



The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution September 8, 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.

The Iowa SAR supports Iowa C.A.R. Summer Events

By Lance Ehmcke

The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution conducted its combined Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Regions meeting in Overland Park, Kansas this summer. The event included presentations and interactive activities given by the C.A.R. National President, Mr. Emerson Sites-Byers from Pennsylvania, and members serving on his National Board. Among the features of this year's C.A.R. education programs are its America 250! Celebration of key events from 1774 to 1775; learning about patriots George Clymer, John Penn, Oliver Wolcott, Alexander Hamilton, and Deborah Sampson; a conservation focus about the role of fire in state and national park forests; and a government focus on learning about your local community government's relationship to first responders. Shown in the photo below are the Iowa C.A.R. State President, Maggie Petersen (center), and other Iowa C.A.R. members and adult leaders at the regional meeting including our Iowa SAR Liaison to the C.A.R.



Following up on the regional meeting, in August the Iowa C.A.R. held its summer planning meeting and state-wide activity kick-off in Des Moines. Through workshop activities, our Iowa C.A.R. State President, Maggie Petersen, carried the 2024-25 C.A.R. programs presented at the regional meeting to our local society members and adult leaders. Maggie also presented her state project under C.A.R.'s Kids-Helping-Kids committee, which is support for "Reach Out and Read," a national initiative to provide books to pediatric clinics so that the doctors can give a new age-appropriate book to toddlers and their parents in connection with well-toddler visits when advising about positive child development from reading at home. Our C.A.R. Liaison, Lance Ehmcke, attended the workshop representing the Iowa SAR and announced the Iowa SAR's \$200.00 donation to support the work of the Iowa C.A.R.

My Journey to Become an Iowa SAR Junior Member

By Silas Stauffer

My name is Silas Stauffer and I am from Floyd County in Greene, IA. Here is my story about my journey to become a junior member of the Iowa SAR.

My journey began when I received the Stauffer coat of arms which was drawn and painted by my Great-great grandaunt, Fern Stauffer. It was given to me by Linda and Doug Sinclair, relatives of the Stauffer family, who found the family coat of arms while cleaning out their attic. I completed hours of research on the Stauffer family history and the symbols represented on the Stauffer coat of arms. I was able to find what I believe all the symbols meant and represented.



Stauffer - The surname Stauffer originated in Switzerland. Surnames were often a reflection of the type of work a person did or the region/location they came from. The Stauffer name is derived from the Old High German word "stouf." The Stauffer surname could be an occupational name for a maker or seller of beakers or mugs. The name Stauffer could also be a regional name for "those who live on the sides of hills/mountains".

The Star of David - The Star of David could symbolize that the family had an ancestor in the Crusades.

Hand with Mug - The hand with mug represents that the occupation of the Stauffers was making or selling beakers or mugs.

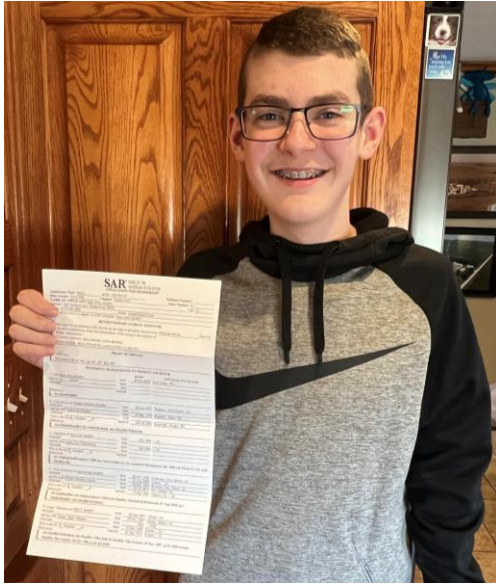
Knight Armor - The knight armor is a representation that the Stauffers were blacksmiths or armorers.

Peasant Figure - The figure of the peasant with feather/grain from hat denotes that the Stauffers had a farming background.

Dagger - The peasant holding a dagger in his left hand symbolizes and confirms the origins and occupation of blacksmithing.

Colors - The color blue illustrates loyalty and strength. The color yellow illustrates generosity and honor.

Cross and Bible - The Cross and Bible stand for a strong Christian heritage.



After I completed this research on the Stauffer family coat of arms, it intrigued me to do more ancestry research to further find out what my ancestors did for work, where they lived, and when they immigrated to the United States. I met with a gentleman by the name of Leonard at my public library to learn how to complete a family tree and operate ancestry.com. During this Ancestry work, I found that I had a relative, Private Reverend Abraham Stover, that fought in the Revolutionary War. It was then that I reached out to Randy Breese, State Registrar, Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution. My dad and I had a couple of Zoom meetings with Randy and he was able to educate us on the purpose and mission of the SAR and help us with the application process and patriot research system. I finally received my Iowa SAR membership and certificate this past month. My dad also was able to apply and receive his Iowa SAR membership. I have been able to participate in an Iowa Society and District Zoom meeting since receiving my certification.

