



FORT DU ROCHER CHAPTER,
MENDOTA, ILLINOIS

NEWSLETTER

June 2021

Regent's Message

After the passing of my mother in 1998 and feeling a little disconnected, I visited Princeton Chapter NSDAR seeking membership. I had known since being very young that my father's family had a patriot. At that time in Princeton, there was no one offering to assist with lineage or documents, I managed to accumulate several generations of documents but ran into a problem connecting the fifth and sixth. I put all of this aside and out of my mind, as I didn't feel hopeful of becoming a member. In 2015 I received a phone call from a new registrar asking if I still had an interest in joining, I was hesitant, as so much time had passed. Once my lineage was sent to Martha Zimmerman, a long time genealogist for DAR in Springfield, a patriot was found within fifteen minutes! I stayed in the Princeton Chapter for about a year then transferred to Illini Chapter in Ottawa. During that time, I completed the three GEP classes and earned the designation Volunteer/Field Genealogist. Quickly realizing the atmosphere at Illini would not allow me to use my newfound knowledge, I transferred back to Princeton and served as their registrar. During that term I brought in seventeen new members only to learn that few of them, if any, would be welcomed and encouraged to become involved. I finally made the decision in the summer of 2019 that the Mendota area could support its own chapter. By November we were officially organized and had nineteen members. We will soon be celebrating two years and count thirty-one as our number of members! I am so proud of each member and love each one for their talents and contributions in helping Fort du Rocher Chapter thrive. My hope is that our chapter will continue to grow and become a viable contributor in our local communities. May god bless each of you and may you find your passion in DAR. We have room for all who want to become a part of our chapter. Our heritage is strong; our DNA runs with the determination unique to the founding of this nation. We each have much to celebrate.

Linda Byrd
Chapter Regent





JUNE 30 – JULY 4, 2021

Rise and Shine for Continental Congress Online!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- *June 30 - July 4th — the 130th NSDAR Continental Congress in online format.
- *July — Casual Gathering TBD
- *July 5th Ann B., a resident at the Veterans Home has a birthday. Help her celebrate by remembering her with a card.
- *August 14th — Chapter meeting
- *August 27th - 28th — DAR Days at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington, Illinois.

(We can attend either day. It is an opportunity to see what program ideas and materials state chairwomen have to offer. A luncheon will be served. The Junior Shop will sell name tags and other items to benefit the Juniors.)

DID YOU KNOW???

The Nightingale Shop in Mendota will allow volunteers to come in and work for two hour periods of time. You must phone ahead of time and let the shop know what group you are representing and what date and time you would like to volunteer. Their phone number is 815-539-6100. After our group has accumulated six to eight hours, our chapter will receive a payout similar to the payout we earned in the past when we worked one day as a group. This was our only fund raising project, and it served us well.

REFLECTIONS: Message from our Chaplain

Greetings sisters of the Fort du Rocher Chapter. I was asked to write an article for this news publication. At first, I was not sure what I was going to say. A little prayer and conversation with our Regent Linda, and here we go. Pamela Petersen Bork is the Chaplain General (2019-2022), she suggested this Scripture: Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

As we join together to rise and shine for America, let us keep this scripture in our hearts and minds. (taken from Chaplain General's message)

I would like to introduce myself. I was born and raised in Astoria, NY. I was raised in the Catholic Faith. I met my husband and we moved to Naperville, IL. This was a huge culture slap for me. WOW what a lifestyle change! It took me 7 years to acclimate to the way of Midwest living. We moved to Illinois 31 years ago this month and I could not imagine ever living in a big city again. I have lived in Naperville, Aurora, Bristol, Park Ridge, Coleta, and now La Moille. My husband is a second career pastor in the United Methodist Church. We have 2 adult girls., Briana and husband Reiley live in Mendota and Nicole and Fiancé Todd live in Plainfield. No grandchildren yet but there has been conversation of hope. I have been a part of interfaith studies and interfaith dialogue my entire life. I found the studies and touring other places of worship very captivating and faith grounding. I would like to ask if you would share your faith with me so I may respect the beliefs of each of you. It can be kept confidential if you wish. This will give me information during prayer time and for other occasions where prayer may be utilized. Even in the Christian faiths there are different traditions which I would like to respect. Please email me with your information and or interest in a faith.

jungnickeld@gmail.com.

DAR Memorial Service is July 4, 2021

NSDAR Day of Prayer is Sunday, October 10, 2021

(The date of the NSDAR Day of Prayer is based on determining the Sunday closest to the date of the founding of the DAR, October 11, 1890. The date will vary yearly.)

