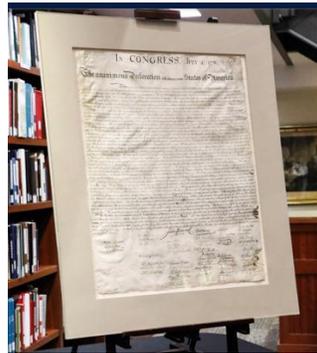




Iowa Compatriot

March, 2026 Iowa Society,

National Association of the Sons of the American Revolution



The Stone Engraving: America's Icon of the Declaration of Independence

The original parchment Declaration—now preserved in the National Archives—is written in pale brown ink on off-white parchment. Time has greatly faded its text and signatures, making it difficult to read. The image that Americans know and recognize today comes instead from an engraving produced nearly fifty years later.

Following the War of 1812, a renewed sense of patriotism swept the United States. As the Revolutionary generation aged and passed on, Americans came to revere the Declaration as a sacred national symbol. This growing reverence created demand for an accurate, official reproduction of the document.

In 1820, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, son of Founding Father John Adams, commissioned Washington engraver **William Stone** to create a true facsimile of the Declaration—one that faithfully reproduced both the text and the signatures exactly as they appeared on the original parchment.

Stone completed the copperplate engraving in 1823. The State Department ordered **200 impressions**, printed on parchment and nearly the same size as the original document. Congress directed that these engravings be distributed to government

offices, notable leaders, and the surviving signers of the Declaration, including Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

Stone's engraving became the definitive image of the Declaration of Independence. It is the version reproduced in textbooks, displayed in schools and libraries, and recognized by generations of Americans.

Today, fewer than three dozen of the original parchment prints are known to survive. Stone's original copperplate is preserved at the National Archives, a tangible link between the Founding Era and the early Republic.

One of the copies will be sold at Auction in May 2026 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence. The last copy sold for \$5.6 million. The Philadelphia auction house in charge of the sale the print will be #1 in a catalogue of four hundred items to be sold.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), together with the Louisville-Jefferson County America250KY Committee is proud to be able to place on display one of the very few remaining engravings that is available for public view. **It is the only one available to view in Kentucky.** It was given to Louisville in 1986 by the family of William P. Mulloy. Its history is uncertain, but it might have been originally given to the state of Maine.

In 2010, the document underwent an ICA-Certified conservation process, and was subsequently placed in a high security, temperature and light-controlled environment at The University of Louisville. **This is the first time in over 15 years that it has been made available for public view. Due to the light-sensitive and fragile nature of the document, it will only be on view at the SAR Genealogical Research Library through Labor Day, 2026.**

- 1. On view from Thursday, January 22, 2026**
- 2. Through Saturday, September 5, 2026**
- 3. Monday to Friday, 9:30 AM until 4:30 PM**
- 4. LAST ENTRY AT 4:00 PM**
- 5. Entry to view The Stone Engraving is FREE.**
- 6. Entry DOES NOT include use of the SAR Genealogical Research Library.**
- 7. Please click [HERE](#) for our visitor policies**

Compatriots of Iowa SAR All Across Our State Are Involved in America 250 Iowa Projects.

One of the projects is the **76 Veterans Project**, an effort to identify, research, document and mark in 2026 the graves in Iowa of 76 veterans who lie in unmarked graves. So far over 26 applications have been prepared, submitted or completed.



The attached photos are from the installation on March 3, 2026 of a stone for War of 1812 veteran George Oglivie who is buried in Rising Sun Cemetery in Pleasant Hill Iowa.

The unmarked grave was originally found by Marilyn Rittel. While installing the stone, an original although nearly unreadable stone was uncovered.

Ron Rittel represented the General Society of the War of 1812 and Mike Rowley represented the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

If anyone knows of unmarked veteran graves and are willing to help, Mike Rowley may be able to provide some assistance. He

can be reached at MJR1825@gmail.com

- 8 straight weeks of SAR in Des Moines Register for America 250 Iowa Collage Project
- Kyle Munson article on Collage Project
- IA National Guard May 21st All Era Soldiers Color Guards requested at Camp Dodge
- IA National Guard requests Color Guard August 17th for Iowa State Fair veterans Parade
- IA Representative Carter Nordman would like Color Guard be recognized on the floor of the Senate in State Capital
- Met Friday, March 20 with IA PBS producer/director Emily Kestel about an Iowa Living segment featuring Collage Project
- Took delivery of stones for Thomas Hendryx 1812 Delta, IA and Isaac Bell 1812 Melrose, IA
- Installed stone for George Oglivie 3-3-2026 Pleasant Hill, IA
- Cherokee Mental Health Institute would like assistance in Sept with ceremony to honor 4 veterans that never got military funeral-- I sent an article to Cherokee newspaper for consideration
- Peter Gearhart stone application completed and sent. He is Rev War Vet in cemetery on Iowa Ordinance compound in Burlington, IA
- Lewis Underwood --War of 1812 veteran in rural Casey, IA cemetery application sent- Also procured another 30 foot commercial flagpole for that spot
- Archie Cook would like all military related groups to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the WWI monument in September at the site in Des Moines

