

December, 2025



Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting: **Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 10am**

Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton

Chapter Officers

President—Brandon Story
Vice President—Ronnie Rencher
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

Events

1. **Jan. 10, 2026, Denton Chapter Mtg**
2. **Mar. 14, 2026, Denton Chapter Mtg**
3. **April 12, 2026 National Conference**
4. **April 17, 2026, dedication of the
Texas SAR 250 Monument at the
Texas State Cemetery**

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Message from Chapter President Brandon

Greetings Compatriots-

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Believe it or not, two years has flown by for me and it is almost time to elect new Chapter officers! The Chapter Board of Managers recently met and started to plan through upcoming Officer elections for 2026. According to our new bylaws, the final slate should be approved at the May 2026 Chapter meeting and July will be the first effective meeting of our new leaders.

If you are interested in holding a Chapter office or being nominated, please make plans to attend the March and May meetings to discuss that. Or, if you do happen to miss it, you may just wind up being nominated for one of our open officer slots ;). (Only kidding - kind of).

Lastly, I wanted to plug Wreaths Across America coming up on December 13. If you do happen to attend any event, particularly with DAR or another SAR chapter, please send a photo to Bill Surles and myself for the newsletter and Facebook page.

Our next chapter meeting is January 10, 2026 - 10 AM at Emily Fowler.

Brandon Story
President, Denton Chapter
Sons of American Revolution

Mailing list to be notified of new episodes of the SAR Revolutionary War Rarities Channel:

[Email Sign-Up Form](#)

Denton SAR Chapter Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2025

10:00 AM

Vice President Ronnie Rencher, in the absence of Chapter president Brandon Story, called the meeting to order. The pledges to the American Flag, the Texas Flag and the SAR flag were led by Vice President Ronnie Rencher.

Introduction of guests: One visitor was in attendance; Gary Green, Florida SAR member, who is in the process of moving to Denton, Texas.

Chapter Treasurer report: Chapter Treasurer Christopher Strauss stated the balance in the checking account is \$4,302.64 with \$1,140.06 earmarked for Youth programs and \$774.50 earmarked for the SAR 250th program. \$50.00 in cash was collected through the sale of donuts, books and challenge coins.

Chapter Secretary report: Mike Frye, chapter secretary, was absent from today's meeting and no secretary report was given. Notes for the November 8, 2025, meeting were recorded by past chapter president Mike Connelley.

Old Business: none

New Business: Chapter member Jim Hobdy, mentioned the "chapter social gathering" occurred on Saturday morning, October 11th, at North Point Café. The social gathering was well attended by chapter members and guests and Hobdy indicated another social event will be held in the next month or two.

Chapter member Bill Surles stated he is still pursuing the placing of a marker around the Denton County Courthouse in recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolutionary War. It is anticipated that the marker will be placed at some location on the Denton County Courthouse Square on or about July 4th of 2026.

A motion was made at 11:05AM to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2026. Attendance was 9 members and two visitors for a total of 11 attendees. Minutes were prepared by chapter member / past chapter president Mike Connelley in the absence of chapter secretary Mike Frye.

L. Michael Connelley, secretary and past chapter president, Denton Chapter #23, Denton, TX

The AMERICA 250 Anniversary Marker Project



Example of a marker

Draft 250 Anniversary Marker

Celebrating 250 Years of the founding of the United States of America
July 4, 1776 – July 4, 2026

While not a key player during the Revolutionary War, Texas did play a small but important role during the conflict. In 1779, King Carlos III of Spain, who controlled Texas at the time, vowed to aid the rebelling colonists by allying with France and declaring war on Great Britain. Texas' immense cattle herds and natural resources would prove pivotal in supplying the soldiers of Bernardo de Gálvez as they launched their attack on the British from the Louisiana territory. Aided by Texas supplies, Gálvez and his men defeated the British in battles at Manchac, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola. After the war, the Mexican government encouraged settlement in the territory, leading several Revolutionaries and their families to find a permanent home in Texas.

This marker was dedicated on July 4, 2026 by the Benjamin Lyon Chapter Denton of the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR), the Denton Chapter of the Sons of American Revolution (SAR), and citizens of Denton County in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and those patriots who gave all to establish our great nation. Each member of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution has a direct ancestor who participated in the Revolutionary War to gain independence from Great Britain. The DAR and SAR organizations continue to preserve history, promote patriotism, and educate future generations about the principles of the American Revolution.



