The Delaware Crossing Patriot
Kansas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
July 2026
Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

NEXT MEETING:
When: August 15, 2026

Where: Milburn Country Club, 7501 W 69th St., Overland Park, KS 66204, 9:00am

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email Secretary@dxsar.org or contact Clay Shropshire 785-521-8122 or winemakerclay@gmail.com by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

Cost: **$23.00/person**

Program: Cole Ruckman – Mid-Continent Genealogy Center

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

August 2026

1 BOG in Hays
12 DX EC Meeting
15 DX Chapter Meeting

September 2026

16 Naturalization at Fort Scott
16 DX EC Meeting
17 Naturalization at Eisenhower Library
19 DX Chapter Meeting

The President's Corner

The Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777

By Clay Shropshire

The Revolutionary War was fought by Patriots who answered the call. They were not too busy with their lives to assist with the efforts needed to bring freedom and liberty to this great land. They were willing to sacrifice for the greater good of their present families and future generations yet unborn.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a group of men who can trace at least one direct ancestor back to the time of the Revolution when their ancestor either fought in the army or militia or gave aid to the cause. We were created to promote patriotism for and education about the founding of the United States of America.

Today we live in a time where many adults and children do not truly understand the sacrifices the

founding fathers and our Patriot Ancestors made. Citizens do not understand the words of the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution.

We have members of Congress who took an oath of office to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign or domestic. Except that some of these members do not like the Constitution as it is written and want to either rewrite it or abolish it.

We need to teach those values and principles to the next generation, so they do not lose the country and the liberties and freedoms others fought and died for.

I understand everyone is busy with family, with work, with hobbies, with grandkids sports, or projects at home. It should not be the responsibility of a few to get everything done so the chapter continues. We need some officers and committee members to step in now, so they understand what needs to go on during the year before the chapter is in a world of hurt because someone gets injured, infirmed, or passes away.

For a quorum at an Executive Committee meeting there must be at least four members present from the following offices: President, Executive Vice President, VP of Programs, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Registrar/Genealogist, and next immediate Past President available. Since I am serving as three of those positions but can only be counted as a single officer for quorum purposes, attaining a quorum sometimes is difficult.

Due to a lack of officers to achieve a quorum in June the Executive Committee meeting could not conduct any official business. The July EC meeting was shaping up to be the same until some thoughtful consideration was given by Dennis Nelson.

Since Larry Tatum has resigned from the DX chapter, and Vincent Clark is no longer a dues paying member, Ken Ludwig, by default, became the next immediate Past President available per the wording of our Constitution. Ken accepted the position as Past President to help the chapter achieve a quorum.

Dennis Nelson, already the chapter Historian, Americanism Chair, C.A.R. Liaison, and Membership Chair stepped up to fill the role as Executive VP with no expectation of becoming President at the end of my term to give the EC another member to achieve quorum. This was voted on by the members of the EC and ratified by those compatriots present at the July Chapter meeting.

With that said, we need members of Delaware Crossing to step up and help lead this chapter into the future. As the old saying goes, “Many hands make light work”. Having lots of members handling small pieces of the work means no one must shoulder a heavy burden by themselves.

July Chapter Meeting in Review

Our Chapter Meeting on July 18 was led by Clay Shropshire, and those members who were not present for the meeting missed a great program.

Dr. Mitchell D. Klingenberg of the Department of Military History at the US Army and Command and General Staff College presented an in-depth PowerPoint program of The Battle of Gettysburg at our July Chapter Meeting. He described the intricate movements of each of the companies during the battle that occurred July 1-3, 1863, between the Union and Confederate Armies during the Civil War.

Dr. Mitchell Klingenberg

General Robert E. Lee led the Confederate Army of 71,000 troops invading the north against 94,000 Union troops Commanded by Major General George Meade.

