



June, 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. **June 29 Denton 4th of July Parade**
2. **July 4 Fourth of July**
3. **July 10-16 NSSAR Annual Congress, Lancaster, PA**
4. **July 20, Chapter meeting**
5. **July 27 Texas SAR BOM**
6. **August 16 200th anniversary of Lafayette's return visit**
7. **September 5, 250th anniversary of 1st Continental Congress**

Inside this issue

250 Years Ago	2
Denton SAR BOM Meeting.....	3
Lafayette's Farewell Tour.....	4
Update on Chapter Web Site	4
A Bench for the Denton Courthouse...	5
Chapter JROTC Program.....	6-7
Denton Chapter Color Guard.....	8
250th Anniversary dates.....	9
Book Review.....	10
SAR Facebook Information.....	11
Editor's Note.....	11

Chapter President Brandon Story Message:

Greetings, Compatriots!

Hope to see you at the Denton 4th of July parade. The Denton SAR is participating again this year. Compatriot Mike Lester has volunteered his truck. Compatriots wishing to participate can email myself brandondstory@aol.com or David Cook davidcook1936@gmail.com for additional details. Bill Surles has volunteered to carry one side of the banner; **who will carry the other side?**

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?
- Small fundraiser for medals, scholarship awards and challenge coins for speakers.

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

Brandon Story



Yankee Doodle Parade

Saturday, June 29, 2024
Parade begins at 9 a.m.
Downtown Denton Square

Join us this year for a live parade. Deck out in red, white, and blue for this patriotic occasion, or watch from your lawn chair on the square as the parade rolls out. The parade route begins near the Wells Fargo building at Austin St. and Hickory St., continues around the square, then down McKinney St. to the Denton Civic Center.

250 years ago

1774 - In March, an angry English Parliament passes the first of a series of Coercive Acts (called Intolerable Acts by Americans) in response to the rebellion in Massachusetts. The Boston Port Bill effectively shuts down all commercial shipping in Boston harbor until Massachusetts pays the taxes owed on the tea dumped in the harbor and also reimburses the East India Company for the loss of the tea.

1774 - May 12, Bostonians at a town meeting call for a boycott of British imports in response to the Boston Port Bill. May 13, General Thomas Gage, commander of all British military forces in the colonies, arrives in Boston and replaces Hutchinson as Royal governor, putting Massachusetts under military rule. He is followed by the arrival of four regiments of British troops.

1774 - May 17-23, colonists in Providence, New York and Philadelphia begin calling for an intercolonial congress to overcome the Coercive Acts and discuss a common course of action against the British.

1774 - May 20, The English Parliament enacts the next series of Coercive Acts, which include the Massachusetts Regulating Act and the Government Act virtually ending any self-rule by the colonists there. Instead, the English Crown and the Royal governor assume political power formerly exercised by colonists. Also enacted; the Administration of Justice Act which protects royal officials in Massachusetts from being sued in colonial courts, and the Quebec Act establishing a centralized government in Canada controlled by the Crown and English Parliament. The Quebec Act greatly upsets American colonists by extending the southern boundary of Canada into territories claimed by Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia.

1774 - In June, a new version of the 1765 Quartering Act is enacted by the English Parliament requiring all of the American colonies to provide housing for British troops in occupied houses and taverns and in unoccupied buildings. In September, Massachusetts Governor Gage seizes that colony's arsenal of weapons at Charlestown.

SOURCE: The History Place <https://www.historyplace.com/>

Denton Chapter, Texas SAR
Chapter Board of Managers meeting
May 25, 2024

On Saturday morning, May 25, 2024 the Denton chapter Board of Managers met for a business meeting beginning at 10AM. The membership is comprised of all current chapter officers plus past presidents of the Denton chapter. The meeting was held at a local Denton restaurant named The Great Egg. Meeting attendees were Brandon Story, Mike Connelley, Bill Surles, Jim Akers, Billy Roussel and Christopher Strauss.

The discussion was begun by chapter president Story as to the vacant position of chapter vice-president. Both Jim Akers and Mike Connelley, past chapter presidents, stated a discussion was held with chapter member Ronnie Rencher who has consented to be the chapter vice president and is also willing to step forward to the position of chapter president. The decision was made to discuss the matter at the next chapter meeting (July 20, 2024) and vote on Rencher at that time.

