



Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting: **Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 10am**

North Branch Denton Public Library, 3020 N Locust St, Denton, TX 76209

Chapter Officers
President—Brandon Story
Vice President—Ronnie Rencher
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry
Secretary, Annual Reports — Mike Connelley
Treasurer—Chris Strauss
Chaplain —Ted Godwin-Stremier
Registrar— Eric Berkheimer
Sgt at Arms—Billy Roussel
Color Guard — TBD

Events
1. Mar. 14, 2026, Denton Chapter Mtg
2. April 12, 2026 National Conference
3. April 17, 2026, dedication of the Texas SAR 250 Monument at the Texas State Cemetery
4. May 9, 2026, Denton Chapter Mtg
5. July 4, 250th Anniversary of the US

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

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

Operational Objectives

A. Develop and implement a comprehensive National online onboarding program by 2026 whereby all societies have access to the onboarding program for new members.

- 1) Identify and benchmark DAR, Society of Cincinnati, and C.A.R. by early 2026.
- 2) Incentivize participation of new members in the onboarding program by 2026.
- 3) Identify participation within SAR by early 2026.

B. Increase membership retention to 95% through increased participation in SAR programs at the National, District, State and Local levels by 2030. Intermediate retention rate targets are: 1/1/2024 (87.5%); 1/1/2026 (90%); 1/1/2028 goal (92.5%); 1/1/2030 goal (95%). Registrar General reports appropriate data monthly including trend analysis.

Continued on the next page...

...SAR Operational Plan continued

C. Establish a 3% annual net membership growth by 2028.

D. Membership Committee, Council of State Presidents: Appeal to the values expressed in the mission statement and core SAR/American values and principles to attract, train, involve, and retain members that aggressively grows our membership by 2030.

1) Membership Committee recommends annual targets for recruitment and retention to the Executive Committee for approval and publication to the membership at each Spring Leadership.

2) Information Technology Committee, in conjunction with the Registrar General, Genealogist General, and the Genealogy Committee, will create and implement a digital/paperless online membership application as soon as possible but no later than 1 June 2027.

3) Membership Committee will update and issue new recruitment, retention and reinstatement tools and best practices for state societies and chapters to support the annual recruitment and retention targets as approved by the senior leadership annually.

4) Education Committee will develop and deliver a training continuum for new members, committees, chapter officers, state officers, and general officers with an array of training materials by 2028.

5) Grow the net number of chapters by 3% per year.

6) CoSP and the VPGs will conduct an annual reinstatement program to re-engage inactive members with goal of 100% contact from the last 5 years.

7) Grow the number of Junior members by 5% per year.

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_Operational_Plan_2030-FINAL_7-14-2025.pdf)

The AMERICA 250 Anniversary Marker Project



The Denton County Courthouse square is controlled by the Texas Historical Commission. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is the state agency for historic preservation. They save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas.

The Denton County Office of History and Culture (DCHC) has received permission to place this marker on the courthouse grounds.

Recent progress:

1. The City of Denton has selected Saturday, July 4, 2026, as the date of the Denton parade.
2. Peggy Riddle, DCHC Director, has:
 - a. Reviewed and edited the Marker text
 - b. Assigned staff to work with SAR and DAR on details of the commemoration ceremony: when, what, who, how.
 - c. Working to finalize identification of the memorial stone
 - d. Finalizing costs and who pays for what

Next steps:

1. Finalize marker elements and gain approval of Denton County, DAR and SAR
2. Finalize costs and determine who and how to fund
3. Meet with assigned DCHC staff to document ceremony and guest lists
4. Present ceremony and guest list to DAR & SAR
5. Gain approval from County, DAR and SAR



Example of a marker

Draft 250 Anniversary Marker Words – (updated January, 2026)

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

Texas played a small but important role during the American Revolutionary War. Commissioned by King Carlos III of Spain, Bernardo de Galvez aided American patriots with supplies of Texas cattle in the battles at Manchac, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola. After the war, several Revolutionaries and their descendants settled in Texas.

