



The Quill & Parchment

Omaha Chapter
Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



EDITORS: PAUL BURRIGHT, BOB KNOTT, BILL WEBB



OMAHA LEADERSHIP 2018-19

- Thomas Upton—President
- Benjamin Harvey—Vice President
- Paul Burright—Secretary
- John Parsons—Treasurer
- Robert Knott—Deputy Registrar
- Merle McAlevy—Past President

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PATRIOT MUSTER! 11 DEC 2018



Calling all Compatriots of the Omaha Chapter!

A roll call will be taken to muster in your Patriots, during our Chap-

ter meeting on 11 Dec 2018, into the Chapter Muster Roll Logbook.

We have introduced a new way to celebrate and document the Patriots of our Chapter members, and we are using this night to muster in as many of our Patriots for current members that we can. After 11 Dec 2018, we will incorporate the Muster Roll as part of the installment ceremony for all new Compatriots that come into our ranks.

Information that you will need to have with you as you enter your Patriot into the rolls is: Your Patriot's first and last name, Year of birth, Place of birth, and Revolutionary War Service (for

example, Militia, Continental Troops, Unit #, or Patriotic Service. You will also need your SAR National # to add as you sign the rolls as the descendant of your Patriot.

We are expecting many of you, who may not make it to many meetings, to be at this meeting to get your Patriots listed and on the rolls. For this reason, a meeting notice will be sent earlier than usual and **your RSVP will be required by 4 Dec 2018** so that we can let the restaurant know our number and they will be able to accommodate our needs for this special night. As always, guests are welcome! Huzzah!!



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Our featured speaker for our November meeting was OPD Officer, Kevin Potter. Officer Potter is part of the Accident Investigation Squad and investigates serious fatality accidents and other accidents involving City of Omaha vehicles. A lot goes into investigating accidents, especially if there is a fatality, and it involves looking into road conditions, physical evidence of damage to vehicles and

surrounding infrastructure, and being able to tap into the vehicles "black box" to retrieve information such as speeds of vehicles, brake pressures, acceleration, and force applied on multiple axis.

Officer Potter shared with the group numerous tips by the National Highway Safety Transportation Administration on driving in inclement, winter weather. He showed

us a few videos of accidents caught on highway cams of people driving way to fast for road conditions and not being able to see what is ahead of them, thereby causing further wreckage and pile ups.

Thank you Officer Potter, for bringing your presentation to us. For updates on road conditions, you can access 511 Travelers info at www.511.nebraska.gov.



VP Ben Harvey, Office Potter, Pres. Tom Upton

THE BRITISH CAPTURED MANY STORES AND SUPPLIES FROM THE FLEEING AMERICANS. AFTER TAKING THE FORTS, CORNWALLIS PURSUED WASHINGTON DEEPER INTO NEW JERSEY.

THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

Fort Lee, was constructed atop the New Jersey Palisades. Its sister garrison, Fort Washington, occupied an elevated position across the Hudson River on Manhattan. They were built to bar the movement of British ships along the Hudson. Ships were sunk in the waters between the two forts as an additional means to prevent British passage on the Hudson. Fort Lee, however, never saw the opportunity to play its intended role.

On November 16, 1776, the British captured Fort Washington, the larger and stronger of the two forts. With this, Fort Lee was no longer worth defending.

On November 20, 1776, Gen. Wil-

liam Howe ordered Gen. Lord Charles Cornwallis to capture Fort Lee. The plan was to trap the American army between the Hackensack River and the Hudson River. With a force of 4,000-6,000 British soldiers, Cornwallis crossed the Hudson River in a rainstorm and landed about 6 miles north of the fort and marched south.

Gen. George Washington sent word of the British advance to the Continental Congress and suggested that Philadelphia would likely become the next target. The news came as a shock to many of the delegates, who had failed to grasp how badly the war was going.

When Cornwallis's forces arrived at

Fort Lee, they encountered no opposition. Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene had led a hurried evacuation of the fort's 2,000-man garrison and marched them toward Hackensack, where Washington was waiting on them. By deciding to leave everything else at the fort, Greene was able to march his men to safety before the British could seize the one bridge across the Hackensack River. Greene returned to the fort about 2 hours after the main body left and rounded up several hundred stragglers.

