



**Iowa Compatriot**

**May, 2026**

**Iowa Society--National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution**



President Kevin Parmenter got into the Iowa 250 spirit with a “250” sign in his yard. The message was carved by Gary Keenan (of Iowa State Fair chainsaw carving fame). The sign is nearly 4 feet long and the numbers are slightly over 12 inches high.

**Iowa 250 Activities**



On May 4th members of SUVCW and SAR contributed to the filming of 2 segments for possible airing during Iowa State Fair time,

One covered the America 250 Iowa all cities and town photo collage project and one covered the 76 unmarked veterans’ graves in Iowa project.

Photo- L-R Emly Kestel, producer, Mike Rowley IA SAR and cameraman Eric of IA PBS



On May 5th members of GSW 1812 in the state of Iowa and Iowa MOLLUS members installed 2 more veteran stone markers in Woodland Cemetery--one was a 1812 veteran and one Civil War officer. (Now we know who does the digging!)



**Spillers Cemetery Receives Attention**

This afternoon, Ron Rittel, Larry Johnson and friends visited Spillers Cemetery near Redfield to leave remembrances for the six known veterans buried there.

Albert Cave served as a Private in Company H, 39th Iowa Infantry, Civil War

Mack Shell served in the US Army WWI

Dave Stout served as a Private in Company H, 39th Iowa Infantry, Civil War

Jacob Stout served as a Private in Company B, 4th Iowa Infantry, Civil War

John Thompson served as a Private in Capt. Cunningham's Co., 1st Reg't Ohio, War of 1812

Andrew Welker served as a Private in Capt. Walker's Co., 3rd Reg't Ohio, War of 1812





### A Bit of Weeding

While out for a drive, my son-in-law Tim Parker of California and a member of our chapter for several years and I stopped at Linwood Cemetery for a visit to our Liberty Tree.

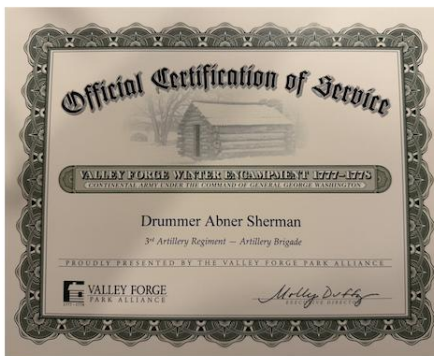
It looks in great shape with the ties still in place for anchoring and the fence up to offer some protection from deer. We reset the flags around it and did a bit of weeding.

### Matt Schwalm Looks into the Society of Descendents of George Washington's Army at Valley Forge

Matt Schwalm is not sitting around looking for something to do while his SAR uniform is being tailored. He's looking to joining a society closely associated with the American Revolution and named for a specific group of soldiers—those serving with Washington at Valley Forge.

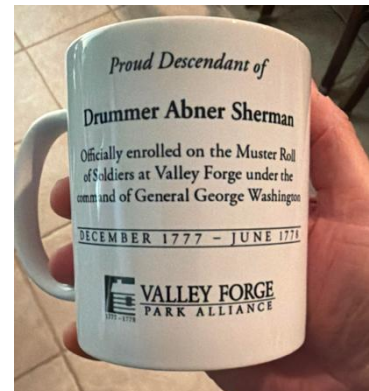
The Valley Forge Park Alliance is a volunteer organization which maintains a muster roll of soldiers who served there. He contacted the Alliance to verify his ancestor was listed in their muster roll for soldiers who served there.

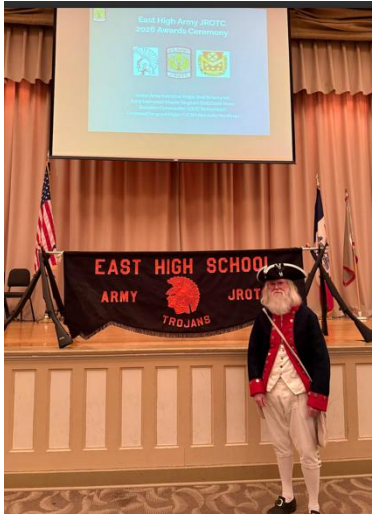
Abner Sherman enlisted on March 10, 1778 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. He was a member of Colonel John Crane's Artillery Regiment, later the 3rd Artillery Regiment. Colonel Crane was a member of the Sons of Liberty and as a participant of the Boston Tea Party was the only one injured.



