



*The Delaware Crossing Patriot*  
*Kansas Society*  
*Sons of the American Revolution*  
December 2020  
Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

**NEXT MEETING:**

**When:** December 19, 2020

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn. 12080 Strang Line Road, Olathe, KS 66062, 6:00pm

**Reservations & Cost:** For reservations, email [Secretary@dxsar.com](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.com) or call Steven French (913)-832-6034 by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

**Cost:** \$45.00/person

**Program:** Christmas Party



**CALENDER & COMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER 2020**

- 16 DX EC Meeting
- 19 Wreaths Across America – Johnson County Memorial Gardens
- 19 DX Chapter Meeting (evening) - Christmas Party

**JANUARY 2021**

- 13 DX EC Meeting
- 16 DX Chapter Meeting – Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

**March 2021**

- 19,20 State Conference, Leavenworth, KS

**The President's Corner**



By Ken Ludwig

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

After this year of pandemic, masks, elections, derechos, multiple hurricanes, we all need the rest and respite of spending the holidays with family and friends. I sincerely hope that each and every one of you is able to do that safely. I have one item I should have raised in last month article. Are you aware that the SAR has a Veterans Corp? We do, and we are actively recruiting our veteran members to be recognized for their service to our country. All that is needed is a redacted copy of their DD-214 and filling out a form. You will get a certificate and a medal. So, if you are

a veteran, please contact me so we can start this process for you.

On to another topic. It is the end of the year. I would like to remind you that if you are planning some end of the year charitable donations, please consider donating to our Kessler Youth Fund. Just as a reminder, this is a fund the chapter has set up where the earnings are used to fund the youth awards that we hand out every year. That means that the more principal that we can accumulate in the fund will allow us to award more money to the youth through our programs. If you are interested in donating, you can contact our treasurer, Shawn Cowing, or me.

So, do you want to celebrate Christmas like a Colonial? I would like to share the following article about Christmas celebrations in those times.

### Colonial Christmas

Christmas in the colonies was, for the most part, just another day. In New England, a great devoutness meant Christmas was just another day to do the Lord's work, which means an ordinary working day. Many colonial religions banned celebrations of the holiday, claiming that it was tied to pagan traditions. Puritans abhorred the excesses of church celebrations. They passed a law in Massachusetts that punished anyone who observed the holiday with a five-shilling fine. The Quakers treated Christmas Day as any other day of the year. The Presbyterians did not have formal Christmas Day services until they noticed that their members were heading to the English church to observe the Christmas services. This sparked the Presbyterian Church to start services of their own.

It was the Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Lutherans who introduced Christmas celebrations to colonial America, but they were still much different than today's festivities.

December 25th actually began a season of festivities that lasted until January 6—the "Twelve days of Christmas." January 6 was called Twelfth Day, and colonists found it was the perfect occasion for balls, parties, and other festivals.

Colonial Christmas was a holiday for adults, not a magical day for children. Christmas celebrations originated in the southern colonies, and activities included parties, hunts, feasts, and church services, all of which were adult activities. We do get some of our traditions from colonial days. For instance, the main decorations were holly, laurel, and garland, because these were the only plants that looked good during the middle of winter. Mistletoe was hung

prominently, and couples would find their way under it at the Christmas balls.

The plantation mansions festively donned their decorations, and large feasts were prepared. The foodstuffs of colonial Christmas celebrations were similar to today's Christmas dinner. A ham, roast, or turkey was usually the main course, followed, of course, by pie and other dessert treats. The wealth of the family determined the extent of feasting. Christmas trees were not a part of the colonial Christmas celebrations, for they did not make it to the states until the middle 1800s. Christmas carols were sung during the season and were religious in nature. "Joy to the World" gained popularity in Virginia, as noted in many journals and historical records of the time.

The tradition of gift giving did show up in colonial America, with an interesting twist. People gave gifts to their dependents, whether it be to servants, apprentices, or children. People did not return the gift giving to their superiors. And the gift giving was not the elaborate ordeal that it is today. Each recipient would most likely receive one special treasure. And the gifts were more treasured than they are today.

As more and more immigrants migrated to the New World, the Christmas holiday became more widespread and incorporated traditions from around the world. It is accepted among some historians that Hessian soldiers who fought alongside the British first introduced the Christmas tree to the colonies during the Revolutionary War. Others claim German immigrants who settled in Eastern Pennsylvania started the tradition. All agree that prior to the Revolutionary War, Christmas was not celebrated with much merriment and outward adornment, as this did not befit the proper Puritan of that day.

