



*The Delaware Crossing Patriot*  
*Kansas Society*  
*Sons of the American Revolution*  
June 2020  
Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

**NEXT MEETING:**

**When:** To Be Announced

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 Strang Line Road, Olathe, KS 66062, 9:00AM

**Reservations & Cost:** For reservations, email [Secretary@dxsar.com](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.com) or call Steven French (913)-832-6034

by 3:00 PM, the Wednesday before

**Breakfast Cost:** \$17.00/person

**Program:** Chapter Awards

**Important Meeting Update**

The Executive Committee needs your input concerning the June Chapter Meeting.

If we are able to comply with the Colvid 19 regulations, would you attend a June Chapter Meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn?

**Please respond to:** [Secretary@dxsar.com](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.com)

Based on the results of your feedback, a separate email updating our plans will be sent in early June.

Your response is greatly appreciated.

**The President's Corner**



By Ken Ludwig

Greeting Compatriots!

As I sit down to write this article on Memorial Day, I realized I should have mentioned this holiday in last month's newsletter. I apologize for that oversight.

I do want to thank any of you who have served in the military for your service to our country, like our patriot ancestors, we would not be the country we are without you.

During this pandemic stay at home order; I have taken the opportunity to expand my reading genres and started to read some revolutionary war history books.

Prior to this, I have taken American History courses in elementary, high school, and college. This is the classic case of the victor gets to write the history books, so all I was exposed to was the fact that 1) the British started it, and 2) in the end we won. Along the way this great republic was created with our Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. In addition, I was exposed to sketches of great individuals like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and a smattering of the events, like Lexington and Concord, the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's Ride and Betsy Ross and the Flag. A couple of years ago, I did a leaf peeping cruise that visited Boston, Portsmouth, and on up into Nova Scotia. That was the first time that I was exposed to the other side of our Revolutionary War history, as I was told that during the Revolution, about 1/3 of the county were patriots, another 1/3 was Loyalist to the crown, and the remaining 1/3 just wanted to be left alone and have no part in the fight. Many of the loyalist either during or after the war emigrated to Canada to escape the persecution they were receiving at home.

So, the current book I am reading is called the Scars of Independence by Holger Hoock. Hoock is actually a German historian, so he definitely takes more of a world view of the conflict. In fact, he calls the revolutionary war the first Civil War in the states, since there was so much conflict between the patriots and the loyalists. The following is an excerpt from this book.

"America's war for independence caused proportionately more human suffering than any other war in American history except the Civil War. Because to modern eyes the absolute numbers involved look comparatively small, it is easy to forget that with an estimated 6,800 to

8,000 Patriot battle deaths, 10,000 killed by disease in camps, and up to 16,000 or even 19,000 who perished in captivity, the number of Patriot soldier killed in the Revolutionary War would be well over 3 million in terms of today's population – and significantly more than that if we consider Patriot deaths as a proportion of only the Patriot population in 1775 or 1783. More than 10 times as many Americans died, per capita, in the Revolutionary War as in World War I and nearly five times as many as in World War II. The death rate among Revolutionary-era prisoners of war was the highest in American history. In addition, at least 20,000 British and thousands more American Loyalist, Native American, German, and French lives were lost. The Revolution exacted further human sacrifice when at war's end approximately 1 in 40 Americans went into permanent exile, the equivalent of some 7.5 million today."

I was sobered by those statistics. It is evident that much like giving birth to a child, that this great country was born with much pain and suffering. Every person living in this country at this time had to have been touched by this war in one way or the other. I was horrified by the fact that as many if not more POW's died in British captivity then those in battle and in camps from wounds and disease. Our ancestors truly gave everything for our freedoms!

In my mind, it also puts the Coronavirus Pandemic in perspective, as we really have not suffered that much, and definitely the loss of life is minimal (proportionately) compared to the Revolutionary War.

On to lighter topics, as June bears a couple of notable days.

June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day, so please display our Stars and Stripes proudly and appropriately that day.

June 21<sup>st</sup> is Father's Day, so if you are a father or a grandfather, please remember to not only enjoy your families on that day, but also please share your love of the SAR and encourage them to join

our organization or for the little ones, get them started in the Children of the American Revolution (CAR).

