



The Delaware Crossing Patriot
Kansas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
 September 2024
 Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

The Revolution is coming!
One Year- Ten Months - Four Days

NEXT MEETING:

When: September 21, 2024

Where: Shelter House #1, Antioch Park,
 6501 Antioch Road, Merriam, KS. Food
 Served at Noon.

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email
Secretary@dxsar.com or by calling Dewey Fry
 at 913-897-9502 by 8:00pm Saturday, September
 14th.

Cost: \$16.00/person, \$8.00/ age 12 to 6,
 under 6 Free .

Program: Annual Picnic & Flag Retirement
 Ceremony.

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

September 2024

- 18 DX EC Meeting
- 21 DX Chapter Meeting

October 2024

- 16 DX EC Meeting
- 19 DX Chapter Meeting

November 2024

- 5 BOG Meeting
- 16 DX EC Meeting
- 19 DX Chapter Meeting

The President's Corner



By Ken Ludwig

One of the challenges of the office of President is to come up with a short article for the newsletter each month. I trolled the internet to gather some inspiration for this month's message.

So, my question to you this month is Labor Day a patriotic day? I stumbled across this message from one of our former Presidents.

August 31, 1988

Each Labor Day, we pause as a Nation to honor some of the greatest heroes of the American story. On this 94th Labor Day, I ask all Americans to join me in offering heartfelt thanks and praise to working men and women.

We salute working people because they have built our land with skill, energy, and resourcefulness, transforming raw materials into a shining edifice of freedom and prosperity. On Labor Day we recognize these achievements and reflect on the meaning and dignity of work and on the values, it protects and strengthens -- the values we as a Nation hold most dear. In both peacetime and time of war, American workers have always offered each other and the world their very best, affirming their liberty as individuals and as members of a team and promoting the ideals of free enterprise and democracy here and around the globe.

America's workers continue to display the spirit, ingenuity, and adaptability to new conditions that labor and employers alike need if our economy is to continue to grow. This willingness to meet every challenge speaks volumes about the health and vitality of our way of life. Let us always remember that so much of what we are, we owe to working men and women. God gave us this land, but, under His good graces, the labor of our people has helped it flourish and pour forth its plenty for ourselves and the world. For all these reasons, America celebrates Labor Day, 1988 with fresh gratitude and pride.

Ronald Reagan

I thought this message, even 36 years later, is still very relevant and applicable.

As I think about it, one of the reasons we won WWII was the vast resources we have that through our labor we were able to turn into the materials

needed to support the war effort. The whole nation was unified in their support of the war effort. We consider people who provided material support patriots and can use them for entrance into the SAR. Much of that material support was using their labor to turn the resources into things needed for the war effort.

September brings our annual chapter picnic and flag retirement ceremony. I encourage you all to join us at this enjoyable event, and please bring your tired flags for retirement.

Just to keep everyone up to speed, earlier this year, when I put out a call for members to join the executive committee since we had several people drop out of our elected officer positions due to unforeseen health issues, we had one person, Vincent Clark, who stepped forward to fill one of the positions. At last month's meeting, he was elected to the Executive Vice President position. I want to extend a sincere thank you for his willingness to serve the chapter.



Curator and Director of Collections, Zachary Distel.

A Peek into the SAR Museum Collection by Bruce Smith

On Saturday, August 17, the Delaware Crossing Chapter was pleased to host a Zoom Meeting presentation by Zachary Distel, Curator and

Director of Collections at the SAR Museum in Louisville, KY (zdistel@sar.org). Anyone who has been to the SAR Headquarters in Louisville knows that there is a controlled access room in the basement containing all sorts of remarkable material that will see the light of day as display items when the new SAR Museum opens its doors in two years for the 250th Anniversary of the Revolution.

I attended Zac's presentation on new items in the collections at the recent SAR Congress in Lancaster, after which he offered to connect with state and chapter groups to discuss the collections. After John Martin, our VP of Programs, and I provided some input, Zac customized a DX Chapter presentation.

