



The Iowa Compatriot

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

June 17, 2024

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.

ISU Army and Air Force Dining Out Awards

By David Nation

Iowa SAR member David Nation attended the Iowa State University Army ROTC Dining Out on March 2nd, 2024. He presented an SAR award to Cadet Ryder Souder, an 1812 award to Cadet Riley Simpson, and an SUVCW award to Cadet Jordon Kohls.

He also attended the ISU Air Force ROTC Dining Out on April 20th, 2024. He presented an SAR award to Cadet Jubei Unzoe and an 1812 award to Cadet Nicole Warner. He is pictured at right with his uniform at the Air Force event.



Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony in Des Moines

By Mike Rowley



Iowa SAR members Dan Martin, Mark Meyocks, William McMillan, and Mike Rowley all participated in the Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa, on May 14th, 2024. The DAR read the names of over 800 veterans on the Iowa Vietnam Veterans Wall.



Gravestone Installed for Civil War Veteran Dr. Boras Daniel Miller

By Mike Rowley



Mike Rowley and Mark Meyocks installed a gravestone in Woodland Cemetery for Civil War veteran Dr. Boras Daniel Miller.

Private Boras D. Miller served in Company E of the 21st PA cavalry. He mustered into service on February 16th, 1864, and mustered out with the company on July 8th, 1865.



Southeast Valley Cemetery Cleaning Service Project

By Mike Rowley



Iowa SAR member Joshua Dyer continues his service to his community, his students, and our society even while balancing his career and young family. As the school year was ending, Southeast Valley teacher Joshua Dyer used a unique May Service project as a way to let his students learn local history and give back to their community before Memorial Day 2024. He led his students in a cemetery cleaning project that left many of the volunteers

sharing with fellow students the sense of interest and accomplishment they felt after its completion. The event was also carried on page one of the Gowrie News as well as the newspaper's Facebook page (the above photos were taken from the Gowrie News Facebook page).

Great job Mr. Dyer for not only sharing your knowledge but also allowing all you reach (of all ages) to experience history as well.

Axios Tour of Woodland Cemetery

By Mike Rowley

You never know how one thing sometimes leads to another. A few years ago (2020), I was asked to film some biographies for veterans buried in Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa. That QR code project by DAR member Kristine Bartley expanded to over 125 QR code biographies placed in Woodland Cemetery. See <https://www.axios.com/local/des-moines/2021/05/24/des-moines-woodland-cemetery-history-quest-videos>. The project was widely covered by the media, including Axios Des Moines reporter Jason Clayworth.

This would lead to author Mary Christopher's idea to author a book on Woodland Cemetery of which I was invited to assist. With the launch of the book *Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines: A History*, I was asked by Jason Clayworth to conduct a tour of Woodland for local Axios subscribers and donors.

On May 16th, I was joined to assist in the tour by Kristine Bartley and Wade Fowler. Wade Fowler has over a million followers on social media (see <https://www.axios.com/local/des-moines/2024/05/16/cemetery-iowa-restoration-millennial-stone-cleaner>). The tour was given to 40 participants. We told of the stories of the veterans, the SAR/DAR, the GAR, the SUVCW, and other tidbits and trivia of this historical setting.

All of this attention that started with just a few volunteers has in part led to much attention and major funding and donations to improve this final resting place for 1,364 veterans spanning the War of 1812 to modern day. Once you start moving forward, bigger things than ever imagined are often possible.



Photo of Axios tour group. Mike Rowley is in the front row, 2nd person from left. Reporter Jason Clayworth and Wade Fowler are on the far right of the front row. Kristine Bartley is the farthest person to the right standing.

Gravestone Installed for Civil War Veterans John Foulks and John Kapsa

By Tony Townsend



On Monday, May 20th, 2024, Tony Townsend and Mike Rowley installed a gravestone for John Foulks at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Cedar Rapids. Foulks served as a Private in the 2nd and 3rd Iowa Infantry.

