



The Husker Patriot



Issue 39

2nd Qtr 2020



Memorial Day Remembrance 2020

From the Desk of the President



This is my first presidential comments since taking office at the virtual meeting in May. It is a strange time. All national society meeting functions have been canceled and are in a holding pat-

tern. The same holds true with the state and local chapter functions. The pandemic lockdown reminds me of what I experienced growing up. On two occasions we were snowed in at the ranch for 2 weeks. Telephone and AM radio were the only contact to the outside. You could not travel anywhere. Electricity was present during the second, which made life a little more civilized. (Television did not arrive until five years later.)

Currently, the scheduled Society functions are in suspension until larger gatherings are safer. Genealogy functions are ongoing, albeit at

a slower pace.

Stay healthy, Stay safe,

Merle McAlevy

President, Nebraska SAR



Nebraska SAR Serving the Community

The Nebraska SAR has always had a mission of sponsoring and participating in events that serve the communities of our great State. Many of our members volunteer their time, labor, and dollars, towards programs that coincide with our tenets of Patriotic, Historical, and Educational.

The Society, every year, participates in awarding outstanding cadets at local ROTC and JROTC ceremonies, in our communities. Due to the pandemic, schools were shut down, right around the time that these ceremonies were supposed to happen. Some of the awards did get delivered to the schools, including Plattsmouth High School, the Lincoln area High Schools, University of Nebraska, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. All others will remain on hand with the Chapter coordinators, to be used in next year's ceremonies. We did want to thank all of the Chapter and Society members, who signed up to represent the Nebraska SAR at these ceremonies. Please consider volunteering for this awesome community event next year.

The Omaha Chapter has also begun a project where they "adopted" a plot at the historic Prospect Hill Cemetery, in Omaha. It is through their actions that our interest, concerning the area around our SAR marker in the cemetery, remains clean, trimmed, and maintained. This will help ensure the area remains clean and that those final resting places stay maintained and looking good. (Story on page 6).



NEBRASKA SOCIETY OFFICERS

2020-2021

President: Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, MD, Omaha
 1st Vice President: Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke, Ph.D., Lincoln
 2nd Vice President: Thomas L. Upton, Omaha
 Secretary: Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke, Ph.D., Lincoln
 Treasurer: John C. Braisted, Lincoln
 Registrar: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln
 Deputy Registrar: Robert L. Knott, Jr., Omaha
 Trustee: Fred Walden, Omaha
 Alt. Trustee: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln

BOARD OF COUNSELORS

2020-2021

President: Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, MD
 1st Vice President: Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke, Ph.D.
 2nd Vice President: Thomas L. Upton
 Secretary: Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke, Ph.D.
 Treasurer: John C. Braisted
 Chap. President: Benjiman H. Harvey, Omaha
 Chap. Vice Pres: Paul H. Burreight, Omaha
 Chap. Secretary: Dr. James Sly, Omaha
 Chap. President: John C. Braisted, Lincoln
 Chap. Vice Pres: Dale Wostrel, Lincoln
 Chap. Secretary: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln
 Past State President: Thomas Masters, Lincoln
 Past State President: Merle Rudebusch, Lincoln
 Past State President: John Parsons, Omaha
 Past State President: Robert Knott Jr., Omaha
 Past State President: LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln
 Past State President: John W. Reinert, Lincoln
 Past State President: Fred Walden, Omaha
 Past State President: Dr. David K. Kentsmith, MD, Omaha
 Past State President: William S. Webb, Omaha
 Past State President: Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln

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Nebraska SAR Spring State Meeting



On May 17, 2020, the Nebraska SAR had another first in the long 130 year history of the Society. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and all of the health regulations in place, we had to cancel our face to face meeting that was to be held in April. To accommodate for the cancellation, and still be able to hold a business meeting, which included election of officers for the current term, the Nebraska SAR held its first all digital state meeting on Zoom.

We had 17 participants on the call. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate.

Any awards and medals to be presented, were postponed until the Fall Meeting, which if all goes well, should be held again at Mahoney State Park in September.

The Officer reports were given and you can read the minutes of the meeting, later in this newsletter. 2020 is an election year for the Nebraska SAR and the elections were held and our new officers were sworn in to their new duties for the Society.