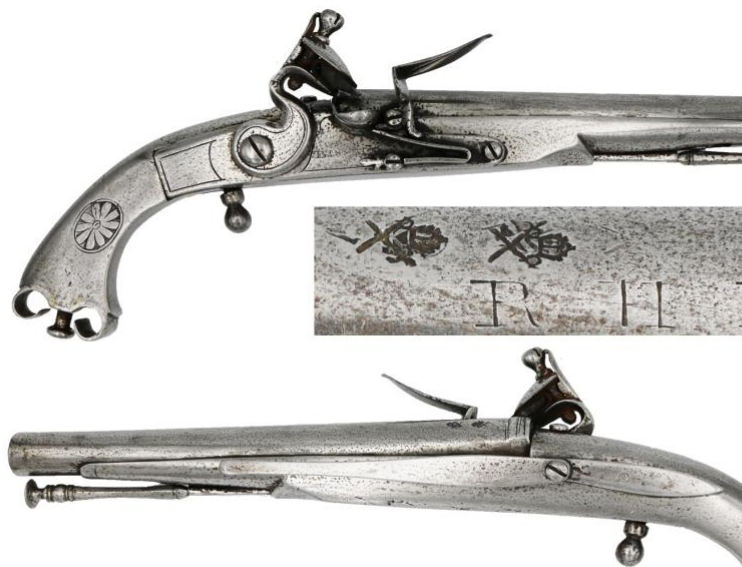
One never knows how the technology will work, but on this occasion, thankfully, it worked like a charm. Zac spent about 40 minutes showing some recent additions to the museum's holdings, along with several items of immense historical importance, some of which are one-of-a-kind pieces. SAR members have made quite a few donations, while descendants of the patriots have provided other items. The nice thing about the presentation was that besides showing and describing the items, an excellent historical context on the person, events, and significance associated with each was provided.

Items shown included several fowlers (including one used at Bunker Hill), pistols, silver items, diaries, payrolls (including one issued at Valley Forge), discharge papers (including one signed by Washington), passes (including one for Boston Harbor signed by a patriot who had previously participated in the Boston Tea Party), land grants, colonial currency, and portraits (including one by Peale). The program ended with an in-depth review of items in the Capt. John Armstrong collection, donated by his descendants. Armstrong fought in 12 engagements as a member of the Pennsylvania Line and, after the war, undertook clandestine scouting sorties as a precursor to the

Lewis and Clark expedition and fought as a member of the US Army in the Northwest Territory.

In response to my question, the session ended with Zac inviting compatriots to support the museum by donating authenticated period items for display or making financial contributions to the SAR Museum and Education Fund. For those who are unaware, the museum will open with traditional displays of artifacts. However, additional funding is still needed to support the interactive exhibits' development, production, and installation. These latter items will be geared to educate school-aged children on the Revolution in a hands-on way. Zac makes a quarterly presentation on Zoom to update compatriots on additions to the collections.

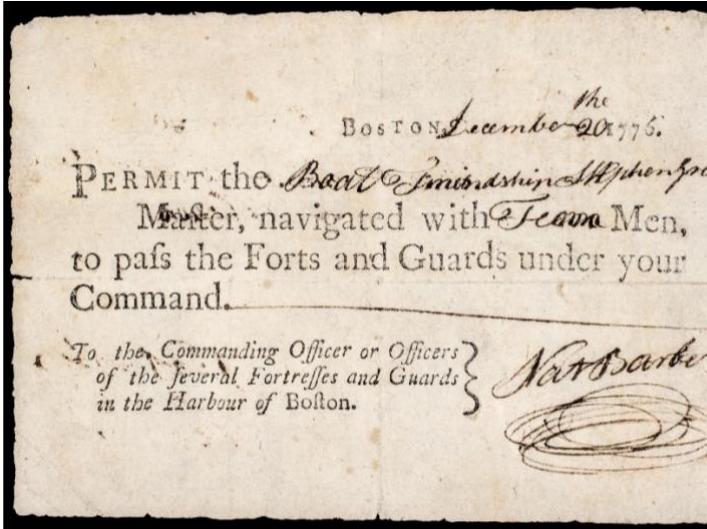
His most recent was on items related to Tradesmen in the Revolution. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16 at 11:30 am Central Time. Rae Ann Sauer (rsauer@sar.org) at SAR HQ can sign you up for the meeting link. I encourage you to attend these wonderful sessions.



