

The Liberty Bell

Kansas Society Sons of the American Revolution

Winter 2024, Volume 133 Issue 4



On the cover:

R to L. Patricia Winger representing DAR, Willow Tharp representing CAR, Vice President General SCD James Osbourn representing SAR PG Darryl Addington and Bryan Wampler KSSSAR president.

Table of Contents

On the cover:..... 2

Editor’s Message 3

Candidates for National Office..... 4

Chapter Spotlight..... 5

250th Memorial Bench Dedication 6

Colorguard Activities..... 7

George Washington Birthday Celebrations 11

CHAPTER NEWS..... 12

SONS OF THE PLAINS CHAPTER (Hutchinson) 12

PRAIRIE MINUTEMEN CHAPTER (Ellsworth Area) 12

BENNINGTON CHAPTER (Salina Area) 12

CHARLES ROBINSON CHAPTER (Lawrence) 12

Col. JOHN SEWARD CHAPTER (Liberal) 12

DELAWARE CROSSING CHAPTER (Kansas City & Johnson County).....12

FORT SCOTT CHAPTER (Ft. Scott) 13

FORT HAYS CHAPTER (Hays) 13

HENRY LEAVENWORTH CHAPTER (Leavenworth) 13

KONZA PRAIRIE CHAPTER (Manhattan) Doug Brabb 14

MONTICELLO CHAPTER (Shawnee) 14

THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAPTER (Topeka) 14

WASHINGTON CHAPTER (Wichita Area) 14

Little Balkans Chapter (Pittsburg) Dustin Strong President.....14

The Kansas SAR Ladies Auxiliary 14

New Members..... 15

Supplementals 15

Salute to Our Departed Comrades..... 15

Final Thought..... 17

Editor's Message

By Steve Hamlin – Liberty Bell Editor



In March of 2020 I was asked by Brooks Lyles, then editor of the Liberty Bell Newsletter, if I would be interested in taking over as editor, as Brooks was moving out of the state and felt that he needed to find a successor. At that time I had been a member of the SAR for about six months and still trying to get my feet under me. I was honored that Brooks had the faith in me to ask if I would take over the Bell for him. Never one to shrink from a challenge I accepted the job and as they say the rest is history.

In the four years that followed I have gotten to know a lot of the members and leaders across the state, I have traveled to several events across the state and participated in many colorguard events. Many of you I have not met in person but I feel like I know you from our many email correspondence and the stories you have provided for the Liberty Bell.

After four years as editor of the Liberty Bell I feel it is time to pass the torch, I have informed President Wampler that this will be my last edition of the newsletter. Robert Lofthouse has agreed to take on the role of editor starting with the February 2025 edition. Please send Mr. Lofthouse your articles and information going forward at rlofthouse@KSSSAR.org.

It has been my honor to serve the Kansas Society as both Recording Secretary and Liberty Bell editor and I plan to continue to serve the society however the membership sees fit.

Thank you all for all of your support and friendship during my tenure as editor of the Bell.

Kansas Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Candidates for National Office

A note from NSSAR President General John Dodd.

Gentlemen, in response to several requests, below please find the list of current announced candidates for the various offices. I have been reluctant to send out individual email responses because someone can announce at any time, and I did not want to omit them. However, as of now, here is the list, with the caveat that additional candidates may pop up. Please circulate to your members.

President General: Michael Elston

Secretary General: Allen Greenly

Treasurer General: T. Brooks Lyles & Edmon McKinley

Chancellor General: Peter Davenport & Greg Ohanesian

Genealogist General: Gary Green & Gary Neal

Registrar General: Keith Weissinger

Historian General: Jeffrey Thomas

Librarian General: James Osbourn

Surgeon General: Joe Hamil

Chaplain General: Christoper Grimes

Foundation Board: "PG slot" John Dodd

Foundation Board: at-large Dan McKelvie

Chapter Spotlight

Charles Robinson Chapter serves Lawrence, Kansas and the surrounding communities. The chapter has participated in annual events such as the Maple Leaf Festival in Baldwin City and CPA picnic in Eudora along with various parades and celebrations throughout Douglas, Franklin and Johnson counties in the north eastern corner of the state.

