



*The Delaware Crossing Patriot*  
*Kansas Society*  
*Sons of the American Revolution*  
 January 2024  
 Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

*The Revolution is coming!*  
*Two Years - Six Months - Four Days*

**NEXT MEETING:**

**When:** January 20, 2024

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn. 12080 Strang Line Road, Olathe, KS 66062, 9:00am

**Reservations & Cost:** For reservations, email [Secretary@dxsar.com](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.com) or call Kevin Dyches (913)-568-9998 by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, December 16, 2024.

**Cost:** **\$25.00/person**

**Program:** Dr. Curt King, "the Battle of Monmouth"

**CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS**

**January 2024**

- 17 DX EC Meeting
- 20 DX Chapter Meeting – Dr. Curt King "the Battle of Monmouth"

**February 2024**

- 3 BOG
- 7 DX EC Meeting
- 10 DX Chapter Meeting
- 17 GWBC

**March 2024**

- 6 DX EC Meeting
- 9 DX Chapter Meeting
- 16 State Conference

**The President's Corner**



By Larry Tatum

2024 is just beginning and the Delaware Crossing calendar is already filling up with great meeting speakers, parades, student contests, and many color guard events. The new year appears to have the makings of one of our finest.

The annual elections will be held during our January Meeting, be sure to attend. The slate that has been established is comprised of quality candidates, but nominations from the floor are also

encouraged. The enduring support and guidance of our many knowledgeable members will ensure that we continue on the remarkable road that the Chapter has traveled.

I want to thank all who helped with the Christmas Party. Holding it in a new location with a catered meal tested our organizational skills.

I especially want to thank Dennis Nelson for the program, Susan Nelson for the table decorations, Dewey Fry for scheduling the stringed quintet, Ken Ludwig for obtaining the venue, Pat and Dewey Fry for setting up the tables. Pat Fry, Dick and Ruby Nelson for providing the deserts, Steven French for arranging Color Guard, and to all of those that helped clean the hall.

As successful as the party was in the new location, I'm certain that improvements and adjustments will be made to build on our success.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



*KSSAR Color Guard.*

**December 16, 2023**  
**What a Day**

For Delaware Crossing Chapter Members activity started before the 11 am Wreaths Across America event at Johnson County Memorial Gardens. Color Guardsmen Kirk Rush, Steven French and Dewey Fry arrived before 10 am to survey the setup for the Color Guard and plan the presentation of the colors and the ceremonial laying of wreaths. As other Color Guardsmen arrived plans for practice were completed and flags assembled. That is always a challenge as to when on a cold, damp, blustery day.

There were 12 Color Guardsmen forming the KSSAR Color Guard; 9 from Delaware Crossing (Kirk Rush, Gavin Kurtz, Dewey Fry, Dan Dryer, John Forbes Kenneth Ludwig, Dennis Nelson, Larry Tatum, and Steven French), 2 from Monticello Chapter (Alan Martin and Jeffrey

Winters) and 1 from Charles Robinson Chapter (Robert Wandel). KSSSAR Eastern District Adjutant, Kirk Rush, was the Commander. The Colors were Presented each time a ceremonial wreath was placed on a stand for each of the US Services and those classified at MIA/ POW and at the playing of Taps.

The ceremony ended with laying of wreaths by the Color Guard.

Delaware Crossing Members Gary Hicks, Bruce Smith, Wendell Davis, and David Proffitt attended the ceremony and participated in the laying of wreaths after the ceremony. Delaware Crossing Chapter members sponsored 354 wreaths of the 1272 total.

A few hours later a goodly number of members and many of their wives enjoyed our annual Holiday meeting. Ken Ludwig arranged for us to meet at the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olathe. Susan Nelson decorated the table with her collection of Carolers, three per table. Larry Tatum arranged the food catered by Pegah's Family Restaurant in Lenexa. Dick and Ruby Nelson furnished cupcakes for desert and Pat Fry furnished sugar free cookies. Music during the 45 minutes of dining was by the String Quintet of Senior students from Blue Valley Northwest High School who entertained us last year and desired to do it again on December 16.

The 5 were:

Megan Wang, violin;

Lois Kim, violin;

Shreyas Krishnan, viola;

Jennifer Liu, cello; and

Ansh Singh Gugnani, bass.

Each was presented a certificate and a check.

Dennis Nelson presented a Milestone in Revolution History about the Crossing of the Delaware which you can read in a separate article. He presented the Patriot Biography moment and another short presentation on the Chapter activities in remembrance of the Boston Tea Party which was 250 years ago on December 16, that too can be read in a separate article.



*Delaware Crossing Color Guard Commander Steven French.*



*Historian Dennis Nelson presents the Banquet Program.*

**Boston Tea Party Commemoration**  
**by Dennis Nelson, Historian**

The chapter celebrated at the December 16<sup>th</sup> banquet the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boston Tea Party which occurred on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1773. The Color Guard carried the “Sons of Liberty” flag from the mid 1760’s. It consists of nine vertical alternating red and white stripes, representing the nine Northern and Middle colonies during the Stamp Act Protests. The

British government referred to as “Rebellious Stripes”.

John Adams commented on the Boston Tea Party in his diary:

This is the most magnificent Movement of all. There is a Dignity, a Majesty, a Sublimity, in this last Effort of the Patriots, that I greatly admire. The People should never rise, without doing something to be remembered – something notable and striking. This Destruction of the Tea is so bold, so daring, so firm, intrepid and inflexible, and it must have so important Consequences, and so lasting, that I can’t but consider it as an Epoch event in History.

