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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**

Inside this issue

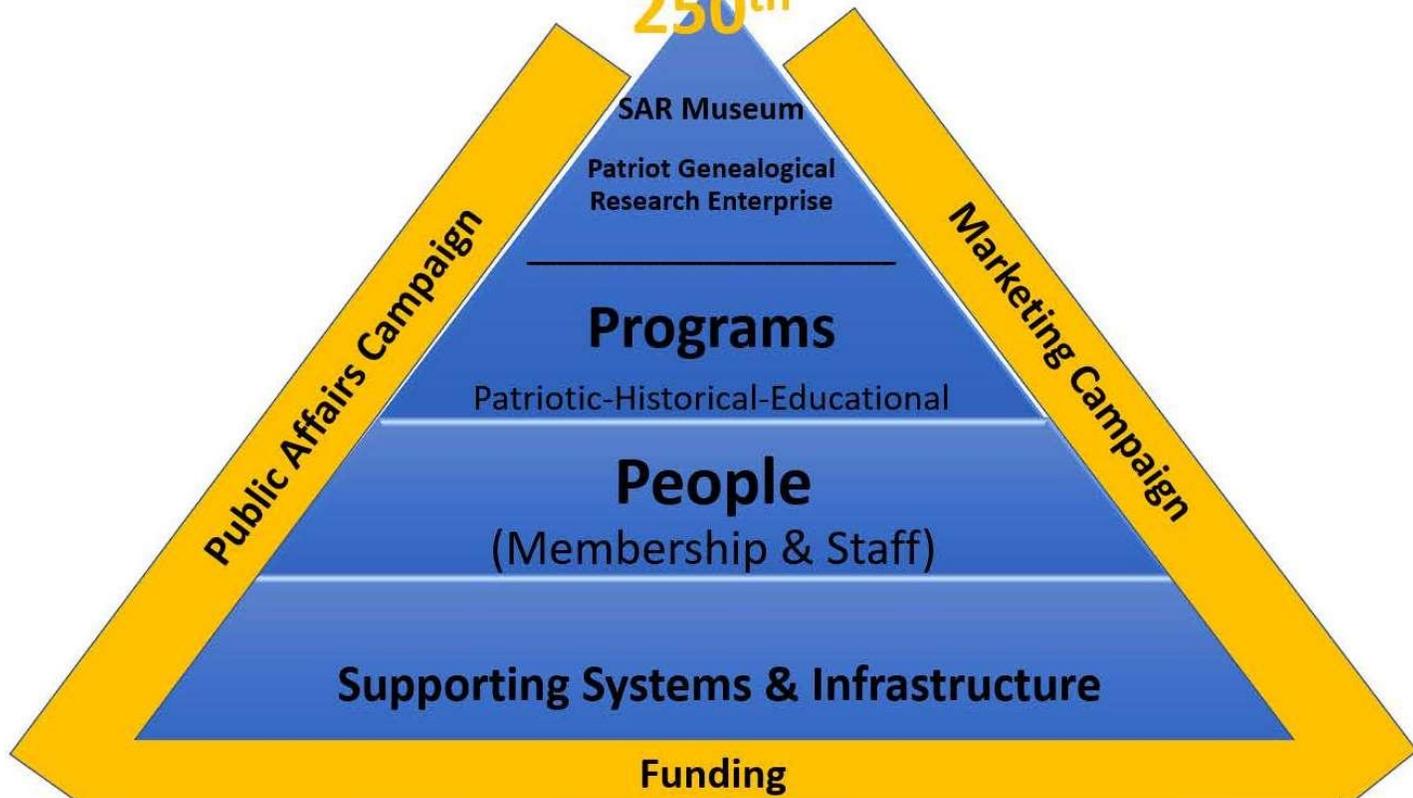
Page

SAR Op Plan continued.....	2
250 Anniversary Marker Project.....	3
Denton Chapter Color Guard.....	4
250th Anniversary dates.....	5
The Revolution January 1776.....	6
The Siege of Yorktown.....	7
Denton Library Info.....	8-9
Chapter Social Media Info.....	10