This marker was dedicated on July 4, 2026 by the Benjamin Lyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Denton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and the citizens of Denton County in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and those patriots who gave all to establish our great nation.

The DAR and SAR members 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.



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 100-year Birthdays

December 31 2025 Battle of Quebec

February 27 2026 Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge

July 4 2026 Declaration of Independence signed

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.

Sons of the American Revolution 250th Anniversary Event Planning Guide



Signing of the Declaration of Independence
By Charles Édouard Armand-Dumaresq

The National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) has developed an Event Planning Guide as a part of the support for states and chapters planning events they sponsor in partnership with local historical, veteran, and/or civic organizations. Chapters include:

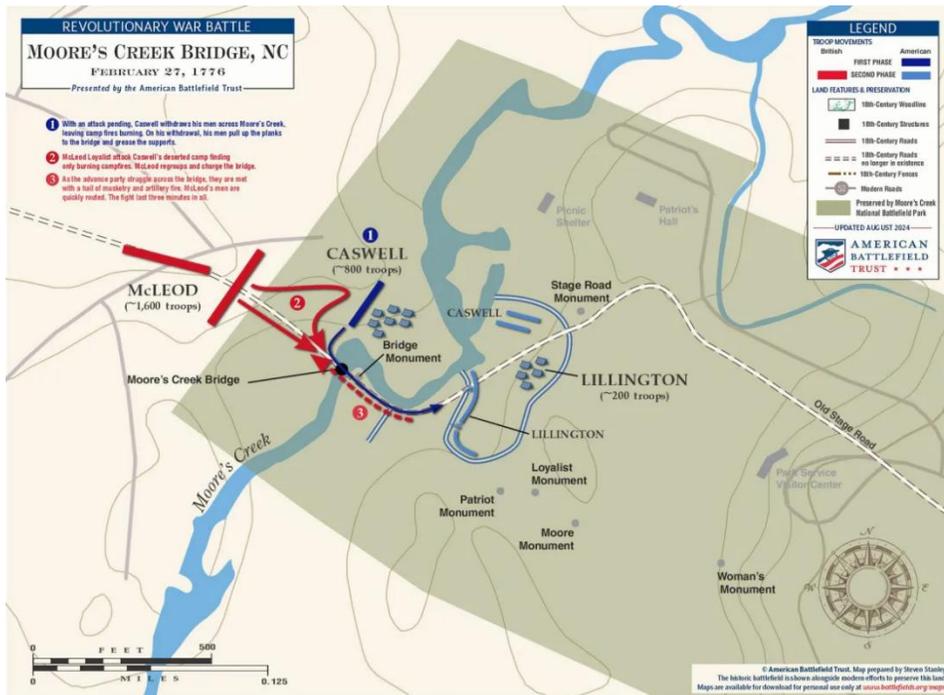
Event Ideas	Promotional Flyer
Historical Context	Sample Proclamation
Sample Address	Promotional Postcard
Sample of Declaration of Independence for signing	Yard Sign
Door Hanger	Public Domain Images

Get your copy here [Independence-Day-250th-Planning-Guide](#) to plan your local event.