Your new State Officers for the 2020-2021 term are:

President—Dr. Merle T. McAlevy, MD, Omaha

1st Vice President—Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke, PhD., Lincoln

2nd Vice President—Thomas L. Upton, Omaha

Secretary—Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke, PhD., Lincoln

Treasurer—John C. Braisted, Lincoln

Registrar—Shawn K. Stoner, Lincoln

Trustee—Fred Walden, Omaha

Alt. Trustee—LaVerne Stetson, Lincoln

Appointed State Positions:

Color Guard Commander—Chad Sherrets, Omaha

Newsletter Editors—William Webb, Omaha; Paul Burrigh, Omaha

Eagle Scout Chairman—Merle Rudebusch, Lincoln

Awards Chairman—Open

Congratulations to all of our new officers. Please support them in any way that you are able.

If you would like to volunteer to fill any open position, please contact a State Officer. In order for the Society to grow and prosper, we need more of our members to step up and help in critical spots.



Treasurer's Report—2020 Spring Meeting

Income:	Expenses:	Current Checking Bal: \$7,085.25
Dues: \$6,614.00	Dues to NSSAR: \$2,875.00	CD's mature on May 25, 2020
Medal and Book Sales: \$150.00	Dues to State: \$1,498.00	\$150.00 will be added for 3 deceased members from 2019 to Scout CD when CD renews.
Patriot Chest Refund: <u>\$375.00</u>	Dues to Lincoln: \$260.00	
Total Income: \$7,139.00	Dues to Omaha: \$550.00	
	Return Check & Fee: \$76.00	
	Color Guard: \$344.79	
	Awards: \$100.00	<u>Breakdown on Contribution/Donation:</u>
	Purchase Medals: \$866.50	Scouts: \$301.00
	Newsletters	Law/Fire/EMT: \$211.00
	Postage: \$120.90	Color Guard: \$156.00
	Printing: \$1,031.00	Grave Marking: \$268.00
	Reinstate to SAR: \$35.00	Other: \$244.00
	Meeting Expenses: \$68.28	
	2nd Patriot Chest: <u>\$507.76</u>	
	Total Paid Out: \$8,333.23	



130 YEARS OF THE NEBRASKA SAR

As we continue our focus on our 130th Anniversary as a State Society, we wanted to share some newspaper articles, from both the Omaha World Herald, as well as the Omaha Daily Bee, from our founding,

Thank you to Omaha Compatriot, Jeffrey Spencer, for finding these article clippings and forwarding them on to us so that we could share them with all of you. We hope you enjoy this peek back at our founding history.

Sons of the Revolution.

OMAHA, NEB., April 27.—[Special.]—The Nebraska branch of the national organization of Sons of the American Revolution was organized at the Paxton hotel cafe last evening, there being a fair crowd of gentlemen in attendance who can trace their ancestry back to the heroes of revolutionary days, only such being eligible to membership. Formal organization was effected by the election of the following officers for the initial year: President, Champion S. Chase; first vice president, Dr. H. Bowen of Nebraska City; second vice president, Thomas A. Creigh of Omaha; third vice president, Charles H. Gere of Lincoln; secretary, N. J. Burnham; treasurer, W. W. Copeland; registrar, Lutlier M. Kuhns; delegates to the Louisville convention, Champion S. Chase, C. H. Gere and Dr. Clarke Gaper, with S. R. Rush and A. M. Dyer as alternatives. A committee was also appointed on by-laws, comprising Messrs. William B. Birge, P. L. Perrine and Edward Bartlett. After the election of officers, recounting the claims of the various gentlemen present to membership and extending thanks to the hotel proprietor for favors, the meeting adjourned.

Omaha World Herald, April 27, 1890

—A meeting of the Nebraska society, Sons of the American Revolution, will be held at the Paxton cafe Saturday evening. All gentlemen, whether resident of the city or not, but within the state, are cordially invited to be present. Competent speakers will explain the objects and purposes of the organization.

Meeting Notice—Nebraska Society, SAR
Omaha World Herald, May 28, 1890

ONLY A FEW PRESENT.

A meeting of those interested in the formation of a society of the Sons of the Revolution was held at the Paxton cafe last night. Few were present. A constitution and by-laws were adopted.

Omaha World Herald, June 1, 1890

Sons of the Revolution.

The Nebraska branch of the Sons of the Revolution held a meeting at the Paxton last night. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and two applicants received and referred. Those present took occasion to express their opposition to the idea expressed by the orator on Decoration day that this country took its start from the war of the rebellion. They were decidedly of the opinion that this country owed its present standing to the revolutionary war and referred to documentary evidence in support of this assertion.

