



The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution May 23, 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.

Joint Meeting of the IASSAR and Iowa Society of the War of 1812

The Iowa SAR and the Iowa Society of the War of 1812 will hold a joint meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at the Urbandale Public Library. The Dodge Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will meet afterwards at 7 p.m. For more information about the meeting, please contact Doug Frazer. We look forward to seeing you there!

National Nurses Week Ceremony at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines

By Mike Rowley

Some of the benefits of membership in an organization like the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is that you never know what you might discover or what you might get a chance to do. Such was the case with the project that led IASSAR members to the ceremony of May 7, 2022.

For years Iowa members have been researching and documenting veteran's service and marking their graves. It was during this research that members came across a 1905 newspaper article from the *Leon Reporter*. The article mentioned that "45 Civil War nurses were receiving pensions out of the Des Moines Regional Pension office."

Upon seeing this article, volunteer members decided that these nurses should be identified if possible and their heroic stories of service and sacrifice should be shared. After many hours of research, many Iowa heroines of the Civil War were identified and during National Nurses Week on May 7, 2022, several of them were remembered and honored at a community-wide ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa.

Rosanna Rush Merrill was a very young woman of barely 20 years of age when, during the early years of the Civil War, she volunteered for duty as a Civil War nurse. At this time, women were normally discouraged and often forbidden to serve in such capacities. They had to fight stereotypes of gender, race, and economic standing. Conditions were often horrible and early death for their profession was common. In addition to what we think of as "normal" nursing duties, many of these women were also expected to sew shirts, knit socks, wash bloody clothing, act as "sisters of charity" ministering to soldiers, and help wounded soldiers write letters all in addition to treating wounded soldiers. Still, with time women like Rosanna Rush Merrill would exert their independent actions, often as the only on-site advocates for these wounded service men and women. One early nurse was quoted as telling a doctor, "It is no use to tie me up with your red tape, there is too much to be done down here to stop for that."



Ceremony participants included the Iowa National Guard, the DAR, the Nurses Honor Guard, leadership of the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge, ambassadors of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, the curator for the State Historical Museum of Iowa, a member of the Missing in America Project, SAR color Guard units from three states, the Woman's Relief Corps, SUVCW, Military Order of Foreign Wars, and descendants of Rosanna Rush Merrill.



While conservative estimates of the number of women who served as nurses during the Civil War is estimated to be 6,000 to 20,000, Civil War nurses were not granted pensions until 1892, making documenting their service often difficult or impossible.

Also honored on this day was Henrietta Wallace. She was a woman of color that served for three long years during the Civil War as a cook for the 39th Iowa Infantry. If you think this was work behind the line of danger you would be mistaken, as the service of Henrietta Wallace included "Sherman's March to the Sea."

While many news articles and veterans' statements of the time period confirmed the service of Wallace, military documents could not be located. Members of the Iowa Society of the War of 1812 provided funds to mark her grave to remember her service.

Our mission to inspire patriotism, preserve history and educate about our history was embraced by the community with radio, television, print media, TikTok, and YouTube coverage of the event. What's next?

Jean Marie Cardinal Memorial Dedication in Dubuque

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, a Jean Marie Cardinal memorial sign was dedicated thanks to the efforts of Iowa SAR member Randy Lyon. Randy worked on the sign for about three months, and then organized and led the dedication ceremony. Speakers at the ceremony also included Iowa SAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley and Regent Karla Wright of the Jean Marie Cardinell Chapter of the DAR. The American Legion, the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, and a group of War of 1812 reenactors also participated in the event. Congratulations to Randy for successfully installing an educational memorial sign and holding a well-attended dedication ceremony. He has ensured that we do not forget the "Paul Revere of

Iowa” who in March of 1780 paddled down the Mississippi River from Dubuque, Iowa to Fort San Carlos near St. Louis to warn the inhabitants that the British were coming!



Left to right: Randy Lyon, Mark Schell, Dennis Geesaman, Chris Moberg, John Richards, Mike Powers, and Carolyn Richards.

