



The Delaware Crossing Patriot

Kansas Society

July 2016

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

COMING EVENTS CALENDER

NEXT MEETING:

When: July 16

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

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email Secretary@dxsar.com or call Kirk Rush (913)789-0975 by 3:00 PM, the Wednesday before.

Program: Crossing the Dan – speaker: Chris Sizemore.

July 9-13 National Congress

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*. Be sure to read the “**The SAR Magazine**”, Spring 2016, Vol. 110 No. 4, pg. 28, for a write up of the poster contest success for the Delaware Crossing Chapter. You may reach me at Gregory.millican@gmail.com, and phone number (913) 268-4932.



The President's Corner

Stu Conrad, President, DX

July Fourth. What does it mean? Does it mean firecrackers? Burgers? Hot Dogs? Barbeque?

Baseball? Well, in a certain sense it means all these things, as they are attributes of freedom. What should it mean? In a larger sense it should cause us to reflect on the values and ideals that have made American great; that motivated our Patriot Ancestors to risk it all, to leave homes, wives and children to defend, advance, merely an idea.

And what an idea! That man should be free; that the natural state of man is freedom. On the back of our dollar bill you will find the obverse of the Great Seal of the United States. An unfinished pyramid, symbolizing that the job of building a nation based on certain principles is never truly finished, never truly done. The Latin words “Novus Ordo Seclorum” appear and, although it seems currently popular to claim that this, somehow, urges a new world order, the more direct translation is “a new order for the ages.” Some claim that these symbols come from the Freemasons. That controversy rages and will rage on but it need not divert us from the validity of the idea that is America.

A new order for the ages: The founding document of our Nation emphasizes that

Mankind does not exist in servitude to kings and princes ruling by divine right; mankind does not exercise rights by the sufferance of those kings and princes; instead our Declaration rings with the words that “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

This is an essential American idea: That mankind’s rights do not spring from the sufferance, the beneficence of kings and princes, but from mankind’s Creator. It was this idea that motivated our Patriot Ancestors; that moved them to leave all that they held dear to support that higher principle. Words matter. Though that dollar bill has diminishing value in our time, those principles, those ideals, should never lose their sparkle and value to us. Let us as the spawn of those patriots never lose sight of those principles such that government of the people, for the people and, as Brexit demonstrates, by the people, “never perish from the earth.” Enjoy your hot dog, but spare a thought for those who went before.

(End of President’s Corner)

John Adams to Abigail Adams, on the passing of the Declaration of Independence:

“I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the gloom I can see rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means.”

SAR Color Guard for John Barkley MoH:

On May 21, 2016 Kansas and Missouri chapters provided the color guard for the Medal of Honor Remembrance Ceremony for John Lewis Barkley at the Liberty WWI Museum hosted by the DAR.



1 Color Guard photo from Kathryn Walker West's post

In the above picture, left to right: Dewey Fry, Dennis Nelson, Robert Grover (Harry S. Truman), Lyman Miller (MC) Al Paris, (Independence Patriots), Mike Schmidt (William C. Corum), & James Scott (Independence Patriots), plus two more from MOSSAR not in this photo.



2 Photo from Kathryn Walker West's post of John Lewis Barkley, WWI hero.

It is Never too Late to Learn



3 Pictured at Aberdeen Village, Dewey Fry, Gavin Kurtz, Lyman Miller (MC)

On Flag Day, June 14, 2016, Compatriot Dewey Fry presented a program about flags to residents at the Highland Assisted Living Center at Aberdeen Village in Olathe. Assisting Dewey was his grandson, Compatriot Gavin Kurtz, and Compatriot Lyman Miller of the Monticello Chapter.

About 30 residents and staff attended the presentation. There was a Presentation of the Colors, the describing of 7 Colonial and US Flags, a flag folding ceremony, a laying of a wreath ceremony, a demonstrating of the cutting of a 5-pointed star with one ship of scissors, the describing of a Charleville musket and the playing of Taps.



4 Gavin Kurtz at flag display

The program lasted about an hour. Several compliments were received that day and more the following day. Several stated they had learned a lot about the colonial and US Flags; as most are older than 80 it was a testimony that we are never too old to learn.

At least two attendees plan to pursue DAR membership having mothers or grandmothers who were DAR. Aberdeen Village was presented a Flag Commendation Certificate for the proper flying of the US Flag.