Nebraska Society Meeting Notes
Omaha Daily Bee, June 1, 1890

Sons of the American Revolution.

There will be a meeting of the society of Sons of the American Revolution at rooms 921 and 919 New York Life building next Saturday at 8. p. m.

All members are cordially invited to be present, as also those who propose to make application for membership. By order of the president,
C. S. CHASE.
N. J. BURNHAM, Secretary.

Meeting Notice—Nebraska Society, SAR
Omaha Daily Bee, December 5, 1890

SONS OF THE REVOLUTION.

Something About the Patriotic Organization of Local Interest.

The national congress of the society of the Sons of the American Revolution met in annual convention at Hartford, Conn., on April 30. This is the representative body of the general society, and is composed of the presidents and the delegates of the several state societies. This year the congress will consist of eighty members representing a total membership of over 3,000. The basis of representation is one delegate for each 100 members or fraction of fifty.

Organizations exist in flourishing conditions in New York, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, South Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio, District of Columbia, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, California, New Jersey, Missouri, Delaware, West Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Nebraska.

In membership Connecticut leads with 383 members, and Massachusetts follows with 300 members.

It is peculiarly the centennial society of America, having been originally organized in San Francisco July 4, 1876. The national society was organized by the state societies on the centennial anniversary of the inauguration of the first president of United States, in the long room of Franco's tavern, where Washington and his officers finally separated after the successful close of the revolutionary war. This is on the corner of Pearl and Broad streets, New York.

At 9 o'clock on the morning of April 30, 1880, in Franco's tavern, in the same room in which Washington met the officers of his army and spoke to them his words of farewell, the following named delegates assembled:

Rev. Timothy Dwight, D. D., LL. D.; W. O. McDowell, H. K. Stuyton, C. R. Morrison, Fred Leighton, Luther J. Tarbell, Frank R. Starr, Wilson L. Gill, G. B. Abbott, Clarence Stuart Webb, Franklin H. Hart, Lucius P. Deming, John Jackson Hubbell, N. C. Upham, Charles C. Page, M. D., Andrew J. Woodman, Major George B. Halstead, J. C. Pumpelly, Galus Paddock, G. L. Callaway, James C. Cresap, Lieutenant, U. S. N.

The constitution of this society provides that: "Any man is eligible for membership who is the age of 21 years and who is descended from an ancestor, who, with unflinching loyalty, rendered material aid to the cause of American independence as a soldier or a seaman, or a civil officer in one of the several colonies or states, or as a recognized patriot, provided he shall be found worthy."

The objects of the society are to perpetuate the memory and the spirit of the men who achieved American independence, by the encouragement of historical research in relation to the revolution and the publication of its results, the preservation of documents and relics and of the records of the individual services of revolutionary soldiers and patriots, and the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries, to carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people; to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge, thus developing an enlightened public opinion and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest capacity for performing the duties of American citizens; to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

The officers of the national society are: President general, Dr. William S. Webb, New York; vice presidents general, Hon. Lucius P. Deming, Connecticut; Governor Buckner, Kentucky; Hon. William H. Arnoux, New York; Mr. Josiah C. Pumpelly, New Jersey; G. B. Goode, Ph. D., LL. D., Washington, D. C.; secretary general, Lieutenant James C. Cresap, U. S. N., Maryland; treasurer general, Mr. James Otis, New York; register general, Mr. Luther L. Tarbell, Massachusetts; surgeon general, William T. Parker, M. D., Rhode Island; chaplain general, Rev. C. E. Cheney, bishop of Illinois.

Residents of this state are entitled to membership in the Nebraska society, irrespective of the residence of their ancestor.

The initiation fee in the Nebraska society is \$3 and the annual dues \$2. The annual meeting is held on the 1st of March, the anniversary of the admission of the state into the union.

The officers of the Nebraska society are: Thomas A. Creigh, president; Aurelius Bowen, M. D., vice president; P. L. Perino, secretary; W. W. Copeland, treasurer; Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, register and historian.

The registrar's circular containing information about the society may be had on application to the registrar, Rev. Luther W. Kuhns, Omaha, and blank applications for membership may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. P. L. Perino, Omaha.

