



# The Quill & Parchment

Omaha Chapter  
Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



EDITORS: PAUL BURRIGHT, 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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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Compatriots, Ladies, and Friends,

It is hard to believe that September is just about upon us, and we are all finishing up our summer break. We have not been idle, as a Society, however.

The Memorial Day Ceremony at Omaha National Cemetery, in May, was both touching and inspiring, the Fort Atkinson Tour, in June, was an extremely nice outing for those that participated, the Ralston Independence Day Parade, in July, was our largest event attended by Compatriots in uniform to date, and the Grave Marking Ceremony for Compatriot Champion Chase, this past Saturday, orchestrated by Nebraska SAR President Shawn Stoner, in conjunction with our own Secretary and



Color Guard Captain, Paul Burright, was exceedingly well done and brought together multiple lineage societies to the event.

September looks to be a productive month. In addition to our speaker, we are looking to

install six (6) new Omaha Compatriots. I am sure you will want to be there to welcome our new members to the Omaha SAR family. Obviously, our Chapter Registrar has been quite busy these summer months!

Other items of note include our nominating committee working to get new Chapter officers lined up for 2020-21, to be elected during our December meeting, and the Fall State Meeting at Mahoney State Park on September 15th at 2pm.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again, as we reconvene our meetings on September 10, at Gorat's Steakhouse.

Thomas Upton  
President—Omaha SAR

## THREE NEW MEMBERS!

As of 12 Jul 2019, we have 3 new members joining our Omaha Chapter.

Please welcome Aaron Nehls, Andrew Nehls, and Jaden Nehls.

Aaron and Andrew are the sons of Compatriot Hugh

Nehls, and they are descended from James McLean Sr (PA).

Jaden Nehls is the grandson of Compatriot Hugh Nehls and he is descended from Charles Campbell (PA), and will be a junior member for our chapter.

Congratulations to all 3 on

their membership, and we will plan to have their installation ceremony and Patriot Muster, at our next Chapter meeting on Tuesday, 10 Sep 2019. Please plan on attending to welcome our newest members into the Omaha SAR family!

## THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

The Battle of Bennington took place on 16 Aug 1777 in Walloomsac, New York, about 10 miles from the battle's namesake, Bennington, Vermont.

A rebel force of about 2000 men, mostly made up of New Hampshire and Massachusetts Militia, led by General John Stark, and reinforced by Vermont Militiamen led by Colonel Seth Warner, and members of the Green Mountain Boys, decisively defeated a detachment of General John Burgoyne's army, led by Lt Colonel Friedrich Baum, and supported by additional men under Lt. Colonel Heinrich von Breymann.

The detachment was part of a bigger British strategic design, a three pincer plan to divide the colonies early in the war. This northern pincer had the most success of the three, but still had its struggles against the upstart revolutionaries.

Baum's detachment was a mixed force of about 700, mostly Hessians, with some small numbers of Brunswick dragoons, Canadians, Loyalists, and Indians. He was sent by Burgoyne to raid Bennington, which was in the disputed New Hampshire Grants area, for horses, pack animals, supplies, and provisions. Burgoyne believed the town to be lightly defended, and did not realize the Stark had 1500 militiamen stationed there.

As Baum entered the area of the battle, on Aug 14, he encountered a detachment of Stark's militia. The militia retreated, and destroyed a bridge, delaying Baum's forward advance. Baum sent a message to Burgoyne, stating that the American presence was larger than expected and requesting reinforcements.

It rained for the next day and a half, preventing any battle from happening. Stark sent out skirmishers to probe the Hessian lines, and his men ended up killing 30 Indians, all while trying to keep their powder dry in the rain. Reinforcements, for both sides, set out on Aug 15. Burgoyne sent 550 men under Heinrich von Breymann, while Warner's men, comprised of 350 Green Mountain Boys, came south from Manchester under the command of Lieutenant Samuel Safford.



