



The Delaware Crossing Patriot
Kansas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
 July 2019
 Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

NEXT MEETING:

When: July 20

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: to be announced.

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

07/5-11 SAR National Congress, Costa Mesa, CA

07/17 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.

07/20 Chapter Meeting.

Editor's Note (Greg Millican)

Chapter Executive Committee approved minutes are available on the web site: DXSAR.com under "LOOK INSIDE".

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

Greetings from H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation in Osceola, MO! As I write this I am volunteering as an adult leader at summer camp for my Boy Scout troop. Even though it's hot and the humidity is through the roof, my time spent here is well worth the effort. Our youth is our future and education is vital. Boy Scouts of America and SAR have several things in common. Both promote strong citizenship, leadership principles, and education of our great nation's history.

If we want the principles of liberty, self-government and good citizenship to thrive and survive we must promote and pass these on to our youth. This is why SAR offers several youth awards contests, including the King Eagle Scout Award, Rumbaugh Oration and Knight Essay (among others). These contests help to educate our youth on the principals established by our founding fathers; principals which, unfortunately, aren't always taught well in our schools nowadays.

In the SAR, like the Boy Scouts, there are many opportunities to volunteer to support our youth. In addition to the youth contests, there are ways to support the CAR as well. Even though we have chairmen in our chapter dedicated to the SAR youth programs and CAR, we always welcome more help. Please consider passing on your

knowledge and volunteering your services to our youth. After all, they are our future!

(End of President's Corner)

KS SAR Ladies Auxiliary August Project:

The ladies are collecting school supplies for the students in the Emporia School District to donate at their August 3rd meeting in Emporia. Supplies we donate are given to students who are homeless or those students moving in during the school year. If anyone would like to contribute to the project, we would be most grateful. Supplies can be sent with Auxiliary members or men attending the Board of Governor's meeting that day. Their list includes spiral notebooks, notebook paper(college rule), 3-ring notebooks (3 inch), black or blue ballpoint pens, #2 pencils, colored pencils, facial tissues (these are most in need) and backpacks for any age. Some used equipment/supplies will be accepted (check with Ruby). If more information is needed, please contact me at kcnelson42@sbglobal.net .

Thank you for your support. Ruby Nelson

Summary of Delaware Crossing Chapter June 15 meeting:

Presentation of Supplemental:

Supplemental information was presented to Bruce Smith. Bruce's patriot is John Tallis, Senior. Bruce gave a summary of the activities of John Tallis during the Revolutionary War.



1 Bruce Smith received Supplemental for an additional patriot.

Program for June 15 meeting:

Dawson Ballard, relatively new member of the chapter, gave the program entitled "The Plot to Kill George Washington". The plot happened in October 1775. One of the guilty ringleaders was Sargent Thomas Hickey, life bodyguard to Washington, who earned the distinction of being the first person to be hanged for treason in the USA, in April 1776.



2 Speaker: Dawson Ballard.

Summary of Delaware Crossing Executive Committee (EC) meeting, June 12:

1. Clarification regarding neck ribbon & SAR badge: It was previously stated the May's EC meeting there was a motion which was passed to have the chapter cover the cost of purchasing the Presidents Ribbon and Badge for the new incoming Chapter President. There is a clarification on the verbiage. It is actually the standard Official Neck Ribbon for specified officers, including chapter presidents, and the SAR Member Badge.
2. Annual picnic: Compatriot Fry and wife, Pat, will prepare/provide food but we will need a team of people to set up the picnic beforehand and take down/clean up afterwards.
3. Annual Christmas dinner: There was discussion regarding possible change of venue for the dinner. Currently we have a tentative reservation for 12/14 at Hilton Garden Inn. This will be discussed in more detail at July EC. Also discussed but tabled until July EC meeting was possibility of a different location for chapter meetings.
4. Recognition of former & current state, district & national officers in attendance at chapter meetings: This was discussed briefly but was tabled until July EC where it will be discussed in greater detail to determine how far to extend recognition.

Note: The complete EC approved minutes are on DXSAR.com as they become available; under "LOOK INSIDE" -> "Executive Committee Minutes".

Flag article by Ken Ludwig:

The United States Flag

You probably thought since we were done with all of our colonial flags, that you would not have to suffer through anymore histories of flags, but since this is the 4th of July, I thought we could examine the history of our United States Flag.



