



The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution July 11, 2022

We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifice established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and solemnly pledge to defend them against every foe.

Fourth of July Parade in Urbandale, Iowa

By Mike Rowley

The Iowa Sons of the American Revolution, General Society of the War of 1812, and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War joined with the local DAR, American Legion, VFW, and several other patriotic organizations on the 4th of July 2022 to participate in the Urbandale, Iowa Parade.



Left to right: Doug Frazer, Randy Lyon, Tom Ochylski David Rowley, Michael Donahue, Tom Clegg, Steve Kopft, David Nation, and Mike Rowley.

Urbandale Optimist Club Flag Certificate Presentation

By Kevin Parmenter



The Urbandale Optimist Club has an “Avenue of Flags” where they put up U.S. flags for Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. The flags are put up before the holiday and are up until after the holiday just off the street of the residents that are participating. I’ve been part of this for several years and the Optimist Club President, James Boyd, said they are now putting up over 130 flags for each of the five holidays. It is quite nice when you have several people on a street participating, and it requires nothing (except an annual payment) of the homeowner as the put up and take down is handled by members of the club. On Monday, June 13, 2022, I attended an Urbandale Optimist Club meeting and presented a Flag Certificate to President Jim Boyd, spoke about the IASSAR, and thanked the members for their work displaying flags.

IASSAR 2nd VP Kevin Parmenter (left) presents Urbandale Optimist Club President Jim Boyd (right) a Flag Certificate.

Meeting with the SUVCW at Panera in Dubuque, IA

By Randy Lyon

Without belaboring the point, Panera is a great place to meet. Coffee refills are free and it’s easy to find a corner until the noon lunch crowd begins.

Our last meeting with members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Dubuque, Iowa, was held on June 18th. Plans for a sign similar to the Jean Marie Cardinal Memorial are in the design stage. The sign will be placed on the grounds of the historic Ham House at the north end of town. It will feature pictures of Camp Union (renamed Camp Franklin because of local hostility) during the Civil War. The camp, one of the largest troop supply centers in the Midwest, occupied acres of land in the area. Cooperation is taking place with the City of Dubuque and the Dubuque County Historical Society.

Plans for establishing Wreaths Across America are on hold until another meeting can be planned with the manager of Linwood Cemetery. Financial support has been pledged by the Dubuque Veterans’ Freedom Center. Plans are still progressing in getting a media presentation that was produced years ago by Linwood Cemetery back “on the air.” It would be linked to encyclopediadubuque.org, which is sponsored by the Carnegie-Stout Public Library.

Initial contacts with city officials suggest interest in our idea of placing QR codes at sites around the community. These codes would also be linked to encyclopediadubuque.org.

Linwood Cemetery is the center of an SAR project to help maintain the graves of veterans. This activity will be reported on the USS Stark Memorial Report. Plans are also well underway in securing a gravestone for a former Civil War soldier.

It’s too early to mention more other than to say the idea has been circulated about a Civil War museum featuring Iowa’s major role, beginning with the Iowa Supreme Court ruling on *Montgomery v. Ralph* in 1839.

Missing in America Project Interment in Van Meter, Iowa

By Mike Rowley



On Friday, June 24, 2022, Iowa SAR members Mike Rowley and Don Richardson attended a funeral organized by the Missing in America Project at the Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter, Iowa. The ceremony provided military honors and interment for the ashes of seven unclaimed veterans, as well as the ashes of some of their spouses. It is estimated that there are nearly one thousand unclaimed ashes of American veterans in Iowa alone.

Joint Meeting of the Iowa SAR and War of 1812 in Urbandale, Iowa

By Mike Rowley

The Iowa SAR and the Iowa Society of the War of 1812 held a joint meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29 at the Urbandale Public Library. Items of interest included:

- The IA Society War of 1812 treasurer's report was approved.
- The gravestone of African American Civil War soldier Charles Willett was placed in Oak Grove Cemetery in Des Moines by Bob Niffenegger, Mike Rowley, and volunteers.
- The grave of the last Civil War soldier in O'Brien County was marked. Members Danny Krock, Tom Gaard, Dan Rittel, Mike Rowley, and about 75 others attended. Tom Gaard submitted an article to the SUVCW National Magazine, *The Banner*.
- Twelve IASSAR members attended the June 23rd District Zoom meeting on ROTC/JROTC programs. After the presentation, Dave Nation and Randy Lyon offered to present several of these awards in Eastern Iowa. The next District Zoom meeting will be on July 26th and be on "SAR and Scouting with the BSA."
- The Americanism Scoresheet and USS Stark Memorial Report are being used as helpful tracking tools.
- Stay tuned for details about the upcoming placement of a bronze plaque listing the names of the 42 known Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Iowa.
- The Iowa SAR board of managers voted to fill empty positions until an official vote of the members can take place in the spring of 2023. Positions that were filled include president (Chris Moberg), 1st VP (Randy Lyon), and treasurer (Dave Nation).
- The Iowa SAR and Iowa War of 1812 will transition from monthly in person meetings to monthly Zoom meetings. Zoom meetings are scheduled for the following times and dates:
 - 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 28
 - 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 25
 - 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 22
- Upcoming events include the following:
 - Iowa State Fair parade on August 10 in Des Moines.
 - Flag retirement ceremony at 9 a. m. on September 10 at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines.