The presidents of the various state organizations are: Colonel A. S. Hubbard, California; Jonathan Trumbull, Connecticut; Hon. George C. Benedict, Vermont; Hon. J. P. Richardson, South Carolina; Hon. Charles H. Saunders, Massachusetts; General Bradley T. Johnson, Maryland; Rev. Wilson Parsons, Ohio; Hon. William Lindsay, Kentucky; Josiah Fogg, Missouri; Rev. D. C. Kelly, D. D., Tennessee; Hon. Albert Edgerton, Minnesota; Hon. W. E. English, Indiana; Hon. H. B. Ledyan, Michigan; Hon. Thomas F. Bayard, Delaware; Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, LL. D., New York; Rev. Dr. E. B. Andrews, Rhode Island; Hon. W. H. Jack, Louisiana.

Article on the Nebraska Society, SAR, as well as the founding of the National Society
Omaha World Herald, May 4, 1891

COLONEL CHASE RETURNS.

Colonel Chase returned last evening from his trip to Hartford, Conn., where he went to attend, as delegate at large of the Nebraska society Sons of the American Revolution, the national congress of the order. He says the congress, though large, was harmonious, and the reports from the societies of the various states showed great accessions during the year.

Colonel Chase, while east, was also present and spoke at the great Polish meeting at Cooper union hall last Monday night in New York, where at least 4,000 persons had assembled to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the adoption of a free constitution by Poland on the 3d of May, 1791, but which in 1794 it was compelled to abandon. Colonel Chase reports that the meeting was a great success and very enthusiastic.

Article on Champion Chase's return from the 2nd National Congress in Hartford, Connecticut.
Omaha World Herald, May 9, 1891

This is an excerpt of the verbal report that Col. Champion S. Chase gave to the 2nd Congress:

The Nebraska Society must necessarily be made up of men from New England. We of the West do not tread upon a Revolutionary battlefield every day, as we go to and from our occupations, as you do in the East. We are inclined to make money in the West, and our surroundings are different from yours, but we are patriotic, and are as proud of our blood and our Revolutionary ancestry as you, perhaps even more so, because, it may be, "distance lends enchantment to the view".

I wish to say for your encouragement, that we are devoted to the ob-

ject and aims of the National Society; and we are in favor of taking such action as will conduce to its growth. We desire that care and fostering influence of the National society. There is too little done in this line, I fear. No State Society should be left to itself. There should be more correspondence and some better method of disseminating information speedily and generally. I understand that this is being done in New England and in several other States where they are active. We will give you a much better report, a year from today, I am confident; and in the meantime, we will endeavor to make our Society worthy of your kindest consideration. —Col. Champion S. Chase, Nebraska Society

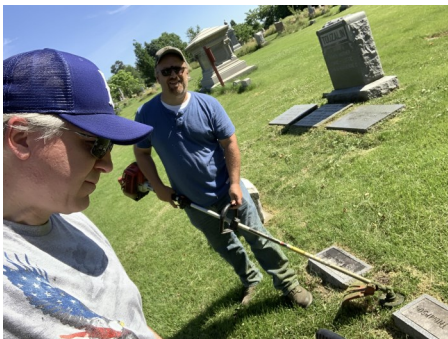
Chapter Chatter

Omaha Chapter

Omaha Chapter member, Eric Willard, along with his two sons, EJ and Seb, honored our veterans at a Memorial Day Ceremony in Blair, NE. Compatriot Willard is the Cub Master of Cub Scout Pack 232 in Blair. They are pictured here with 1st Sergeant (retired), Dan Falcon, Sr. Vice Commander of the VFW Post 1251 in Blair.



On Saturday, June 13, Omaha Compatriots, Chad Sherrets and Paul Burright worked on a Chapter sponsored clean up day at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha. The Omaha Chapter has adopted the section of plots that contains our SAR marker at the gravesite of Champion S. Chase, our first Nebraska SAR President, to help keep it clean, trimmed, and maintained. Prospect Hill relies on this volunteerism and donations to maintain the historic cemetery.



Lincoln Chapter

The Lincoln Chapter members could not participate in their normal Memorial Day ceremonies at Wyuka Cemetery, due to the cancellation of events over the COVID-19 pandemic, however they did honor a couple of our past State Presidents that are buried in Wyuka Cemetery.

Sterling Fann Mutz was our 39th State President from 1937-38, and was President General of the National Society in 1942-43.



Herbert M. Bushnell was a charter member of the Society, and was the 22nd President of the Nebraska SAR, serving in 1916.



Memorial Day

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, almost all main Memorial Day events were cancelled around the State, including the two main events that the Nebraska SAR participates in; Omaha National Cemetery in Omaha, and Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln. In light of this, there was an event at the Capitol Building, in Lincoln, that allowed us to still participate, as a Society, in a Memorial Day ceremony.