Four Generations of Everding SAR and DAR Members

By Gary Everding

Like many of the members of the SAR and the DAR, we all have various levels of genealogical backgrounds. We all arrived there in different manners. I stepped into genealogy when my wife, Carol, wanted to know who her aunts and uncles were, since her father and siblings were adopted. We had no formal training and stumbled down many paths with wrong turns. Her grandmother, Martha “Mattie” Lee, migrated with her family to the U.S. as a child. She was born on September 6, 1877, in Norway. She married Henry Cox Jr., who was born in England on November 10, 1864. They produced six children, and Carol’s father was the fourth out of the six children. Her father was born on February 20, 1906. Martha, the mother of the six children, died on August 25, 1914. Carol’s dad would have been eight years old. He, along with four of his siblings, immediately went to various orphanages. The eldest daughter, Amy, remained with her father.

Three of the children went to the Lutheran Home Finding Society in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

- Elsie Viola Blanche Cox (April 1, 1903 – April 18, 1915). She went to the area of Klinger, Iowa, and was with a Hesse family for a very short time. She got sick and was returned to the orphanage, which in turn sent her to a hospital in Sioux City where she died. As a ward of the state, a death certificate was never located. Her remains were sent back to the Fort Dodge orphanage where she was buried in a mass burial site.
- Brother Fred (June 11, 1901 – November 14, 1975) was adopted through the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Klinger, Iowa, by the Ray Thoms family but refused to have his name changed and ran away back to Des Moines.
- Carol’s father, James, was adopted by Carl and Louise Erhardt, and his name was changed to Albert George Erhardt. The names “Albert” and “George” came from the first names of his sponsors.

The remaining two girls went to the Church of the Brethren in Ankeny, Iowa. Their names were also changed by the adopting family.

- Nellie Marie Beaver (April 16, 1908 – September 10, 1971)
- A. Henrietta (September 11, 1911 - May 26, 1976) had her name changed to Evelyn Marie Badger.

The orphanage was being operated by the Badgers who originally had both girls. Nellie disappeared and we found her by going to Adel, Iowa, and searching the newspapers. Lo and behold, there was an account of the first Badger reunion. We learned Harry Beaver's wife was a Badger and related through marriage. Once we solved the family mysteries, we got the genealogy bug.

In 2017, Elvira Hebell, Carol, and I approached Kelly Platte, the Library Director of the Denver Public Library. We wanted to start a Denver Genealogy and History Club. It was a club for people that had like interests in genealogy and Denver history that would not interfere with the Northeast Iowa Genealogical Society or the Bremer County Genealogical Society. We had our first meeting in May of 2017 and have continued our existence since then and now have roughly 100+ members on our mailing list.

I began half-heartedly researching my mother's side of the family. It had many surprises, twists, and turns also. Once we got on the right track, things began to fall into place. The complication came with Abel Bentley and his wife, Mary Polly Jones. After Abel passed away, Mary remarried. She married Aaron Osborn in 1840. She complicated things during two different censuses by using the Bentley surname in one census and the Osborn surname in the other. In both censuses, she was living with her son David and his family. The issue was plain as day to me. The DAR, however, says that you must prove birth, marriage, and death. To me it was obvious by year of birth that Abel and Mary were the parents of Austin G. Bentley. The wonderful DAR lady (Nancy Nielsen) who assisted me on the documentation was very adamant about what I had to do to finalize this issue. I am glad that she insisted on my performing the necessary research, as I was becoming very frustrated. I pursued the research and finally found the death certificate for brother David Bentley which showed his parents as Abel and Mary Polly Jones. We could now proceed on the path to Tillinghast Bentley. Our application went through the first time and was certified on January 5, my 70th birthday. It was really overwhelming and quite emotional for me personally.

I had made several queries for a local SAR chapter in our area of Iowa and learned that there was none. I was content to let it go at that. After all, I had successfully certified Mom as a DAR member while she was still with us and that was my main goal. I began communicating with Stephen Stewart, IASSAR State Registrar, before February 2021 and with the aid of his daughter, Dr. Melissa Stewart, we were successful in documenting three new members (my son, my grandson and myself) for the SAR and an additional DAR member (my granddaughter). We felt very special with four generations belonging to both organizations. The family agreed to get a four-generation photo with our certificates. We had to reschedule repeatedly due to some barriers. The virus was an issue any time someone got sick. Mom had health issues that would later determine that she needed a pacemaker at 93 years of age! With everyone working in the service industry, it was a challenge to get all of the schedules to coincide to establish a firm date for the photo session to happen.



