



The Delaware Crossing Patriot Kansas Society Sons of the American Revolution

July 2025

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

*The Revolution is coming!
One Year- Four Days*

NEXT MEETING:

When: July 19, 2025

Where: Milburn Country Club, 7501 W 69th
St., Overland Park, KS 66204, 9:00am

Reservations & Cost: For reservations,
email Secretary@dxsar.org or call Clay
Shropshire 785-521-8122 by 7:00 PM,
Tuesday,
July 15, 2025.

Cost: **\$23.00/person**

Program: Ethan S. Rafuse Ph.D. "West Point
in the War for Independence.

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

July 2025

- 16 DX EC Meeting
- 19 DX Chapter Meeting

August 2025

- 2 BOG
- 6 DX EC Meeting
- 9 DX Chapter Meeting

September 2025

- 17 DX EC Meeting
- 20 DX Chapter Picnic

The President's Corner



By Vincent Clark

THE ENGLISH ROOTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

One of the ironies of American history is the fact that before the Revolution most Americans were proud of being English and that they fought England to preserve their English rights. In fact, the idea that being English gave people rights was established by the 1630s, over a hundred years

before the Stamp Act, which led to the American Revolution.

The events that gave birth to these rights took place even earlier, in the Middle Ages. At that time England, like most other European countries, was ruled by a king. Beneath him were nobles--owners of enormous tracts of land, who governed the peasants, the small farmers living on their land. These nobles had private armies and fought for and sometimes against the king and sometimes against other aristocrats.

In the 1200s English nobles, with their armies, rebelled against King John and captured him. They set him free only when he had signed a document which they had drawn up, called in Latin, the Magna Carta (in English, the Great Charter). It listed several hundred rights that the nobles claimed. Some were very narrow and dealt only with specific circumstances. But some affected everyone in the land, and eventually, were claimed by all English people.

One right prohibited punishment for crime without a fair trial. Another was the privilege of *habeas corpus*, a term in Latin (in English the term means "have the body"), which became important in both England and its colonies. This right affected someone who had been imprisoned but not charged with any crime. This might happen when a governing authority, a king, for example, might want to stop someone from criticizing him. In such a case the prisoner's lawyer could file a *writ of habeas corpus*. The authorities would then have to charge him with a crime or release him. This right eliminate holding someone for a long time without the evidence necessary to charge him. It could also prevent someone from being held for investigation (a common practice in some countries) or to keep him from criticizing the government. The American revolutionaries thought this such an important right that they put it into the Constitution in Article I, Section 9.

Another right, which most people can probably connect with the Revolution was the principle of

no taxation without representation. This was also developed in England during the Middle Ages. Originally, English kings asked noblemen voluntarily to give them a "gift" of money to pay for a war. Eventually, the English law stipulated that taxes had to be given through their representatives. These representatives, who were elected, became Parliament. In the colonies the English government's attempts to impose taxes without the approval of the colonial legislatures, which the revolutionaries saw as their representative, took the form of the Stamp Act and other taxing measure and was one of the main grievances leading to the Revolutionary War.

What this means is that a glance at the histories of both the United States and England shows that we has received numerous gifts from England. These have, included language, the Common Law, and many of our rights.





Ethan S. Rafuse, Ph.D.

Ethan S. Rafuse, PH.D. to speak at the DX July Chapter Meeting

“West Point in the War for Independence”. In 1775, the Second Continental Congress appointed a committee to study the problem of defending New York. The committee, chaired by George Washington, immediately identified possession of the region known as the Hudson Highlands, especially “the West Point of the Hudson River,” as critical to American prospects for success in a war with Great Britain. This talk will provide an overview of the site of the U.S. Military Academy’s experience in 1775-1783, its role in the war for independence, and its legacy.