A gold star family from Gretna, NE, lit a candle in the rotunda of the Capitol, to honor all of our veterans. Every half hour, different organizations rotated out from guard duty over the candle. This lasted from 8am—8pm, with units changing out every 30 minutes throughout the day.

Lincoln Compatriots, Shawn Stoner and John Braisted, represented the Nebraska SAR, and all of our Patriot ancestors, for this solemn duty. The photo below was a screen capture from the live stream that the Veteran's Administration ran of the event, with our two Patriots standing guard. Thank you Compatriots for representing the Nebraska SAR so well!

Huzzah!!



Compatriots Shawn Stoner and John Braisted in the Capitol Rotunda

Meet My Patriot

Dan Blackman (P-115583)

Dan (never Daniel) Blackman was born in 1758 to Abraham Blackman (1705-1788) and his second wife, Abigail Sims (1717-1813), in Hebron, Tolland Co., Connecticut.

He married Ruth Fairfield, born 1759, daughter of Massachusetts Revolutionary War Patriot Nathaniel Fairfield (1730-1817) and Judith Pierce (1732-1775) at Pittsfield, Berkshire Co., Massachusetts, on 26 March 1786 (int). Dan & Ruth were the parents of eight children, all born Pittsfield:

- Dan Blackman (1787-bet 1860 & 1865), died Floyd, Oneida Co., New York. *Pvt., 157th Regiment (Westcot's) New York Militia, War of 1812.*

- ----- Blackman (1788-1789), died Pittsfield.

- Ruth Blackman (1790- aft 1855), died Poland, Chautauqua Co., New York. Married Eliab Wheelock.

- John Blackman (1792-1835), died Utica, Oneida Co, New York.

- Elizabeth "Betsy" Blackman (1793-1855), died Floyd. Married Joseph Gray.

- Nathaniel Blackman (1796-1862), died Crystal Lake, McHenry Co., Illinois. Married Eliza Chapel.

- Noble Blackman (1798-1879), died Stockton, Chautauqua Co., New York. Married Mariel Sanford.

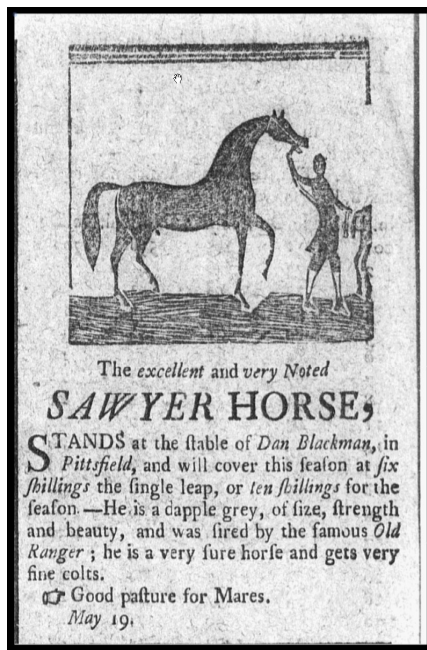
- Eleazer Blackman/Blackmon (1801-1859), murdered Lancaster, Erie Co., New York. Married first his half first cousin once removed Almira Blackman. Married second Harriet (Smith) Blackman, widow of Almira's brother, Hiram Blackman.

Following the death of his wife, Ruth, between 1801 and 1818, Dan married second his maternal first cousin once removed Elizabeth Payne (1758-prob 1832), of Hebron, daughter of Joseph Payne (1729-1797) and Elizabeth



Sims (1740-1823).

In Pittsfield, Dan operated a horse stable (*Berkshire Chronicle*, May 7, 1790, Pittsfield).



Later, in Floyd, he was a farmer. When he applied for a pension for his Revolutionary War service in 1818, he had been several months in "Gaol" for debts owed. He was granted a pension of \$4 per month. He died 17 April 1830 at Floyd and is presumed buried in the Old Floyd Cemetery, although no gravestone survives.

He was a descendant, through his father, of Mayflower Pilgrim Richard Warren. On his mother's side, he was a descendant of Gateway Ancestor Rev. William Skepper of Essex Co., Massachusetts.

Revolutionary War Service: Capt. Brigham's Company, Col. Chandler's Regiment, Connecticut Line, 8 May 1777 (Hebron) to 1 August 1778 (Peekskill, Westchester Co., New York). *Revolutionary War Pension Application #45286.*

Submitted by Martin W. Beerman

NSSAR #135089; Nebraska #1014.



