



The Delaware Crossing Patriot

Kansas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

January 2019 Revised . (Revised text is in blue font.)

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

NEXT MEETING:

When: January 19

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S Strang
Line Rd., Olathe, KS, 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 price: \$17.00/person

Program: Election of Officers; plus Dr. Tom
Vontz on "What are the political ideas on
which all Americans seem to agree?" See
Writeup below

CALENDER & COMING EVENTS

01/16 DX EC Meeting, at Pegah's, 2122 W.87th St,
Lenexa, KS; be there at 5:30 PM if eating dinner.
Meeting begins at 6:00 PM.

01/19 Chapter Meeting.

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 , and phone number
(913) 268-4932.



The President's Corner

By Kirk Rush

Compatriots,

Wow! Another year has flown by. This year went especially fast for me: three job changes with the current job being about the best one I ever had; one son returned to Thailand and got engaged to a beautiful Thai girl; and the other son is deployed with the Kansas National Guard in Kuwait and Jordan. 2018 started out kind of rough with a job loss after working there for 17 years and accepting the positions of president for DXSAR and Eagle Scout Chairman for KSSSAR; all just in the month of March! After that, the year started moving forward in a positive direction with a new job in April, another new job in October, and is ending as one of the best years I've ever had. My family and I are truly blessed.

As I look forward to 2019 I am taking stock of what I have gained and the wonderful things I anticipate will happen this year. Like many of us, I am reviewing changes I want to make in my life and getting ready to make New Year's Resolutions.

One of my resolutions is to continue my commitment to supporting the SAR. I ask that you join me in this commitment by actively supporting the Delaware Crossing Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Take time to remember your Patriot Ancestor and consider the commitment he made to support our fledgling country. Become actively involved with our

chapter. Consider participating in the Color Guard. Volunteer for a position on the Executive Committee; we have many opportunities available. Attend our monthly meetings. If you haven't been to one lately, you're missing out. Each month we have excellent programs given by very knowledgeable presenters on a wide variety of topics. Ask yourself why you haven't attended lately and then see what you can do to change that.

If you don't care for the topics of our presentations or you have an idea for one, please let me know. Send an email to me at kirkrush@att.net or to the chapter secretary at secretary@dxsar.com. Let us know what you'd like to see. Our VP of Programs will thank you! If you haven't been attending for another reason please let us know why so we can try to fix it. Happy New Year! Let's all resolve to make 2019 one of the best years ever for Delaware Crossing!

(End of President's Corner)

Wreaths-Across-America 2018:

The following is part of an email from Wayne Hanson-Chairman of the Board, and Karen Worcester-Executive Director of Wreaths Across America.

“On behalf of the Wreaths Across America organization and the Worcester family we want to thank you for your unwavering dedication to the Mission to Remember, Honor and Teach. With your help just under 1,800,000 veterans' wreaths were placed at 1,640 locations nationwide with the attendance at ceremonies growing across the board.

Another historic milestone was also accomplished this year. For the first time ever, some 9,387 Maine made Balsam Fir veterans' wreaths were

placed at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France.”

At Leavenworth National 5661 wreaths were laid to **Remember** the veterans by and estimate 1200 volunteers. As of December 20, 2018, 5861 have been sponsored. Those purchased too late to ship this year will be delivered in 2019. 190 Wreaths we furnished through our Delaware Crossing Chapter. 100 of the 190 were sponsored by Compatriot David Pierson, to whom we express our sincere gratitude and admiration. We also need to thank Compatriot Rob Stickley for volunteering as a Section Lead, had he not done so the KSSSAR Color Guard would not have had the honor of laying wreaths ceremonially as it has done for the eight previous years.

The 190 Wreaths generated \$950.00 to be divided between our Veterans Fund and Kesler Youth Endowment Fund, thus helping to fulfill the **Honor** and **Teach** goals of Wreaths Across America.

Finally, the wreaths must be removed from the cemetery after one month; the removal and disposal is scheduled for 10:00 am Saturday January 19. Several of us plan to attend our Chapter meeting that morning and will not be at the cemetery; any who wish to be a part of the wreath removal should do so.

*Dewey Fry, Wreaths Across America Committee
Chairman, Delaware Crossing Chapter*



1 KSSAR Color Guard Retiring; Dennis Nelson, Kirk Rush, Dewey Fry, and Richard Cox



2 Honoring veterans at Wreaths-Across-America.

December Christmas Party and Chapter Meeting in Review:

A string quartet from Blue Valley Northwest High School played at the Christmas Party, 6:30 PM to

7:30 PM. They played a variety of holiday music, patriot, old popular, and classical. The students playing were: Kenny Liou, Grade 11, 1st Violin, Shaurir Ramanujan, Grade 10, 2nd Violin, Max Rush, Grade 12, Bass and Naomi James, Grade 10, Viola.



