



Iowa Compatriot

August, 2026

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

August Food Deliveries from HyVee Continue



In the last issue of the newsletter, you learned that we have created a weekly food distribution between HyVee and Luther Manor in Dubuque. Pastries make a welcome treat for morning breakfast. Our activities have now started a new weekly delivery.

Eagle Project Completion in Rockford, IL

Some of you may recall that a young scout from IL contacted us in January of 2025 about information on marking unmarked graves. Now a little more than 18 months later you can see the fruits of his determination and efforts on the attached video as well as the links provided. His letter follows:

You often never know the extent of the reach you have. Mike Rowley

Sorry it's been so long between emails, But, I finally completed my Eagle Project this summer.

The five headstones were put in on June 6th with the help of the rest of my troop. Then on June 20th we had a dedication ceremony for the veterans, which involved lots of different organizations. The local VFW and American Legion posts did Taps and the gun salute and the SUVCW did some talking and a prayer.

Two local news stations came out and covered the story, [WIFR](#) and [WTVQ](#) (9:10). Then I was interviewed by the [Rockton-Roscoe News](#), who couldn't come out on the 20th.

Now, finally I have my Eagle Board of Review coming

up next week. All the headstones are able to be viewed on their individual memorials on Find-a-Grave. I am still researching at the cemetery and I am almost finished with updating/fixing the veterans' list for the cemetery. I am now looking into getting VA headstones for some of my veteran ancestors and other vets.

Thanks for your help on this project,

VA Recognizing Revolutionary War Veterans

The Veterans' Administration is honoring Revolutionary War Veterans interred in national cemeteries in support of America's 250th anniversary. David Lamb



President Parmenter Honors DAR's Patriot Marker

On August 1, 2026, President Parmenter represented the Iowa Society of SAR at a ceremony marking the placement of a marker honoring the Patriots of the American Revolution who emigrated to Iowa and are buried here. Like the SAR, the DAR recognizes 42 persons.

The following are his words given at the presentation:

Greetings to all on this first day of August 2026. I am Kevin Parmenter, the current President of the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

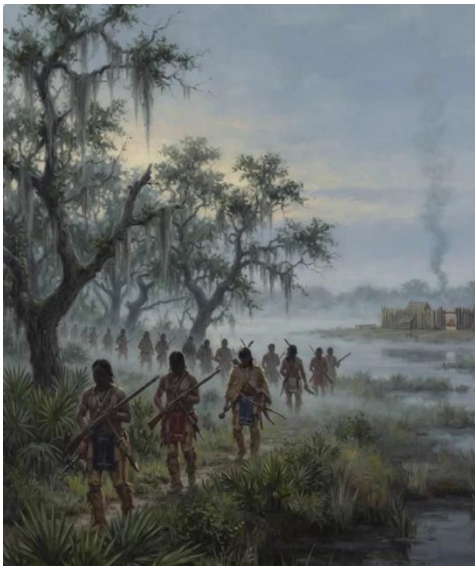
On behalf of the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, I offer our congratulations on the placement of the Patriots Marker on the grounds of the Iowa State Fairgrounds. This plaque commemorates America as we celebrate its 250th

anniversary, honoring the Patriots who emigrated to, settled in, and are buried in our beautiful state.

We commend the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution for your dedication to historic preservation, education, patriotism, and service. Your commitment to keeping the memory of our American Revolutionary ancestors and Iowa's patriots alive is truly inspiring.

Congratulations on a project well done.

Little Known History



On April 15, 1715, Native nations formed a coalition that nearly destroyed one of England's American colonies--South Carolina.

At dawn on Good Friday, the Yamasee and their allies joined together to fight a deerskin trade that had reduced them to debt and threatened to sell their families into slavery.

Hundreds of settlers were killed; the colonists were driven back almost to the gates of Charles Town before the tide finally turned. History recalls Jamestown and the first Thanksgiving. It rarely mentions the Yamasee and their allies who nearly closed Carolina and broke the Indian slave trade in the process.

Source: https://x.com/histories_arch/status/2088606829232496801?shem=isphc,.

New Members

The Iowa Society welcomes four new members: Roger Craig Campbell, Charles Edwon Graves, Mark Stover, and Richard Hodgskin Martin Jr.

Many of us have applications still to be processed in a year which will undoubtedly go on record as one of the largest society growths in our history. Randy Breese has done an amazing job and has compiled an outstanding record!

