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

The Revolution is coming!
in Four Days

NEXT MEETING:
When: July 18, 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, July 14, 2026.

Cost: **$23.00/person**

Program: Mitchell Klingenberg – Gettysburg

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

July 2026

4	Lenexa Independence Day Parade
5	Celebration of Armed Forces in Olathe
8	Flag Retirement and Ice Cream Social in Lawrence
15	DX EC Meeting
18	DX Chapter Meeting
20	DAR 250 Home School Event in La Cygne
27	Naturalization in Lawrence
28	Central KS Free State Parade in Abilene

August 2026

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

The President's Corner

The signing of the Declaration of Independence

By Clay Shropshire

We have just four days until America's 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. What are you planning to do to honor your patriot ancestor? How about reading the document that started it all with your loved ones, especially the next generation.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—-That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harrass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Nor have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

June Chapter Meeting in Review

Our Chapter Meeting on June 20 was led by Clay Shropshire, and those members who were not present for the meeting missed entertaining moments a bit out of the ordinary for our monthly chapter meeting.

Gavin Dykes who has participated in some youth contests, presented the Milestone in Revolutionary War History.

Gavin Dykes presenting the Milestone in Revolutionary War History

Gavin's older brother James Dykes, who has placed 6th and 2nd at the national level in the NSSAR Joseph S Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest, brought us up to speed with his career and educational goals. Letters of recommendation were written by Sen. Roger Marshall and Rep. Sharice Davids supporting Gavin's acceptance to the US Air Force Academy. Those letters and Gavin's additional work ended in Gavin successfully achieving that goal. He will primarily work toward his goal of becoming a pilot. He has made a 10-year commitment to the Air Force.

James Dykes updating us on his quest to join the Air Force Academy as a pilot

The program, Kansas Founding Documents presented by Virgil Dean was interesting and educational. Many of us learned of history we had never known before. Several questions were asked and answered after the presentation indicating the presentation sparked interest. Should you get an opportunity to observe the presentation in the future it is highly recommended you do so.

Virgil Dean

Clay Shropshire presented Virgil Dean with a Certificate of Appreciation

At our June 20 Delaware Crossing Chapter Meeting President Clay Shropshire conducted the induction ceremony for Joshua Cadde Mattson, Sean Christopher Orner and Everett Bruce Orner. The new members recited their new member oath and each lite a candle in honor of their patriot ancestor.

Josh Mattson, Sean Orner, and Bruce Orner take the Oath

Joshua Mattson was registered as a new member on January 27, 2026. his patriot ancestor was John Hayden who served in Captain Josiah Hall's Company, of Colonel Jacob Ford's Regiment of the New Jersy Militia in 1776-1777.

Bruce Orner and his son Sean Orner were registered on May 22, 2026. Their patriot ancestor was Thoman Trimble who served in Captain Noah Abraham's Company of Colonel James Johnston's Regiment of the Cumberland County, Pennsylvania Militia in 1780.

When you have an opportunity as a member of the Delaware Crossing Chapter, issue a hardy welcome to these three new members.

Clay Shropshire presented Josh Mattson, Sean Orner, and Bruce Orner with their Certificates

Dewey Frye presented Josh Mattson, Sean Orner, and Bruce Orner with their Challenge Coins

Color Guard and Members at Events

On Thursday, June 4, Compatriots Dennis Nelson and Clay Shropshire manned a booth at the Tonganoxie Farmers Market where Compatriot Rick McClellan entertained attendees. There was lots of activity by the kiddos playing the games. Scott Thompson stopped by and talked with us about becoming a member. He plans to attend the next meeting with Rick.

Afterwards, Clay Shropshire headed off to the airport to welcome veterans returning from their trip to Washington D.C. aboard an Honor Flight.

On Saturday, June 6, Color Guardsmen and Compatriots joined ladies from the Mission Hills DAR for the Old Shawnee Days Parade.

Compatriots Kirk Rush, Steven French, Michael Warren, and Greg Sippel waiting with Mission Hills DAR ladies for the Old Shawnee Days Parade to get underway

Compatriots with Mission Hills DAR ladies for the Old Shawnee Days Parade to get underway

The trailer loaded up and ready for the parade

Colot Guardsmen Dewey Fry, Bruce Smith, and Clay Shropshire joined State Color Guard Commander Bill Marshall, Brian Vazquez, and John More at the Miami County Historical Museum for a "Celebrate American 250" DAR event. Dewey's aunt was the main speaker.

Commander Bill Marshall and the Presentation of Colors at the Miami County Historical Museum DAR event

Clay and Barb Shropshire visited Washington D.C. leading up to Independence Day. We attended the opening ceremony for the Great American State Fair and heard President Donald Trump and other dignitaries speak. There were several fly-overs starting with the Air Force Thunderbirds and including some B2 bombers, F-22s and F35s.

President Trump highlighted the evening festivities at the Great American State Fair in Washington D.C.

We saw the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights at the National Archives.

The Constitution of the United States

We visited lots of museums and displays. We visited monuments celebrating Washington, Lincoln, and Jefferson.

The Jefferson Memorial

We then traveled to Philadelphia, PA to visit Old Town. We visited Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the Betsy Ross home.

Independence Hall

The Liberty Bell

The Betsy Ross home

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.

With that said, an upcoming event is the annual Lenexa Independence Days Parade on July 4. We will have a truck and decorated trailer for compatriots to ride instead of having to walk. Put on comfy clothes, an SAR shirt or hat, and wave to the crowd. We will be joined by ladies from Barb's Mission Hills DAR Chapter. At this point we have the following compatriots participating in the Lenexa Parade: Michael Warren, Jeremy Parris, Dennis Nelson and grandsons, Steven French, Dewey Fry, Ken Ludwig, and Clay Shropshire. If anyone else would like to attend, please let Clay Shropshire know at 785-521-8122,

Truck and decorated trailer for parade riders

We are still in need of a Chapter Executive VP and a Chapter Secretary to give us a voting quorum at Executive Committee meetings. If anyone is able to help out the Chapter at this time, please contact Clay Shropshire at 785-521-8122 or winemakerclay@gmail.com.