a local nursing home? What if Friday happened to be one of those days when no one fitting the above categories appeared?

To settle the issue, a week of appreciation was determined. The results could not have been better and even provided some funny moments:

“What a wonderful idea, thank you!”

“Dad, this man gave me a flower for bringing you to the hearing clinic!”

“It’s been a long time since a received a flower from a man—TOO LONG”

“Hold on a minute, I’ll get my wife and dog out of the car!”

Surprise and smiles all around. It was a great chance to start a new tradition. Thanks again to the Iowa SAR for sponsoring the flowers for this event!

War of 1812 Award of Merit Presented at the University of Northern Iowa



On April 25th, David Nation presented Cadet Dylan D. Carlsen an Iowa Society of the War of 1812 medal and certificate at the University of Northern Iowa.

David received the following thank you:

Dear Sir,

I truly appreciate the award and the medal. It means a lot not only to me but the entire UNI Army ROTC program. The 1812 award was most appreciated by myself and the others in the past who have received it.

Cadet Carlsen

Iowa Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day

By Mike Rowley



Each year the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution attends Iowa Vietnam Veterans Day at the site of the Iowa Vietnam War Monument just south of the Iowa State Capitol. IASSAR joined with the American Legion, Department of Veteran Affairs, Des Moines Central Campus USMC JROTC, MacKenzie Highlanders Pipes and Drums, and many veterans on this special day.

Next to honoring the men and women who served during the Vietnam era, the honor of having the Governor of Iowa go out of her way to come up and ask if she might have her photo taken with one of the Iowa SAR Color Guard was a special honor.

Mike Rowley, the Spirit of Iowa Tribute Bell, and a representative from the IA Department of Veterans Affairs

Members Install Two More Veteran Gravestones in May

By Mike Rowley



Members installed two more veteran gravestones in early May.

Veteran Michael Drady was a private in Company D of the 2nd Iowa Infantry during the Civil War and was buried in Saint Ambrose Cemetery in Des Moines.

Veteran Hugh McKelvogue was a member of Company F of the 1st U.S. Infantry during the Mexican War, and a member of Company D of the 2nd Iowa Infantry during the Civil War. He was also buried in Des Moines.



Brigadier General Francis Marion: The "Swamp Fox"

By Randy Lyon



The 2000 movie *The Patriot* introduced Brigadier General Francis Marion of the American Revolution to a new generation. Because of his cunning and resourcefulness, he was known then and now as the "Swamp Fox" of the Carolinas. Mel Gibson, however, played Marion as an action hero. "One of the silliest things the movie did," says Sean Busick, a professor of American history at Athens State University in Alabama, "was to make Marion into an 18th century Rambo." (1)

Fortunately, the real Francis Marion has not been entirely lost to legend. Historians including William Gilmore Simms and Hugh Rankin have written accurate biographies. Based on the facts alone, "Marion deserves to be remembered as one of the heroes of the War for Independence," says Busick. (2) Marion used irregular methods of

warfare similar to Robert Rogers in the French and Indian War and is considered one of the fathers of modern guerilla warfare and maneuver warfare. He is credited in the lineage of the U S. Army Rangers and the 75th Ranger Regiment. (3)

Marion was born at his family's plantation in Berkeley County, South Carolina, probably in 1732. He was a man of his times, owning slaves and fighting in a brutal campaign against the Cherokee Indians which prepared him for more admirable service. Marion found that the Cherokee used the landscape to their advantage. They concealed themselves in the Carolina backwoods and mounted devastating ambushes. Two decades later, Marion applied these tactics against the British. (4)

After the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19th, 1775, the Provincial Congress voted to raise three regiments. Marion received a commission in what became the 2nd South Carolina Regiment of the Continental Line. Marion fought at Sullivan's Island on June 28th, 1776, when approximately 400 South Carolinians successfully repulsed a Royal Navy fleet attacking Charleston Harbor. (5) He was also in the Continental effort to recapture Savannah. (6) But for much of the next three years, he remained at the fort, occupying the time by trying to discipline his troops, whom he found to be a disorderly, drunken bunch insistent on showing up to roll call barefoot.

With the American army in retreat, Marion focused his efforts on disrupting the British supply and logistics system. (7) He took command of a militia and had his first military success that August, when he led 50 men in a raid against the British. Hiding in dense foliage, the unit attacked an enemy encampment from behind and rescued 150 American prisoners. Though often outnumbered, Marion's militia would continue to use guerilla tactics to surprise enemy regiments, with great success. Because the British never knew where Marion was or where he might strike, they had to divide their forces, weakening them. (8)

In November of 1780, Marion earned the nickname he's remembered by today. British Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton, informed of Marion's whereabouts by an escaped prisoner, chased the American militia for seven hours over 26 miles. Marion escaped into a swamp. Tarleton gave up, cursing, "As for this damned old fox, the Devil himself could not catch him." The story got around, and soon the locals, who hated the British occupation, were cheering the "Swamp Fox." (9) The following year, Marion fought at Fort Watson, Fort Motte, and Eutaw Springs. (10)

Francis Marion never commanded a large army or led a major battle. Histories of the Revolutionary War tend to focus on George Washington and his straightforward campaigns in the North, rather than small skirmishes in the South. Nevertheless, the Swamp Fox is one of the war's most enduring characters. Though things looked bad for the Americans after Charleston fell, Marion's cunning, resourcefulness, and determination helped keep the cause of American independence alive in the South. (11)

After the war, Marion commanded a peacetime militia brigade and served in the South Carolina Assembly, where he opposed punishing Americans who had remained loyal to the British during the war. In 1790, Marion helped write the South Carolina state constitution, and then retired from public life. After a long decline in health, Francis Marion died at his plantation, Pond Bluff, on February 27th, 1795. (11)

Such a noble figure has probably led many American males to madly research their ancestry in hopes of being a descendant. Alas, according to the Patriot Research System of the SAR, Marion left no heirs, but adopted a nephew after his marriage. (12)

Sources:

1. Crawford, Amy, "The Swamp Fox," Smithsonian, June 30, 2007
2. Ibid.
3. Campbell, Craig (Ret. Major), "General Francis Marion, Irregular Life of an Irregular Warrior"
4. "Francis Marion," American Battlefield Trust, Online:
<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/francis-marion>
5. "The Swamp Fox-Inside Francis Marion's Guerilla War Against the British Redcoats," Military History Now, Online: <https://militaryhistorynow.com/2021/05/02/francis-marion-how-the-famous-swamp-fox-waged-a-guerrilla-war-against-british-redcoats/>
6. "Francis Marion"
7. Crawford
8. Ibid.
9. "Francis Marion"
10. Crawford

11. Ibid.
12. Patriot Research System, SAR

Flag Certificate Presentations in Dubuque, Iowa

By Randy Lyon



I had to feel sorry for Zachary May. His massive dog was intent on running into the yard and here I was asking for a picture. Everything worked out fine, however, and he was thrilled!



It was a gorgeous day and I found Robert Derrick on his deck. My presence reminded him that he had been intending to get a new rope for his flagpole. He laughed and said this "nice certificate" might help him get the job done. He was very pleased at the recognition.



I've never been able to catch Kenneth or Susan Hohaus at home, despite repeated attempts. Finding the storm door unlatched, I left the certificate in a position I knew they would find it.



Randall Schmit was enjoying his "man cave" in the garage when I visited. He thanked the Society for undertaking the project.



As I returned to my car, I heard a car honk twice and then pull to the curb in front of me. Arlene and her passenger had seen me leaving another house in the area and were fascinated by the uniform. They pulled around the corner in hopes of catching up to me.

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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.*