

## **Inventory of Eunice Sterling Monuments and Markers**

### **Kerin Smith, May 2020**

Since Eunice Sterling Chapter of the NSDAR was organized in 1896, this chapter has placed a variety of monuments and markers in honor of various persons, occasions or events. This is a summary of my inventory and assessment of these items, executed in May of 2020 while I was serving as the Chapter Historical Preservation Committee.

A sundial was placed in Central Riverside Park in 1908 in memory of Former Regent, W.A. Reed. According to a 1996 inventory, It was destroyed by vandals in 1917 and was never replaced.

Two markers and one group of markers known to have been placed were not found on a previous inventory in 2011. No further information is available on the following items:

1. 16 bronze street markers, showing the head of George Washington and the DAR insignia mounted on 3 ft. metal shafts, placed at street intersections along George Washington Boulevard in Wichita. They were placed in 1931 to commemorate the bicentennial of George Washington's birth.
2. Located at Central High School Intermediate, Third and Emporia in Wichita KS. Placed in 1916. A Bronze tablet made from the Battleship Maine, and a Lincoln Memorial Tablet, no information on material or inscription.

The current inventory included the following:

1. Santa Fe Trail Marker, Lost Springs, KS
2. Real Daughter Memorial Plaque, Cynthia Buffington, Clearwater, KS
3. Real Daughter Memorial Plaque, Jane Nighswonger, Sedgwick County, KS
4. Flagpole and plaque at Botanica in Wichita, KS
5. Boulder with plaque at 61<sup>st</sup> St. N. and Seneca near Sedgwick, KS
6. Flagpole and plaque at Morrison Hall on the Wichita State University (WSU) campus
7. Flagpole and plaque at North High School in Wichita, KS
8. Bronze Plaque in Honor of Chapter Regents, WSU Campus, Wichita, KS
9. Munger House and plaque in Cowtown Living Museum in Wichita, KS
10. Sunflower Windows, Kansas Chapel, NSDAR Headquarters, Washington D.C.
11. Flagpole and plaque at Koch Auditorium on the WSU campus.
12. Santa Fe Trail Marker at Council Grove, KS
13. Donation for Lay Light Renovation, NSDAR Headquarters, Washington D.C.
14. Commemorative Tiles in the Revolutionary War Memorial in Wichita, KS
15. DAR Memorial Plaque, Honorary Regent Jueline (Judi) Johnstone, Mulvane, KS.

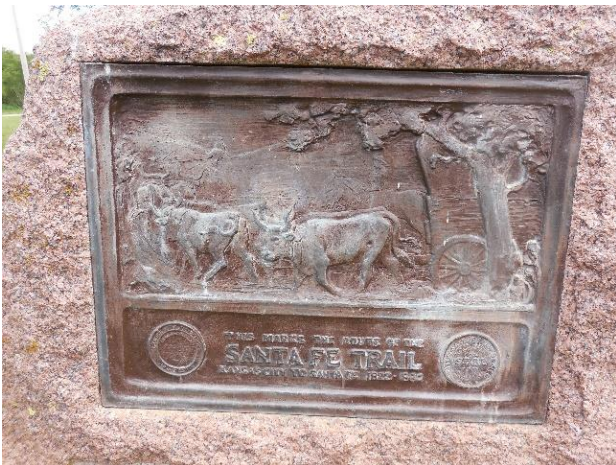
**1. Santa Fe Trail Marker:** Lost Springs, Marion County, KS. This is one of the series of markers along the Trail sited by KSDAR in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This one is unusual in that it has a bronze plaque on the front depicting oxen pulling a covered wagon. Wording on PLAQUE:

**THIS MARKS THE ROUTE OF THE  
SANTA FE TRAIL  
KANSAS CITY TO SANTA FE 1822-1880**

The inscription on the stone base:

**ERECTED BY  
THE EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER  
DAUGHTERS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
WICHITA 1908**

The stone and base of the marker are in good condition, the lettering on the plaque is raised and easy to read. There are two seals depicted at the bottom of the plaque, one is the seal of the State of Kansas, the second is the Seal of the City of Santa Fe, NM. These are very weathered and the depiction is fairly well obliterated. I would expect that the only way to repair this damage would be to have the bronze plaque recast.