Four generations of Everding SAR and DAR members. Front row left to right: Ashleigh and Ann. Back row left to right: Gary Jr., Brandon, and Gary Sr.

Mom fell on March 27 but would not forego attending the funeral of her sister-in-law in Minnesota on the 29th of March. Her toughness has resulted in her being the last member of her family of ten to still be living. Her husband, my father, was a veteran of WWII, as were three of her brothers and one brother-in-law. I served in the USAF during Vietnam and many of my cousins also served during this time period.

Iowa Society DAR State Conference

The Iowa Society Daughters of the American Revolution held their 123rd Annual State Conference on April 22, 2022, in Des Moines, Iowa. Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley represented the Iowa Society members at the meeting which featured keynote speaker Dr. Benjamin Franklin as portrayed by Mr. Barry Stevens. DAR state Regent Marla Huebler Suter was presented the SAR Medal and Certificate of Appreciation for her consistent inclusion of the Iowa SAR in their activities.



IASSAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley presents ISDAR State Regent Marla Suter an SAR Medal and Certificate of Appreciation at the ISDAR State Conference.

Outstanding Citizenship Certificate and Flag Certificate Presentations

By Randy Lyon



The First Congregational United Church of Christ has operated “Café” since November 13, 1994, for those needing a meal. A complete dinner is served every Thursday evening by the members of the congregation with help from other churches and organizations in the community. Extra food is given away at the end of the meal. Weekly attendance rose to fifty families per week before the pandemic struck. Meals were then prepared at church and given to cars driven up to the curb outside of the church. Since the lifting of the mask mandate and the declining reported cases of the virus, the popular supper has resumed indoors. Receiving the Outstanding Citizenship Certificate was Pastor Lillian Daniel and Nikki Ketchum, who has led the weekly event for many years.



Vince Williams, a retired speech and drama coach at Hempstead High School, was quite surprised and pleased to receive an SAR Flag Certificate.



Thomas and Beverly Ford find flying a flag year-round “a natural.” He served in the Navy. They have the American flag and Iowa flag on the same pole and a small Navy flag near the house.



Mrs. Thomas Phillips thanked me for the certificate and “the spirit behind it.”

The USS Stark Memorial Award

The USS Stark Memorial Award was established to recognize outstanding chapters and outstanding state societies within the SAR for their participation with the Veteran community and in supporting the activities of the NSSAR Veterans Committee. The following items are recorded on the USS Stark Memorial Award Score Sheet:

- Members appointed to VA Hospital Council, Voluntary Service (VAVS) or Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)
- Serving in a VA hospital
- Visiting a Veteran in a hospital, nursing home, or private home or taking a Veteran on an outing
- Donations to Veterans in a VA or State Hospital or State Veterans Nursing Home, or other organization whose primary clients are Veterans
 - a. Personal care items
 - b. Monetary donations
 - c. Books, magazines, and CDs/DVDs
 - d. New or used clothing
 - e. Other new or used items
- Participation in a Wounded Warriors program
- Activities recognizing or supporting Veterans in cooperation with other organizations
- Decorating Veteran graves and attendance at funerals.

Please send all qualifying activities to Randy Lyon at randylyon1915@gmail.com.

Your IASSAR Board of Managers

President	Patrick Lant	iassarwebsite@gmail.com
1st V.P.	Don Corrigan	donindsm@msn.com
2nd V.P.	Kevin Parmenter	mail@parmenter.com
Secretary	Doug Frazer	dlfrazer@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Doug Frazer	dlfrazer@yahoo.com
Registrar	Stephen Stewart	Stephen.Stewart1947@outlook.com
Chancellor	Lance Ehmcke	Lance.Ehmcke@heidmanlaw.com
Historian	Doug Frazer	dlfrazer@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Chris Moberg	moberg.chris@gmail.com
Webmaster	Patrick Lant	iassarwebsite@gmail.com



*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.*