



## *The Delaware Crossing Patriot*

### *Kansas Society*

### *Sons of the American Revolution*

July 2018

Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

**When:** July 21

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S  
Strang Line Rd., Olathe, KS, 9:00AM

**Reservations & Cost:** For reservations, email  
[Secretary@dxsar.com](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.com) or call Preston  
Washington (816) 444-1198 by 3:00  
PM, the Wednesday before.

**Breakfast price:** \$17.00/person

**Program:** August Huber speaking on  
“Lafayette Annual Flag exchange”.(see  
writeup in this news letter)

#### **CALENDER & COMING EVENTS**

07/18 DX EC Meeting

07/21 DX Chapter Meeting

07/10-11 CAR Great Plains Regional - Topeka

07/13-18 Annual Congress – Houston

08/4 BOG Meeting - Emporia

#### **Editor's Note (Greg Millican)**

Send news about your ancestor patriots, special events, career changes, history trips, etc., that may be included in the *Delaware Crossing Patriot*. You may reach me at

[Gregory.millican@gmail.com](mailto:Gregory.millican@gmail.com) , and phone number (913) 268-4932.

**Don't forget to display your USA Flag this 4<sup>th</sup> of July.**



#### **The President's Corner**

By Kirk Rush

What is the Fourth of July about? Is it about having picnics or backyard barbecues with friends & family? Or maybe spending time out on the lake? Is it chance to blow your hand off or blow out your eardrums while mishandling fireworks? Maybe it's about watching a movie starring Will Smith fighting off an alien invasion from outer space?

These things are all good and fine ways to spend the Fourth of July (well, maybe not the mishandling fireworks part). But what is it really about?

Too often many Americans don't stop to ponder the real reason we celebrate Independence Day. They view it as a day off work and a chance to unwind. I think we, as members of the SAR, have a responsibility to remind our fellow Americans of why we celebrate. Too often, Americans take their freedoms for granted and forget (or just don't know) how hard our forefathers fought to gain our freedom and independence from an oppressive ruler.

How do we remind them of what it's about? By talking to them about what really happened in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. If you're a Color Guardsmen in the SAR, volunteer some time to participate in public gatherings or parades where

the SAR has been invited to attend. Even if you're not a color guardsman or are not able to participate, you can strike up a conversation with someone you meet at a fireworks show, parade, concert, or some other public event. It's important that we remember why the Fourth of July is so dear to us Americans.

*(End of President's Corner)*

**June Chapter Meeting in Review:**

Steven Harmon was inducted as new member at the June 16 chapter meeting. Steven's patriot during the Revolutionary War was John Lopp. Jim Mozena was Steven's sponsor.

Also, Dawson Ballard received a supplemental for his compatriot William Hansbrough, Sr.



*1 Steven Harmon raises hand to become DX newest member. Jim Mozena (right), sponsor.*



*2 Kirk Rush (right) presents Dawson Ballard with supplemental certificate.*



*3 Kirk presents Commendation to John Forbes, Program Speaker.*

**June 16 Program, "The Creation of the United States – Just saying it is so does not make it so":**

John Forbes was the speaker at the June 16 chapter meeting. John's talk consisted of issues and personalities that were in the mix during the creation and establishment of the United States government. What caused the people of that period to support the cause of establishing a new government.

**The program for July 21 by August Huber will be about Lafayette:**

The American Flag that flies over Lafayette's grave is changed annually at Picpus Cemetery in Paris with military pomp and circumstance. The ceremony is also highlighted by speeches of dignitaries including the US Ambassador to France. There are several wreaths laid including one by the American Friends of Lafayette.