Ethan S. Rafuse is a professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command General Staff College. He grew up in northern Virginia, received his BA and MA degrees in history at George Mason University, and did his doctoral work at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

In 2018-2019, Dr. Rafuse was the Charles Boal Ewing Distinguished Professor of History at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

He is the author, editor, or co-editor of numerous books and monographs on Civil War and military history, including *McClellan’s War: The Failure of Moderation in the War for the Union*; *Manassas: A Battlefield Guide*; *Stonewall Jackson: A Biography*; *Antietam*,

South Mountain and Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Guide; *Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy*; *Guide to the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign* (U.S. Army War College Guides to Civil War Battles); *The Ongoing Civil War: New Versions and Old Stories* (with Herman Hattaway), and *A Single Grand Victory: The First Campaign and Battle of Manassas*, as well as over 350 articles, essays, and reviews in various academic and popular history publications.



Tod Hoover is inducted by President Vince Clark

Welcome New Member **Todd Duncan Hoover**

Todd Duncan Hoover was inducted at our June 28, 2025 Chapter Meeting. His membership application was approved on February 23, 2025 and registered on February 25.

His Patriot Ancestor was Daniel Mc Junkin who was a Private in the South Carolina Militia during the Revolutionary War. He fought in the battles of Briar Creek, Fairforest, Kings Mountain, Blackstocks and Cowpens. He fought sometimes with his older brother Joseph and his younger brother Robert; often under the command of Joseph. Daniel was among the very few who were not killed or captured in the Battle of Briar Creek. On about June 10, 1780 he was wounded in the Battle of Fairforest when a horse mounted British Soldier impaled a lance in his back between his shoulder blades. It went through his body and he grabbed it at his chest. A British officer told Daniel if he let go of the blade, he would pull it out, from his horse he put his foot on Daniel's back and pull the lance out. Daniel was treated by a Mrs. Sims and survived. Four months later he fought in the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Accompanying photos are of Todd being administered his Membership Oath by President Vincent Clark, Todd being pinned with the SAR Member Rosette by Co-sponsor Timothy Peterman, Todd lighting a candle in honor of his Patriot Ancestor, Todd being presented a Chapter Challenge Coin by Dewey Fry and Cynthia Hoover, Todd's mother and a member of the Mission Hills Chapter DAR being presented a Medal of Appreciation from the Kansas Society SAR for referring Todd for membership to the SAR.

Take the opportunity personally welcome Todd Hoover to the Delaware Crossing Chapter, Kansas Society and the NSSAR.



Tim Peterman pins the SAR Rosette to Tod Hoover's lapel.



Todd Hoover lights his Patriot Candle.



Dewey Fry presents the DX Challenge Coin to Todd Hoover.



Kirk Rush, John Forbes, Larry Tatum, Jeff Winters, and Ken Ludwig

Wreath Across America Double Down!

Wreaths Across America has mailed a promotional letter to many past patrons who have sponsored wreaths. They are promoting what they call the Double Down program in July 2025, which is for every wreath sponsored they will send \$5.00 to a good cause. That is somewhat the program in which the Delaware Crossing Chapter is participating.

For every wreath sponsored through Delaware Crossing Chapter KSSAR \$5.00 is sent to the chapter which the Chapter divides; half going to our Veterans Fund and half to our Kesler Youth Endowment Fund. From these funds, gifts are given to Veterans at the Community Living Center at the Eisenhower Veterans Center in Leavenworth and the money in the KYEF is used for prize payments to youth in the various SAR Youth Contests at the chapter level.

Your sponsoring of wreaths through the Delaware Crossing Chapter is much appreciated.

Dewey Fry-WAA Committee Chair



Dewey Fry presents the Kansas SAR Medal of Appreciation to Cynthia Hoover.



Isaac Barnett (Barney) Ellis

NOTED DELAWARE CROSSING LEADER PASSES AWAY

Isaac Barnett “Barney” Ellis achieved a key goal in life: celebrating his 100th birthday. Barney passed away about seven weeks later following a life filled with successes and service to America. He departed this world having touched many lives and impacting multiple organizations. Barney was admitted to the NSSAR on 7 September 1995, member #145151 (KS 2059), as a Member-at-Large in Crawford County, Kansas. His patriot was Griffith Owen and his sponsor was Paul Wilbert. Following a move (return) to the Kansas City area, Barney joined DX in 1997. He was elected president of DX for a term of 2001-2002. Isaac Barnett (Barney) Ellis died June 10, 2025. He was a resident of Foxwood Springs,

Raymore, MO. He was born 19 April 1925 to Isaac S. Ellis and Wiltsee Potter Ellis of Walker (Vernon), MO.