Royal Highland Regiment Steel Pistol circa 1770



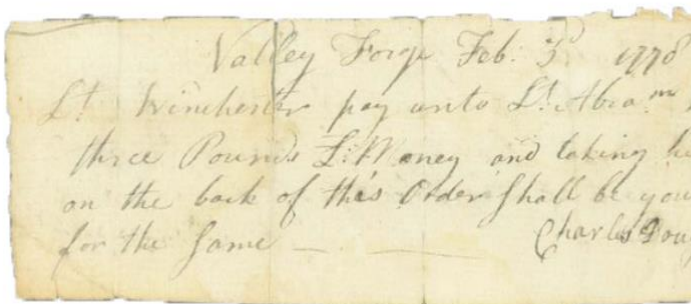
Capt. John Armstrong's Travel Trunk



Boston Harbor Pass December 10, 1776



Dr. James Craik, Washington's Personal Physician, by Charles Wilson Peale at Valley Forge



Valley Forge Payroll Voucher February 3, 1778



2024 Contest participants: McKenna Rhodes, Sydney Esh and Nathan Phillips.

YOUTH CONTEST TIME **by Bruce Smith**

Yes, the new school year is upon us!

It is always exciting to have the opportunity to support our elementary, middle, and high school students as they pursue their interest in American History by entering SAR Youth Contests.

It is gratifying to convey that the Delaware Crossing Chapter will support a new SAR Youth Contest: the **Youth Video Contest**. This contest was conceived to provide opportunities for students to utilize technology in a way not available in other programs.

This Youth Video Contest is open to middle and high school students (6th-12th grades). They will compete in one combined category, as pilot testing has shown that both groups have similar video production capabilities. The video should be no less than three and no more than five minutes in length. Students may enter as individuals or groups, but only one prize is awarded per entry.

The Delaware Crossing Chapter will offer one prize of \$500 to the first-place entry. As we gauge interest, additional prize levels may be considered in future years.

For more details, including rules, entry forms, and similar information, please refer to the SAR National website at <https://www.sar.org/youth-video-contest/>.

If you have any questions related to the Video contest, please feel free to contact me.

The Delaware Crossing Chapter will also continue our support of:

The Elementary School Poster Contest: Dewey Fry, Chairman.

The Sgt. Moses Adams Middle School Brochure Contest: Bruce Smith, Chairman.

The King Eagle Scout Contest: Kirk Rush, Chairman.

The Rumbaugh Oration Contest: Bruce Smith, Chairman.

The Knight Essay Contest: Bruce Smith, Chairman.

The Lawrence American History Teacher Contest: Bruce Smith, Chairman.

Please refer to the Delaware Crossing Chapter or National SAR website for information related to any of these contests. Depending on the number and quality of entries, these contests will continue to award first-, second-, and third-place prizes.

There is a strict December 31, 2024 submission deadline for entries into the Eagle Scout, Rumbaugh Oration, Knight Essay, and Youth Video Contests. For these contests, the turnaround times for chapter and state judging to meet national submission deadlines are very tight.

Please assist the chapter by encouraging your children, grandchildren, acquaintances, youth or church club, and other students to consider participating. You can also introduce chairmen to various contacts to speak about these contests, as entrants come from a wide variety of sources. The chairmen offer considerable support and guidance so each student can put their best effort forward.

Please consider donating to the Chapter's **Kessler Youth Fund** if you can. As contests and the cost of education grow, the Fund is reaching capacity to support prizes. If Delaware Crossing is to continue to lead the way in Kansas Youth Contests, attracting motivated candidates is critical.

Having chapter contestants in the state and national finals is a considerable source of pride. It also helps us meet one of the SAR's primary goals, that of educating future generations about the American Revolution. We have been very fortunate recently to have Essay candidates finish 5th, 5th, and 2nd nationally in the past three years, and our most recent Eagle Scout contestant placed as a prize winner. Last year, the chapter placed first in each contest at the state level!



On the Road by Bruce Smith

During or after this August Delaware Crossing Chapter meeting, you may have heard or seen me running out to get to my car and on the road. Where to? Lexington, KY!

As mentioned in the Revolutionary Minute by compatriot Alan Martin, the weekend of August 17-18 was the annual commemoration of the Battle of Blue Licks. This is a national SAR event. Blue Licks was one of the last engagements in the war (August 19, 1782) and a British, or should I say, Tory, victory. Against Daniel Boone's warning that he felt they were walking into a trap, the militia leaders moved their men through a series of ravines as they advanced uphill from a ford on the Licking River, only to be halted by Tory militia holding the high ground. This was a fairly even fight, but while the Tories held the American militia advance in check, flanking attacks by their Indian allies created a rout. Many of the American fallen were buried in a mass grave on the site, which is now in Blue Licks Battlefield State Park. There were about 100 American casualties out of about 180 engaged, compared to about 20 out of 350 deployed by the Tories and their allies.

