



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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OMAHA SAR INDUCTS 3 NEW MEMBERS

The Omaha Chapter is finally seeing some movement on the application front, and had the honor of inducting 3 new members to our SAR family; our first inductions since May 2018.

All 3 new members were sponsored into the Society by Secretary Paul Burright.

Compatriot Steve Bigelow is descended from Noah Bigelow (MA). Steve has been active at Chapter meetings since this past spring, as he awaited word on the status of his application's acceptance from Na-

tional. Steve was registered with the Society on 21 Jun 2019.

Compatriot Dallas Burright is descended from Isaac Messenger (CT). Dallas is the son of Secretary Paul Burright, and the grandson of Compatriot Mel Burright. With Dallas' acceptance into the Society, he now becomes one of our youngest members of the Chapter. He was registered with the Society also on 21 Jun 2019.

Compatriot Shade Jones is descended from William

Larabee (NH). Shade and Paul have been friends since their early school days, and in the course of researching Shade's lineage, found that their ancestors fought with the same regiment, Bedel's regiment, in New Hampshire. Shade was registered with the Society on 16 Aug 2019.

All 3 new members, also mustered in their respective Patriots into the Chapter Patriot Muster Log.

Please welcome these new Compatriots into our SAR family!



Sponsor Paul Burright, New Members Dallas Burright, Shade Jones, Steve Bigelow, and President Tom Upton

S U P P L E M E N T A L P A T R I O T S

We have had our first supplemental applications, for this year, approved this past August.

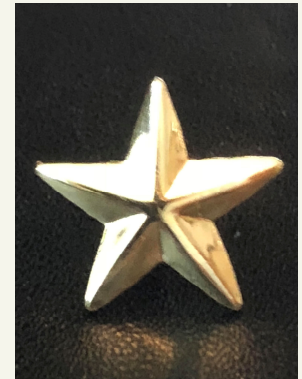
Compatriot Paul Burrighat put through 2 supplemental applications, and both were approved by National on 30 Aug 2019.

The first Patriot is Isaac Van Bibber (VA). He was a Private

under Colonel Lewis at the Battle of Point Pleasant, and died in that battle.

The second Patriot is George Yoakum (VA). George married Martha Van Bibber, the daughter of Isaac Van Bibber. George was a scout for the Greenbrier Militia, and furnished supplies to the Militia in Greenbrier County, VA.

We currently have 2 more supplemental applications in process at National for the Chapter. One for Tom Upton and one for Bob Knott. If you are looking to submit a supplemental application, contact Paul Burrighat at pburrighat72@gmail.com to get started, and/or printed, signed and submitted.



T H I S M O N T H I N T H E R E V O L U T I O N

"I regret that I have but one life to give to my country"—Nathan Hale



Nathan Hale almost seemed destined to be a military man. Five of his brothers fought at Lexington and

Concord. He joined them not long after. Having graduated, with honors, from Yale, when was only 18, he was given the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the Continental Army. Within a matter of months, he was promoted to Captain, and given command of a group of Rangers in defense of New York City.

The British began the buildup of troops on Staten Island, in July 1776, and General William Howe landed on Long Island in August to begin taking New York. The Americans lost the Battle of Long Island

on August 27, and by September 15, the British had total control of New York City.

After New York City was lost, he stayed and pretended to be a school teacher, all the while spying on the British positions and writing down what he saw, to take the reports back to the Continental Line, at a predetermined meeting place in Oyster Bay. While making his way there, he saw a boat arriving, and assuming it was American, waved the boat down. It turned out to be a British Frigate, and he was caught as he tried to flee. Papers he had on his person, with notes on his spying activities, proved his downfall. He was immediately arrested and brought before General Howe.

The next day, New York City burned. The British immediately assumed the Americans had set the fire, though no one knows for sure if that is true. Over 200 other Americans were caught and jailed. Nathan Hale, with the papers found on

him, was proven to be a spy, and was sentenced to hang the very next day. It is for this that he is remembered; not as a military officer and spy, but as a martyr.

On the morning of the hanging, Hale was given the opportunity to make a dying speech. By every account, it was moving:

- British Officer, Frederick MacKensie wrote in his diary, "He behaved with great composure and resolution". He added that Hale encouraged the spectators to "meet death in whatever shape it might appear".