Moore's Creek Bridge | Feb 27, 1776

Currie, North Carolina

Moore's Creek Bridge



Battle Facts

Currie, NC | February 27, 1776

Result: American Victory

Estimated Casualties 52

American 2

British 50

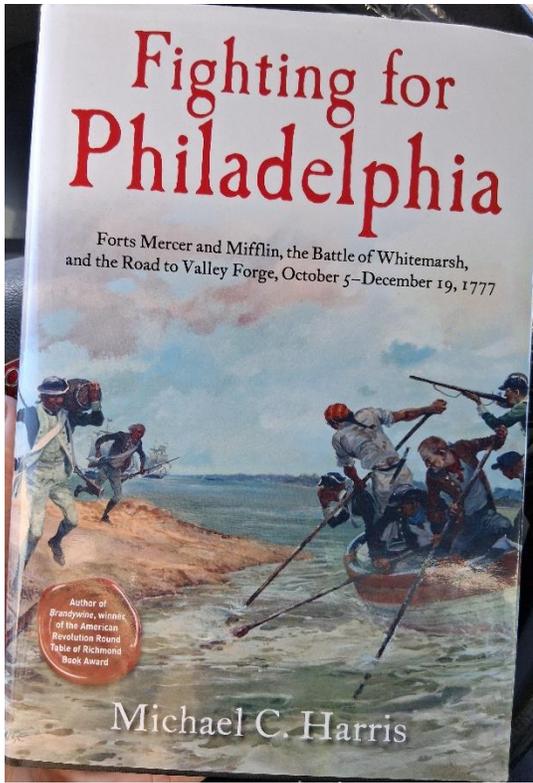
In early 1776, British officials sought to restore royal authority in North Carolina. Royal Governor Josiah Martin coordinated with Lord George Germain in London, who dispatched Maj. Gen. [Henry Clinton](#) with a British army to the southern coast. To prepare for Clinton's arrival, Martin called upon Loyalist supporters, many of them Scottish Highlanders, to assemble under Brig. Gen. [Donald MacDonald](#) at Cross Creek in February.

MacDonald marched his force toward the coast on February 18, aiming to link up with Clinton. Continental commander Col. James Moore moved to block the Loyalist advance, dispatching Col. [Richard Caswell](#) and militia to hold a key crossing at Moore's Creek Bridge. Caswell fortified the eastern bank, removed the bridge planks, and waited for the Loyalists to approach. Just after midnight on February 27, MacDonald's column reached the bridge. Loyalist Capt. John Campbell led a charge with the cry of "King George and broadswords," only to be met with deadly Patriot rifle and artillery fire. The volleys shattered the attacking ranks and forced a general retreat. Caswell's men surged forward in pursuit, scattering the Loyalists and capturing hundreds.

The Patriot victory at Moore's Creek Bridge secured North Carolina for the Revolution. The defeat discouraged Loyalist recruitment in the region and delayed significant British operations in the South until 1780.

Fighting For Philadelphia

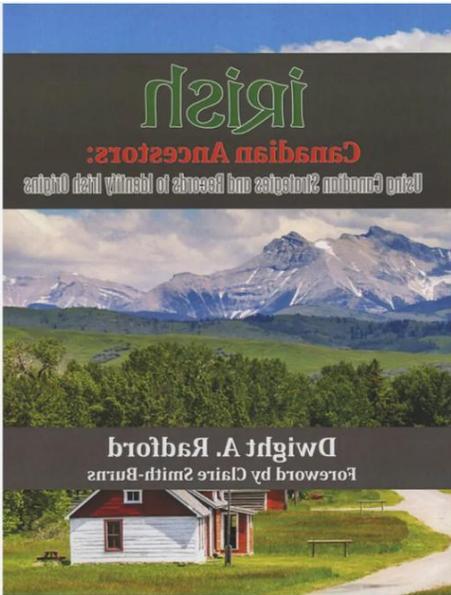
By Todd Wilber



Fighting for Philadelphia is the third in Michael Harris' trilogy on the Philadelphia campaign. It covers the time between Germantown and Valley Forge. The battles for the strategic control of the Delaware River at Ft Mercer and Mifflin are dealt with in detail. Also, the little-known Battle of

Whitemarsh. Washington and Howe did a ballet around Philadelphia which ended with the British holding on to Philly and Washington encamping at Valley Forge. Harris, as in his other books, uses primary sources from both sides and gives a balanced account of the campaign. I recommend this book and the trilogy.

