



# 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 State Registrar
- Merle McAlevy—Past President

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## INDEPENDENCE DAY

Members of your Color Guard, once again participated in the Independence Day Parade in Ralston, NE. It was another warm day, but thankfully not as hot and humid as last year's event.

We had 6 CG members in attendance, with 5 able to march in formation with the colors. Commander Chad Sherrets led at the front of the formation, with C.A.R. members, Nella and Aylin Dolan, once again carrying our SAR parade banner. Compatriot Jim Sly carried the Betsy Ross National Colors and Compatriot John Braisted carried the Nebraska State Colors. Compatriots Shawn Stoner and Paul Burright guarded the colors on either side.

Behind the column, Omaha Chapter President and CG mem-

ber, Tom Upton, drove his convertible, decorated with red, white, and blue bunting on the sides, with Omaha Compatriot Mel Burright, Lincoln Compatriot Terry Springer, and DAR member Evelyn Braisted riding and waving at the crowd. All three Compatriots had on uniform parts and tricorne hats.

This is by far the Color Guard, and SAR's, biggest event that we participate in. All members in attendance felt immense pride as we marched along the route, and had many of the

42,000 spectators stand, remove their hats, place their hands over their hearts, or salute, and we could hear many of them instructing their children, along the curb, on proper protocol when the National Colors moved past them. It was another great showing as we continue to grow in our outreach and visibility with the public!



## NEW MEMBERS

Compatriots,

I would like to inform you all of our two newest members to the Omaha Chapter, Steve Bigelow and Dallas Burright, who were both approved on 21 Jun 2019.

Steve Bigelow is descended from Noah Bigelow (MA).

Many of you that come to meetings regularly, should know Steve, as he has been at the last few meetings as a prospective member.

Dallas Burright is descended from Isaac Messenger (CT). He is the son of Compatriot Paul Burright and grandson of

Compatriot Mel Burright.

Please welcome these new members to our Omaha Chapter family. They will muster in their Patriots, at their installment ceremony, at our next Chapter meeting on September 10.

## THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

**"In Congress, July 4, 1776.**

The unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America. When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to separation.

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. —That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

These words should be very familiar, as they are the opening lines of the Declaration of Independ-

ence, which took effect on Jul 4, 1776.

The Lee Resolution, the formal assertion passed by the Second Continental Congress, declaring the establishment of a new country, free from the bonds of Great Britain, was passed on July 2, 1776, with no opposing votes. Just a year or so prior, there were many dissenting votes to independence in Congress, and many of the Colonial Representatives still wanted to try to come to a diplomatic resolution to their grievances with the Crown. By the time the Second Continental Congress convened, views on independence had flipped, and John Adams, one of the main advocates for independence, had only a few Representatives to convince.

The Committee of Five was formed to draft the formal declaration. Members of this Committee included, John Adams (MA), Thomas Jefferson (VA), Benjamin Franklin (PA), Roger Sherman (CT), and Robert Livingston (NY). This Committee operated from June 11, 1776 until July 5, 1776, when the Declaration was formally

published to the Colonies. The Lee Resolution, put forth by Richard Henry Lee (VA), was moved in Congress on June 7. The delegates in Congress then decided to postpone business until July 1. During the allotted three weeks, the Committee of Five was to draft a broadside, explaining to the world, the reasons for taking America out of the British Empire.

The Committee presented their work to the "Committee of the Whole Congress" on June 28, 1776, and they reviewed the content.

On July 1, 1776, the Congress heard the report from the Committee of the Whole and declared the sovereign status of the United Colonies the following day, July 2, with no dissenting votes.

Over the next days, Congress read through the formal Declaration, editing and rewriting portions, as well as striking out sections from the original manuscript, written by Jefferson, particularly pertaining to the denunciation of the slave trade, and censure of people of Britain.

The exact wording of the completed document was voted on and approved in the late morning of July 4, 1776. For this reason, we celebrate Independence Day on July 4 and not on July 2, when independence was formally declared by vote of Congress.

The Committee of Five was then given the document back and given the task of rewriting the formal broadside, with Congressional corrections to the prose. This commenced late on July 4, and by early July 5, the document was ready for printing and distribution to the Thirteen United States of America.



### F O R T A T K I N S O N T O U R



Compatriots Tom Upton, Paul Burrigh, Hugh Nehls, Mel Burrigh, John Parsons, Bill Webb, prospective member Eric Willard, and families, at the visitors center, Fort Atkinson

On 22 Jun 2019, members of our Omaha Chapter met up in Ft. Calhoun, NE at the Rustic Inn for a very good lunch. We had a lot of good conversation and we were able to meet one of our prospective members, who just turned in his signed application, Eric Willard. We are confident that Eric's application will

go through and that we will be installing him into the chapter this fall.

Members of the chapter that were able to be in attendance include, President Tom Upton and his wife Jane and daughter Kathy, Treasurer John Parsons and his wife Pauline, Secretary Paul Burrigh and his wife Paula, Compatriot Hugh Nehls and his wife Katherine and granddaughter Hannah, Compatriot Bill Webb, Compatriot Mel Burrigh and his wife Sandra, and prospective member Eric Willard.

