



# Abigail's quill

2016 Winter Newsletter • Abigail Adams Chapter



## ✧ My Dearest Friends: Much Ahead in 2016 ✧

*Embracing the possibilities of engagement in DAR*

by Regent Laura Kozin

Don't know where it all started, but there were lots of little pieces. Nanna told me we were Yankees. A conversation with Mom: Nanna's father's name was Roy Irving Martin and they lived in Mansfield, Mass. My rural neighbors suggested I look into the DAR.

About 2004, when I really *needed* to know - you know that moment? - a volunteer in a small town historical society recommended their publication, "Any Day But Sunday". In that little paperback history of Mansfield, was a paragraph about my grandmother's grandfather, Old Daniel Martin. It was *his* grandfather, Daniel Martin of Rehoboth, who I went on to prove as a new DAR Patriot in 2008.

Now my imagination spins with expectation at all the good things on the DAR horizon in 2016!

In January, the Nominating & Elections Committee will announce a new slate of officers for the next term. We should also have delegations to State Conference in May, and Continental Congress in June.

If you regularly attend chapter meetings, this may be repetitive, but ... The 2016 Iowa State Conference will be an exceptional experience. President General Lynn F. Young, NSDAR's top officer, will appear for the occasion. In addition, our own Past Regent, Cindi Carter, will stand for election as Iowa State Regent.

While there is a set number of "delegates" and "alternates", that is voting strength. There is *no limit* to the number of members who may attend. Please save the date: Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6. You will never learn as much about DAR, enjoy visiting as much, as you will at this conference in Ames. Registration forms to come.

Between now and then, please look in your Yearbook. Upcoming programs offer several chances to participate. Do note February: Do your homework!

When the Yearbook runs out, work begins on the next schedule. If you have something new to share - perspective, enthusiasm, a Masters thesis on colonial fabrics - make an offer. Whether it is an article for the Quill or a program for next fall, an idea for a display we'd enjoy, or a skill for taking portraits for the Yearbook ... this Regent is glad to receive your offer.

Give some thought to committee involvement. The DAR mission of Historic Preservation, Education & Patriotism offers many opportunities to follow your passion. Please see the Committees page of your Yearbook for ideas. Each Regent appoints her choice of committee chairs. She and the chairs invite members to serve with others who share the same interests and goals.

Our members continue to make it a pleasure and honor to serve as this Chapter's Regent. While that particular service will evolve in the next term, genealogy goes on forever!

Research can be hard. Even if it does help others down the road, do I want to start another new Patriot? Is it worth wading through so much data dust to sweep up the shards of crystal and mica, precious stories recovered for the family? Believe me, it surprised none of my siblings that g-g-g-grandpa Daniel Martin was a scandal in his hometown. But we couldn't be more proud to learn the cause: Old Daniel was a founding member, in 1837, of the Mansfield Anti-Slavery Society. Better than gold!

Wishes for much happiness in the New Year to all Daughters of Abigail Adams Chapter!

# Historic Preservation

by Pat Barry • Historic Preservation Chair

## *Preserving our Historic Properties*



Pat Barry

Earlier this fall, the Des Moines City Council adopted a Demolition Review Ordinance which requires review of single family buildings that are 80 years or older and commercial and multiple family buildings that are 50 years and older, and all buildings that have architectural merit regardless of age.

The Ordinance was brought about as the result of three high profile demolitions that occurred during between 2013 and 2015: the most highly publicized was the downtown YMCA; the Kruidenier home in the Southern Hills section of town, and the Weeks Double Lustron home in the Salisbury neighborhood. Each situation started conversations among historians and preservationists about the value of old buildings. Old buildings tell a story and give us context in our history -- and the history of a city and its neighborhoods is as important as the history of a family.

Of course, there were no bright lines about the value of these buildings. Each building's story had at least two sides. While historians and preservationists pointed out the value and importance of the building architecture and residents or owners, others just as passionately debated the structural problems, decay and generally poor condition, as well as owners' rights.

Preservationists learned many lessons from these situations, one of the most important being that preservationists need to be proactive in identifying historic properties. The Des Moines Rehabbers group publishes a list of endangered buildings in Des Moines and the State Historic Preservation Office maintains a statewide inventory of historic properties (not yet available on line). So there is work to be done to identify historic properties but much more needs to be done.

