

May, 2024



Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting: 10am July 20, 2024 New Date

Denton North Branch Library New Location

Chapter Officers

President—Brandon Story
Vice President—Open
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry
Secretary, Annual Reports —
Mike Connelley
Treasurer—Chris Strauss
Asst Treasurer—Bill Rowell
Registrar— Mike Lester
Sgt at Arms—Billy Roussell, III
Color Guard — David Cook

Opportunities

1. May 18, area Poster Contest awards
2. May 25, Denton Exec Meeting
3. June 1, North Texas grave markings
4. July 20, Chapter meeting
5. September 5, 250th anniversary of 1st Continental Congress

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Chapter President Brandon Story Message:

Greetings, Compatriots!

Summer is almost here, and I expect people will be traveling all across the U.S. on vacation soon. Slow down, make memories and enjoy time with family – but don't forget to tell the story of your patriot to friends and family you encounter along the way. It is up to us to carry on with their legacy and to help grow the SAR. As Mike Connelly famously said, "If we're not growing, we're dying." If your summer travels do happen to take you to a Revolutionary War site, please share your photos with us on Facebook – or drop Bill Surles a line for the newsletter. Even better if you can tie your patriot to that site! We would love to hear about your experience and their story!

As I am new in my role, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge two past Presidents who have been instrumental in reviving and growing the Denton Chapter of the SAR. It will be tough to follow in Mike Connelly and Jim Aker's footsteps, but they laid a strong foundation which I hope to continue to build on. In that vein, the Board of Managers is looking to meet sometime in late May and talk over ideas and programs for the coming year to bring back to the chapter, so please be sure to share your ideas with us if you have a passion about something our group can get involved with.

Continued on the next page..

Some thoughts I have about the direction of our chapter:

- What does the SAR mean to you?
- What specifically is **OUR** chapter going to focus on to set us apart?
- How do we get “seen” so that we can continue to grow? (Parades, Events, etc)
- Small fundraiser for medals, scholarship awards and challenge coins for speakers.

Lastly, we are still looking for several people to step up and help out – including a Chapter Vice-President and an Assistant Treasurer. I'd encourage you

to prayerfully consider getting involved if you have the time. Teamwork is dream work if we can get more people to help carry the load.

Enjoy the summer and see everyone at the next meeting on July 20 at 10 AM – at the North Branch Library in Denton.

(NOTE THE NEW TIME AND LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING.)

Brandon Story
BrandonDStory@aol.com

Denton SAR Chapter #23

April 6, 2024 Chapter Meeting Minutes

Emily Fowler Library, Denton Texas

Attendees: Jim Akers, Stanley Hobbs, Ronnie Rencher, Brandon Story, Tom Richards, Bill Surles, Mike Connelly, Sarah Connelley, Jim Hobby, Dennis Moore, Tom Milson, Bobby Samuel, Mark Lange, Scott Smith, Forest Broom, David Cook, Christopher Strauss (three not signed in)

President Jim Akers Called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Invocation:	Bobby Samuel
Pledge Of Allegiance:	Jim Akers
Pledge to Texas Flag:	Bobby Samuel
Pledge of SAR:	Bill Surles

Program: The program was done by Captain Arthur Avery, U.S. Army: “The Militia in the Revolutionary war”.

Certificate: Christopher Strauss and Jim Akers presented Captain Avery a certificate of appreciation and challenge coin of the chapter.

Old Business:

Minutes of January meeting approval: tabled

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Strauss reported the chapter's Checking account balance was \$4001.39
A question was raised if the chapter was receiving dues from dual members. This will be checked.

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...Chapter Meeting Minutes, continued

Election of 2024 chapter officers: Jim Akers conducted the officer elections based on prior notifications.

The following officers were approved by hand vote:

President:	Brandon Story
Vice President:	Vacant
Recording Secretary:	Mike Frye
Treasurer:	Christopher Strauss
Registrar:	Mike Lester
Sergeant at Arms:	Billy Roussel
Chaplin:	Bill Rowell
Webmaster/Newsletter:	Bill Surles
Coordinator of	
Membership & Publicity:	Jim Hobby
Color Guard Commander:	David Cook

New Business:

Swearing in of elected Officers: District Vice President Tom Milson conducted the swearing in of the officers elected above.

Newly elected President Brandon Story conducted the remainder of the meeting.

