



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,

As the year is coming to an end, I will take this opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts in support of the Chapter and State Society. I especially wish to thank our officers for their dedicated work. Compatriot Ben Harvey's programs contributed greatly to our increasing attendance, Compatriot Paul Burright's innovations in producing our new directory, Chapter Patriot Muster, and Newsletter, have added significantly to the effectiveness of the chapter, and Compatriot John Parsons has continued to provide outstanding stewardship for our funds.

I would be remiss not to include my appreciation to our

Past Chapter and Society Presidents, Robert Knott, David



Kentsmith, and William Webb for their advice and guidance

over the past two years. Their experience and wisdom have been invaluable.

This month, Paul Burright provided us with an overview of the past year and we elected new officers, to be installed in January, for the 2020-21 term. The Nominating Committee offered a slate of well qualified and dedicated Compatriots to lead us forward the next two years.

Thank you for your support and contributions.

I look forward to seeing everyone again at future meetings and events.

Thomas Upton
President, Omaha Chapter
Nebraska SAR

DUES REMINDER

Compatriots,

We have 22 Omaha Compatriots that have not yet submitted their 2020 dues to State Secretary, John Reinert. The Society's goal is a 95% retention rate.

If you have overlooked your first dues notice, please sub-

mit your check to John Reinert, no later than 31 Dec 2019. This will ensure that we do not have to drop anyone from our membership rolls, and we will be able to complete our year end reporting to National by the deadline. Thank you for your continued membership!



THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

President and General, George Washington, died 14 Dec 1799.

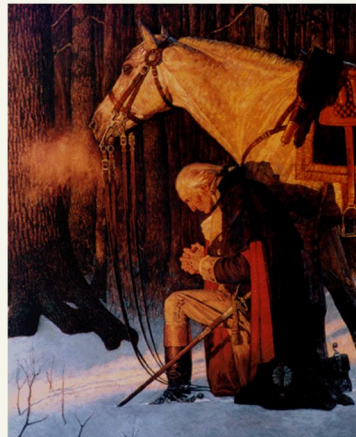
This is an eyewitness account by his adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis:

On the morning of the thirteenth, the general was engaged in making some improvements in the front of Mount Vernon. As was usual with him, he carried his own compass, noted his observations, and marked out the ground. The day became rainy, with sleet, and the improver remained so long exposed to the inclemency of the weather as to be considerably wetted before his return to the house. About one o'clock he was seized with chilliness and nausea, but having changed his clothes, he sat down to his in-door work - there being no moment of his time for which he had not provided an appropriate employment.

At night on joining his family circle, the general complained of a slight indisposition, and after a single cup of tea, repaired to his library, where he remained writing until between eleven and twelve o'clock. Mrs. Washington retired about the usual family hour, but becoming alarmed at not hearing the accustomed sound of the library door as it closed for the night, and gave signal for rest in the well-regulated mansion, she rose again, and con-

tinued sitting up, in much anxiety and suspense. At length the well-known step was heard on the stair, and upon the general's entering his chamber, the lady chided him for staying up so late, knowing him to be unwell, to which Washington made this memorably reply: "I came so soon as my business was accomplished. You well know that through a long life, it has been my unvaried rule, never to put off till the morrow the duties which should be performed to-day."

Having first covered the fire with care,



the man of mighty labors sought repose; but it came not, as it long had been wont to do, to comfort and restore after the many and earnest occupations of the well-spent day. The night was passed in feverish restlessness and pain. "Tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," was destined no more to visit his couch; yet the manly sufferer uttered no complaint, would permit no one to be disturbed in their rest, on his account, and it was only at daybreak he would consent that the overseer might be called in, and bleeding resorted to. A vein was opened,

but no relief afforded. Couriers were despatched to Dr. Craik, the family, and Drs. Dick and Brown, the consulting physicians, all of whom came with speed. The proper remedies were administered, but without producing their healing effects; while the patient, yielding to the anxious looks of all around him, waived his usual objections to medicines, and took those which were prescribed without hesitation or remark. The medical gentlemen spared not their skill, and all the resources of their art were exhausted in unwearied endeavors to preserve this noblest work of nature.

