



The Delaware Crossing Patriot

Kansas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

May 2019

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

NEXT MEETING:

When: May 18

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S Strang Line Rd., Olathe, KS, 9:00AM

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email Secretary@dxsar.com or call Preston Washington (816) 444-1198 by 3:00 PM, the Wednesday before.

Breakfast price: \$17.00/person

Program: Ken Thomas of Blue Valley NWHS, plus 3 students to do a mock congressional hearing.

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

05/11 Grave marking for Sarah Ruddell Davis, 1:00 PM, Shawnee-Methodist Mission Cemetery. See article below.

05/15 DX EC Meeting, at Pegah's, 2122 W.87th St, Lenexa, KS; be there at 5:30 PM if eating dinner. Meeting begins at 6:00 PM.

05/18 Chapter Meeting.

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



The President's Corner

By Kirk Rush

Spring is here! Although after the hard winter we've had it seems to be having a hard time getting started. It feels more like the beginning of April than the beginning of May.

Speaking of May, I'd like to remind everyone once again of our upcoming grave marking ceremony at 1pm on May 11th. We will be dedicating a permanent SAR grave marker which has been placed at the gravesite of Patriot Sarah Ruddell Davis buried at the Shawnee Methodist Mission Cemetery in Fairway, KS.

Sarah Ruddell Davis is the first and only Patriot to be recognized by the SAR buried in the state of Kansas. Folks, this is a BIG DEAL! I encourage all of you to attend if possible. If you have a color guard uniform and want to participate in the color guard please let our commander, Ken Ludwig know by May 4th at the latest. KSSSAR President Bobbie Hulse will be there in uniform and several other local dignitaries have been invited. There will be a reception at the Shawnee Indian Mission immediately following the ceremony. Details are included elsewhere in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

(End of President's Corner)

Summary of Delaware Crossing Chapter April events:

Dr. Tom Vontz, professor and director at Kansas State University’s Center for Social Studies Education, was the speaker at the April 20 chapter meeting. He touched on “Constitutional Thinking...The ideas, principles, and values of the Constitution to perceive, frame, analyze, and judge political landscapes.”



1 Dr. Tom Vontz, Chapter speaker

J.R.O.T.C. Cadets Presented Bronze Medal

Awards:

Delaware Crossing Chapter presented the Bronze R.O.T.C. Medal to three Cadets during the month of April. These Cadets were chosen by their Corp Commanding Officer using criteria established for the award by the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

Cadet Sian Mang was presented the medal by Compatriot Dewey Fry the evening of April 17 at the Washington High School Air Force JROTC annual awards program.

Cadet Thomas J. Bollig was presented the medal the evening of April 24 by Compatriot Dewey Fry at the Shawnee Mission West High School Navy JROTC annual awards program.

Cadet Stephen Keech was presented the medal the evening of April 27 by Compatriot Dan Dryer at the Shawnee Mission North Navy JROTC annual awards program (not pictured).



2 Cadet Sian Mang receives metal from Dewey Fry



3 Cadet Thomas Bollig receives metal for Dewey Fry

Paige Noth Wins KSSSAR Poster Contest:

The Delaware Crossing Chapter winner of the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest also won the state competition.

Paige, her parents and brother attended our March meeting where she was presented certificates for being the winner from 158 entries at Pioneer Ridge Middle School in Gardner. She also was presented a certificate and check for \$50.00 for winning our chapter contest.

The afternoon of April 11, Paige was presented a certificate and a \$100.00 check for winning the state contest. The award was presented by Dewey Fry in her classroom at Pioneer Ridge Middle School.

The more one looks at her poster, the more one sees the fine detail she used in creating her poster about patriot Mary Draper.

Her poster will go to Annual Congress in Costa Mesa, California to be judged the first weekend in July.