I would like to close with letting you know that the Executive Committee is monitoring as many of the variables as we can concerning reopening of the country, to come up with a safe plan to restart holding our monthly chapter meetings. We are anxious to get back together and are working as diligently as we can to make it happen.

Ken Ludwig

### **Update on Poster Contest Winner**

In the April edition of the Patriot it was announced that Audrey Gainer had won the 2019-2020 SAR Elementary School Poster Contest at Prairie Ridge Middle School, the Delaware Crossing Chapter and the Kansas Society SAR levels. Due to the Coronavirus Decease 2019, aka COLVID 19, a delay occurred in getting the Certificate for winning the state level contest and the accompanying \$100.00 check.

Dewey Fry made arrangements to present both the certificate and check to Audrey at her home early the evening of April 30. Photos of that presentation accompany this article.

KSSSAR President Bobbie Hulse mailed the poster to the NSSAR Americanism Chairman for judging at the national level during Congress. It is still being determined if there will be an actual Congress or a virtual one. Whatever the decision, Audrey's poster is in the NSSAR contest.



*Dewey Fry presenting a \$100 check to Audrey Gainer for the 2020 Winning Poster.*



*Dewey Fry presenting Certificate for the Winning Poster to Audrey Gainer.*

### **Kansas Society Colonial Soldier of the Year Award**

Each year the Kansas Society SAR awards the Colonial Soldier of the Year to a qualifying Color Guardsman. Each Color Guardsman should maintain a log of the events in which he participated. Specific points are assigned to various events and associated activities. One rule is that a Color Guardsman cannot win the award in successive years; thereby, creating the opportunity for others to be recognized.

This recognition is generally presented at the Kansas Society Annual Meeting in March. As we are all very aware, that could not take place in March due to COLVID 19.

The 2019-2020 Kansas Society Colonial Soldier of the Year is Steven French. The award was announced during the BOG virtual meeting on May 2 and presented, in person, to Steve later that afternoon at his home by Commander Dewey Fry. The award is a Traveling Plaque which the awardee gets to be displayed in his home until needed for the next presentation. Congratulations Steve!

It generally takes a period of time for a Color Guardsman to become active enough to earn enough points to compete. Not Steve, he became very active from the get-go and earned the award in his first full year of activity.

Steve has not only won this award he has also stepped up to become the Delaware Crossing Chapter Color Guard Commander, Secretary, and Chairman of the Law Enforcement, Fire Safety and EMS awards.



*Steven French is presented with the "Colonial Soldier of the Year" award by Dewey Fry.*





### **This Month in the Revolutionary War**

On June 17, 1775, the Battle of Bunker Hill presented “The American Resolve” to the British army. Prior to this battle, the Americans were seen as an unorganized, rag-tag, fire-one-shot and run, band of protesters.

But if the American troops had been properly supplied with ammunition, the British may have suffered a major defeat even though they outnumbered the Americans two to one.

During the night of June 16, 1775 under the orders of Artemas Ward, the Americans mistakenly marched to Breed’s Hill, which overlooked the British camp, and dug a defensive position.

The British were startled, awaking to the threat of the Americans in a position to bombard their encampment. As was the eighteenth-century military custom, the British attacked the superior American position of cannon and soldiers pointing down from Breed’s Hill. Because of the lack of adequate munitions, the historic order to not fire

until you can see “the whites of their eyes” was given.

The British charged the hill three times, failing the first two and only were able to succeed on the third try because of the lack of ammunition. The battle cost the British half of their 2000 soldiers, their attitude of invincibility and their disdain for the American people.

The Americans had proven themselves as a quality force and was considered such in the future battles of the Revolution.

### **Recap of May, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting**

#### **60th Delaware Crossing 60th**

**Birthday: Celebration:** The tentative date for the celebration is November 14th. The committee is working on getting Grinter House to open the museum for the event.

**Chapter Picnic:** Reservations for the picnic have been made for the chapter picnic for September 19th at Antioch Park.

**National Congress:** Kansas can send twenty members to the National Conference if any of our members are interested, four positions are filled. It is possible it may be held on Zoom.

The EC Committee voted not to have a June Zoom meeting. For the June meeting we will survey members at the end of May to see if there is interest in a physical meeting (providing the stay-at-home orders have been lifted and the hotel is open for meetings),

We are still in need of a VP of Programs