Eagle Scout report: Mark Lange updated the chapter in the status of the Eagle Scout Project. He said that the project had been delayed by the recent rains, and some redesign work has had to be done. He also noted that the park official who was assisting in overseeing the project had been transferred. Despite these issues, Mark anticipates that the project will be completed this summer.

Patriot Day: Plans for the April 19 Patriots Day celebrations were described.

Denton Chapter Color Guard Report: Commander Cook reported the Color Guard members Mike Lester, Brandon Story and David Cook posted the colors for the Texas State meeting of the Colonial Dames on March 1, 2024. Cook listed the upcoming possible events for the color guard members to attend. Jim Akers announced the Colonial Dames donated \$50 to the Denton Chapter for posting the colors. Cook presented certificates of appreciation to Color Guard Members Brandon Story, Tom Richards and Christopher Strauss. A certificate will be presented Mike Lester at a later date.

Ratification of the revised Constitution and Bylaws: Compatriot Cook conducted the vote on the previously distributed Constitution and Bylaws. The revision was brought up to the current operating procedures and was approved. The signed document will be forwarded to Bill Surles for posting on the chapter website.

ROTC Schedule: Compatriot Strauss announced the upcoming ROTC award ceremonies in the Denton chapter area and listed who would present the awards. The awards consist of a certificate and medal and also a flag certificate to the unit. There are six schools in the Denton County with ROTC units.

USS Stark Report: Compatriot Connelley described the Stark report, its value, and requested any activities meeting the criteria be forwarded to him.

Past President Award: Compatriot Connelley presented the Past President Award to Jim Akers for his two year service to the chapter.

Benediction: The benediction was led by: Bobby Samuel

Recessional: This was led by: Bobby Samuel

Adjournment: Jim Akers

Prepared By: David Cook for Secretary Mike Frye



IN MEMORIAM

Terry Lee (T.L.) Holden
1946 - 2024

In early April, 2024, the Texas SAR Organization announced the passing of long-time member "T L" Holden on April 8th. The SAR article said that at his side was State SAR Chaplain Michael Goode. Holden was a longtime SAR member and spent many, many days and hours working on the applications of Texas men seeking membership in the SAR Organization. While not a member of the Denton Chapter, he left his indelible mark on the membership paperwork of many, many Denton chapter members from 2020 forward.

"T L" was in attendance at the pivotal January 2020 chapter meeting that has marked the continual growth of the Denton chapter well into 2024. He assisted many members in filling out the documentation, locating documents and assisting in the preparation of the paper work. He was a good man who worked diligently and quietly for the advancement of the Texas SAR organization serving in many categories including chapter president and also as a District Vice President for the Texas SAR Organization.

The last we heard there will be no public service or memorial for T L Holden.

Past president Mike Connelley

Past president Jim Akers

Current chapter president Brandon Story

Upcoming SAR Events

Saturday, May 18, 2024: The Denton Chapter of the SAR will award a prize to the winning Denton Chapter grade school Poster contestant. We will participate in this award with other chapters at the Dallas Chapter meeting at 9:00 am, 2 Ventana Way South, Dallas, TX. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM for \$15.

May 18, 2024: The Van Zandt (Fort Worth) Chapter of the SAR will raffle a Henry SAR Commemorative rifle during their chapter meeting. Tickets are \$20, and you need not be present to win. Please let me know not later than May 17, 2024 if you still need to buy your tickets.

Saturday, June 1, 2024: There will be TWO Patriot Grave Markings. The first is in Maud, TX at 9:30 AM, Center Ridge Cemetery, 8641 Texas Highway 8, Maud, TX. Maud, TX is 45 miles east of Mount Pleasant, TX.


After a break for lunch, the second Patriot Grave Marking will be 55 miles west of Maud at 1:30 PM, Clarksville Cemetery, 608 West Washington Street, Clarksville, TX.

If you have any questions please contact Bill Watts at 214 207 5073 or via email at bill_watts@att.net

Recent Denton SAR Web Site Updates

The Denton SAR Web Site at <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/> has some recent additions, and there are more to come.

1. The revised Chapter Constitution has been added.
2. The 2024 Chapter Yearbook has been added

Both of the documents can be found listed in the Docs drop-down  on the Chapter web home page.