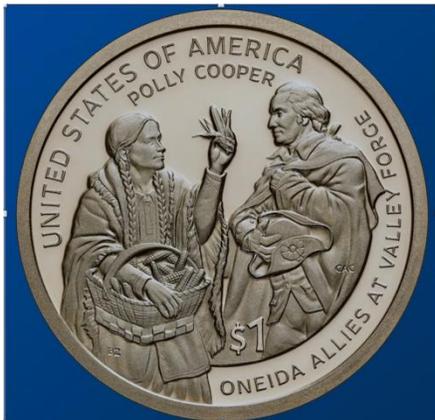
March 20th Naturalization Ceremony in Linn County Greet 64 New Americans



Naturalization ceremonies in Linn County are traditionally held in the federal court building. This month's meeting featured participation by the SAR, DAR, League of Women Voters, and a women's vocal group which performed four numbers.

This month's celebration was held in the auditorium of the National Czech and Slovak National Museum in Cedar Rapids. Recognized nationally for the museum's collection of Czech and Slovak historical artifacts including a king's ransom in glassware, the auditorium has welcomed international leaders. On this day a gathering

of 64 eager new citizens, former residents of over 30 countries in addition to their families and friends filled the room to its maximum



The 2026 Native American Dollar Features Polly Cooper and George Washington at Valley Forge

Polly Cooper of the Oneida Indian Nation saved the lives of Continental soldiers' lives after the harsh winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge. Thanks to the Oneida Indian Nation, her dedication to caring for General George Washington's army through illness and hunger survives.

The Oneida Indian Nation supported the American cause during the Revolutionary War. Many Oneidas served as warriors and scouts in several engagements such as the Battle of Oriskany. Their bravery and generosity off the battlefield also proved just as important.

In December of 1777, Washington's Continental Army settled in their winter quarters at Valley Forge. His exhausted troops struggled to survive. Disease was everywhere. Thousands of troops lacked proper clothing and food supplies.

When Oneida Chief Oskanondonha, or Skenandoah, sent a group of fifty warriors to join the army at Valley Forge, he also sent surplus corn. Cooper's party began its journey from New York in April 1778, traveling hundreds of miles by foot to Pennsylvania. They arrived in Valley Forge with hundreds of baskets of white corn.



White corn takes careful preparation before it can be eaten. Cooper taught soldiers and their families how to properly cook it. She also cared for sick soldiers, refusing to accept any pay for her services. According to oral tradition, some of the soldiers' wives – or even Martha Washington herself – presented Cooper with a black shawl to show their immense gratitude for her aid.

Cooper's descendants and the Oneida Indian Nation ensure her selfless acts were recorded and have cared for her shawl for generations. Recently, the Oneida Indian Nation donated a statue of Cooper standing alongside Washington and Oskanondonha to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian to commemorate the alliance between the Oneida Indian Nation and the United States. The shawl remains in near perfect condition and is displayed on special occasions.

Mike Rowley's E-Mail to the Governor's America 250 Iowa Task Force in March

1. America 250 Iowa Collage project of Iowa towns- over 600 (of over 950) submitted a photo. Here is a list of towns covered as well as those needing photos.
2. America 250 Project to mark 76 unmarked veteran graves- The 41st General Assembly (100 years ago) formed a commission to identify and mark all Revolutionary War veteran graves in Iowa. on Feb. 27, 2026, an application was

completed and sent to VA for a stone to mark Rev War veteran Peter Gearhart in Burlington Iowa-- 29 others either installed so far or applications waiting review

3. WWI Monument in Des Moines was dedicated 100 years ago- This anniversary will be marked with a public celebration. A side note--plans announced at the time were to raise funds (\$2.5 million) for an 1000 foot Eiffel Tower-like structure in Des Moines to honor Civil War, Spanish/American War and WWI veterans. It never happened

4. MIAP (Missing in America Project) volunteers and local historians are seeing that past Cherokee Mental Health Institute residents and veterans buried in the cemetery there will finally be given the military honors that never took place at the time of their deaths.