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1773



*Ken Ludwig, Alan Martin, Dennis Nelson, Rick Alley, and Kirk Rush.*



*Dennis Nelson addressing the Delaware Crossing Chapter.*

**Commemorating Washington Crossing the Delaware River at Trenton**  
**by Dennis Nelson, Historian**

When the Chapter was founded in 1960, the chapter approved an annual dinner commemorating the December 26, 1776 Delaware River Crossing by General George Washington at Trenton, to be held sometime during the last two weeks of December.

At the December 16<sup>th</sup> banquet meeting, the chapter fulfilled this obligation with the following short program:

George Washington needed a victory. His troops were depressed by the months of disaster and the calendar reminded them that time was running out. The enlistments of many of the militia would end on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and few of them seemed willing

to extend their service. But they still owed General Washington one more week.

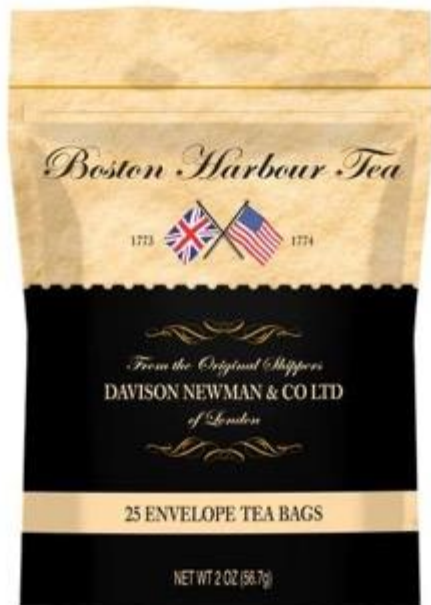
On Christmas Eve, Washington called his ranking officers together. His tactics had been criticized as too elaborate, and the new plan he was outlining seemed also to rely on an unrealistic degree of coordination. He would ferry three elements of his army back across the Delaware River, they would march to Trenton, surround the Hessians and attack them at different points.

To Joseph Reed, his Adjutant away in Philadelphia, General Washington wrote, “Christmas Day at night, one hour before the day, is the time fixed for the attempt on Trenton.” He added “for heaven’s sake, keep this to yourself, as the discovery of it may prove fatal to us. Our numbers, sorry I am to say, being less than I had any conception of: but necessity, dire necessity, will – nay, must – justify any attempt.”

December 25, 1776



*The Blue Valley High School Stringed Quintet.*



### **A TEA WITH A HISTORY**

Centuries ago, the taxation of tea without proper consent was one of the catalysts that helped spark the American War of Independence.

On December 16, 1773, a group of colonial patriots disguised as Native Americans boarded three English ships in Boston Harbor and threw the tea onboard into the water, in protest against the duty imposed on tea by the government of King George III.

In the months that followed this historic event, many other seaports took similar action in boycotting British tea.

On March 7, 1774, at a second Boston tea party, sixteen chests of fine tea from tea merchants, Davison Newman and Co, Ltd, were also dumped in the harbor in defiance of British policies. Still in operation today, Britain's oldest tea merchant has developed this famous tea blend "Boston Harbour Tea."

Everyone attending the December banquet meeting was provided a sample of this Boston Harbour Tea.



### **Boston Tea Party Reenactment**

The Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum held a 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Reenactment of the Boston Tea Party on the evening of December 16, 2023. As part of the celebration, they gave everyone around the world a chance to be involved by mailing loose leaf tea to them to be used in the reenactment. The chapter participated in the event by sending them loose leaf tea to be ceremoniously dumped into the water.



A Student Cadet places a wreath for a Branch of the Armed Forces.

### **2024 Wreaths Across America**

About two weeks ago an email was sent to each member in regard to sponsoring wreaths with a special Buy One Get One free that lasts through January 16, 2024. Just before that was sent out, Wreaths Across America sent out an email explaining that the \$5 for wreaths purchase would not be sent to Groups such as our chapter. It was last year, but I fully understand. Two wreaths for \$12 (\$17-\$5), and average of \$6 per wreath, is not good financially for them. In their 3 for 2

program, 2 wreaths are purchased and one is sent free for and average cost of \$10.33 each. It put me into a thinking process, do I wait and sponsor wreaths for \$17 each after January 16 and get the \$5 kick back to the chapter or do I sponsor them and get two wreaths very cheap and the chapter gets nothing. Many of you may be going through this same process.

I sponsored 5 wreaths in the Buy One Get One free program to make certain the recording was occurring as it should have, it was. After the first of January I will sponsor 5 more. That means for the cost of 10 wreaths, 20 will be supplied for laying on the graves of veterans, the primary activity of Wreaths Across America.

As our Youth Programs and Veterans Fund will not receive anything from the sponsoring of 10 wreaths in the BOGO program, I will make a donation to each in the amount that would have been derived from sponsoring 10 wreaths outside the Buy One Get One program but 10 more wreaths get laid on veteran's graves.

It is important to me that we maximize the number of wreaths for veterans at Johnson County Memorial Gardens, but not at the possibility of underfunding our Youth Programs and Veterans gifts on Veterans Day.

Dewey Fry  
Chairman, Veteran's Committee and Wreaths Across America Committee.

**Scenes from the 2023 Wreaths Across America**



*Kirk Rush, Gavin Kurtz, Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Dan Dryer, John Forbes, and Ken Ludwig.*



*A Student Cadet places a wreath for a Branch of the Armed Forces.*



*Kirk Rush, Gavin Kurtz, Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, and Dan Dryer.*





*Taps is played by a Veteran Bugler.*



*KSSSAR Color Guard places wreaths on Veteran's graves.*



*A Student Cadet salutes the Branch of the Armed Forces for which he has placed a wreath.*