Welcome New Members

The genealogists at National have still been hard at work, through this pandemic and the shutdown of the National Headquarters, going through and approving applications. Please welcome our two newest members to the Nebraska SAR family.

- Joseph Russel Maxwell—SAR #215114
- Daniel Thomas Maxwell—SAR #215115

Joseph and Daniel are brothers, and their mother is DAR, descended from William Fitzwater (PA). They were approved and registered at National on May 8, 2020. Both will be members of the Omaha Chapter. The Chapter hopes to be able to install them when they meet again in September.



We would also like to congratulate Compatriot Bob Knott on two more supplemental Patriots approved.

- Patriot Edward Leach (MD)
- Patriot Ninian Magruder (MD)

These two supplemental approvals now give Compatriot Knott 18 approved Patriots in the SAR database. He currently has three more applications awaiting approval at National. Congratulations Compatriot Knott!

The Origins of Memorial Day

What we now know, and observe, as Memorial Day, has some very complex origins.

The decorating of soldier's graves is an ancient custom. It gained a foothold in American customs before and during the Civil War.

According to the Library of Congress, "Southern women decorated the graves of soldiers, even before the end of the war. Records show that by 1865, Mississippi, Virginia, and South Carolina, all had precedents for Memorial Day in place. Some other precedents for decorating soldier's graves in the South include:

- Warrenton, Virginia—June 3, 1861, the first Civil War soldier's grave was decorated for the funeral of the first soldier killed in action in the conflict. John Quincy Marr was killed June 1, 1861 during a skirmish at the Battle of Fairfax Courthouse in Virginia.
- Savannah, Georgia—July 1862, women decorated the graves at Laurel Grove Cemetery for Col. Francis S. Bartow and his comrades who were killed at the Battle of Bull Run, the year prior.
- Charleston, South Carolina—May 1, 1865, newly freed former slaves held a parade of 10,000 people to honor 257 dead Union soldiers, whose remains they had reburied from a mass grave in a Confederate prison camp.

Some precedents from the North include:

- Gettysburg, Pennsylvania—The 1863 ceremony, in which President Lincoln gave his now famous Gettysburg Address, was a ceremony of commemoration of the graves of the dead sol-

diers of the Battle of Gettysburg.

- National Decoration Day—May 5, 1868, On this day, General John A. Logan, issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide. He was the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. With this proclamation, Logan adopted the practice that had begun in the Southern states, 3 years prior. The Northern states quickly adopted the practice.
- Michigan State Holiday—1871, Michigan made "Decoration Day" an official state holiday. By 1890, every Northern state had followed suit.

By the 1880's, ceremonies were becoming more consistent across geography as the GAR provided handbooks that presented specific procedures, poems, and bible verses for local post commanders to utilize in their commemorations. A historical account of one of these many ceremonies states, "on the day itself, the post assembled and marched to the local cemetery to decorate the graves of the fallen, an enterprise meticulously organized months in advance to assure that none were missed. Finally came a simple and subdued graveyard service involving prayers, short patriotic speeches, and music...and at the end, perhaps a rifle salute."

By the 20th Century, many of the Union memorial ceremony traditions had merged from the various different events around the country, and Decoration Day became extended to honor veterans of all American wars. This was especially true during the first World War.

The first use of the term "Memorial Day" came in 1882, though most still referred to the holiday as Decoration Day. Memorial Day became much more commonly used after World War II, but the day was not made a federal holiday until 1967. The holiday, up

until that time, was commonly held on May 30th. On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a specific Monday on the calendar. Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday of May.

Many cities and towns hold ceremonies to honor the veterans from their local areas. The longest running observance of Memorial Day is in Rochester, Wisconsin. They have held an annual Memorial Day parade, every year, since 1868.

One of the more popular symbols of remembrance during Memorial Day, began during World War I, when the holiday was still more known as Decoration Day. In 1915, following the Second Battle of Ypres, Lt. Col. John McCrae of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, wrote the poem, "In Flanders Fields". Its opening lines refer to the fields of poppies that grew among the soldiers graves in Flanders. In 1918, inspired by the poem, YWCA worker, Moina Michael, attended a YWCA Overseas War Secretaries' Conference wearing a silk poppy pinned to her coat and distributed more than two dozen more to others present. In 1920, the National American Legion adopted the poppy as their official symbol of remembrance.



