



# *The Delaware Crossing Patriot Kansas Society*

January 2015

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

## **NEXT MEETING:**

When: 1/17/15 – 0900 hrs  
Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S Strang  
Line Rd. Olathe, KS

**Program:** John Forbes on the Kansas 11<sup>th</sup>

**Reservations & Cost:** For reservations, e-mail [reserve@dxsar.com](mailto:reserve@dxsar.com) or call Richard Cox at 913-387-7598 by 3:00 PM, the Wednesday before.

## **COMING EVENTS CALANDER**

Jan 17: Chapter Meeting  
Feb 01: BOG – Emporia @ 10:00  
Feb 14: Chapter Meeting  
Feb 21: GWBC Luncheon  
Mar 08: Spring Leadership Conference  
Mar 14: DX Chapter Meeting  
Mar 21: KSSSAR Annual Conference  
Jun 27: National Congress – Louisville

## **Elections Coming At January Meeting**

In addition to an excellent program in January, we will also be electing next year's officers. **We are in need of a VP of Programs.** The VPP arranges programs for 7 monthly meetings. The other 5 meetings have set programs such as the picnic, Christmas Dinner, Rumbaugh, etc... May and June are already arranged and July's will be soon. So the new VPP need only arrange 4 additional programs.

This is not an inconsequential job. It is important; as a draw for new members and to keep current members coming. But neither is it the most difficult. Please give this your consideration.



## **The President's Corner**

Brian Revard, Pres. DX

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season spent with family and friends. Your DX Chapter finished 2014 with a wonderful Christmas dinner including music from the BVSW Jazz Band and a slide show of pictures from the chapter highlights of 2014. The next day we participated in the Wreaths Across America in Leavenworth. That was a lot of fun and the weather cooperated to make it very enjoyable.

A new year brings new beginnings. I am excited and looking forward to 2015 and the programs and activities we have planned. Starting in January, we will be electing chapter officers. There are many opportunities available for people to help a little or a lot. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the DX Chapter, I would be happy to visit with you.

We will keep you updated in the newsletter of upcoming meetings and activities. If you have suggestions or comments about how to we can better serve our membership, programs, activities, etc. Please contact me.

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## **The Chapter Remembers Phil Barbour**

Phil Barbour, long time member of Delaware Crossing and Monticello chapters, passed away on 11/26/14. Phil was the consummate contributor. He served in many roles and was a reliable innovator. He will be dearly missed.

## January's Program – Get Your Jayhawk On!

Come hear John Forbes on January 17<sup>th</sup> as he presents his program on the Kansas 11<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry. The 11<sup>th</sup> was formed and led by Col. Thomas Ewing, Jr. between the years of 1862 and 1863. While Ewing was put in command of the 'border district' the 11<sup>th</sup> was involved in enforcing Ewing's infamous Order 11...but there is much more to the story of the Camp Lyon infantry. Be sure to make your reservations early for the January meeting, and come support your fellow compatriot as he brings you this interesting program.

## DX Performs in Americanism

For the recently concluded program year National Americanism, Delaware Crossing placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the country. While we have been higher in the past, an 8<sup>th</sup> place among all chapters is a great achievement among increased competition.

In the *President General's Streamer* competition, DX placed **FIRST** in our category and; in the combined *President General's Cup*, DX placed **3<sup>rd</sup>**.

A boisterous Huzzah to DX and especially to Americanism Chair, Dennis Nelson

## Wreaths Across America – Color Guard Reports for Duty

(Richard Cox, KSSSAR Color Guard Commander)

On December 13<sup>th</sup> members of the Kansas Society Color Guard gathered as we do every year, at Leavenworth National Cemetery to participate in Wreaths Across America (WAA).

In addition, other chapters participated at the National Cemetery on the post grounds at Ft. Leavenworth, and at the National Cemetery at Fort Scott. The state Color Guard has a tradition of presenting the Colors, standing rank and leading a procession of the public to the area of the cemetery where wreaths will be distributed.