Please keep the residents and caregivers of the Lutheran Home in La Salle in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this difficult time.

Also, prayers for Debra Dailey Wenger.

If you have a prayer concern, please let me know.

Interesting Fact: Fort de Rocher is named for an outpost which was located at today's Starved Rock.

Donna Jungnickel





YEAR IN REVIEW



What a year it was—lockdowns, masks, heartaches, loss! Now, as we burn our masks and gather again in groups, let's take a look back at that year and acknowledge what we accomplished despite the pandemic.

- Service Project at Freedom House in Princeton, IL. (The delivery of gently used purses filled with cosmetic and hygienic items.)
- Ground Improvement at VA Home in La Salle.
(Fall cleanup, landscaping, plantings)
- 200 Christmas cards and assorted calendars for imprisoned women in Illinois.
- Memorial Bench and Plaque at Veterans Park by the old library.
- Arranged for the air show honoring vets to fly over the Veteran's home.
- Adoption of female vets at the Veteran's Home to remember them with cards and small gifts during the year.
- Delivery of Men's hygiene products to Vet's Home.
- Planning for display of lights at Rotary Park at Christmas.

Daughters of Fort du Rocher DAR Chapter, pat yourselves. on your backs!

REMEMBERING OUR PATRIOTS



Douglas Marsh - Donna Robinson's Patriot

Douglas Marsh was born on August 3, 1747. He married Rachel Morse in 1772, and together they had 6 children. He died on May 20, 1817 in Leicester, MA at almost 70 years of age.

At the start of the American Revolution, they had two children and Rachel was three months pregnant with Donna's ancestor, Sally Marsh, when Douglas grabbed his gun and responded to his militia's call. He was a private in Captain John Albee's First Mendon Co. — one of four companies out of Mendon, MA.

The Mendon men's "call to arms" came April 19, 1775. They were to hasten to Roxbury MA, the gateway over land to Boston. Roxbury lay just west of the area known as Boston Neck. The proud men of Mendon left town with their two cannon in tow.

British soldiers under orders from General Gage were on the move to Lexington to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock and then to destroy ammunition supplies hidden in Concord. The Redcoats were greeted with strong resistance in both towns. It was here at Lexington that an unauthorized shot became "the shot heard round the world."

In response to these battles, Mendon's soldiers (including Douglas Marsh) hastened to areas outside Boston to join other Minutemen and local farmers laying in wait for the retreating British soldiers. The British suffered devastating losses as the colonials fired at them from behind trees, rocks, buildings - whatever cover could be found.

General Gage had miscalculated the ability of the colonial "farmer army". It never dawned on him that those farmers were skilled marksman using the same weapons being trained on the British to provide food for colonial dinner tables. The scant organization of local militia would soon become a formidable and effective army.

Douglas Marsh served 5 days in the beginning battles for our freedom. He was mustered again later by Captain Thomas Newhall and served 8 months from Mendon. Thanks to his and other colonials' bravery, the fight for our freedom would go on!

NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Pat Weistart Reihl & Mary Weistart Fisher

Mary was born October 4, 1959, the youngest of nine children. Pat was born on October 14, 1951. Mary says Pat is a great role model and her BFF! They both graduated from La Salle/Peru High School.

After graduation Mary began her work in health care. She married in 1981 and started her family which now includes three beautiful daughters, three great son-in-laws, and eleven wonderful grandchildren.

Her hobbies and interests have changed through the years. Currently, she enjoys working in her yard, feeding the birds, and getting to know the Bible. She works full time at the Hy-Vee in Peru. Her husband passed in 2017, so she has been adjusting to that. She states that it changed her life completely, but she was blessed with a good husband for forty years, with a great family for support, and she has an utmost faith in God who helps her every day. She is excited to be in DAR.

Pat is the mother of four children, three sons and a daughter, and grandmother to eleven grandchildren.

She has worked in many different capacities, but the most “fun” job was when she worked for a tour agency and guided a trip to Biloxi, Mississippi for “Golfing on the Gulf.” Her most challenging job was that of a dental assistant, and her longest time at a job was eighteen years at the Walmart in Ottawa. She worked as a cake decorator there and had the opportunity to make many children happy designing their favorite character cakes. She was also privileged to create many wedding cakes.

