



# The Quill & Parchment

Omaha Chapter  
Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



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### OMAHA LEADERSHIP 2018-19

- Thomas Upton—President
- Benjamin Harvey—Vice President
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## MEMORIAL DAY

As members of the Sons of the American Revolution, we honor our ancestors who fought, and died, in the Revolutionary War. We do this through our shared family histories, our patriotic observances, and helping to educate others about the war and the times in which our ancestors lived. On Memorial Day, we work with other organizations, and the community, to honor all of our servicemen and women, who fought, and died, in all wars.

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May each year, and it honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Military.

It was originally known as Decoration Day, which began shortly after the end of the Civil War.

That conflict affected nearly every American, and Decoration Day became a community event, to go and decorate the graves of the fallen soldiers and remember the Civil War soldiers that gave their lives. It was changed to Memorial Day during WWII, to honor all servicemen that died in service to their country, in all wars. It became a federal holiday in 1971.

The Omaha SAR Color Guard participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at the Omaha National Cemetery. We participated in presenting the colors, along with the Millard South JROTC Color Guard. Our joint presence and participation, represents all of our service members, from our very first conflicts to the present.

This became our largest presence at an event, to date, with our Color Guard having a combined 5 members in attendance: State CG Commander Chad Sherrets, Omaha Captain Paul Burright, Omaha Chapter President Tom Upton, Compatriot Jim Sly, and Lincoln Captain and State President Shawn Stoner. It was great to have that many members in attendance and we had so many members of the community, that were there for the ceremony, come up to us afterward and ask to get a picture with us, which we, of course, happily obliged.

The Color Guard truly is the face of the SAR, and we are so happy to represent our Society at patriotic functions, such as Memorial Day!



Posting the Colors, with Millard South JROTC



Tom Upton, Paul Burright, Jim Sly, Shawn Stoner, and Chad Sherrets

## THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

### Battle of Bunker Hill—June 16-17

By reinforcements from England and Ireland, General Gage's army in Boston numbered about 10,000 men in May 1775. With those reinforcements came General's William Howe, Sir Henry Clinton, and John Burgoyne, all experienced in the military tactics of Europe, but unprepared for their service in America.

General Gage issued a proclamation, on June 12, of martial law and offered pardon to all who returned to their allegiance to the crown, except for Samuel Adams and John Hancock. The New England army at this time was about 16,000 strong, split into 36 regiments, of which Massachusetts supplied 27 and the other 3 New England Colonies furnished 3 regiments each. John Whitcomb and Joseph Warren were appointed Major Generals on June 15 of the Massachusetts forces and essentially blockaded Boston from the land side and kept the British on the peninsula.

It was made known to the committee of safety, that General Gage had fixed the night of June 18 to take possession of Bunker Hill and Dorchester Heights. Both elevations would essentially cover and command Boston. The Massachusetts Committee of Safety ordered Colonel William Prescott to march, with 1000 men and some artillery, on the evening of the 16th, to take and fortify Bunker Hill. Col. Prescott marched his men past Bunker Hill and instead took Breed's Hill, which was much closer to Boston and had a much better view of the town and ship-

ping. He was joined on the way by Major Brooks and General Putnam who had wagons laden with entrenching tools. The Patriot troops worked all night, and in the morning, there was a redoubt 8 rods square, flanked on the right by a breastwork extending to the north. When the British sentinels, on the Charles River saw the entrenchments, they opened up their guns on Breed's Hill, awakening the sleeping residents of Boston.



Putnam removed the entrenching tools and moved his engineer corps to Bunker Hill to create breastworks there. The British clearly saw the threat and threw a corps of 3000 men into the fight, entering into boats in the wharf of Boston and landing at the base of Breed's Hill. Meanwhile, the troops that worked all night and half the next day, building breastworks, were not relieved by reinforcements as they should have been. Colonel Prescott, at first, did not believe the British would attack his fortifications. He did not ask for more troops until 9:00 and he did not get enough as General Ward believed that Cambridge was to be the point of attack.

