

February, 2024



Ink & Quill

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.®



Next Meeting: 10am Apr 20, 2024 NEW DATE

Location to be determined

Chapter Officers

President—Jim Akers
Vice President—Brandon Story
Registrar & Genealogist—
Tom Richards
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry
Treasurer—Christopher Strauss
Chaplain—Bill Rowell
Past President—Mike Connelley
Sgt at Arms—Johnny Loomis
Color Guard — David Cook

Opportunities

1. **March 1 2024 Color Guard at Colonial Dames Regional Meet**
2. **April 11-14 2024 Texas State Annual Conference**
3. **April 20, 2024 Denton SAR**
4. **September 5 2024 250th anniversary of 1st Continental Congress**

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Chapter President Jim Akers Message:

Gentlemen:

With the start of the new calendar year comes the start of a new SAR Year!

Immediate Past President Mike Connelley is completing the annual reports for 2023, so if you have presented a Viet Nam Veterans Pin, met with a veteran of any war (including the Cold War), contributed your time, talents, or money to a veterans organization, please let Mike know so that we can complete the USS Stark report as accurately as possible.

Mike is also completing the Chapter Americanism report for other SAR activities. Those activities include presentation of flag certificates, and certificates for retirement ceremonies of the American Flag. Flag certificates can be presented to friends and neighbors, local businesses, and government agencies that consistently and properly display the American Flag. Flag retirement certificates should be presented to friends and neighbors, local businesses, and government agencies that either properly retire worn, torn, tattered, or dirty American Flags, or ask you to properly retire those flags for them. . If you receive an American Flag for retirement, those Grand Old Flags can be easily and properly retired by contacting a local

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Chapter President's Message, continued

Boy Scout or Girl Scout Troop for use in teaching scouts the proper way to retire American Flags, or you can drop them by the Denton American Legion Post at 2501 Spencer Road, Denton, Texas. The American Legion meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm, or you can drop off flags for retirement in the old post office collection box located outside the American Legion, whose sole use is to collect American Flags for proper retirement. Or you can call me and I will pick up flags for retirement. Certificates for flag retirement ceremonies and flag displays can be obtained from Chris Strauss, free of charge to our members.

As we begin the new year, please take a moment to renew your SAR dues, if you have not already done so. Your dues can be easily paid on-line by credit card or PayPal at www.texssar.org, and then clicking on the "Events" tab, and "online Dues/Donation Payments." Your single payment of \$72.00 for the year includes the Denton chapter dues, state dues, and national dues.

The uses of dues are best described by our mission statement: We are a lineage-based organization that promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the history of the American Revolution. We do this through patriot research, support of youth activities such as the ROTC/JROTC awards, youth scholarships awarded primarily through the essay contests and oration contests, history teacher of the year recognition, civic and public servant recognitions and many other activities. In addition, the Patriot Research System (PRS) is available to you through the national website (www.sar.org), the quarterly SAR Magazine, and the SAR Library & Archives, including original 18th Century two-dimensional documents and artifacts.

At our next meeting, we will be proposing new chapter officers, who will take office in April 2024, for two-year terms. Our nominating committee has presented an excellent slate of officers for the

next two years, but it is never too late to nominate other candidates for any office. We especially need a nomination for Vice President. The Vice President position is a wonderful opportunity to learn the intricacies of the Denton Chapter, and to see and implement opportunities for improvement.

At our next meeting, we will also be voting on the updated Chapter by-laws and Constitution. David Cook has prepared draft copies of these document, so if you have not received them from Bill Surles, please contact David or me directly.

Speaking of upcoming events, it is not too soon to begin thinking about and acting on attending the Texas Sons of the American Revolution Convention in San Antonio, April 11 to April 14. Registration, including hotel reservations can be made on the Texas SAR web site (www.texassar.org), Events, Upcoming Meetings on the public side. All members are welcome, and encouraged to attend. You do not have to hold a state or chapter position. We have moved our April meeting from our usual second Saturday to the third Saturday to accommodate Chapter members that wish to attend the state convention in San Antonio, so I am hoping that we will have a good showing in San Antonio.

Our Denton Chapter usual meeting location in the Emily Fowler Library will change. Neither the Emily Fowler Library nor the North Library are available for an April 20th meeting, so if you have any ideas, suggestions, or better yet, influence for another location, please let me know. Either way, watch you email for the location, when it will be identified.

As a reminder, our next in-person meeting will be the **THIRD** Saturday in April, **April 20, 2024, 10:00 am** at a location to be determined. Please mark your calendar for this meeting, and remember that guests are always welcome.

Jim Akers, Chapter President

The Sons of the American Revolution

What are we as an organization and how do I make the most of my membership?

Edition Number One

IF you are a new member of the Denton, Texas chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution this article is specifically written for your “education / information”. The SAR organization is a national Organization designed to “honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.”

