

## THE IOWA DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The work of an organization like the Daughters of the American Revolution in a State like Iowa, remote not only from the seat of the Revolutionary War, but from all wars, must be vastly different from that in a section of country so full of places of historic interest that the need of such a working body is apparent to all. Living in a community where every family has traditions, where almost every person has some article treasured because of its age and associations, and where the historic spirit is a natural growth of many decades, one does not need to ask: Why such a society? There is, however, plenty to do in Iowa. First of all, in every community the love of country and the personal responsibility of every citizen to support the officers of our government in an honest and efficient administration must be impressed upon the people. While this is not the peculiar duty of our society, being the duty of every American, it is so natural a product of our line of study and work that almost every chapter reports efforts in this line. In Burlington, Clinton, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Dubuque, Iowa City, Keokuk, Ottumwa, Marshalltown, and Red Oak the Daughters of the American Revolution have offered prizes for essays on patriotic subjects to pupils in the public schools, or have presented inspiring pictures to ornament the walls of the schools and



libraries. Except in the case of the Ottumwa school board, which refused, these pictures and prizes have been gratefully accepted.

The Daughters of Marshalltown presented a flag to their public library. The Burlington women erected a flag-pole and presented a flag to their library. At Cedar Falls a flag was donated to the public schools, and at Chariton one was given to Lucas County. Many of the chapters have purchased flags which are used for decoration on social occasions, and are hung outdoors on important anniversaries and days of general rejoicing. The Francis Shaw chapter of Anamosa has erected an edifice for the public library at a cost of \$11,000. Such work must surely inspire a broader public spirit, and a lofty purpose in the community.

Five soldiers who fought in the War for Independence are buried in Iowa. The graves of these five heroes have been identified beyond the question of any one who has given the study of Iowa history serious consideration. The grave of William Blair, near Kossuth in Des Moines County, has been marked by loyal descendants. John Osborne lies in the cemetery at Center Point, Linn County, and a suitable monument has been erected to his memory by Denison Post No. 244, G. A. R., aided by the citizens of the village. The grave of Timothy Brown was found in September of this year (1903). Some years ago Mr. Charles Aldrich came into possession of a rare old file of *The Western American*, published at Keosauqua, Iowa, and read in the issue of June 17, 1852, that Timothy Brown, a revolutionary soldier, had died on the 30th of the previous month. At the request of Mr. Aldrich, Mr. H. A. Burrell, of the *Wash-*



*ington Press*, spent much time trying to identify this grave. The subject was afterwards revived and agitated by Mr. A. R. Miller of the *Washington Democrat*, and success rewarded his efforts. The "Timothy Brown American Revolution Memorial Association" has been formed to see that the last resting place of this patriot is properly cared for.

In the Forest Home cemetery at Mount Pleasant a monument has been erected to the memory of Charles Shepherd. The body of this old soldier lies in a cultivated field, a part of the forty acre tract which he had bought with the money paid by a grateful government in the form of a pension, and on which he lived, died, and was buried. The inscription upon the stone reads:

CHARLES SHEPHERD, A SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION,  
 BORN DEC. 25, 1763,  
 DIED SEPTEMBER, 1845.  
 SERVED 4 YEARS, 5½ MONTHS.  
 WAS IN THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE AND GERMANTOWN.  
 WAS BURIED ON THE N. E. ¼ S. E. ¼ OF SEC. 17, TWP. 72, N., R. 7 W.  
 ERECTED BY THE STATE OF IOWA,  
 AIDED BY MCFARLAND POST, G. A. R. AND THE D. A. R.  
*Pro Patria Dulce et Decorum est.*

Acting upon the suggestion of Mrs. Julian Richards, then the State Regent, a committee from the Abigail Adams chapter, supported by the Daughters of the whole State, secured from the Twenty-ninth General Assembly an appropriation of \$500. This money was expended under the direction of the G. A. R. in Mount Pleasant, and on September 17, 1903, they dedicated the monument with appropriate ceremonies. There is a chapter of the Daughters of the



Revolution in that city, and two of their number were invited to assist the Daughters of the American Revolution in the unveiling. Mrs. John F. Kerfoot of Ottumwa and Miss Emily Beckwith of Mount Pleasant, members of the Elizabeth Ross chapter, represented the Daughters of the American Revolution in this part of the exercises.

The completely identified grave of George Perkins, near Primrose, in Lee County, still remains unmarked. The Keokuk chapter has had some correspondence with the Hon. J. P. Cruikshank of Fort Madison, a descendent of this patriot, and voted on February, 1903, to invite the Jean Espy chapter of Fort Madison to coöperate with it in securing funds and erecting a monument in grateful remembrance of the services of George Perkins in assisting in securing American independence.