The night approached—the last night of Washington. The weather became severely cold while the group gathered nearer to the couch of the sufferer, watching with intense anxiety for the slightest dawning of hope. He spoke but little. To the respectful and affectionate inquiries of an old family servant, as she smoothed down his pillow, how he felt himself, he answered, "I am very ill." To Dr. Craik, his earliest companion-in-arms, longest tried and bosom friend, he observed, "I am dying, sir - but am not afraid to die." To Mrs. Washington he said, "Go to my desk, and in the private drawer you will find two papers - bring them to me." They were brought. He continued - "These are my Wills - preserve this one and burn the other," which was accordingly done. Calling to Colonel Lear, he directed - "Let my corpse be

THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION (CONT.)

kept for the usual period of three days." The patient bore his acute sufferings with fortitude and perfect resignation to the Divine will, while as the night advanced it became evident that he was sinking, and he seemed fully aware that "his hour was nigh." He inquired the time, and was answered a few minutes to ten. He spoke no more - the hand of death was upon him, and he was conscious that "his hour was come." With surprising self-possession he prepared to die. Composing his form at length, and folding his arms on his bosom, without a sigh, without a groan, the Father of his Country died. No pang or struggle told when the noble spirit took its noiseless flight; while so tranquil

appeared the manly features in the repose of death, that some moments had passed ere those around could believe that the patriarch was no more.

It may be asked, Why was the ministry of religion wanting to shed its peaceful and benign lustre upon the last hours of Washington? Why was he, to whom the observances of sacred things were ever primary duties throughout life, without their consolations in his last moments?

We answer, circumstances did not permit. It was but for a little while that the disease assumed so threatening a character as to forbid the encouragement of hope; yet, to stay that summons which none may refuse, to give still farther

length of days to him whose "time-honored life" was so dear to mankind, prayer was not wanting to the throne of Grace. Close to the couch of the sufferer, resting her head upon that ancient book, with which she had been wont to hold pious communion a portion of every day, for more than half a century, was the venerable consort, absorbed in silent prayer, and from which she only arose when the mourning group prepared to lead her from the chamber of the dead. Such were the last hours of Washington.

-From the memoirs of George Washington Parke Custis, 1860.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

At the December meeting, the Chapter held the elections for Chapter Officers for the 2020-21 term. For this next term of office, the State Society approved the creation of Chapter Registrar, to help alleviate the backlog of applications, and further streamline the process, at the State level.

The nominating committee, comprised of past Chapter and Society President's, Robert Knott, David Kentsmith, and Bill Webb, presented their recom-

mendations to the membership. For President, they nominated Ben Harvey, for Vice President, Paul Burrigh, for Secretary, Jim Sly, for Treasurer, John Parsons, and for Registrar, Paul Burrigh.

There were no other nominations from the floor, and the elections went forward. All officers were elected by unanimous vote of the membership.

All officers will be installed into their new positions at our next Chapter meeting

on 14 January 2020.

Congratulations to everyone! We look forward to another great, upcoming year!!



DEC MEETING PROGRAM & NOTES

At our final meeting of 2019, on 10 December, we had an assortment of items, on the agenda.

Secretary Paul Burrigh gave a program on a retrospective look on the past year. He discussed our newest members to the Chapter, our wonderful programs given during our meetings throughout the year, our growing Color Guard and events, where we stand on the Americanism Report, so far this year, our Wreaths Across America fundraising initiative, and the Compatriot we lost in 2019.

We then moved on to our annual awards for the evening. All Chapter Color Guard members were presented with the SAR Color Guard lapel pin, for their service, Compatriot Mel Burrigh was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, on behalf of the Color Guard, for his efforts in various CG events, Compatriot Bill Webb was presented his 15 year Member Anniversary pin and certificate, and President Tom Upton presented Secretary Paul Burrigh with the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal for his innova-

tion and hard work on numerous Chapter and State initiatives and committees.

