



The Delaware Crossing Patriot Kansas Society

August 2015

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

NEXT MEETING:

When: August 15th 9:00 a.m.
Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S Strang
Line Rd. Olathe, KS

Program: *Volontaires-etrangers de Lauzun*

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, e-mail reserve@dxsar.com or call Stu Conrad at 913-897-3351 by 3:00 PM, the Wednesday before

COMING EVENTS CALANDER

Aug 1 : Board of Governors – Emporia
Aug 15: Chapter Meeting
Aug 28-29: SCD Meeting – Little Rock
Sep 19: Chapter Picnic & Flag Ceremony
Oct 17: Chapter Meeting
Nov 21: Chapter Meeting

Meet Your Newest Compatriots

Delaware Crossing welcomes three new Compatriots inducted as members during the July meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn of Olathe.



Brian Bresnick was inducted as a new member, by his sponsor Dewey Fry. In addition, we added two young brothers, Jackson and Ranger Carroll who were sponsored by their Grandfather, Dennis Nelson.



The President's Corner

Brian Revard, Pres. DX

Hello Compatriots! It's hard to believe the kids will be going back to school this month. The summer seems to be going by quickly. I enjoyed seeing many of you at our last chapter meeting. Gary Hicks did a fantastic job characterizing Alexander Majors discussing his involvement in the early westward expansion of shipping goods, mining, and the Pony Express.

I hope to see you this month at our chapter meeting. The program will feature Bob Capps discussing "Voluntaries Estrangers de Lauzun" It will be at the usual time and place, Saturday 8/15 at 9:00AM Hilton Garden Inn on Strang Line Road.

Mark your calendars for noon, September 19 for our DX chapter picnic and flag retirement ceremony at Antioch Park. There is always plenty of food and fun plus the opportunity to see our color guard along with some local Boy Scouts conduct a formal flag retirement ceremony.

We are always looking for good ideas for quality programs. If you know someone that could talk to our Chapter about an interesting historical person or event, let us know.

Take care and enjoy the rest of the summer.

“Excusez-moi, où est la Révolution”

They were the Volontaires-étrangers de Lauzun, the light troops of the little army France sent across the Atlantic in 1780 that tipped the scales in favor of American independence.

Even by 18th-century standards, this underpaid outfit of foreign volunteers was unconventional, to say nothing of undisciplined. Almost one thousand strong before disbanding, they accounted for about a sixth of the French forces, but caused about two-thirds of the troubles of Lieutenant General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, commanding officer of the expedition.

They were led, however, by a man Rochambeau said performed during the Yorktown campaign with more distinction than every French superior officer but one. (source “American Revolution.Org”)



Don't miss the August meeting – Bob Capps will be sharing a program about the infamous Lauzun's Legion and one of his Patriot Ancestor's involvement.

Bob promises not to make the whole presentation 'en français' but it should be extremely interesting - - bring your toughest questions and join us on

Final 2014 Americanism Results

By: Dennis Nelson – Americanism Chair

The NSSAR final results have been published on sar.org. Twenty six chapters competed at the 100-199 chapter members category. Delaware Crossing reported 5,587 Americanism points up from 4,561 for 2013. DX finished 8th again as it did in 2013.

In the President General's Activities Streamer contest, Delaware Crossing finished first for the second year in a row. DX reported 7,450 points up from 7,300 for 2013. In the President General's Cup competition, DX finished fourth with an average points per member of 89.27 compared to a

third place finish in 2013 with 79.11 average points per member.

Congratulations to all the members of Delaware Crossing. Through your membership, participation and financial support, DX continues to be one of the very best chapters in the SAR.

Alexander Majors Pays a Visit from the 1800's

The July program was presented by Mr. Gary Hicks in the personage of Alexander Majors. Gary entertained a record crowd by impersonating the famous frontiersman, entrepreneur and pioneering freighter of the mid-1800's.

Resplendent in his period clothing as the dapper and successful Majors, Hicks related in the first person how he started in the overland freighting business; grew to the largest and most prolific freighter, instrumental in opening the West to expansion; through disappointments and financial ruin, and; how his friendship with Buffalo Bill Cody brought him back from impoverished despair, to influential prosperity.



