



*The Delaware Crossing Patriot
Kansas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
June 2024
Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960*

*The Revolution is coming!
Two Years - One Month - Four Days*

NEXT MEETING:

When: June 15, 2024

Where: Hilton Garden Inn. 12080 Strang Line Road, Olathe, KS 66062, 9:00am

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email Secretary@dxsar.com or call Clay Shropshire 785-521-8122 by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

Cost: **\$25.00/person**

Program: "The Revolutionary War in Missouri"
Jim Thornton.

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

June 2024

- 12 DX EC Meeting
- 15 DX Chapter Meeting

July 2024

- 17 DX EC Meeting
- 20 DX Chapter Meeting

August

- 3 BOG Meeting
- 14 DX EC Meeting
- 17 DX Chapter Meeting

The President's Corner



By Ken Ludwig

Commitment

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines treason as "the betrayal of allegiance toward one's own country, especially by committing hostile acts against it or aiding its enemies in committing such acts." When the 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence, they knew full well that they were committing treason against England and they knew the penalty—death.

What kind of men were the signers? Twenty-five were lawyers or jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers or large plantation owners. One was a teacher, one a musician and one a printer. They were men of means and education, yet they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty could be death if they were captured.

In fact, it was Benjamin Franklin who, after putting his quill pen down quipped, “We must indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall hang separately.”

Despite such dire consequences, the reality was that our Founding Fathers valued freedom and its promise for themselves and their posterity so much so that they would risk and pledge their “lives, fortunes and sacred honor.”

Signing the Declaration proved to be very costly. Five signers were captured by the British and brutally tortured as traitors. Nine fought in the Revolutionary War and died from wounds or hardships. Two lost their sons in the war, and two others had sons captured. At least a dozen of the 56 had their homes pillaged and burned.

248 years later, a grateful nation remembers their courageous actions and sacrifices.

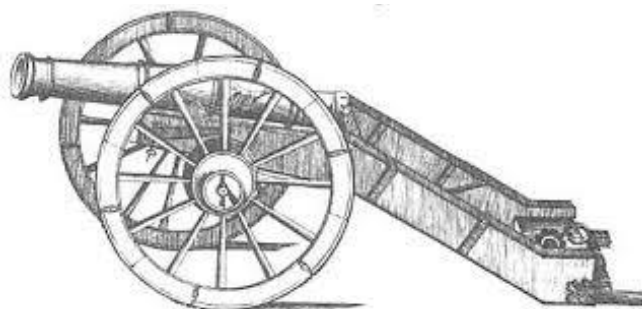
The above was excerpted from the Forest Lawn Memorial Park Association website.

One would have to agree that the signers of the Declaration of independence were committed. They were “All In”! In my genealogical research on my family, one of my ancestors who served in the militia complained in his pension application that serving kept him away from his farm during planting and harvesting, but he still bet his life and livelihood on this country. I am sure that all of us have similar stories of sacrifice and commitment by our ancestors in forming this great country that we live in.

So, what has happened in the succeeding generations that have led us to be so non-committal? We have over 140 members in our chapter and yet only 20 to 25 bother to show up for our monthly meetings. When asked to serve the chapter, it is a constant mantra of excuses as to why they could not commit to helping where needed.

The chapter is even experiencing a negative aspect of commitment. Every month we send out a meeting invitation to everyone and ask that you respond back to the Secretary if you plan to attend, as we have to notify the hotel to make sure we have a large enough room, enough food, and enough table and chairs for everyone. Every month, we have people that say they will attend on a Wednesday but do not show up on Saturday for the meeting. This hurts the chapter because if we tell the hotel we will have 30 people attending, and only 27 show up, we still have to pay the hotel for the 30, thus losing close to \$100 from the chapters coffers to cover the people who said they would attend and didn't.

I encourage all of you to examine your level of commitment to the chapter and to all other aspects of your life. Does it reach the level of your patriot ancestors?





Memorial Day Weekend SAR Events
by Bruce Smith

This weekend, my wife and I had the good fortune to attend two very well-done events paying tribute to our Revolutionary War Patriots. These were the Vincennes Rendezvous and the Ste. Genevieve Memorial Cemetery Grave Marking. The latter was mentioned by compatriot Alan Martin at our May chapter meeting.