5 Dewey presents check to Paige

Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony For Sarah Ruddell Davis:

1:00 PM Saturday May 11, 2019



Sarah Ruddell was captured on June 24, 1780. She, along with about 400 others were establishing a permanent presence at Ruddell's Station in the Western part of Virginia (now Kentucky) just south

of the Licking River. A combined British and Indian force under the command of Col. Byrd forced the surrender with the presence of a 6# field piece which the fortification could not withstand. The terms of the surrender specified that the women and children would be taken by the British and the men by the Indians. When the gate opened the Indians rushed in and the surrender agreement was reversed. Those considered unable to make a forced march to Detroit were killed, including a three year old cousin of Sarah's who was thrown on a fire and burned to death with the child's mother forced to watch. Two of Sarah's



4 Paige Noth wins at the State level (presenter, Dewey Fry)

older brothers were also captured, but only one survived the march north. Also captured were two of her cousins both of whom did not return till after the Treaty of Greenville (1795).

In 1791 Sarah married Thomas Davis who also had survived years of captivity. Their daughter Sarah Davis married Rev. Thomas Johnson founder of the Shawnee Methodist Indian Mission. Sarah Ruddell Davis died while living with her daughter Sarah Davis Johnson and is buried with many of the family members. The Cemetery is located on the South side of Shawnee Mission Parkway, between 3 & 4 blocks east of Mission Rd. Or about 1 mile west of State Line Rd., Fairway, Kansas.

There is no parking on the Parkway. Use the lot of the Old Mission Methodist Church and follow the sidewalk.

See area map at end of newsletter.

(End of grave marking article)

Pine Tree Flag (Article by Ken Lugwig):

The flag we are investigating this month is the Pine Tree Flag.



6 Pine Tree flag.

Pine tree symbolism

The pine tree had long been a New England symbol being depicted on the Flag of New England flown by colonial merchant ships dating back to 1686. Leading up to the Revolutionary War it became a symbol of Colonial ire and resistance.

The white pine found in New England, specifically the eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) with heights exceeding 150 feet, was highly desirable for constructing masts in shipbuilding. Twenty years after arrival in the new world, the Pilgrims harvested and exported these pines as far as Madagascar. Due to lack of supply of suitable lumber on the island, England reserved 24 inch (61 cm) diameter trees under the Mast Preservation Clause in the Massachusetts Charter in 1691. The trees were identified by a Surveyor of the King's Woods (a position of preferment) who would in turn appoint deputies to survey and place the broad arrow symbol on the

tree from three hatchet slashings denoting property of the Crown.

The broad arrow statutes were not immediately enforced, due to England having access to other sources of timber in the Baltic. However, when this source diminished, additional broad arrow policies acts were passed and enforcement increased in North America.

The statutes required colonists prior to harvesting trees from their property to have a King's Surveyor mark the larger diameter trees with the broad arrow and then purchase a royal license to harvest the trees not marked with the broad arrow. The colonists resented the strictures on the timber used for their needs and livelihoods. Prohibitions were disregarded and they practiced "Swamp Law", where the pines were harvested according to their needs regardless of statutes.

In New Hampshire enforcement led to the Pine Tree Riot in 1772, where a statute had been in effect since 1722 protecting 12 inch diameter trees. After being fined and refusing to pay for possessing trees marked with the broad arrow, a New Hampshire mill owner leading other mill owners and townsmen assaulted the Sheriff and his Deputy sent to arrest him by giving him one lash with a tree switch for every tree which the mill owners were fined, cutting the ears, manes, and tails off their horses, and forced them out of town through a jeering crowd. This was one of the first acts of forceful protest against British policies. It occurred almost two years prior to the more well-known Boston Tea Party protest and three years before open hostilities began at the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

