



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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Draft 250 Anniversary Marker Words – (Denton County Approved February, 2026)

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

Dedicated July 4, 2026 by the Denton County Commissioners Court
 Andy Eads, Denton County Judge
 Ryan Williams, Commissioner, Precinct 1
 Kevin Falconer, Commissioner, Precinct 2
 Bobbie J. Mitchell, Commissioner, Precinct 3
 Dianne Edmondson, Commissioner, Precinct 4

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.

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 dedicate this marker 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

...The AMERICA 250 Anniversary Marker Project, continued



Example of a marker

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 – **Peggy has indicated that the county will pay for the marker, stone and installation.**

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

Comments, questions: wsmerch@gmail.com



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

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

Operational Objectives

A. Commemorate the people, events, and documents of the American Revolution by promoting and growing public engagement in our ceremonies.

1) Each state and chapter will develop “Their” signature event. One annual event that they will be known for in their local community. Events identified by 1 June 2026. Operational Plan 2030 (Final – 7/14/25) 3

2) Each state and chapter will support SAR 250 signature events with a parallel event they sponsor in partnership with local historical, veteran, and/or civic organizations annually starting in January 2026.

3) Participate in state and local 250 commissions to promote the SAR commemorative events during the Decade of the American Revolution by 1 June 2026.

Continued on the next page...

B. Preserve the records, artifacts, and sites of the American Revolution by developing a SAR program with emphasis on partnering with historic and battlefield preservation groups.

- 1) NSSAR History Committee will develop and promote an annual SAR preservation program or theme in partnership with other preservation organizations by July 2028
- 2) NSSAR History Committee develop the funding to promote and recognize outstanding SAR preservation efforts through the annual SAR Historic Preservation Award by 1 July 2030.
- 3) NSSAR History Committee will define and develop a historic preservation grant program within the SAR to fund the preservation efforts of chapters and states by 1 July 2030.

C. Support the study of the American Revolution by developing a center of excellence in history that will grow SAR brand recognition within the historical community

- 1) Develop an Advisory Council of Professional Historians by January 1, 2026.
- 2) Develop an annual SAR Book Award by July 2027.
- 3) Increase the number of articles published in the SAR Magazine from professional historians and recognized authors of the American Revolution to 3 a year, by July 2028
- 4) NSSAR History Committee and the host society develop Battlefield Orientation Guides for every Battlefield or Campaign that is on the Historic Sites and Celebrations List creating five new guides per year with one aligned to that year's signature events. Complete by 2032.

D. Work with the Education Committee, the Museum Board, and IT Committee to make the Virtual Component of the Education Center and Museum available globally.

- 1) Work with bookstores, libraries, and other organizations to schedule Author presentations by July 2026.
- 2) Develop and expand the list of 'qualified' speakers and presentations to be made available via Zoom or through subscription services by July 2027.
- 3) Make Revolutionary War Rarities Podcasts a profit center by July 2028.

E. Market the SAR Enterprise, consisting of the Education Center and Museum and the Genealogical Research Library, as a regional heritage tourism destination by end of 2028.

- 1) Partner with the Louisville Tourism and other museum row attractions to market Louisville as a place to visit.
- 2) Become the place in middle America to learn about our American Revolution.
- 3) Become a field trip destination for local schools in the Kentuckiana Region.

F. Develop a comprehensive Historical Documents Digitization Plan with funding by the end of 2030 that encompasses the following:

- 1) Development of a program for Scanning and Indexing of all records.
- 2) Scan Two Dimensional Artifacts and Institutional Archives within the Library Collection.
- 3) Scan Records relating to the History of the SAR.
- 4) Index digital files.
- 5) Marketing of the digital capabilities and access to the Genealogical Research Library.



