

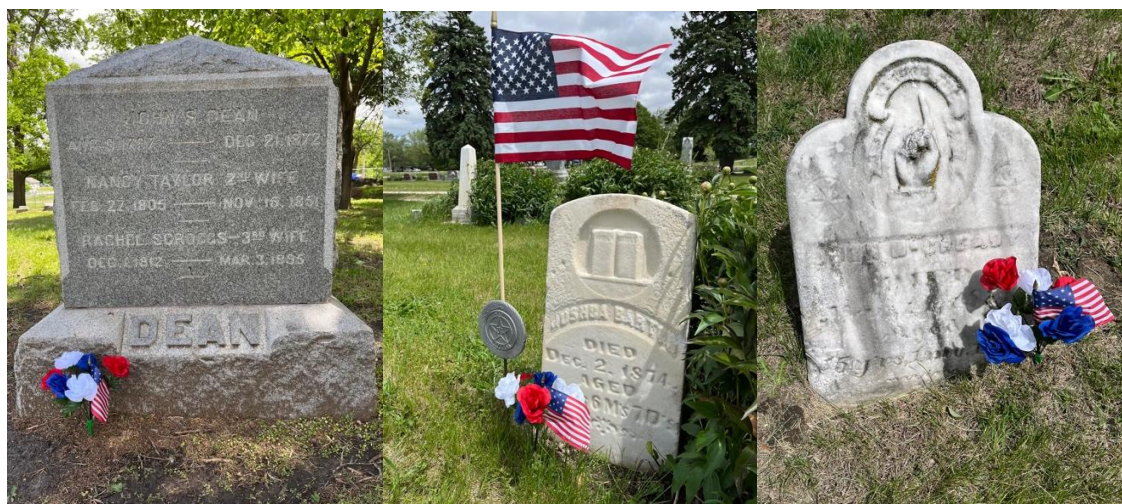


Iowa Compatriot

July, 2025

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

Memorial Day



I never expected to miss any of the Memorial Day projects, but that is exactly what happened. The Memorial Day project of Ron (IA SAR/1812) and Marilyn Rittel was to mark the graves of War of 1812 veterans in the Des Moines Metro area cemeteries. The project began with markings at Canfield, Jordan, and Simms.

The project continued at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines.

Memorial Day Parade in Waterloo



David Nation, our Iowa Society of SAR treasurer, found time to break away from his duties to join members of the Waterloo DAR chapter in Waterloo.

D-Day Hero Honored



An Iowan who fought for our country was honored exactly 81 years after his death.

U.S. Army Pvt. James Harrington was killed on D-Day in World War II.

His remains were recently identified

and returned to Cincinnati, Iowa, to be buried.



Larry Wright and Mike Rowley attended the funeral of World War II Private Harrington in Cincinnati, Iowa.

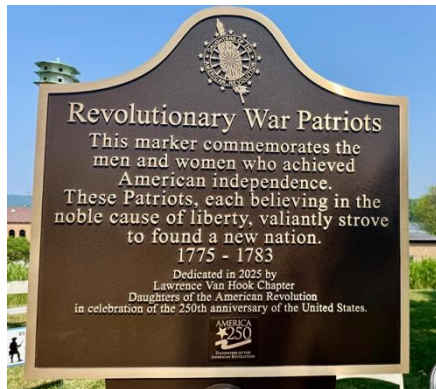
Larry was instrumental in getting a proclamation from the governor as

well as approval for half-staff flag and other coordination needed for the event itself.



On Memorial Day morning, Iowa SAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley stood at attention at the Glendale Cemetery flagpole for 3.5 hours, visible to thousands of visitors.

June 14th DAR Celebration in Bellevue



The Lawrence Van Hook Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution hosted a DAR American Patriots Marker celebration in Bellevue, Iowa on June 14, 2025. Located in Riverview Park, along the Mississippi River, the well-attended festivities included speakers, music, and a parade to the American Legion Hall for punch and cake. The Color Guard from the Iowa Society of SAR was led by Mike Rowley.



Ed and Laurine Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas provided a spirited fife and drum addition to the program.



SAR members attending the ceremony were Larry Hoelscher, Mike Rowley, Randy Lyon, Arthur Sunleaf, and Ed Williams.



Pictures of the event were published in the *Bellevue Herald-Telegraph*.