Discussion was then held on what the chapter should do on the topic of long-range storage or chapter records and community activities. It was mentioned that the plan of storage of chapter records by North Texas University has ended with the task of long-term storage falling back on Texas SAR and local chapters at this point. Both past president Mike Connelley and past president Jim Akers along with newsletter editor Bill Surles pointed out that the Texas SAR is trying to create a method of storage of chapter "digital records" on the Texas SAR website. Details of this process have not been completed and it was suggested that chapters should put their current records on a digital "thumb drive" or some other storage item or place them on the chapter website, if one exists. Denton chapter does have a website that is suitable for records storage. It was decided that records will be digitalized and stored on a thumb drive and / or the chapter website until a final decision is made on storage location / method.

Chapter president Story raised the issue of fund raising for the chapter to create more funds for youth programs of the chapter. It was mentioned by past president Mike Connelley that the Van Zandt chapter in Fort Worth was conducting a raffle of a commemorative weapon (.22 rifle) 250th Commemoration Founding of the Nation. This process raised over \$3600 net profit for the Fort Worth chapter. It was felt this may not be feasible with a small chapter such as Denton and other methods of fund raising were discussed including the shirts, challenge coin and the possibility of a lapel pin for the Denton chapter. Further discussion on this will come up at the June 2024 chapter meeting.

Discussion was also had on getting another chapter member as a signatory on the chapter bank account. Discussion among attendees was favorable on this matter / needed for emergencies and it was decided to discuss this issue at the July 20, 2024 chapter meeting.

Decision was made to close formal discussion at the Board of Managers meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19AM.

Mike Connelley, past chapter president and recording secretary for the BOM meeting.

Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour



August 16, 2024 will see the kick off this monumental Bicentennial celebration. The hundreds of events planned will trace Lafayette's footsteps on the exact dates and in the exact order he followed on his tour of America as the "Guest of the Nation" between 1824 and 1825.


68 09 47 08
days hours minutes seconds

Visit <https://lafayette200.org/> for more information.
An introductory video is here:
<https://vimeo.com/855470022>

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
3. Many back copies of the Chapter newsletter

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

Additional changes:

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.

Buy a Bench for the Denton Courthouse?



SAR 250th Anniversary **Memorial Bench Program** **Partner with the DAR, C.A.R.**



One Bench in Every State By 2026
Courthouse, Square, Park, Historic Site, Cemetery



250th Message (All Sites)



Custom Message (Site Specific)

Meets SAR 5-Year Historical Program Goal

Just Four Easy Steps

- Step 1: Choose a Site and Contact the History Committee***
- Step 2: Select a Monument Company for the Granite Bench***
- Step 3: Secure the Required Local Site Approvals***
- Step 4: Partner and Raise the Required Funds***

For More Information:

***Contact History Committee Chairman Jeff Thomas at jthomas4sar@gmail.com
or Project Chairman John Trussell at jtrusswr@gmail.com***

Denton Chapter, Texas SAR Annual JROTC / ROTC Award Program

Each spring, for many, many years the Denton chapter has supported the National SAR JROTC/ROTC annual award program for schools located within the geographical reach of Denton, Texas. The chapter has been presenting these awards for many years with renewed effort since the rebuilding of the chapter began in 2019. The supported schools include Guyer High School, Ryan High School, Denton High School, Braswell High School along with the UNT Army ROTC, TWU Army ROTC and UNT Air Force ROTC programs.

The annual JROTC / ROTC award program has been a major award event within the SAR organization for many, many years. Chapters all over the State of Texas participate in this program through the local public schools and Colleges. Many of the recipients of these awards go on to make military service a career.

Chapter member Chris Strauss has been coordinating this program for many years now along with the assistance of chapter members who represent the SAR organization at the school award programs. The chapter has a close relationship with all the schools with the award programs being held with “military organization and precision”. In addition, it is one of the best ways to become involved; so take that step forward and assist the chapter in the presentation of the awards each spring, generally in April or the very first few days of May.

How do I do it? Glad you asked. It is simple, easy, and rewarding. Pay close attention to the next paragraph or two. It is as easy as 1-2-3.....