Charleville musket used by US troops in Revolutionary War:



The **Charleville muskets** were 0.69 caliber French muskets used in the 18th century and 19th century. These muskets became known as "Charleville muskets", after the armory in Charleville-Mezieres, Ardennes, France.

The muskets were muzzle loaded, smooth bore, and use a flintlock firing mechanism. They typically fired a round ball, but could fire other ammunition such as "buck and ball" or shot. The rate of fire depended on the skill of the soldier, which was typically about three shots per minute.

Brown Bess musket used by British troops during Revolutionary War:



The **Long Land Pattern**, aka “Brown Bess” musket and its derivatives, all 0.75 caliber, flintlock, muzzle-loading, smoothbore muskets, were the standard long guns of the British Empire’s land forces from 1722 until 1838 when they were superseded by a percussion cap smoothbore musket. The term **Brown Bess** derived from the German words "brawn buss" or "braun buss", meaning "strong gun" or "brown gun". King George I, who never spoke English and commissioned its use, was from Germany.

June DX Chapter meeting:

In the June DX Chapter meeting, the induction ceremony for Macauley Greif, as a junior member, was administered by Stu Conrad. Macauley’s patriot name was Thomas Lay.



5 Induction ceremony of Macauley Greif. Left to Right: Stu Conrad, Macauley Greif, Tim Peterman(Registrar)

June DX program:

The DX program speaker for June was William Greiner, and the topic was “Revolution in Economic Development: The Full Circle – from Control to Free Markets and Back Again”. Mr. Greiner’s presentation was based on a book by Adam Smith, “*Wealth of*

Nations” and emphasized the present day economic theories presented in the book and the influence of the writing of the *Declaration of Independence*. The presentation included a discussion of free trade, free will, and the “invisible hand” of the open markets in Britain, Europe, and America. At the end of the presentation, Mr. Greiner allowed questions concerning our current economic situation.



6 June Speaker: William Greiner

Closing quote from Milton Friedman:
“If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in 5 years there’d be a shortage of sand”.

Medal for Heroism to be Awarded

Nathan “Nate” James Reichmuth, an Eagle Scout in Troop 122, will be awarded the Sons of the American Revolution Medal for Heroism at our July 16, chapter meeting. Nate was on a float trip with his family and their friends on the Black River in middle south Missouri, south of Mark Twain National Forest, on June 20, 2015. An overnight heavy rain caused the river to swell and become rough. The families decided to go rafting on the river anyway.

The water was so rough and rapid that the family friends Brett and Janet Miller and their son could not control the raft and it hit a pile of debris tossing them overboard and trapping them under a pile of logs and branches.

Nate's father went into the water to rescue the Millers but was swept away by the current. They feared for their lives and felt they were doomed to drown. Nate's father Joe entered the river to attempt to rescue the Millers but was swept downstream by the raging waters; he did safely reach shore downstream.

In an interview Nate said "When I saw no one else was coming back and they were still stuck on the log, I thought, 'I should probably do something about this.' "I just didn't think about it," he admitted. "Like I didn't think that my life was in danger at any moment. I just didn't focus on that at the time."

Using knowledge gained in Boy Scout Training, especially the Life Saving Merit Badge, Nate calmly maneuvered atop the log jam toward the Millers; Upon reaching them, Nate calmed the couple down and then ushered them to the edge of the log. Once others in the party arrived back on the scene, Nate instructed the Millers to let the current carry them downstream. One by one, all three carefully pushed away from the log, floated downstream, and safely reached the shore where they were pulled from the river. Nate stated "I just didn't think about it. Like I didn't think that my life was in danger at any moment. I just didn't focus on that at the time."

Nate was honored at a Kansas City Royals game on April 10, 2016 by sitting the Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat.



7 Nate Reichmuth with Dad at Royals game (hoac-bsa.org)

On Monday May 16, 2016 at the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, KS, Nate was awarded the Boy Scout of America's Life Saving Award, Honor Medal. An average of only 27 annually of this award is presented.



8 Nate Reichmuth with Boy Scout Honor Medal (KCTV5)

Nate is typical of most of those honored with for acts of heroism, as he stated "I just kind of felt like I was doing what anyone should've done in that situation."

Nate is the son of Joseph and Lorrie Reichmuth of Overland Park, a recent graduate of Olathe South High School and is now enrolled at Kansas State University to attend this fall.