Patriotic Mural in Urbandale

On June 18, 2025 years of planning, approvals, and meetings led to the unveiling of a large patriotic mural that covered the eastern wall of the American Legion Post #663 in Urbandale,Iowa. Four members of the Iowa Society of the War of 1812 represented not only the GSW 1812 but also the SAR (Tom Clegg), VFW Vietnam veterans (David Lamb) , SUVCW (David Rowley), and GSW 1812 (Mike Rowley).

At the same time, a flag drop-off box was unveiled on another side of the same building. This box was an Eagle Scout project.

Photo 1 L-R Tom Clegg, Mike Rowley, David Rowley and David Lamb

Photo 2 L-R Tom Clegg, Mike Rowley, scouts, and David Rowley

Photo 3 L-R 1812 Iowa members David Rowley, David Lamb, Mike Rowley, Tom Clegg

Photo 4 L-R Mike Rowley helping to hold the huge flag





Great News from Mount Vernon



Tony Townsend has been active with great news to report. The VA has approved headstones for two War of 1812 veterans. Delivery is expected in mid to late July. Approval has yet to be received for two other markers.

Tony also reports success involving the headstone for Henry Belmer. Belmer, a Union soldier, was issued a Confederate style gravestone in 1903. Tony's efforts led the VA to issue the proper stone (shown at left) and requested Find-a-Grave replace its picture of the gravestone with the one shown here.

Our History Is Expanding



Badly needed new registers for SAR and the War of 1812 have arrived. The SAR secretary has handwritten the names of each member and their date of joining. The War of 1812 has been collecting names but now has a formal registry for this information.

These massive volumes, each over twice the height of a normal book, should each last about fifty years



Grave Marker Discovered

At first it was believed that vandals might have stolen a burial marker. After a careful search, Don

Richardson found the grave marker of Emery Gibson, Purple Heart recipient, buried under silt and dirt.

As Mike Rowley mentioned, it would be a good idea for members to remind cemetery staff to report stones being overgrown. Removing the encroaching vegetation and dirt would be a wonderful project for members to accept on much cooler fall days.

Recent Flag Presentations



I could have easily missed the two small American flags at the base of a flagpole along Highway 52 north of Dubuque. I'm glad I didn't.

Norbert was grinning after having my visit explained. He asked where I'd like him to stand. When I suggested the tiny shrine with two flags, he nodded quietly and walked just behind it. He explained it was his memorial for his son, a Marine, who returned from Vietnam, but could never get over the shock of war. He committed suicide.



Jesse was about to take advantage of a calm, sunny day to get some yard work done. He was more than happy, however, to receive a flag certificate and hear all about our efforts.



"Dumbfounded" would be a description Eric would have had no problem accepting as his reaction to me coming to his door. To say he appreciated our program would be a vast understatement.



Scott Hillary was not at home, but I left a certificate for him.

Getting Credit in National Publications



I submit everything I am sent by you to various National newsletters. Sometimes they get printed and sometimes not. In any case I never like to get a publication without an Iowa story that goes to Iowa members. I encourage all to submit articles. As space is usually limited, the shorter the article the more likely it is used.

For those GSW 1812 members looking for a project or to make and leave a historical mark that will last centuries after they are gone, I applaud them.

If you think that all there is to know or find or do has already been done in your area, I promise you that you are mistaken.

Iowa members have been active in discovering, researching, documenting and sharing the information on War of 1812 veterans who made Iowa their final home and are buried in cemeteries, graveyards, family farms and sacred ground across our state.

We have the most complete, accurate, and accessible listing of the War of 1812 veterans of any military or historical museum in Iowa.

Much of it started with just a few members. In about 10 years the list has grown from the names of 39 of these veterans to nearly 1100. Much of the early credit goes to members, researcher Ron Rittel, his son Daniel

Rittel who initially placed them on the Iowa 1812, and more recently their wife and mother Marilyn Rittel, who since retirement has expanded and further documented the veteran list by 100's. Our Iowa 1812 president Chris Moberg continues to update the website listing with each new discovery.

Members Bob Niffenegger, Tony Townsend, Tom Sager, Terry Thompson, Tim Rowley and Mike Rowley have placed dozens of War of 1812 stones and over 400 granite or marble stones for other veterans from the Revolutionary War to modern day just since the start of Covid-19. I don't think any of us ever conceived or planned that we would reach these high numbers.