Born in 1814 a native to Kentucky, Majors was the son of a surveyor-adventurer who, while provided for his family by surveying the Santa-Fe Trail, left a 13 year old Alexander to grow up early and manage the family farm. Alexander's 19th birthday found him married to his 14-year old sweetheart and homesteading 600 acres near Lone Jack, Missouri.

After serving a stint in the Army as a teamster in the Mexican war, Majors was poised to enter the freighting business when trad with Mexico opened up after the war. A business that took him over the same trail that his father helped survey in 1825. Majors was a successful and industrious man – he

held the record for the Santa Fe Trail, covering the normal 124 day round trip course in only 92 days.

Majors parlayed that reputation, with the help of partners Russell and Waddell, into a freighting company with lucrative government contracts. Unfortunately for the trio, working for the government is only profitable if the government decides to honor its contracts and pay its vendors – which at that time in history, they did not. Coupled with some crippling losses due to bandits of the “Mormon Revolution” and winter kill livestock losses, the firm eventually collapsed and filed for bankruptcy. Eventually, Majors found himself destitute in Denver living in a shanty town.

One of Majors' business model foundations was to hire the best employees he could find, hold them accountable for their character and to reward them well. Two of those employees happened to include the famous (or infamous) Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill Cody. Wise employment decisions as Majors remained fast friends with both, and it was Bill Cody who hearing of Majors' circumstances, rescued his friend and got him back on his feet. Certainly a life lesson that we could all keep close to the top of our pockets.



The chapter would like to thank Mr. Hicks for taking his time to present such an interesting program. And Compatriots – it only continues to improve: Mark your calendars for the August meeting when our own Bob Capps will be presenting a program on the “Volontaires-etrangers de Lauzun” and how his Patriot Ancestor (one of the many...) was involved.

Bring Back Civics in Public Schools

[This article is paraphrased from the “Senior Beacon” July, 2015 by Jim Cotsana. When I first read this article I had doubts as to the veracity of the sampling size and possible polarity of the surveys. However, I have since seen several similar surveys with very similar results leading me to the very unsettling conclusion that the thesis of the article is very possibly accurate – and that is a scary thought indeed.]

“Who was president during WWI? Answer: George Washington

Who wrote the Constitution? Answer: Ben Franklin

At random, a number of high school and college students were asked [these] and other questions from a sample citizenship test and these were some of the responses. A survey done in 2012 of American citizens found that one in three could not pass the civics portion of the immigrant naturalization test...they struggled most with questions about the function of our government, particularly questions concerning the Constitution and the ability to identify current government officials and policy makers. Approximately 70% did not know the functions of the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government. 63% could not name one of their state's U.S. Senators, 62% could not name the governor of their state, and 62% could not name the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The respondent's education level was a good indicator of passing or failing. Those with more than a college degree had an 82% passing rate, while those with a high school diploma or less flunked the test 56% of the time. Age was also a factor. Those between 40 and 64 had a passing rate of 70% and 40% of the 18-29 year olds flunked.

97% of the immigrants taking the test for their naturalization, passed. I suspect that the simple answer as to why such a high percentage is, that they studied for it. They were motivated and energized to learn the material. By contrast,

formal civics instruction in U.S. High schools generally faded from the scene in the 1960's."

Now to be fair, this article created 'impact' by highlighting incorrect answers to very simple questions as noted at the beginning of the article. However, when talking about failure rates of a sample test, the questions were much more broadly based such as; the number of constitutional amendments, questions on specific amendments, structure of the judicial system, etc... But nonetheless the salient point is still valid – that if these are questions we expect new citizens to know, and they will only know these answers if they are taught them – then why are we not teaching our general citizenry exactly the same thing.

Concerned? Well you my friend, are in an excellent position and a member of exactly just the right organization to do something about it. The SAR has three very excellent youth programs to provide a conduit to a greater appreciation and awareness of history and civics: The Knight Essay, Rumbuagh, and Poster contests are great opportunities to reach young students – but it doesn't happen by itself and it isn't easy to crack into the curriculum. We need strong minded and dedicated members to get involved in these programs – else I fear we will be relegated to the sidelines and wondering what happened to this great nation of ours.



Did You Know?

- A man is 10 times more likely than a woman, to be color blind
- The term “long in the tooth” is actually derived from horse breeders. As horses age, their gums recede giving the impression of longer teeth. Hence the term came to be a general euphemism for 'getting along in years'