The Charles Robinson chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution participated in the 67th annual Maple Leaf Festival in Baldwin City on Saturday, 19 October 2024. An estimated 60,000 onlookers watched, some stood, and others cheered as members of the Color Guard (John More, Troy Phillips, Brian Vazquez) paraded followed by a decorated pickup truck driven by Peter Grassl truly while Jim Cooper (CR president) and Walt Kihm (CR Treasurer) distributed over a thousand miniature American flags to children.



Members of the Charles Robinson chapter colorguard participate in the 2024 Maple Leaf Festival in Baldwin City, Kansas.

The Charles Robinson chapter participated in the second annual reading of the Constitution at the Douglas County Law Enforcement Center on Monday, 23 October in Lawrence. Color Guardsmen from the Chapter and Delaware Crossing met with some school children before the reading. Then, the Color Guard presented the Colors.

The Color Guard made an impact on the students attending the event. The Lawrence JOURNAL WORLD reported that a fifth-grader said, "It was fun to see the people whose ancestors were in the Revolutionary War..."

The combined efforts of men from two chapters made for a grand event. CR Color Guard: Troy Phillips and John Moore; DX: Dewey Fry, Larry Tatum, and Clay Shropshire. Peter Grassl, CR, was MC for the Presentation of Colors and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. CR members Jim Cooper and Bruce Flanders were in the audience along with Pat Fry.



The SAR was invited to participate in the event by District 7 Chief Judge James McCanbria. This was a byproduct of his being invited to speak before the chapter.

Jim Cooper is chapter president. The chapter meets 3rd Wednesday of September, November, January, March and May, 6:00 PM, Perkins Restaurant, 1711 23rd St, Lawrence

250th Memorial Bench Dedication

Sons of the Plains Chapter in response to the NSSAR 250 Committee, the Sons of the Plains embarked on a mission to fund a bench in honor of America's 250th Anniversary. The Chapter collaborated with the CAR and the DAR in funding the project. The Edgar Grover Family also made substantial donation in honor of Edgar and Emmaline Grover longtime leaders, not only in the Sons of the Plains Chapter but on the National level as well.



The ceremony took place September 12 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson Kansas. The event was attended by members of the Kansas Society Colorguard led by Colorguard Commander Bill Marshall.



State and national SAR dignitaries in attendance included Chaplin General Vernon Welkner, Kansas Society President Bryan Wampler, and Southcentral District Vice President General James Osbourn.



Representatives of the DAR and C.A.R., who helped raise funds for the bench, joined SAR at the dedication. R to L Patricia Winger representing DAR, Willow Tharp representing CAR, Vice President General SCD James Osbourn representing SAR PG Darryl Addington and Bryan Wampler KSSAR president.



R to L Paula Baumann, Dodge City DAR Chapter, Willow Tharp, Buffalo's president, Lynn Baumann, George Tharp, Patricia Winger, Buffalo appointed Senior President, and one of the program speakers.

Colorguard Activities

The following article is reprinted from the Delaware Crossing chapter December newsletter.

Your Color Guard at Work



Clay Shropshire, Dennis Nelson, Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Steven French, Troy Phillips and John More.

On Tuesday October 29, Delaware Crossing Chapter Color Guardsmen Steven French, Dennis Nelson, Clay Shropshire and Dewey Fry were joined by other KSSAR Color Guardsmen Alan Martin, Troy Phillips and John More in the Presenting of the Colors at a Naturalization Ceremony at the Robert J. Dole US Courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas where 87 applicants from 37 countries took their Oath of Citizenship. Many new citizens had their pictures taken with the Color Guard at the reception following the ceremony.