Early in the 19th Century these ethnic Christmas ideas began to slip into the mainstream, earlier here than in England. Most historians trace English Christmas tree traditions to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, who married on February 11, 1840. Albert was the son of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, German states with the Christmas tree tradition, and Victoria and Albert shared a Christmas tree in the royal palace—which made the custom popular with the English population. The tradition of Christmas cards came from London.

Santa Claus himself is a combination of Saint Nicholas and Father Christmas from Dutch and English traditions. Local merchant and leader of a local historical society by the name of John Pintard objected to the roughness of Christmas as it was celebrated in the early 19th century and proposed a solution. Drawing on New York City's Dutch origins, he

promoted Saint Nicholas as the city’s patron saint – having a pamphlet printed in 1810 that’s the earliest known American image of Santa. Pintard suggested that the celebrations should be private and family-oriented rather than public and brawling.

His brother-in-law, Washington Irving, picked up on St. Nick in his book “Knickerbocker’s History“, describing a recognizably Dutch figure in a broad hat, smoking a long pipe.

Irving’s book is more popular today than it was then – probably because it wasn’t a serious work. In fact, it was satire. But Irving’s book likely did catch the eye of Clement Moore, whose own spin on Santa Claus through his oft-repeated poem, A Visit from St. Nicholas (or, as it is better known, ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas), became the first traditional art of Christmas replayed season after season in America.

from *Early American Life online*

(<http://www.ealonline.com/christmas/history/main.php>) and

*My Merry Christmas* (<https://mymerrychristmas.com>)

Ken Ludwig



**Program for December 19, 2020 Christmas Party**

The program for the December Dinner Party will be a 4 pieces string ensemble from Blue Valley North West High School. They will play during dinner beginning just before 7:00 PM to about 7:30 PM, or perhaps longer if they are having fun.



Dewey Fry presents the National Certificate to Audrey Gainer.

**Audrey Gainer Presented Certificate**

Audrey Gainer, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place National Winner of the SAR Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest was finally presented her Certificate on Sunday, November 8 at her home, the final presentation for her accomplishment.

The Contest was somewhat disjointed the year. Normally the posters are taken to the SAR Annual Congress in early July. They are judged, the winners of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places are announced at the Youth Awards Luncheon, the poster are taken to NSSAR Headquarters in Louisville and put on display. A certificate and check are sent to the designated person for presentation to the appropriate winner.

Last year I presented the check and certificate to Paige Noth at an all-school assembly at Pioneer Ridge Middle School.

Because of Coronavirus Decease 2019 (COVID-19) the 2020 Annual Congress was canceled. President General Manning ordered that the winners not be announced until an in-person Fall Leadership Meeting in September. Then the in-person Fall Leadership Meeting canceled. I communicated with Americanism Committee Chairman Louis Zaborg to encourage him to get permission from the President General to announce the winners. He concurred and made the request which was granted. He also asked me to ship her poster back to Louisville for displaying at headquarters until June of 2021.

In attempting to find Audrey's poster I found it had been judged, then shipped back to the State Society, for us that was KSSAR President Bobbie Hulse. Then President Hulse transported Audrey's poster to a Henry Leavenworth Chapter meeting and handed it off to Tim Peterman to give to Delaware Crossing, I obtained it from Tim and shipped it to Coleen Wilson at NSSAR where it arrived safely. At a later date, President Hulse transported the associated certificate in the same manner to Tim Peterman who delivered it to President Ken Ludwig from whom I obtained it. The check did not accompany it. In investigating where the check had been sent, it was found that it had been sent to Audrey Gainer directly a couple days before I obtained the certificate, and it had been received. An attempt was made to present Audrey the certificate by a virtual presentation to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. I did not receive a response for two weeks. I then communicated with our contact who advised me there was an initial favorable response by the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers; however, she did not give them my email address, and no one communicated with me. We decided it had been prolonged enough and I

would just present it to her at her home. The photo below is of that presentation.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Pioneer Ridge Middle School is participating again this school year. The program that is generally presented in person. Due to COVID-19, it is planned to be presented in an empty auditorium on February 19, 2021. It is to be live streamed to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class members.

Dewey Fry  
Chairman-Poster Contest



**Program for January 16, 2021 Chapter Meeting**

A more thorough description of the program will be included in the January Patriot; the intent of this announcement is to make you aware of the program topic and length so you can make plans to attend.

The program will be presented by Paul Frinsthal who served in military service as Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He will present a 40-minute program about the Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A significant number of presentations has culminated in the requirement of a 40-minute presentation and up to 20-minute question and answer period. Therefore, please plan for an entertaining one hour.