We had a quick, relatively short new member orientation at the April meeting which hopefully answered some of your questions but also raised more detail questions about what we, as a chapter, do and how we impact our community, and particularly the youth. Since we only meet four times a year, it is our plan to “further educate you” on who / what the organization is and what we do within the community we live.

This newsletter article, and future ones during the year, are designed to recap and hopefully clarify some of the information we covered in the new member orientation held at the April chapter meeting along with general history of the organization. Where do we start? Probably a little history on the State organization and the Denton chapter itself is good place to begin.

Interest in forming a national organization that would honor those individuals who served / fought in the American Revolutionary War began around 1876, the time frame of the Centennial (1776-1876) for the beginning of the American Revolution. The National SAR organization was formed and on December 9, 1896 the local Galveston newspaper announced the organization of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Galveston chapter was formed and is identified as chapter number One with all the rest of the chapter formations to follow.

The Denton, Texas chapter was formed in 1965 and is identified as the 23rd chapter formed in the State of Texas. An old Denton chapter newsletter from January 1998 contains the Memorium for “Richard Earl Fletcher” who was identified as the first new member and first president of the Denton chapter. More on the early days of the Denton chapter in a future newsletter article.

As a member of the Denton chapter, I think it is important and beneficial to you, as a chapter member, to get the most out of this membership. You took the effort to gather the information based upon your ancestor’s connection back to the American Revolution and then you took the additional time and effort to join the Organization. Now it is time to become active with a local chapter, in our case, it is Denton chapter number 23.

At the conclusion of the April chapter meeting, we held a relatively short new member orientation. Let us recap some of the discussion from that meeting.

Become familiar with the three primary websites available to members; The National SAR organization, the Texas SAR organization and the Denton chapter website. The links to them are: National www.sar.org ; Texas SAR website: [Texas SAR \(txssar.org\)](http://Texas SAR (txssar.org)) and the website for the Denton chapter: www.txssar.org/Denton/ . Create your own log in information on the National SAR

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....What We Are, continued

website. It will require entering your National SAR number as an initial beginning for creating your account on the National website. On the Texas SAR public website; do not forget the discussion we had at the April meeting about logging into the “private website”. I am not going to list the login information here (remember we did this login in at the April meeting). If you still possess it, use it to get onto the Private website. **If you were not at the April meeting; get hold of me for this login information or wait until the April meeting and get from me then. It is important to be familiar with the private side website; most of the Texas news and information will be on the Private Side website.**

Become familiar with what we do, as an organization, with youth programs, JROTC /ROTC awards, Public Service Awards for Police / Fire / Emergency Responders. We will discuss these various programs in more detail in a future edition of these new member articles.

Regularly attend the meetings. We meet only 4 times a year so each meeting is important to attend. Get involved, stay involved. It is the best way.

Be alert to emails coming from chapter officers or chapter committees. This is our primary way of maintain contact with you.

Find a place to serve. You are getting a sense of what we do in the community, schools, public service departments. Let a chapter know of your interest / or suggested place to serve. Stay active and involved.

Over the next few months, I will discuss the various programs (mentioned above) that the chapter is involved with. Read the chapter newsletters which come out about once a month. Find the program you want to become involved with and reach out and express your interest. None of these programs are a “full time job.” Next month I will discuss the ROTC/ JROTC award program. Our biggest outreach programs for the chapter.

Mike Connelley, past chapter president, Denton Chapter # 23
Cell number 817-994-1356 (call me / text me with any question)



MINUTES FOR CHAPTER MEETING

January 23, 2024

DENTON CHAPTER #23 TEXAS SAR

President Jim Akers called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Invocation by Bill Rowell

Pledge of Allegiance of the flag of the United States by Scott Smith

Pledge to Texas Flag by Billy Roussell

Pledge of SAR by Mike Lester

Program: Gus Seligmann, PhD. History Professor, President of New Mexico Historical Society

New Member initiation by Jim Akers of Fred Brown and Dr. James Marshall

Old Business:

Minutes of October 14, 2023 Submitted by Dan

Recording Secretary Seconded by Mike Connelley

Treasurer's Report by Chris Strauss,

Motion to approve Bill Surles Second Mike Connelly

New Business

Denton Color Guard Update David Cook

Chapter Constitution and By-laws update David Cook

Chapter Nominations for 2024-2026 officers Jim Akers

Benediction Randy Nusbaum

Recessional and Adjournment Led by Fred Brown

Adjournment Jim Akers

Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard

The next scheduled event is March 1 at Grapevine TX for the Colonial Dames Regional Meet where we have been asked to post the colors. This is a big event for the Denton Chapter Color Guard and an honor to be invited. **All hands on deck.** The event will be at their banquet held in the evening. Members can participate individually or we can attend as a Color Guard unit representing the Denton SAR Chapter. New Color Guard members are welcome. Color guard members wanting to attend are to contact Color Guard Commander David Cook.