General John Stark

Late on the night of Aug 15, Stark was awakened by the arrival of Parson Thomas Allen and a band of Massachusetts Militiamen from the neighboring county of Berkshire, who insisted on joining his force. In response to the Parson's fiery threat that his men would never come again when called if they could not fight, Stark was reported to have said, "Would you go now on this dark and rainy night? Go back to your people and tell them to get some rest if they can, and if the Lord gives us sunshine tomorrow, and I do not give you fighting enough, I will never call on you to come again." Stark's forces were now near 2000 men.

On the afternoon of Aug 16, the

weather cleared and Stark readied his men for attack. Stark is reputed to have rallied his troops by saying they were here to fight for their "natural born rights as Englishmen". Then he added, "There are your enemies, the Red Coats and the Tories. They are ours, or this night Molly Stark sleeps a widow." Upon hearing this, the rebels melted into the woods. Baum assumed the militia was retreating, however Stark decided to capitalize on weaknesses in the German's widely distributed position, and sent sizable flanking parties on both sides of the line. The militia was able to get quite close to the Hessian lines, as the Germans, speaking no English, were told that Loyalist troops would have bits of white paper on their hats, and that they should not be shot at. Stark, having heard of this, deployed the tactic, to get in close on the flanks.

Fighting broke out about 3pm and the German lines were immediately surrounded by gunfire, which Stark described as, "the hottest engagement I have ever witnessed, resembling a continual clap of thunder."

The Loyalist and Indian positions were overrun, leaving many of them to flee or be captured. This left Baum and his dragoons on the high ground. They tried a sabre assault to break through, but were widely unsuccessful. Baum was mortally wounded in the final assault, and the remaining Germans surrendered. Breymann arrived at the end with his reinforcements and tried to assault the militia who were in mop up duty. Stark immediately formed a line and they began to fall back, when Warner's men arrived and ended the battle. Breymann retreated after losing a quarter of his men and all of his artillery.

**I N M E M O R I A M**



Sandy, Ellie, Anna, Lexi, Ali, Isaac, and Lia.

“Chuck is survived by his dear parents, Fred and Jan Walden; his brothers, Tim (Ruth) Walden, and Kevin (Melody) Walden, Aunt Kay Shields, Peggy Cannon, Byron (Karen) Thompson, as well as numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

car driver, IT guru, fixer of all broken things (literally all things), Husband, Dad, and Grandpa.

“Chuck, if not for you, memories would be just a word. Thank you for a lifetime of memories.”

Chuck was just one of 6 Waldens who are members of the Omaha SAR: Fred A. Walden, Brian Walden, Fred J. Walden, Kevin Walden, and Tim Walden.

Please keep these fellow Compatriots in your thoughts and prayers.

Compatriots,

The Omaha SAR family has lost a member. Frederick Charles Walden passed away on 21 Jul 2019 at 1:22pm. He was 64 years old.

Fred was approved for membership on 20 Nov 2013 and is the descendant of Samuel Bridge (PA), and is the oldest son of Omaha Compatriot Fred and Jan Walden.

From his published obituary:

“Frederick ‘Chuck’ Walden passed away peacefully surrounded by family members on July 21st, 2019. Chuck is survived by his beloved wife of 41-1/2 years, Cindy Walden. He is also survived by his four dearly loved children: Rick, Mindy, Melissa, and Brian (Ashley) Walden. Adding to his great joy are his seven grandchildren:



“Although a less than average span, Chuck did not live an average life. Chuck wore numerous titles, including Eagle Scout, Army Military Policeman, outdoorsman, college graduate, race



**R E V O L U T I O N A R Y E N T E R T A I N M E N T**

If you are looking for some entertainment in the area, with some Revolutionary Era background and stories, we have a couple of different events, coming to Omaha, to tell you about.

The Durham Museum will be hosting a program entitled, “Thomas Jefferson and John Adams: We Differ As Rational Friends”. This Durham program will only run Sep-

tember 17th, 6:30pm-7:30pm.