Today many people see Memorial Day as the unofficial start to summer, and don't know the history or the reasons we observe it. Rest assured, the SAR does its part to remember the fallen soldiers that gave us our freedom, from our ancestors in the Revolution, to our modern day conflicts.

State Spring Meeting 2020 Minutes



Due to the Coronavirus shutdown, our Spring meeting had to be held electronically via Zoom.

The meeting (Zoom teleconference) was called to order by President Shawn Stoner at 1:32pm. Dr. David Kentsmith asserted that we had a quorum and that Society business could be conducted as an official state meeting. Several motions made and seconded by Drs. David Kentsmith and Merle McAlevy attesting to these facts, subsequently approved by affirmative voice votes.

The Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the SAR were both recited by the group.

Past State Presidents and members were asked to introduce themselves: Dr. David Kentsmith, John Reinert, LaVerne Stetson, and Dale Softley responded.

Officer Reports:

1st Vice President: Merle McAlevy

Reported that the Board of Counselors continues to meet electronically. Nothing new to add. Thanked Shawn for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Secretary: John Reinert

Reported that dues were successfully collected for current members (2020) and that the reconciliation report for 2019 was accepted by National. Of 62 inquiries received from prospective members since January of 2019, roughly 10% had completed the application process. Over the same period, 18 SAR rosettes were distributed (presented) to new members.

Treasurer: John Braisted

Revenue since last fall includes dues collected, meal (medal), book sales, Patriot Chest reimbursement. Shawn added that there were \$100 in medal sales and \$260 in book sales, which should cover the costs. David K. asked about paying Zoom meeting expenses? Shawn replied that a \$20/month fee would be cancelled next month limiting the meeting expense to \$20, with no other expenses.. (Full Treasurers Report breakdown is on page 3 of this newsletter.

Registrar: Shawn Stoner (best available information)

Three applications are being prepared.

One new application is awaiting approval at National, together with one supplemental and 5 pended.

Four new applications have been approved since fall; add two supplementals and four reinstatements.

Two lapsed members have indicated their intentions to reinstate.

A transfer/reinstatement from Wyoming SAR now lives in Ogallala, Nebraska.

12 new members were added in 2019 for a total of 106 members at the end of the year.

Early in 2020, the reconciliation showed that twelve members had dropped, with 3 deceased and 4 reinstatements, for a current total membership of 101.

David K—problems getting the applications through with COVID, Shawn/Paul—applications up to March 15th, about 2 months behind. John R—received new membership certificates.

Publicity: Paul Burrignt

Discussed the current newsletter, issue 39. 10 years in publication. Newsletter going through a slight redesign and is still a work in progress. Using a more news magazine format would not restrict length. Stated that we would like to see the State Meeting Minutes and Treasurers Report to be able to publish in newsletter after each State meeting. John R. replied “Agreed”. Paul also stated that more specific feedback from members on the newsletter would be helpful to the editors. Deadline for next edition would be June 15, to be published early July.

Medals and Certificates:

John Parsons delivered a Silver ROTC medal to UNO and a Bronze ROTC medal to Plattsmouth High School before the school themselves shut down for COVID. Shawn mentioned that Lincoln Chapter mailed 3 Silver ROTC medal to UNL, and one Bronze ROTC medal to Northeast High School and the two Flag Certificates were presented.

[Meeting minutes continued on Page 10.](#)

State Spring Meeting 2020 Minutes



Meeting Minutes—Continued

Color Guard—Chad Sherrets, Color Guard Commander

Memorial Day Parade/Concert—Omaha—Cancelled

Omaha Storm Chasers Colors Presentation—June 20 –Omaha—TBD

Ralston Independence Day Parade—Cancelled

Fall State Meeting, September

Veteran's Day Parade—the 2019 event held last fall in Lincoln was a beautiful day. This year's event is still being planned. There is no registration fee for groups like us. No additional budget is anticipated for 2020.

A new event is being scheduled at the State Capitol for Memorial Day: with two uniformed members standing in repose as an Honor Guard throughout the day. At 8am, Gold Star parents will light a candle. Those scheduled to stand in repose for one to two hours shifts. Live streamed on Facebook—largest audience, smallest number of participants. David K. asked about our accreditation or whether an official action recognized us as a state group? John B. and John R. recalled recent efforts to incorporate as a tax exempt entity in the State of Nebraska. Chad asserted that we are not an official veterans group.

Chad suggested as an idea: YouTube videos playing, possibly putting together a YouTube Channel, posting parades, Instagram photos, etc., appealing to younger generations. Promote public exposure. John B. has a script (originated in Georgia) for the Patriot Chest that could be recorded. Resource for school teachers.