National Society Sons of the American Revolution Operational Plan 2030 (Final – approved 7/14/25)

250th



Strategic Goals and Operational Objectives

Goal #1: People - Build an organization and culture that advances the mission and grows membership. [Registrar General]

Strategic Goal #2: Historical Programs – Commemorate people, events, and documents; preserve records and artifacts; and support the study of the American Revolution. [Historian General]

Strategic Goal #3: Patriotic Programs – Inspire a sense of patriotism based on America’s founding. [Secretary General]

Strategic Goal #4: Educational Programs – Educate the public with an accurate understanding of our Nation’s founding and history, and its importance today. [Historian General]

Strategic Goal #5: External Relations – Promote our public image as a patriotic, historical, and educational service organization. [Secretary General]

Strategic Goal #6: Internal Operations – Provide the necessary resources and infrastructure to support members and staff in accomplishing our goals. [Treasurer General]

Source and detail:

[https://www.sar.org/app/uploads/5-year Operational Plan 2030-FINAL 7-14-2025.pdf](https://www.sar.org/app/uploads/5-year%20Operational%20Plan%202030-FINAL%207-14-2025.pdf)

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





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.

The Revolution in January 1776

In January 1776, the American Revolution saw fiery events like the **Burning of Norfolk**, significant ideological shifts with **Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*** promoting independence, and crucial military logistics, as Henry Knox brought vital artillery to Cambridge, bolstering the Continental Army, all while colonists increasingly embraced the idea of breaking from Britain after a year of war.

Key Events in January 1776:



January 1: The Burning of Norfolk, Virginia, a destructive event involving both British naval shelling and Patriot forces, galvanized support for the revolutionary cause.

Cannonball on display where it struck St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Norfolk.



January 10: Thomas Paine published his influential pamphlet, ***Common Sense***, which powerfully argued for complete independence from British rule, swaying public opinion.

January 2: The Continental Congress issued the "Tory Act," detailing how colonies should deal with Loyalists.

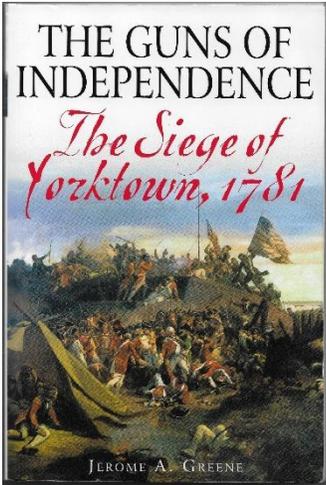
January 15: New Hampshire adopted its first state constitution.



January 24: Henry Knox arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with heavy artillery dragged from Fort Ticonderoga, a vital strategic move.

The Artillery Train

The Guns of Independence: The Siege of Yorktown



The Guns of Independence by Jerome Greene is an in-depth look at the Yorktown campaign. It was originally written during the Bicentennial as inhouse publication for NPS rangers.

Theodore Savas of Savas-Beatie read it and encouraged Greene to revise it for publication.

This book is very detailed. The book is a little dry at times when he gets into the minutia of the trenches and fornications. The book quotes many participants of the campaign which is always a plus. The book talks about the strategic situation and how the allies finally got their act together. The Allies were able to ‘pull a fast one’ on the British and through skill and divine providence trapped Cornwallis at Yorktown.

If are looking for a quick overview of Yorktown, this ain’t it. If you are a diehard history nut that likes that detail, this is your book.