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It is significant to note that several events are designated as National Events which earns 20 points toward national and state Color Guard medals.

Date	Time-muster	Event	Location	Chapter /State /National
3/1/2024		Colonial Dames Regional Meet	Grapevine	S

**“We are the face of the Sons of the American Revolution at the national, state, and chapter levels. Accordingly, as we further the Patriotic, Historic, and Educational Goals of the SAR let us have fun, enjoy the comradely, and practice safety for yourself and others. Yours in Patriotism
K. Scott Collins National Society SAR Color Guard Commander”**

**David R. Cook
Denton Color Guard Commander
706-835-5910
davidcook1936@gmail.com**



America 250 Decade Of The American Revolution



The National SAR has created this **Decade of the American Revolution** calendar to list Revolutionary War signature events each year that will be the focus of the NSSAR main celebration. Every State Society and all State Chapters should download the programs for the year and celebrate with us in your local area.

December 16, 2023 Boston Tea Party

September 5, 2024 The First Continental Congress

2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord.

2026 Declaration of Independence

2027 Battle of Saratoga

**2028 French Alliance 2029 Siege of Vincennes/Fort Sackville
Battle of Kettle Creek**

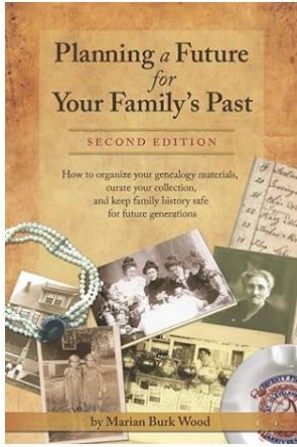
2030 Battle of Kings Mountain

2031 Siege of Yorktown 2032 Battle of Blue Licks

2033 Treaty of Paris

Visit <https://america250sar.org/rd/> for details of each event.

PLANNING A FUTURE FOR YOUR FAMILY'S PAST DEMYSTIFIES TASK



It's a hot topic amongst family historians and genealogy hobbyists: What happens to all my "stuff" once I'm gone?

Author Marian Burk Wood has also contemplated that task, and written a short, sweet, simple, yet effective book to orient readers to the task at hand: *Planning a Future for Your Family's Past* (self published: Coppell, Texas, 2021). Burk Wood is author of the genealogy blog [Climbing My Family Tree](#), and a genealogy researcher for more than two decades.

The book's cover text makes an excellent point: "Old photos, ancestor stories, genealogical documents, and heirlooms reflect your family's past—and they should be safeguarded for tomorrow's descendants and researchers."

While family usually springs to mind when researchers think about who would inherit their research and collection, fellow and future researchers are often overlooked as a potential audience for a genealogical collection, and one that could be considered when evaluating how to disperse research and heirlooms.

Wood developed a methodology with the acronym **PASS**, covering the following steps:

1. **Prepare** - get your collection in order
2. **Allocate** - decide what to keep and what to rehome
3. **Set up** - put in writing what will happen to your collection

Share your family history now

Wood suggests the mantra: *Life by the inch is as cinch; life by the yard is hard*. She recognizes that avoiding overwhelm is a key step in the process of downsizing and decision making. "Inch by inch," she states, "you'll make progress."

The eleven chapters of *Planning Your Future* walk the reader through various task of organizing, inventorying, recording, and decision making:

1. Organized storage for your collection
2. Organize your photos, images, and movies
3. Organizing digital files and emails
4. Inventory and index your collection
5. Record your family tree
6. Family artifacts: Keep or give away?
7. Find outside homes for artifacts
8. Who wants your genealogy collection?
9. Write your genealogical "will"
10. No obvious heirs?
11. Try these ideas? Keep family history alive

An important update to this second edition are considerations of those researchers without obvious heirs, as well as protecting the legacy of ancestors who did not have descendants. Other updates include ideas for sharing bite-sized family history projects; new sections on organizing and digitizing your collection; thoughts about finding repositories who might take collections or artifacts; and revised inventory, index, and cousin connection forms. At under 100 pages, *Planning a Future for Your Family's Past* is a quick and easy read with simple ideas that most anyone can implement; a brief checklist concludes each chapter, readying readers for the next phase.

If beginning the task of curating your family history collection is intimidating you, stop by the Special Collections at the Emily Fowler Central Library and take a look at *Planning Your Future* for a fresh take on a sometimes stressful task.

– Nancy Gilbride Casey
Denton Public Library Volunteer

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SARmagazine>



Also see the Denton Chapter Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/409893430767486>



Editor's Note

The Chapter **website** is <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/>. On that site are the back copies of this newsletter, information about the Chapter, and links to the SAR State and National web sites.

All of these communication devices take time to maintain. If you would like to help and/or take over one of these, please let me know.

Bill Surles, wsmerch@gmail.com