Grave Marking Schedules

Greetings from Nebraska! I'm pleased to announce that the Nebraska SAR is supporting a grave marking for Mary Audentia Smith Anderson, the founder of the Mary Katherine Goddard

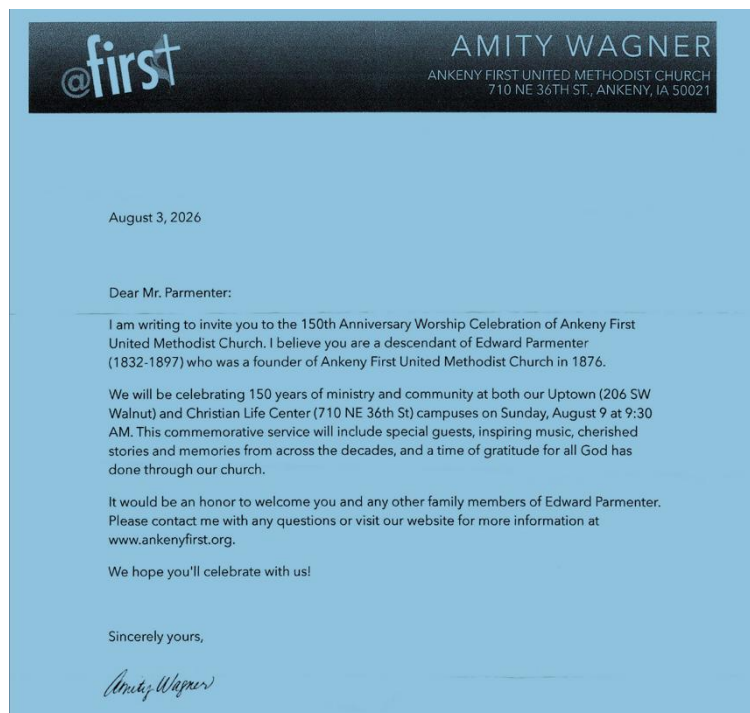
Chapter DAR (one of three DAR chapters in Omaha). She is buried at Lamoni Rose Hill Cemetery in Lamoni, IA (on the IA-MO border, just over an hour due south of Des Moines).

The grave marking is scheduled for Saturday, October 3 at 3:00 pm. A tour of a nearby historic home is scheduled at 2:00 pm, and a reception following the grave marking will feature two short presentations, which means we should wrap up by 5:00 pm.

The Nebraska SAR will have at least three Colorguardmen present, and we plan to do wreath layings and a musket salute. More Colorguardsmen are certainly welcome! Please spread the word, and please let me know if you or any other Iowa compatriots can attend **by Friday, August 29th**. I will be inviting compatriots in northern Missouri as well.

Mark Byars
President, Omaha Chapter
Registrar, Nebraska Society
America 250 Chairman, Nebraska Society
Trustee (Nebraska), National Society

150th Anniversary of the Ankeny First United Methodist Church



My wife, Ardrae and I attended the 150th anniversary of the Ankeny First United Methodist Church earlier today on August 9, 2026.

I've attached the letter from one of the ladies working on the event which included about a dozen former pastors and associate pastors of the church as well as a few dignitaries from the United Methodist Church. My great grandfather, Edward Parmenter was one of four original founders of the church. I was the only member of any of the four founders' family in attendance and was called out after the introductions of the former

pastors and asked to stand and wave to the congregation. I didn't really do anything but show up and being related to one of the founders. Lots of clapping after I was announced.

Kevin Parmenter

Three More Gravestones Placed



As a young 23-year-old South Carolina man who was the son of an American Revolutionary War patriot, young Lewis Underwood probably felt duty bound when it again became necessary for our young country to defend its liberty against England during the War of 1812.

Serving as Light Horse Cavalry young Lewis Underwood would be wounded several times. Just days before his discharge he was injured for life after being thrown from his horse, breaking his ankle which deprived him of the free use of it the rest of his days.

It is not hard to imagine that at times he, like many soldiers serving, thought of a future place of peace and beauty. While 1812 was too early to place the name of Casey, Iowa on his thoughts, it was surely close to the picture in his mind of a landscape of lush green and plentiful woods he may have dreamed of.

40 years after the war, Private Underwood would find his way to Adair County Iowa and according to the History of Adair County, he was said to have built the first log cabin there.

In those early settler days, he probably never imagined that Americans who had twice defeated England for their freedom and liberty would fight against themselves in a Civil War. However, he would live long enough to see the end of that war as well.



In July of 2026 the unmarked grave of Lewis Underwood was carefully researched, documented and marked by members of the General Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Iowa. He rests in Stanfield Cemetery just steps away from Civil War veteran John Stanfield on a hill near Casey, Iowa, the now marked grave is a testament to the early settlers who chose Iowa as their final home. Mike Rowley



Iowan SAR Featured in Magazine Article

The current edition July/August 2026 of the **Iowa History Journal** has a great story on the Iowa SAR. To read the entire article I suggest members pick up a copy soon.

