

July 4, 2023 in Lake County: New Connecticut Chapter of the NSDAR Spearheads *America250* Unveiling



America250 is a national program leading up to the 2026 milestone celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence. Established by the U.S. Congress, the **United States Semiquincentennial Commission** and **National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**, the NSDAR's local chapters are actively engaged in lead-up projects to this important occasion. In Lake County, our local DAR has taken the lead nation-wide to place a patriot marker in local cemeteries to honor all those who participated in the American Revolution. Once again, Ohio's smallest county with the most history will be at the forefront of this

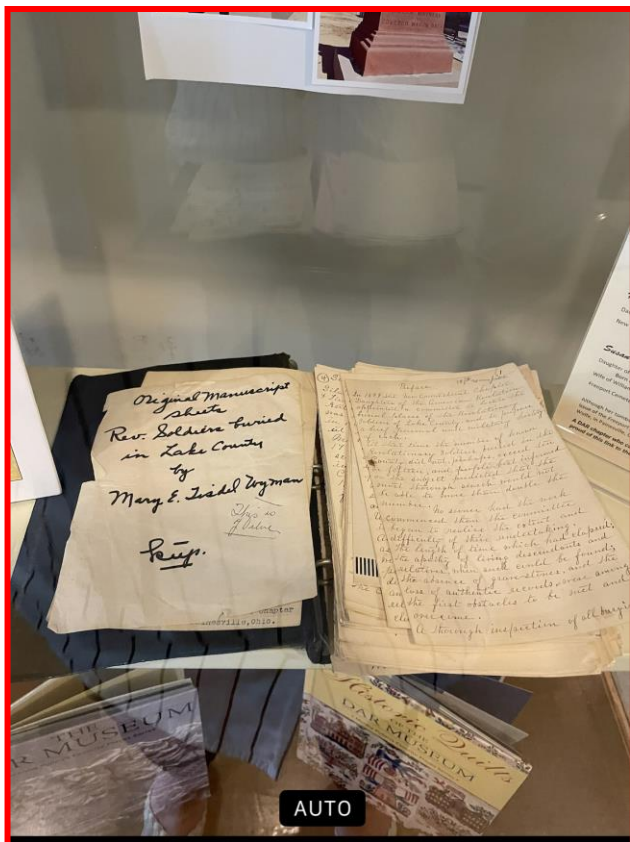
moment.

Eighty-five patriots interred here have been selected to receive this recognition. These are names familiar throughout Lake County. Marker #64 and #65 honor **Edward Paine** (1746-1841) and **Eleazar Paine**

America250 encourages every community to get involved in the countdown to 2026. It's an invitation to all Americans to share their unique stories, hopes, and dreams to help tell the chronicle of our nation as we turn 250. This milestone offers an important moment to take stock of where we have been and to look ahead to our future.

(1764-1864). Marker #79 remembers **Bartholomew Vrooman** (1761-1839). #72 is **Abraham Skinner** (1755-1826) of New Market and Grandon. Concord Township's notables include markers #59 **Issac Messenger** (1745-1839), #51 **Thomas Huntoon** (1753-1831), #60 **Ezekiel Morley** (1757-1852) and #61 **Thomas Morley** (1758-1844). For more information on the **250 Project** in general, visit www.america250.org.

The NSDAR has more than 190,000 members across the U.S., and there are over 6,000 in the state of Ohio. The Lake County organization, known as the **New Connecticut Chapter**, has 116 members who volunteered over 4800 service hours in 2022 alone. The



group was organized in October 1897 with fifteen charter members. Five of those women were “real daughters” which means that each had a father or mother in the Revolutionary War. That was quite a substantial number by any metric.

Applicants for DAR membership document their lineage back to an ancestor who aided the cause of American Independence. These efforts may come through military, civil or patriotic service; occurring between April 1775 (**Battle of Lexington**) and November 1783 (**withdrawal of British Troops from New York**).



Because Lake County was largely settled by Connecticut families in the early 19th century, the New Connecticut Chapter became the local group’s official title. After just a year with their chapter name officially established, the small group was not slow to act. When the Spanish-American War began in 1898, the NSDAR formed the **Woman’s National War Relief**

Association. Our New Connecticut Chapter stepped forward to help. Boxes of hospital supplies and funds were sent to Company M of the Ohio Fifth Regiment. Further acts of kindness included donations to the **American Red Cross Society** at New York, hospital relief in Fernandina, Florida, and for the hospital ship **Missouri**.