After the army left Valley Forge, Abner Sherman took part in the 1778 battles of Monmouth and Rhode Island. He spent the winter, which was broken up by a furlough. He returned in January of 1780. His brother must have joined him when he returned as his brother Paul enlisted at Morristown in January 1780. Both served until the end of the war and were discharged at West Point in 1783. He served five years.

With verification from the Alliance, Matt has taken a stab at joining the ancestral organization--the Society of Descendents of Washington's Army at Valley Forge. He received a quick response as the contact was able to supply him with information he had not previously found.





### David Nation Busy with Presentations

IASSAR member David Nation presented two awards at the ROTC ceremony at the University of Northern Iowa May 5th. An SAR award was presented to Cadet Lucas Harks and an 1812 award to Cadet Courtney G. Sinnock.

He also presented a SAR award to a Cadet at the Waterloo East High School JROTC ceremony on May 13.

My name is Nathan Hyman and I am a cadet at AFROTC detachment 250 at Iowa State. I thank you for taking the time to join us at our dining out event and I hope that you had a great time. I also want to thank you for presenting me with the Sons of the American Revolution award that night. While I most certainly don't do the things that I do for awards, it is encouraging at the end of the year to know that the work that I put in is impacting people around me and is being noticed. I once again want to thank you for attending our event, and for supporting the detachment and all of us cadets in it.

NATHAN T. HYMAN, C/Maj, AFROTC  
Construction Engineering  
Squadron Commander, 250th Cadet Wing  
Iowa State University

This article was sent by Chuck Hanson who made the award. The age of the recipient does not allow his picture to be shown.



### SAR / SUVCW Honor Veterans

Dennis Geesaman and Larry Hoelscher (both on the right) join John Preglar, the first Dubuque, Iowa State Commander of the SUVCW at the Dubuque airport. The occasion was the returning veterans on an Honor Flight.



### Matt Schwalm Accompanies His Father-in-Law on the Honor Flight

My father-in-law, Marvin Waterhouse, is pointing to the name of Bob Sells, a childhood friend with whom he played baseball in Central City. His friend died five months after arriving in Vietnam and is buried in Cedar Rapids.

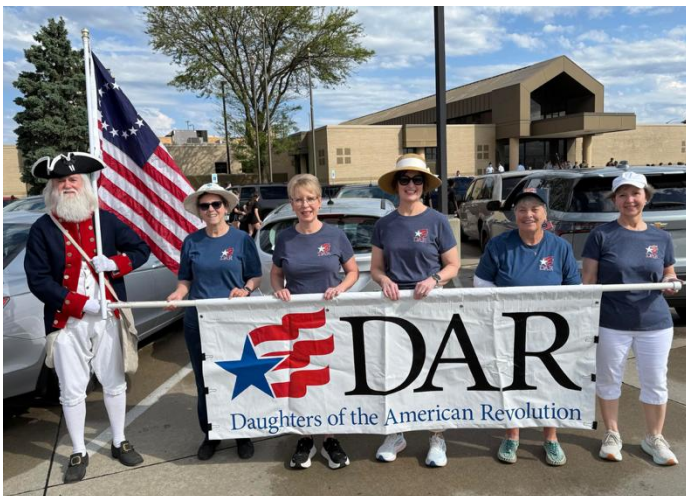


### May 17th-

Bob Niffenegger, with the repurposing of a broken stone at his own expense, completes the incredible story of William and Minerva Callender, a Civil War Union Spy and a formerly enslaved person who found love and salvation during an exceptional time in America. Later choosing a life together, they built a home in Iowa and enjoyed fellow Iowans as their neighbors. They are buried in historic Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines,

Iowa.

Thank you, Mike Rowley, for bring us this story and blessings to Bob for such a wonderful effort!



### David Nation Joins the Memorial Day Parade in Waterloo

ISSAR member David Nation walked with the Waterloo DAR chapter in the Memorial Day Parade in downtown Waterloo (pictured). While waiting for the parade to start the newly elected mayor of Waterloo, Dave Boesen, and an associate requested a picture of Dave with the two of them in front of the convertible they would ride in for the parade.

## Robert Mitchell Camp No 206 (SUVCW) Celebrates Memorial Day

Memorial Day was chosen to celebrate the Camp's placement of a monument honoring Camp Union/ Camp Franklin from the Civil War before marching in the Memorial Day Parade in Dubuque. SAR members Matt Schwalm, Larry Hoelscher, Dennis Geesaman, and Dan Rittel, Don Mcguire from Des Moines, and Randy Lyon are pictured. The camp was a major staging area for troops being sent to fight.