At the January meeting, say something to Chris, myself, Jim Akers or Brandon about getting on the list of presenters for the 2025 awards events. Chris has the medals along with the ongoing relationship with the Denton / Denton area high schools and colleges. The awards are presented in April of each year and are completed over a week to 10-day timeframe. Chris works out the schedule of when / where / what time for each educational entity and then gets the medals and certificates in the hands of the school along with the name of the “presenter”. Each school then has the medal and the name of the presenter.

The school then sets the award date and location, generally the auditorium of the high school or some other venue as selected by the College awards group. You just show up, find the auditorium, introduce yourself to one of the ROTC / JROTC staff members and tell them which award you are presenting. They will tell you what to do and where to stand.

All you have to do is wait for the SAR award to be called, then stand up, walk to the stage, put the award in your hand and then present to the winner as their name is called and they walk to center of room or stage. Shouldn't take more than 30 seconds to accomplish. Easy; no strain and “no thinking” on your part. It is like I mentioned above “1-2-3” then sit down.

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The awardees for the various education entities appreciate the award and they won't forget the award that you just presented. It's not brain surgery and there is nothing to worry about. Just show up dressed appropriately (what you would wear to church, or a business meeting, wedding, etc.). The ROTC / JROTC staff will tell you what to do and where to stand. 30 seconds and you are done.

It is one of those rewarding / "feel good" moments for you and the young award recipient. Stick around after the event; there may be a meal or cookies and coffee. You won't be sorry you volunteered. It is one of our big award programs and it is important that the Denton chapter and YOU show up and participate. You won't regret it.



The above two photos were taken at this year's (2024) award event. One is from Ryan High School and the other is from Braswell High School. I hope some of our new chapter members / chapter officers can make the 2025 event. Like I mentioned, the schools have this procedure down and so does Chris Strauss. It is a smooth "1-2-3 process". You will do just fine; the school JROTC staff will ensure that it is. Make a note to yourself to volunteer to be part of the process at the January 2025 meeting.

Mike Connelley, past chapter president, Denton Chapter Texas SAR

Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard



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



Date	Time-muster	Event	Location	Chapter /State /National
6/29/24		Denton 4th of July Parade	Denton, Texas	C

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.

Writing & Telling Your Stories with Emily Richardson

If you have ever wanted to creatively write up some of your favorite stories of family or even yourself, but were not sure where to begin, *Writing & Telling Your Stories*—a new series sponsored by the Denton Public Library—might be just the place to start.



Writing & Telling Your Stories consists of four sessions held on the third Friday of the month, June - August, from 10-11:30 a.m. Class dates are: June 14, July 19, and August 16, and will meet at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oak Street, Denton.

WRITING & TELLING YOUR STORIES *with Emily Richardson*

FOUR-PART FAMILY HISTORY WRITING CLASS

Taught by genealogist Emily Richardson, each of the sessions will focus on a different concept to inspire or refine the writing or telling process:

- Using writing **prompts**; where to find prompts; how to share your writing with family members
- Creating **oral histories**; using your phone to capture interviews; how to entice others to tell their stories. Session includes practicing interview skills with a prepared question list.
- Editing** your work; how Emily does it; time to edit Emily's work as well as your own; next steps and goals

Emily notes, "Most of us did not grow up with writing, and most of us do not have an interest in writing a novel. But writing our own stories, or even those of our ancestors, is much easier. This class will show you why." At the conclusion of the four classes, participants should have 3 to 6 unique stories to share with family.

For those hesitant to participate because they feel they have no one to tell their stories to, Emily is encouraging. "Stories matter! Your stories might inform others of what life was like during your lifetime. In the future, genealogists can extrapolate what their ancestor's life was like using the stories we write."

No previous writing experience is needed. "Participants will have time to think and write in class and be given an 'assignment' to complete before the next class," says Emily. "I'm not giving grades, and participants can choose whether to share their stories with others for feedback. It's all about learning the habit of writing often."

Participants should bring to class whatever writing materials they are comfortable with—a journal, pen and paper, or a laptop. Registration opens two weeks prior to each class. Save your spot; visit the library's website: <https://denton.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>.

—Nancy Gilbride Casey DPL 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