All members delighted in the holiday goodies, provided by Paula Burrigh, for the meeting.

The membership then held elections for the 2020-21 term of office, and all Compatriots presented by the Nominating Committee, were elected by unanimous vote of the membership present.



Compatriot Mel Burrigh receiving Certificate of Appreciation



Secretary Paul Burrigh, presented with Chapter Distinguished Service Medal, by President Tom Upton



Compatriot Paul Burrigh presenting Compatriot Bill Webb—15 year pin



Dec Birthdays

Jeffrey Spencer—30 Dec

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dec Anniversaries

Robb Hagstrom—09 Dec 1988

Robert Knott—11 Dec 2003

Jeremy Fischer—19 Dec 2008

John Claussen—31 Dec 2013

Robert Huff—12 Dec 2014

Jeffrey Spencer—18 Dec 2015

Hugh Nehls—20 Dec 2017



Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for December!

To those Compatriots with membership anniversaries in December, 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 Burrig, Omaha Color Guard Captain, at 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

- 25 Dec 2019—Christmas Day
- 01 Jan 2020—Happy New Year!
- 14 Jan 2020—Next Chapter Meeting—Installation of Officers

Planning ahead

- 11 Feb 2020—Chapter meeting—6:30pm
- 15 Feb 2020—American Heritage Dinner—Lincoln
- 27-29 Feb 2020—Spring Leadership Meetings—Louisville, KY
- 26 Apr 2020—Spring State Meeting



“COURAGE, THEN, MY COUNTRYMEN, OUR CONTEST IS NOT ONLY WHETHER WE OURSELVES SHALL BE FREE, BUT WHETHER THERE SHALL BE LEFT TO MANKIND AN ASYLUM ON EARTH FOR CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.”

- SAMUEL ADAMS—SPEECH AT THE STATEHOUSE, PHILADELPHIA, 01 AUG 1776

Chapter Meeting Minutes – 10 Dec 2019

10 Dec 2019

The Omaha Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met at Gorat's Steakhouse on 10 Dec 2019. Members and guests attending: Paul Burrigh (Paula), Fred Walden (Jan), Mel Burrigh, David Kentsmith (Kitty), Merle McAlevy, Hugh Nehls (Kathy), Jaden Nehls, Ben Harvey, Tom Upton (Jane), John Reinert, Tom Upton (Jane), Ron Stites (Tami), Bill Webb (Georgia).

President Tom Upton opened the meeting at 1905 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 12 Nov 2019 meeting were accepted by member vote.

Officers Reports:

- Treasurer, John Parsons – \$3155.57, \$7.27 should be added for Amazon Smile.
- Registrar, Paul Burrigh – 10 apps in preparation, 2 new and 1 Supplemental awaiting approval for Chapter, 4 apps pending, 7 new apps and 3 supplementals approved this year.

Old Business:

- Compatriot Burrigh updated the group on date and time for Wreaths Across America. Crew volunteers not needed, just participation. Dec 14 at 11am at Omaha National Cemetery. President Upton read the SAR President General's Proclamation on the event.

New Business:

- President Tom Upton presented Secretary Paul Burrigh with the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal
- Secretary Paul Burrigh presented the year ending recap of our events and accomplishments for 2019.
- Compatriot Mel Burrigh was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his service with the Color Guard when called upon this year, when we were in need of participants.
- All Color Guard members received the SAR Color Guard lapel pin for their service this year.
- Compatriot Bill Webb received his 15-year membership pin and certificate.
- Chapter elections were held for the 2020-21 term based on the nominating committee's report. No other nominations were given from the floor, and all candidates were elected unanimously by member vote. For 2020-21: President, Ben Harvey; Vice President, Paul Burrigh; Secretary, Jim Sly; Treasurer, John Parsons; Registrar, Paul Burrigh. Officers will be sworn in to their offices at our January Chapter meeting.
- All members enjoyed holiday treats supplied by WOSAR, Paula Burrigh.

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on 14 Jan 2020. There being no other business, all members rose and repeated "Until we meet again..." The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H Burrigh

Secretary Omaha Chapter