



Next Meeting: **Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 10am**

Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St, Denton, TX 76201

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. **May 9, Denton Chapter Meeting**
2. **July 4, Dedication of Denton Marker**
3. **July 11, Denton Chapter Meeting**
4. **July 11-16, National Conference**
5. **Sept. 12, Denton Chapter Meeting**
6. **Nov. 14, Denton Chapter Meeting**

Inside this issue

Page

250 Anniversary Marker Project.....	2
Roster of Denton Chapter Members....	3
Denton Chapter Color Guard.....	4
250th Anniversary Dates.....	5
Colonies Shift Toward Independence....	6
Regs for Order & Discipline.....	7-8
Battle for the 14 th Colony.....	9
Denton Library Info.....	10
Chapter Social Media Info.....	11

The AMERICA 250th Marker Project

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
 And the members of the Benjamin Lyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Denton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)**

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.

We 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
6. Meet with assigned DCHC staff to document ceremony and guest lists
7. Present ceremony and guest list to DAR & SAR
8. Gain approval from County, DAR and SAR

Comments, questions: wsmerch@gmail.com

Roster of Denton SAR Chapter Members

Source: Texas SAR Membership list, as of 4/28/2026

NAME	DATE Approved
Ronald J. Akers	10/2/2020
Eric N. Berkhimer	2/2/2018
Stanton E. Black	2/15/2019
Fred A. Brown	3/31/2023
Lawrence M. Connelley	10/17/2008
Robert A. Constant II	3/31/2023
David R. Cook	12/30/2010
Dan M. Frye	6/11/2021
James C. Gilmore	9/27/2019
James D. Hobdy	1/11/2019
Zwaine Lamar II	4/12/2019
Michael O. Lester	5/12/2023
Johnny L. Loomis	8/30/2019
Joseph H. McCall	8/27/1985
Mark M. Miller	3/15/2024
Randy T. Nusbaum	3/24/2023
Mark H. Prothro	5/8/1985
Ronnie G. Rencher	5/19/2003
John Austin Rencher	8/23/2024
Thomas C. Richards	6/14/2019
William D. Roussel III	2/4/2022
Joseph W. Rowell Jr.	9/30/1968
Robert J. Samuel	12/12/2005
Bobby G. Sikes	10/20/2017
Scott A. Smith	9/18/2020
Brandon D. Story	7/24/2020
Christopher E. Strauss	5/18/2005
David G. Strauss	5/18/2005
Stephen C. Strauss	5/18/2005
William R. Surles	12/18/2000
Todd M. Wilber	4/12/2024
Allen Wright	11/30/2018
Jeffrey V. Zwall	9/22/2017
Junior SAR Members	
Noah J. Gilmore	9/27/2019
Owen C. Gilmore	9/27/2019



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 carrying 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

April 2026 - Halifax Resolves, NC—First colony to authorize its delegates to vote for independence

May 2026 - The American colonies rapidly shifted toward independence

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.

May 2026 - The American colonies rapidly shifted toward independence

The Congressional Resolution (May 10 & 15)

The Second Continental Congress took its most significant step toward independence before the actual Declaration.

- **Establishment of New Governments:** On May 10, Congress passed a resolution advising the colonies to form their own local governments where "no government sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs" existed.
- **The "Pesky" Preamble:** On May 15, Congress adopted a preamble written by [John Adams](#), which declared that because the King had rejected reconciliation and was using foreign mercenaries, all authority under the British Crown should be "totally suppressed". Adams considered this preamble to be the effective declaration of independence itself.

Key Colony Actions

While Congress debated in Philadelphia, individual colonies were officially authorizing their delegates to seek independence.



[Rhode Island](#): On **May 4**, Rhode Island became the first colony to formally renounce its allegiance to King George III.

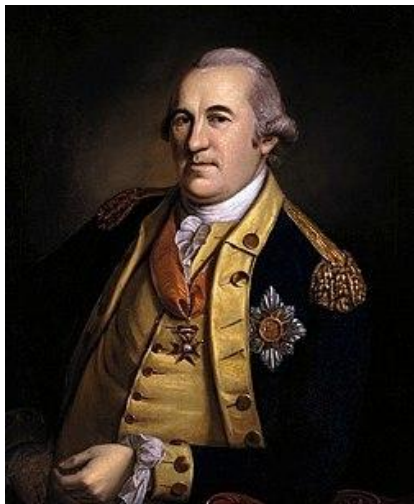


[Virginia](#): On **May 15**, the Fifth Virginia Convention met in Williamsburg and voted unanimously to instruct its delegates in Philadelphia to propose that the colonies be declared "free and independent states".

