

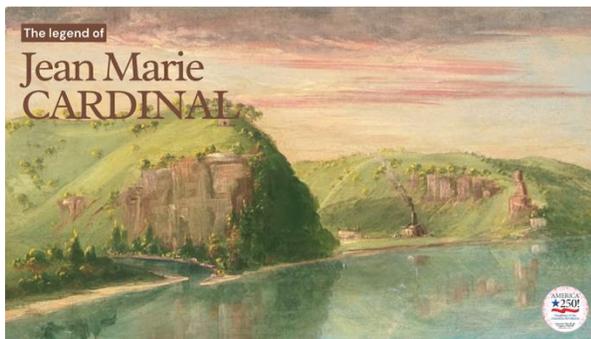


**Iowa Compatriot**

**February, 2026**

**Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution**

**Jean Marie Cardinal, Western “Paul Revere” of the American Revolution**



An exciting new reference to the life and times of Jean Marie Cardinal is now online. Amy Sunleaf, and the Lawrence Van Hook chapter of DAR has produced a fascinating YouTube as an America 250 project.

For new members, the Iowa Society of SAR found that Cardinal was the only “Iowan” to fight in the American Revolution. Although

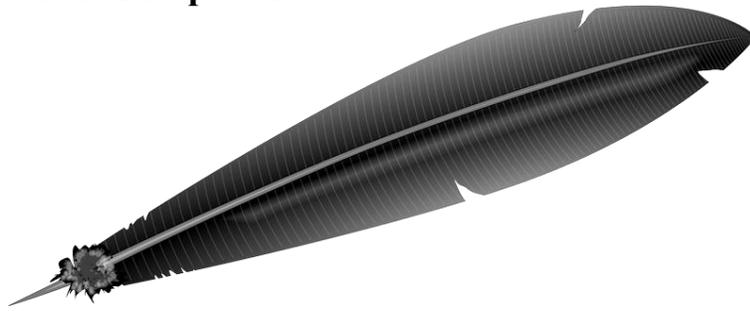
Iowa was not a state for many years, Cardinal paddled a canoe from Dubuque to St. Louis in March to warn residents there of a pending British attack. With the warning, the residents defeated the British and prevented them from gaining control of the important Mississippi River.

The historic event, the western-most battle of the Revolution, was memorialized in Dubuque with a plaque developed by the SAR which is standing along the Dubuque Riverwalk.

The DAR project delves in depth into the life of Cardinal and his importance to American history. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, a program at the plaque will be presented as an SAR American 250 project.

To watch this production use--[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGdBFkNMDk0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGdBFkNMDk0)

**Hello. Compatriots!**



Thank you once again for judging entries in the 2025 IASSAR's youth contests. Please consider judging again next year!

We were fortunate to have several excellent entries. Here are the results:

2025 Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout competition:

First Place: Caleb Klassen, of the Mid Iowa Council

Runner-Up: Kenna Parker, of the Mid Iowa Council

2025 George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest:

First Place: Georgia Clark, of West Liberty High School

I will forward the first-place entries to NSSAR for national competition.

If you live reasonably close to Caleb or Kenna, and could represent IASSAR at a troop Court of Honor to present an award, please let me know. I will communicate this information to our winners. It would mean a lot to them.

I will soon receive from Mid Iowa Council another list of newly-minted Eagle Scouts, and will be busy creating and sending award packets. Maybe some of these folks will enter the 2026 King contest! As they say in Scouting, "There is no end to the Eagle Scout Trail."

Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Doug Frazer

**IOWA 250 City Pictures—Work Progressing**



Iowans will soon be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution with projects large and small. To represent and include all Iowans, the Iowa SAR & DAR are heading a project to photograph all 934 Iowa towns and then create a collage from those photos. Mike Rowley, our member of the IOWA 250! task force, has assured me that

there are still many communities needing to be represented with a photograph summer.

Be sure your picture includes the name of the town! Pictures of the welcome sign coming into town are excellent. If there is a small town or two nearby include a picture for them.

Send pictures of Mike at [MJR1825@gmail.com](mailto:MJR1825@gmail.com)



Iowa Public Radio's *River to River* program, out of Iowa City, Iowa invited Iowa SAR registrar Randy Breesse and Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley to talk about the 250th anniversary of the American Revolutionary War and the name added to the Revolutionary War Monument in Iowa. The 30 minute segment allowed for a little public education and mention of Iowa SAR, SUVCW, MOFW, SAPIC and the SHSI as well as upcoming plans. You can watch the interview [HERE](#)



The City of Des Moines, Iowa created a volunteer poster that featured volunteers from the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution members Doug Frazer and Mike Rowley as well as DAR members Marilyn Rittel and Kristine Bartley.



On Patriot's Day 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa members of Iowa SAR joined with community volunteers in the placement of 2996 flags to honor each killed in the 9-11 attacks. Other events and member activities are taking place throughout the state.

## Iowa SAR Featured in SAR Color Guard Magazine

Iowa activity was featured in the Winter issue of the SAR Color Guard magazine! Thank you for the participation shown by those pictured and many more who make this an active organization.



The Iowa SAR hosted a ceremony on October 4 to celebrate adding the 41st name, Matrom Elmore, to the Iowa Revolutionary War Memorial in preparation for the nation's 250th anniversary. About 50 veterans, patriot descendants, and supporters attended the event honoring Elmore, the fifth great-grandfather of Iowa Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley. The memorial, dedicated in 2002, features a central obelisk engraved with the names of Revolutionary War veterans buried in Iowa, surrounded by 13 granite pillars symbolizing the original colonies, and accented by Iowa's state flower, the wild rose. Iowa SAR President Kevin Parmeter participated in the commemoration.