Around 1900, the chapter planned and implemented a marker site for **General Edward Paine** on Mentor Avenue adjacent to Lake Erie College. Next the group worked on the history of American Flags under the leadership of Mrs. Harvey Houghton Minton circa 1961. In 2015, the daughters joined in **Wreaths Across America**. WAA has many groups participating, and the New Connecticut Chapter has been active in Concord Township and St. Mary’s (Painesville) cemeteries. Later this year, four other cemeteries in Leroy and Willoughby will follow Painesville’s WAA lead. In 2019, the chapter was offered a room within the **Lake County History Center** in exchange for monthly volunteer hours. The DAR Room



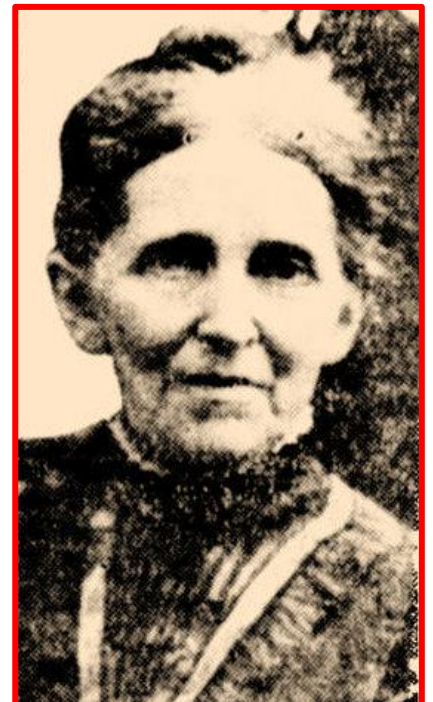
features their original charter, the historic oak mounting gavel, a celebration of flags and a chromolithograph by C.H. Weisgerber.

This continuing commitment to service and volunteerism over 126 years has led to the upcoming **America250** event, the unveiling ceremony of the patriot markers for 85 Lake County Revolutionary soldiers on July 4, 2023.

This ambitious, collaborative effort has been an involved process. Spearheaded by New Connecticut Chapter members, they met and voted on the marker project concept and various means of implementation. Securing funding, county involvement and local governmental support followed. The **Lake County Commissioners** and subsequent approval by the Lake County Judges facilitated obtaining a final spot of honor to locate this plaque.

Next, working with the **Sons of the American Revolution** and Daughters of the Lake County Chapter, they identified

those notable Revolutionary War patriots from this county with the assistance of Painesville's **Morley Library**, the Lake County History Center and a book written by **Mary E. Tisdell Wyman** (1845-1926). She researched the biographies of each honoree/patriot and wrote a tribute to each. Wyman was a Lake County pioneer descendant and an 1897 charter member of the local DAR chapter.





The 85 names were selected and etched in bricks surrounding a historic marker to become a fitting memorial. The culminating dedication ceremony will begin Tuesday, July 4, 2023, at 10:00 am at the gazebo in **Painesville's Veterans Park**. After the ceremony, dignitaries and visitors will move to the **Painesville Courthouse** where County Commissioner John Plecnik and local DAR Regent **Suzanne Nahumck** will unveil the

marker. Keynote speaker George Washington (portrayed by Dale Fellows) followed by Heidi Skok, leading those present in song, will conclude the event. As this is one of the first projects at the national level of the NSDAR, the New Connecticut Chapter will be part of an announcement by the County Commissioners to enlist civic organizations and representatives from all local communities to make America250 and the 250 adopted trees to be planted near Yorktown, Virginia, a reality in 2026.

The New Connecticut Chapter of the DAR invites all citizens of Lake County to attend the July 4th ceremony in downtown Painesville to kick-off and celebrate the 250-year milestone in our country's history.



Sources- [America250.org](https://www.america250.org)

The News-Herald 11-29-22, DJ Kocsis - *New Connecticut NSDAR*

www.america250.org

<https://www.dar.org/>

<https://www.news-herald.com/2023/03/18/lake-county-to-receive-bronze-marker-honoring-revolutionary-war-veterans/>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/143547176/mary-elizabeth-wyman>

<https://blog.dar.org/tales-archives-dar-and-spanish-american-war>

[https://www.painesville.com/vertical/Sites/%7B66FDE066-2B9A-43E2-8DFC-](https://www.painesville.com/vertical/Sites/%7B66FDE066-2B9A-43E2-8DFC-2129003D50A7%7D/uploads/General_Edward_Paine_by_Carl_Thomas_Engel.pdf)

[2129003D50A7%7D/uploads/General_Edward_Paine_by_Carl_Thomas_Engel.pdf](https://www.painesville.com/vertical/Sites/%7B66FDE066-2B9A-43E2-8DFC-2129003D50A7%7D/uploads/General_Edward_Paine_by_Carl_Thomas_Engel.pdf)

Submitted by. Dan Maxson

Local Lore by Max, 2010-2016 - The News-Herald, Community Media Lab - Volunteer Trustee, Curator - FHHS / Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Marine Museum - Volunteer Curator / Docent - Old Stone School, Concord Township

Additional research by Virginia Jeschelng