



The Delaware Crossing Patriot

Kansas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

May 2017

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

CALENDER

NEXT MEETING:

When: May 20

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S
Strang Line Rd., Olathe, KS, 9:00AM

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email
Secretary@dxsar.com or call Ken
Ludwig (913) 897-0379 by 3:00 PM,
the Wednesday before.

NEW BREAKFAST PRICE: \$17.00

Program: Linda Sehrt portraying Ellen Harding
Walworth.

COMING EVENTS

5/17 DXSAR EC meeting, at Oak Park Library,
9500 Bluejacket St.

5/6 Board of Gov. – Emporia

6/17 DXSAR Chapter meeting

7/6-13 Annual Conf. – Knoxville

9/16 Annual Picnic

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 Stu Conrad

The American Revolution was triggered by an effort in protecting rights. The initial rallying cry went up “no taxation without representation,” as though representation for the colonies was an entitlement, and that, had they been “represented,” taxation would have been acceptable. The news today is filled with reports of preserving people’s rights. And one of the most basic rights discussed is freedom of speech. Yet, that same news brings examples where freedom of speech appears to be under attack. Compatriots are challenged to be apolitical, yet we recite at each gathering:

We the descendants of the heroes
of the American Revolution who,
by their sacrifices, established the
United States of America, reaffirm
our faith in the principles of liberty
and our Constitutional Republic,
and solemnly pledge ourselves to
defend them against every foe.

Who is the “foe” against whom (or which) we
would mount this defense? Maybe Walt Kelly was
right when Pogo said: “We have met the enemy
and he is us.” Perhaps the revolution, wrought by
Washington’s Yorktown victory and thought to
have ended with the Treaty of Paris, has not
ended. Thomas Jefferson reminded us that a
periodic revolution is a good thing, and his

challenge that “the price of liberty is eternal vigilance” yet rings true. Our liberties, hard won in the Revolution, may need continuous defense.

Compatriots should know the story better than most: Our Constitution was preceded by the Articles of Confederation that was perceived inadequate to support the needs of a fledgling nation. A stronger central government was seen as needed and our Constitution came forth. Ratification of that Constitution remained uncertain until the first ten amendments to that Constitution were agreed to be included. We might look with some profit at the wording chosen by our ancestors for at least the first of those amendments: “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech . . .” (my emphasis) and so on it goes to enumerate five basic freedoms that our patriot ancestors wanted to secure. Note the language they chose: Only a preexisting right could be *abridged*. Perhaps that right is inherent in the person, it is, in other words, unalienable. “Alienable,” is an old word, referred to the ability to “alienate” property, *i.e.*, to transfer it to another. A right that is “unalienable” cannot be transferred to someone else by gift or by taking.

While there are doubtless many things that we can remember about the German experiment with National Socialism, one event that comes to mind is book burning. The mistaken sense that eliminating certain ideas from public discussion can expunge those ideas from public discourse. This translates into eliminating the expression of certain political ideas from the public square turning on whether those ideas are deemed “acceptable.” How does the German experiment differ from labeling certain ideas as “unacceptable” and thus either not worthy of expression or protection? We have all seen the angst that has erupted on certain college campuses. Speakers labeled as “unacceptable” are shouted down and prevented from expressing their ideas by an unruly mob, analogous to those experiences in Germany just a few years ago. Even today, the ideas of one group of people are ruled

“unacceptable” by another group of people whose voices seem at the time to be the loudest. No right is absolute. Oliver Wendell Holmes stated that there is no right to falsely cry “fire” in a crowded theater. *Schenck v. United States*, 249 U.S. 47 (1919), later limited to speech that is “directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.” *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, 395 U.S. 444 (1969), *i.e.*, a riot. This does not include censorship by mob.

Perhaps the American Revolution is not over after all. Who is the foe we would defend against?

(End of President’s Corner)

Summary of program for April 15 meeting:

Michael Gimotty III gave his oration, for the Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest, on April 15, at the chapter meeting. His topic was: “*John Adams: an Unwavering Patriot*”. Michael won the chapter contest (he was the only contestant) by giving a good presentation and will represent the DXSAR chapter at the Kansas State Rumbaugh Oration Contest. Also, at the meeting, his mother, Susan Gimotty, was awarded a certificate of commendation for encouraging Michael in his pursuit of the contest.



I Michael Gimotty III giving his oration.

The main speaker at the April 15 chapter meeting, Richard E. Levy, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Kansas School of Law, spoke on the role of the judiciary in our system of government. Topics presented included, *Marbury v. Madison*, in which the Supreme Court first asserted the power to invalidate legislative and executive action as unconstitutional, the importance of judicial independence for preserving the rule of law, and the politicization of judicial appointments and judicial decisions.



2 Prof. Richard Levy, of the KU School of Law.

**Preview of Chapter Meeting Program,
May 20:**

Linda Sehrt is going to be the speaker on May 20, 2017, and will be doing a portrayal of Ellen Hardin Walworth, one of four founders of the NSDAR. The talk will include Walworth's accomplishments as a writer on patriotic and historic topics and as the first editor of the *American Monthly Magazine*. Mrs. Sehrt will be in period dress.

(End of Patriot News letter)