



The Delaware Crossing Patriot

Kansas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

Revised Nov 2018

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

NEXT MEETING:

When: November 17

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 speaker: Ronda Hassig. **Subject:**
Bataan Death march and Japanese POW camps.
See writeup about speaker below.

CALENDER & COMING EVENTS

11/03 BOG Meeting – Emporia, KS

11/12 Veteran's Day Parade - Leavenworth, KS

11/14 DX EC Meeting, at **Shawnee Branch Library,**
13811 Johnson Dr. Just west of Pflumm on the south
side of Johnson Dr., Meet at 6:00 PM., large meeting
room.

11/17 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 Kirk Rush

**The President's Corner: brought to you by
Patriot Samuel Whittemore.**

Compatriots,

As mentioned in last month's newsletter I would
love to see articles submitted by chapter members
included in the newsletter. After all, this is *your*
newsletter. Feel free to submit articles, or even
just short notices, about your patriot ancestors,
historic events you are interested in, patriotic
events you have been to, etc. If you have someone
in your family currently serving in the military,
tell us about him or her.

This month I will give you a little history about
one of my patriot ancestors: Samuel W.
Whittemore and his son, Alvan Fosdick
Whittemore. Bear in mind that my Samuel
Whittemore is not *THE* Samuel Whittemore who
is famous for being the oldest known colonial
combatant in the American Revolutionary War.

My Samuel Whittemore was born in New London,
Connecticut on 25 June 1751 and died in 5
February 1821 also in New London. He was a
Private in the Connecticut Militia serving under
Capt. Simeon Smith (company commander) with
Col. Philip B. Bradley as his regimental
commander. He served from 1 July 1776 to 14
January 1777 for which he received a whopping
12 pounds, 18 shillings and 8 pence (which

doesn't sound like much). Beyond that not much else is known about his service to our country.

His son, Alvan born in 1796, managed to achieve a little more fame. He became a doctor and chemist; and opened the first drug store in Essex, CT sometime in the mid 1800s. An extract from the Witch Hazel plant had been used as an astringent to treat minor ills by Native Americans for generations. European Americans had adopted the practice of using Witch Hazel but the use was limited due to the extract's relatively short shelf life. Dr. Whittemore had found a way to preserve Witch Hazel extract (which he sold at his drug store) by distilling it and preserving it with alcohol. This greatly increased its shelf life and its popularity. He produced the Witch Hazel with a consortium of several business partners but finally consolidated with one partner: Thomas N. Dickinson. At some point Dr. Whittemore sold his interest to Dickinson who took over production of the extract. Dickinson's Witch Hazel is still made today and you can find it at just about any drug store or the pharmacy section of your favorite grocery store. It's a great astringent for your face and is apparently good at treating acne.

My maternal grandfather Rev. Alvin Whittemore was named after Dr. Alvan Whittemore.

(End of President's Corner)

October Chapter Meeting in Review:

Christopher Bouck received supplemental papers for one of his patriots: Malcolm McNeil, who was at the Gilbert Court House Battle. Also, Christopher will receive supplemental papers for

Jabez Hancock, who was at the Battle of Saratoga. The papers were not in for patriot Hancock for the presentation, but is mentioned here because Christopher lives in the Caymen Islands and will not be present for a presentation.



1 The Bouck family: Standing: Mary(Christopher's mother), Christopher, and daughters, seated, in period dress: Victoria and Charlotte.

Doug Darling spoke at the October 20 chapter meeting on the "Revolutionary War Privateers", He covered the types of ships used, the prizes won in the short battles, and some of the statistics and outcomes of Privateers.



2 Guest Speaker: Doug Darling speaking on "Revolutionary War Privateers" .

The speaker for November chapter meeting:

Ronda Hassig is a national board certified library media specialist and Kansas Master Teacher. She taught for 36 years before retiring in May of this year! She is a 5th generation Kansan whose family came to Lawrence in November of 1863, three months after Quantrill's Raid! She is the author of two books: the first "The Abduction of Jacob Rote" was about Quantrill's Raid. She loves to read, write, research and walk her three feral dogs. She is married to a retired history teacher and together, they have traveled the world. Whenever possible you can find all of them at their home away from home - a 120 year old farm house near Westmoreland and the Oregon Trail.

Article by Ken Ludwig):**Our Forefathers Flags****Gadsden flag**

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The **Gadsden flag** is a historical American flag with a yellow field depicting a rattlesnake coiled and ready to strike. Positioned below the rattlesnake are the words "DONT TREAD ON ME." The flag is named after American general and politician Christopher Gadsden (1724–1805), who designed it in 1775 during the American Revolution. It was used by the Continental Marines as an early motto flag, along with the Moultrie flag.

History**Snake symbolism**

The timber rattlesnake can be found in the area of the original Thirteen Colonies. Its use as a symbol of the American colonies can be traced back to the publications of Benjamin Franklin. In 1751, he made the first reference to the rattlesnake in a satirical commentary published in his *Pennsylvania Gazette*. It had been the policy of Great Britain to send convicted criminals to the Americas, so Franklin suggested that they thank the British by sending rattlesnakes to Britain.