The British were delighted at what they found at the abandoned fort. They found 50 cannon, 1,000 barrels of flour, stores of ammunition, and vast quantities of other supplies left behind by the fleeing Americans. They captured 12 drunk American soldiers in the fort and about 150 other prisoners were taken in the vicinity. Believing he had to the opportunity to strike a decisive blow against the Americans, Cornwallis pursued Washington's army deeper into New Jersey.



MENTORS ARE STILL NEEDED!

We still need Compatriots to come forth and be a mentor for new members. This is not a long time commitment and is not a hard responsibility, but it is an important one, to help grow our base and get and keep men active in our Chapter and Society. The only way we can grow is to get people engaged from the start and keep them excited about the SAR.

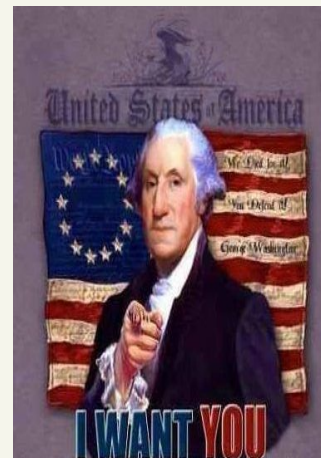
As a mentor, you will be a

first contact when an applicant is approved. You will be their resource for answers to any questions they may have about us, our Chapter, and our Society in general.

You will help them through their first meetings, introducing them to Officers and fellow Compatriots, and show them the different ways that they can become involved and help out our Chapter.

If you are hearing the call to help out your Chapter and volunteer for this important role, please contact Compatriot Paul Burrigat at pburrigat72@gmail.com. We do not have anyone in the pipeline that will need mentoring immediately, however, there are numerous applications in various stages of preparation, so we will need you soon.

Answer the Call!!



DAVID KENTSMITH HONORED WITH THE PATRIOT MEDAL



As it was unable to be presented at the State Fall Meeting, Compatriot David KentSmith, was awarded the Patriot Medal at our Chapter Meeting on 13 Nov. Presenting the medal was fellow Omaha Compatriot and Nebraska SAR 1st Vice President, Merle McAlevy and Omaha Chapter President, Tom Upton.

The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding,

and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. Compatriot KentSmith has given such service, at both levels, as he has served at nearly every level of the Chapter and State Societies, as well as having served as the VP General of the North Central District, and numerous committees.

Thank you, Compatriot KentSmith, for all of your service to the Omaha Chapter and Nebraska SAR!!



ACCEPTABLE SAR APPLICATION FORMS



Important information!

Jim Faulkinbury, our Genealogist General, recently sent out a memo regarding the use of application forms and which forms were acceptable for new member and supplemental applications.

Four different application forms are acceptable and approved for use: 1) MS/Word 2017 version (2017

found on bottom of application form), 2) PDF version (Rev. Mar 2017 found on bottom of application), 3) SARApAid by Cox Software (Ver. 5.03...Feb 21, 2108 found on bottom of application), 4) The My Applications, online application system on the SAR website. The My Applications does not have a

revision date, but any application printed after 7 May 2018 will automatically have the correct updates.

Any application from here on out that is not on one of these formats, or on an older version, will not be accepted by National for review.

I N M E M O R I A M

Compatriots,

It is our sad news to report that at the end of October, the Omaha Chapter had two fallen Compatriots.

Compatriot William Arnold Sellgren lost his battle with cancer and passed away in his sleep on the morning of 19 Oct 2018. Compatriot Sellgren was in his 10th year of membership in the Omaha Chapter. He was approved on 2 Jan 2008 as a descendant of Patriot Robert Barnwell (SC). Compatriot Sellgren was 80 years old. Many members remember him giving some programs at the Chapter meetings, along with his wife, Sara Sellgren, who often portrayed Dolly Madison at many events.

Compatriot Charles Willard Harmon passed away on 24 Oct 2018 at the age of 83. Compatriot Harmon was in his 8th year of membership in the Omaha SAR. He was approved on 29 Sep 2010 as a descendant of Patriot Abraham Swits (NY). In addition to SAR membership, Compatriot Harmon was also a member and Past Governor of the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants as a descendant of John Howland of the Mayflower, as well as a member of War of 1812 Society and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

RIP fellow Compatriots.



