



# *The Delaware Crossing Patriot Kansas Society*

December 2015

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

## **NEXT MEETING:**

When: **Dec 11<sup>th</sup>** 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S Strang  
Line Rd. Olathe, KS

**Program:** American Legion Ensemble

**Reservations & Cost:** For reservations, e-mail  
[reserve@dxsar.com](mailto:reserve@dxsar.com) or call Stu Conrad at 913-  
897-3351 by 3:00 PM, the Wednesday before

## **COMING EVENTS CALANDER**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Dec 11    | Christmas Dinner Gala  |
| Dec 12    | Wreaths Across America –<br>Leavenworth Nat'l Cemetery 11:00 |
| Jan 16    | Chapter Meeting  |
| Feb 13    | Chapter Meeting  |
| Feb 20    | Geo Washington Birthday Lunch                                |
| Mar 18-19 | KSSSAR Conference  |

## **2015 CHRISTMAS GALA**

The annual Christmas Meeting Dinner will be held at the Hilton Garden in on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in December.

Come at 6:00 pm to begin the cash-bar happy hour, mix and mingle as the American Legion Band Wind Ensemble plays 'standards' and Christmas tunes starting at 6:45.

Dinner will be off the menu table-side starting promptly at 7:00 following posting of the Colors. Cost will be \$35.00/plate which covers the meal price, tax and gratuity, and room charges.



## **The President's Corner**

Brian Revard, Pres. DX

The Holiday Season is upon us! We all tend to be very busy this time of year with end of year work projects, shopping, cooking, traveling, visiting friends and families, church activities, etc. I hope that we can all take a deep breath and pause to remember how blessed we all are individually and as a nation.

I believe our patriot ancestors were incredibly brave and insightful to fight for and establish this great country that we live in today.

I hope you can make it to Leavenworth on the 12<sup>th</sup> for the Wreaths Across America ceremony. It is an inspirational and solemn event to honor our veterans. The night before, December 11<sup>th</sup>, is our chapter Christmas dinner. It will be a great time to enjoy some music and visit with friends.

2015 has been an exciting year for our chapter. I know that 2016 will be even better. Thank you for all your support of our activities. Have a Merry Christmas!

## **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

Don't forget to attend WAA on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Color Guard members should meet at the Hardee's in Leavenworth at 9:30 am and be ready to carpool to the cemetery at 10:15 for rehearsal. The ceremony begins at 11:00 sharp. The chapter will help hand out wreaths afterward – ALL ARE encouraged to attend.

## NEW MEMBER NEWS

Delaware Crossing is proud to be adding Five New Members to our membership this month, four of which were inducted at the November chapter meeting.



Pictured left to right: Duncan Bjerke, Wayne Washington, Preston Washington and David Pierson

Brothers **Wayne and Preston Washington**, from Kansas City, join us through their patriot ancestor Nancy Ward. Ward is a stand out not only because of her gender but because as a Patriot she was part of the Cherokee Nation and has a DAR chapter named after her in Tennessee. Wayne and Preston join three other brothers as members of the SAR including Curtis (TX), David (Seattle) and Russell (CA). Russell is a 14 year veteran of the NFL (Chargers) and Wayne was in the KC Chiefs camp in 1982 and an MU team standout.



**David Pierson** joins Delaware Crossing through his patriot ancestor Hodia Hooker. David has been an Overland Park resident since 1997, originally being from Hays. David is also a KU grad.

**Duncan Bjerke** was the fourth new inductee at last month's meeting. Unfortunately 'yours truly' didn't get a chance to visit with Duncan but more information will be forthcoming in next month's "*Patriot*"

**Scott Bjerke** has also joined the chapter but couldn't be in attendance at the November meeting. We look forward to inducting Scott soon and introducing both he and Duncan in a future issue.

We also had to gentlemen at November's meeting whom we hope to be able to introduce as members soon: Applicant, **Ken Ludwig** and Prospect, **Dave Dittamore** were present. Hope to see more of both of you in the near future.

## PAST PRESIDENTS HONORED

The November meeting marked our 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary and as part of the program we honored all past president's who were able to attend.



Pictured left to right above: Dennis Nelson 2009-10; Barney Ellis 2001-02; Dick Nelson 2004-05; Peter Grassl 2002-03; Robert Burt 1983-85; Bob Capps 2008-09; Tim Peterman 2007-08; Fred Kaffenberger 2010-11; Dewey Fry 2006-07; Richard Cox 2011-13; John Forbes 1995-97; Brian Revard 2014-present; Scott Larson 2013-14



We were especially pleased to have **Robert E. Burt** (1983-84) in attendance from California. Robert brought with him his family including son and DX member **Rodney Burt** and his wife LeeAnn, Bobbie Schlueter and her husband Randy, and daughter Lori Ragsdell. It was great to see Robert and Rodney again and especially nice to see so much of his family.