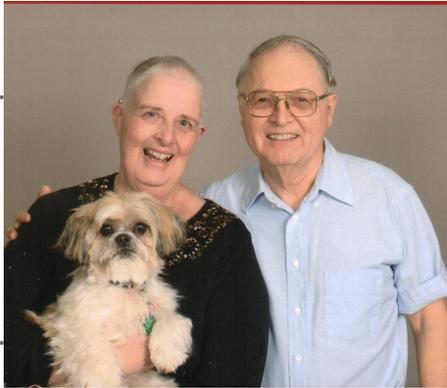
Now as a retiree, she spends a lot of time in her yard attending to the lawn and many plants and flowers. She was awarded “Garden of the Year” award in 2017 for Ottawa, Illinois. Sewing is her other hobby. She makes crafty items like her “Mug Rugs” and has sewn many items for her grandchildren, including a Chili Pepper costume for a two month old and a Dorothy costume from the Wizard of Oz. She taught sewing to a granddaughter for her class project and has that fun experience on video.

Both Pat and Mary have delved into genealogy. They discovered that their great-grandfather is interned in a cemetery two miles from Pat and that he fought in the Civil War. Their great-great-grandfather helped to develop Livingston County in Illinois and served as a doctor for 50 years. The gem of all gems was the discovery that their ancestor Joseph Reynolds was a Revolutionary War patriot. They are so proud to know that two of their ancestors were a part of the history of our great nation

DO YOU HAVE A SISTER WHO IS A POTENTIAL DAUGHTER? INVITE HER TO JOIN OUR CHAPTER

FAMILY MATTERS

Congratulations to:



Diane and Gail McCully who celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary on June 1st.



Kathleen Smith's grandson, Arthur Burden, who just graduated from 8th grade in Malden, Illinois. Fly High!

Avery Byrd who graduated from Niles High School. She will enter college this fall.



Sarah Sigmon, the great niece of Linda Sigmon Byrd, who graduated from the University of Illinois in Champaign with a B.A. degree this spring. She will pursue a Master's Degree this fall. She has been home-schooled in the past. She joined CAR before she was 18, then joined DAR as a junior member. She has been a Page for the state conferences for three years. She was going to page at National last year, but that became virtual. She won the title of Fair Queen in the Danville area on her second try. That made her realize that scholarships were available to the winners. Sarah will be competing for Miss Illinois June 21, 2021 in Southern IL.

Kathleen (Kasha) Bonnell who was published in the book **Who's Who in America** in the Business Section under Women Entrepreneurs for her business, Camp Bride, and for her hair and makeup accomplishments in the fashion advertising industry.



Book Nook



This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger (historical fiction)

During the Great Depression, four orphaned children escape from a grim boarding school in Minnesota and travel the Mississippi River in a canoe searching for a place to call home. They will cross paths with others who are adrift: struggling farmers, faith healers, and poverty stricken residents of “Hooverville” encampments. (A book that’s hard to put down, and when it’s done, you’ll want more.)

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Michele Richardson (historical fiction)

In the 1930’s and 1940’s the WPA under FDR established the Pack Horse Program to provide books and other reading materials to remote areas in the Appalachians. Single females were recruited to ride pack mules to reach isolated families. The book relates the experiences of these librarians through the fictional character of Cussy Mary Carter. It also introduces us to the “Blue People” of Kentucky” and the discrimination they faced. It’s an interesting and uplifting novel about some little known subjects.

The Oregon Trail by Rinker Buck (non fiction)

This is a personal account of two brothers, Nick and Rinker Buck, traveling the 2,000 mile length of the Oregon Trail the old-fashioned way - in a covered wagon with a team of mules in 2012. It’s an easy read, packed with humor, tension, excitement, and old fashioned “folksy-ness”.

While you may not always agree with Rinker’s ramblings on different topics as they travel, the book is well worth the read. It also depicts some of what the original travelers of the trail must have gone through in their journeys west.

Editors Note: We are happy to send this, our first chapter newsletter to you, the daughters of Fort du Rocher. It has been an enjoyable endeavor, but also a learning process for us. Bear with us as we continue this learning process into the future. We hope to cover topics of interest to you, but also, we hope to offer another means of connecting each of us together as DAR sisters.

Kasha Bonnell (layout and graphics)

Audre Sautter (text)

Next Newsletter deadline is August 15th. Submit articles or information to Audre at audresautter@gmail.com or Kasha at kathleenbonnell@gmail.com. Newsletter info can also be given to Kasha at Chapter meetings or to Audre by phone. (See yearbook.) We can't guarantee articles will be included in the September Newsletter if submitted after the deadline.