**2. Bronze Grave Marker:** at the gravesite of Real Daughter Mrs. Cynthia Sellers Buffington. Placed in 1924 in Clearwater Cemetery, Clearwater, Sedgwick County, KS.. Below the DAR Emblem the stand-alone marker is inscribed:

**REAL DAUGHTER  
CYNTHIA BUFFINGTON  
JUNE 2, 1837  
MARCH 4, 1918**



This marker is still in place to the left of the headstone. It is in excellent condition, the raised lettering is easily legible. A concern is that the marker is on a single stake, and it can be easily pulled out of the ground, so it could easily be stolen.



**3. Insignia Grave Marker:** on the headstone of Real Daughter Mrs. Jane Sellers Nighswonger. This marker was placed in 1924 at the Harrington Cemetery, Ninneschah Twp., Sedgwick County, KS. The marker has the words REAL DAUGHTER above the NSDAR Emblem. This marker is in excellent condition, the raised letters easily legible.



**4. Flag Pole and Plaque:** located near the entrance of Botanica, 701 Amidon, Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS. This marker is actually two markers in one. The original plaque was placed at the planting of an elm tree in the Sleepy Hollow area, on the 500 block of North Rutan in Wichita, KS. The wording on the small plaque: (The dates are divided by the NSDAR insignia.)

**KATHERINE STERLING  
LEWIS  
ORGANIZING REGENT  
1896 1928  
EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER**

The park and tree are no longer in the Sleepy Hollow area, and the small plaque was moved in 1986 and incorporated into the larger plaque when the flagpole was donated to Botanica Wording on the large plaque:

**PRESENTED BY  
EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER  
DAUGHTERS  
OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING THE  
90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FOUNDING OF THE CHAPTER  
1986**

Beneath the small plaque is the description:

**THIS PLAQUE WAS ORIGINALLY LOCATED  
IN WOODARD PARK IN THE SLEEPY HOLLOW AREA.  
IT MARKED A TREE PLANTED IN 1929 IN MEMORY OF  
MRS. KATHERINE STERLING LEWIS ORGANIZING REGENT  
OF EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER D.A.R.**

The plaque is in good condition, the raised letters are legible, and it is mounted nicely on a stone. The flagpole appears to be stable, and it is in use frequently to fly the Flag of the United States of America.

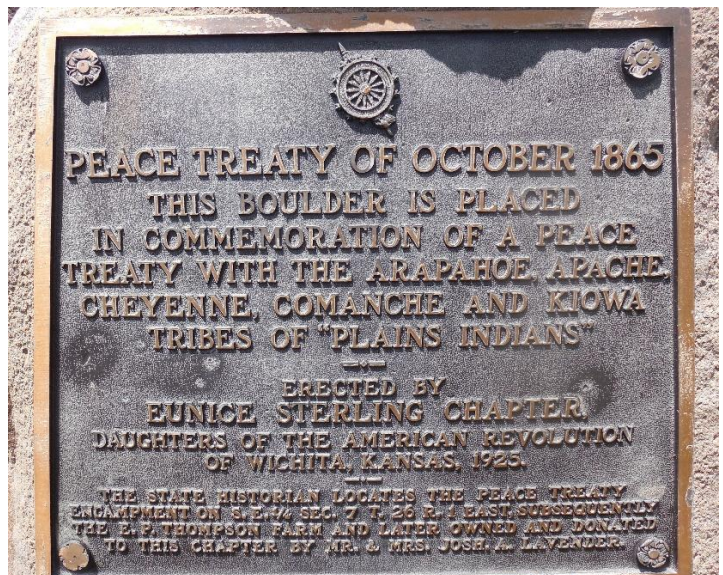




**5. Boulder with plaque:** located at 61<sup>st</sup> St. N. and Seneca near Valley Center, Sedgwick County, KS. This monument was placed in 1925 to commemorate the nearby signing of a peace treaty with five Indian tribes. The bronze plaque gives a description of the event below an NSDAR insignia:

**PEACE TREATY OF OCTOBER 1865  
THIS BOULDER IS PLACED  
IN COMMEMORATION OF A PEACE  
TREATY WITH THE ARAPAHOE, APACHE, CHEYENNE, COMANCHE AND KIOWA  
TRIBES OF "PLAINS INDIANS"  
ERECTED BY  
EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
OF WICHITA, KANSAS 1925  
¼ SEC. 7 T. 26 R. 1 EAST.  
THE STATE HISTORIAN LOCATES THE PEACE TREATY  
ENCAMPMENT ON S.E. ¼ sec. 7 T. 26 R. 1 EAST, SUBSEQUENTLY  
THE E.F. THOMPSON FARM AND LATER OWNED AND DONATED  
TO THIS CHAPTER BY MR. & MRS. JOSH. A. LAVENDER**

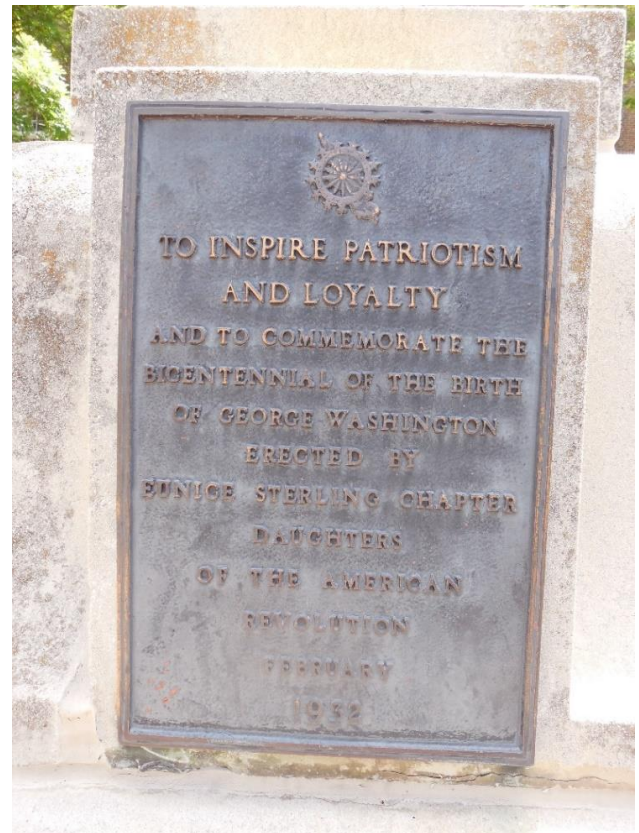
The monument stands on a small fenced plot just northwest of the intersection and is easily visible from the road. The plaque is in good condition, the raised letters easily legible. The small medallions on the corners are weathered to different degrees, one pretty well obliterated, but this does not detract from the message of the monument.



**6. Flagpole and Plaque Morrison Hall:** Located near the west entrance, on the WSU Campus, Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS, donated in 1932. The plaque is attached to the front of a cement pedestal that is the base for the flagpole. It is surrounded by a small well-kept flower garden. The inscription on the plaque is below a depiction of the NSDAR insignia:

**TO INSPIRE PATRIOTISM  
AND LOYALTY  
AND TO COMMEMORATE THE  
BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH  
OF GEORGE WASHINGTON  
ERECTED BY  
EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER  
DAUGHTERS  
OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION  
FEBRUARY  
1932**

All parts of this marker appear to be in good condition. The raised lettering on the plaque is legible, the base does not show any damage, and the flag pole nicely supports the flag as was intended.