In a recent report to the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution appears the name of Abraham Clarke, who is said to have been a soldier in the Revolution. He is buried in Woolen's graveyard near Lowell, Iowa. His name is not on the pension list at Washington. To ascertain what were his services and whether his grave is suitably marked is work for Iowa Daughters. The Stars and Stripes chapter of Burlington has material for original research in its own city. A British soldier of the war of 1776 lies buried there, and a Revolutionary patriot is claimed. The data concerning these men should be collected and published, and if possible the graves should be identified and marked.

The history of Iowa is that of a quiet and prosperous people. The State is young; and there are still living those



who can point out to us the places where the first settlements were made, where important matters were first proposed, and what were the conditions which confronted the pioneers. The Iowa Band and what it accomplished will be a topic of surpassing interest to future historians of the educational and religious life of America, as well as the early struggles of all our educational institutions.<sup>1</sup> Let us not despise these beginnings, but rather let us preserve the records and respect the efforts of the self denying pioneers. There were older and stronger institutions in Europe when Harvard and Yale and Dartmouth were founded. Doubtless there were, among the Colonists, those who sneered at the struggling, poorly equipped schools which are now our venerated universities, second to none in the world in their special lines of work. The donation of forty dollars to Coe College (Iowa) by the Cedar Rapids chapter was a step in the right direction. Its moral support will be of infinite value to this institution.

Every chapter in Iowa can find work well worth the doing in its own locality in preserving the record of what has been done, so that those who come after us may know what the early conditions were. Every chapter can coöperate with the State Historical Society of Iowa, at Iowa City, not only by reading *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, but by furnishing its editor with local data of interest. The Iowa Hall of History at Des Moines, stands ready to receive all manner of things of historic interest. No better place could be selected for the preservation and exhibition of revolutionary and other relics.

<sup>1</sup> See Adams, *The Iowa Band*.



The grave of Black Hawk is said to be known by persons now living. This great chief was so intimately associated with early Iowa history that places known to have been frequented by him and his last resting place will always be of interest to those for whom the history of the race has a charm. The Stars and Stripes chapter has announced its intention to preserve the large rock where Black Hawk held his council of war. The story of the life of this old Indian is a fascinating subject for chapter study.<sup>1</sup>

The Abigail Adams chapter of Des Moines has determined to erect a suitable marker to indicate the location of the old Ft. Des Moines. The last detachment of soldiers left this old fort March 10, 1846. On November 13, 1903, the new Ft. Des Moines was opened with elaborate exercises. On the evening of November 23, the D. A. R. gave an "Old Settlers' Tea" in the Iowa Hall of History. On this occasion several of the oldest settlers spoke, refreshing the memory of the old days when Des Moines was a frontier post. This tea was given with a view to extending a knowledge of the history of the city, and interesting the people in the work of the chapter. The committee having the work in charge have met with the most cordial coöperation.

As we look back over the ten years which have passed since the first chapter was founded in Des Moines in 1893, and recall that there was only now and then a Daughter of the American Revolution to be found in the State, and then think that today we have about seven hundred and fifty members, with twenty-three organized and seven unorgan-

<sup>1</sup> See Stevens, *The Black Hawk War*, an exhaustive history of Black Hawk, recently published.



ized chapters in Iowa, the vast organization itself seems work enough to have been accomplished in a decade, were it only now ready to begin work, instead of already having accomplished much of value.

Mrs. C. E. Putnam of Davenport, our first State Regent, was a charter member of the National Society. She was succeeded in office by Mrs. J. A. T. Hull of Des Moines, who later became a Vice-President General of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. D. N. Cooley of Dubuque followed, serving the society for four terms as State Regent, and her successor was Mrs. C. E. Armstrong of Clinton, who served two terms. The first State conference was called by Mrs. Armstrong. The meeting at Clinton was such a success that an annual gathering of the chapters has become one of our institutions. Mrs. Julian Richards of Waterloo, now Vice-President General, called the conference to order at Waterloo during her first term, and last year again presided over the same body at Des Moines, where the Abigail Adams chapter acted as hostess to the Daughters of the American Revolution of Iowa. This year the Daughters gathered to greet their present State Regent, Mrs. Maria Purdy Peck, as guests of her chapter in her own city—Davenport.