They also installed a gravestone for John Kapsa at Oakland Cemetery in Iowa City. Kapsa served in Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th U.S. Infantry and was a personal bodyguard for General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War.



Gravestone Installed for Civil War Veteran Charles Louk

By Mike Rowley



On Tuesday, May 21st, 2024, a gravestone was installed for Charles Louk in Jefferson, Iowa. Private Charles Louk served in the 2nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Company D. He enlisted on September 27th, 1864, and was discharged on May 15th, 1865.

Supporting the VFW at the Hy-Vee in Grimes, Iowa

By Mike Rowley

After many years of service both in the military and in police work, Iowa SAR and 1812 member David Lamb has never missed an opportunity through all his years to also serve his fellow veterans. Pictured at right is David "selling" poppies at the Hy-Vee in Grimes to benefit the good works of the VFW.



Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous

By Randy Lyon

On May 25th, 2024, I participated in the Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous in Vincennes, Indiana. As a Color Guard member, I carried the French flag, which came after two American flags. Following welcomes from several dignitaries, there were patriot grave markings for five patriots of the American Revolution. This activity was attended by approximately 50 SAR members and 150 visitors.



I also presented a wreath provided by the state chapter of Indiana. Along with about 30 others listed in the program, I was called up, escorted to the wreath, bowed, and like the others then tipped my hat and was escorted out.

The torrential rain that they had held off and the cloudy weather kept the temperature cool. It was a real honor to be involved.

The picture at left shows Daryl Hensley, President of the George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Indiana SAR, myself, and the wreath Iowa presented at the 245th Anniversary of the capture of Fort Sackville and patriot grave marking. We are standing in front of the George Rogers Clark Memorial.

Patriot Grave Marking in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

By Randy Lyon

Paul Burright (Nebraska SAR) and I participated in the Color Guard at the Patriot Grave Marking ceremony on May 26th in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.

Paul carried the Nebraska flag and I carried the SAR 250th Anniversary flag. The program included musket volleys, the marking of graves, and the dedication of a highway marker. There was an audience of about 100 on a day that had threatened rain and high winds but turned out warm with a much-needed breeze.



Full Circle

By Randy Lyon



Two years ago, the Iowa Society of the SAR celebrated its link to the American Revolution. A memorial had been constructed along the banks of the Mississippi River at Dubuque to Jean Marie Cardinal.

Cardinal had been living in Dubuque when British troops surprised the lead miners. Moving downstream, they were obviously intent on capturing St. Louis. Escaping by canoe, Cardinal paddled all the way from Dubuque to St. Louis to warn of the coming invasion. Forewarned, the defenders defeated the British and prevented the Mississippi River from British control.

Missouri State SAR President Gene Henry was presented a framed display of the memorial dedication. He found this information amazing and agreed that this display definitely belonged in the local library.



Closeup of the oak-framed Jean Marie Cardinal display that was gifted by the Iowa SAR to the Missouri SAR at the Battle of Fort San Carlos Festival in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri on May 26th, 2024

Jean Marie Cardinal is Formally Recognized

By Randy Lyon

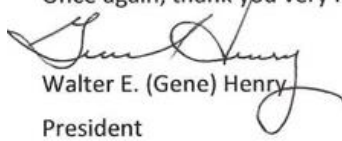
The following letter was received from the president of the Missouri SAR following the Battle of Fort San Carlos commemoration. I believe our efforts have achieved the best response we could have ever hoped for in recognizing the unique tie between Missouri and Iowa during the Revolutionary War.

Compatriot Lyon,

Thank you so much for the "Paul Revere of the Mississippi" gift you presented to me at the Fort San Carlos Memorial yesterday. The executive committee and I are in the process of determining what is the best site for display. Since we have no state headquarters, I am currently leaning toward asking the museum in Ste. Genevieve to display it, with a small plaque saying it is on loan from the Missouri Society, SAR, and was given to MOSSAR by the you as a member of the Iowa Society.

If I am incorrect in what I have just said, please notify me.

Once again, thank you very much. I look forward to sharing it with the other Missouri Society members.


