

August, 2026



America 250 Next Meeting: **Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 10am**

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

Chapter Officers

President— Ronnie Rencher
Vice President— Mark Miller
Recording Secretary—Mike Frye
Secretary, Annual Reports —
Mike Connelley
Treasurer—Chris Strauss
Chaplain —Mike Frye
Registrar— Eric Berkheimer
Sgt at Arms—Todd Wilbur
Color Guard — TBD

Events

1. **Aug. 1, Coffee Social**
2. **7/27-8/12, DAR Traveling Exhibit**
3. **Aug. 20 SAR SCD meeting**
4. **Sept. 12, Denton Chapter Mtg**
5. **Oct. 23-25 Fall BOM Mtg, Arlington, TX**
6. **Nov. 14, Denton Chapter Meeting**

Inside this issue

Page

Coffee Social Information.....	2
July 2026 Denton Chapter Minutes...	3-4
Suggested Committees.....	5
250 Anniversary Marker Project.....	6
Denton Chapter Color Guard.....	7
DAR 250 Traveling Exhibit in Denton....	8
250th Anniversary Dates.....	9
The Battle for New York City.....	10
Denton Library Info.....	11-13
Chapter Social Media Info.....	14



Chapter President's Message: Friends and Fellow Members,

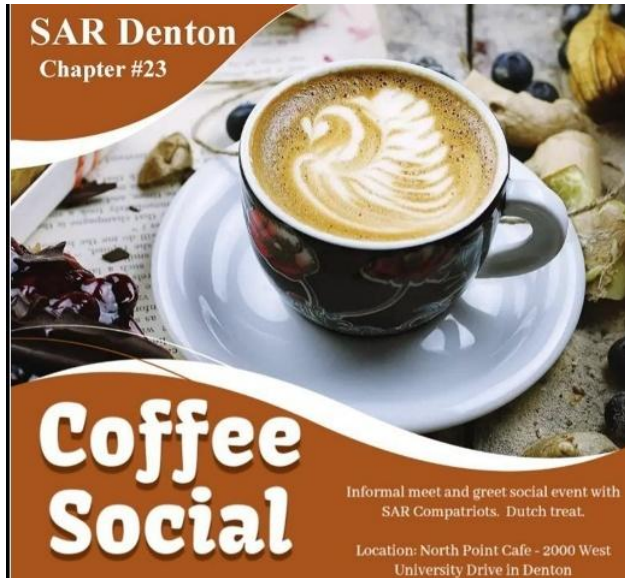
As we continue to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our nation's founding, we are reminded that the freedoms we enjoy today were secured through the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment of our Patriot ancestors. This historic milestone is more than a commemoration of the past - it is an opportunity to renew our own commitment to preserving their legacy for future generations.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our chapter and to the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. Through education, patriotism, and service to our community, we honor those who came before us and ensure their story continues to inspire others.

I look forward to seeing you at the coffee social August 1 and our next meeting as we continue this once-in-a-lifetime celebration of America's Semi quincentennial.

With appreciation,
Ronnie Rencher

Coffee Social



Coffee Social
August 1, 2026 9am
At North Point Café
2000 West University Blvd
Denton, TX 76201

Informal get-together for socializing and fun
Guests encouraged, including significant others

June 2026 Coffee Social



July 2026 Chapter Meeting Minutes

DENTON CHAPTER #23 TEXAS SAR

Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 10am

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

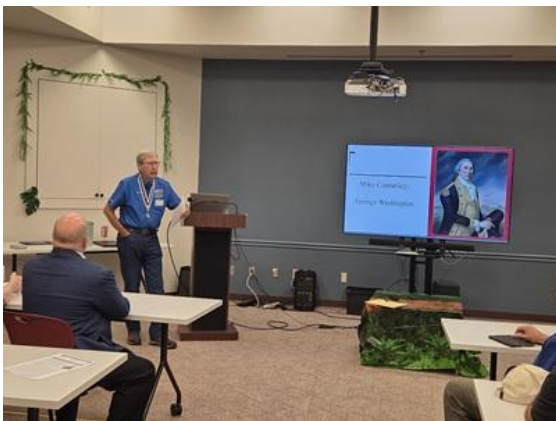
President Ronnie Rencher called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mike Frye Cjaplin opened meeting with prayer with prayer.

Pres. Rencher led in the Pledges.

Old Business:

- Pres. reviewed accomplishments for the year. Coffee social by Jim Hobdy, June 27 float built and used in the July 4, 250th birthday parade in Denton, TX.
- Pres. Rencher read the City of Denton Proclamation recognizing the work and influence of the DAR and SAR.