5. Across the US, members of SAR in all 50 States and DC will be reading the Declaration of Independence – at the exact same time



Kevin Parmenter had the pleasure of presenting a United States flag to the State of Iowa C.A.R. President at their state meeting in Des Moines, IA on March 21, 2026.

ROTC Awards Summary

The following chart was prepared by Doug Frazer after working with university / school officials. Every year Doug , in addition to being our secretary makes these arrangements as well as the packets of information for our essay contests. Doug brings a great deal of respect to our Society. On behalf of the membership, sincere thanks for your hours of work expertly done!

UDubuque - Deb Ackerson debra.ackerson@uni.edu						
23-Apr	SAR - UDubuque		nominee Cadet Alex W. Bird			presenter Larry Hoelscher
23-Apr	1812 - UDubuque		nominee Cadet Sean T. Feiten			presenter Larry Hoelscher
			Ceremony is 3:00PM at the Sgt. Dodge Veteran Center			
UNI - Deb Ackerson debra.ackerson@uni.edu						
5-May	SAR - UNI		nominee Cadet Lucas Harks			presenter Dave Nation
5-May	1812 - UNI		nominee Cadet Courtney G. Sinnock			presenter Dave Nation
			Ceremony is 3:30PM at the Nielsen Field House.			
ISU Army ROTC - Stephen Yaffe syaffe@iastate.edu						
24-Apr	1812		nominee Cadet Everett J. Carlsen			presenter Craig Long
24-Apr	SAR		nominee Cadet Luke F. Scoular			presenter Craig Long
24-Apr	SUVCW		nominee Seamus P. O'Connor			presenter Dave Burkett
24-Apr	MOLLUS		nominee Rowan M. Udell			presenter Dave Burkett
			Ceremony is annual Military Ball, 6:00 p.m. at the ISU Alumni Center, 429 Alumni Ln, Ames, IA 50011			
ISU Navy ROTC - Alexander Macki armacki@iastate.edu						
28-Apr	SAR		Midn John Draper			presenter Bill McMillan
			Ceremony is 5:00PM in the ISU Memorial Union			
Valley HS WDM - AFJROTC - Hien Nguyen nguyenh@wdmcs.org						
29-Apr	SAR		nominee Adrian Ahmeti			presenter Doug Frazer
29-Apr	SUVCW		nominee Landen DeSart			presenter Don Richardson
			Ceremony is 12:00 - 1:30 PM Valley High School Performing Arts Center			
Iowa Army ROTC - Christin Harding Kristin-Harding@uiowa.edu						
7-May	1812		nominee Cadet Ava Bugdalski			presenter Randy Lyon
7-May	SAR		nominee Cadet Owen Vick			presenter Randy Lyon
			Ceremony is 6:30AM at Iowa National Guard Armory, 4540 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, IA 52246			
Abraham Lincoln HS Council Bluffs AFJROTC - Lt. Col Amanda Sill asill@cbcsd.org						
9-May	SAR		nominee TBA			presenter Allyn Sheldon

Mark your calendar for Iowa Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day on May 14, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the Iowa Vietnam Veterans Wall on the Iowa State Capitol grounds.

Dave Baker is planning a Revolutionary War program for Tuesday, June 9th and 6:30 p.m. at the Vinton Depot—612 2nd Avenue, Vinton, Iowa 52349.

Kevin Parmenter will speak at the Urbandale Public Library on June 14th at 2:00 p.m. The presentation is titled “War Begins—April 19, 1775. Kevin’s ancestor, Nathaniel Parmenter, fought at Lexington, Concord, and later Bunker Hill.

Where To Find Us

- www.fastfunhistory.com
- YouTube Channel
- Instagram
- Facebook



Viewers of the District meeting on March 17th were treated to Revolutionary War Rarities, developed by the staff at SAR.

If you have a moment, check out the fascinating long list of short programs dedicated to showing you aspects of the American War

you’ve never seen before.

Ranked in the top 5% of all podcasts in the world, there are 102 episodes from which to choose!

Did you know, for example, that a group of Loyalists created a Declaration of Dependence?

Did you know there is a Declaration of Dependence?

“and do now give this Testimony of our Zeal to preserve and support the Constitutional Supremacy of Great Britain over the Colonies; and do most ardently wish for a speedy restoration of that union between them, which, while it subsisted, proved the unfailing source of their mutual happiness and prosperity.”



Your Iowa SAR Board of Managers

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