<https://iowahistoryjournal.com/ihj-exploring-history-iowa-revolutionary-war-memorial-a-picturesque-tribute-to-patriots-buried-in-iowa/>

Mike Rowley

250th Party at the Western Home



IASSAR member David Nation was pictured on the front page of the August monthly publication "The Journal" at the Western Home Communities in Cedar Falls.

The event was a 250th Birthday America Party at the Diamond Event Center on July 1st where the participants were encouraged to dress in red, white, and blue.

Reinstatements in 2026

Years ago, some members found their calendars had become too demanding. Something had to give. This included membership in social / historical groups.

Doug Frazer reports that four former members have rejoined!! This is fantastic news and we look forward to them looking up friends in the new directory and resuming their roles in the Iowa Society.

Thank you for making this important decision.

Calling Iowa National Society Sons of the American Revolution

The year 2026 is the Yellow Spring Township Civil War Monument's 160th anniversary of the original dedication of the monument, and the 250th anniversary of the adoption of America's Declaration of Independence. With these anniversaries in mind, a rededication of the first Civil War monument west of the Mississippi River will take place September 26th, 2026, at 1:00 pm. Please find this information as an invitation to the rededication of the Yellow Spring Civil War Monument.

I greatly appreciate your assistance at the rededication ceremony. I think it will be a great addition to the ceremony. Please let any of your members know they are invited to attend the ceremony in uniform if they like, even if they can't participate.

Thank you,
Ray Wilson
Camp Commander Robert Mitchell Camp #206
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Iowa Department
National Society Sons of the American Revolution
General Society of the War of 1812

An Amazing Opportunity

Mike Rowley

Under the old adage, "*When life hands you a lemon, turn the bitter to sweet and share it with others.*" Sorry I am notorious for misquoting old quotes, but hopefully the meaning is not lost.

As can be seen below from the great article by Jason Clayworth a unique tree in Woodland Cemetery was damaged by lightning. I wonder if this might be an opportunity to turn this into the tallest, or biggest tree sculpture in Iowa and at the same time honor some of the history of our capital city of Des Moines?

Also even if possible understanding that this would likely take significant volunteer effort and support.

Most of you know the significance of this historic setting, this might be an opportunity to make it and Des Moines even more interesting.

Mike Rowley



The northern catalpa at Woodland Cemetery and last week after the lightning strike. Photos: Courtesy of Mark Rouw (left) and Mike Rowley (right)

A towering northern catalpa at Des Moines' Woodland Cemetery was struck by lightning last week, scattering debris for hundreds of feet and leaving its survival uncertain.

Why it matters: The tree was identified last year as Iowa's sixth-largest known northern catalpa, granting it [statewide significance](#) beyond the cemetery.

State of play: A large section of the tree was damaged, and it's unclear whether the tree is a total loss, cemetery historian Mike Rowley tells Axios.

Zoom in: Northern catalpas are distinctive for their broad, heart-shaped leaves, white flowers and long, dangling seed pods.

- The Woodland Cemetery tree was almost 79 feet tall and had an 18-foot trunk circumference.

The intrigue: It was featured in the DNR's Iowa Outdoors Magazine last year in a story profiling Mark Rouw, a DSM resident who has searched for Iowa's biggest trees for decades.

- "One limb is so massive that if it were its own tree, most would marvel at it," according to the article.

What they're saying: Rouw tells Axios he's been "close friends with that tree for decades" and was reluctant to see the damage.

- He doesn't expect the lightning strike to kill the catalpa immediately but said it is likely "the beginning of the end" because the damage will make it vulnerable to decay.
- Cemetery manager Ganesh Ganpat tells Axios he believes the tree may now be Iowa's second-largest northern catalpa, based on the city's latest research and records from the state's [Champion Trees program](#).

What we're watching: Whether Des Moines decides the tree can remain standing or must be removed.

- As of yesterday, city staff were still assessing the damage and had not yet determined the tree's fate.

The Iowa State Fair: A Celebration of Iowa and Iowans Who Make Our State Better.

We recognized Don Richardson and Shane Pankone, who continue to serve by helping fellow veterans navigate the VA and get the benefits and care they earned."

New Hampton, Iowa newspaper mentions members grave markings and Civil War Service of 5 brothers on pages 1 and 2- See attached



New Hampton IA newspaper 8.20.2026 page 1.pdf

1812 veterans were remembered at the and on Iowa Public Broadcasting Service-- from 3:15 to 6:35

<https://www.pbs.org/video/fair-2026-wednesday-august-19-xwkdno/>

Mike Rowley

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