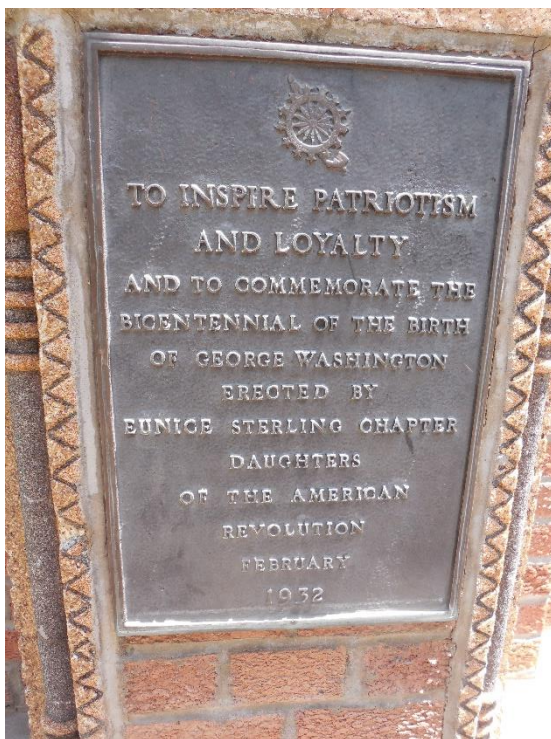




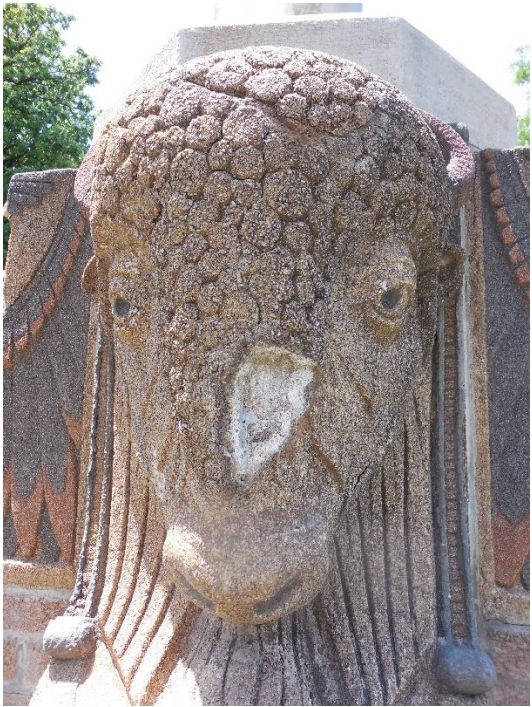
**7. Flagpole and Plaque North High School:** Located on the southeast lawn, 1437 N. Rochester St., Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS donated in 1932. This plaque is located on an interesting pedestal that is the base for the flagpole. The plaque inscription beneath the NSDAR insignia:

**TO INSPIRE PATRIOTISM  
AND LOYALTY  
AND TO COMMEMORATE THE  
BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH  
OF GEORGE WASHINGTON  
ERECTED BY  
EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER  
DAUGHTERS  
OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION  
FEBRUARY  
1932**

The plaque is in good condition, the raised letters are legible. The flagpole appears sturdy and in good condition, and the flag flies from this pole regularly. The pedestal was most probably not a part of the Eunice Sterling donation as it is created to go with the nearby Minisa Bridge which is a City of Wichita property, as is the school. The pedestal is made of brick on a concrete platform, with bison heads on the east and west side, and a colorful bird with an egg on each of the north and south sides. The colored material for the bison and birds is known as cartholite. The images on the south and west are in good condition. The bird's egg on the north shows some damage that is probably due to weathering, and the bison head on the east side has damage that could be from vandalism. The damage was reported to the person responsible for repair of Wichita USD 259 school property.







