



The Delaware Crossing Patriot
Kansas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
May 2020
Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

NEXT MEETING:

When: To Be Announced

Where: Hilton Garden Inn. 12080 Strang Line Road, Olathe, KS 66062, 9:00AM

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

Breakfast Cost: \$17.00/person

Program: Chapter Awards

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

Pending due to the coronavirus.

The President's Corner



By Ken Ludwig

Greeting Compatriots!

I hope each and every one of you is staying well and have avoided catching this Covid 19 virus. Well they are calling this a war against an invisible enemy. We are advised that it is risky to leave our homes, even to procure food and other necessary supplies (like toilet paper). When I hear those types of words, my thoughts go back to what was war like for our patriot

ancestors? What did they risk and sacrifice to win the war?

Today we manage many of the risks in our lives by purchasing insurance policies for fire, theft, life, disability, long term care, etc. I researched the question “Did they have insurance in Colonial America?” Well the answer is they did have maritime insurance, to cover the cargo as it was transporting over the sea, but really not much else. Benjamin Franklin cofounded the first insurance company in America in 1752 to insure houses from fire in Philadelphia. He followed that with being instrumental in starting the first life insurance company in 1759. So life insurance was in existence, but I suspect most people did not own a policy.

We also have many safety nets like unemployment insurance, food stamps, Medicaid and other social programs to make sure people are cared for.

In colonial times, I believe people were much more self-sufficient then we are today. In the rural areas they built their homes out of timber they logged on their land. They hunted, fished, and raised animals. They planted crops and vegetables to obtain their food. They made their own clothes. Medicine was not what it is today, and with no antibiotics, a small cut could kill you if it got infected. Many things that killed people then are just routine treatments today.

They also did not have our social programs, so if you did not work, you did not eat.

So when someone went off to war, they were really risking everything. If they died, since women could not own property, their wives and children were suddenly destitute. If they were injured and did not die from the injury, they again really sacrificed their economic future, as they would struggle to earn a living if they were disabled. Also when they were off fighting the war, there was no one at home to plant and tend to the land and animals, i.e. no one working to provide food and livelihood for the family.

Today it seems like every little setback, our populace is asking the government to bail them out of the situation they find themselves in, whether self-induced or externally generated like this virus. I am sure our ancestors would shake their heads at that attitude.

One of Ben Franklin’s quotes is “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail”. It appears that many were not prepared for this pandemic, so the lesson to learn here is to prepare the best we can for any potential future events. Insure what risks we can and be smart about the rest of the risks we face. Save some money. Keep a stash of emergency supplies.

Take a page out of our ancestor’s playbook and work to be more self-sufficient. Encourage everyone you know to do the same.

Ken Ludwig

Editor’s Note

Due to uncertainty caused by the coronavirus, our future chapter meetings are pending an all-clear announcement from the authorities.

Therefore, I am in need of articles for the “Patriot” newsletter to make-up for the lack of meeting reports. Please forward to me at larrytatum@aol.com, any news, ancestor information, history trips or items of interest to the chapter members.

Your help is greatly appreciated,

Larry Tatum, Editor



This Month in the Revolutionary War

May, 1775 was an extremely busy month as the Revolutionary War begins to take shape. Two events occur on May 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia and the siege of Fort Ticonderoga begins.

Notable new arrivals to participate in the Second Congress included Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and John Hancock of Massachusetts, who would serve as president. Only twelve of the Thirteen Colonies were represented when the Second Continental Congress convened, for as in the First Congress, Georgia was not represented. However, on May 13, 1775 Lyman Hall was admitted, not as a delegate of the Colony of

Georgia but as a delegate from the Parish of St. John's in the Colony of Georgia.

Once the Congress was opened, it quickly took action to ban trade with Canada on May 17, 1775.

On May 9, 1775, the American forces of the Green Mountain Boys were camped close to Fort Ticonderoga in order to invade the Fort on the following morning.

Stores of munitions, including 100 canons, at Fort Ticonderoga and its strategic position controlling the waterways of Canada made it a prime objective at the beginning of the Revolution. Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys were joined by Benedict Arnold, who left the siege of Boston without his troops, as he hurried to participate in the battle.

Arnold attempted to take command of the expedition, but the Green Mountain Boys refused to follow him. The two leaders agreed to share command.

At dawn on May 10, 1775, 100 men slipped into the Fort as the British soldiers slept. Allen yelled, "Come out of there, you damned old rat!" and the commander of the Fort appeared and surrendered.

On May 25, 1775 British generals William Howe, John Burgoyne, and Henry Clinton arrived with troops to help General Gage break out of the siege of Boston. Thus, setting up next month's history "the Battle of Bunker Hill".

Keep safe and healthy.