The City Council's adoption of the Ordinance was the end result of nearly two years' of research and evaluation by City staff, historians and preservationists, as well as real estate developers and builders. Following is the Synopsis from the September 14, 2015 Agenda Item No. 51: "The [passed] ordinance creates a review process for the demolition of all single-family buildings that are 80 years old or older, all commercial and multiple-family buildings that are 50 years old or older, and of all buildings that have architectural merit regardless of age. Most buildings

would move through the review process in 10 days or less. However, additional time could be required for alternatives to be explored and for buildings of significance to be documented before demolition when warranted. In all cases, the ordinance encourages the salvage of building materials. This ordinance is the outcome of the Mayor's Task Force on Historic Preservation and Demolition and two (2) City Council workshops. The draft was reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission, the Urban Design Review Board, the Plan and Zoning Commission, and the State of Iowa Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Staff recommends approval ... "

Several demolition permits have been received and reviewed by City staff since the Ordinance has been adopted. So far, preservationists and developers and builders are taking this seriously and working together to preserve Des Moines buildings.

...

### **Update on our Tiny Stones project**

Forty-seven gravestones were installed at Baby Hill this fall, in historic Woodland Cemetery. This first round of work in our Tiny Stones project is solid evidence of Abigail Adam Chapter's commitment to historic preservation. Halfway through our one-year program we've paid for that work, and have about \$3,500 toward the next order.



As of mid-December – one year since it appeared on the

Board agenda – donations to the Tiny Stones Fund total \$9,983.00. We send thank you notes to non-member supporters. Hugs and special appreciation also go to Jean Marie Cardinell Chapter, DAR; Tall Grass Prairie Chapter CAR; Colonial Dames-Des Moines; Nancy Mitchell; Roberta Swartzendruber; and State Regent Sharon Braden.

In 2014, there were 300 unmarked graves of pioneer infants. We will continue the effort until Mother's Day, and do the best we can to carve all their names in stone.

# Abigail Adams

in October



Past Regent Nedra Markham administers the oath of installation for Karen Smith, Grace Wenzel, Elizabeth Mack and Luanne Sweeney. Welcome, ladies!



Emily Osam, (R/Above) recognized for 30 years in DAR, with sister Sara Jane Harwood, Past Curator General, who gave a program for the 125th birthday of our National Society.

Chapter leader Ann Mack with daughter (R) and new member Elizabeth Mack. They hold a photo of Ann's mom and aunt, twins Ruby Vandell Crooks and Ruth Vandell Curtis, DAR members #664513 and 664514.

in November



Registrar Ann Mack directs the signing ceremony for three prospective members, Alice Cronin, Carole Kavanaugh, and Sharon Payne.



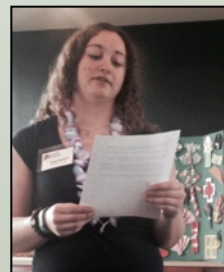
Katina Mach, of Des Moines Vets Center, gave a dynamic presentation on this resource to help soldiers transition to home and family after deployment.

in December



Amy Gale was warmly welcomed as a prospective member.

Abigail Adams Chapter Daughters continued their tradition of generosity, with enough gifts to fill Santa's SUV!  
(See separate story)



Paige Nieland introduces her grandma, Nancy Mitchell. We very much enjoyed a program Nancy has done previously at the State Fair and Terrace Hill, demonstrating how to fold table napkins for elegant service. Her display boards show some samples of her professional work.

## Responding to the call to serve....

by Kathy Smith, Chairman of Literacy Promotion and Service for Veterans



Delivering Gifts to the Vet Center  
Deb Schwartz, Terry Lauritsen, Katina  
Mach (Vet Center Team Leader)  
& Kathy Smith

Once again, you our members amaze me at your generosity to the ESL Classroom and Veteran's Christmas. I want to take this opportunity to share about both projects.

Michelle Dirks, our ESL teacher, teaches Kindergarten ESL at Hillside Elementary School, West Des Moines. Michelle used the funds we gave her last year to buy some badly needed books in dual languages, English and their native language. Her spirit of sharing allowed other ESL teachers to use some of the funds for needed materials. In addition, they held an ice cream social for the ESL students and their families.