Walter E. (Gene) Henry
President
Missouri SAR

Memorial Day Activities

By Mike Rowley

Mike Rowley and Mr. Vrom of the Army of the Southwest reenactment group greeted visitors at the Gold Star Museum Open House on Memorial Day. Rowley also stood at attention at the flagpole in the GAR section in Glendale Cemetery from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and decorated the grave of the descendant of past SUVCW Dodge Camp Commander Jim Hawk with flower petals following the tradition of the Woman's Relief Corp.



DAR America 250! Patriot Marker Dedication at Woodland Cemetery

By Mike Rowley

As members read each month's newsletter, they usually see photographs to go along with the articles. Too many times as we rush from event to event, we neglect to show the volunteer photographer that makes those pictures available.

Every once in a while, we remember to make that person come forward and join in the photo. If it is a story of a Central Iowa SAR or 1812 event, that person is often Doug Frazer. On Saturday, June 8th, 2024, at the DAR America 250! Patriot Marker dedication at Woodland Cemetery, we were able to stop and have Doug join us in a group photo with the North Central District Color Guard, which included members from Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska.



Left to right: Doug Frazer, Ron Stites, Mark Byars, Allyn Sheldon, Isaac Rowley, David Rowley (1812 uniform), Paul Burrig, Mike Rowley, and Chris Moberg

Youth Color Guard Award

By Mike Rowley



Isaac Rowley became the first North Central District recipient (maybe the first in the country) of the SAR Youth Color Guard Medal on June 8th, 2024. He was presented the award by North Central District VPG Chris Moberg after participating in the Abigail Adams Chapter (Iowa DAR) America 250! Patriot Marker dedication in Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa.

Summary: The Youth Color Guard Medal is earned for participation in SAR Color Guard events (national, district, state, or chapter) by any youth in colonial uniform or attire.

Qualifications: This medal may be presented to any individual who, while under the age of 18 years old, participates in a minimum of three events per year for a minimum of three years. The years do not need to be continuous. Any SAR event that includes a Color Guard at the national, district, state, or chapter level may be counted towards the award. The youth must be in uniform or colonial dress and participate as a member of the color guard.

Woodland Cemetery 175th Anniversary Project Receives Award

By Mike Rowley

On June 12th, 2024, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs awarded the Woodland Cemetery 175th Anniversary Project the Loren Horton Community History Award recognizing the best project that increases awareness and participation in Iowa history on a local level. It is named in honor of Loren Horton, who represented the State Historical Society of Iowa in many capacities from 1973 until his retirement in 1996. As the society's field services coordinator, and later as senior historian, Horton's work brought him in close contact with many local historical organizations.

Several SAR/1812 members participated in the project: Doug Frazer, Joshua Dyer, Daniel Rittel, Randy Lyon, Tim Rowley, David Rowley, Isaac Rowley, and Mike Rowley.



Gravestone Installation for Civil War Veteran Samuel P. Zenor

By Mike Rowley



On Thursday, June 13th, SAR/1812 members installed another Civil War veteran gravestone. Samuel P. Zenor now has his grave in Boone, Iowa, marked.

On June 19th, more veteran graves will be installed, if not too heavy for the delivery vehicle. There will be five Civil War and one War of 1812 gravestones installed in Nashua, Iowa. SAR and 1812 members continue the mission.

Flag Day Activities in Dubuque

By Randy Lyon



On a bright, sunny day in Dubuque, compatriots Dennis Geesaman, Larry Hoelscher, and Randy Lyon headed to the Carnegie-Stout Public Library for our second annual SAR Flag Day presentation.

The library staff this year unfortunately had chosen the day to take the kids to Eagle Point Park. Those at the library were surprised and thrilled with their own flag. We were even able to hand out one of our early reading program's Dolch word lists.

Our activity caught the eye of the reference librarian who took our picture for the library webpage.

Using Larry's great success last year at Allison-Henderson Park, we returned there where the remainder of our flags were quickly distributed.