During the meeting, a State Medal of Distinguished Service was presented to Chris Moberg for the following reasons:

- Continually active in helping the Iowa Society advance the goals of the society.
- Serves as the Iowa Newsletter editor.
- Driving force in keeping the society engaged with multiple Zoom meetings during the last couple of years and the challenges of the pandemic.
- Has traveled to Iowa to lead programs to mark the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War (Knoxville, Iowa).
- Active with the Color Guard and has made numerous trips to Iowa to participate as well as encouraging others from NE, IA, MN & the Dakotas to attend.
- Participant in the delivery and installation of veteran gravestones in Iowa.
- Generously donated to allow several projects to continue.
- Engaged the Iowa DAR and C.A.R. for joint projects.
- Represented all of us at the SAR national leadership meetings.



IASSAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley presents Chris Moberg with a State Medal of Distinguished Service at the joint meeting of the Iowa SAR and Iowa War of 1812.

Chris also accepted a Daughters of Liberty medal on behalf of his wife Anne, who was unable to attend. Anne has supported many of our projects and helps Chris manage the War of 1812 website. She frequently posts updates to the list of War of 1812 veterans buried in Iowa.

World War II Veteran Funeral Service in Lake City, Iowa

From the obituary of PFC Merl Wayne Holm at <https://www.powersfh.net/obituary/pfc-merl-holm>

PFC Merl W. Holm, age 22, of Lake City, Iowa, was killed in action on November 26, 1942, in New Guinea during WWII. Holm was a member of the United States Army, K Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division and the 11th of 12 children born to Andrew and Anna Marie Bystrom Holm. Merl was born on April 5, 1920, and attended a rural school north of Lake City and completed the 9th grade in Lake City. He helped his father on the family farm along with working for others in the rural area. He enlisted in the Army on December 10, 1941 and answered the call on 12/31/1941, along with a buddy of his Paul Cavanaugh. He spent 13 weeks in basic and combat training at Camp Roberts, California before being sent to Australia then on to New Guinea to confront the Japanese at the Battle of Buna Gona in the Papua Campaign. There he gave the biggest sacrifice of all and was killed on Thanksgiving Day Nov 26, 1942 at the age of 22.

On March 9, 1943, Merl was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his gallantry and giving his life at Sanananda, New Guinea. When Bridge General P. B. Clemens of Headquarters Seventh Service Command out of Omaha, Nebraska arrived in Lake City on October 13, 1943 at the Lake City Community Building, a ceremony was held and the Silver Star was presented posthumously and pinned on his father Andy Holm's

lapel. Later, a memorial stone with Merl's name was placed near the Community Building and the Garden Club planted an Autumnalis tree (flowering cherry). The memorial stone now resides in the City Square. Merl's name appears on the Walls of the Missing at the Manilla American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) in the Philippines. A bronze rosette will now be placed by his name on the wall since he has been identified.

Merl's remains had been moved 3 times over the years and his identification had been lost. His remains were not properly identified until April of this year when the surviving family members were notified that DNA testing had been completed and matched those of Merl's to his relatives. The surviving family is eternally grateful for the Military's continued diligent and complicated efforts to identify and bring Merl's remains back to Lake City for a Military funeral and burial as his immediate family had so wished for 80 years ago.



IASSAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley and the American Legion at the funeral service of WW II veteran PFC Merl W. Holm on July 9th, 2022, in Lake City, Iowa.

Outstanding Citizenship Presentations

By Randy Lyon

Officer Caroline Edwards of the United States Capitol Police testified to the horror of the attack on police on January 6th. She was herself knocked down and suffered a brain injury from which she is still recovering. Returning to duty after regaining consciousness, she was tear gassed. Her efforts to defend the United States Capitol were heroic. I mailed an Outstanding Citizenship certificate and a letter of thanks to the headquarters in the hopes it will reach her.

Officer Harry Dunn, a member of the United States Capitol Police, has testified several times before Congress about the events of January 6th. His commitment to the protection of the Capitol, the members of Congress, and his fellow officers marks him as an exemplary citizen. I mailed an Outstanding Citizenship certificate and a letter of thanks to him as well.