A number of the survivors retreated to Lexington. Outside Lexington is the Bethel Church. The current Church, built in the 1840s, is the third church on the site. At least ten known patriots are buried in the cemetery, and research is ongoing to identify others. In fact, during the memorial service, two more were named as recently identified. This is a painstaking process as many graves were lost to time, and ground penetrating radar and other studies were needed to find grave locations. This included a mass grave from a cholera epidemic. Many of those patriots buried were church founders and veterans of Blue Licks.

Five patriots were remembered in this service: Thomas Dinwiddie, James Duncan, Thomas McClure, Robert Marshall, and Joseph Patterson.

This was a national event, with PG Addington, several state presidents, and VPGs present. National Commander Collins led a color guard of 26 and a rifle squad of 18 compatriots. A large number of commemorative wreaths were placed, including one for Kansas. Delegations from TX, FL, GA, NC, VA, OH, KY, and TN were noted.

The service ended with the unveiling of a monument containing the names of the current ten patriots, with two more now needing to be added. Refreshments were served (thankfully, as 94% humidity made it feel like 100 degrees). Those attending were then invited to Sunday Church services.

An opportunity was also presented to visit Fort Boonesborough State Park. This faithful reproduction of the original fort is set about three hundred yards farther uphill. It was made using information from archeological excavations and maps of the original site as sources. The original fort location is marked with a monument and is along the Kentucky River. Besides Blue Licks, the siege of Boonesborough (September 1778) was the other major Revolution Military event in Kentucky. In this case, the inhabitants successfully repelled attacks and a siege lasting 11 days against

great odds: 40 KY militia versus 450 Tory militia and allied Shawnee Indians. Boone had been a prisoner in the Shawnee Village and overheard the plans to attack the fort. He escaped in time to warn the settlers to prepare.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable weekend, even though I had no time to make any stops on the Bourbon Trail between Louisville and Lexington. Maybe next time.



Plan to Attend THE ANNUAL

DELAWARE CROSSING PICNIC

ANNUAL PICNIC
DELAWARE CROSSING CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

**At Shelter House No. 1, Antioch Park,
 6501 Antioch Rd, Merriam, KS**
(See accompanying map, use the South Entrance)
Food Served at Noon




The menu will be smoked beef brisket, smoked pulled pork, baked beans, potato salad and coleslaw. There will be bottled water, lemonade and iced tea to drink and cookies for desert.

Restrooms are close to the shelter.

Setup will begin at 9:00am. Social time will can begin as early as 10:00am. Call to order will be at 11:50 am. Come and enjoy the fellowship, food, patriotism. There are paved paths on which to stroll and a lake to view. Invite family members and the prospective members who are actively working with you on their applications.

There is a moderate distance walk from the shelter to the Fire Circle for the Memorial Service and Flag Retirement Ceremony. Parking near the Fire Circle is limited.

Food planning is more critical than for a normal meeting as it is being prepared by Dewey and Pat Fry, so please make your reservations in a soon as possible. We want to make sure there is enough food. To make reservations for the picnic, email to secretary@dssar.org or call Dewey Fry at 913-897-9502 by 8:00 PM Saturday September 14, 2024 as food preparation plans will be finalized on Saturday September 14. The fee is \$16.00 for those 13 and older, \$8.00 for children 6 through 12 and free to those under 6. In making your reservations please indicate the number in each age group.

**1:00 PM: Memorial Service
 and Flag Retirement Ceremony**

Memory At 1:00 PM at the Fire Circle, a brief Memorial Service for recently deceased members of Delaware Crossing, Monticello and Henry Leavenworth Chapters will be conducted; immediately thereafter, the Color Guard will conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony with participation of members of the Boy Scouts of America. An adequate number of flags have been acquired for the ceremony; however, if you wish to retire a flag you may, please prepare it by cutting the eyelets from it, then cut the blue field from it, then cut each stripe from it. C.A.R. Societies and KSDAR Chapters and each Boy Scout participating will be awarded Flag Retirement Certificates.

