



The Quill & Parchment

Omaha Chapter
Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



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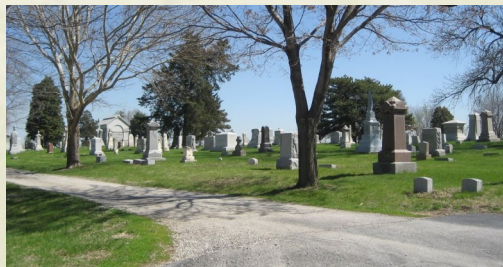
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PROSPECT HILL ADOPT-A-PLOT

Omaha Compatriots,

You should remember that we held a grave marking ceremony, at the gravesite of our first Nebraska SAR President, Champion S. Chase, this past August at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha. We put our own SAR member marker at the gravesite.

Prospect Hill has no budget, so they began the Adopt-A-Plot program to help get volunteers involved in the maintaining of the grounds.



With the SAR now having its own marker at the cemetery, the Omaha Chapter has adopted the eastern half of plot 6, which contains our marker next to Compatriot Chase's headstone.

The Spring clean up day, for the whole cemetery, is scheduled for Sunday, May 17. This is currently a tentative date, as is everything, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will know more as we get closer to the end of April and see how things are shaping up.

We will plan on holding a clean up day on the 2nd Saturday of the month, through June,

July, August, and September. Those dates would be June 13, July 11, Aug 8, and Sept 12, beginning at 9am. Please put these on your calendars and come out to help us keep our area of responsibility clean and maintained. We will need those of you who have pruning shears, gas/battery powered weed eaters, or other lawn equipment, to come out and help. You all have heard the phrase "Many hands make light work". The more of us that come out to help, the faster and easier the work will go. This also gives us the opportunity to still get together with each other over the summer months, and we are helping out our community. We look forward to your help.

250TH ANNIVERSARY

During a prior meeting, we briefly discussed ideas on how the Omaha SAR, or the Nebraska SAR can get involved and do something to commemorate our nation's 250th Anniversary coming up in July of 2026. Depending on the idea, and the amount of planning and fundraising that would need to occur, we need

to begin preparations.

If you have any ideas on an event, or monument, or anything else we can do, please speak up. Something of this nature will only increase our ever growing presence in the community. Please let us know your ideas!!



THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

April 27, 1777

The Battle of Ridgefield took place on April 27, 1777 in Connecticut.

As the British Army was preparing operations to take Philadelphia, General Sir William Howe learned of a large Continental Army depot at Danbury, Connecticut, and instructed Major General William Tryon to raid and destroy it.

The British struck Danbury with 1800 men on the 25th of April, encountering Colonel Joseph P Cooke's small garrison, attempting to move the supplies to a safer location. Tryon attacked and drove off Cooke after a brief skirmish. He then ordered the supplies, largely foodstuffs, uniforms, and other equipment, to be burned.

About 1am, on April 27th, Tryon received word of American forces approaching the town. In order to not be cut off from the coast, he ordered the houses of Patriot supporters in the town burned, and made preparations to depart.

On April 26, word of the enemy reached Major General David Wooster of the Connecticut Militia, and Brigadier General Benedict Arnold at New Haven. Their forces joined with the Fairfield County Militia, Major General Gold Silliman, and moved north toward Redding. Uniting with Silliman, the



American forces numbered about 500 militia and 100 Continental troops. Heavy rain stopped their advance toward Danbury.

Around dawn, Tryon departed Danbury and headed south, with the intention of making the coast through Ridgefield. In an effort to slow the British, and give additional American forces time to arrive, Wooster and Arnold split their forces, with Arnold taking 400 men on to Ridgefield, while Wooster stayed with the rest to harass the enemy's rear. Wooster, catching the British rear off guard, killed 4 and captured 40, in his initial assault. He withdrew and attacked an hour later, this time with Tryon ready with cannon and artillery, and Wooster was mortally wounded.

As the fighting continued in the rear, Arnold and his men worked to build barricades and blockade the streets in town. Tryon attacked about noon, and hit the American positions with artillery, and sent men along the flanks, in hopes to get around the barricades. Silliman anticipated this, and had the flanks blocked.