On Sunday November 10, Delaware Crossing Chapter Color Guardsmen Steven French, Clay Shropshire and Dewey Fry, joined 4 other members, Alan Martin, Jeffrey Winters, Brian Vazquez and John More, of the KSSAR Color Guard at the Vietnam Veterans Recognition program sponsored by the NE District of the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution at Memorial Hall in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Color Guard Presented the Colors during the Pledge of Allegiance, reciting of The American's Creed, and playing of the Star Spangled Banner by an American Legion brass ensemble, including Compatriot Kirk Rush, at the start of the ceremony. The Colors were then posted for the remainder of the ceremony and retired at the end of the program. The event was featured in the KCTV Channel 9 News at 5 and 9 pm and the next morning. The next day, Clay Shropshire, Steven French, Dennis Nelson and Dewey Fry participated in the Leavenworth County Veterans Day Parade in Leavenworth. Clay marched with Color Guardsmen from other chapters in a 6-man Color Guard. Steven and Dennis rode on a trailer made by Clay and decorated by 4 of his flags and 5 others from Delaware Crossing Chapter. Dewey drove the truck pulling the trailer and positioned immediately behind the Color Guard.

Weather-wise, the day was beautiful and the crowd was the largest in several years. After the parade, Dewey Fry and Steven French, in their Color Guard uniforms, took the Delaware Crossing Chapter gifts to the Veterans in the Community Living Center at the Eisenhower Veterans Center in Leavenworth. They visited with and presented gifts to 7 veterans, including 2 women, in a time span of 2 hours. The veterans and the staff were very appreciative.

Three of the veterans were over 90 years of age. One veteran was out with his family and one had just been released the day before. Newly renovated space will permit the space for 15 total veterans again.

On Tuesday, November 26, Delaware Crossing Color Guardsmen, Dewey Fry, Dennis Nelson, Steven French and Clay Shropshire were joined by Color Guardsmen from other Chapters, Alan Martin, Troy Phillip and Brian Vazquez in Presenting the Colors during two Naturalization Ceremonies at the Robert J. Dole US Courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas. The first ceremony had 90 applicants from 31 countries and the second ceremony had 90 applicants from 32 countries.

Due to poor organization planning of the two back to back ceremonies it caused only three of Color Guardsmen to be at the reception for photos following the ceremony while three remained at the courtroom congratulating new citizen, as they were intermittently dismissed one row at time. Dennis Nelson had to leave after the second ceremony and could not participate in the photo session at the reception after the second ceremony, due to the more than 30 minute delay due to the poor planning.



Steven French, Dewey Fry, Alan Martin, Clay Shropshire, Brian Vazquez, John More and Jeffrey Winters.



Alan Martin, Jeffrey Winters, Tom Chychota, Clay Shropshire, Vern Welkner and Brian Vazquez.



Vern Welkner, Alan Martin, Jeffrey Winters, Tom Chychota, Clay Shropshire, Brian Vazquez, Dewey Fry, Dennis Nelson and Steven French.



The KSSAR Color Guard in the Leavenworth Veteran's Day Parade.



The Colors carried by the KSSAR Color Guard.



Dewey Fry, Troy Phillips, Alan Martin, Steven French, Clay Shropshire and Brian Vazquez with New American Citizens.



The Delaware Crossing Color Guard Float.



Dewey Fry, Troy Phillips, Alan Martin, Steven French, Clay Shropshire and Brian Vazquez with New American Citizens.



Dewey Fry and Steven French visit a veteran at the VA Hospital.



Dewey Fry, Troy Phillips, Alan Martin, Steven French, Clay Shropshire and Brian Vazquez.



*Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, a New American Citizen, Dennis Nelson
and DAR representatives..*



*Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Two New American Citizens and Dennis
Nelson.*

George Washington Birthday Celebrations



Please contact Robert Lofthouse rlofthouse@ksssar.org for details of the KC area event

A George Washington birthday celebration is also planned for February 15, 2025 at the Holliday Inn in Wichita Kansas sponsored by Washington Chapter. Please contact John Schwartz jschwartz@ksssar.org, for details of the Wichita area celebration.

CHAPTER NEWS

SONS OF THE PLAINS CHAPTER (Hutchinson) Bit Roberts President *meetings Reno County Museum 100 South Walnut Hutchinson Ks 7PM Tuesday Sept-May*

PRAIRIE MINUTEMEN CHAPTER (Ellsworth Area) Ron Svaty President



ALAN RUSCH (Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter)
Prairie Minutemen Chapter KS SAR members Robert Hulse and John Sherman, third and second from right, respectively, hold the Henry Golden Boy .22 caliber limited edition Boston Tea Party commemorative rifle being raffled off by the Ellsworth SAR and DAR. Also pictured are, from left, SAR member Greg Bender, Smoky Hill DAR Chapter Regent Debra Hulse and SAR member Kendall Rathbun.

Prairie Minuteman chapter teamed up with Smoky Hills DAR chapter to raffle off a limited edition Henry Goldenboy rifle commemorating the Boston Tea Party. The proceeds from the raffle are going to be used to purchase grave markers for Gold Star mothers to ensure that their final resting place is properly marked to honor their sacrifice.

BENNINGTON CHAPTER (Salina Area) Joe Black , President *Meeting place; Harmony Hideaway, 3488 N Crystal Springs Rd, Salina Kansas Meeting time: 4th Tuesday at 7PM September-May.*

CHARLES ROBINSON CHAPTER (Lawrence) Jim Cooper, President *Meets 3rd Wednesday of September, November, January, March and May, 6:00 PM , Perkins Restaurant, 1711 23rd St, Lawrence*

Please see the chapter spotlight article.

Col. JOHN SEWARD CHAPTER (Liberal) ,Dr. Ray E. Allen President *"Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the Month (except December) at 7:00 PM at the Leader and Times Newspaper Office, 16 S. Kansas Avenue, Liberal, Kansas*

DELAWARE CROSSING CHAPTER (Kansas City & Johnson County)

Larry Tatum, President *Meets 3rd Saturday monthly for 9:00 AM Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn 119th St. Overland Park, KS*



Tim Peterman, George McDowell and Vincent Clark

George Stanley McDowell became a member of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution on 30 September 2024 and took his Membership Oath, which was administered by Vice President Vincent Clark, at our Delaware Crossing Chapter Meeting on November 16, 2024. His National Member No. is 231137 and his Kansas Society Member No. is 4070.

Compatriot McDowell's Patriot Ancestor is James Compton who served under Captain Nathan Erwin Company in Lt. Col. John Hoskins Stone's 1st Regiment of the Maryland Line of the Continental Army.

George's Sponsor was John Schatzel, KSSSAR Genealogist and his Co-Sponsor was Timothy Peterman who pinned his Rosette to his shirt.

Unfortunately, communication was a little lacking and George did not get to light his new member candle during his induction

ceremony. That will be rectified in the near future at a Chapter Meeting.

FORT SCOTT CHAPTER (Ft. Scott)

Jim Gilpin, President Meets second Saturday in February, April, June, August, October and December at Lucci's Cafe at 11 am

FORT HAYS CHAPTER (Hays)

Doak Doolittle, President, *Meeting Dates and Location- Meet on the 3rd Tuesday of Jan, May, July, Sept, Nov. at 7:pm (March is the State SAR Meeting) at the Rooks County Museum, 921 S. Cedar St, Stockton, KS.*

HENRY LEAVENWORTH CHAPTER (Leavenworth)

Bennett Dickson, President *Meets 4th Thursday monthly at* The Heritage Center, 109 Delaware St., Leavenworth, KS 66048