Flag Day in Clive, Iowa

By Mike Rowley



A 20-foot Betsy Ross flag appeared at the Music & Food Truck Friday event on June 14th, 2024 (Flag Day) held in Clive, Iowa.

Many of the visitors to the event could be seen posing for pictures with the flag.

Independence Mental Health Institution Veterans to be Honored

By Mike Rowley

Memorial Day 2024 has come and gone. Many national, state, local, and even family programs took place to honor the service and sacrifices of the many men and women who have served our country. For many, it is a one day a year reminder. For others like Mary Crouse and Colleen Homan, both of Des Moines, Iowa, the commitment goes on 365 days a year.

They are both Missing in America Project (MIAP) volunteers. Those dedicated to this program find the unclaimed remains of service men and women and see to it that they are buried with the honor and respect of full military honors.

On Saturday, June 22nd, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. CST at the Independence Mental Health Institution, the public is invited to show their respect to 13 veterans of the Civil War and WWI and their families.

While this seems like a straight path to doing the right thing, it was not always easy and Mary and Colleen spent years getting to this point. Last year they coordinated a similar program in Clarinda, Iowa.

Civil War veterans to be honored include:

- Napoleon Dorsee, a native of Canada
- Michael Shannon, whose brother and father also served
- Dr. Silas Tompkins, who served in the 2nd NJ Infantry
- John Emmert, a father of five children
- Silas Favors, a member of the U.S. Cavalry
- Lucien Harvey, 1st Ohio Light Artillery
- Dr. Samuel Marsten, who enlisted at age 54
- Ebenezer Colby, a native of Maine
- Andrew Breaky, who enrolled at age 20 and served for 3 years

Those serving after the Civil War include:

- Samuel Etheridge, a member of the U.S. Coast Guard
- Gilbert Rowlette, a man of color who served in the Indian War, in Cuba, and in the Philippines
- Samuel Hoskins, a WWI veteran

We will likely never fully know or understand the events that led up to their time in Independence MHI, as the price paid by many who served has only recently in history been recognized and treated.

What we do know is that they served, and their sacrifices helped defend the liberties and freedoms that should never be taken for granted. For this they will be honored and remembered.

The Unlikely Travels of Washington's Tent

By Randy Lyon

The mobile field headquarters of General George Washington was first utilitarian, then a relic, and finally a sacred symbol. Made of sturdy flax linen, the tent had red scalloped edges and was shaped like a long oval. When pitched, its dimensions were about 23 feet long, 14 feet wide, and 12 feet high. Compared with war tents of 18th century monarchs, it was spartan. Fashioned during the Valley Forge encampment in 1778, it replaced others that had worn out.

Camping among his men and enduring many of their hardships, Washington was acting in a highly unusual manner for a military leader—and in a way to gain attention. While military leaders usually commandeered buildings for their use, Washington chose to live much like his soldiers.

The tent served as his sleeping quarters and office. At night, he sat alone writing letters and reading. Some soldiers recalled seeing the glow of the tent as the last thing they remembered at night and the first thing that they saw in the morning. At the end of the war in 1783, the tent and Washington's military equipment were put into storage at Mount Vernon.

Robert E. Lee, the famed Confederate leader, became the co-owner of the tent through his marriage to Martha Washington's great granddaughter, Mary Custis. The tent was kept in their home, Arlington House. When Arlington was captured by Union forces, the tent was carried to Washington, D.C. where it was displayed as a symbol of the Union.

A long legal battle developed between the Lee family and the United States government for ownership. The tent was finally returned to Robert E. Lee's daughter who sold it to Reverend W. Herbert Burk of Norristown, Pennsylvania who raised money for Confederate war widows. The tent became a favorite exhibit in museums beginning with Valley Forge and finally the Museum of the American Revolution which opened in 2017 in Philadelphia.

Pieces of the tent have been found. One section was discovered by museum conservator Loreen Finkelstein at Mount Vernon. It was in a drawer since the 1930s. Another piece was brought to the museum by a person who purchased it at a Goodwill store. A small piece of linen with red trim was authenticated by the museum's experts.