Compatriot Bill Sellgren



Compatriot Chuck Harmon



M E M B E R B I R T H D A Y S A N D A N N I V E R S A R I E S



November Birthdays

- Bob Knott—Nov 15
- David Kentsmith—Nov 17
- Tom Jones—Nov 23
- Michael Reynolds—Nov 24
- Ben Harvey—Nov 27
- Ward H Reesman III—Nov 28
- Chad Sherrets—Nov 30

November Anniversaries

- David Conley—3 Nov 2014
- Brian M. Walden—20 Nov 2013
- Fred C. Walden—20 Nov 2013
- Fred J. Walden—20 Nov 2013
- Fred A. Walden—21 Nov 2002
- Bill Webb—30 Nov 2004

Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for November!

To those Compatriots with membership anniversaries in November, thank you for your membership and service to the SAR!



Check out our website at:

www.nessar.org/omaha-chapter/

We are updating the Omaha Chapter link on the State website and adding more pages and content. Check back often to see what updates we have installed.

Also, go and like our new **Omaha SAR** Facebook page. We will post lots of pictures, posts, and articles relevant to our Chapter and the Revolution. Check it out!!

If you have any interest in joining or supporting the Color Guard in any way, please contact Compatriot Chad Sherrets, State Color Guard Commander, at OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com or Paul Burreight, Omaha Color Guard Captain, at pburreight72@gmail.com.

Show your support for the Society and your Chapter and State Color Guards!

U P C O M I N G M E E T I N G S A N D E V E N T S

- Thanksgiving—22 Nov 2018
- Next Chapter Meeting—11 Dec 2018—Gorat’s Steakhouse—This will be our Patriot Muster for current members. We hope to see you all there!!
- Wreaths Across America—15 Dec 2018—Omaha National Cemetery—10am

Planning ahead

- 8 Jan 2018—January Chapter Meeting
- 16 Feb 2018—American Heritage Dinner—Lincoln, NE



“IT IS A MAXIM WITH ME, THAT IN TIMES OF IMMINENT DANGER TO A COUNTRY, EVERY TRUE PATRIOT SHOULD OCCUPY THE POST IN WHICH HE CAN RENDER, HIS SERVICES TO HIS COUNTRY, THE MOST EFFECTUALLY.”

GEORGE WASHINGTON—LETTER TO SECRETARY OF WAR, 25 FEB 1799

Chapter Meeting Minutes – 13 Nov 2018

13 Nov 2018

The Omaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Gorat's Steakhouse on 13 Nov 2018. Members and guests attending: Thomas Upton (Jane), Ben Harvey, Paul Burrigh (Paula), Bob Knott, Merle McAlevy, David Kentsmith (Kitty), State Secretary – John Reinert, Fred Walden (Jan), Ron Stites (Tami), John Parsons (Pauline), Steve Bigelow – prospective member, Mel Burrigh (Sandy), Ryan Fuller.

President Thomas Upton opened the meeting at 1807 hours.

All stood and repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. Members remained standing and repeated the Pledge to the SAR. The members introduced themselves (with guests) in a roundtable.

The minutes of the 9 Oct 2018 meeting were moved by David, seconded by Merle and accepted.

Officers Reports:

- Treasurer, John Parsons – \$3781.51 in treasury. Moved by David, seconded by Ben. Approved.
- Registrar, Bob Knott - 2 apps in preparation. 2 awaiting approval. 11 apps approved this year (7 new, 4 supplemental), 3 apps still pended

Old Business:

- Secretary Paul Burrigh updated group on Chapter website links as well as new Chapter Facebook page.

New Business:

- State 1st VP Merle McAlevy and President Tom Upton presented David Kentsmith with the Patriot Medal for his long and outstanding service at the Chapter and State levels of the Society.
- Wreaths Across America was discussed. Ryan Fuller was nominated by David Kentsmith to present Chapter funds toward purchasing wreaths for the event in amount of \$400. Seconded by Bob Knott. Approved by membership. Looking for volunteers to help lay wreaths at Omaha National Cemetery on Dec. 15.
- Program was given by OPD Officer Kevin Potter who gave a presentation and tips for winter weather driving.
- Ryan Fuller discussed the Flag Certificate presentation to the Durham Scout Center taking place on 14 November 2018.
- Tom Upton discussed the upcoming Patriot Muster at our next Chapter meeting.
- Fred Walden to bring NE medals to next Chapter meeting to be available for purchase.

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on 11 Dec 2018. There being no other business, all members rose and repeated "Until we meet again..." The meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H Burrigh

Secretary Omaha Chapter