Dr. Klingenberg showing a map of the battle

Dr. Klingberg displayed maps showing the movement of the companies of soldiers on each side and offered some reasoning for their moments and timing. It was an in-depth analysis of the battle that many of we in at the meeting had never heard before and most probably never read before.

The program was very interesting because Dr. Klingenberg talked about what the armies were doing and thinking the other was doing preceding the battle. This was another benefit of we who are members of the Delaware Crossing Chapter SAR.

Clay Shropshire presented Dr. Klingenberg with a Certificate of Appreciation

After the presentation on Gettysburg concluded, Compatriot Christopher Bouck showed several items he and his father have collected over the years.

Christopher Bouck and some of his collection

Chris lives in the Cayman Islands so some of these artifacts have to remain with his mother in the States because the Cayman Islands do not allow for any type of weapon, such as a saber or large knife.

Chris showed a prop from a movie about John Brown

John Brown from Osawatomie, KS had a number of spear heads made in hopes of arming slaves and revolting against their Southern masters. Chris had an original spear head on a short piece of pole

The spear and pole are shown to his left as he shows a saber to the members

We are grateful to have Chris in town during one of our meetings. He said he has to bring his kiddos back to the States to have them understand events in American history since the Cayman Islands are a British protectorate and events like the American Revolutionary War are taught a little different in their schools.

Color Guard and Members at Events

Since I did not have any photos last month of a couple of events, I wanted to include them this month.

Clay Shropshire and Dennis Nelson manning a booth at the Tonganoxie Farmers Market on 6/14

Dennis Nelson at the Gardner Historical Museum with a WWII staff car on 6/13

Dennis Nelson gets a ride in a WWII jeep

Unfortunately, the threat of severe weather caused the City of Lenexa to cancel their Independence Day Parade. Clay and Barb Shropshire were just starting to get the trailer decorated when the police came by to tell the news.

On Sunday, July 5, several members of the Color Guard, commanded by Bill Marshall, presented the flags of the Armed Services branches at a Celebration of the Armed Services at the College Church of the Nazarene. Compatriot Tom Bedient attended the lunch program as a member of the church. Other DX attendees included Bruce Smith, Kirk Rush, Cameron Rush, and Clay Shropshire. Cameron was in town, or should I say in country since he lives in Thailand.

Kirk and Cameron Rush and Clay Shropshire

On Wednesday, July 8, at Broken Arrow Park in Lawrence, KS, the Charles Robinson Chapter held a Flag Retirement Ceremony and Ice Cream Social.

Jim Cooper was assisted by Troy Phillips

Troy Phillips helped some Boy Scouts cut a flag in preparation for incineration

John More set up the flags of each of the States which was very impressive. Members of the audience assisted with the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Kansas Society State President Tim Peterman

Clay Shropshire with the Color Guard (no I was not trying to put my hand over my heart. My wrist was hurting)

The ice cream and cookies were tasty and refreshing on a rather warm evening.

The SAR participates in various events throughout the year. These include grave markings, parades, DAR events, civic events, Naturalizations of new citizens, and Honor Flights. Yes, the Color Guard members Present the Colors or march out in front of a vehicle and trailer. However, all members are welcome to attend and support the event. If it is a parade, then members can ride in the truck or on the decorated trailer to show attendees there are more in the SAR then just a few men in uniform carrying flags.

We all have patriot ancestors that should be honored by us today. As I stated last month, we are in the midst of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the founding of the United States of America. All SAR members should be proud of the sacrifice their ancestors made, not just Color Guardsmen.

Truck and decorated trailer for parade riders

We are still in need of a Chapter Executive VP who would be willing to become President in about 1-1/2 years, a Chapter Secretary, and a Patriot Newsletter Editor. When my term is completed, I will continue as Webmaster, Past President, KYEF Trustee, and Color Guardsman but I will be stepping down from the other positions to allow others an opportunity to show off their talents and abilities. If anyone is able to help out the Chapter at this time, please contact Clay Shropshire at 785-521-8122 or winemakerclay@gmail.com.