The Henry Leavenworth Chapter held its 8th Annual Muster on December 12, 2024. A large audience enjoyed this year-end celebration with great food, renewed friendships and new friends made. A fine program assembled and led by Compatriot John Shatzel, chapter Vice President, highlighted the evening. Kansas State Society President Bryan Wampler led a statewide contingent of Compatriots. Beginning with Kansas State Color Guard Commander, Bill Marshall and his cohort from several chapters presenting the Colors and representing each colony and ally throughout the program. Our National SAR Chaplain General, Vern Welkner, prayerfully opened with the invocation, then two new Compatriot inductions (Benjamin Paschell & Cole Ruckman) followed. Awards of the prestigious "Defender of Freedom" statues were presented to seven worthy recipients (Judy Bauer, Becky Johnson, Robert Gray III, Susie Young, Mike Lehnerr, Michael Sevcik, and Tamara Sevcik). This award recognizes their outstanding patriotism and community volunteerism.

Heritage Center Executive Director Susie Young was presented a donation and Defender of Freedom for the organization's awesome support of our SAR Chapter throughout the past couple of years, by Chapter President, Bennett Dickson. Colonial and Allied Flags, affirming our appreciation for their hard-fought victories from 1775 through 1783, were posted and colonial lamps were lit to memorialize each colony and allied power that made our freedom possible. Revolution-era trivia challenges were issued, and raffle/silent auction fundraising items were presented to the lucky winners to finish out the night. A big shout-out goes out to Missouri's newest SAR Chapter, James Smith Talbot from St. Joseph, which attended the event in force. A box full of toys were collected and money was donated for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Some of the night's guests came from as far away as Abilene Kansas, Independence and St. Joe Missouri. Our evening ended with the benediction delivered by our Chaplain, Vern Welkner, to ask for God's continued blessings on our nation and people.



On November 26th, 2024, members of the Kansas and Missouri SAR Color Guard and members of the Henry Leavenworth Chapter participated in a celebration of life for Compatriot Robert Lofthouse's mother, Elizabeth Ann Swan Lofthouse. She was a nearly 25-year Arizona Society member of DAR, living out her last days in Kansas City. She passed in 2014 but never received a DAR grave marker until now. With family and friends attending from as far away as San Francisco, the ceremony was conducted by her youngest son, Robert. Vera Glenn, who is serving her 4th term as the Regent for Little Blue River Chapter of DAR was instrumental in securing the National DAR authorization for this marking.

KONZA PRAIRIE CHAPTER (Manhattan) Doug Brabb, President Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM, Meeting location TBD

MONTICELLO CHAPTER (Shawnee) Jake Cox, President Meets 3rd Thursday monthly, 6:00 PM at Pegah's Restaurant 12122 W 87th St, Lenexa, KS 66215

THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAPTER (Topeka) Brian Vazquez, President Topeka Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. – 9:00 a.m. (3rd Saturday of month during September to November and February to June) HyVee. 29th & Wanamaker, Topeka, KS 3rd Saturday of July, Aug, Dec, and Jan, @ 9:00 am.

WASHINGTON CHAPTER (Wichita Area) John Schwartz, President Meets 3rd Thursday except January & July at 7:00 pm at Good Shepherd Church Wichita, KS



Washington chapter participated in Wreaths Across America at Maple Grove Cemetery in Wichita, KS on Dec 15, 2024. President John Schwartz and Secretary Michael Halfman presented ceremonial wreaths, Vice President Steve Hamlin presided over the ceremony and Chaplin Randy Colby provided the benediction.



Washington chapter was joined by Cpl. Patrick Conye Camp SUVCW, Mrs. John A Logan DUVCW, Martha Loving Ferrell chapter DAR and Eunice Sterling Chapter DAR.

Little Balkans Chapter (Pittsburg) Dustin Strong President

Little Balkans Chapter is the states newest chapter, they continue to increase membership.