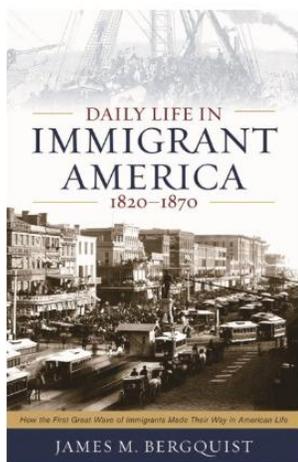
Todd Wilber

Denton Library Info

Glimpsing an Immigrant's Daily Life

Every genealogical researcher has immigrant ancestors. It's just a question of how long ago they immigrated to the U.S. Perhaps you have wondered not only why they came, but also what their daily lives were like after they arrived. What did they do once they got here? How far did they travel in the U.S.? Where did they settle? How did they live? What challenges did they face?

Two new books recently added to the Emily Fowler Central Library's Special Collections shelves may help answer those questions and many more besides. *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1820–1870: How the First Great Wave of Immigrants Made Their Way in America* by James M. Bergquist (2009) and *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1870–1920: How the Second Great Wave of Immigrants Made Their Way in America* by June Granatir Alexander (2009), delve deeply into circumstances that brought waves of immigrants to American shores, as well as all they faced once they got here.



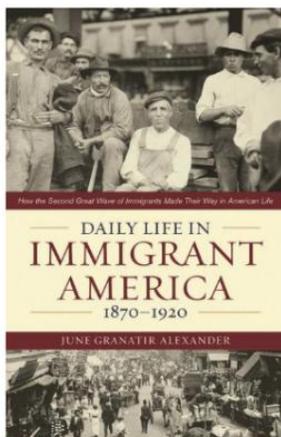
Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1820–1870 explores the first surge of immigration which occurred after Independence, focusing on the Irish, German, English, Scandinavian, and even Chinese immigrants who arrived in significant numbers, profoundly impacting the country's development. Whether it was participation in urban growth and westward expansion, or industrialization and politics—even the Civil War—immigrants during the 1820-1870 time period significantly influenced the growth and progress of the country.

While *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1820–1870* is on my to-read list, I just finished reading *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1870–1920*. Three of my sets of great-grandparents immigrated between 1891-1910 from Canada and Eastern Europe, and I was curious to learn the broader context of their immigration journeys. Of immediate use is the Chronology spanning 1868-1921, which lists world events, industrial developments, immigration legislation changes, and more. The chronology will be useful to reference to insert events into timelines I create for my immigrant ancestors.

The author groups her chapters around various contexts of daily life, seeking to “reconstruct the texture of immigrant life by examining budgets, wages, income, rent, diet, health, religion, and folk customs. It takes readers into the fields and gardens, mills, slaughterhouses, coal mines, camps, factories, and shops where immigrants worked.”¹

¹ June Granatir Alexander, *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1870-1920* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2009), 9,

Among some of the more staggering statistics I read in this volume:



- In 1910, slightly fewer than 45% of adult males were naturalized citizens; of those not naturalized, just 8% had taken out “first papers” to formally declare their intention to become a U.S. citizen.²
- This equated to nearly 2.3 million adult men who had expressed no interest in becoming a U.S. citizen.³ I can count my Slovak and Croatian great-grandfathers in this group. They naturalized years later.

Another section of the book devoted to urban life discussed the operation of boarding houses by immigrant women as a way to make ends meet. In the coal region of Southwestern Pennsylvania where my Slovak great-grandparents lived, boarders and lodgers were frequently enumerated alongside families. The book notes that while boarders helped provide income to a household, boarding was also a way for the newly arrived to get their feet under them as the acclimated to their new home, a unique two-fold purpose that had not occurred to me.⁴

In these few examples, I have been able to identify concepts and themes playing out in the lives of my own immigrant relatives. I’m looking forward to reading the first volume to gain a better understanding of my Belgian, Irish, and German ancestors who immigrated during that earlier period, including the 1840s, their arrival period.

Both *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1820–1870: How the First Great Wave of Immigrants Made Their Way in America* and *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1870–1920: How the Second Great Wave of Immigrants Made Their Way in America* are available now at the Emily Fowler Central Library for in-library reading.

Contributed by Nancy Gilbride Casey, DPL volunteer

² Ibid, 242.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid, 166.

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