The British opened up with heavy guns a little past 3:00 in the afternoon. That was followed by troops in two columns, commanded by Howe and Pigot. The guns on the British

ship and a battery on Copp's Hill, in Boston, hurled shot and shell, in abundance, on the Americans. The Patriots kept silent until the enemy got very close, when at the word "FIRE", 1500 of the concealed patriots arose and poured destruction on the British lines. Whole platoons fell prostrate and "flags fell to the ground like tall lilies in a meadow." The British fell back to the shore and a yell of triumph could be heard from the redoubt.

The British advanced again, and were once again driven back to their landing place. General Clinton then came over from Boston and a 3rd charge was made. The powder for the Patriots was in short supply and soon gave out. The British placed artillery near the breastwork and grenadiers soon assailed the breastworks on 3 sides at once and carried it at the point of the bayonet. The Patriots kept the British at bay at a makeshift rail fence until the redoubt was taken, then fled across the Charlestown Neck. Of the 3000 British troops engage in the battle, 1054 were killed or wounded. The losses of the Americans totaled 450.

The result of the battle was a substantial victory for the Americans. They lost only because their ammunition ran out. It tested the ability of the provincial army to meet the British army in the field and the British Ministry, so unhappy with the results of the battle, removed Gage from command and replaced him with General Howe. General Joseph Warren was killed by a bullet as he removed himself from the redoubt.

PURPLE HEART HONOR FLIGHT



Honor Flights are conducted by non-profit organizations, dedicated to transporting as many U.S. military veterans as possible, to Washington D.C. to visit the respective memorials of the wars that they were a part of and fought in.

On Friday, May 24, 2019, there was an honor flight that occurred for Purple Heart veterans and Gold Star families from the Omaha area. The SAR Color Guard was proud to be a part of the celebration as these veterans arrived home on Friday night.

Due to some late cancellations, we had to muster in some reinforcements to our ranks, rather quickly, but we absolutely wish to thank Compatriot Jim Sly and Compatriot Mel Burright, for being our very own "minutemen", stepping up and volunteering their time at the last minute, and wearing some of our

loaner uniforms, so that we could be represented properly at this event.

The ceremony was due to kick off around 8:30pm, when the charter flight was scheduled to land at Eppley. Due to some issues with the charter company, everything was delayed by a couple of hours, and the festivities did not begin until closer to 10:30pm.

The veterans were loaded onto approximately 5 "Ollie the Trolleys", and made their way into downtown Omaha and the Old Market. We lined up on the corner of 10th and Jackson, and there was a short, 3 block parade and procession up to the Durham Museum. There, the color guards in attendance, stood at the 10th St. entrance to the building, while the Omaha Police Department, Bagpipes and Drum Corps played, as the veterans disembarked and were greeted by the large crowd of family and public supporters.

Some of the VIP's in attendance, to show their support, included Omaha Mayor, Jean Stothert, Nebraska Governor, Pete Ricketts, Nebraska Senator, Deb Fischer, and Nebraska Congressman, Don Bacon. All the VIP partici-

pants rode at the front of the procession in restored WWII era Jeeps.



Compatriots Paul Burright, Mel Burright, Jim Sly, and Shawn Stoner



Restored 1943 military Jeep

COLOR GUARD ANNOUNCEMENT



The Omaha Chapter Color Guard is very pleased to announce that we have grown in ranks by 1 new member.

After utilizing one of the loaner uniforms to join us in

the Honor Flight Ceremony, Compatriot Jim Sly made his intention known to Omaha Color Guard Captain, Paul Burright, that he would like to join the ranks.

With Compatriot Sly's enlistment, we now have 5 members, from Omaha, as part of the Omaha Color Guard and greater Nebraska SAR CG; State Color Guard Commander, Chad Sherrets,

Omaha Captain, Paul Burright, Compatriots Ron Stites, Tom Upton, and now Jim Sly.