The Vincennes Rendezvous was held in Vincennes, IN, on the site of Fort Sackville. This British outpost was captured by Gen. George Rogers Clark on February 25, 1779, and is now part of the National Park system. Clark's Virginia troops, including the brother, Griffin Tullis, of my VA patriot, John Tullis Sr., were aided by French-Canadian settlers in this action along the Wabash River. I did not know this previously, but the George Rogers Clark Memorial, located here,

is the largest US monument outside Washington, DC.

After this engagement, Clark stated, "Great things have been effected by a few men well conducted." This statement was appropriate in that Clark had a combined force of about 270 Virginians, Canadians, and Native People versus Lt. Governor Henry Montgomery's combined force of about 550.

This is a two-day event. There are large military encampments, period musicians, two battle reenactments per day, many period vendors, food stands, period artisans, and the Memorial Service conducted by the SAR. The Kansas SAR was represented in the large Color Guard by Alan Martin. The National Color Guard commander, K. Scott Collins, led this group, representing seven states. The presentation of the colors started promptly at 11 am. Members of SAR, DAR, NPS, and the mayor gave greetings. This was followed by the memorialization of 5 patriots: Joseph Dubois, Louis Godere, Pierre Godere, Andre Languedoc, and Francois Pelletier, who are buried in the cemetery adjacent to the memorial. Next was a National Park Service reading on Clark, then the presentation of 50 memorial wreaths from SAR, DAR, and other groups. There was a bagpipe tribute and taps. Unfortunately, a planned flyover was postponed due to weather uncertainties.

For those interested in additional sightseeing, the home of President William Henry Harrison is in Vincennes, as are the Indiana Military Museum and the Red Skelton Museum. Harrison was a hero of the Battle of Tippecanoe and is generally remembered as having the shortest term in Presidential office, 31 days, dying from pneumonia. This will be one of the designated annual SAR 250 events in five years.

The next event was in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. The town was founded in 1740 by French Canadians and is the first permanent European settlement in Missouri. This event combined two activities: a Patriot Grave Marking National Event in Memorial Cemetery and an educational program on the War in the West at Fort San Carlos (present-day St. Louis).

Bobbie Hulse, Bill Marshall, and Alan Martin represented Kansas in the large color guard. The current and immediate-past MOSAR presidents Gene Heny, David Shaul, and Bobbie Hulse had active roles in the memorial event. A signature moment in the event was the live powder volleys in salute to the Patriots. The Ste. Genevieve Milice (militia) and the SAR Color Guard alternated, firing four volleys each. A Revolutionary War in the West Roadside marker was dedicated, as was the addition of the newly honored names to the memorial plaque that hangs in the Centre for French Colonial Life.

This event's story is that two ceremonies were held last year, each marking five Patriot graves. Why here?

The Patriots are primarily of French ancestry. They served at the Battle of Fort San Carlos (also called the Battle of St. Louis) on May 26, 1780. The site was a Spanish trading center under Lieutenant Governor Fernando de Leyba, a captain in the Spanish Army, but it was also the administrative capital of Upper Louisiana. The captain could call on about 190 men, mostly inexperienced militia, for defense. As a combined British and Native force of 1000 approached, he called upon the French in Ste. Genevieve for assistance. Francois Valle sent 60 hand-picked men with stores of ammunition to answer the call. Against all odds, the Spanish and French forces repelled the attack. At the same time, George Rogers Clark easily repulsed an attack on Fort Cahokia.

Sadly, you cannot see the Battle of Fort San Carlos location, as the site is lost. The old Spanish town is under grounds now occupied by Gateway Arch National Park. The fort itself was located where the Hilton at the Ballpark now stands. There is a marker by the hotel.

The 5 honored Patriots were: Charles Belmard, Jean Baptiste Fortin, Joseph, Courtois, Israel Dodge, and Raimond Govreau. The outlier's name here is Israel Dodge, who served in Connecticut forces in the east but later moved to Ste. Genevieve.

After last year's ceremony, a concerted effort was made to identify the location of burial for all 60 of the men from Ste. Genevieve. Many have been identified, at least in terms of the cemetery, if not the exact spot, so additional grave makings will occur through the 250th period.

Ste. Genevieve is also a National Park Service location with several preserved and accessible buildings from the French Colonial period. I am also told by good authority that the nearby Cave Winery is an excellent stop. Maybe we will get a first-hand assessment of that next year.



Bobby Hulse, commanding the column, Alan Martin, second in line.



Alan Martin in frontier uniform.



George Rogers Clark Monument.



Alan Martin on the left.



Alan Martin holding the Kansas State Flag.