If you have not had an opportunity to attend or participate in a WAA ceremony, it is something not to be missed. Every year hundreds of civilians come to the National Cemetery to witness the program, the laying of wreaths for each branch of the armed services,

the playing of taps and to lay a wreath at the gravestone of a fallen soldier. It is a solemn and awe-inspiring event to be associated with and it is most definitely not just an event for the uniformed Color Guard of SAR. Every member is encouraged to participate in one or more WAA activities. From personal experience, I can tell you that it will not leave you unchanged.

The national WAA movement was started by Morrill Worcester, the owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine. In 1992 Worcester utilized some excess inventory of wreaths to lay at some of the graves in Arlington National Cemetery ([www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)). In 2005 a photo of the wreaths at Arlington went viral on the internet and grew to a nation-wide (and international) coordinated event on the first Saturday of December each year, at every national cemetery in the country – all coordinated to begin precisely at 1200 hrs (eastern).



The event has grown to over 545 locations laying a quarter of a million wreaths. In Leavenworth, the Color Guard handed out nearly 800 wreaths this year and; in past years they have handed more than 1,200 wreaths to

men, women and children who take their wreath with respectful reverence and place it at the base of a gravestone, noting the name of the soldier and honoring them for their sacrifice.

As Commander of the Kansas Society Color Guard, it is an honor to be associated with such a

noble cause. It is an honor to lead the men of our Society who heed the call to promote not only the SAR but our Patriot Ancestors by making the sacrifice of time and funds to be a member of our Color Guard. A special thank you to compatriots Bruce Bowman (MC), Robert Wandel (TJ), and from DX; Dennis Nelson, Dewey Fry, Kirk Rush, John Forbes, Mike Miesinger, Brian Revard and Kyle Kesler for your participation. You all cherish the years of sub-zero wind chills I am sure, but you braved this years relatively balmy weather well.

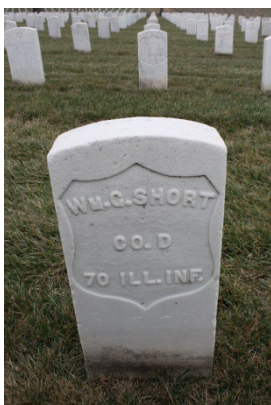
### **Wreaths Across America, The Real Reason**

We sometimes get caught up in the presentation of flags, the speeches and the playing of Taps. But the real reason behind WAA is that you recognize, research and contemplate the soldier upon whose grave, you are placing the wreath. Dewey Fry did just that and shares his soldier's story:

#### *William George Short, Soldier*

During the ceremony of Wreaths Across America on December 13, 2014 the MC ask that we remember the name on the grave-stone and do a little research on the person.

The grave-stone at which I laid a wreath is shown in the photo. A couple of hours research revealed some information. A search of military records of the 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment revealed William G. Short enlisted on June 18, 1862 at Ellisville, IL; Ellisville is west-northwest of Peoria in Fulton Co. He mustered out October 23, 1862.



The Burial Record indicated his date of death to be Dec 17, 1924.

A check of the 1860 US Census revealed a William G. Short, age 14, living with his father John Short and siblings Mary, Emma and Sarah; all born in Pennsylvania. A check of the 1850 US Census in the

same county in Illinois revealed his mother to be Esther Short. He was recorded as 14 yrs on 6 Sep 1860 and 5 yrs on 16 Nov 1850; indicating he was born between 6 Sep and 1 Nov 1845.

The 1880 US Census showed W. G. Short living in Kansas City, MO with his wife Matilda on 11 June 1880, also recorded was an infant son that had been born in May and was recorded as "Dead". William was a painter.