- Mike Connelly reviewed high points of George Washington's life born Feb. 22, 1732.
- Mike also reviewed the book by Thomas Payne "Common Sense" a must reading was recommended.

- Minutes from May 9, 2026 submitted for approve Motion to accept by Bill Surles 2nd by Alan Wright.
- Report given concerning the outstanding SAR Float pulled in the Yankey Doodle Parade Jim Akers reported it was a well attended parade.
- Chris Strauss gave Treasures report.
- SAR report on the 250 Yr anniversary Marker to be given from this chapter to Denton County was updated by Bill Surles. The county official indicate that the marker will probably be placed at the new courthouse on Hwy 288.
- Mike Frye chapter Secretary passed out to all members a 1 page history of how Americas Memorial Day Remembrance came into being.

New Business

Pres. Rencher suggested we add committees to improve our services to the chapter and the community:

- Member Care
- Program Development
- Scholarship Candidate Participants—Mike Connelly and Mike Frye on this committee
- Increase our Awards Program—Jim Akers
- Membership Growth

Pres. Rencher asked members to consider serving and we would add them to the committee they selected. Motion made by Brandon Story 2nd by Jim Hobdy-- Motion passed.

Mike Connelly noted and ask for volunteers to The Managers Meeting in Fall of 2026.

Brandon Story and Jim Hobdy spoke about the SAR ball caps for the chapter coming soon.

Officers' reports were given.



Pres. Rencher welcomed and Mike presented certificate to new member Richard Thompson; new member John Pigott will receive his certificate at a later meeting.



Past President of the Chapter award was presented to Brandon Story by Mike Connelly.

Upcoming Chapter Meeting September 12. 2026

Board of Managers meeting Oct 23-24-25, 2026, in Ft. Worth, Tx. Attendees 17 Closing prayer by Chaplin Mike Frye Adjourn Motion by Mike Connelly Second by Todd Wilber.

Suggested Committees

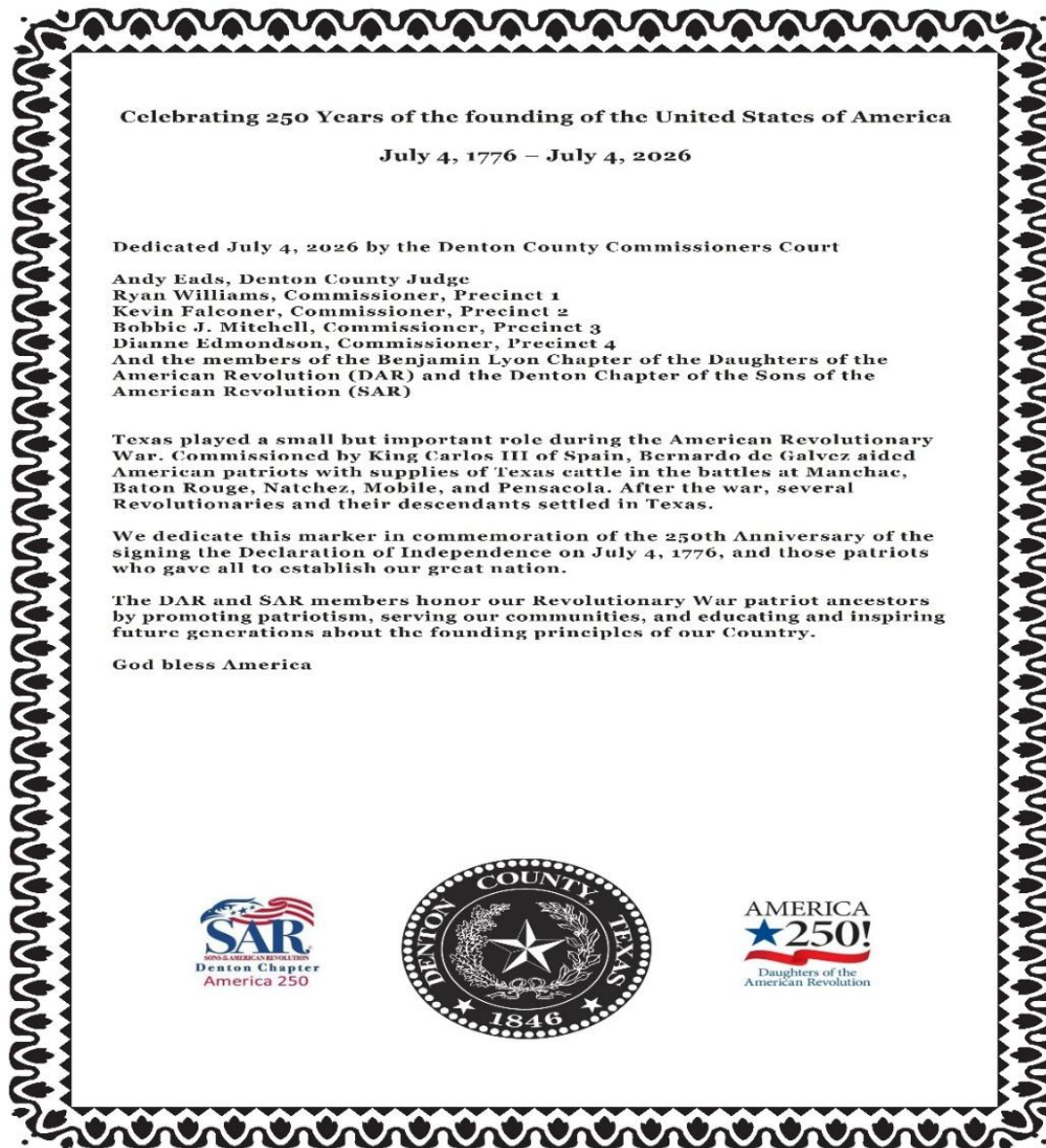
- Member Care
- Program Development
- Scholarship
- Awards
- Membership

