



The Delaware Crossing Patriot

Kansas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

February 2019

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

NEXT MEETING:

When: February 16

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: Winning Eagle Scout and Knight
Essay reading and presentation.

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

02/13 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.

02/16 Chapter Meeting. Presentation of Eagle
Scout and Knight Essay contest winners.

02/22 Poster Contest – Pioneer Ridge Middle
School. Gardner, KS

02/23 GWBC – Embassy Suites KCI, Kansas
City, MO

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 , and phone number
(913) 268-4932.



The President's Corner

By Kirk Rush

What Would Your Patriot Ancestor Think?

What if you could build a magic time machine and
bring your Patriot Ancestor forward in time
to meet you? Consider the sacrifices he and his
family made to be a Patriot for the American
Revolution. How would he judge you? Would he
consider you a Patriot? Would he think you are
doing enough of the right things for your country?

Obviously most of us have not had to go through
the trials and tribulations our Patriot Ancestors
had to endure. After all they were willing to
sacrifice EVERYTHING for what they believed in:
their property, their freedom, their livelihoods,
their families, their very LIVES! They were
willing to put it all on the line.

What have we done to be Patriots and serve our
country? Some of us are Military Veterans;
some of us are First Responders; some of us
support our Veterans and First Responders; some
of us have held public office; and some of us have
been willing to speak up when it was needed
(and not necessarily convenient to ourselves).
Think about it: what have you done or dared to
show support for your country?

I don't believe we all have to go to the same
extremes that some of our Patriot Ancestors went

through nor do I think they would expect if of you either. But what would they think? Would they be proud to claim you as their descendent? Would they be pleased by what you’ve done to support our country? Ask yourself; and then think what else you might be able to do.

(End of President’s Corner)

Summary of Delaware Crossing Chapter

January meeting:

Three new members were inducted at the January 2019 meeting: Jon Pirie, Charles Pirie, and Steven French. The patriot for Jon and Charles is Asa Backus. The papers for David Pirie living in California, the brother of Jon and Charles, are being held by Jon Pirie. The patriot for Steven French is William Rankin. The three inductees are shown in the following picture reciting the pledge to the SAR Chapter with raised right hands.



1 Kirk Rush(left) read pledge for Jon & Charles Pirie, and Steven French. Dewey Fry (

The three inductees lit a candle as a symbol of their duty and future activity to the chapter.



2 Jon Pirie lights his candle, as a symbol of duty to chapter. Charles and Steven also lit a candle.

The announced speaker, Dr. Tom Vontz did not speak at the chapter meeting do to the ice and snow storm, the night before. Dewey Fry filled the speaker void with a presentation and discussion of the early American flags.



3 Speaker Dewey Fry speaks on the early American flags.

Genealogy Day Resource Fair set March 9:

The 2019 National Genealogy Day Resource Fair can help you explore your family history. The free fair is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 9. It is presented by the Johnson County Genealogical Society and hosted by the Johnson County Library at the Central Resource Library, 9875 W. 87th St., Overland Park. SAR will have a table at the Fair.

Article by Ken Ludwig):

Our Forefathers Flags

This month, we learn about the Guilford Courthouse Flag.



4 Guilford Courthouse Flag.

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The Guilford Courthouse Flag is the name given to a North Carolina militia banner which was reported to have flown at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse (March 15, 1781, Greensboro, North Carolina). The flag is recognizable by the reverse colors normally seen on American flags: red and blue stripes in the field with eight-pointed blue stars on an elongated white canton.

The unique colors and dimensions are sometimes described as showing a lack of uniformity in a young nation at war, with a poor infrastructure and bad communication. However, it was common practice during the Revolution for military units to carry flags that featured common American symbols (such as stripes and stars), but to make them uniquely identifiable for use as a company or regimental flag. As such, this flag was probably never intended for use as a national flag.

The original flag has been preserved since 1914 in the collection of the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, North Carolina. It measures 42 inches high and 100 inches on the fly. The canton is 35 inches high and 73 inches long. The stars are 8 inches in diameter and have eight points. It is considered the oldest surviving example of an American flag with eight-pointed stars.

The flag was presented to the Grand Masonic Lodge of North Carolina in 1909 by Micajah Bullock's son, Edward, who was 81 years old at the time. While there is no historic documentation of the flag being used in the battle and studies of the flag suggest that it may have had 15 stars and 15 stripes at one time - either originally made or

perhaps added on when U.S. flags had 15 stripes. The use of cotton cloth as the primary fabric is evidence of post-1790 construction. These factors cause some to question the validity of the Bullock story. However, Al Hoilman, curator of Political and Socio-Economic History at the museum, has studied the reports on the controversy and believes the flag could have been flown at the battle. "It (story of the flag) smacks of truth to me," he says. The Micajah Bullock chapter of North Carolina's DAR has collected extensive writings and records which lead to conclude based on the age of the fabric and no real evidence that any other stars were ever on the flag confirm the flag is real. While it may be an item of controversy, the family's documents record Micajah returning home weary from battle carrying the flag. Upon his passing, his son Edward was entrusted with its care. When copies of this design are sold or flown today, it is generally accepted as symbolic of the American Revolution and, specifically, the battle itself.

The **Battle of Guilford Courthouse** was significant because it ended **General Charles Cornwallis'** inland attempt to take North Carolina and consolidate his wins in the south. Even though the 1900 British soldiers technically defeated **General Nathanael Greene's** 4,000 American patriots, the British army suffered serious losses, losing nearly 25% of its men who were killed or wounded. The losses forced Cornwallis to retreat to the sea where he eventually surrendered a few months later in October.

In the popular Mel Gibson movie, *The Patriot*, the final battle scene is a composite of the **Battle of Guilford Courthouse** and the **Battle of Cowpens**. Gibson's character, which is based on Revolutionary War hero **Francis Marion**, carries a 13 star **Betsy Ross Flag** in the scene. It would have been more accurate had he been carrying the **Guilford Courthouse Flag** or the **Cowpens Flag**.

(End of Guilford Courthouse Flag article)

(End of Patriot newsletter)