Old Business:

Grave marking for Sterling Mutz has been postponed. No new official date yet.

Patriot Chest Program—two complete chests, one for each chapter, have been purchased and distributed.

Veteran's Day Parade in Lincoln, NESSAR Color Guard participated.

New Business:

Yearbook 2020 has been published—Newsletter update—Looking for ideas for a big function or two for 2026, maybe in conjunction with DAR and/or CAR.

A discussion comparing newsletter printing/postage costs with the potential savings afforded by electronic publication is followed by the suggestion that a survey be included in the next newsletter, asking that members assert a clear preference to receive future newsletters via snail mail or be switched automatically to the electronic version.

Election and Installation of Officers—per the nominating committee report (Dr. David Kentsmith, Rev. Dr. James Hoke) David K. moved election by unanimous consent there is no objection from the floor. Compatriot Dale Softley seconded the motion. New officers for consideration: President—Merle McAlevy, 1st VP—James Hoke, 2nd VP—Thomas Upton, Secretary—James Hoke, Treasurer—John Braisted, Registrar—Shawn Stoner, Trustee—Fred Walden, Alt Trustee, LaVerne Stetson.

President Elect McAlevy was installed by outgoing President Shawn Stoner.

President McAlevy installed the remaining elected officers.

Appointed offices will be considered separately: Color Guard Commander—Chad Sherrets, Newsletter Co-editors, William Webb and Paul Burreight, Awards Chair—Open, Eagle Scout Chair—Merle Rudebusch

Remarks for the good of the order:

John Braisted mentions two Facebook pages: George Washington's Mount Vernon, in lieu of tours, USS Constitution, (2019) 600,000 visitors on ship, whereas in the last 6-8 weeks, >2,000,000 views

Dr. David Kentsmith and Dr. Merle McAlevy share accolades for Shawn's leadership as President of our Nebraska SAR.

Meeting closed with the SAR Recessional.

SOCIETY INFORMATION



3rd Quarter 2020 Meetings and Events

Saturday, Jul 4—Ralston Parade—cancelled

Saturday, Jul 11—Omaha Chapter Cleanup Day, 9am-11am, Prospect Hill Cemetery, Omaha, NE

Friday, Aug 7—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Eastmont Towers, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, Aug 8—Omaha Chapter Cleanup Day, 9am-11am, Prospect Hill Cemetery, Omaha, NE

Friday, Sept 4—Lincoln Chapter Meeting, 9:00am, Eastmont Towers, Lincoln, NE

Saturday, Sep 12—Omaha Chapter Cleanup Day, 9am-11am, Prospect Hill Cemetery, Omaha, NE

Tuesday, Sept 8—Omaha Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm, Gorat's, Omaha, NE

Sunday, Sep 20—Nebraska SAR Fall State Meeting, Mahoney State Park, 2pm

Saturday, Sep—Sterling Fann Mutz Grave Marking—postponed to probably 2021

Contact Information Update

If you, as a Nebraska SAR Member, have recently had a change of address, telephone number, or email contact information, please inform State Secretary, James Hoke at chaphoke@hotmail.com.

Help us keep our records up to date!



SAR Applications

If you are members of either the Omaha or Lincoln Chapters, please submit all new member and supplemental applications through your Chapter Registrars.

Omaha—Paul Burrigh—pburrigh72@gmail.com

Lincoln—Open—

All Member-At-Large applications will be mailed to, and processed by, our Nebraska SAR State Registrar:

Compatriot Shawn Stoner

2710 N. 4th St

Lincoln, NE 68521.

Email: nessar.registrar@gmail.com

****Due to current Coronavirus concerns, all meeting and event date and times are tentative.****

****Please visit our website, www.nessar.org, for updated information regarding changes.****

From the editors—*The Husker Patriot* will be published on the first week of following quarter. For example, the 2nd quarter ends on June 30. The 2nd quarter newsletter will be published the first week of July.

Follow this deadline schedule to get information, articles, and photos in to the editors (contact information on page 2):

1st Quarter—Mar 15, 2nd Quarter—Jun 15, 3rd Quarter—Sept 15, and 4th Quarter—Dec 15. Thank you for your help getting quality content in-

Social Media and Online Presence



Nebraska SAR is online! Visit the Nebraska SAR website at www.nessar.org.

Nebraska SAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NebraskaSAR

Omaha SAR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OmahaSAR