If you are a fan of Broadway, you will know that “Hamilton” has been a critical and popular hit. The Broadway show will be performed at the Orpheum Theatre, beginning September 10, to the end of the month.

Check with the Orpheum and Durham for ticket info.





## OMAHA SAR HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS

Compatriots,

As we have been on a hiatus these past few months, we have tried to keep everyone informed of the goings on of the Chapter membership. Hopefully you have read the newsletters, and you know that our Chapter is growing once again. Here are some housekeeping items to remind you of some of the things coming up in the near future.

- We should be inducting 5 new members into the chapter, at our next meeting on 10 Sep. All 5 will muster in their Patriot into the Chapter Muster Logbook. Remember, if you are a current member, and have not yet mustered in your Patriot, come to a meeting and get that done. Compatriot Burright brings the muster book to each meeting.
- The Color Guard is recruiting! They are always looking for members who want to participate in events with them. Remember that there are loaner uniforms, that you can borrow



and wear, so that you too can be part of the face of the SAR in the community. They have a lot of fun at the events that they attend! Join up now!!

- Our Wreaths Across America fundraising project is underway. This being our first year, our goal is to get 200 wreaths sponsored for the event, which will take place on 14 Dec 2019, at Omaha National Cemetery. Please donate \$15 for at least one wreath, and talk to your friends and family about sponsoring as well. Every \$15 wreath that is sponsored through our fundraising website, the chapter gets \$5 in return. Please help us out. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Compatriot Paul Burright. There is a plan in place to have a fundraising day, on a

Saturday, sometime in late September/early October, in the community. If you would like to help with that event, contact Paul Burright.

- Are you using Amazon Smile?? Whenever you buy anything through Amazon, use Amazon Smile and be sure to use our chapter as your partner. Amazon donates money back to the chapter for every order that is made through the Amazon Smile site. Shop and help out the chapter at the same time.
- 2019 is an election year for our chapter. If you have any interest in a leadership position within the chapter, speak up. We need more participants to keep the chapter moving forward. There will be now 5 elected offices as of this next election: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar.

We hope you have all had a fantastic summer break and are ready to get back to it. There are a lot of things going on this final quarter of the year. We hope to see you all at an event!



## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



### August Birthdays

Charles Marshall—Aug 8  
Paul Burright—Aug 16  
Harry Deeths—Aug 16  
Dick Galusha—Aug 24  
Aaron Nehls—Aug 24

### August Anniversaries

Hal Daub—6 Aug 1984  
Jim Sly—12 Aug 2013  
Ron Stites—12 Aug 2013  
Gary Gray—27 Aug 2013  
Ben Harvey—17 Aug 2015  
Tom Jones—21 Aug 2015  
Mel Burright—22 Aug 2017  
Michael Reynolds—22 Aug 2017

Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for August!

To those Compatriots with membership anniversaries in August, 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).

**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**

- 24 Aug 2019—Aurelius Bowen Grave Marking—NE City, 10am
- 02 Sep 2019—Labor Day
- 10 Sep 2019—Next Chapter Meeting—6:30pm  
Gorat's Steakhouse—**Program: West Lawn Memorial Day Flag Project**
- 15 Sep 2019—Fall State Meeting  
Mahoney State Park, Ashland, NE, 2pm

**Planning ahead**

- 08 Oct 2019—Next Chapter Meeting—6:30pm  
Gorat's Steakhouse
- 11 Nov 2019—Veteran's Day



**“WE TAKE THE STARS FROM HEAVEN, THE RED FROM OUR MOTHER COUNTRY, SEPARATING IT BY WHITE STRIPES, THUS SHOWING THAT WE HAVE SEPARATED FROM HER, AND THE WHITE STRIPES SHALL GO DOWN IN POSTERITY, REPRESENTING OUR LIBERTY.” - GEORGE WASHINGTON, 14 JUN 1777**