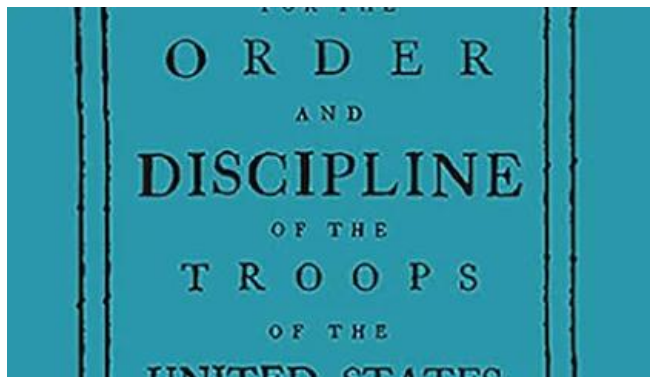


[Maryland](#): Not all were in favor yet; Maryland's delegates walked out of Congress in protest of the May 15 preamble, and on May 20, their local convention initially rejected the move toward independence.

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States



Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin Steuben of Prussia, otherwise known as Baron von Steuben, was an aide to Frederick the Great. During the American Revolution, he offered his services to the American cause and was appointed inspector general of the Continental Army. George Washington asked Steuben to create a manual of drill instruction for the Continental Army, and in 1779, Congress adopted the Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States. Largely printed on blue paper-covered oards, Regulations became informally known as the Blue Book.



Washington issues General Orders, May 4, 1779

General Orders Head-Quarters Middle-Brook Tuesday May 4, 1779 The first part of the regulations for the exercise & discipline of the troops being already communicated to the different brigades each officer must immediately furnish himself with a copy of the chapter on the instructions of recruits and the commanding officers of regiments must begin tomorrow to carry the same into execution in their respective Regiments. The General hopes that the commanding





officers of corps, being convinced of the necessity of this exercise, which our circumstances have hitherto obliged us to neglect, will now redouble their Zeal in carrying it into execution; and as a single man's being

ignorant of the principles will often cause disorder in a platoon & sometimes in a battalion, no waiter or other soldier is to be exempted from this exercise. As some Companies may not have a sufficiency of officers to instruct their men, the commanding officers of regiments will divide those of their regiments as equally as possible among the different companies according to their strength. The exercise to begin at 7 o'clock & continue 'till nine in the morning: At five in the afternoon the commanding officers of regiments must assemble their officers and instruct them in the different steps, how to dress, wheel and keep their distance with precision; The Major or eldest Captain will at the same time instruct the noncommissioned officers; this exercise to continue 'till six o'clock when the regiment is to turn out and exercise as in the morning. The above exercise without Arms to continue in practice 'till further orders. The Inspector General and officers in his department will visit the different Brigades in turn and must be answerable they do not deviate in the smallest-point from the principles laid down and established in the regulations.

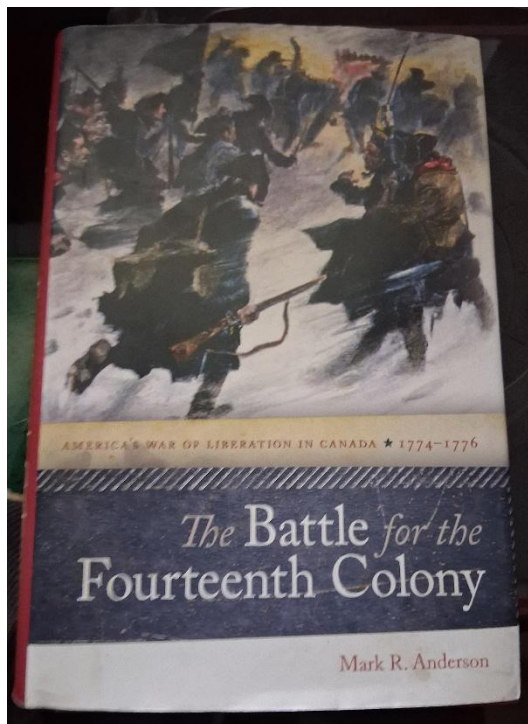
Read the details at:

External links

-  The full text of [these Regulations](#) at Wikisource
- [Full text at Archive.org](#)
-  [*Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*](#) public domain audiobook at [LibriVox](#)

The Battle for the Fourteenth Colony: A Review

By Todd Wilber



The Battle for the Fourteenth Colony: America's War of Liberation in Canada by Mark Anderson is an in-depth look at the quixotic invasion of Canada by patriot forces in 1775-6.