Bennett Dickson with McKenna Rhodes.

DX Rumbaugh Winner, McKenna Rhodes, visits the Henry Leavenworth Chapter.

McKenna Rhodes was the guest of the Henry Leavenworth SAR Chapter on May 23. She reprised her Rumbaugh Oration based on the service of her ancestor, Major Phillips.

The Oration was very well received by the audience of about 30 compatriots and guests that were present. As you might expect, she did a great job, not missing a word of her presentation.

McKenna entertained questions afterward, including a suggestion she consider running for US President.

Chapter President Bennett Dickson congratulated her on her excellent Oration and presented her with a pin to commemorate the occasion.



Ken Ludwig presents Keara Torkelson with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Keara Bono Torkelson, A Succeeder

Our program for our May 18th Chapter Meeting was Keara Torkelson, who survived the November 5, 2009 shooting attack by Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan at Fort Hood (Now Fort Cavazos) in Killeen, Texas. 12 military personnel and 1 Department of Defense employee were killed and 32 others wounded.

Specialist Keara Torkelson was among those wounded. She was shot in the back of a shoulder and wounded by shrapnel in the top of the head. While sitting on a curb waiting for medics to examine and treat her for the bullet in her back, she felt the top of her head and found her hair was matted with blood and still bleeding. She was transferred to a local hospital for further treatment.

Initial the wound was sewn shut, later the shrapnel was found and removed.

The physical wounds soon healed, the emotional stress did not. She was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Syndrome Disease and was issued a medical discharge from the Army with the rank of Sargent. Keara who was married, later had two children and now lives in Baldwin, KS. Twenty-five years later, she is still working to overcome the PTSD. Making such presentations as she did at our meeting, helps her to advance in the overcoming of her illness.

An incident occurred during preparing for her presentation that demonstrated that she is advancing well in dealing with PTSD. She wished to use the audiovisual equipment to make her presentation. She had pictures on her cell phone for the presentation. The system at the hotel requires are laptop computer to connect to the overhead projector, and the cell phone; none was available. After working several minutes, she calmly accepted the use of the projector had to be abandoned.

That was a blessing in disguise as rather than looking at pictures on a large screen as she talked, we of the audience got to look at the emotions on her face and motions of her hands and arms as she made her presentation. We could see the release of emotional pressure as tears came to her eyes a couple moments as she spoke of chaos and the resulting PTSD. We also got to see her very beautiful smile when she talked of occasions of joy, especially with her children.

She kept little private in sharing her life. She admitted she was a little wild in her early years and had the choice of legal action or joining the Army. She found she loved being a soldier in the United States Army.

Through her presentation one can see that Keara Torkelson is not only a survivor she is a succeder in overcoming her PTSD and living a good life.



Fort Hood Terrorist Attack Survivor, Keara Torkelson.



Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Kirk Rush, Larry Tatum, Keara Torkelson, Clay Shropshire, and Steven French.



Kirk Rush presents Nathan Phillips with the First Place Kansas SAR King Eagle Scout Essay Award.



Kirk Rush presents Nathan Phillips with the NSSAR Finalist of the King Eagle Scout Essay Award.

Nathan Phillips is Awarded First Place for the DX Chapter, Kansas SAR and a NSSAR Finalist of the Arthur M. & Berndena King Eagle Scout Essay Contest.

On Tuesday evening May 14, 2024 Chapter and State Eagle Scout Chairman Kirk Rush presented to Nathan Phillips, our 2023 DX and KSSAR state winner and NSSAR finalist of the Arthur M. & Berndena King Eagle Scout Award, with his award from NSSAR.

He received a congratulatory letter from the NSSAR Eagle Scout chairman, an NSSAR Finalist patch to wear on his uniform, and a check for \$300.

A brief, but meaningful presentation was made before Nathan’s peers at the weekly meeting of Boy Scout Troop 123 at Community Covenant Church in Lenexa, KS. Nathan, who took 15th place out of a total of 36 Eagle Scout contests nationally was also our 2022 DX and KSSAR winner. Eagle Scout chairman Kirk Rush also took the opportunity to encourage Nathan’s fellow Scouts to also enter the King Eagle Scout contest as well as SAR’s other youth programs.



KSDAR State Regent, Rebecca Kline presents John Forbes with the DAR Historic Preservation Medal.