I compiled all of my research, made and printed a family tree, displayed the Stauffer family coat of arms, made a "Families Are Forever" backboard, displayed my Iowa SAR certificate, and presented it at the Floyd County Fair as a 4-H Project. I received a blue ribbon and was considered for the Iowa State Fair.



My goal for the Floyd County Fair in 2025 is to put together a Patriot Chest for the Iowa SAR and to be able to educate others on the Revolutionary War and the SAR. If you would be interested in helping donate items for the Patriot Chest, please let me know.

WWII Tanker Corporal Robert Bartlett Repatriation

By Stuart Rice

On Saturday, August 10th, I was honored to represent the SAR and War of 1812 societies at the funeral service and burial of Corporal Robert Bartlett in Blunt, South Dakota. The following information is from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency:

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that U.S. Army Corporal Robert A. Bartlett, 22, of Pierre, South Dakota, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 20th, 2024.

In July 1944, Bartlett was assigned to Company A, 744th Tank Battalion, as a crew member of an M5A1 Stuart light tank. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces at Saint-Germain-d'Elle, France, on July 26th when his tank was struck by an enemy shoulder-fired rocket. Two crewmembers were able to escape the vehicle, but Bartlett and another Soldier were never seen or heard from again. Due to strong enemy artillery fire and intense combat, surviving crewmembers were unable to examine the tank afterwards. Bartlett was declared missing in action, but the Germans never reported him as a prisoner of war. In September 1950, with no evidence Bartlett survived the fighting, the Army Quartermaster Corps determined his remains were non-recoverable.



Beginning in 1946, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe. On July 30th, 1944, AGRC personnel recovered two sets of remains from an M5A1 destroyed in the vicinity of Saint-Germain-d'Elle. Ultimately, they could not identify the remains, designated X-141 and X-142 St. Laurent, and they were interred in the Normandy American Cemetery, France.



Left to right: Stuart Rice with surviving family members of Corporal Robert Bartlett: brother Jack Bartlett and niece Kelly Wiemerslage

While studying unresolved American losses in the Saint-Germain-d'Elle area, a DPAA historian determined that the M5A1 Stuart tank recovered from the area belonged to Company A, where Bartlett was assigned. This correlation led DPAA and American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) personnel to exhume the remains of X-141 and X-142 in April 2018 and sent them to the DPAA laboratory for analysis and identification.

To identify Bartlett's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y chromosome DNA (Y-STR) analysis.

Bartlett's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Normandy American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, along with the others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Repair of Veteran Spouse Gravestones in Glendale Cemetery

By Mike Rowley



Wade Fowler and Mike Rowley repaired the gravestones of five veteran spouses. The gravestones were damaged by a tornado that struck Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa.

Iowa C.A.R. Project: "Reach Out and Read Iowa"

By Mike Rowley

The Iowa SAR was presented a tote bag and project pin by the Children of the American Revolution Iowa State President Maggie Petersen at the DAR Fall Forum.

This year's project will benefit "Reach Out and Read Iowa." This program has the vision and mission for a world where every child is read to every day. Their first program launched in 1998 at Blank's Children's Hospital distributing 3,551 books the first year. They have grown tremendously since then and currently have 100 active programs serving 80,912 children.

Requests for further information can be sent to iowanscar@gmail.com.

Donation checks payable to "Iowa Society, C.A.R." can be mailed to Amy Sunleaf, 1729 Creek Wood Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003-7602.



The Iowa Society SAR at the DAR Fall Forum

By Mike Rowley



The Iowa SAR was honored to be asked to participate in the Iowa Society DAR Fall Forum on August 23-24, 2024, in Des Moines, Iowa. There were approximately 135 members of the Iowa DAR and C.A.R. registered for the event.

Mike Rowley gave a talk and PowerPoint presentation entitled "Preserving Our History One Project, One Cemetery, and One Person at a Time." The talk covered many of the projects that Iowa SAR members have initiated as well as the spin-off results that they have led to.

Many of those in attendance sought out the speaker for more information on how members of their own families might join the Iowa SAR and General Society of the War of 1812.

1812 Member Story

By Mike Rowley



We often never know the full impact of the things that our organization does to preserve and retell history. Sometimes that impact is years later.