The Kansas SAR Ladies Auxiliary Jennifer Wampler, President Meets at the Quarterly Board of Governors

New Members

<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>NSSAR</i>	<i>Ks</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Ancestor</i>
Rumsey	Roger	Lee	230453	4063	WA	Hulse, B A	07/19/24	William Boydston
Marion	Evan	James	230454	4064	HLJ	Schatzel, J A	07/19/24	Matthias Link
Myers	Verlon	Royal	230455	4065	CR	Taylor, J A	07/19/24	Mathias Wisner
Ganyon	James	Ramsey	230696	4066	SP	Hulse, B A	08/16/24	Thomas White
McClellan	Richard	Lee	230986	4067	DX	Nelson, D D	09/13/24	George Holt
Cromwell	Bruce	Nelson "N G"	230987	4068	SP	Hulse, B A	09/13/24	Thomas Ransom
Miller	Oscar	Lee	231136	4069	HL	Schatzel, J A	09/27/24	Benjamin Brown
McDowell	George	Stanley, Jr.	231137	4070	DX	Schatzel, J A	09/27/24	James Compton
Unruh	Steven	Paul	231216	4071	TJ	McReynolds, R L	10/04/24	Deliverance Woodward
Waggoner	George	Thomas	231327	4072	SP	Schatzel, J A	10/11/24	John Alban
Cook	Onyx	Wray	231328	4073	SPJ	Hulse, B A	10/11/24	Benjamin Drake
Miller	Kaleb	Thomas	231329	4074	SPJ	Hulse, B A	10/11/24	John Langdon
Hitchens	Steven	Ray	231330	4075	TJ	McReynolds, R L	10/11/24	Jedediah Foster
Harrison	Adam	Paul	231331	4076	WA	Warne, J L	10/11/24	John Nutting

Supplementals

Last	First	Middle	NSSAR	Ks	Ch	Approved	Ancestor
Posson	William	Allen	194456	3091	FH	06/28/24	Henry Beam

Salute to Our Departed Comrades

Last	First	Middle	NSSAR	Ks	Ch	Member	Died
White	Dennis	Ray	204435	3309		2017	02/05/23*
Wilcox	Laird	Maurice, III	107895	1094	DX	1975	11/04/23
McHenry	James	Allen, Jr.	169845	2577	TJ	2007	11/23/24
Elliott	Joseph	Thomas, Jr.	153067	2192		2000	01/19/24*
DeHaven	Steven	Lee	207581	3403		2018	02/13/24*
Handley	Patrick	John, Jr.	126402	1688		1985	03/22/24*
Boyd	Lawrence	Gardner	166071	2489		2005	04/05/24*
Waggoner	George	Thomas	231327	4072	SP	2024	06/02/24+
Malone	Michael	Tait	213433	3572	WA	2019	07/04/24
Bohning	Larry	Lynn	203564	3280	BN	2017	07/22/24
Connell	Patrick	Tyler	228286	4033	CR	2023	07/31/24
Johnson	Roger	Lee	155853	2242	TJ	2001	08/02/24
Amott	Mark	Royal	125406	1623		1985	09/07/24*

Eckert	Roy	Allen, III	204436	3310		2017	09/13/24*
Hooker	Johnny	Dean	228116	4019	SP	2023	09/17/24
Stewart	Evan	Ray	118745	1377		1981	09/17/24
McFarlin	Robert	Alan	165684	2468	MC	2005	09/22/24

*inactive

+applied before death/ approved after death



Final Thought



"Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for, I have grown not only gray, but almost blind in the service of my country."

– George Washington

The Editor of the Liberty Bell is Steve Hamlin of Washington Chapter. The Publisher is Bryan Wampler of the Monticello Chapter, President of the Kansas SAR. You can reach the Editor at rlfthouse@kssar.org. This is your Society News Letter, if there is something you want to see in it please contact me or Vernon and we will see what we can do!