After lunch we drove over to Fort Atkinson and met at the Visitor's Center. We watched a short movie on the history of the Fort and the 6th Infantry Regiment that was stationed there, with many of the troops being War of 1812 veterans. We then toured the museum, which houses many artifacts from the time of the fort, which was occupied and in use from 1820-1827, as well as Indian

relics and other items from archeological digs in the area of the fort.

Afterward, we traveled over to the main fort complex, and toured some of the open rooms and buildings, which housed the barracks, kitchens, offices, and other areas and storerooms for the troops. The complex also houses the mills and smith shops that kept the fort running, as well as the main council house that was used for diplomatic purposes when dealing with the various Indian Tribes of the region.

A fun time was had by those in attendance. We hope to be able to do something similar in the future, next summer, that will garner even more interest by the membership, to do something as a group, outside of our regular business meetings.

### W R E A T H S A C R O S S A M E R I C A

Many of you are probably having a busy and fantastic summer, and not even thinking that it won't be long and we will be into the winter months once again.

As you all should know, our Chapter donates to the Wreaths Across America event, with money towards the purchase of wreaths. This year, we are going a little further. We are now a fundraising group for Wreaths Across America.

You may be asking, "What does this mean for me?" It will be up to all of us to talk

to our family, friends, acquaintances, co-workers, etc., about sponsoring/purchasing a wreath. Each wreath is only \$15. With each person we get to sponsor a wreath, we need them to do it through our WAA sponsorship website. The website address is: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/159544/Overview/?relatedId=14880>. This is kind of a long link, so anyone you tell, they can also search for us under "search a local group" link on the main WAA page, type in "Omaha Chapter, Sons of

the American Revolution", and our link should show up for them.

Our hope is that each of us in the Chapter will sponsor, at the very least, one wreath. By getting people we know to sponsor a wreath, our Chapter will get back \$5 for every wreath sponsored. We are helping out an organization that we already support, and we get some revenue back for the Chapter, for some of our own events and celebrations that we have on tap for the future! More info when we meet in Sept!



## OMAHA SAR AND NEBRASKA SAR HISTORY CELEBRATING 130 YEARS



Our second grave marking, on August 24, 2019, will be for Dr. Aurelius Bowen, National SAR #4608 and Nebraska SAR #1, at his gravesite in Wyuka Cemetery, Nebraska City, NE.

Aurelius Bowen was born 30 Jan 1817 in Reading, Vermont, the son of Silas Bowen and Polly Chandler.

Not much is known of Aurelius' early years in Vermont, but he marries Arabella Farbes in Windsor, VT on 10 Apr 1846.

By 1851, he is listed on the class rolls

at Castleton Medical College in New York.

In 1856, he is now found in the territorial census of Nebraska, living in Nebraska City.

On 20 Dec 1862, he enlisted in the 2nd Nebraska Cavalry Regiment as a Surgeon. The unit was organized in Omaha in October 1862, and was intended to only serve 9 months. It remained active for over a year. The 2nd Nebraska participated in the Battle of Whitestone Hill, which began on Sep 3, 1863, against 2000 warriors under Chief Two Bears of the Yanktonai Sioux. Seven members of the regiment were killed in the battle. The regiment mustered out of service on 23 Dec 1863.

On 7 Feb 1867, the 12th Territorial Legislature of Nebraska, approved an act that provided for an institute for the deaf in Omaha, and Aurelius was appointed to the 1st Board of Directors for the Institute.

The National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, was founded on 30 Apr 1889, and the Nebraska Society was

founded on 26 Apr 1890. Aurelius Bowen applied for membership and became one of the Nebraska Society's founding members, having descended from Henry Bowen (CT), who was a Private in General Israel Putnam's regiment at Bunker Hill.

In 1892, Aurelius Bowen is listed as the Surgeon General of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, which would make him the first Nebraska member to hold National Society office. The original Society Constitution had Surgeon General as an elected office, at the Society's founding, but Dr. Bowen seems to have been the last to hold the office, as no other members, or the office itself, is listed after 1892.

Dr. Aurelius Bowen passed away on 4 Aug 1895. He is buried in Wyuka Cemetery, in Nebraska City, NE. The Nebraska Society will hold a Compatriot Grave Marking ceremony, at his grave site, on 24 Aug 2019 at 10am.

We hope to see everyone attend and honor this founding member of our society, as we celebrate our 130 years!



### July Birthdays

No July Birthdays

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### July Anniversaries

Chad Sherrets—11 Jul 2014

Jeffrey Sill—14 Jul 2014

Dan Rowe—21 Jul 2016



To those Compatriots with membership anniversaries in July, 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 [pburrig72@gmail.com](mailto:pburrig72@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**

- 10 Aug 2019—Grave Marking for Champion Chase Prospect Hill Cemetery, Omaha, 10am—bring your lawn chairs
- 24 Aug 2019—Grave Marking for Aurelius Bowen Wyuka Cemetery, Nebraska City, 10am—bring your lawn chairs

**Planning ahead**

- 10 Sep 2019—Next Chapter Meeting—6:30pm
- 15 Sep 2019—Fall State Meeting Mahoney State Park, Ashland, NE, 2pm (Lunch at 1pm)



**“I NEVER SAW SUCH FIGHTING SINCE GOD MADE ME. THE AMERICANS FOUGHT LIKE DEMONS.”**

**- LT. GEN. CHARLES, EARL CORNWALLIS**