In 1754, during the French and Indian War, Franklin published his famous woodcut of a snake cut into eight sections. It represented the colonies, with New England joined together as the head and South Carolina as the tail, following their order along the coast. Under the snake was the message "Join, or Die". This was the first political cartoon published in an American newspaper.

As the American colonies came to identify more with their own communities and the concept of liberty, rather than as vassals of the British Empire, icons that were unique to the Americas became increasingly popular. The rattlesnake, like the bald eagle and American Indian, came to symbolize American ideals and society.

As the American Revolution grew, the snake began to see more use as a symbol of the colonies. In 1774, Paul Revere added Franklin's iconic cartoon to the nameplate of Isaiah Thomas' paper, the *Massachusetts Spy*, depicted there as fighting a British dragon. In December 1775, Benjamin Franklin published an essay in the *Pennsylvania Journal* under the pseudonym *American Guesser* in which he suggested that the rattlesnake was a good symbol for the American spirit:

I recollected that her eye excelled in brightness, that of any other animal, and that she has no eyelids—She may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance.—She never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders: She is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage.—As if anxious to prevent all pretensions

of quarreling with her, the weapons with which nature has furnished her, she conceals in the roof of her mouth, so that, to those who are unacquainted with her, she appears to be a most defenseless animal; and even when those weapons are shown and extended for her defense, they appear weak and contemptible; but their wounds however small, are decisive and fatal:—Conscious of this, she never wounds till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy, and cautioned him against the danger of stepping on her.—Was I wrong, Sir, in thinking this a strong picture of the temper and conduct of America?

The rattlesnake symbol was first officially adopted by the Continental Congress in 1778 when it approved the design for the official Seal of the War Office (at that time and for many years thereafter, the War Office was a term associated with the Headquarters of the Army). At the top center of the Seal is a rattlesnake holding a banner which says: "This We'll Defend". According to the US Army's Institute of Heraldry, "'This We'll Defend,' on a scroll held by the rattlesnake is a symbol depicted on some American colonial flags and signifies the Army's constant readiness to defend and preserve the United States.' This design of the War Office Seal was carried forward—with some minor modifications—into the subsequent designs for the War Department's Seal, and the Department of the Army's Seal, Emblem and Flag. As such, the rattlesnake symbol has been in continuous official use by the US Army for over 236 years.



3 Gadsden Flag.

In fall 1775, the Continental Navy was established by General George Washington in his role as Commander in Chief of all Continental Forces, before Esek Hopkins was named Commodore of the Navy. The Navy began with seven ships, often called "Washington Cruisers", that flew the "Liberty Tree Flag", depicting a green pine tree with the motto "Appeal to Heaven". This is according to the October 20, 1775 letter of Washington's aide Colonel Joseph Reed, which is stored in the Library of Congress.

Those first ships were used to intercept incoming British ships carrying war supplies to the British troops in the colonies both to deprive the British of the supplies and to supply to the Continental Army. One ship captured by Captain John Manley had 30,000 pairs of shoes on it. However, the admiralty agent demanded his 2 ½ per cent commission before he would release the cargo for Washington's army, so many soldiers marched barefoot in the snow. To aid in this, the Second Continental Congress authorized the mustering of five companies of Marines to accompany the Navy on their first mission. The first Marines enlisted in the city of Philadelphia, and they carried drums painted yellow, depicting a coiled rattlesnake with thirteen rattles, and the motto "Don't Tread on

Me." This is the first recorded mention of the future Gadsden flag's symbolism.

At the Congress, Continental Colonel Christopher Gadsden represented his home state of South Carolina. He was one of seven members of the Marine Committee who were outfitting the first naval mission.

Before the departure of that first mission in December 1775, the newly appointed commander-in-chief of the Navy, Commodore Esek Hopkins, received the yellow rattlesnake flag from Gadsden to serve as the distinctive personal standard of his flagship. It was displayed at the mainmast. Hopkins had previously led The United Companies of the Train of Artillery of the Town of Providence, before being appointed to lead the Navy. The 1775 flag of the Providence Train of Artillery's featured a coiled timber rattlesnake and the motto "Do Not Tread on Me" along with an anchor, cannons and the motto "In God We Hope" on a gold background. The flag presented to Hopkins as Commander of the Continental Navy is a simplified version of that design.

Gadsden also presented a copy of this flag to the Congress of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina. This was recorded in the South Carolina congressional journals on February 9, 1776:

Col. Gadsden presented to the Congress an elegant standard, such as is to be used by the commander in chief of the American Navy; being a yellow field, with a lively representation of a rattlesnake in the middle in the attitude of going to strike and these words underneath, "Don't tread on me."

Variations in appearance

Many variations of the Gadsden flag exist:

- The motto sometimes includes an apostrophe in the word "Don't" and sometimes does not. Early written discussions uniformly include an

apostrophe; however, as early as 1917, a flag reference book includes a picture of a version without the apostrophe.

- The typeface used for the motto is sometimes a serif typeface and other times sans-serif.
- The rattlesnake sometimes is shown as resting on a green ground, presumably grassy, and sometimes not. The green grass seems to be a recent addition; representations dating from 1885 and 1917 do not display anything below the rattlesnake.
- The rattlesnake usually faces to the left, and the early representations mentioned above face left. However, some versions of the flag show the snake facing to the right.

(End of Gadsden Flag article)

(End of Patriot newsletter)