John William Forbes Presented DAR Historic Preservation Medal

On May 22, 2024 at the Shawnee Mission Chapter of the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution Compatriot John W. Forbes was presented the Historic Preservation Medal of the DAR Historic Preservation Committee by KSDAR State Regent Rebecca Kline.

The award is for John’s work at the Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway, Kansas. As a volunteer, John has :

- Created a vertical file system to document the students who attended the school from 1839-1862.
- Continues to improve the library, now a recognized resource for researchers.
- Located the original Shawnee Indian Mission granite marker and bronze plaque from 1917 in Turner, Wyandotte, Co.

Letters of recommendation had to accompany the application by the KSDAR. One such letter was written by Compatriot Larry Tatum as President of the Delaware Crossing Chapter.

The DAR member who took the lead in promoting John for the award was Gerry Winters, at the left in the photo of 5. To Gerry’s right is KSDAR State Regent Rebecca Kline, then John, then Sally Ebrecht, then Mary Ann McDowell, in the background is Shawnee Mission Chapter Regent Leslie Harris. Sally and Mary Ann are American History Committee Members of the Shawnee Mission Chapter KSDAR.

This is a rare award, in 2023, there were 22 Historic Preservation Medals in 5 categories awarded in only 17 states. Congratulations John.



Gerry Winters, Rebecca Kline, John Forbes, Sally Ebrecht, and Mary Ann McDowell.



Dewey Fry, Clay Shropshire, Steven French, John Moore, Brian Vazquez, Jeffery Winters, and Dennis Nelson.

Your Color Guard at Work in May 2024

In addition to our May Chapter Meeting Color Guardsmen from Delaware Crossing Chapter participated in a few other events in May.

The evening of May 1, a Heartland Honor Flight returned from Washington DC at Kansas City International Airport with 90 veterans onboard. The oldest was a 95-year-old WWII veteran. Amongst the Color Guardsmen from KSSSAR and MOSSAR were Delaware Crossing Color Guardsmen (from left to right in the photo) Dewey Fry, Dennis Nelson, Stephen French, and Clay Shropshire. In addition to the SAR Color Guard a Patriot Guard Riders Color Guard and more than 200 other individuals welcomed the veterans home and thanked them for their service.

May 4, 2024 Kirk Rush, Steven French, Clay Shropshire and Dewey Fry from DX, Alan Martin and Jeffrey Winters from MC and John Moore from CR. Participated at the Armed Forces Day event at the Gardner Municipal Airport displaying article from the DX Patriot Chests. All but Dewey Fry participated in the SAR Color Guard at the opening event. Dewey had to present an award to a DAR member at the Olathe DAR Chapter at the same time.

On May 22, 2024 Dennis Nelson, Steven French, Clay Shropshire, and Dewey Fry from DX, were joined by Jeffrey Winters of Monticello Chapter, Brian Vazquez of Thomas Jefferson Chapter and John Moore of Charles Robinson Chapter in Presenting the Colors at a Naturalization Ceremony Johnson County Community College where 252 applicants took their Oath of Citizenship.

Later that night, Dewey Fry, Clay Shropshire and Steve French joined compatriots of the Kansas and Missouri Societies in a Color Guard at Kansas City International Airports in welcoming back to KC 23 veterans from the Parsons, Kansas which had returned from Washington, DC. We did not get home until after midnight.



KSSAR and MOSSAR Color Guard at the KCI Airport.



KSSAR and MOSAR Color Guard in line to receive the Honor Flight.



The Color Guard greeting the returning Veterans.



KSSAR and MOSSAR Color Guard at the KCI Airport.



Dewey Fry greeting a returning Veteran.



John Moore (greeting a returning Veteran), Pat Fry, Alan Martin, and Clay Shropshire of the KSSAR Color Guard.



Armed Forces Day event at the Gardner Municipal Airport.



Ken Ludwig presents Thomas Black, Jr. with his Emeritus Member Certificate.

Emeritus Member Certificate Presented

Thomas Clairborne Black, Jr. was presented his Emeritus Member Certificate at our May 18, 2024 meeting. An Emeritus Member is one who has been a member of the Sons of the American Revolution for 50 years. Tom, achieved that feat on January 1, 2021; yes, that's right, nearly three and a years before May 18, 2024.

Many of us hope to celebrate half that time being a SAR member.

Tom is 86 years young and finally retired at the age of 84. His schedule and some inattention on the part of our chapter leadership caused the delay in the presentation. But it was finally done and it was as very happy moment for Tom. So happy that you will most probably see him at another Chapter meeting soon.