A search on Ancestry.com revealed a file stating William George Short was born to John Short and Esther Shreffler 16 Oct 1846 in Perry Co., PA. His death was recorded as being at the National Military Home in Leavenworth on 17 Dec 1924. The file on Ancestry.com records his wife to have been a Matilda Walters, a marriage record exists in Jackson Co. Missouri records for William G. Short of Kansas City, MO and a Matilda Walters of Dodgeville, Wisconsin. They had two children, Jessie M. Short and William Roy Short. The 1910 and 1920 US Census record William as being at the National Military Home; therefore, he resided in the National Military Home for at least 14 years.

It appears Matilda "Lilly" died in about 1888 in Kansas City, MO. Jessie married a George S. Lloyd and moved to Santa Monica, CA where she died in 1972. The history of William Roy Short is still under investigation.

Further research may reveal why William spent so many years in the National Military Home and not with his children.

There are some entertaining letters written by William's father John that certainly reveal his political beliefs. John died in 1895 in Kansas at about 86.

### **George Washington Birthday Celebration!**

The GWBC celebration luncheon is coming up on February 21<sup>st</sup>. This year's luncheon will be held at the Ritz Charles in Overland Park as it has been in previous years.

This years keynote speaker is Admiral J. Stanton Thompson, U.S.N (ret.). Admiral Stanton is a Missouri University graduate, resident of Missouri and served his country for 35 years.

In addition, we will be awarding the SAR Medal for Heroism, The Law Enforcement Medal and a Martha Washington Medal recipient. Watch for your invitation in the mail, and check out the website at

[www.GWBCKansascity.org](http://www.GWBCKansascity.org)

### **Warrior Profiles – Number Three in a Series**

#### Alvin York

Alvin C. York learned to shoot early in life and always had a rifle or pistol handy. He hunted and shot competitively throughout his young life. That served him well when he faced an overwhelming enemy force in the Argonne Forrest on October 8, 1918. When the fight was over, York and seven others had captured 132 Germans. The other seven had been pinned down behind cover by machine-gun fire from the surrounding high ground and were unable to assist in the fight. At one point, a German officer and five men charged him with fixed bayonets. He had only a half of a clip left in his rifle, so he pulled his pistol and shot the last one first and worked his way up until the last one was shot, who was leading the charge. For his actions, York was awarded the Medal of Honor, the French Croix de Guerre and numerous other medals. When he returned home he received many lucrative offers, but he turned them down because he felt he would be selling his uniform and service overseas. He returned to the mountains of Tennessee to marry his sweetheart, Miss Gracie, and raise his family on a farm in the Wolf River Valley of Pall Mall.

### **Delaware Crossing Christmas Dinner**

The December meeting of the chapter was held on December 13<sup>th</sup> as the annual Christmas Dinner. Carrying on our recent tradition of making this a special evening dinner. A more festive and formal occasion for our members than our usual breakfast meeting; we enjoyed a cash bar and social hour, ordering table-side service from a select menu, and entertainment for the evening.



While we made our minimum number based on reservations, turnout was a bit disappointing. Twenty-seven attended the event but if you consider the number of guests/spouses, there were less than a half-dozen general members that do not already serve on the Executive Committee

(though there were a few who could not make it at the last minute due to medical or mechanical issues).



Despite the lackluster support from the remaining 135 or so members (recognizing that number includes a number of non-mobile and/or out of state members) those remaining, willing to actively support and participate in the chapter, had a wonderful time.

Entertainment was provided by the Blue Valley Southwest Jazz Band who provided jazz and standards to entertain us before and during dinner with a 10 piece ensemble including; three saxophones, trombone, brass, percussion and vibe.

The hotel did a wonderful job accommodating us, with excellent waitstaff, a resourceful bartender and delicious food from the hotel's "Johnny's Steakhouse".

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See you next year. Remember that an organization is only as secure as the members who actively support it with their participation and passion. As we toast in the new year, here's raising a glass to our Patriot Ancestors; to this organization and its members, charged with the responsibility of honoring them. It is not one to be taken lightly.