Seeing that he could not outflank Arnold,

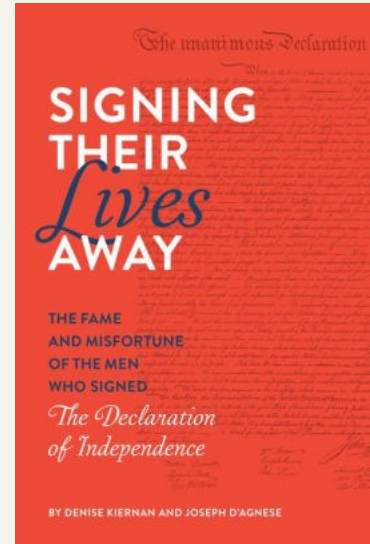
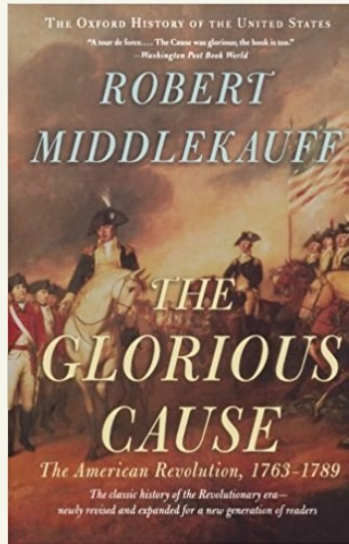
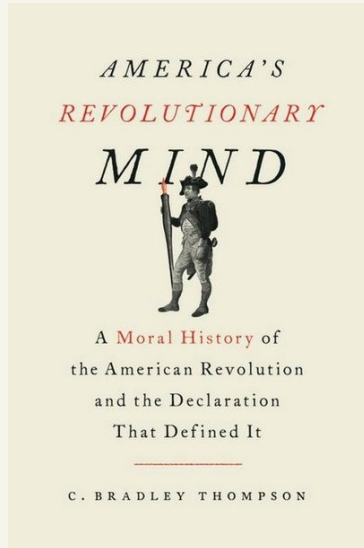
Tryon then sent the weight of his force against the flanks and 600 men straight against the blockades. The artillery managed to break through the flanks, and soon a running battle was underway. Arnold was nearly captured, as his horse was killed and had him pinned between lines.

Arnold and Silliman regrouped, and were supported with militia from New York and Connecticut, as well as Col. John Lamb's Continental Artillery. Arnold established another blocking formation. The militia gave the British lines intense harassment, and Tryon moved his column around causing Arnold to join the militia in pursuit. Even with artillery fire, the Americans could not break the British. Arnold lost another horse and was unable to rally his men for another assault.

The Battle of Ridgefield and the British actions on the Patriot supporters in Danbury, caused much needed support, and army enlistments increased dramatically. The newly raised troops would give General Horatio Gates, much needed support later that year at Saratoga.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION HISTORY

For all of you Compatriots out there that have a passion for all things history, and especially history of the American Revolution, here are some books you may not have read and a virtual tour of the Museum of the American Revolution. Books are available at all major booksellers online, and you can walk through the Museum on your computer, while we are sequestered in our homes during this pandemic.



The Museum of the American Revolution is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The museum is currently closed to visitors, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but you can take a virtual visit to the museum, right on your computer.

Go to www.amrevmuseum-virtualtour.org. You can click the links and start your tour from there. You will have 360 degree, panoramic views, and can click links to expand and view displays up close on your computer screen. It is very interactive. Enjoy!



Apr Birthdays

Merle McAlevy—09 Apr
John Parsons—18 Apr
Brian Walden—19 Apr
Hal Daub—23 Apr
Martin Beerman—23 Apr

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Apr Anniversaries

No April Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to those Compatriots listed for April!



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

- 12 May 2020—Chapter Meeting—6:30pm
- 22 May 2020—Patriotic Parade and Concert—Downtown Omaha
- 25 May 2020—Memorial Day—Omaha National Cemetery

Planning ahead

- 20 Jun 2020—Omaha Storm Chasers Baseball—Color Guard
- 04 Jul 2020—Ralston Independence Day Parade

****All meetings and events are tentative due to current COVID-19 concerns and social distancing rules.****

****Updates will be given on cancellations and postponements****



“ON EVERY UNAUTHORITATIVE EXERCISE OF POWER BY THE LEGISLATURE MUST THE PEOPLE RISE IN REBELLION OR THEIR SILENCE BE CONSTRUED INTO A SURRENDER OF THAT POWER TO THEM? IF SO, HOW MANY REBELLIONS SHOULD WE HAVE HAD ALREADY? - THOMAS JEFFERSON, NOTES ON THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, 1781

Meeting Minutes—Apr 14, 2020

The April 14, 2020 Omaha Chapter Meeting at Gorat's Steakhouse was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray all of you are safe and healthy.

May we all see each other soon.