God bless America



Our Patriots: Mark Miller's Robert Babcock

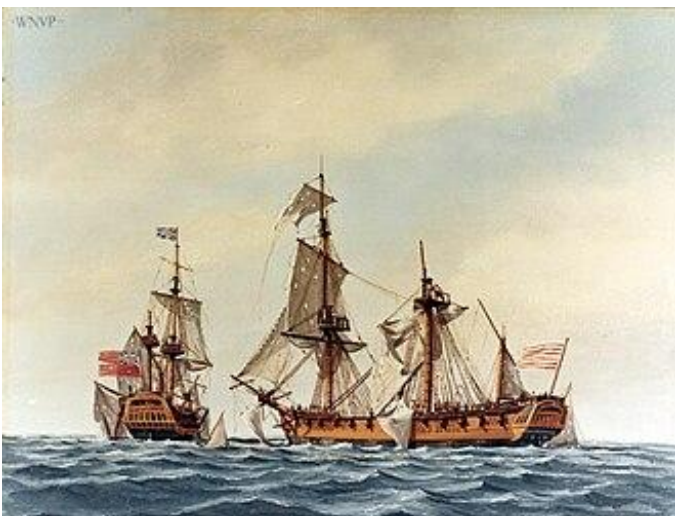
Robert originally served as a private investigator for the Connecticut militia until July 4th, 1776. He was part of Washington's strategic retreat from New York City.

He subsequently enlisted and served in the Continental Navy as a seaman aboard the frigate Trumbull.

So, unique in that he served in a military infantry unit and in the Continental Navy. He also survived the war to return to Connecticut to live out his life dying in 1819 at the age of 87.

Robert's ship, the Trumbull, was engaged in what is said to be the fiercest naval battle of the Revolutionary War when it engaged the British ship the Watt carrying 32 guns...the Trumbull having only 24 guns. The Trumbull having lost 30 men killed or wounded including two officers during the engagement. The Watt lost 39 men either killed or wounded. Both ships, badly damaged and effectively shot to pieces retired after several hours of combat. The Trumbull limped back to port on one mast (her other two being completely shot away during the battle) to Nantucket for repairs and refitting.

On August 8, 1781, the Trumbull re-entered service in the Continental Navy, being the last of the thirteen (13) original frigates authorized by Congress in 1775. She entered convoy duty protecting a merchant fleet off the Delaware cape. A terrific rain storm took off the Trumbull's fore top-mast and her main top gallant mast. As such, the Trumbull separated from the convoy and soon found herself engaged by the British frigate Iris (actually the former Continental Navy frigate Hancock) and the 18-gun British ship General Monk (the former Continental Navy's privateer the General George Washington). For an hour and a half the Trumbull battled the two British ships. Eleven Americans had been wounded and five killed before the Trumbull struck its colors and surrendered avoiding further loss of American lives. Trumbull, now a wreck, was taken in tow by the victorious Iris and towed to New York. However, due to the severe extent of damage, the British did not take the Trumbull into service within the British Navy.



Trumbull (right) engaging Watt
by William Nowland Van Powell

Send me the info about your Patriot, and I'll included it in a future newsletter



Chapter Color Guard Commander David Cook has asked that
someone else take over as Commander,
as he is no longer able to continue.
Contact him for details.

A SAR Color Guard Story



Our small SAR chapter Color Guard unit in North Georgia was asked one year to be in a small North Carolina town July 4 parade, in which we did.

An observer took a video of the parade and shared it with me after the parade. The video shows the police car leading the parade with a short break of nothing. Then it showed the very tops of four Colonial flags coming up a slight hill. Slowly emerging were four uniformed SAR Color Guard members caring the flags and flanked by militia musket bearers

on each end of the line.

I know every spectator watching the Color Guard marching in that Fourth of July parade felt a strong sense of patriotism and were proud to be an American.

That, is what SAR Color Guard units do. It is the “pay” we receive for volunteering our time and energies to promoting patriotism.

That is what the Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard “COULD” do. Yes it takes time, priority and a little cash. But to be in that parade and pass by a little boy, flag in hand, and saluting our flag will remain in my mind forever.

Joining and participating in the Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard is up to you.