## Great Program May 27<sup>th</sup> at Hoyt Sherman.



In addition to talking with Rittels, Gaards, Geneal Grant, old ball players and Chuck Offenburger a great deal was had by all. Still managed to remove damaged gravestone with replacement coming soon., Mike Rowley

## **A Very Busy Memorial Day !**

I was the keynote speaker for the Mediapolis American Legion Memorial Day ceremony. I included information about local American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War Veterans. Also, in ceremony I read the names of American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery where the ceremony was held.

I want to thank all help I received from our organizations' grave registers who assisted with the veteran's burial information. This information was passed on to the local American Legion Post, and they send their gratitude for the information.

Thank you,

Ray Wilson

Among the Memorial Day activities by members was attending the annual events at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. Members not only participated but greeted multi-generations of fellow members like the Danny & Tami Krock family who shared the importance of the Day with their grandchildren

This year we had the honor of meeting a great-great-grandson of Civil War era Medal of honor awardee, Edward Bebe.

If I understood correctly, his Medal of Honor is the only one from the Civil War at the Gold Star Museum

We know of the many activities of member Larry Wright. But many may not be aware of his many hours devoted to help keep the Gold Star Museum one of the best Military Historical Museums in the Country. Attached is Larry on Memorial Day 2026

Thanks to all who were active and thanks to all who sent reports and photos

Much appreciated.

Mike Rowley

## **Women's Role in the Revolutionary War**

**June 13: Women in the Revolutionary War, 9 a.m.-noon, Iowa Genealogical Society Library & Research Center, 628 E Grand Ave., Des Moines**

Denise Baker Hamilton, America 250 chair of the Iowa Society of Daughters of the American Revolution and a family historian, will present a program on women's role in the Revolutionary War. Dianna Baker Hoye, a DAR member and genealogy and history researcher, will present a program on Revolutionary War wives buried in Iowa. Free event.

News passed along by Mike Rowley.

### **This-and-That**

Here are some online stories you might like to check on.

1. Retracing Henry Knox's Revolutionary War Trek Across the Wilderness

<https://share.google/n9hiwLlaDZ6nzrihO>

2. How a band of Marines staved off the British and helped save the Declaration of Independence

Source: Military Times

<https://share.google/zMSLT1siWiYg2bt7V>

3. Archaeologists pinpoint site of doomed 'Spanish Roanoke' colony after unearthing single clue

<https://share.google/eoSSXCDmYUNDK3HHZ>

4. Amazing America 250: "The Fort that Never Surrendered", the Significance of Fort Stanwix

Source: WSTM

<https://cnycentral.com/news/local/amazing-america-250-the-fort-that-never-surrendered-the-significance-of-fort-stanwix>

### **Quilt Show in Hartford, Connecticut Features Patriotism**

My wife, Ruth Lyon, entered a quilt in this national exhibit, so we journeyed to Hartford to see the show. Among the hundreds of quilts were many with a patriotic theme taking months to complete. Here are only a few:





### **Duane Hagerty Historic Preservation Award**

Duane Hagerty was considered the dean of historic preservation in Dubuque. A lawyer by training, he returned to school and earned his doctorate in historical preservation. His thesis was on Dubuque--what had been done, and what future work could be done. He returned to Dubuque to establish Heritage Works which presented programs, led tours of homes, and worked tirelessly to promote and direct restoration. His death at an early age was a great loss to preservationists everywhere.

The City of Dubuque Historical Preservation Commission established an award in his honor in 2025. The first was awarded to him posthumously that year.

The second annual award was made on May 19<sup>th</sup> to Randy Lyon for the preservation of Dubuque history by establishing and continually researching the history of Dubuque and making it readily available through Encyclopedia Dubuque at [www.encyclopediadubuque.org](http://www.encyclopediadubuque.org) With over 5 million registered viewers, the encyclopedia has become, according to library staff, the most read history of this historic city.

I would like to add that without the skill of Larry Hoelscher on photographic details many significant events would be missing valuable information!

### **For Your June Calendar**

The **Bondurant SummerFest Parade** is **Monday June 8 at 6:00**. We line up at the **High School at 5:30**.

**2June 13th Saturday** Fort Madison, Iowa Betsy Ross daughter's grave dedication by Jean Espy  
Chapter Iowa DAR

Time--**10:30 am**

GPS address--between 14th and 15th Street off Avenue H

## **Your Iowa SAR Board of Managers**

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