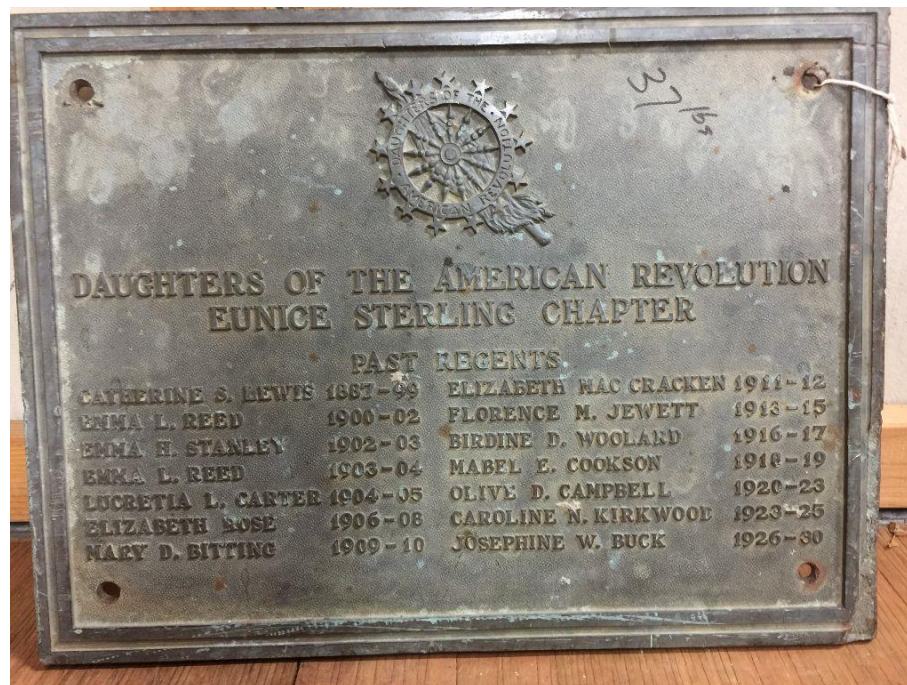


**8. Bronze Plaque:** Placed on a granite marker on the WSU campus in 1934 along with the planting of 23 trees. This was apparently in honor of the past Regents of Eunice Sterling Chapter NSDAR who were listed on the plaque. At the top of the plaque is the insignia of the DAR. Below that the inscription is as follows:

**DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER**

<b>CATHERINE S. LEWIS</b>	<b>1897-99</b>	<b>ELIZABETH MacCRACKEN</b>	<b>1911-12</b>
<b>EMMA L. REED</b>	<b>1900-02</b>	<b>FLORENCE M. JEWETT</b>	<b>1913-15</b>
<b>EMMA H. STANLEY</b>	<b>1902-03</b>	<b>BIRDINE D. WOLLARD</b>	<b>1916-17</b>
<b>EMMA L. REED</b>	<b>1902-04</b>	<b>MABLE E. COOKSON</b>	<b>1918-19</b>
<b>LUCRETIA L. CARTER</b>	<b>1904-05</b>	<b>OLIVE D. CAMPBELL</b>	<b>1920-23</b>
<b>ELIZABETH ROSE</b>	<b>1906-08</b>	<b>CAROLYN N. KIRKWOOD</b>	<b>1923-25</b>
<b>MARY D. BITTING</b>	<b>1909-10</b>	<b>JOSEPHINE W. BUCK</b>	<b>1926-30</b>

According to an inventory done in 1996, the trees and marker with plaque were removed by the University to make room for a parking lot. For a number of years the plaque laid in a storage area at the University before being retrieved by Mrs. Philip W. Bernstorf. It was stored in her home for several years, but was transferred to the possession of Mrs. Larry D. Ream, past Regent. After her death, the plaque was noted to be for sale in an antique mall store, and was purchased by Eunice Sterling Chapter. It is currently in the possession of member Ruth Windham. No decision has been made as to the future placement of this plaque.





**9. The Munger House:** Cowtown, 1865 Museum Blvd., Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS.

This house was the first permanent structure in Wichita, built in 1862. It was the home of the Munger family, and was originally located near the present intersection of Ninth St. and Waco. The Mungers operated a hotel/boarding house on the second story of the house where there were four sleeping rooms. The cost of the rooms also included meals. The house also served as a post office, office of the Justice of the Peace and hospital. It is on the Register of Historic Places.