Our motto has really been, "If we help remember one veteran, then that is one less forgotten." Respectfully, Mike Rowley

‘I... Not Having Been Wett All Over...for 28 years Past.’



At least once during his youth at Ferry Farm, probably in July 1750, George Washington went “washing in the river.” We know this because of the arrest of Ann Carrol and Mary McDaniel.

Documents show Ann Carrol and Mary McDaniel stole valuables from Washington’s clothes as he was “washing in the river.” Carol testified against McDaniel, who was convicted of petty larceny and “flogged fifteen lashes on her bare back.” Spotsylvania County Court Records, Order Book 1749-1755, Central Rappahannock Heritage Center.

In the 1700s, swimming was rarely meant for hygienic purposes. People went swimming to cool off. The word “washing” in the court documents is important. For Washington to be actually bathing was unusual.

Climate had a role to play in the infrequency of bathing. Mid-Atlantic colonials might have bathed three or four times a year. New Englanders, on the other hand, may have only accomplished a full body wash once a year. It was too cold to slip into a tub more often than that in their climate.

If we mean head-to-toe immersion in water and scrubbing with soap to get clean, then bathing was quite infrequent. In the 1700s, many people believed immersing the body in water was a sure way to get sick. For much of the 18th century, the suspicion existed that extremes of heat, cold, wetness, and dryness caused illness by disturbing the delicate balance of the body's humors, temperature, and moisture. Some people even believed dirt helped keep a person healthy by "reinforcing the skin."

An immersive bath also involved a lot of hard work. Multiple trips from a source of water to fill the tub were necessary. Precious firewood then had to be used to heat the water. As late as the early 1800s, lead miners living near Galena, Illinois were still using the following procedure with a metal tub having a tall back for resting. Using the warmest and clearest water, the father soaked and bathed first, the sons next entered the same water next, followed by the mother and daughters.

Daily cleaning for most of the colonial era was accomplished by washing the face and hands within the bed chamber, with a basin and a relatively small amount of water. Today this would be called a *sponge bath*.

Possible curative powers in specific cases led to exceptions to the usual thoughts about bathing. Mineral springs found near large cities were intended as curative. *The English Housewife* recommended bathing in rosemary water to treat gout and infertility.

For most of the 1700s, washing from a basin remained the most common daily method for getting clean. It was so common that when Elizabeth Drinker, a wealthy Philadelphia woman, tried the new shower her

husband built in the backyard, she wrote in her diary: “I bore it better than I expected, not having been wett all over at once, for 28 years past.”

Sources:

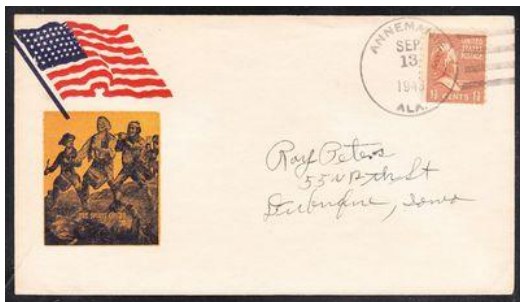
“Not Having Been Wett All Over at Once, for 28 Years Past’: Bathing in Early America,” Ferryfarmandkenmore. March 25, 2015, Online: <https://livesandlegaciesblog.org/2015/03/25/not-having-been-wett-all-over-at-once-for-28-years-past-bathing-in-early-america/>

“Colonial Hygiene – The Dirty Truth by Kelly White,” Pennsbury Manor, April 9, 2020, Online: <https://www.pennsburymanor.org/colonial-hygiene-the-dirty-truth-by-kelly-white/>

“Spring Cleaning: Hygiene in Colonial Times,” The Friends of GraemePark, Online: <https://www.graemepark.org/spring-cleaning-hygiene-in-colonial-times/> Randy Lyon

Tour Guide at Shake Rag Alley Pendarvis, Wisconsin

Spirit of ‘76



As we approach the 4th of July, we should note that the “Spirit of ‘76” was used on patriotic envelopes during World War II. Some of our members can remember the use of these patriotic envelopes. Dozens were printed to inspire the war effort.

For other examples check out:

<https://www.encyclopediadubuque.org>

Have a wonderful 4th!!

Your Iowa SAR Board of Managers

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