To become a Daughter of the American Revolution one must be descended from an ancestor who rendered substantial service in securing American independence. In most cases this ancestor is several generations back. When her own father was a revolutionary patriot a member is called a "Real Daughter" and the society delights to honor her. Such members are exempt from the usual dues, and are pre-



sented with a special souvenir from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Iowa claims ten "Real Daughters," only four of whom survive: Mrs. Sophia M. D. Andrews, a member of the Abigail Adams chapter of Des Moines; Mrs. Emily Smith Reed Nettleton, a member of the Martha Washington chapter of Sioux City; Mrs. Eliza A. Melvin Shrader, of the Pilgrim chapter of Iowa City; and Mrs. Susan Antoinette Wood Ostrander, of Council Bluffs. The Abigail Adams chapter claimed Lucy Fellows Sibley of State Center, as a member. The Hannah Caldwell chapter of Davenport has lost by death both of its real Daughters: Mrs. Julia Ann Warrington Weaver and Mrs. Electa N. Van Vleck. Clinton mourns the loss of Mrs. Chauncey Lamb, and Cedar Falls' two Real Daughters, Mrs. Mary Ann Luther Burr and Mrs. Catherine M. Roadman, have also passed away.

The natural result of a society founded on historical research is an interest in providing permanent and accessible records of the subject we have found so absorbing. The Francis Shaw chapter of Anamosa leads all the chapters in the State in work accomplished, and few chapters in any State can at present make an equal showing. Worthy descendants of patriotic sires are these women who have builded for their city a handsome edifice for their public library. They have also given programs of so much interest that they have been repeated by request for the benefit of the public. The *History of the Mass*, which was first given in the chapter meeting and repeated in the Catholic church later, was selected as a subject partly because of the beauty of the music and partly that the ceremony so often



heard might be rightly understood. At the close of the program a collection for the benefit of the hospital was taken, and \$59.83 was raised for a worthy cause, in addition to the program of rare beauty and value which the people of Anamosa were permitted to enjoy.

For three years the Clinton Daughters have been working to establish an historical department in their public library. The Dubuque chapter has already contributed \$150 to furnish an historical corner in the city's beautiful new library building. The chapter in Keokuk has started an historical collection for the public library. The chapter in Council Bluffs gave two lectures, the proceeds of which were devoted to providing the high school with historical books of reference. Several chapters have placed *The American Monthly* and *The Spirit of '76* in their public libraries.

This natural desire to preserve the record of the past is manifesting itself in the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the great undertaking of building Continental Hall in Washington. To this end contributions have been sent from the Francis Shaw chapter of Anamosa, the Spinning Wheel chapter of Marshalltown, the Stars and Stripes chapter of Burlington, the Elizabeth Ross chapter of Ottumwa, the Pilgrim chapter of Iowa City, the Abigail Adams chapter of Des Moines, the Dubuque chapter, the Council Bluffs chapter, and the Cedar Rapids chapter.

To help sufferers from unavoidable disasters has been a spontaneous movement. Besides large contributions of clothing, bedding, etc., from individual members, the Abigail Adams chapter contributed \$10 in money to the sufferers in Des Moines in the spring of 1903. In 1901 this chap-



ter sent \$10 to the Jacksonville sufferers. The Spinning Wheel chapter of Marshalltown sent money to the Jacksonville sufferers, as well as responding to other calls for relief. The Hannah Caldwell chapter of Davenport maintains a room in McCowan Hall for self-supporting young women. The Stars and Stripes chapter of Burlington sent \$10 to the Jacksonville sufferers in 1901. It made a donation of soap to the hospital as a memorial offering to one of its deceased members. The Pilgrim chapter of Iowa City and the Cedar Rapids chapter each sent \$5 to the Jacksonville sufferers. The DeShon chapter in Boone has furnished a room in the Eleanor Moore Hospital, and maintains it.

Iowa chapters have contributed various sums to objects of interest outside of the State. We had a part in presenting to France the statues of Lafayette and Washington. When the chapter in Augusta, Georgia, appealed to us for aid in buying the Meadow Garden Farm, that the home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence might be preserved and used as a chapter house by local Daughters, Iowa responded cordially. Contributions were also made to the Harrison portrait fund and toward the preservation of Washington's old church.

At the request of the Tennessee Daughters a committee was appointed from the Abigail Adams chapter to call the attention of the Iowa delegation in Congress to the bill concerning the Appalachian forest reserve. Courteous responses were received from every member of the delegation, as well as a personal letter from Congressman James W. Wadsworth, the chairman of the committee on Agriculture. The bill was favorably reported, but did not come to a vote at



the last session of Congress because of the lack of time to pass on all bills before that body. The Stars and Stripes chapter petitioned Congress to convert Valley Forge into a national park. Under the leadership of Mrs. C. E. Armstrong, then State Regent, the society petitioned the Iowa legislature to erect suitable monuments to the soldiers who fell on the field of Chickamauga.