This year we collected \$272.76 with most of it being spare change collected at our November meeting. I have sent Michelle our check. She was thrilled that the ESL program was chosen again this year and is looking for the best places to use our funds.

The other project is the adopted Veteran families for Christmas. We find our families through the Vet Center. The Vet Center evaluates their client base for the most deserving families and passes several of their names and wish lists on to us. Katina Mach, Team Leader of the Vet Center, was our program in November. She shared with those present how much our support was appreciated by the families and the staff of the Vet Center. One of the families we had helped several years ago came to her and said, "We are back on our feet and want to show our appreciation for the Christmas presents we received by adopting a family less fortunate than us."

This year chapter Daughters donated gifts and gift cards valued at \$3,126.00 for two families of veterans. In addition, 45 \$10 gift cards to Casey's and assorted toiletries were presented to the Vet Center for clients in need. Once again this year, each family was given a flannel quilt that I pieced and my girlfriend quilted. It will keep them warm this winter. Our quilts are made from flannel scraps with the exception of the borders and backs.

## Eagle Scout Ryan Baker Provides Drop Off Box For Used Flags

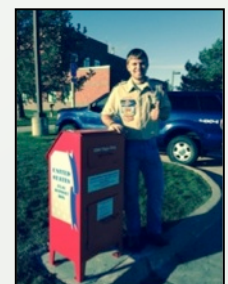


Ryan Baker

Ryan followed in the footsteps of his dad, Rick Baker, when he joined Cub Scouts in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. Rick was Ryan's den leader throughout Cub Scouts in Pack 242, West Des Moines. Ryan then joined Troop 280, West Des Moines, as he continued his journey through Boy Scouts with a goal of attaining the rank of Eagle (again, following in his dad's footsteps).

It is a bi-annual tradition for scouts to assist fire departments in properly disposing of used American flags by burning them. Ryan assisted in this process throughout his years in Scouts and when considering an Eagle project, he decided to act upon a need expressed by the West Des Moines Fire Department. The need was for ease of drop off and storage of the used flags donated by caring citizens. So, Ryan worked with the West Des Moines Fire Dept. concerning design and placement of the drop box,

raised funds, ordered the custom-made box, worked with a graphic designer for labeling, and managed a crew of volunteers who poured a concrete slab onto which the box is permanently affixed. (The box is just behind fire station #17 at 1401 Railroad Avenue in WDM, Iowa.) Ryan is proud to have served his community now and for years to come.



Ryan Thomas Sweeney Baker  
Eagle Scout as of February, 2015  
Son of C. Luanne Sweeney Baker, Abigail Adams DAR  
Grandson of the late Vera J. Sweeney, Abigail Adams  
DAR

## REMEMBERING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, 1776-1890

from Nancy Appel, DAR Museum Outreach Chairman

This DAR Museum exhibition explores how citizens of the new United States maintained a connection to the Revolution by saving and creating objects. These are highlights from *Remembering the American Revolution 1776-1890*.

Before the Revolution, there was no common American identity; citizens identified with their colony. After the United States' victory, ratification of the Constitution and election of George Washington as president laid the foundation for an American consciousness.

Items from the Revolutionary era, never plentiful to begin with, were often used into extinction by a frugal citizenry. Objects that were owned by patriots, but that often had no direct role in the War, were seized upon as touchstones to the War. Washington and everything associated with him became worthy of commemoration.

Objects directly connected to the Revolution are rare. Muskets, the primary weapon for both armies, were turned in when soldiers mustered out, or altered for hunting if taken home. American uniforms are even scarcer. Alternatively, family members saved items not obviously martial in appearance, but associated with the individual who participated in the Revolution. Some items were kept and treasured because they were used by people notable at the time: members of the Continental Congress, officers in the Revolutionary armies, and their patriotic spouses.

How would the ideals of the Revolution be perpetuated? Who would remember the sacrifices of the founding generation? Following George Washington's death, individuals created personal memorials to the late president and American Revolution hero. Long after George Washington's death, commemorative items continued to be made and sold to Americans wanting to express their patriotism.



\*From the DAR Museum Exhibit: Wallet with Oath of Allegiance, 1770's

As the new country faced trials of the 1800s, images of Washington were joined by Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and others. The Industrial Revolution meant many more products with Revolutionary imagery could be affordably produced for millions of Americans.