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

March 2026 The British Evacuate Boston

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

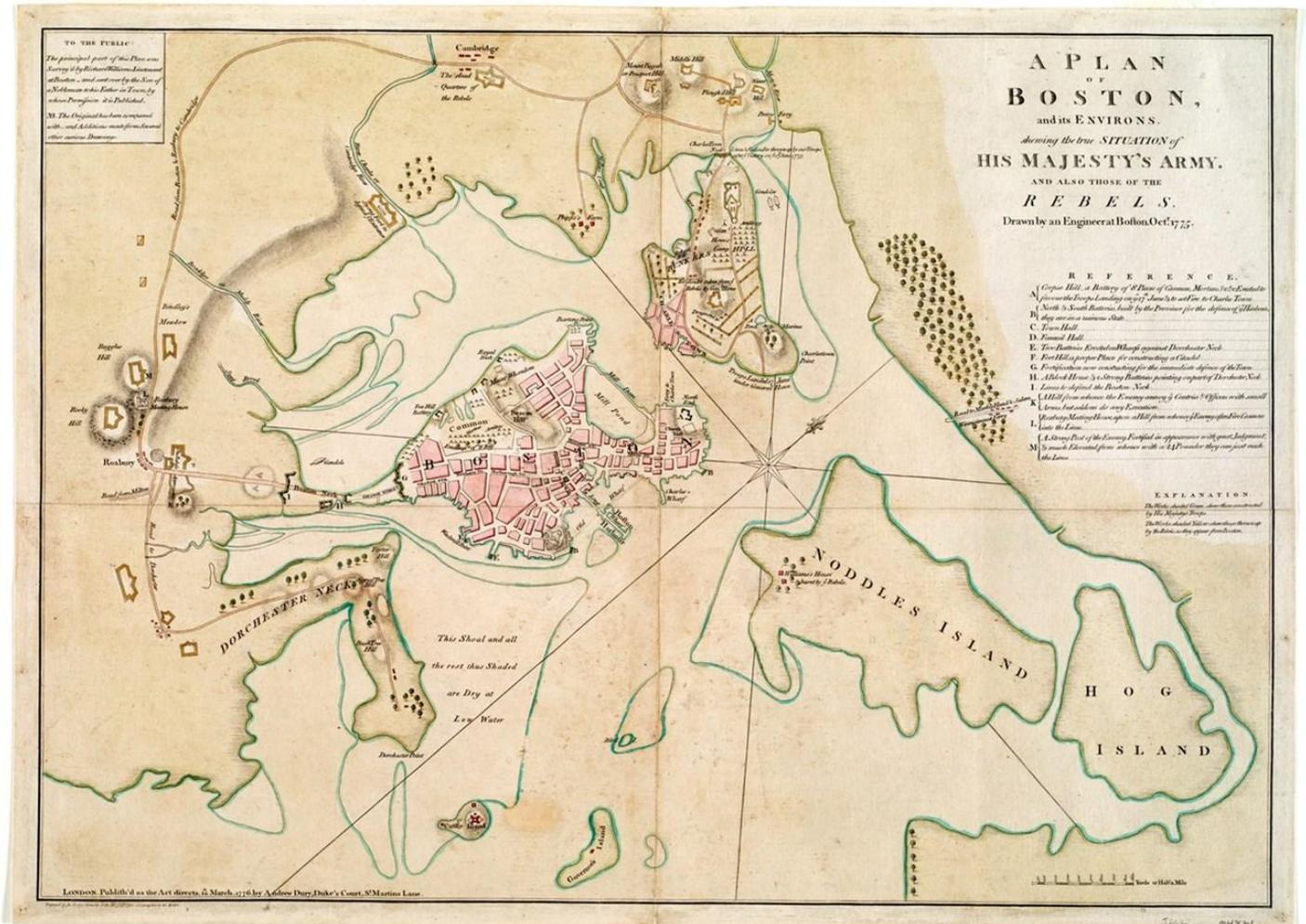
Visit <https://america250sar.org/rd/> for details of each event.