He attended Walker Schools graduating in 1942. He spent a semester at Rolla studying engineering but that wasn’t his destiny. Then, he was off to business school in Sedalia. But there was a need for a teacher back at Walker – teaching kids he knew! And he handled sugar rationing for the area.

He joined the Navy V-12 program 1 July 1943. Through this officer training program, he attended Missouri Valley College, Northwestern University and Harvard Business School, where he earned a BS degree. Barney and Virginia were married in November, 1944 in Cambridge. He was commissioned an Ensign (Supply Corp) and served on Guam until June 1946. A member of the “greatest generation.”

Following the War, he taught at Central Business College, Sedalia, MO and then earned his CPA certificate in Kansas City, MO. He was employed by W. S. Dickey Company serving as an accountant and finished his career with them as President of the Company. His experience included forming a foundation for a hospital and then as President of Pitt Plastics in Pittsburg, KS.

Barney and Virginia were active in Disciples of Christ Churches wherever they lived. He was a Boy Scout Volunteer for 42 years of service in various troop, district, and regional positions. He was recognized for service in BSA receiving the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope medals.

Barney’s business acumen, a keen interest in learning, and digging deeper into projects found place in the Sons of the American Revolution. He made contributions at the chapter, state, and national level.

His leadership was respected and provided a model for others. His first notable position was president of DX – the largest chapter in the Kansas SAR. This was followed as president of the State Society 2003-2005. Then, onto National Trustee. He was a natural as the South Central District Vice President General.

His service as National Trustee was a keen introduction to the National Society environment. He quickly gained attention with his succinct style and willingness to pitch-in to make a difference. His fundraising skills were honed a decade earlier with a hospital construction project. The idea of a museum and library was in its infancy and Barney found his calling in raising money for this endeavor. Eventually, he was elected president of the SAR Foundation and then President-emeritus. Barney was endorsed by the NSSAR Nominations Committee for Secretary General for election at the Atlanta Congress (2009). His hard work was honored with the NSSAR ultimate award – Minuteman (2008).

Genealogy is like a mystery novel. And Barney solved many mysteries – he was the first line sponsor for 341 men into the Kansas SAR. A number of these men joined chapters he assisted with organizing: Konza Prairie, Monticello, Henry Leavenworth, and John Seward. Leadership and a seemingly never-ending willingness to step in to help was Barney Ellis the compatriot. A handful of DX men felt the grip of Barney on their left biceps with a strong question about how they were going to step up and help. His ultimate recognition of service to the Society was bestowed by Kansas SAR president Bob Capps (2013-15) with the creation of the Ellis Spirit Award. Barney was the first recipient in recognition of continual work in the Kansas SAR well beyond the years he had led the Society. It was an inspirational message that one can always play a role to enrich the Sons of the American Revolution. He was preceded in death by his wife Virginia Hoffman Ellis and his parents and by a son, Randall Ellis (Teri) of Tulsa, OK. He is survived by two sons - Dale Ellis (Kathleen), Overland Park, KS; James Ellis (Melody), Wichita, KS; four grandchildren: Isaac Ellis, Overland Park, KS, Rebecca Ellis (Overland Park), Kathleen Misk (Ryan), Crown Point, IN and Sandra Ellis (Luke), Bella Vista, AR as well as six great-grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

A graveside service with Military Honors was conducted on 11 June 2025 at Newton Cemetery, Nevada, MO where his parents, wife and her parents are buried. Kansas SAR president Tim Peterman led a contingent of past Kansas SAR presidents: Peter Grassl, Dave Comer, and Bob Capps.

Memorials can be made to the Fellowship of John Foundation, by mail to Fellowship of John, Foxwood Springs, PO Box 701, Raymore MO 64083. This foundation provides compassionate and confidential assistance to residents who have outlived their resources. Barney was very active in fundraising and operation of this foundation for many years.



