



COVINGTON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

Second Quarter - 2019

Revolutionary War Veteran Honored by the DAR

Last year Stephen Wilkinson, a Revolutionary War veteran, was honored by his descendents and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) with a new monument and a DAR marker. This year after a review of the Pearl Creek Cemetery record it was identified that a second veteran of the Revolutionary War was buried there – Noah W. Pratt.

Noah Pratt was born in Weymouth of Norfolk County, Massachusetts in 1755. He continued to reside in Massachusetts and married Desire Cole (1758-1831) of Bridgewater, Plymouth County in 1776.

Noah served in the Massachusetts Continental Army during the Revolutionary War under Colonel John Bailey and Colonel Sprout. He served as a private of the 4th Company. His service was validated as identified in the Genesee County Pension list of 1833.

Noah and his wife moved to Covington with his son Noah Webster Pratt and his family in 1817. His son Noah Webster was a veteran from the War of 1812. Noah passed away in 1835 and was buried in the Pearl Creek Cemetery.

On July 1, 2019, a DAR marker and American flag was placed on Noah's grave site honoring his service during the Revolutionary War by DAR representative Betsy Lowe.



What the Best Dressed Couple Wore to Church in the Mid-1800's

(Obtained from records compiled by Winifred Wellman McKeever on June 11, 1949.)

During the mid 19th century, apparel worn by men and women to church were both practical and fashionable. Much of their clothing was fashioned through their own skills. Remember it was also a time of no central heating so the amount of clothing worn during the winter months focused on conserving body heat.

The lady of the house would first put on a pair of flannels and her "steel board" (corset). A long chemise and woolen stockings followed these. Her petticoats would consist of a flannel petticoat, a quilted petticoat, and one or two tucked and ruffled petticoats. A woolen dress was then donned. For outerwear, she would have worn a cloak, blanket shawl, bonnet and veil, knitted mittens and wristlets, leggings and a pair of good stout shoes. She would have carried a little footstool for added warmth.

The gentleman of the house would put on a pair of heavy red flannels followed by a woolen shirt and woolen socks. A pair of heavy barn door trousers would complete his inner clothing. For his outerwear he would wear his best coat and an overcoat. His cap would be heavy with ear lappets. Heavy mittens and leather mittens would then be worn. This would sometimes be completed with a shawl.

It's amazing that they made it to church on time and it makes me thankful for central heating.

Peoria Coronet Band 1860-1895

(Taken from an interview of Samuel D. Gayton)

During the years of 1860 to 1895, Peoria was home of the Peoria Coronet Band. The band was organized during the Civil War and was kept together for many years following.

The band was lead by Jack Shay, and occasionally A. Hosea Thomas. Jack Shay was a cigar maker whose factory was located in Peoria. There were approximately 15 to 20 musicians in the band, including: James Fiero, John Fiero, Jerome Gay, James Nobels, Milford Clute, Frank Tryon, Charles Cromwell, Thomas Gordon, Jacob Cromwell, Dell Revere, George Poare, Charles Rauch, Charles Rowe, David Milligan, Robert Gordon, John Given, Adelbert DeRevere, and a Mr. Poe. Dick Whelock drove the bandwagon.

Their uniforms were modeled after those worn during the Civil War. They were dark blue in color with gold buttons. The band was transported to events in a big ornate bandwagon drawn by 4 horses (two teams in tandem).

The band was considered to be very expert and earned many awards for their performances. One story related that after performing in the Attica Fair they were awarded first place. When Jimmy Fiero, who played the bass drum and cymbals and was only 5'4" tall, heard they had won he was so elated he crossed the wide track with just one high and mighty step.

The Peoria Coronet Band was the pride of the Peoria community.