March 1776 The Colonials move cannons to threaten Boston

The British Evacuate Boston

Colonel Henry Knox arrived in Cambridge on January 27. He had been on the move for the previous 52 days, transporting 59 cannon barrels by ship and horse-drawn sledge from Fort Ticonderoga in New York to Massachusetts. The newly emboldened Continental Army now had the heavy artillery they had previously lacked at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

On March 4, General John Thomas led an estimated 3,000 troops from Roxbury to the summit of Dorchester Heights, an area known as the twin hills, each approximately 118 feet above sea level. Thomas also brought



Continued on the next page...

...British Evacuate Boston continued

about 20 of the Ticonderoga cannons. Constructing a redoubt on the heights was impossible, the ground simply too hard and frozen. Anticipating this, Rufus Putnam (cousin to General Israel Putnam) designed portable prefabricated fortifications, including chandeliers (wooden frames) and fascines (bundles of woody material). Transporting this fort-on-the-go required 800 oxen and 360 carts. Soldiers used hay bales to muffle the sound of the grinding wheels.

Dueling cannon blasts were the result. In an exceptionally violent exchange, the British fired repeatedly at Foster's Hill in Dorchester, in one instance killing four Americans with a single shot. After the firing subsided, a total of 700 cannon balls were collected from the impacted earth of Dorchester. After this furious but futile display of firepower, Howe prepared for the inevitable evacuation of Boston.

On March 17, 1776, 11,000 people, including soldiers, Loyalists, women, and children boarded 120 ships in Boston Harbor. General Artemis Ward, second in command to Washington, led the Continental Army into the newly freed town. They were impressed by the thoroughness of the British defenses: "...Boston was almost impregnable, every avenue fortified."^[5] In their haste the British had left behind cannons and 30,000 pounds sterling of material, from blankets to spiked cannons.

The victory of Dorchester Heights was one of the most pivotal events of the Revolutionary War. From the bloody defeat at Bunker Hill, to the nearly bloodless victory at Dorchester, the evolving Continental Army proved itself equal to the might of Britian.

Great Revolutionary War Videos

There are some great Revolutionary War history videos on YouTube (and a whole lot of unimportant stuff).

The History Underground has some recent videos on the Revolution:

Does the American Revolution Still Matter in 2026?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYqv7EOHb8s>

All of Revolutionary War videos from this channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheHistoryUnderground/search?query=revolution>

All Revolutionary War, All The Time! is dedicated to the war in the Boston area.

<https://www.youtube.com/@AllRevolutionaryWar/videos>

Enjoy, Todd W

A PBS series: The American Revolution by Ken Burns

<https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-american-revolution>

GETTYSBURG FILM FESTIVAL

The **Gettysburg Film Festival** returns April 2–4, 2026, as part of the national **commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States**. This year’s program focuses on the American Revolution—an event that changed the

course of world history.

Through film screenings, live performances, and onstage conversations, the festival will explore how a fragile union of colonies challenged an empire, endured years of war, and advanced new ideas about liberty and self-government that would resonate far beyond America’s shores.

Internationally acclaimed filmmaker **Ken Burns** will serve as the festival’s headline guest, sharing selections from his new *American Revolution* series and leading conversations about the people and ideas that shaped our founding.

The 2026 Gettysburg Film Festival is presented by **Gettysburg History** and the **American Battlefield Trust**.

<https://gettysburgfilmfestival.org/> Videos from past festivals: <https://gettysburgfilmfestival.org/past-festivals/>

Thursday, April 2nd

- **2 PM to 3:45 PM:** The American Revolution in Popular Culture – with J.D. Huitt, Chris Mowery, Jared Frederick, Kris White, and Ken Gavin
- **6 PM to 7:30 PM:** Commanders and Chiefs: Washington, Grant, and Eisenhower – with Susan Eisenhower, Jeff Shaara, and Chris Mackowski
- **7:30 PM to 8:30 PM:** Author Reception and Book Signing – with Susan Eisenhower, Jeff Shaara, and Chris Mackowski
- **8 PM to 11:30 PM:** Film Screening: *The Patriot* – with Chris Mowery