Iowa SAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley filmed a segment near the Iowa Revolutionary War Monument in Des Moines, Iowa for Iowa Public Broadcasting System. The segment gives an Iowa connection to the Revolutionary War as an introduction to the Ken Burns documentary.

The Iowa SAR helped lead the Wreaths Across America program at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa. Despite frigid temperatures and snow, over 1000 graves and veterans were marked and remembered.

## SAR Activities Recorded in New Form

Until this year, all the activities of SAR societies nationwide were recorded on two forms—Americanism and Stark. Basically, one form recorded “in house” activities, while the other recorded activities in the community. Two people were needed and the forms were emailed to the national office in January.

That process had now been changed with the use of one form. With some experience filling out each of the other two reports, I'm willing to admit that it is not a shorter process.

There are distinct improvements. Information is easily linked to organizational goals, objectives, and programs. Relating everything into one report also makes it much easier to accurately record our Society's activities without worrying about whether it is being reported on the correct form.

Scott Giltner at the national office is a technical wizard and quickly replies to questions.

With the first few weeks of working with the new form, and receiving great help locally getting information from our officers, I believe the new recording system will live up to its name—SMART

**IA SAR** listed first the **last 6 Sunday Registers** for IA 250 project!

**IA SAR** to plan with DAR, Living History Farms, Iowa State Historical Society for reading of the Declaration of Independence July 8th- Sharing the Spirit of America

**Ray Wilson and Mark Meyocks--New War of 1812 Members**



Daughter of Betsy Ross gravestone to be restored by Wade Fowler for DAR in Fort Madison, Iowa

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32688836/clarissa-sidney-wilson>

## An Important FIRST in Midwestern History

The Iowa Sons of the American Revolution did something very rare in the Midwestern states. On February 27, 2026 they sent to the Veterans Administration an application for a granite gravestone for a Revolutionary War veteran buried in West Burlington, Iowa!

Peter Gearhart, a private 4th class, in the Company of Captain John Lowery, 3rd Pennsylvania Militia has long been known to reside in Spring Creek Cemetery, which rests inside the Iowa Ordnance Plant confines near West Burlington in Des Moines County, Iowa.

The fact that his grave has been unmarked for so long may be because visitation to this cemetery requires an appointment and escort. Perhaps a victim of *'Out of sight, out of mind.'*

Recently as part of the **76 veterans' graves project of the America 250 Iowa** celebrations volunteers have made it a priority to see that this patriot veteran is honored.

As original cemetery records of the exact spot within the cemetery no longer seem to exist, an "In Memory" stone was requested by a Great-great-great-great-granddaughter tracked down by Marilyn Rittel, the wife and mother of IA SAR members Ron and Daniel Rittel.

Special thanks also to General Society of the War of 1812 member Ray Wilson of Mediapolis, Iowa for helping make the connection with local officials.

Pending approval by the VA a ceremony will hopefully take place this year. Mike



### Bald Eagle Day in Des Moines

Mike Rowley reported seeing dozens of bald eagles of all ages during the recent event in Des Moines—another Iowa 250! event.



***Miss Paige Danielle Perry***

*State President*

*&*

***Ms. Mary Elizabeth Davis***

*Senior State President*

*are pleased to invite you to attend the 79th State Conference*

*of the*

***Iowa State Society Children of the American Revolution***

*Saturday, March 21, 2026*

*Iowa Genealogical Society-West Wing*

*628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309*





# 79th Annual Iowa State Society Conference

## REGISTRATION FORM

### Patron, Booster or Promoter



We would like to ask for your support by becoming a Patron, Booster or Promoter of Iowa C.A.R. Your contribution is tax deductible and will show all Daughters & Sons your support of this worthy children's organization. Your donation will be recognized in this year's State Conference program if received by **March 1, 2026**. You will also receive a copy of the program following the conference if you do not attend the event.

#### Patronage Levels

- Hat Patron .....\$10
- Yarn Patron .....\$25
- Knitter Booster .....\$50
- Crocheter Booster.....\$100
- Wool Promoter .....\$250
- Hats for Heroes Promoter .....\$500

TOTAL: \$\_\_\_\_\_

### State Conference Registration



Saturday, March 21, 2026

Iowa Genealogical Society-West Wing  
628 E. Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA

Registration: 9:00 - 9:25am  
State Conference Meeting: 9:30am  
Registration Fee: FREE  
Dress Code: Business

Parking: There is FREE multi-level parking ramp immediately east of IGS on the ground and first levels. Unless you have mobility issues, please park in the ramp.

TOTAL: FREE!!

Name(s) (if registering as a family, please include all attendee names): \_\_\_\_\_

Society: \_\_\_\_\_

2025-2026 Office/Chairmanship(s) held: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Deadline: Sunday, March 15, 2026

#### Mail Registration Form and donations to:

Mrs. Amy Crow Sunleaf, Senior State Treasurer  
1729 Creek Wood Dr, Dubuque, IA 52003

Total Donations Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Iowa Society C.A.R.

## Your Iowa SAR Board of Managers

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**Secretary** Doug Frazer dlfrazer@yahoo.com

**Treasurer** David Nation davenation@gmail.com

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