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the country occurred in 1876, and a grand Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia drew people from around the nation. All of the Revolution's actors were gone and a new, romantic view of the nation's founding took hold.

The Centennial Exposition was intended to celebrate the Revolution and to showcase accomplishments of American industry. Expanded industrial production meant cheaper goods, some which displayed images of Washington, the Founding Fathers, or Revolutionary War scenes. The items were popular among Americans both old and new. Those with historical ties to the War could promote their pedigree by displaying a coverlet with patriotic designs. Recent immigrants could purchase a lithograph or an inexpensive bookmark with Washington's face to herald their adopted country's ideals.

\*For more information, or to take a virtual tour of the exhibition, please visit:  
<http://www.dar.org/museum/exhibitions/current-exhibition>



Nancy Appel

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## Member Diana Anderson shares a family story...

Janette "Jane" Findley Douglass was born in 30 August 1807 in Indiana and married Ebenezer Douglass 31 March 1830 in Jackson Co., Indiana. Ebenezer was a widower with 2 small children. Jane and Ebenezer had five daughters Margaret, Mary, Louisa, Rebecca, Rachel and four sons William Harrison, Samuel, James, Abel and George. They moved to LaSalle Co., Illinois after 1845 and to Gentry Co., Missouri before 1860. Her husband Ebenezer, died in November of 1867. Jane was living with her son James, and his family in 1870. Jane moved to Oregon to live with her daughter, Mary Ann Douglass Fletchall after 1870 and died in Springfield, Oregon on 26 August 1879.



Diana Anderson

Jane and Ebenezer's son, William Harrison, married Lucy Ann Fletchall (daughter of John Fletchall, an early settler of Worth Co., Missouri and the namesake of Fletchall Twp in Worth Co.) My line goes through William and Lucy's daughter Elizabeth (my great grandmother) and mother of my grandmother, Melissa Sarah Mayhan.

My great grandmother Elizabeth, married Albert Mayhan about two months after the death of William in 1895. Elizabeth was a few month's shy of 17 years old. By 1903 Albert and Elizabeth had four daughters. Elizabeth died of consumption in 1907 when my grandmother Melissa was four years old. Following the death of Elizabeth the girls were separated from their father as well as one another. My grandmother was adopted by her mother's cousin in 1910. One of her sisters was listed in the 1910 census as a 12 year old servant. Albert died of tuberculosis in 1914. My grandmother Melissa inherited Ebenezer Douglass' 1824 Bible with handwritten records. I have temporary custody of the Bible but it is in horrible condition.

Over the last 15 years, I have been in touch with two fellow Douglass/Fletchall family researchers and obtained transcription of family letters including a few from Jane Douglass and George Douglass. Excerpts of transcription of two of those letters appear below.

**Excerpt of Letter from Jane Douglass to George M Douglass and James Douglass and Rachel Worth Co. MO. Dated August they 22 1865**

Dear Children,

I once more take my pen in hand to let you know that we received your very kind letters and was glad to here from you all once more. I received your too letters and Rachels all at once and Magrette got one from James and we was glad to here that you was all in tolerable health and I wish that you was all at home and all well.

George you all write that tibet was they case of my Dear Abel's death..... Any rascal that would send a poor soldier alone to take a dispatch eighty miles. My boy. Why was it so. That I could see him again as he was when late I saw him. God what shall I do. My boys Samuel and Abel. God do let me have some of them to stay with us for our home is so lonesome here now. I wish that I had went back to you all...

George I can hardly write for my heart is like to break when I think of your haven to bury that awful dispatch. Why was it so that you was all put on that awful dispatch Wednesday the 3 of august and I received your letters on the sixteenth of Au and I have not had any letter from Mary ann since you left here and I do not no when I will.

...It has been so much rain here that they river has been hi enough to run they mill all summer if it had not gone out with high water. But hard fortune has frowned on us now. For my boys. Why was it so that my Abel is gone no more to return to me. Come home all of you.

But I still remain your affectionate mother until death.