Friday, April 3rd

- **10 AM to 11:30 AM:** The Secret War: *TURN*, Espionage, and the American Revolution – with Heather Lind, Seth Numrich, and Kris White
- **2:30 PM to 4 PM:** Waging the War of Independence – with Ken Burns, Rick Atkinson, General Stanley McChrystal, and Garry Adelman
- **3:30 PM to 5:30 PM:** Flavors of the Revolution: Gettysburg in 1776 at the Dobbin House Tavern
- **4 PM to 5 PM:** Author Reception and Book Signing – with Rick Atkinson and General Stanley McChrystal
- **7 PM to 9 PM:** George Washington: The Indispensable Man – with Ken Burns, Christopher Jackson, Rick Atkinson, and Jake Boritt
- **9 PM to 11:15 PM:** Film Screening: *The Howards of Virginia* – with Ken Gavin

Saturday, April 4th

- **10 AM to 12:45 PM:** *Hamilton* : History Meets Hip-Hop on Stage and Screen – with Phillipa Soo, Christopher Jackson, Okieriete Onaodowan, and Katherine Malone-France
- **1 PM to 5 PM:** *Liberty’s Kids* and Colonial Dress-Up at Beyond the Battle Museum
- **2 PM to 3:30 PM:** America’s Founding Promise: From Jefferson to Lincoln – with Ken Burns, Sam Waterston, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Harold Holzer
- **3:30 to 4:30 PM:** Author Reception & Book Signing – with Annette Gordon-Reed and Harold Holzer
- **6:00 PM:** Voices of the Revolution – with Ken Burns, Geoffrey Ward, Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, and Friends
- **8:30 PM to 11 PM:** Film Screening: *1776* – with Jared Frederick

Denton Library *Info*

DPL's American Ancestors Access is Your Ticket to Researching Early American Family History

Among the many free databases available to Denton Public Library card holders is American Ancestors—a national nonprofit center for family history, heritage & culture based in Boston, Massachusetts, which has been setting the gold standard for family history research since its founding in 1845.

What does American Ancestors offer? Think access to billions of records spanning the United States, the British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond, one of the most extensive online collections of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, and the only online source for records from Boston's Catholic Archdiocese.

Access to American Ancestors' over 470+ databases is one of the many features on this comprehensive website. Of these databases, 417 are drawn from U.S. records, but the range also includes 10 Canadian, 8 each from England, Germany, and the U.K., 7 from Ireland, and a wide range of additional record sets from Norway to Barbados, Singapore to Wales.

The A-Z Database list can be sorted alphabetically or by most recently added to American Ancestors' collection. In addition, there are three special filters which group databases within three projects to narrow your search:

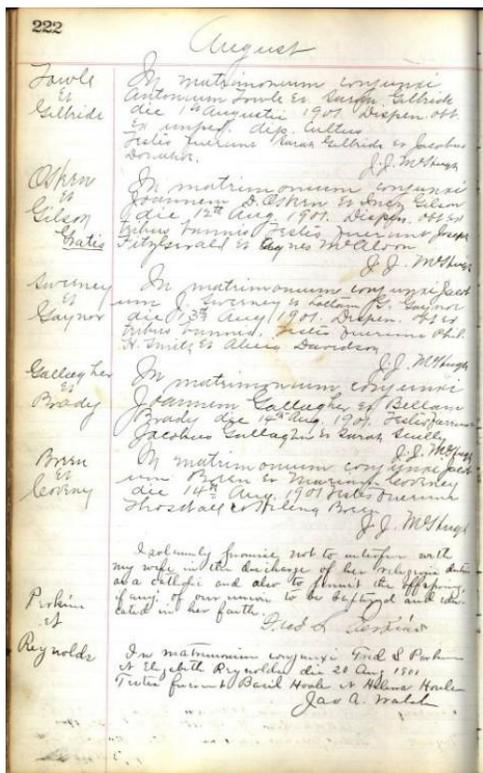
Colonial New England (80 databases) This project is dedicated to exploring databases and collections that document individuals who lived in New England before 1800, specifically in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

10 Million Names (38 databases)—10 million Names is dedicated to recovering the names of the estimated ten million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in pre- and post-colonial America (specifically, the territory that would become the United States) between the 1500s and 1865.