Women in the American Revolution

By Randy Lyon

Often known as "camp followers," a term which by the Civil War was used to describe women of ill-repute, it was common for women and children to follow the army. Each of the women had their own reasons. Most were the wives, daughters, or mothers of male soldiers. Others did so to provide for themselves, looking for food and protection because they were no longer able to support themselves after their men left for war. There were even provisions for providing these families army rations as they slogged along on the various campaigns. To show themselves as more of a contribution than a nuisance, these women provided cooking, cleaning, and laundry services, as well as assisting in field hospitals and serving as seamstresses to repair clothing, tents, and other materials.

Some women chose to actively join the army's soldiers. One of the most famous of these women was Deborah Sampson. Originally from Massachusetts, she disguised herself as a man to fight in the Continental Army. Serving under the alias of her deceased brother, she fought with the light infantry company of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment.

She was wounded in action in Tarrytown, New York, with two bullets in her thigh and a gash on her forehead. Not wanting her identity to be revealed, she had her head wound treated and then left the field hospital unnoticed. She was later able to extract one of the bullets from her thigh with a knife.

Her identity was finally revealed during the summer of 1783 when she contracted a fever while on duty in Philadelphia. She was given an honorable discharge from the army and went on to marry and have three children. To help make ends meet, she often gave public lectures about her wartime service. By the time she died in 1827, she collected minimal pensions for her service from Massachusetts and the federal government.

“You’ll Hurt Your Teeth!

By Randy Lyon

There is hardly a child who at some point in their young lives was told not to bite hard objects. It appears some of our Revolutionary War ancestors did not take this advice to heart.

For those of you pursuing ‘bucket list’ objectives, may I add another “must see?” Colonial Williamsburg ranks as one of the most amazing sites in this nation. Whether you like to watch smithing being performed, rifles being manufactured, or just lunch being cooked as it was in colonial times—Colonial Williamsburg has it all.

I’ve had a bit of experience in archaeology, so it was fun for me years ago to observe an active “dig” on this prominent tourist attraction. The land still has its secrets to uncover. Recent dig activities have uncovered still more we never knew—including the answer to the odd introduction to this article. As crews prepared this spring for the construction of a new sports center on Colonial Williamsburg Foundation property, archaeologists first looked to see if 18th century maps and period documents referenced the construction of any barracks in 1776 through 1777.

From historical documentation, in August 1776, just a month after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Commonwealth of Virginia ordered the construction of barracks on the site. The barracks were to house up to 2,000 soldiers and 100 horses, even if they were originally anticipated to accommodate 1,000 soldiers. Those barracks did not last long. A report from a soldier described the burning of the barracks by British troops under General Cornwallis while they moved toward Yorktown in 1781.

Only a small section of the area was excavated this spring to ensure future exploration of the barracks. The team found bricks and an intact chimney base, gun hardware, high-end ceramics, and personal items likely owned by officers. One of the more intriguing items discovered was the quantity of lead shot with toothmarks. The foundation’s blog post says the shot was chewed on by bored soldiers to help pass the time, but also because the lead had a sweet taste.

Experts hope that as they excavate additional sections of the barracks, they will discover more about the way of life for Continental Army soldiers in the late 1770s.

Flag Certificate Presentations

By Randy Lyon



Mrs. Wingman (left) and Mrs. Fetherstone (right) were amazed to learn of our flag presentation program. They were thrilled with the certificates and were anxious to explain all this to their husbands when they returned from work.



Mrs. Determan (left) was my co-teacher for several wonderful years. She wished I had been in the Society while I was teaching so that I could come up with some reason to wear the uniform to school. Mrs. Hatfield (right) thanked me and the Society for such a unique approach to patriotism.



The wide-eyed look on the face of Mrs. Johnson's baby the entire time I was on the porch was priceless! She thanked me for the certificate and the memory of seeing her baby's face.

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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.*