
by Carol Klusman

Janelle Ream of Elburn is a woman with a past, and it's not a past she wants to forget.

It's her family's ancestry that captivates Ream. Her lineage traces directly back to the Mayflower.

Ream's father, Dr. Richard Grayson, through meticulous research and a lot of old-fashioned legwork, provided the documents to prove the family's history. As a result, all three of Ream's children has certificates that read "Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois."

But the family's claim to fame didn't end with the Mayflower. Ream also have proof that a family member fought in the American Revolution.

Ream will soon become an official member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Although she has not yet received her certification, Ream has already provided the necessary documentation proving her lineage.

Becoming a member of the DAR takes comprehensive research and must be proved with documents tracing back every generation, including birth and marriage certificates.

Growing up, Janelle was a member of the Children of the American Revolution, but she allowed her membership to lapse. A friend sparked her interest in the group once again, so she decided to gather the paperwork and get involved.

But while Ream might enjoy studying her past, she's also a woman with a present and one who wants to create a strong foundation for her children.

Ream shares a strong interest in music with her husband and their children. In fact, she met her husband, Randy, while they both performed with the Fox Valley Concert Band, and they are both still involved in music today. She plays harp professionally and he plays saxophone in a jazz quartet.

It was Ream's mother who introduced her, as well as her two sisters and one brother, to the piano. Their piano backgrounds branched into other areas of music and provided a solid foundation for other musical instruments.