During the late war with Spain the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution served as examining board for female nurses, and Surgeon-General Sternberg was so well satisfied with their work that offers from other organizations to assist in this work were rejected, and most of the female nurses serving in the war were selected by our committee. The Abigail Adams chapter recommended Miss Della Weeks, who was with our troops till the close of the war. She afterwards attended one of the chapter meetings in Filipino costume and told many interesting tales about the Philippines and showed many curios from there. The Abigail Adams chapter also presented the 51st Iowa Volunteers with a regimental banner of blue silk with gold lettering. This banner the regiment carried during the war, and it occupied a conspicuous place on the auditorium platform when the reception to the soldiers was given on their return. It now rests with the other battle flags of the Iowa troops in the rotunda of the capitol. At this reception the Daughters, dressed in Colonial costumes, occupied boxes at the left of the stage. The members of this chapter all joined the Red Cross Society, thus contributing to the needs of our troops through that body. A committee was appointed to assist the Red Cross in its hospital work at



Camp McKinley, and nurses and watchers were always ready to serve. Mrs. C. H. Gaylord and Mrs. E. G. Pratt spent much time in this service, watching night after night at the hospital and soliciting delicacies for the sick men.

The Council Bluffs chapter contributed a banner to the John L. Moore Post, Army of the Philippines, which cost \$84. In addition to this they contributed \$25 to the army fund. The Hannah Caldwell chapter sent \$50 and clothing and delicacies to the hospital at Jacksonville. The Keokuk chapter sent nine boxes to the soldiers. The Stars and Stripes chapter of Burlington sent \$25, and also made up 125 yards of material in bandages and sent them to the military hospitals. The Pilgrim chapter of Iowa City sent \$41.25 and many books and magazines. The Elizabeth Ross chapter of Ottumwa sent \$54.50 to Company G, 50th Iowa. It gave to the 3rd Nebraska Volunteers passing through the city, coffee, milk, fruit, and jelly. It distributed among the sick soldiers scattered about the city game, fruit, nuts and flowers. It sent 500 pounds of reading matter to the 3rd Regiment Engineer Corps at Macon, Georgia, the 49th Iowa Volunteers in Cuba, and the 51st Iowa at Military hospital in Manila, and later sent 24 pounds more to Manila.

Services in time of war and assisting in securing desired legislation in time of peace must, from the nature of the case, be spasmodic. The organization is ready to respond to calls. Its regular work must be the preservation of historic landmarks and documents, and the study of the lessons which the past has for us. The program of the chapters are in the main historical studies. While events and biographies of persons of Revolutionary times lead all other sub-



jects, some intensely interesting programs in local history are reported. The Elizabeth Ross chapter reports an afternoon spent on the history of Wapello County, with a talk by Major Hamilton, an old settler, in addition to a comprehensive paper by Mrs. D. A. Laforce. An occasional musical program is provided by way of diversion. On many programs musical numbers are interspersed with those of an historical or literary character. With few exceptions the chapters emphasize the social side. The most active chapters in other lines seems to find strength for work and inspiration in a cup of tea and a visit after their regular programs.

The Spinning Wheel chapter of Marshalltown founded the first society of Children of the American Revolution in the State. Dubuque also has a chapter of the Children of the American Revolution. This work is inspiring in itself and a great feeder for the parent organization.

When the State Federation of Women's Clubs held its biennial meeting in Council Bluffs, the chapter there assisted in their entertainment. The Abigail Adams chapter of Des Moines performed the same pleasant duty last May when the Federation met in Des Moines.

Mrs. Lewis, the author of *Old Thirteen*, a song which was sung at the last Continental Congress, and which has formed a part of many a chapter program, was a member of the Old Thirteen chapter of Chariton. Her death was a sincere sorrow to the members of this chapter.

The Jean Espy chapter of Fort Madison has an honorary member—Mrs. Rachael Albright, aged ninety-one years, who is a granddaughter of Betsy Ross. Mrs. Albright lived with her grandmother until she was twenty-four years old. In



the back of the Fort Madison year-book appears a picture of some interesting Betsy Ross relics.

The Dubuque chapter has been fortunate in being able to entertain some distinguished visitors, Governors Cummins, Archbishop Keane, and Senator Allison being among the guests.

Many of the chapters put their meetings upon days of historic interest, but a majority meet regularly and celebrate the days especially important with social affairs or entertainments. Washington's Birthday and Flag Day seem the favorite gala days.

Nearly all the chapters publish year-books containing at least the by-laws and directory. Many contain the year's program as well. Only one—Keokuk—contains the chapter history for the preceding year. This, and a brief sketch of the chapter heroine, which appears in the Hannah Caldwell year book, are splendid features, not only adding greatly to the interest of outside readers, but to the information of the chapter members as well. A list of the national officers and the name and address of the State Regent makes a very useful as well as an appropriate page.

To sum up the work of this the first decade, dwelling a little upon the splendid growth of the organization, and taking pride in the spirit of generosity which has governed its work, all must feel that the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution have it in their power to accomplish great things in the future. The record certainly justifies the existence of such an organization.

CAROLINE CLIFFORD BURBANK

THE ABIGAIL ADAMS CHAPTER

DES MOINES, IOWA