**Excerpt of letter from George Douglass, to his cousin, LaDecia Allenville Worth Co. MO. Dated Oct 22nd 1865**

I suppose you may have heard of the death of Abel hear this: he was killed they 30th of June by they Indians whilst bearing dispatches. He was sent with dispatches the distance (100) one hundred miles through the Indian country alone. He had delivered his dispatch at the last station on his route & was on his return when attacked by a large band of Indians & fell a victim to their savage will.



Pvt. Abel F. Douglass  
2nd Regiment  
Colorado Cavalry

# the Library

from Chapter Librarian, Renee C. Brandow

<https://cloud.collectorz.com/217032/>



This is the site for our books. Take a look! These are books owned by the Chapter that members are welcome to borrow. I will have it ready to roll at the January meeting. Come and hear how to get some good winter reading.

Until then, I will be inputting more books, figuring out how to do an online book request, and looking for graphics for a few of the older books.

## Chaplain's Corner

by Chapter Chaplain, Susie McCravy

### New Year, New Beginnings

Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?

*Anne (Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maude Montgomery)*



Be at War with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let every New-Year find you a better man.

*Benjamin Franklin*

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *Lamentations 3:22-23*

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." *Revelation 21:5*

Our celebration of the new year symbolizes new beginnings from the visualization of Father Time as an old man handing over responsibilities to the next baby new year to making new year's resolutions. To me, each year begins with hope, excitement, and enthusiasm for a chance to start fresh with plans for improving my life. I don't always succeed in keeping my resolutions but somehow I tend to make baby steps in stress relief, better health, and more time spent in intellectual and spiritual pursuits. May all of you begin 2016 with hope and throughout the new year experience good health, happiness, good fortune, and all of God's great and bountiful blessings.

### **Member birthdays of special note (80+ years of age)**

Ardelle Morgan – January 4  
Dorothy Samuelson – January 24  
Nedra Markham – January 25  
Anna Anderson – January 26  
Ruth Shannon – January 29<sup>t</sup>

Ruth Lier – February 12  
Joan Klauss – February 16  
Nan Keith – February 27  
Jo Watson – February 28  
Averyle Ehrie – February 29

# Celebrate George Washington's Birthday



Split rail fence at Pope's Creek, birthplace of George Washington.

## George Washington: Homework for February Chapter Meeting

If there's one thing DAR members have it's the ability to look things up! Please use your research skills prepare a little bitty talk. Subject: President George Washington.

The February 13th Chapter meeting will honor this American Founder and celebrate his birthday by recognizing facts, accomplishments, and inspiration. The Regent will call on each member to speak up to one minute.

He was a man who lived his life fully, and is surely the most-documented American ever. Please prepare to share an interesting moment. And practice ahead of time - there may be a timekeeper!

### *Abigail's Post...*

Good Morning Terry and Kathy,  
I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with your DAR chapter. The women were all so fantastic and eager to help our veteran families. I received a beautiful thank you note from your chapter and there was a check for \$50 enclosed. I would like to extend my gratitude for this check and let you know that I will use this for the purchase of \$50 in gas cards to help our veterans when in need.

God Bless You All,  
Katina Mach

Team Leader•Des Moines Vet Center #405

November 9, 2015

Dear Abigail Adams DAR,

At our meeting last week, members of the Tallgrass Prairie Society, C.A.R. talked about the Tiny Stones project at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines. We thought this was a really great project and would like to help. We are kids and we think that the children who are buried at Woodland deserve a proper headstone - even it is so many years later.

We voted to support one of the graves and send a check for \$125.00.

We think you are doing a good thing.

Sincerely,  
Caleb Ragner, President  
The Tallgrass Prairie Society C.A.R.

Ladies,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful tray of candies! Were enjoying them immensely! Happy holidays to all of you. It's a pleasure having you here at Hamilton's!

Kim and the Westown Team  
Hamilton's Funeral Home

## Looking Ahead...programming & events

January 9 – Looking At Your Quilt.

Historic Preservation Committee Chair, Pat Barry

Members are invited to bring a quilt to display.

Nominations & Elections - New Chapter officers &

Delegates to State Conference & Continental Congress

February 13 – NSDAR American Heritage Committee

Member Diana Kading, Award-winning painter

Homework Assignment: Bring a one-minute talk on

something about President George Washington

March 12 – The Iowa Barn Foundation, Carol Reichardt

Foundation Board Member

Election of Chapter Officers