The Munger House was acquired by Eunice Sterling Chapter, and was donated to the Cowtown museum in 1949. The brass plaque to the side of the front door stands on its own pedestal, and is in good condition. The raised letters are legible. Below an image of the NSDAR Insignia, the plaque reads:

**THE MUNGER HOUSE  
FIRST WICHITA HOME  
BUILT IN 1868  
GIVEN BY EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER  
DAUGHTERS OF  
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
RESTORED BY  
EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER AND  
HISTORIC WICHITA, INC.**

The Munger House itself is well preserved and maintained. Some of the logs have cracks, and there are occasional areas of missing chinking between the logs, but this could be expected for a structure of this age. The furnishings of the house are nicely displayed with interpretive posters placed appropriately. The kitchen, dining room and bedroom are open for viewing behind plexiglass screens. Everything appears clean and well cared for.





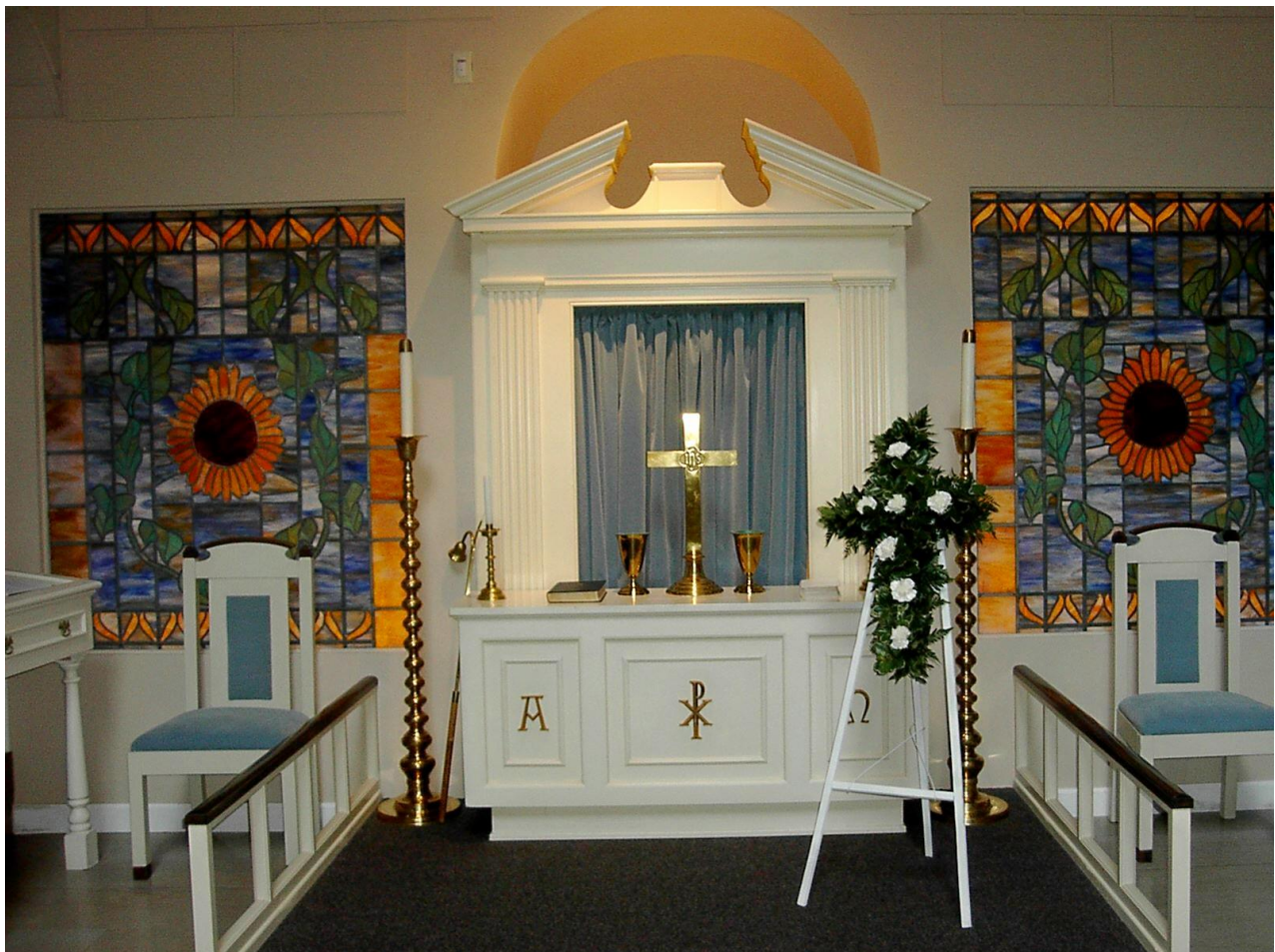


**10. Sunflower Windows**, Kansas Chapel, NSDAR National Headquarters, Washington D.C.

These stained glass windows were originally installed in the dome of the Carnegie Library Building in Wichita KS when it was built in 1915. They had fallen into disrepair by the time the building was abandoned for the updated library building in 1966-67.

A member of Eunice Sterling, Mrs. Robert Chesney, recognized that if these windows were renovated, they would make a great addition to our Kansas Chapel in the NSDAR Headquarters building. She applied to the City Council and received permission to obtain six of the windows for the chapel. The windows needed to be cleaned, restored and resized. Local glass expert Jack Davis agreed to do this work, and after cleaning, divided the windows to create two large panes. Eunice Sterling Chapter paid for this renovation work to be done, then shipped them to Washington D.C. where they found new life in our Kansas Chapel.

I was not able to travel to Washington to assess the windows, however we know they are still in place. I understand that they are not as nicely displayed as they were in the picture below, but they are certainly representative of our state, and allow for diffused lighting in our chapel. They are under the care of the KSDAR.