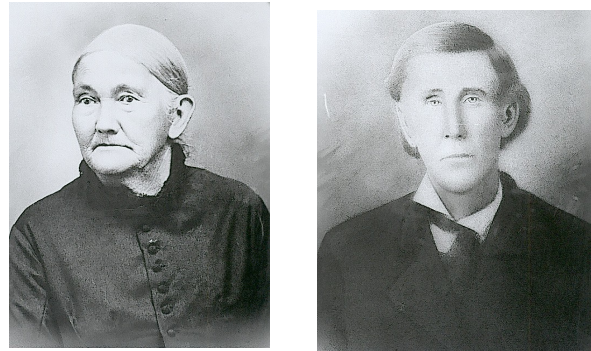
The program was given by Joe Brentano, curator at the Grinter Place – where the chapter first started meeting 55 years ago this year.



Annie and Moses Grinter operated a ferry across the Kansas river, and a trading post on the site that was built in the late 1850's. Annie Marshall Grinter was one of 10,000 native American Indians relocated to Kansas.

She was a member of the Lenape tribe (known in english as the “Delaware” tribe) and the ferry crossing they operated then serves as the origin of our chapter's name “Delaware Crossing”.

Grinter Place is operated by the Kansas State Historical Society and is the oldest preserved home in Wyandotte County.



The Delaware Crossing Chapter was chartered in November 1960, at the historic Grinter House in Wyandotte County and was named after the crossing used by the Delaware Indians on the Kansas

River (the Kaw). Moses Grinter operated the ferry there and lived in the house on the hill above the Delaware Crossing. The chapter's meetings were primarily exclusive social affairs and it was rather a “gentleman’s” club. The atmosphere was largely military, due to the military leadership.

In 1975, Judge Donald C. Little, founder of the chapter, called a meeting to select a new president. Those attending included John Duncan, “Fritz” Amos, Arthur M. King, John E. “Jack” Bayne and William B. Snyder. King was chosen as President and Bayne as Vice President. Immediately, there was a drastic change. Meetings were held more frequently and the membership was opened up.

The chapter grew rapidly from 20 to about 80 members in 1976. In 1980 there were 104 members. Membership continued to grow to a high point of 232 in 2006, then declined to 142; as of November 2015 there were 156 members.

The chapter has produced many distinguished compatriots in state, district and national offices. Those with primary membership in the Delaware

Crossing Chapter while serving follow. Presidents of the Kansas Society include Donald C. Little, C.Y. Thomas, Arthur M. King, Ralph H. Goodell, Jr., Robert O. Dickey, Robert E. Burt, Dr. Lee W. Patrick, John “Jack” Bayne, Herrick “Kes” Kesler, I. Barnett “Barney” Ellis, Peter O. Grassl, and Robert N. “Bob” Capps, Jr.

Among those who went on to national office were Robert Burt, who became Boy Scout Chairman and Genealogist General; G. Arthur Luther, Historian General, Orations Chairman and Registrar General; and Donald C. Little, Chancellor General.

Those attaining Vice President General include Donald C. Little, C.Y. Thomas II, Robert O. Dickey, Herrick “Kes” Kesler, and “Barney” Ellis. “Barney” Ellis held the office of President-SAR Foundation. Arthur M. King held the office of President General of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution.

A few of the accomplishments of the Delaware Crossing Chapter are:

- Founded the Eagle Scout Program that eventually became the NSSAR Arthur M and Berdena King Eagle Scout Scholarship program; had first national winner of the program.
- Led in forming the KSSSAR's Color Guard, which has received national awards
- Brought educational programs about the Constitution and Bill of Rights into classrooms.
- A leader in the establishment and ongoing co-sponsor of the annual George Washington Birthday Celebration in the Kansas City area
- Planted and permanently marked 13 tulip poplars in prominent places in Johnson County to celebrate George Washington's legacy to the nation with his favorite tree in 1999 in observance of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death
- Created the Kesler Youth Endowment Fund that

supports youth programs including Knight Essay, Rumbaugh Oration, King Eagle Scout, and Americanism Poster Contests

- Brought recognition to the role of the Delaware Indians in the Revolutionary War Victor



### MARY FRISCH HONORED



Mary Frisch was honored by the chapter at the November meeting, presenting her with the SAR Medal of Appreciation. Ms. Frisch is a Vice President General of the National Society DAR and is former State Regent (KS) and a member of the Mission Hills chapter, DAR.

The SAR Medal of Appreciation may be presented to a member of the DAR in good standing in recognition of and in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to the SAR. The award may recognize assistance in forming new SAR chapters, obtaining a specific number of new SAR members or otherwise significantly aiding the SAR programs.