Anderson does a good job explaining the complex political dynamics going on in Quebec leading up to the American 'liberation.' Some in Canada welcomed the American invasion with open arms, some were willing to supply goods for cash, some were unabashed loyalists, and most just wanted to be left alone. The Patriots misguidedly assumed the Canadians wanted to be free from the British and would like to become part of the United Colonies. Not quite.

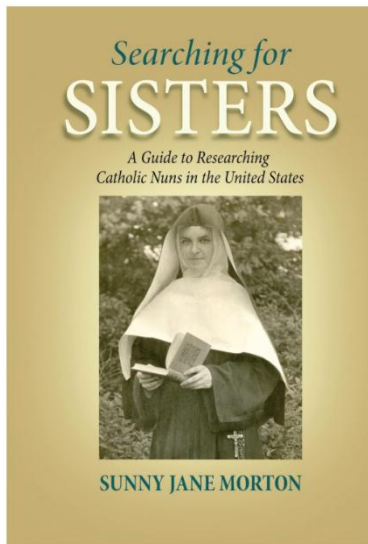
Anderson gives a good overview the campaign and explains how the campaign went from capturing much of Quebec to epic collapse in less than nine months. The Patriots did not have the manpower to maintain what they captured. Short-term enlistments were detrimental to keeping a sizable Patriot force in the field. Rampant disease among the troops. They ran out of hard cash and engendered bad relations by taking supplies and giving worthless script with empty promises. A confusing command structure. Plus, the feckless response to the political and material needs of campaign by the Continental Congress. By the time Congress started to give attention to Quebec, it was too late. The British showed up with eight regiments (including two of my ancestors) in the Spring of 1776 and pushed out the Patriot forces.

Many in Quebec were willing to help the Americans to the end. Some had to flee Canada and then settled in the US. Many received pardons and lived out their lives quietly.

The invasion of Quebec made the British bring troops to Canada and led to the Saratoga Campaign of 1777.

I recommend this book. It sheds light on a forgotten campaign with long term consequences.

Searching for Sisters Made Easier with New Book's Direction



Catholic women religious are a frequently overlooked subject of genealogical research. As author Sunny Jane Morton enumerates in her new book, *Searching for Sisters: A Guide to Researching Catholic Nuns in the United States* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2026), "They were Catholics in a culture dominated by Protestants. They were women in a culture dominated by men...They were unmarried and not mothers in a culture that defined both as near-essential for women." These reasons are amplified in many cases by the women's own reluctance to tell their stories.¹

Even those who are not Catholic may have encountered a Catholic sister at some point in their lives—in a school, hospital, nursing home, or other ministry—as historically more than 350,000 Catholic nuns and sisters have served communities across the country.²

For those with Catholic roots or those who are just curious to find out more about the sisters or nuns who were part of their communities, *Searching for Sisters* provides great historical background to understand the women's religious lives, and detailed instructions on how to find records that reveal their personal lives. The book also includes several case studies showing how various researchers have discovered more about a Catholic sister, demonstrating which records were helpful and the process they used.



Though I have researched several Catholic sisters in my family lines in the past, I still learned much from Morton's book. I learned the distinction between a nun and a sister (Nuns live a contemplative life with a ministry centered on prayer in a cloistered or semi-cloistered monastery, while sisters live, minister, and pray within the world.), about various structures of orders, called institutes, and the common paths of religious life.³

Morton also delves into religious names, a useful topic, since sisters and nuns of the past may have taken an entirely different name and could be known by their birth name, their religious name, or a combination of both.

Contributed by Nancy Gilbride Casey, DPL volunteer

¹ Sunny Jane Morton, *Searching for Sisters: A Guide to Researching Catholic Nuns in the United States* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2026), vii.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*, 1.

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.texasar.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