Welcome, Compatriot Sly, and thank you for volunteering to join us in representing the SAR at Society and public events!

Huzzah!



## OMAHA SAR AND NEBRASKA SAR HISTORY CELEBRATING 130 YEARS

As we move into the summer months, you all should know, by now, that the Nebraska SAR is planning two Compatriot grave markings for two of our more prominent founding members.



Champion Spalding Chase was born on 20 Mar 1820, in Cornish, NH. He was the son of Clement Chase and Olive Spalding. He attended Kimball Union Academy, in Meriden, NH and began teaching at a very young age. Around 1840, he moved to New York to continue teaching.

He resided in NY through the 1840's and studied law in Buffalo. He was admitted to the bar, and in 1849, he moved to Racine, WI. It was here that he met and married Mary

Sophonra Butterfield that same year. They had their only son, Champion Clement Chase, who became a well known newspaper publisher in Omaha.

He entered politics, after living in Wisconsin a few years, and served at the first ever Republican National Convention, in 1856, as a delegate from WI. That same year, he was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate. He was selected as District Attorney, in 1859, for the 2nd judicial district in Wisconsin. In 1862, he was appointed paymaster in the Union Army.

He served 4 years with the Union Army, starting with the rank of Major of Cavalry, and was involved in the sieges of Knoxville, Mobile, and Vicksburg, and later spent 2 years headquartered at New Orleans. He would receive a commission as Lieutenant Colonel from President Andrew Johnson, late in 1865. In January 1866, he was honorably discharged.

That same year, he came to Omaha, and became the first Nebraska Attorney General, when Nebraska became a State in

1867. He served on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents from 1869-1875, and was elected Mayor of Omaha in 1873 and was reelected in 1875. He held the office of Mayor four times, with his last term ending in 1884. He was removed from office, by vote of the City Council, on 30 Jun 1884, for "drunkenness, his duty being neglected, and nervous system derangement". His wife died of cancer in 1882, and many at the time said this may have been a contributing factor to his performance. He launched "quo warrant proceedings" in 1887, stating he was illegally removed from office, and the jury rendered a verdict in his favor.

On 26 Apr 1890, the Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution, was organized, electing him as the first Society President. He is descended from Moses Chase who served as a Captain in the NH Militia.

Champion S. Chase died, 3 Nov 1899, and is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha. The Nebraska SAR will be conducting a Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremony, at his grave, on 10 Aug 2019.



### June Birthdays

Joe Mettenbrink—Jun 12  
Andrew Blossom—Jun 29  
David Conley—Jun 29

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### June Anniversaries

Cary Clark—19 Jun 2007



Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for June!

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



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You shop. Amazon gives.

Check out our website at:

[www.nessar.org/omaha-chapter/](http://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, check out, like, and follow our **Omaha SAR** Facebook page.

Don't forget to sign up with **Amazon Smile** and support your Omaha Chapter! Here is the link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-6027779>



**The Omaha Color Guard is recruiting!** If you are interested in participating and joining our ranks, please contact Compatriot Chad Sherrets, Nebraska Color Guard Commander, at [OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com](mailto:OmahaColorGuard@gmail.com) or Paul Burrig, Omaha Color Guard Captain, at [pburright72@gmail.com](mailto:pburright72@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**

- 22 Jun 2019—Fort Atkinson Tour  
Lunch at 11am, Rustic Inn, Fort Tour at 12:30pm
- 4 July 2019—Ralston Independence Day Parade—11am

**Planning ahead**

- August 10 & 24—Compatriot Grave Markings—Omaha & NE City
- 10 Sep 2019—Next Chapter Meeting—6:30pm



**“THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN’S SOULS. THE SUMMER SOLDIER AND THE SUNSHINE PATRIOT, WILL, IN THIS CRISIS, SHRINK FROM THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY; BUT HE THAT STANDS IT NOW, DESERVES THE LOVE AND THANKS OF MAN AND WOMAN.” - THOMAS PAINE, COMMON SENSE 10 JAN 1776**