**KS SAR Ladies Auxiliary August Project:**

The ladies are collecting school supplies for grades 9-12 in the Emporia School District to donate at their August 4th meeting in Emporia. An Emporia church coordinates efforts to give all K-8 students their supplies, but they do not provide for

the older students. If anyone would like to help us with our project, we would be most grateful. Supplies can be given to the men who will be coming to the BOG meeting or to Auxiliary members prior to the day of the meeting. On the needed list are: spiral notebooks, notebook paper (college rule), 3-ring notebooks (3 inch), black or blue ballpoint pens, #2 pencils, colored pencils, erasers, 2 pocket folders, facial tissues, and backpacks for all ages. If more information is needed, please contact me at [kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net). Thank you for your support. Ruby Nelson

**Our Forefathers Flags (Article by Ken Ludwig):**

As the new Color Guard Commander, one of my duties is to care for the flags that the chapter owns, along with making sure they are properly displayed at our chapter meetings.

A realization I had as I started working with these flags, is yes I have seen these before, but I really do not know their names, the significance in our country’s history that they played, nor what battles they may have been involved with. I suspect that many you, my compatriots probably have similar holes in their knowledge of this part of our history.

So I asked the President if I could invite all of you to join me in my journey of discovery, by allowing me to write a monthly article detailing information about our chapter’s flags. In addition, I invite you to come to the front of the room and look at the flags in detail at any of our chapter events.

Currently, the chapter owns 13 flags; the names of those flags are as follows.

- Bedford
- Bennington
- Betsy Ross

- Bunker Hill
- Gadsen
- Grand Old Union
- Guliford Courthouse
- Moultrie
- Pine Tree
- Serapis
- State of Kansas
- SAR
- United States Flag



4 The Bedford Flag

I plan on highlighting one flag per month, starting with the Bedford Flag. According to Wikipedia, the following is the history of this flag.

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The **Bedford Flag** is the oldest known flag in the United States. It is associated with the Minutemen of Bedford, Massachusetts and the Battles of Lexington and Concord of 1775.

Construction and design

The flag is made of crimson silk damask measuring approximately 27 by 29 inches (69 by 74 cm).

The painted-on design depicts an armored arm grasping a straight sword. The two sides are asymmetrical; the sword appears behind the motto on one side and appears in front of it on the other. The Latin motto *VINCE AUT MORIRE* ("Conquer Or Die") reads from top to bottom on one side and from bottom to top on the other.

### Origin

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The exact age and origin of the flag are not known, but physical and historical evidence are consistent with a date early in the 18th century. Because of its heraldic similarity to a documented flag made for a Massachusetts cavalry unit in the 1660s, historians thought that the Bedford flag might actually be that earlier flag. However, spectroscopic analysis of the paint revealed the pigment called "Prussian blue", which did not exist before 1704.

A commission dating to 1737 names Minuteman Nathaniel Page's father John Page as "Cornett of the Troop of horse", the officer whose duty it was to bear the unit's flag. Nathaniel's father, uncle and grandfather are all mentioned within the Bedford and Billerica town records as "Cornet Page", indicating that a Page could have been carrying a flag for the local militia troop as early as 1720.

### Concord, April 19, 1775

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Page family oral tradition, later recounted for historians, held that the Bedford militia's flag was in the custody of the Page family at the time of the American Revolution, and that Nathaniel Page took it into battle at Concord.

There is no documentary evidence, either from testimonies, depositions or diaries written at the time, or in participants' later memoirs, mentioning any such flag flown that at the battles of Lexington and Concord by either side. A Lieutenant of the British expedition to Concord noted a liberty pole with a cap and an unknown flag on it standing on a hill before Concord center.

British grenadiers chopped down the pole and destroyed the flag hours before Bedford's militiamen arrived outside Concord, far to the west of this hill.

### As a symbol of the Revolution

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Unit flags served an important function as a rallying point on the battlefields of the 18th century. With the passage of time, the Bedford flag came to be a political symbol of the early American Revolution and specifically the militia's resistance at Concord.

As the only militia flag present at the battle according to tradition, the flag is the likely inspiration for the opening lines of Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Concord Hymn*:

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The first mention of the "Bedford flag" by that name does not come until 1875. Cyrus Page sent the flag to the centennial celebration at Concord on April 19, 1875, and flew it from the old Page homestead for the 1879 Sesquicentennial of Bedford. In 1885, just before his death, he entrusted the flag to the Bedford Free Public Library, where it is still on display.

*(End of article from Wikipedia)*

*(End of Patriot newsletter)*