Recently I was invited to present information about our organization to a group of over 100 women. After my presentation, I was approached by an audience member. She gave me the name of her great-great-great-grandfather Elisha B. Lee. She told me she knew he had been in Iowa and asked if he was on our list of War of 1812 veterans buried in the state.

The name sounded familiar, but it was not until I got back home and looked up old research that I realized this was the man whom our members had discovered in Harvey cemetery in Delaware Township of Polk County and then placed a stone and held a memorial in 2022.

The story was somewhat unique in that nearly all burial there had been moved to another cemetery except this veteran. Now he has the lone marker in the entire cemetery to never be forgotten.

The great-great-great-granddaughter was thrilled to find her ancestor who she said she had been searching for many years.

568th Engineering Company 1st Reunion

By Justin Blood



It was an honor to serve in the Color Guard at the 568th Engineering Company 1st Annual Reunion on Saturday, August 31st in Davenport, Iowa. My fellow SAR Color Guard member at this event, Dick Wells of the Peoria, Illinois, is also a chaplain. He gave the Invocation and prayer for lost soldiers of the 568th while I gave the Benediction. Mr. Diaz and Mr. Colon were members of the 568th company and helped organize the event.



First U.S. Flag in Alaska

By Randy Lyon



This flag in a museum in Juneau is believed to be the first to fly over Alaska. It flew from 1864 to 1865 during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

The treaty negotiated by William Seward for the United States to purchase the Alaska Territory was considered ridiculous. Called "Seward's Folly," the area could only boast of its fur trade. Seward made no friends in Alaska either. The chief of the tribe which sold the land threw a huge "potlatch" for Seward at which the chief proved his wealth by giving almost all he owned to Seward. Unknown to Seward, the U.S. official had by custom three years to throw an even more impressive giveaway. When he failed to host such an occasion, Seward was shamed by having a totem of shame erected in Saxman, Alaska.

D/2 Biological Solution Not Needed

By Randy Lyon

For those interested in grave marker cleaning, here is one to challenge your skills! During the building of the White Pass Railroad, a huge boulder slid downhill and buried two construction workers. Unable to move the boulder, it was left as a gravestone. A black cross was added. The picture at right was taken from a slow-moving cog railroad car running north out of Skagway, Alaska.



Flag Retirement Ceremony at Glendale Cemetery

By Mike Rowley



Iowa SAR and War of 1812 members again led volunteers through the ceremony and retirement of over 4,000 flags at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa on September 7th, 2024.

Left to right: Mike Rowley, Bob Niffenegger, and Ron Rittel

Invitation to Walk in the Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade on 9/21/2024

By Doug Frazer

Who doesn't like a parade? I would like to invite you to participate in one of Iowa's largest (and fun) parades. It is part of the annual Beaverdale Fall Festival, situated in a quaint northwest Des Moines neighborhood. A

generous SAR member has offered the use of his 25' flatbed trailer. We will accommodate as many as can ride safely on it. You might want to bring a lawn chair.

Here are the specifics:

- **Date and Time:** Saturday, September 21st, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Rain or shine, but cancelled if severe weather threatens.
- **Location:** Along Beaver Avenue, south between Euclid Avenue and Allison Avenue. The parade route is a little over one mile long.
- **Staging Area:** Beaver Avenue near Euclid Avenue (one block south of Douglas Avenue) by 9:00 a.m.
- **Who Should Come:** IASSAR members, family, and significant others.
- **What to Wear:** Your Revolutionary War uniform if you have one but come march anyway if you don't. The Iowa SAR was not allowed to march in uniform during the July 4th Urbandale Parade, so here is your chance to proudly represent the SAR!
- **Candy:** Oh, yes! Bring a bunch of candy to hand out (but not throw hard) to parade watchers. I will also supply you with small American flags to hand out.
- **Cost:** No additional cost. Your IASSAR Board of Managers voted to approve the entry fee.

Here is a link to the event: <https://www.fallfestival.org/parade>. So far, over 50 groups have registered. It is a true community event! If you have any questions, please let me know. I hope to see you there!

Flag Certificate Presentations

By Randy Lyon



Jessica Riedel was not home, but her husband promised to show the certificate to her the minute she returned from work.



David Phillips said that he had "inherited" the flagpole when he bought the house but had developed the habit of flying the flag daily.



Katherine Kruse was another working spouse who would have to wait to see the certificate after returning home.



Ruby Stevens accepted the flag certification on behalf of herself and her husband who was not home. She related that it meant a lot since her father and husband had both served in the military.



Leslie Blair was fascinated by the uniform and the fact that he would be honored for flying the American flag. He congratulated the Society for sponsoring such a program.

Your Iowa SAR Board of Managers

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The Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme*



*forefathers, who gave us our Constitution,
Court, and a nation of free men.*