



The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution September 17, 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.

Carl Gottschalk Headstone Installed at Elmwood Cemetery

By Don Richardson



On Saturday, August 19th, 2023, members of the American Legion Post 99 gathered at Elmwood Cemetery in Minburn, Iowa, to prepare the gravesite and emplace the granite headstone for Carl Gottschalk. Mr. Gottschalk was a U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War era who served his overseas tour in Germany on the front lines of the Cold War. Post 99 members were assisted by Mr. Gottschalk's son, David Gottschalk.

The headstone was provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Don Richardson of Post 99 assisted the Veteran's widow with the preparation and submission of the order form for a standard government headstone. The City of Minburn does not have a sexton or city maintenance staff, so we had the headstone delivered to our farm for safekeeping until the gravesite could be marked and the team assembled.

Pictured in the photograph are Post Adjutant Mark Golightly, David Gottschalk, Post member Greg Strait, and Post Commander Scott Potter.

Flag Certificate Presentations on August 28th

By Larry Hoelscher

While it was cooler at 6:30 pm. on Monday, August 28th (and not in the 90's), I was still sweating because of the wool uniform. I added the question, "Do you want a copy of the picture of you and your certificate?" to my usual presentation. There were many who said "Yes," a few who said "No," and some that did not want their picture taken at all. One lady asked if I could come back the next day to take the picture with her husband.

I followed up by sending the pictures with this email comment:

Thanks for coming to your door and accepting your Flag Certificate.

Here is your picture.

Keep flying the American Flag.

*Larry Hoelscher
SAR member*



Flag Certificate Presentations on August 29th

By Larry Hoelscher



I was asked to return to Sprucewood because Mr. Hagertz was not home the night before and Mrs. Hagertz wanted him in the picture. I was also to return to this street to pick up the missed house where no one was home. Mr Houselog was actually in my homeroom at Hempstead – it is a small world!



Flag Certificate Presentations on August 30th

By Larry Hoelscher

On August 30th, Flag Certificate presentations were made to the following organizations: Vanderloo & White Animal Hospital, Dubuque Eagles Club, Egelhof, Casper, and Siegert Funeral Home and Crematory, Farm Bureau Financial Services, Area Residential Care, and Liberty Recovery and Training Center.



Flag Certificate Presentations on August 31st

By Larry Hoelscher

When I arrived at the home of Thomas Steines, cars were in the driveway and the garage doors were open. His son came out to meet me and I asked if he was Thomas. He pointed into the garage and a man in a wheelchair came into the opening. I stated that I was there to give him his Flag Certificate for the flag on his house. It was then that the son started to sign language to Thomas why I was there. He was more than happy to receive the certificate and he and his son drew close to get in the picture. Mr Steines was in his wheelchair with only one leg and could not hear, but was all smiles holding his certificate.

Other Flag Presentations were made on August 31st as well:





Flag Retirement Ceremony

By Mike Rowley

On September 9th, 2023, Iowa SAR members joined with boy scouts, cub scouts, and volunteers to formally retire over 4,000 flags at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa.



Left to right: Teddy Worthington, Daniel Rittel, Ganesh Ganpat (Parks and Recreation Supervisor and Cemetery Manager), Mike Rowley, Ted Worthington, Quincy Worthington, and Doug Frazer

9/11 Tribute Trail at Gray's Lake Park

By Mike Rowley



Iowa Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley joined in a community remembrance of 9/11 at Gray's Lake Park in Des Moines, Iowa. Volunteers assisted in the placement of over 3,000 flags as a visual reminder of the lives lost on that day in 2001.

Basket of Goodies Presented to the Fire Dept. in Independence, Iowa

By David Lang



On behalf of the Iowa SAR and DAR, my wife and I gave a basket of goodies and a case of water to our local fire department on Patriot Day (9/11).

In the photograph from left to right are SAR member David Lang, current fire chief Richard Newton, DAR member Lisa Lang, and immediate past fire chief Blake Hayward.

Iowa Compatriot Grave Marking on September 10th, 2023

By Chris Moberg

On Sunday, September 10th, 2023, members of the North Central District Color Guard marked the graves of nine Iowa SAR past presidents in West Des Moines and Des Moines. We began at Resthaven Cemetery by marking the grave of Volney Hammers Smith (1928 – 2020). Then, we proceeded to Glendale Cemetery and marked the graves of William Henry Baily (1850 – 1910) and Henry Brown Hawley (1856 – 1928). At the Masonic Cemetery, we marked the graves of Frederick W. Craig (1854 – 1937) and Dr. Joseph Albert Goodrich (1872 – 1958). Finally, we arrived at Woodland Cemetery and marked the graves of William Henry Wheeler (1848 – 1904), Joseph Greely Gardner (1860 – 1920), Walter Emery Coffin (1856 – 1927), and Sidney Austin Foster (1849 – 1936). The Iowa SAR is grateful to all of the members throughout the North Central District who volunteered their time and talents to help us honor and remember these nine compatriots!



Left to right:

Paul Burright (NE), Justin Blood (IA), Mike Rowley (IA), Allyn Sheldon (NE), Dave Nation (IA), Chris Moberg (VPG), John Braisted (NE), Randy Lyon (IA), Mark Byars (NE), Jim Sly (NE), and Larry Hoelscher (IA)

Vietnam Veterans Vigil

By David Nation

Once a year there is a 45 hour vigil at the Black Hawk County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Waterloo, Iowa. The 45 hours represent the 45 Black Hawk County residents who died in the Vietnam War. Volunteers took three hour shifts over the weekend of September 15th to 17th to "stand the watch." Iowa SAR member David Nation took the 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. shift on Saturday morning. At the end of each hour, one of the lights at the base of the memorial is turned on.