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
dhjones1940@outlook.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

August 14, 2024 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's U.S. Tour

September 5, 2024 The First Continental Congress

April 19, 2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord

Military Branch 2025 Birthdays:

Army June 14, Navy Oct. 13, Marines Nov. 10

December 31, 2025 Battle of Quebec

2026 Declaration of Independence

2027 Battle of Saratoga

2028 French Alliance

2029 Siege of Vincennes/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.

Commemorating The Battle of Quebec

The **Battle of Quebec** (French: *Bataille de Québec*) was fought on December 31, 1775, between American Continental Army forces and the British defenders of Quebec City as part of the invasion of Quebec of the American Revolutionary War. The battle was the first major defeat of the war for the Americans, and it came with heavy losses. General Richard Montgomery was killed, Benedict Arnold was wounded, and Daniel Morgan and more than 400 men were taken prisoner. The city's garrison, a motley assortment of regular troops and militia led by Quebec's provincial governor, General Guy Carleton, suffered a small number of casualties.

Montgomery's army had captured Montreal on November 13, and early in December they became one force that was led by Arnold, whose men had made an arduous trek through the wilderness of northern New England. Governor Carleton had escaped from Montreal to Quebec, the Americans' next objective, and last-minute reinforcements arrived to bolster the city's limited defenses before the attacking force's arrival. Concerned that expiring enlistments would reduce his force, Montgomery made the end-of-year attack in a blinding snowstorm to conceal his army's movements. The plan was for separate forces led by Montgomery and Arnold to converge in the lower city before scaling the walls protecting the upper city. Montgomery's force turned back after he was killed by cannon fire early in the battle, but Arnold's force penetrated further into the lower city. Arnold was injured early in the attack, and Morgan led the assault in his place before he became trapped in the lower city and was forced to surrender. Arnold and the Americans maintained an ineffectual blockade of the city until spring, when British reinforcements arrived.



*The Death of General Montgomery
in the Attack on Quebec,
December 31, 1775*
Painting by [John Trumbull](#), 1786



Brigadier-General [Richard Montgomery](#)'s troops prepare to embark for the [invasion of Canada](#) from [Crown Point, New York](#)

Denton Library Info

Access Texas Newspapers on Newspapers.com Free with Library Card

In a boon to family history researchers, Denton Public Library cardholders can now access more than 7.6 million pages for **free** on Newspapers.com. As an added bonus, the “Texas Collection (1842-2024)” is available **from home** with a DPL library card login.

Texas researchers will find 226 newspapers in locations ranging from Abilene to Alpine, Greenville to Granbury, Odessa to Olney, and Whitewright to Wichita Falls, among dozens more.

- The earliest titles include *The Texas Republican*, with over 3,500 pages published in Marshall between 1849-1869, and *The Texian Advocate*, with 600+ pages published in Victoria between 1848-1952.
- Over 1 million pages are available in newspapers published in each of the decades of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.
- Coverage during all or part of the Civil War years is represented by six titles:
 - *The Galveston Daily News*
 - *The Weekly Harrison Flag* (Marshall)
 - *The Huntsville Item*
 - *The Texas Republican* (Marshall)
 - *The Texian Advocate* (Victoria)
 - *The Daily Advocate* (Victoria)

To access this terrific collection from home:

1. Navigate to the Denton Public Library website.
2. Login with your DPL card number and password.
3. Navigate to the “Online Library” tab on menu bar.
4. Click on “Online Resources.”
5. Click on the blue “News” button.
6. Scroll down the page and click on the “Newspaper.com Texas Edition” link.
7. Use your DPL card number and PIN to access the Texas Collection.



From the Texas Collection home page, users can:

- View the archive by date range.
- Browse papers in the collection.
- View an “Introduction” video as well as a “Learn how to search” video.
- Or just begin searching!

Find a news article you’d like to keep? After clipping it, click on the “Share” button above the clipping to copy the link, attach it to a person in your Ancestry tree, email it to yourself or others, or even upload it to your Facebook account.

You can even create a free account with Newspapers.com to save and organize your clippings.

The Texas Collection was made possible by funding provided by The Texas State Library as part of the TexShare Database program. TexShare is a statewide resource sharing program designed to improve library service to Texans. The TexShare Consortium includes public libraries, colleges and universities, and libraries of clinical medicine. TexShare is administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC).

The Texas Collection is just one more benefit available to Denton Public Library cardholders, which also provides in-the-library and at-home resources to learn, engage, grow, and thrive.

Contributed by 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/dentontxsar>



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. NOTE: **There is now a Chapter calendar on the website.** Right-most tab: <https://www.texassar.org/Denton/calendar.htm>

All of these communication items, including the Chapter Newsletter, 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