Isaac Barnett (Barney) Ellis

Your Color Guard at Work

Since our last edition of the Patriot, your Delaware Crossing Color Guardsmen have remained busy. On Saturday June 4 a few took part in the Old Shawnee Days Parade. Clay Shropshire and Bruce Smith of Delaware Crossing Chapter marched with other KSSSAR Color Guardsmen Alan Martin, Brian Vazquez, Doug Babb, and John Moore. Dewey Fry, of DX, drove a pickup pulling a trailer on which Larry Tatum and Steven French of DX rode on the trailer along with Bruce Bowman and Craig Dillavou of MC. Some ladies of the Mission Hills DAR Chapter also rode on the trailer or walked along side passing out gifts to the crowd.

The marching Color Guardsmen were the third unit in the parade and the trailer was the 15th; the marching Color Guardsmen welcomed the trailer near the end of the parade.

On June 6, four KSSSAR Color joined the NW District of MOSSAR Color Guard in welcoming back the Honor Flight of 23 veterans. They were sponsored by the Parsons, Kansas High School and had spent a couple days touring Washington DC. Several were in wheel chairs. The veterans are always surprised and very appreciative. The Color Guardsmen were Clay Shropshire and Dewey Fry from Delaware Crossing Chapter, Alan Martin from DX and MC and Brian Vazquez from Thomas Jefferson Chapter.

On June 14, the Delaware Crossing Color Guardsmen Kirk Rush, Dewey Fry, Steven French and Clay Shropshire presented the colors and participated in a flag folding ceremony at Lake View Village in Lenexa. They also enjoyed some good music and food. The flag that was folded was later presented to an elderly lady residing at Lakeview Village.

On June 17, KSSAR Color Guardsmen presented the colors at the Naturalization Ceremony at the Robert J. Dole US Courthouse in KCK. Eighty-

eight applicants from 27 countries took their Oath of Allegiance becoming USA citizen during the ceremony. Color Guardsmen always congratulate each new citizen after the ceremonies at the KCK location. The Color Guardsmen then go to the reception that follows and let the new citizens, their family members and friends have their pictures taken with the Color Guard on this celebratory occasion.

On July 4, the KSSAR Color Guard marched and rode on a trailer in the Lenexa Community Days Parade.

Clay Shropshire of Delaware Crossing Chapter marched with Jeffrey Winters of Monticello Chapter and Commander Brian Vazquez of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter just ahead of the truck and trailer on which rode Steven French of DX and Alan Martin of MC in full uniforms and David Kling of DX and Steve Martin of MC in casual clothing.

Ladies from the Mission Hills Chapter DAR also rode on the trailer.

The KSSSAR Color Guard at the 2025 Old Shawnee Days Parade



Alan Martin, Clay Shropshire, Brian Vasquez, Doug Babb, John More and Bruce Smith.



Doug Babb, Dewey Fry, Steven French, Larry Tatum, Bruce Bowman, Alan Martin and Clay Shropshire.



Alan Martin, Clay Shropshire, Brian Vasquez, Doug Babb, John More and Bruce Smith.



Alan Martin, Clay Shropshire, Brian Vasquez, Doug Babb, John More and Bruce Smith.



DAR Members march ahead of the DX Float.



The DX Parade Float.



Craig Dillavou and Bruce Bowman.

The KSSSAR Color Guard at the June 17th Naturalization Ceremony.



Bruce Smith, Clay Shropshire, John More, Dewey Fry, Jerry Vest, Steven French and Brian Vasquez.



New U.S. Citizens with KSSSAR Color Guard members – Bruce Smith, Clay Shropshire, John More, Dewey Fry, Jerry Vest, Steven French and Brian Vasquez.

The KSSSAR and NW District MOSSAR Color Guard at the Honor Flight.



The KSSSAR and the NW District MOSSAR Color Guards.



Clay Shropshire, Dewey Fry, Alan Martin and John More with a DAR Representative.



Dewey Fry greets the returning Veterans.



The Color Guard greeting returning Veterans.

The DX Color Guard at the Flag Day Ceremony.



Kirk Rush, Dewey Fry, Steven French and Clay Shropshire



Dewey Fry, Steven French and Kirk Rush conduct the Flag Folding Ceremony..