



# *The Delaware Crossing Patriot*

## *Kansas Society*

November 2016

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

### CALENDER

#### NEXT MEETING:

When: November 19

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

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email  
[Secretary@dxsar.com](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.com) or call Kirk  
Rush (913)789-0975 by 3:00 PM, the  
Wednesday before.

Program: "The Northern Corridor", Prof...  
Allan Boyce.

### COMING EVENTS

11/5 BOG Meeting – Emporia

12/10 Christmas Party – Hilton Garden Inn

12/17 Wreaths Across America – Leavenworth  
National Cemetery

#### 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](mailto:Gregory.millican@gmail.com), and phone number (913) 268-4932.



### The President's Corner

Stu Conrad, President, DX

"If You Can Keep It."

At the end of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin was asked what the gathering had produced. "A republic," he replied, "if you can keep it." One of the few things I learned in my law practice is that words mean different things to different people. So in that spirit, what does "if you can keep it" mean? I think Dr. Franklin was speaking to all of us with his response.

I've recently noticed several yard signs that evidence (using various phrases) that the poster doesn't like the choice presented by the upcoming election. Some of you already may have voted, so my words won't make any difference. But some of you may not, and for you I'd note that a fifth-grade teacher of mine taught us that with each privilege comes a responsibility.

Certainly voting is a privilege (some argue a "right" that was effectively denied our patriot ancestors – remember taxation without representation?) – a privilege won and preserved with the blood and lives of many of our patriot ancestors, and by many others thereafter. With that privilege comes responsibility. In that sense, as citizens of this republic we have a responsibility not only to our patriot ancestors, but to posterity to make the sometimes tough choices that "keeping it" requires.

That said, I would respectfully ask my compatriots the question: Are we "keeping the republic" by keeping

our own hands clean of a choice that we don't like? Wasn't the choice between being a Royalist and a Colonial difficult? Did they think about generations beyond them when they chose? And what would our patriot ancestors who pledged "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" say to their posterity who chose to keep their hands clean and not to mark a ballot? Did Jefferson's election of 1800 present a more challenging choice? And how about the populist Andrew Jackson's election? Consider Madison's comment that our Constitution is wholly insufficient to govern a people lacking a moral foundation. We've been given two rules: Love God; Love your fellow man as yourself. Is this responsibility limited only to those with whom we walk the road? Yes, we may keep our hands clean but do we try to hide our city on a hill from view by our actions?

Finally, I would suggest that it has now become our responsibility not just to honor the memory of George Washington, but to honor those values and ideals for which he stood. How are we "keeping" the republic for which Washington gave so much?

(End of President's Corner)

### **October 15 Chapter meeting**

The October chapter program was by Matthew Osborn, Assistant Professor of Early American History at UMKC. His presentation was: "The Drunkard's Stomach: Temperance, Addiction, and the End of the American Revolution" In the immediate aftermath of the American Revolution, prominent Americans began to worry about social disorder and upheaval. Europeans have long poked fun at "puritanical" American attitudes towards drinking, which climaxed with Prohibition in the 1920s, but the temperance movement began in Quaker Philadelphia, not New England. This talk explored the origins of the American temperance movement in the writings and lectures of Dr. Benjamin Rush. Devoting much of his life to an anti-liquor crusade, Rush launched his campaign in 1784, immediately after the Treaty of Paris. Dr.

Rush chose to target American drinking habits when he did, and the consequences of his campaign. His abject failure at reforming American habits was a source of deep frustration for him and forced him to alter his views on the capacities of men for self-government. While Rush's specific ideas failed to change many minds, his project lived on, as the temperance movement became the most popular social reform movement of the nineteenth century.



*Prof. Matthew Osborn*



2 *Stu Conrad (left) presents commendation to Prof. Osborn*

**Preview of November 19 meeting**

Many of you may recall from your study of the Revolutionary War how historians sometimes divide and discuss the military actions as occurring on three separate stages -the New England states (to include New York), the Mid-Atlantic states, and the Southern states. On November 19, Mr. Allan Boyce from the Henry Leavenworth chapter will discuss the significance of the "Northern Corridor" during the Revolutionary War. In his presentation, "Drums in the Valleys, Fire on the Lakes: Part III, The Revolutionary War, we shall discover the history and importance of the Mohawk River-Hudson River-Lake Champlain waterways and the Adirondack-Green Mountains on either side of the lake that make up the Northern Corridor and the gateway to Canada.

Our speaker is Allan S. Boyce, Assistant Professor / Chief of Curriculum Development Department of Logistics and Resource Operations (DLRO).

**Editor's note on the Barbary Pirates**

The Barbary pirates were Muslim pirates who operated from modern day Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, from the time of the Crusades until the early nineteenth century. They often made raids on European coastal towns to capture Christian slaves to sell at slave markets in places such as Algeria and Morocco. It is estimated that from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, pirates captured 1 million to 1.25 million Europeans as slaves. France, England, and Spain each lost thousands of ships in these attacks, and long stretches of coast in Spain and Italy were almost completely abandoned by their inhabitants.

In 1783 the United States won its freedom from the British monarchy, which had been paying tribute money to the pirates, and in 1784 the first

American ship was seized by pirates from Morocco. Two more ships were seized in 1785 by Algeria. In 1786, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, then the ambassadors to France and Britain respectively, met with Libyan ambassador to Britain, Sidi Adja, asking why his government was hostile to American ships. The ambassador's response, which was reported to the Continental Congress, stated that it was their right "to plunder and enslave."

After some serious debate over what to do, the United States chose to fight the pirates of Barbary rather than pay tribute, as did all the other nations who traded in the Mediterranean Sea. The decision was bold, and the United States navy was born in March 1794. Six frigates were authorized, and this new military presence helped lead to the Barbary Wars along the north African coast: The First Barbary War from 1801 to 1805 and the Second Barbary War in 1815. Naval victories in 1815 ended tribute payments by the U.S., although some European nations continued annual payments until the 1830s.

The tiny United State Navy broke a pattern of international blackmail and terrorism dating back more than one hundred and fifty years. The actions of the United States Marine Corps in these wars led to the line "to the shores of Tripoli" in the opening of the Marine Hymn. Due to the hazards of boarding hostile ships, Marines' uniforms had a leather high collar to protect against cutlass slashes. This led to the nickname Leatherneck for U.S. Marines.

*Credit: U.S. Marine Corps, The American Patriot's Bible, p. 18*