3 American flag

The **flag of the United States of America**, often referred to as the **American flag**, is the national flag of the United States. It consists of thirteen equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white, with a blue rectangle in the canton (referred to specifically as the "union") bearing fifty small, white, five-pointed stars arranged in nine offset horizontal rows, where rows of six stars (top and bottom) alternate with rows of five stars. The 50 stars on the flag represent the 50 states of the United States of America, and the 13 stripes represent the thirteen British colonies that declared independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain, and became the first states in the U.S Nicknames for the flag include the **Stars and Stripes**, **Old Glory**, and the **Star-Spangled Banner**.

History

The current design of the U.S. flag is its 27th; the design of the flag has been modified officially 26 times since 1777. The 48-star flag was in effect for 47 years until the 49-star version became official on July 4, 1959. The 50-star flag was ordered by the then president Eisenhower on August 21, 1959, and was adopted in July 1960. It is the longest-used version of the U.S. flag and has been in use for over 58 years.

First flag

At the time of the Declaration of Independence in July 1776, the Continental Congress would not legally adopt flags with "stars, white in a blue field" for another year. The flag contemporaneously known as

"the Continental Colors" has historically been referred to as the first national flag.

The Continental Navy raised the Colors as the ensign of the fledgling nation in the American War for Independence—likely with the expedient of transforming their previous British red ensigns by adding white stripes—and would use this flag until 1777, when it would form the basis for the subsequent de jure designs.

The name "Grand Union" was first applied to the Continental Colors by George Preble in his 1872 history of the U.S. flag.

The flag closely resembles the British East India Company flag of the era, and Sir Charles Fawcett argued in 1937 that the company flag inspired the design. Both flags could have been easily constructed by adding white stripes to a British Red Ensign, one of the three maritime flags used throughout the British Empire at the time. However, an East India Company flag could have from nine to 13 stripes, and was not allowed to be flown outside the Indian Ocean. Benjamin Franklin once gave a speech endorsing the adoption of the Company's flag by the United States as their national flag. He said to George Washington, "While the field of your flag must be new in the details of its design, it need not be entirely new in its elements. There is already in use a flag, I refer to the flag of the East India Company." This was a way of symbolising American loyalty to the Crown as well as the United States' aspirations to be self-governing, as was the East India Company. Some colonists also felt that the Company could be a powerful ally in the American War of Independence, as they shared similar aims and grievances against the British government tax policies. Colonists therefore flew the Company's flag, to endorse the Company.

However, the theory that the Grand Union Flag was a direct descendant of the flag of the East India Company has been criticized as lacking written evidence. On the other hand, the resemblance is obvious, and a number of the Founding Fathers of the United States were aware of the East India Company's activities and of their free administration of India under Company rule. In any case, both the stripes (barry) and the stars (mulletts) have precedents in classical heraldry. Mulletts were comparatively rare in early modern heraldry, but an example of mullets representing territorial divisions predating the U.S. flag

are those in the coat of arms of Valais of 1618, where seven mullets stood for seven districts.

Flag Resolution of 1777

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution which stated: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." Flag Day is now observed on June 14 of each year. While scholars still argue about this, tradition holds that the new flag was first hoisted in June 1777 by the Continental Army at the Middlebrook encampment.

The first official U.S. flag flown during battle was on August 3, 1777, at Fort Schuyler (Fort Stanwix) during the Siege of Fort Stanwix. Massachusetts reinforcements brought news of the adoption by Congress of the official flag to Fort Schuyler. Soldiers cut up their shirts to make the white stripes; scarlet material to form the red was secured from red flannel petticoats of officers' wives, while material for the blue union was secured from Capt. Abraham Swartwout's blue cloth coat. A voucher is extant that Capt. Swartwout of Dutchess County was paid by Congress for his coat for the flag.



Francis Hopkinson's flag for the U.S. Navy, featuring 13 six-pointed stars arranged in rows.



13-star so-called "Betsy Ross" variant

The 1777 resolution was most probably meant to define a naval ensign. In the late 18th century, the notion of a national flag did not yet exist, or was only nascent. The flag resolution appears between other

resolutions from the Marine Committee. On May 10, 1779, Secretary of the Board of War Richard Peters expressed concern "it is not yet settled what is the Standard of the United States." However, the term, "Standard," referred to a national standard for the Army of the United States. Each regiment was to carry the national standard in addition to its regimental standard. The national standard was not a reference to the national or naval flag.