Great Migration Study Project (10 databases)—Since 1988, the goal of The Great Migration Study Project has been to compile comprehensive genealogical and biographical accounts of the twenty thousand English men, women, and children who settled in New England between 1620 and 1640.

Of particular interest in this America250 year is the organization's project [Revolutionary Roots](#). Visit the dedicated webpage to access instructional videos and downloadable research guides to set the stage to successfully research your ancestors during this time period, be they Patriots or otherwise.

While I don't have colonial ancestors that I'm aware of, American Ancestors' focus on New England record sets has still been helpful to me. I discovered that a branch of my Gilbride family migrated from Pennsylvania to Lowell, Massachusetts, in the early 1870s. American Ancestor's database "Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1920," helped me find details



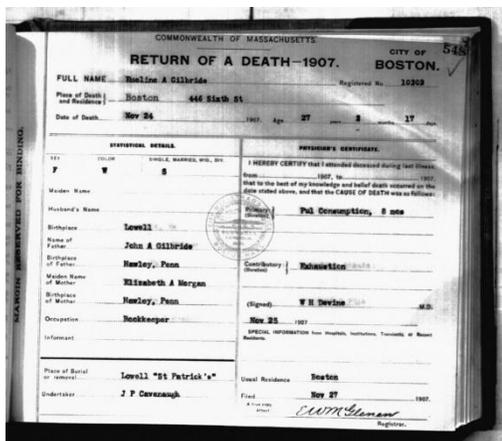
on family members of this family, including the marriage of Sarah Gilbride to Anthony Towle in 1901, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Lowell; Sarah is a first cousin, four times removed.¹ I also located the death certificate for Emeline Gilbride, another distant cousin, in the “Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1841-1910” collection.²

Beyond the databases, the American Ancestors website is chock-full of educational resources of value to any researcher. Use these resources from the comfort of your home, then dig into American Ancestors’ record collections on your next visit to the Denton Public Library. American Ancestors is freely available on any of the public access computers at all library branches.

Downloadable “Getting Started” research guides cover 35 different research areas such as Colonial New England, War of 1812, Revolutionary War, Civil War, proving Mayflower ancestry, church and vital records, and much more. To view a list of all the “Getting Started” guides or to download your choices, click here

<https://www.americanancestors.org/tools/getting-started-series>.

A [Video Library](#) offers how-to videos and tips on family history research, among many other topics.



Register for upcoming free lectures and webinars on the [Events](#) page—be sure to tick the box for “Free” events at the top. You can also watch past webinars and author talks. These lectures and webinars can provide vital context for what your ancestor experienced or give tips on how best to begin your research, interpret handwriting, or understand various record sets.

[Sign up to receive The Weekly Genealogist](#), a free newsletter—Every Wednesday *The Weekly Genealogist* provides readers with news and information about American Ancestors and the

genealogical community. Features include a description of the latest database on AmericanAncestors.org, a spotlight, an editor’s column, a survey question, stories of interest, and announcements about bookstore items, educational opportunities, and special offers.

Contributed by Nancy Gilbride Casey, DPL volunteer

¹ St. Patrick (Lowell), Marriages 1872-1908, p. 222, Towle/Gilbride, 1 Aug. 1901; imaged, “Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1920,” *American Ancestors* (<https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/massachusetts-roman-catholic-archdiocese-of-boston-records-1789-1920/image> : accessed 2 Feb. 2026).

² Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston, Return of a Death, #10303, Emeline A. Gilbride, 25 Nov. 1907; imaged, “Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1841-1910,” *American Ancestors* (<https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/massachusetts-vital-records-1841-1910/image> : accessed 2 Feb. 2026).

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