**11. Flagpole and plaque, Koch Arena:** The WSU Campus, Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS.

This plaque and flagpole are located in a small garden area near the entrance to the arena. The plaque has a raised replica of the NSDAR insignia at the top, and the inscription follows:

**TO INSPIRE PATRIOTISM AND  
LOYALTY AND TO COMMEMORATE  
DEDICATION OF THE CHARLES KOCH ARENA  
THIS FLAG POLE ERECTED BY THE  
EUNICE STERLING CHAPTER  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
DECEMBER 2003**

This relatively new plaque is in excellent condition. The flag pole appears to be also and is in regular use.





**12. Santa Fe Trail marker:** Council Grove, Morris County, KS. This unusual two-sided marker commemorating both the route of the trail and the treaty that gave the right of way for the trail was not originally erected by Eunice Sterling Chapter. The Chapter paid for cleaning and renovation of this marker in 2010 as a part of the KSDAR State Regent's Project to clean and renovate all 96 of the Trail markers in Kansas

This granite marker is inscribed on both sides. The inscription on the east side reads:

**COUNCIL GROVE  
ON THIS SPOT AUGUST 10, 1825  
THE TREATY WAS MADE WITH THE  
OSAGE INDIANS  
FOR THE RIGHT OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF THE  
SANTA FE TRAIL.**

The inscription on the west side reads:

**SANTA FE TRAIL  
1822-1872  
MARKED BY THE DAUGHTERS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
AND THE STATE OF KANSAS  
1906**

The monument is set on a concrete base, and both it and the monument are in excellent condition. It is clean and legible, and does not show weathering.



**13. Donation to NSDAR for Lay Light Renovation:** In 2011-2012, the lay light that comprises the ceiling of the DAR Library at the National Headquarters was found to be in dire need of renovation. This was partly due to age, and partly to an earthquake that occurred in the Washington D.C. area. The panes were in need of cleaning and repair, and some of the lead connections and supports were broken. The cost was expected to be approximately \$1.2 million. Our President General, Mrs. Merry Ann Wright, took the funding of this renovation on as a part of her project. Eunice Sterling Chapter pledged and remitted \$1000 to NSDAR for this project. Our chapter was presented with a beautiful pin for our donation, and this pin is still being worn on the ribbon of the current Regent.