Additional changes coming soon:

1. Group the Chapter Newsletters by year
2. Create an archive, both public and private (password protected) of chapter historical information. This is a new effort by the SAR Texas organization to capture historical information. This effort was previously handled by the University of North Texas Special Collections. The Texas SAR Historian has been notified that this organization will no longer accept future donation. The Texas SAR recommendation is to archive at the chapter level. The Denton webmaster Bill Surles will work with the State committee to pilot this initiative.

**The Sons of the American Revolution
What are we as an organization and how
do I make the most of my membership?**

Edition Number Four

Get Active / Stay Active

And

Get the most out of your membership

I, like many other members of the Sons of the American Revolution organization, have a strong interest in history in general, family history and in my case military history. When I first discovered that members of my family were in the American Revolutionary War.... I was hooked. One descendant turned into two, then three, etc., etc. that were in the War from different Colonies along the east coast.

I became interested in the SAR organization after I retired and joined through the Texas SAR, in particular, the "Van Zandt chapter" in Fort Worth. My family is a multi-generation native of Fort Worth / North Texas going back to the late 1800s. I made my application through the Fort Worth chapter and became involved with the youth, public service awards and military veterans' activities. Before I knew it, I oversaw the Eagle Scout program, then became chapter secretary, chapter vice-president and finally the chapter president. All was good. I think you get so much more out of any organization if you become involved in the programs and various activities. Which reminds me.... there are several large programs in which the SAR organization is heavily invested. Public service awards (fire/police/medical personnel / private citizen) and the veterans' recognition and activities.

Public Service /Life Saving and heroism awards and heroism is designed to recognize public safety employees/ police/fire/etc. and private citizens who are involved in some incident or crisis which results in heroic actions or the saving of a life of another person. Over the years, I have been involved in many of these awards to citizens, or police, or fire personnel and the experience has always been rewarding-both for the individual and for the chapter doing the honoring.

How do we find these honorees? Be alert to news articles, tv news programs, newspaper article that appear in the media. Chapter contacts with law enforcement agencies can also provide information on these heroic incidences. Service to military veterans is a huge program within the SAR organization. We have many members, both State and chapter level, who have served in the military. New members!! Make sure you get hold of me or another chapter office if you served in the military, Tell us where you served/which branch/ rank/where stationed, etc., etc. We want to make sure you get on our chapter list of military veterans.

One more point on the military veterans' program. The SAR veteran program uses an "all inclusive" excel spreadsheet to calculate activity by chapters and States. This is a new document to be utilized in 2024 to gather individual / chapter activity in the veterans' program. Don't worry about it- I will explain this document at the April 2024 meeting and will be the one to gather and report the data to the state. What I will need is what you, the individual chapter accomplished / attended during 2024. I will gather the individual actions / activities of individual chapter members and put them into the excel spreadsheet.

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I think the various programs of the SAR organization have been covered over the last couple of months via the chapter newsletter. Find the program you like / enjoy and become involved in that area. Talk to me or any of the chapter officers about the programs, make your selection and get that information to me.

Our final topic discussed below is the organization meetings at the State level. From that perspective; Texas hosts two meetings, a Board of Managers meeting and an annual State Convention. Generally, one is in the southern part of the State while the other is held in the northern part of the State. While the Board of Managers (BOM) is primarily directed toward State and chapter officers and committee meetings; the Convention has a wider scope of business and committee meetings and a large social event.

Texas is one of the larger SAR organizations around the Country. The physical size of the Texas is one contributor to the impact that Texas, and Texas members, have with the SAR organization. Any member is welcome to attend either of these functions and I urge to consider going to any one, or both, of these events.

The Denton chapter has seen tremendous growth over the past few years which can be attributable to the population growth in Texas and particularly in the Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex. I see nothing in the future that will slow down the positive growth within our chapter. Continue to attend the chapter meetings and “volunteer” to assist when an event is planned or a chapter office position needs to be filled.

Remember to access both the Texas SAR public website, the Texas “private website” (remember the login information from an earlier newsletter) and the National SAR website for more information on these various programs; **OR** call me/ text me / send email with your questions and I will get back to you.

You get a lot more out of your membership this way...get active / stay active. See you at the April meeting.

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



Scott Smith was presented a proclamation recognizing April 19th as Patriots Day in Trophy Club. He accepted it on behalf of our Denton SAR Chapter and his Patriot Ancestor Lt. Conrad Seiple, Philadelphia Militia.

Scott encourages each member to just contact your councilman or mayor. Most cities would be glad to do this (they already do for just about everything else) ! And now we have a template for it to make it easy.

Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard



**SAR Color Guard
at the Providence
School event on
April 10.**



Date	Time-muster	Event	Location	Chapter /State /National
6/1/24		Patriot Grave Markings	Maud and Clarksville Texas	S

Join the Denton Chapter Color Guard

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.

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

“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

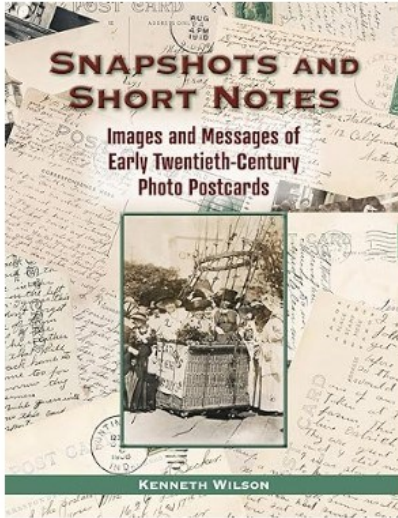
2033 Treaty of Paris

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

Picture This: New Books Offer Insights into Postcards

At some point in your life, it's likely that you have received or sent a postcard. Perhaps you did so to document a memorable trip. Maybe someone jotted down their latest news on one to send to you. Or, perhaps you recounted an important event to a far-flung friend. Maybe you have a postcard collection or hold postcards that were important to your family.

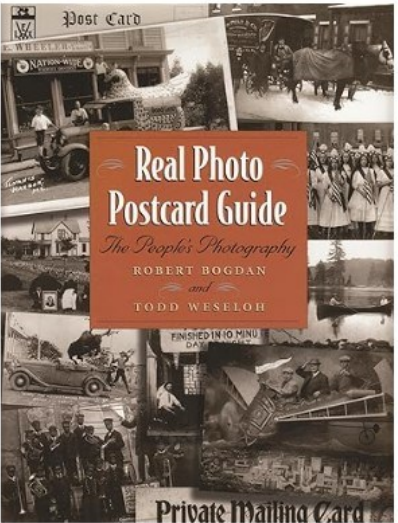
Two new books at the Emily Fowler Central Library take an in-depth, historical look at postcards that may provide some new ways to interpret the postcards you have seen or sent yourself.



Snapshots and Short Notes: Images and Messages of Early Twentieth-Century Photo Postcards by Kenneth Wilson (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2020) looks at photographic postcards—sometimes considered the social media of the day—sent during the early 20th century. Widely collected and wildly popular during the period 1901-1914, postcards became affordable enough to be exchanged by the millions, collected and displayed.

These cards were a combination of text and black-and-white photos showing the full spectrum of life, including urban and rural landscapes, history, commerce, social interactions, and humor. With a combination of imagery and the writer's text, these postcards could tell of social or technological changes, relay tragedy or life-altering news, or just everyday life in a way that a historical document might not.

Snapshots and Short Notes contains over 160 photographic postcards, reproduced in full color. Part I of the book covers the evolution of the postcard, the Golden Age of postcards, and photographic innovations, while Part II's chapters feature various postcards arranged by topics such as "Photographers and Postcards," "The Farm," "Issues of the Day," "On the Move," and "Misfortune, Tragedy, and Loss," among others.



Real Photo Postcard Guide: The People's Photography by Robert Bogdan and Todd Weseloh (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2006) takes a broader look at photo postcards, delving into the history, origin, and significance of postcards, as well as practical matters such as dating, purchasing, and preserving them. Like *Snapshots and Short Notes*, this book notes that postcards captured moments in American cultural history, from family outings and workplace awards to lynchings and natural disasters. The volume features more than 350 photo postcards from archives and private collections across the country.

Chapters cover:

Fundamentals covers topics such as how to establish the location of a view or identify the photographer, size, lighting, or montages, among others

Photographers and Careers explains the marketing and technology of postcards, and offers photographer sketches

Dimensions of Desirability details how to find a desirable card based on condition, composition, content, historical importance, etc.

Collecting Categories covers the nomenclature for collection

Objects to Treasure delves into the care and preservation of postcards

Sitting in the Graveyard offers tips on researching postcard photographers

Appendices cover how to date postcards using stamps or using the card backs, as well as a working directory of photo postcard photographers.

These books just might be the inspiration you need to take a second look at postcards you have in your own collection of ephemera. The books are available now in the Special Collections section of the Emily Fowler Central Library, for in-house reading.

—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