David Nation stands watch at the Black Hawk County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Waterloo

Woodland Cemetery 175th Anniversary Celebration Appreciation

By Mike Rowley

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all of the participants who made the Woodland Cemetery 175th Anniversary Celebration a success. Nearly 600 visitors passed through the gates and there were 80 to 100 participants and volunteers. I spoke with visitors from all areas of the metropolitan area as well as those from Ankeny, Altoona, Sully, Pella, Ogdon, Boone, and several states. We had the honor of visits from Governor Branstad, Mayor Cownie, Councilman Voss, and other dignitaries.

Ganesh Ganpat, his wonderful staff, and many volunteers had the cemetery looking better than I have seen it in my 66 years. I am grateful to the planning committee that for over a year helped plan, organize, and ultimately make this event happen. The legacy that Marshall Linn, Julie Linn, Kristine Bartley, Justin Ayliss, and Jeff Kluever left at Woodland is profound. I am also grateful to our anonymous financial donors for their very generous support.

The Shawn Palek mural will be visible to visitors for decades. The stories that were told will be remembered and shared (and probably debated) for generations. Perhaps what I am most grateful and hopeful for is that the contributions that volunteers helped encourage will ensure that Woodland Cemetery will continue to be maintained and improved as a truly historic jewel of the city for another generation.



Denise Baker Hamilton, Briar Hamilton, and Randy Lyon in front of a mausoleum at Woodland Cemetery (photo by Marilyn Rittel)

Conclusion of Vietnam Veterans Vigil

By David Nation

At the end of the 45 hour Vietnam Veterans Vigil at the Black Hawk County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Waterloo on September 17th, there was a ceremony with a 21 gun salute, taps, and a balloon release on the shore of the Cedar River. Iowa SAR member David Nation, "Our Revolutionary War Representative," was asked to lead the procession to the balloon release. At the reception afterwards across the river at the Waterloo Veterans Memorial Hall, David joined men in the uniforms of the Civil War, World War I, and World War II for a portrait.



David Nation (left) poses with men in Civil War, World War I, and World War II uniforms

George Rogers Clark

By Randy Lyon



George Rogers Clark (November 19th, 1752, Albemarle county, Virginia - February 13th, 1818, near Louisville, Kentucky) was a frontier military leader during the American Revolution. His military successes were factors in the Old Northwest being awarded to the Americans in the Treaty of Paris that concluded the war.

Clark was a surveyor along the Ohio River in the mid-1770s. He became interested in the Kentucky country around Harrodsburg and opposed those who attempted to establish an independent colony of Transylvania. When the Revolutionary War broke out, the settlers found themselves caught without protection from Indian raids that were backed and encouraged by the British army. Clark persuaded Virginia to declare Kentucky a county of Virginia, which entitled it to an identity, government, and supplies. (2).

In May 1778 Clark, with an expedition of about 175 men, captured Kaskaskia and Cahokia in present-day Illinois. At Kaskaskia, Clark gained the friendship of Pierre Gibault, who persuaded the French at Vincennes on the Wabash River to change their allegiance. When reinforcements promised from Virginia failed to arrive, Clark withdrew to Fort Nelson (now Louisville) on the Ohio River and made that his base for the rest of the war. In 1780, he helped defeat a British expedition sent against the Spanish settlement at St. Louis. The residents had been previously warned of the attack by Jean Marie Cardinal, a trapper and miner, who was commemorated by the Iowa Society of the SAR in 2022. In 1780, in what is now Ohio, he destroyed the Shawnee towns of Chillicothe and Piqua, and in 1782 he destroyed Shawnee villages and crops in the Miami River valley.

Throughout the war, Clark and his men received no pay for their services. Clark was held responsible for debts paid for supplies, since Virginia, despite its promises, never reimbursed him.

After the war, George Rogers Clark settled in the rapidly growing town of Louisville that he had founded. He built a cabin on land in Indiana given to him and his men by the government and participated in Louisville's civic affairs and helped resolve problems of land grants for his former troops. He also served on Indian commissions because of his expert ability to negotiate with the Native Americans. (3) Clark was even appointed an Indian commissioner.

James Wilkinson, a double agent in the pay of Spain and an ally of the treacherous Aaron Burr, began a deliberate campaign to discredit Clark, who was relieved of his military command. Clark became involved in establishing a Spanish colony west of the Mississippi River which was eventually to include Mexico. This failed. During 1793, Clark agreed to accept a French commission as major general and lead an expedition of American frontiersmen against Spanish Louisiana. This venture also failed when Washington again issued a proclamation against American citizens invading foreign territory. (4)

In 1812, in a long overdue recognition of Revolutionary War services, the General Assembly of Virginia granted Clark a sword and half pay of \$400 a year. His health continued to deteriorate, and he died on February 13th, 1818, at the age of 65.

In his funeral oration, Judge John Rowan summed up the stature and importance of George Rogers Clark:

**"The mighty oak of the forest has fallen,
and now the scrub oaks sprout all around."**

Sources:

1. "George Rogers Clark," <https://www.britannica.com/biography/George-Rogers-Clark>
2. George Rogers Clark," <https://locustgrove.org/learn/george-rogers-clark/>
3. Ibid.
4. "George Rogers Clark," National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/people/george-rogers-clark.htm>

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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.*