The work was completed, and these panes now add light and beauty to our library. I was not able to travel to evaluate the lay light, but it are still in existence, and under the care of NSDAR.





**14. Commemorative Tiles for Revolutionary War Memorial:** Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS. This memorial is still under construction, tiles can still be purchased for placement. In 2013 Eunice Sterling Chapter made the decision to purchase fifteen tiles in memory of the Revolutionary War patriot ancestors of our chapter's charter members. Among these women were two "Real Daughters." Also placed was a tile in memory of the War patriots of Eunice Sterling Chapter members.

These bronze tiles are nicely displayed in the wall of the memorial, and as they are only a few years old, are still in excellent condition.

Names of Charter Members and Real Daughters along with photos of their ancestor's tiles follow.





**Eunice Sterling Real Daughters  
(Also Charter Members)**

Cynthia Buffington  
Jane Nighswonger

**Eunice Sterling Charter Members**

Bessie B. Reed  
Nettie B. Henry  
Luella A. Kimball  
Birdine D. Woolard  
Mary Brooks Graves  
Jane G. Barrow  
Lucretia G. Annawalt  
Emma Hoff Reed  
Mary B. Burns  
Lucetta F. Carter  
Elizabeth S. Smith  
Kathrine Lewis  
Julia M. Bunnell





CPL. SETH GROSVENOR  
TROOP OF HORSE  
CONNECTICUT  
1777 - 1779

LUCRETIA G. ANNAWALT  
CHARTER MEMBER 1896  
EUNICE STERLING NSDAR

ENSIGN NATHAN BENNETT  
4th REGIMENT  
CONNECTICUT  
1776

EMMA HOFF REED  
CHARTER MEMBER 1896  
EUNICE STERLING NSDAR

SGT. DAVID FASSETT  
MINUTEMAN  
VERMONT  
1780 - 1781

LUCETTA F. CARTER  
CHARTER MEMBER 1896  
EUNICE STERLING NSDAR

PVT. CALEB STILES  
ARMY  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
1779 - 1780

ELIZABETH S. SMITH  
CHARTER MEMBER 1896  
EUNICE STERLING NSDAR

PVT. JOHN BURWELL  
MILITIA  
NEW JERSEY  
1780

MARY B. BURNS  
CHARTER MEMBER 1896  
EUNICE STERLING NSDAR

CAPT. ABIJAH STERLING  
MILITIA  
CONNECTICUT  
1775 - 1779

KATHERINE S. LEWIS  
CHARTER MEMBER 1896  
EUNICE STERLING NSDAR

CAPT. ABIJAH STERLING  
MILITIA  
CONNECTICUT  
1775 - 1779  
JULIA H. BUNNELL  
CHARTER MEMBER 1896  
EUNICE STERLING NSDAR

IN MEMORY OF OUR  
REVOLUTIONARY WAR  
PATRIOTS  
EUNICE STERLING NSDAR  
CHARTERED  
21 OCT 1896  
WICHITA, KS



**15. Memorial Grave marker for Honorary Regent Mrs. Richard Johnstone:** This marker was placed in 2019 near the headstone for Jueline (Judi) Johnstone, 1933 -2019.



This marker is new and is in excellent condition. The shaft of the marker has been inserted in an opening drilled in the stone and secured with an adhesive so it is quite stable. However, the head of the marker can easily be unscrewed from the shaft, which does put it at risk of theft.

Recommendations following the assessment of the monuments and markers:

1. Periodically check on the base of the North High flagpole to see if the repair has occurred. If it does not occur, find out who the person would be that could get this work done, and pursue trying to get the repairs executed.
2. Consider some improved way of securing the Nighswonger marker to help prevent its theft.