



The Delaware Crossing Patriot

Kansas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

February 2018

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

CALENDER

NEXT MEETING:

When: Feb 17

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S
Strang Line Rd., Olathe, KS, 9:00AM

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email
Secretary@dxsar.com or call Ken
Ludwig (913) 897-0379 by 3:00 PM,
the Wednesday before.

Breakfast price: \$17.00/person

Program: Presentation of. Eagle Scout Essay
and Knight Essay winners.

COMING EVENTS

02/14 DXSAR EC meeting, at Oak Park Library,
95th St., Overland Park, KS

02/17 Chapter meeting

02/24 GW Birthday Celebration

03/14 DXSAR EC meeting

03/17 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 Stu Conrad

"Please rise for the presentation of the colors."

What we are about to witness is the presentation ceremony for which our Color Guard has rehearsed for a long time. This month I'd like to give some recognition for a group of men that we often take for granted but that we would sorely miss were they not there to answer the call.

Through the typical year our Color Guard represents us in numerous events that often would go without notice. They appear in parades, patriotic events, naturalization ceremonies and often are requested to add some ceremony (dare I say "color") to others' events that may bear only a passing relationship to the SAR's larger purpose. They richly deserve, and often do not receive, proper thanks.

There are at least three reasons that our Color Guard deserves thanks. *First*, they are an important recruitment incentive for our organization. Their display and precision are impressive by themselves. They attract the attention of the public from which our membership is drawn. I can personally attest to that.

Although my father was an SAR member, his membership was in a Massachusetts chapter and, although I have searched diligently, I have thus far been unable to locate his files. He died a number of years ago and thus cannot tell me the location of his files. Nevertheless, once, several years ago, I was just leaving our subdivision when Compatriot Fry was in the midst of making a flag presentation to a neighbor, recognizing his exemplary display of Old Glory in his front yard. I stopped and inquired about the proceedings and things developed from there. My point is not to lionize Mr. Fry nor to further commend my neighbor (although both deserve commendation), but to highlight the visibility that our uniformed Color Guard can bring to the public and result in new members to the SAR.

Second, participation in the Color Guard requires not only a significant financial investment, but an additional investment of time. I am continually amazed at the early hour at which our Color guardsmen arrive to setup for our monthly meeting and the late hour at which they finally depart. Of course the initial financial investment in acquiring the appropriate attire is only partially deferred by our chapter's and Kansas Society funds, there is maintenance of the attire and (in case you haven't noticed) the increased cleaning bills and frequent replacement of portions of the attire as those various parts become damaged or worn. There is significance in both of these items, and thanks is certainly owed to their respective ladies who take many tailor tacks and mending with their skill to help maintain their Color Guard husbands' attire. These activities and expenditures reflect not only the Color Guard's pride in their attire. They reflect their pride and commitment in and to the job that is being done

and the respect due the history of our country's flags and the symbols and strife for our progression toward liberty that those flags represent.

Third, these men evidence their personal devotion to the aims and ideals of America that have made our country so well respected and the envy of so many around the world. Recall that our oft-recited pledge refers to the "principles of liberty". I suspect that our Color guardsmen give little thought to the impression they create through their precision and obvious respect for our country's symbols.

I hope you will again pardon a personal reference. In my "other life" as a Boy Scout leader, one of the occasional tasks I have is to help develop a program for our troop courts of honor. For those who are unfamiliar with the processes of Scouting, a court of honor is the culmination of advancement, particularly rank advancement, for Scouts. Among other things, a Boy Scout pledges to do his duty to "God and my Country," so the patriotic connection should be obvious. Thus I've sought to bring before our Scouts, focus-grabbing presentations that would align with those objectives. Several years ago Compatriot Fry was quite willing to make a presentation to our Scouts of a brief biography of General Washington. The Scouts were enthralled. They asked Dewey about his attire, and many questions about the importance that Washington had to our Revolution, why that Revolution was important, and what about the American experience made our country unique, including a brief recitation of the importance that General Washington had to the success of the American Revolution. Compatriot Fry was a "living history lesson" to many of these young person who, given the state

of public education, had never before heard such a presentation.

I am sure that there are many more reasons that we should express our gratitude to our Color Guard for the contributions they make to our Society and why we should stand and applaud as they conclude their monthly flag presentations to us. Let that applause be in recognition not only for the presentation just concluded, but for the many thanks that they are due.

(End of President’s Corner)

Result of DX Chapter Dues Increase Vote on Jan 20, 2018:

During the Delaware Crossing January chapter meeting, the vote passed to raise yearly chapter dues from the current level of \$15/year to \$20/year. The dues increase will be in effect for 2019.

Selection of officers for period April 2018 to March 2019:

Brian Revard, our immediate past president presided over the chapter officer voting. He presented the slate of nominees of the nominating committee at the December Chapter Meeting; in compliance with our Constitution and by-Laws. Additionally, a Trustee of the Kesler Youth Endowment Fund was elected.

Newly elected:

- President:* Kirk Rush
- Exec. Vice-President:* Ken Ludwig
- Vice President for Programs:* Matt Brady

- Treasurer:* Shawn Cowing
- Asst. Treasurer:* Dick Nelson
- Secretary:* Preston Washington
- Registrar/Genealogist:* Tim Peterman
- *****
- Kesler Youth Fund Trustee:* Stu Conrad

Dr. Breen will speak at the chapter meeting, Jan 20 :

We heard from Dr. Louise Breen, Associate Professor of History at Kansas State University. Professor Breen teaches a variety of courses on early America, including Colonial America, American Revolution, and the Early Republic.

On January 20th, 2018, she delivered a presentation on colonial figure Daniel Gookin. During King Philip's War, Gookin was a militia leader in Massachusetts who became very unpopular for wanting to use Indians as spies, guides, and auxiliaries. He was caught up in an era when colonists were moving toward a more "racialized" understanding of native peoples, becoming more interested not in converting or "civilizing" the Indians but rather sweeping them off their lands prefiguring attitudes toward natives in the Revolutionary period.



1 Chapter speaker: Dr. Louise Breen.

George Washington Farewell Address, September 19, 1796:

The second half of Washington's Farewell Address is presented below. Since 1893 it has been read aloud in the Senate each year on Washington's birthday.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be, that good policy does not equally enjoin it - It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that, in the course of time and things, the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it ? Can it be that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices?

In the execution of such a plan, nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations, and passionate attachments for others, should be excluded; and that, in place of them, just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges towards another a habitual hatred or a habitual fondness is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable, when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur. Hence, frequent collisions, obstinate, envenomed, and bloody contests. The nation, prompted by ill-will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the national propensity, and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times it makes the

animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition, and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty, of nations, has been the victim.

So likewise, a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest in cases where no real common interest exists, and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favorite nation of privileges denied to others which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concessions; by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained, and by exciting jealousy, ill-will, and a disposition to retaliate, in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld. And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation), facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country, without odium, sometimes even with popularity; gilding, with the appearances of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils. Such an attachment of a small or weak towards a great and powerful nation dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy to be

useful must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defense against it. Excessive partiality for one foreign nation and excessive dislike of another cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots who may resist the intrigues of the favorite are liable to become suspected and odious, while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people, to surrender their interests.

The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop. Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none; or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people under an efficient government. the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel.

Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor or caprice?

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy. I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But, in my opinion, it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.

Taking care always to keep ourselves by suitable establishments on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce, but forcing nothing; establishing (with powers so disposed, in order to give trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them) conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another; that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character; that, by such acceptance, it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors, and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion, which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

(End of Patriot News letter)