



The Quill & Parchment

Omaha Chapter
Nebraska Society, Sons of the American Revolution



EDITORS: PAUL BURRIGHT, BILL WEBB



OMAHA LEADERSHIP 2020-21

- Benjamin Harvey—President
- Paul Burright—Vice President
- James Sly—Secretary
- John Parsons—Treasurer
- Paul Burright—Registrar
- Tom Upton—Past President

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FROM THE EDITOR

Every year, your editors of both *The Quill & Parchment*, and *The Husker Patriot*, submit copies of the newsletters to National for their respective publication competitions, to be awarded at annual Congress. There are 5 different awards that National gives out, based on style of newsletter and size of the Chapter/Society that is being submitted.

The Husker Patriot won the Jennings H. Flathers Award, in 2016, for the best State Society newsletter, for societies with fewer than 500 members. The editors at that time were Omaha Chapter members Bob Knott and Bill Webb.

Even though the 130th National Congress in Richmond was

cancelled this year, due to COVID, National still handed out their annual awards. Your Chapter newsletter, *The Quill & Parchment*, was recognized by National with the Carl F. Bessent Award, for the most outstanding Chapter newsletter. We won in the single sheet category, based on the number of pages within the newsletter. The Maryland SAR

sent our Chapter a \$175 check, in recognition of our National newsletter award.

It is quite an honor to be recognized by National, as well as our peer Societies for the hard work we put in to these newsletters. We will continue to put out content you want to read, in our publications, at the Chapter, as well as State level.



DUES NOTICES - 2021

We are getting close to that time of year again, that dues notices for 2021 will be coming out.

The State Society Newsletter, *The Husker Patriot*, will be coming out in a couple of weeks, and dues notices will be included in that mailing.

Every year, we have multiple members that have to be dropped from the membership rolls, due to non-payment, or late payments of their dues. Please ensure that you are looking for this notice, and that you get your dues payment into the Society on time. On-time dues payments help us get our year end paperwork

completed in a timely manner, as well as lessens the paperwork required when we have to reinstate a member due to a late payment of dues.

Thank you for your continued membership in the Nebraska SAR, and thank you for your timely payment of our annual dues for 2021!

THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

September 10, 1776

Nathan Hale volunteers to spy behind British lines

General George Washington asks for a volunteer for an extremely dangerous mission: to gather intelligence behind enemy lines before the coming Battle of Harlem Heights. Captain Nathan Hale of the 19th Regiment of the Continental Army stepped forward and subsequently become one of the first known American spies of the Revolutionary War.

Disguised as a Dutch schoolmaster, the Yale University-educated Hale slipped behind British lines on Long Island and then successfully gathered information about British troop movements for the next several weeks. While Hale was behind enemy lines, the British invaded the island of Manhattan; they took control of the city on September 15, 1776. When the city was set on fire on September 20, 1776, British sol-

diers were put on high alert for sympathizers to the Patriot cause. The following evening, on September 21, 1776, Hale was captured while sailing Long Island Sound, trying to cross back into American-controlled territory.

Hale was interrogated by British General William Howe and, when it was discovered that he was carrying incriminating documents, General Howe ordered his execution for spying, which was set for the following morning. After being led to the gallows, legend holds that Hale was asked if he had any last words and that he replied with these now-famous words,

"I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country." There is no historical record to prove that Hale actually made this statement, but, if he did, he may have been inspired by these lines in English author Joseph Addison's 1713 play Cato:

"What a pity it is/That we can die but once to serve our country."

Patriot spy Nathan Hale was hanged by the British on the morning of September 22, 1776. He was just 21 years old. Although rumors later surfaced that Hale's capture was the result of a betrayal by his first cousin and British Loyalist Samuel Hale, the exact circumstances leading to Hale's arrest have never been discovered."

From—*The Founding of the United States*



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

The weather is getting cooler and Wreaths Across America is just around the corner.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, December 19, at 12 Noon, at Omaha National Cemetery. Just like last year, we are a fundraising partner for the event.