Nan Smith and her husband Bob have operated the Stone Cliff Winery from the old home of the Dubuque Star Brewery for many years. The building had been sold many times and it could have easily become one of those "lost jewels." Instead, the Smiths renovated the building, installed a restaurant and meeting center, and made the site an attraction hard to beat. "Citizenship" means something to them. Bob and Nan are double recipients because they fly an American flag too.

Flag Certificate Presentations

By Randy Lyon

I received a wonderful thank you note from Patricia Lambert who received a Flag Certificate. In part she wrote, "Please share with all from the National Society of the Sons of the America Revolution that I have shared this with all my family and friends! This certificate is now framed and is displayed proudly in my home! A beautiful FLAG!!! You made my year."



Kevin R. and Joan M. Althaus, residents of Asbury, Iowa, were old acquaintances of mine since their daughter was a student of mine in elementary school years ago. Kevin and I are also fond researchers of family history. They were thrilled at receiving the certificate and knowing that several neighbors would also be receiving a visit.



Bruce and Bette Botsford of Asbury, Iowa said they were "naturals" for flying the American flag. Bruce is a retired U. S. Navy veteran who also flies a Navy flag to show their patriotism.



Lisa Schrobilgen was the mother of one of my favorite students who participated in the History Day essay contest years ago. Her daughter returned to Dubuque after college to work as an elementary teacher. The Schrobilgens and their neighbor both have American flags flying, which makes quite a display on a small court.



David J. and Amanda Klein both remembered me for signing up absentee voters. They wanted to know how I had become a member of the Society and were surprised and very pleased at the honor of receiving the certificate.



Larry Hoelscher has applied for membership in SAR and has had a flag prominently displayed in his yard for years.

Revolutionary War Era Medicine, Part I

By Randy Lyon

During the American Revolution, anyone with medical knowledge tended the injured or sick. As a result, life expectancy was only thirty-five years. (1)

Each regiment brought its own physician, but these hometown doctors varied in ability. Less than 300 had a medical degree. Only a handful had graduated from the ten-year-old Philadelphia Medical College. The remainder were mainly graduates of European medical schools. (2) An added element of training for physicians was the use of cadavers for dissection. These were snatched from graves - usually criminals or paupers, and on occasion a soldier, which led to stern disapproval from General Washington. These bodies were obtained at night in cemetery raids, and those involved were known as "nocturnal resurrectionists". (3)

Most physicians were well-intentioned, but conditions and shortages in medical supplies placed an overwhelming burden on them. Besides caring for those wounded in battle, the camp surgeon was responsible for caring for the camp's diseased soldiers. Common diseases suffered by soldiers were dysentery, fever, and smallpox. Most illnesses were caused by unsanitary conditions in camp. (4)

Theories of medicine at the time were based on the belief that disease was caused by an imbalance in bodily "humors," or fluids. To treat an illness, the physician either added fluids, or drained them away. Contained with the physician's tools were implements designed to purge, sweat, and bleed infected fluids from the body. There were emetics and diuretics, scalpels and leeches. Steaming hot poultices were used to intentionally create infections on scalded skin. The pus that flowed afterward was thought to be beneficial. (5)

Most wounds were caused by musket balls, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, or the bayonet. In cases where the bone was damaged so severely that a limb could not be saved, the surgeon performed an amputation. In proceeding with an amputation, officers received rum and brandy when it was available. Enlisted men were given a wood stick on which to bite down. (6)

Two surgeon's mates or leather straps held the patient to the procedure table. A leather tourniquet was placed four fingers above the line where the limb was to be removed. The surgeon used his amputation knife to cut down to the bone of the damaged limb. Arteries were moved aside by tacking them away from the main area with crooked needles. A leather retractor was placed on the bone, and the skin and muscle pulled back to allow the surgeon a clear field of operation. This was also necessary because as the wound healed the skin tended to retract. Unless careful, this resulted in an exposed bone. (7)

The surgeon chose his bone saw, a small one to remove arms and a large upper femur saw to remove a leg above the knee. A competent surgeon could saw through the bone in less than 45 seconds. Arteries were buried in tissue skin flapped over and sutured. Bandages with pure white linen cloth and a wool cap were placed on the stump. The patient, who had more than likely gone into shock and had a much lower than normal temperature, was stabilized when possible. Only 35% of those who went through this procedure survived. (8)

Sources:

1. Rorke, Elizabeth, "Butchers and Surgeons," Brandywine Battlefield Historic Site, Online: <https://www.ushistory.org/brandywine/special/art06.htm>
2. Eicher, Skip, "Medicine in the Revolutionary War," Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/popup_medicine.html History Quarterly Digital Archives, Online: <https://www.tehistory.org/hqda/html/v26/v26n3p090.html>
3. Rorke

4. Ibid.
5. "Medicine" Chronical of the Revolution, PBS, Online:
http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/popup_medicine.html
6. Rorke
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.

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*Let us remember our obligation to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution,
The Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.*