Records and Strategies to Help Locate Irish Canadian Ancestors



The new year is looking bright for local family historians with Irish Canadian roots! Full of resources to identify your ancestor's origins, Dwight A. Radford's new book ***Irish Canadian Ancestors: Using Canadian Strategies and Records to Identify Irish Origins*** (2025) has just hit the Denton Public Library's Special Collections shelves. It may be the boon to researchers who have previously thrown up their hands in frustration at seeking these Irish roots.

Heralded as “jam packed with information,” the foreword notes that Radford offers a fresh perspective on basic Canadian resources such as cemetery, church, census, and land records, etc., and “takes us on an enlightening exploration of several under-used sets of records created by such groups as Black Loyalists, New England Planters, Orange Lodges, First Nations, and more.”¹

Fifteen chapters cover all manner of record sets from cemeteries and tombstones to church records, directories and government gazettes to newspapers and obituaries, and more unique sets such as Orange Lodges of Canada and the United States, and Military, Militia, and Mounted Police.

Three chapters are devoted to strategies covering special populations and events which intersect with Irish Canadian history:

- Black Loyalists, War of 1812 Refugees, and the Underground Railroad
- British Columbia, Yukon, Alaska, and the Gold Rush
- First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and the Irish Connection.

Importantly, Radford notes in his introduction that the volume is not meant to present every source that may disclose an Irish birthplace. Rather, “They furnish avenues and methodologies from which Irish birthplaces may be established...Often, a source does not provide a birthplace

¹ Dwight A. Radford, *Irish Canadian Ancestors: Using Canadian Strategies and Records to Identify Irish Origins* (Washington: Family Roots Publishing, 2025), i.

in Ireland but indirectly, it may be laden with enough clues that myriads of other records to further explore are opened.”²

As I have several Irish Canadian ancestors, I was keen to see how I might apply this book to my own research. Chapters on cemeteries and tombstones, Roman Catholic church records, civil registration, directories and government gazettes, immigration and internal migration records, and naturalization and citizenship would all apply to my efforts.

My earliest-known Irish ancestors were present in Canada in the late 1840s; a third great-granduncle, Daniel Cassidy, purchased land in Grantham Township, Lincoln, Canada West (now Ontario) in 1848, possibly pointing to a Famine immigration. Scanning the chapter on Immigration and Internal Migration Records, the book points me to these resources that I may find useful:

- Patricia McGregor’s book *Researching Canadian Immigration Records*
- Terence M. Punch’s series, *Erin’s Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada, 1761-1853*
- Ancestry’s databases, “Canadian Immigrant Records, Parts 1” and “Canadian Immigrant Records, Part 2.”

Could my Cassidy ancestors be listed in the Punch books or the Ancestry database? It’s worth looking at.

Under the chapter sub-heading “Seaports and Internal Migration by Water,” Radford discusses internal migration via the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, a “natural thoroughfare for westward migration, or simply the movement for the traffic of people and commerce.”³ He notes the Ancestry database, “Canada, St. Lawrence Steamboat Company Passenger Lists, 1819-1838,” which might prove useful as my Irish ancestors all lived in Ontario—the southern terminus of the St. Lawrence—and just may have travelled on the river.

With just these few examples, I can see that I can benefit from further reading of Radford’s book.

This book is Radford’s fourth in a series on Irish immigration research, including *American-Scots-Irish Research: Strategies and Sources in the Quest for Ulster-Scots Origins*; *Discovering Irish Origins Using Records of Ireland*, and *Irish-American Ancestors: Using U.S. Strategies and Records to Identify Origins*. (Links are to Radford’s other books in DPL’s collection.)

Find ***Irish Canadian Ancestors: Using Canadian Strategies and Records to Identify Irish Origins*** and Radford’s other books on the DPL’s Special Collections shelves for in-library use.

Contributed by Nancy Gilbride Casey, DPL volunteer

² Ibid. vi.

³ Ibid, 118.

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.

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