Our main objective is to get the word out to get people to sponsor a wreath, in our name, for \$15/wreath. As

we fell short of our goal last year, we will keep our goal the same at 200 wreaths.

You can go to our WAA webpage at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/159544/Overview/?relatedId=14880>

Our hope is that even though you are spreading the word to all of your friends, family, coworkers, etc., that all of you will sponsor at least one

wreath as well. There are 58 of us in the Chapter. If all of us sponsored 1 wreath, we would be nearly a third of the way toward our goal.

If you don't want to sponsor online, you can also send a check, made out to Wreaths Across America, to : Paul Burright, 1311 N. 208th St, Elkhorn, NE 68022-6940. Paul will forward to WAA and get credit for our Chapter. Thank you for sponsoring!



PROSPECT HILL CLEAN UP DAY

The Omaha Chapter has “adopted’ a section at Prospect Hill Cemetery, through their “Adopt a Plot” program. We are responsible for trimming and maintaining the area in section 6 of the cemetery. The cemetery relies on the good will of volunteers, to maintain and keep the plots clean for visitors.

On Saturday, September 12, the Chapter held its clean up day for the section we are responsible for. Even with the intense heat and drought through most of August, the section was more overgrown around the tombstones than was expected, however, with our consistent maintenance of the area, it did not take us long to get our section trimmed up. Those that arrived to help work included, Chapter President, Ben Harvey, Vice President, Paul Burrignt, Bill Webb, and one of our newest members, Drew Whitler and his wife Cheryl. We came armed with gas and battery powered weed trimmers to tackle around the headstones and monuments, and hand shears to tackle the many overgrown, volunteer

mulberry bushes and trees, sprouting around the area and various headstones.

We were able to tackle our area fairly quickly, so we moved over and began working in the next section over, which had not been touched, for what looked like the entire summer. So many overgrown bushes and 4”-6” tall grass that covered many of the tombstones. We were able to dig out some of the sunken headstones that were buried under clumps of overgrown grass, and were able to let others see the light of day,

after trimming all the overgrowth from around the stones. We got most of the section next to ours completed, before we ran out of gas and battery power in the trimmers.

I want to thank all of the volunteers that were able to come out this summer and do this volunteer work and represent the Chapter in this vital community service. We hope to get more of you involved in this endeavor, as we plan to continue this service next year and beyond.



Ben Harvey, Paul Burrignt, Drew Whitler, Bill Webb



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



September Birthdays

- Cary Clark—Sep 1
- Hank Austin—Sep 2
- Mark Diercks—Sep 10
- Andrew Nehls—Sep 10
- Richard Ewing—Sep 11
- Jake Albanez—Sep 17
- Robert Huff—Sep 18
- Steven Ward—Sep 22

Septermber Anniversaries

- Merle McAlevy—28 Sep 2011
- Jake Albanez—01 Sep 2015
- Paul Burrignt—23 Sep 2016
- Eric Willard—27 Sep 2019

Happy Birthday to those Com-patriots listed for September!

Those of you with member-ship 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 **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

- Sep 20, 2020—Fall State Meeting—Mahoney State Park—**Cancelled**
- Oct 13, 2020—Chapter Meeting—Gorat's Steakhouse, 6:30pm

Planning ahead

- Nov 3, 2020—Election Day
- Nov 8, 2020—Veteran's Day Parade—2pm, Lincoln, NE
- Nov 10, 2020—Chapter Meeting—Gorat's Steakhouse, 6:30pm
- Nov 26, 2020—Thanksgiving Day



“LABOR TO KEEP ALIVE IN YOUR BREAST THAT LITTLE SPARK OF CELESTIAL FIRE CALLED CONSCIENCE”

- GEORGE WASHINGTON—RULES FOR CIVILITY & DECENT BEHAVIOR, # 1 1 0

Meeting Minutes—September, 2020

The September Meeting at Gorat's was cancelled due to COVID.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, 2020—6:30pm, Gorat's Steakhouse

We hope to see you all there!