- The Essex Journal reported: "He made a spirited and sensible speech." They quoted him as saying, "If I had ten thousand lives, I would lay them all down in defense of this injured, bleeding country."

Nathan Hale was 21 years old when he was hanged, for spying, on 22 Sep 1776.

PATRIOT BIOGRAPHIES

We have new members that have been inducted this month, and we have more ready to be approved and inducted in the coming months. This adds more Patriots to our list of needed biographies. Mentors for these new members will be talking with them about writing a short biography that we can submit to National, for the biographies project, but also add to our Omaha Chapter webpage.



on the Nebraska SAR website. With our new members added, we now have 56 members of the Omaha Chapter. We have 81 Patriots listed for those 56 Compatriots on our roster. We currently only have biographies for 35 of those 81 Patriots.

We are beginning a bigger push for biographies to end out the year. Our goal is to eventually have biographies listed for each and every current Patriot on our website, for the Chapter. We need your help to do that!

Secretary Burrighit will be sending out a biography template, over email, to everyone in the coming weeks. For those of you that may not know where to begin, to tell your Patriot's story, this template will hopefully help you get

started.

Please check out the biographies that are already listed on the website, and read them to get an idea of what we are looking for. Some of the bios are short and sweet, others are lengthy and detailed, however, they all are good stories, and it is our responsibility to preserve those stories for future members and generations.

Please contact Bob Knott, Bill Webb, or Paul Burrighit if you have any questions concerning a Patriot biography.

Thank you for your help with this project, for National and the Chapter!

Hopefully you have seen the biography page of the Omaha Chapter webpage



W R E A T H S A C R O S S A M E R I C A – F U N D R A I S I N G

Compatriots, As you should know by now, we are a fundraising group for Wreaths Across America, and we are getting wreaths sponsored for the Omaha National Cemetery for the WAA event that will occur on 14 Dec 2019. With this being our first year as a fundraising group, our wreath goal is 200 sponsored wreaths. We are cur-

rently sitting at 24 wreaths. Now is the time to get people interested in sponsoring a wreath. I would ask that each of you talk with family members, friends, co-workers, people at your church, etc., and let them know about our chapter, and our support of this program, and ask them to help us out. Additionally, if you have not sponsored a wreath yourself,

please consider going to the Wreaths Across America website, search for our Chapter under "local fundraising groups" and sponsor a wreath for \$15. This is a national event that occurs each December. If each member sponsored 1 wreath, we would already be more than 25% of our goal. Please help us support this program!



SEP MEETING PROGRAM & NOTES

As we returned from our summer hiatus, we had quite a large amount of items to discuss, as a group, due to the long break, as well as another superb program for the members.

As you know from page 1, we inducted 3 new members into the chapter, and Secretary Burrignt discussed the need for more mentors for the many potential new members with applications in place.

Our program for the night came from Carl and Carolyn Diamond. They discussed with the membership, their Memorial Day Flag Project, that occurs each year at Westlawn-Hillcrest Cemetery in Omaha. This cemetery is the 2nd largest in the city. The objective of this project, is to place a flag on each and every veteran's grave that is in the cemetery.

The project began in 2009, and is sponsored by the Centennial Masonic Lodge #326 in Omaha. When they began, small 4x6 flags were used, and they were only able to do 5 sections of the cemetery. There are over 50 sections, comprising the entirety of

the cemetery. When they began, they encountered problems, such as incomplete records, or records completely missing, on the status of veterans interred there. Approximately 1200 flags were placed that first year, but they knew they had a lot of work to do, to meet their objective of honoring each veteran.



As their progress continued, the cemetery was taking notice, and began supplying the group with the flags to use, which were now a much larger, 11x15. This past Memorial Day 2019, they placed over 8000 flags on veteran's graves in

the cemetery. The flags are kept there through the holiday, then are picked up the following weekend, to be checked, inventoried, and stored to be used again the following year, if the flag is in good shape. If any flags can not be used again, they are disposed of in a proper flag retirement ceremony, with honor.