3 Quartet (l to r) Kenny Liou, Shaurir Ramanujan, Max Rush, Naomi James.

Speaker for Jan 19, 2019 Chapter meeting:



Thomas S. Vontz. Professor Vontz directs Kansas State University's Center for Social Studies Education and teaches in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. He is Kansas State Coordinator of the We the People and Project Citizen programs and past-president of the Kansas State University Faculty Senate and Kansas Council for the Social Studies. He is active in international democracy development and has worked directly with students, teachers, administrators and/or embassy officials in Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Pakistan, and Russia. He has written or co-written number of journal articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, curriculum materials,

programmatic grants, and a comparative civics textbook published by CQ Press, *Exploring Political Ideas* (with Stephen Schechter and Margaret Branson). He also served as Executive Associate Editor of Cengage's *American Governance*, an award-winning scholarly encyclopedia that explores the multiple ways Americans govern themselves. Most recently (2018), he authored (with Spencer Clark and Stephen Schechter) a book chapter, "Populism, Democracy, and the Education of Citizens," that appears in Information Age Publishing's *Democracy's Discontent and Civic Learning*, Charles S. White, editor.

Dr. Vontz will speak at the Jan 19 chapter meeting on "What are the political ideas on which all Americans agree?" A Part 2 follow on, led by Ken Thomas, on May 18, from Blue Valley NW High School is to bring three students to do a mock congressional hearing.

Article by Ken Ludwig):

Our Forefathers Flags

THE GRAND UNION FLAG

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4 *Grand Union Flag.*

The "**Grand Union Flag**" (also known as the "**Continental Colors**", the "**Congress Flag**", the "**Cambridge Flag**", and the "**First Navy Ensign**") is considered to be the first national flag of the United States of America.

This flag consisted of 13 alternating red and white stripes (like the current U.S. flag), but with the upper inner corner or canton resembling the British Union Flag of the time (prior to the inclusion of St. Patrick's Saltire after the 1801 union of Ireland and Great Britain).

By the end of 1775, during the first year of the American Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress operated as a de facto war government authorizing the creation of an Army, a Navy and even a small Marine Corps. A new flag was needed to represent the Congress and fledgling nation, initially the United Colonies, with a banner distinct from the British Red Ensign flown from civilian and merchant vessels, the White Ensign of the British Royal Navy, and the British Union flags carried by the British Army's men on land. Individual states had been using their own independent flags with Massachusetts using the Taunton Flag and New York using the George Rex Flag prior to the adoption of the Grand Union Flag.

The U.S. colonists' (Continental Colour) was first hoisted on the colonial warship *Alfred*, in the harbor on the western shore of the Delaware River at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 3, 1775, by newly-appointed Lieutenant John Paul Jones of the formative Continental Navy. The event had been documented in letters to Congress and eyewitness accounts. The flag was used by the U.S. Continental Army forces as both a naval ensign and garrison flag throughout 1776 and early 1777.

It is not known for certain when or by whom the design of the Continental Colors was created, but the flag could easily be produced by sewing white stripes onto the British Red Ensigns. The "*Alfred*" flag has been credited to Margaret Manny.

It was widely believed that the flag was raised by George Washington's Army on New Year's Day, 1776, at Prospect Hill in Charlestown (now part of Somerville), near his headquarters at Cambridge, Massachusetts, (across the Charles River to the north from Boston), which was then surrounding and laying siege to the British forces then occupying the city, and that the flag was interpreted by British military observers in the city under commanding General Thomas Gage, as a sign of surrender. Some scholars dispute the traditional account and conclude that the flag raised at Prospect Hill was probably a British union flag.

The name "Grand Union" is contemporary to Reconstruction-era historians and was first applied to the Continental Colors by George Henry Preble, in his 1872 *History of the American Flag*.

The design of the flag is strikingly similar to the flag of the British East India Company (EIC). Indeed, certain EIC designs in use since 1707 (when the canton was changed from the flag of England to that of the Kingdom of Great Britain) were nearly identical, but the number of stripes

varied from 9 to 15. That EIC flags could be well have been known by the U.S. colonists has been the basis of a theory of the origin of the national flag's design.

The Flag Act of 1777 by the Continental Congress authorized a new official national flag of a design similar to that of the Colors, with thirteen stars (representing the thirteen States) on a field of blue replacing the British Union Flag in the canton. The resolution describes only "a new constellation" for the arrangement of the white stars in the blue canton so a number of designs were later interpreted and made with a circle of equal stars, another circle with one star in the center, and various designs of even or alternate horizontal rows of stars, even the "Bennington flag" from Bennington, Vermont which had the number "76" surmounted by an arch of 13 stars, later also becoming known in 1976 as the "Bicentennial Flag". The combined crosses in the British Union flag symbolized the union of the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland. The symbolism of a union of equal parts was retained in the new U.S. flag, as described in the Flag Resolution of June 14, 1777 (later celebrated in U.S. culture and history as "Flag Day").

(End of Grand Union Flag article)

(End of Patriot newsletter)