The Flag Resolution did not specify any particular arrangement, number of points, nor orientation for the stars and the arrangement or whether the flag had to have seven red stripes and six white ones or vice versa. The appearance was up to the maker of the flag. Some flag makers arranged the stars into one big star, in a circle or in rows and some replaced a state's star with its initial. One arrangement features 13 five-pointed stars arranged in a circle, with the stars arranged pointing outwards from the circle (as opposed to up), the so-called Betsy Ross flag. This flag, however, is more likely a flag used for celebrations of anniversaries of the nation's birthday. Experts have dated the earliest known example of this flag to be 1792 in a painting by John Trumbull.

Despite the 1777 resolution, the early years of American independence featured many different flags. Most were individually crafted rather than mass-produced. While there are many examples of 13-star arrangements, some of those flags included blue stripes as well as red and white. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, in a letter dated October 3, 1778, to Ferdinand I of the Two Sicilies, described the American flag as consisting of "13 stripes, alternately red, white, and blue, a small square in the upper angle, next the flag staff, is a blue field, with 13 white stars, denoting a new Constellation." John Paul Jones used a variety of 13-star flags on his U.S. Navy ships including the well-documented 1779 flags of the Serapis and the Alliance. The Serapis flag had three rows of eight-pointed stars with stripes that were red, white, and blue. The flag for the Alliance, however, had five rows of eight-pointed stars with 13 red and white stripes, and the white stripes were on the outer edges. Both flags were documented by the Dutch government in October 1779, making them two of the earliest known flags of 13 stars.

Designer of the first stars and stripes

Francis Hopkinson of New Jersey, a naval flag designer, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, designed the 1777 flag while he was the Chairman of the Continental Navy Board's Middle Department, sometime between his appointment to that position in November 1776 and the time that the flag resolution was adopted in June 1777. The Navy Board was under the Continental Marine Committee. Not only did Hopkinson claim that he designed the U.S. flag, but he also claimed that he designed a flag for the U.S. Navy. Hopkinson was the only person to have made such a claim during his own lifetime, when he sent a letter and several bills to Congress for his work. These claims are documented in the Journals of the Continental Congress and George Hasting's biography of Hopkinson. Hopkinson initially wrote a letter to Congress, via the Continental Board of Admiralty, on May 25, 1780. In this letter, he asked for a "Quarter Cask of the Public Wine" as payment for designing the U.S. flag, the seal for the Admiralty Board, the seal for the Treasury Board, Continental currency, the Great Seal of the United States, and other devices. However, in three subsequent bills to Congress, Hopkinson asked to be paid in cash, but he did not list his U.S. flag design. Instead, he asked to be paid for designing the "great Naval Flag of the United States" in the first bill; the "Naval Flag of the United States" in the second bill; and "the Naval Flag of the States" in the third, along with the other items. The flag references were generic terms for the naval ensign that Hopkinson had designed, that is, a flag of seven red stripes and six white ones. The predominance of red stripes made the naval flag more visible against the sky on a ship at sea. By contrast, Hopkinson's flag for the United States had seven white stripes, and six red ones – in reality, six red stripes laid on a white background. Hopkinson's sketches have not been found, but we can make these conclusions because Hopkinson incorporated different stripe arrangements in the Admiralty (naval) Seal that he designed in the Spring of 1780 and the Great Seal of the United States that he proposed at the same time. His Admiralty Seal had seven red stripes; whereas, his second U.S. Seal proposal had seven white ones. Hopkinson's flag for the Navy is the one that the Nation preferred as the national flag. Remnants of Hopkinson's U.S. flag of seven white stripes can be found in the Great Seal of the United States and the President's seal. When Hopkinson was chairman of the

Navy Board, his position was like that of today's Secretary of the Navy. The payment was not made, however, because it was determined he had already received a salary as a member of Congress. This contradicts the legend of the Betsy Ross flag, which suggests that she sewed the first Stars and Stripes flag by request of the government in the Spring of 1776. Furthermore, a letter from the War Board to George Washington on May 10, 1779, documents that there was still no design established for a national flag for the Army's use in battle.

The origin of the stars and stripes design has been muddled by a story disseminated by the descendants of Betsy Ross. The apocryphal story credits Betsy Ross for sewing the first flag from a pencil sketch handed to her by George Washington. No evidence for this exists either in the diaries of George Washington nor in the records of the Continental Congress. Indeed, nearly a century passed before Ross' grandson, William Canby, first publicly suggested the story in 1870. By her family's own admission, Ross ran an upholstery business, and she had never made a flag as of the supposed visit in June 1776. Furthermore, her grandson admitted that his own search through the Journals of Congress and other official records failed to find corroboration of his grandmother's story.