The group is always looking for volunteers to help, not only with placing the flags, but to help pick them up, sort, rolling, and packing flags for storage. Watch our Omaha Chapter page, Facebook page, and newsletters, for more information as we come close to another Memorial Day.

The members in attendance, also voted to donate \$100 towards this effort, as well as to Prospect Hill Cemetery, where we had our first grave marking ceremony in August, and an SAR marker is now placed.

Omaha members also voted to move forward with reimbursing the State Society for the remaining funds of a 2nd Patriot Chest to be used for demonstrations at schools and other organizations.



Sep Birthdays

Cary Clark—Sep 1

Hank Austin—Sep 2

Mark Diercks—Sep 10

Andrew Nehls—Sep 10

Richard Ewing—Sep 11

Jank Albanez—Sep 17

Robert Huff—Sep 18

Robb Hagstrom—Sep 24

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sep Anniversaries

Merle McAlevy—28 Sep 2011

Paul Burrignt—23 Sep 2016



Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for September!

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



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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, check out, like, and follow our new **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 or Paul Burrignt, Omaha Color Guard Captain, at pburrignt72@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

- Sep 19-21—Fall Leadership Meeting—Louisville, KY
- 08 Oct 2019—Next Chapter Meeting—6:30pm
Gorat's Steakhouse—Program: **Jeff Barnes, "150 Architectural Structures in Nebraska"**

Planning ahead

- Veteran's Day—11 Nov 2019
- Chapter Meeting—12 Nov 2019—6:30pm



"EVERY ACTION DONE IN COMPANY OUGHT TO BE DONE WITH SOME SIGN OF RESPECT TO THOSE THAT ARE PRESENT."

- GEORGE WASHINGTON, RULES FOR CIVILITY # 1

Chapter Meeting Minutes – 10 Sep 2019

10 Sep 2019

The Omaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Gorat's Steakhouse on 14 May 2019. Members and guests attending: Ben Harvey, Paul Burrigh, Fred Walden (Jan), Mel Burrigh, Tom Upton (Jane), David Kentsmith (Kitty), Bob Knott (Rosemary), Hugh Nehls (Katherine), Merle McAlevy, Tom Jones (Sharon), Steve Bigelow (Ginny), Dallas Burrigh, Shade Jones (Angie), Jim Sly, John Parsons (Pauline), Bill Webb (Georgia), Jim Gansemer (Jackie) – Prospective Member, Carl Diamond (Carolyn) - Speaker.

President Tom Upton opened the meeting at 1852 hours.

All stood and repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. Members remained standing and repeated the Pledge to the SAR. The members introduced guests in attendance.

The minutes of the 14 May 2019 meeting were accepted by member vote.

Officers Reports:

- Treasurer, John Parsons – \$3887.02 in treasury. \$120 check will be deposited from WAA.
- Registrar, Bob Knott – 7 apps in preparation, 3 new apps & 2 Supplementals awaiting approval for Chapter, 5 apps pending

Old Business:

- President Upton and Secretary Burrigh recapped our events over the summer, including, Honor flight, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Ft. Atkinson, and 2 grave markings

New Business:

- Installation of 3 new members, Steve Bigelow, Dallas Burrigh, and Shade Jones. All 3 mustered in their Patriots, Noah Bigelow (MA), Isaac Messenger (CT), William Larabee (NH), respectively.
- Compatriots Jim Sly and David Kentsmith were presented certificates for their Military Service
- Program was presented by Carl and Carolyn Diamond on the "Westlawn Memorial Day Flag Program". Ben Harvey moved to give \$100 to this program, as well as Prospect Hill. David Kentsmith seconded. Approved by member vote.
- Secretary Burrigh reminded the members of the need for mentors for new members coming on board. Many applications in process
- President Upton discussed Omaha paying remainder of the bill to State for a 2nd Patriot Chest that National will now honor. Discussion on what a Patriot Chest is, and vote was approved by membership. Will be presented to State officers at Fall Meeting.
- Reminder about sponsoring wreaths for Wreaths Across America
- Reminder about the State Fall Meeting, Sunday, 15 Sep 2019

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on 08 Oct 2019. There being no other business, all members rose and repeated "Until we meet again..." The meeting was adjourned at 2035 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H Burrigh, Secretary Omaha SAR