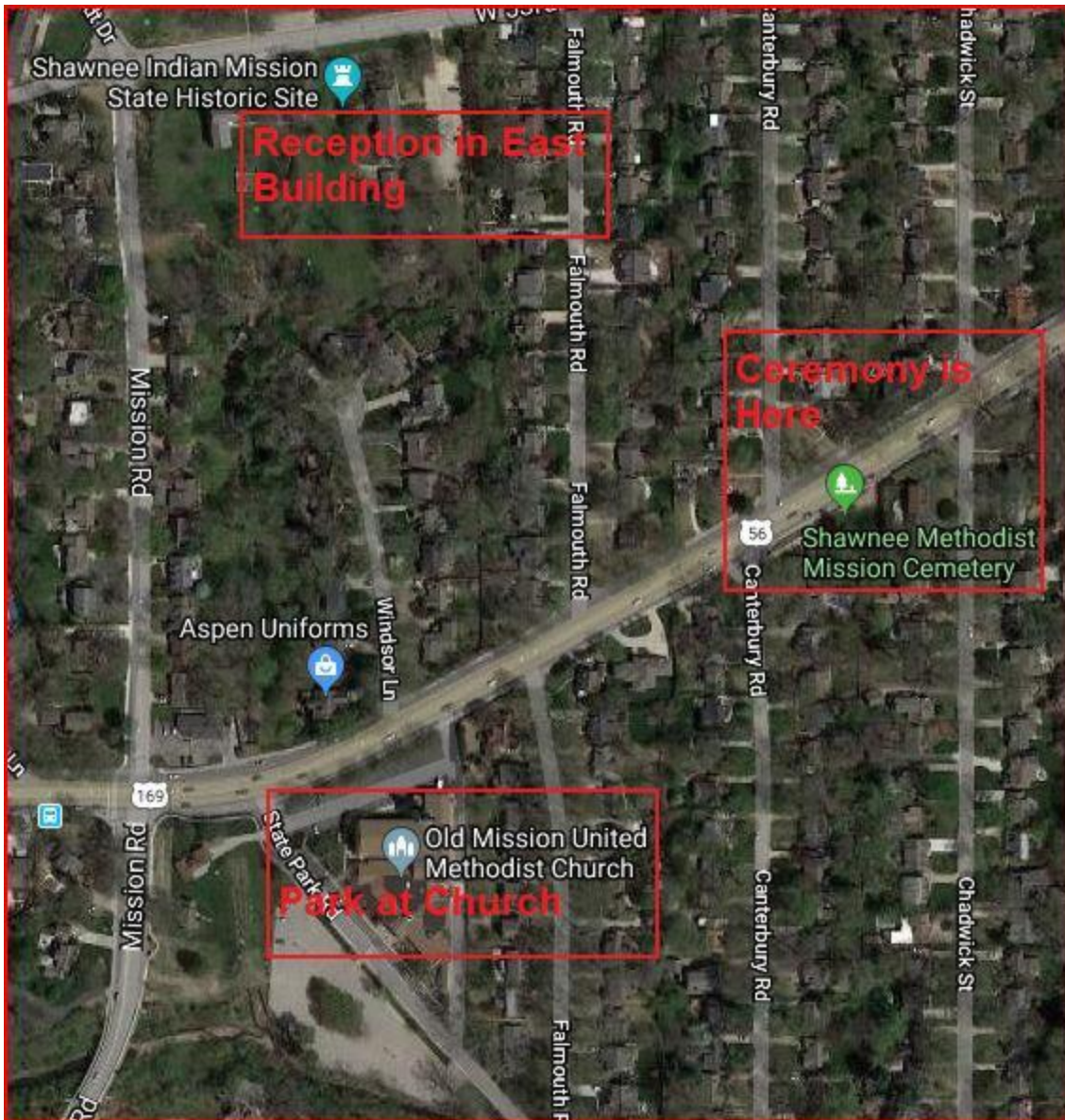
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Variations of this flag include the words "APPEAL TO HEAVEN" above the pine tree. George Washington's secretary, Colonel Joseph Reed suggested this variation to be used as the flags flying over 6 cruisers that were commissioned by Washington.

The "Appeal to Heaven" phrase came from works by British philosopher John Locke, who wrote "God as the Supreme authority in everybody's lives, and that God is greater than Government is acknowledged. When governments become abusive of the people, the people have one last resort and that is to appeal to the Almighty to resolve their grievances and indicated a right to revolution."

For a period of time, the state flag of Maine was a variation of this flag with a blue star to the left of the tree.

(End of Pine Tree flag article)



7 Area Map of Cemetery, parking, and reception building.

(End of Patriot newsletter)