The family of Rebecca Young claimed that she sewed the first flag. Young's daughter was Mary Pickersgill, who made the Star Spangled Banner Flag. She was assisted by Grace Wisher, an African American girl at just 13 years old. According to rumor, the Washington family coat of arms, shown in a 15th-century window of Selby Abbey, was the origin of the stars and stripes.

Later flag acts

In 1795, the number of stars and stripes was increased from 13 to 15 (to reflect the entry of Vermont and Kentucky as states of the Union). For a time, the flag was not changed when subsequent states were admitted, probably because it was thought that this would cause too much clutter. It was the 15-star, 15-stripe flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write "Defense of Fort McHenry", later known as "The Star Spangled Banner", which is now the American national anthem. The flag is currently on display in the exhibition, "The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag That Inspired the National Anthem" at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History in a

two-story display chamber that protects the flag while it is on view.

On April 4, 1818, a plan was passed by Congress at the suggestion of U.S. Naval Captain Samuel C. Reid in which the flag was changed to have 20 stars, with a new star to be added when each new state was admitted, but the number of stripes would be reduced to 13 so as to honor the original colonies. The act specified that new flag designs should become official on the first July 4 (Independence Day) following admission of one or more new states. The most recent change, from 49 stars to 50, occurred in 1960 when the present design was chosen, after Hawaii gained statehood in August 1959. Before that, the admission of Alaska in January 1959 prompted the debut of a short-lived 49-star flag.

Prior to the adoption of the 48-star flag in 1912, there was no official arrangement of the stars in the canton, although the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy used standardized designs. Throughout the 19th century there was an abundance of different star patterns, rectangular and circular.

On July 4, 2007, the 50-star flag became the version of the flag in longest use, surpassing the 48-star flag that was used from 1912 to 1959.

Symbolism

The flag of the United States is one of the nation's most widely recognized symbols. Within the United States, flags are frequently displayed not only on public buildings but on private residences. The flag is a common motif on decals for car windows, and on clothing ornamentation such as badges and lapel pins. Throughout the world the flag has been used in public discourse to refer to the United States.

The flag has become a powerful symbol of Americanism, and is flown on many occasions, with giant outdoor flags used by retail outlets to draw customers. Reverence for the flag has at times reached religion-like fervor: in 1919 William Norman Guthrie's book *The Religion of Old Glory* discussed "the cult of the flag" and formally proposed vexillolatriy.

Despite a number of attempts to ban the practice, desecration of the flag remains protected as free speech. Scholars have noted the irony that "[t]he flag is so revered because it represents the land of the free, and that freedom includes the ability to use

or abuse that flag in protest". Comparing practice worldwide, Testi noted in 2010 that the United States was not unique in adoring its banner, for the flags of Scandinavian countries are also "beloved, domesticated, commercialized and sacralized objects".

This nationalist attitude around the flag is a shift from earlier sentiments; the US flag was largely a "military ensign or a convenient marking of American territory" that rarely appeared outside of forts, embassies, and the like until the opening of the American Civil War in April 1861, when Major Robert Anderson was forced to surrender Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor to Confederates. Anderson was celebrated in the North as a hero and U.S. citizens throughout Northern states co-opted the national flag to symbolize U.S. nationalism and rejection of secessionism:

For the first time American flags were mass-produced rather than individually stitched and even so, manufacturers could not keep up with demand. As the long winter of 1861 turned into spring, that old flag meant something new. The abstraction of the Union cause was transfigured into a physical thing: strips of cloth that millions of people would fight for, and many thousands die for.

– *Adam Goodheart*.

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(End of USA Flag article)

[Picture from the past](#); First picture of DXSAR color guard (supplied by Robert Grover):

Delaware Crossing Chapter

Kansas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

The Delaware Crossing Color Guard was on duty at each of the 13 colonial tree planting ceremonies in 1999. The trees are descendants of a 214-year-old tulip poplar the George Washington planted at Mount Vernon in 1785, and the chapter planted them and marked them in various prominent locations to observe the 200-year legacy of the “The Father of Our Country” since he died in 1799.



4 Pictured: Barnett Ellis (kneeling) Victor Meador, Roger James Kes Kesler (president) Gene Amos and Ralph Smith.

(End of Patriot newsletter)