

## Flag Raised at Portage Ceremonies

By SARA W. ROBERTS  
[State Journal Correspondent]

**P**ORTAGE—For the first time, an American flag now waves over 100-year-old Ft. Winnebago national cemetery, where soldiers and heroes of eight wars from the first, the Revolution, to the last, the World combat, lie buried. Perhaps in no other cemetery in America are soldiers sleeping who took part in every major conflict in which this country has been involved—and it is fitting that the Stars and Stripes should fly above their graves—the colors should have marked the spot long ago.

The flag and 50-foot flagpole were the gifts of the United States government, who sent it after many years of petitioning by Wau Bun chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution whose members were appointed caretakers of the historic old cemetery in 1901.

### 100 At Ceremony

On Constitution day, Wau Bun chapter dedicated the flag and pole with an appropriate program and ceremony in the presence of about 100 persons, including Mrs. James F. Trottman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Regent of D. A. R.

With members of the Company F firing squad standing at attention, the program opened with the assembly call by D. Gundersoon, Boy Scout bugler, and the invocation, given by the Rev. Father Daniel Corrigan. Following the singing of "America" by the assembly, Mrs. Walter Washburn, Jr., historian of Wau Bun chapter gave a history of the cemetery. Thomas Sanderson, Jr., and Robert Sanderson, Scouts, raised the

flag while ten scouts, under the leadership of Harold McMahon stood at attention and gave the salute to the flag following its raising.

### Mrs. Trottman Speaks

Nestor Heller sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and little Jacqueline Gay gave a recitation "The Flag." State Regent, Mrs. James F. Trottman gave the address of dedication. Benediction by Father Corrigan and the bugle taps closed the program.

Since the days when the old military fort Winnebago was built on the bank of the Fox river in 1828, the cemetery has been there, a little wooded, fenced-in enclosure on a high knoll that overlooks the city of Portage. In the beginning, the cemetery was open to all and many of the leading families were buried there, including some of the officers and garrison of the old fort. Lack of space stopped this practice, the cemetery was fenced off and restricted to the military only.

Two soldiers of the American Revolution, Cooper Pixley and Alexander Porter are buried there. They are among the few Revolutionary soldiers buried in Wisconsin. Beside them lie heroes of the war of 1812, the Blackhawk, the Seminole, the Spanish-American, the Civil, the Mexican, and the World wars. Here an Indian boy, Archie White Eagle, descendant of the once powerful Winnebagoes who owned this land, and who fought with the United States army in France, sleeps.

In charge of the dedication services were Mrs. John B. Gay, past regent in whose regency the flag was received, Miss Gladys Porter and Mrs. C. W. Latimer, members of the committee that planned the program. Mrs. H. J. Puffer, as present regent, presided. Mrs. Trottman was an honor guest. A tea at the home of Mrs. Gay followed the program.