National SAR Resources for Membership and Member Care
(follow links or download from below)

[National SAR Membership Committee](#)

- [Recruitment\) \(April 2025\)](#)
- [Retention \(April 2025\)](#)
- [Reinstatement \(April 2025\)](#)
- Retention Letter (word document – download from Membership Committee page)
- [New Member Orientation Manual](#) (2026)
- SAR Orientation Workbook (2019) (word document – download from Membership Committee page)
- [Membership Questionnaire \(2024\)](#)
- [Mentor Program \(2017\)](#)
- Recruiting Brochure(word document – download from Membership Committee page)

The AMERICA 250th Marker Project Project Progress as of July 1, 2026



Waiting for decisions from the Denton County officials.

1. Obviously, the marker will not be dedicated July 4, 2026.
2. Denton County has suggested that the marker be placed at the new Denton County Annex and Courthouse.
3. The marker was mentioned during the Commissioners Court proceedings, and the Judge said **it would happen**.

Comments, questions: wsmerch@gmail.com



Contact acting Commander Brandon Story brandondstory@aol.com 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”

A National American Revolution Exhibit Is Coming to the Denton County Courthouse

Free, Starting July 27



Flower Mound's chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is hosting "The American Revolution Experience" from Monday, July 27 through Wednesday, August 12 at the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum. Admission is free, and the Denton County Historical Commission is co-hosting. Fifteen days. No excuses.

The traveling exhibit brings the story of America's founding to life with 14 display panels — including 12 national exhibit panels, a special panel on Texas during the Revolution, and a chapter pop-up panel — as well as interactive digital kiosks. This isn't a poster board with index cards. The American Revolution Experience grew from an award-winning website into an in-demand pop-up exhibition that will travel to scores of libraries, historical societies, and museums through 2027.

The event kicks off Monday, July 27 at 5 p.m. with a formal opening reception at the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square. It will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony, remarks from community leaders and chapter representatives, a color guard presentation, and the chance to tour the exhibit. Worth going to on its own.

Samantha Barnes, the chapter's America 250! Chair, put the whole thing plainly. "250 years ago, a group of remarkable men and women pledged their lives, their fortunes and their honor, and many paid that price in full. They endured bitter winters, lost farms and livelihoods, and buried husbands and sons to keep the flame of freedom alive."

The exhibit explores diverse perspectives of the Revolution — from patriots and loyalists to enslaved individuals and Indigenous peoples — and includes Texas' unique role in that history. That Texas panel alone makes this feel local in a way a generic national exhibit usually doesn't.

For families, especially anyone homeschooling: the exhibition is made with middle and high schoolers in mind, but is appropriate for students from third grade and higher. That's a wide window.

From the [The Flower Mound Bee](#)



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

June 2026, Siege of Charleston

July 4, 2026, Declaration of Independence adopted

July 5, 2026, Declaration of Independence signed

August 1776 British Attack New York City

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 Battle for New York City

In August 1776, the focus of the Revolutionary War shifted to New York, where the British launched a massive campaign to crush the rebellion.



August 1–2: British forces, commanded by Gen. William Howe and reinforced by Adm. Richard Howe, consolidated a massive armada of over 400 ships and 32,000 troops on Staten Island, New York.

August 22: The British landed approximately 15,000 to 20,000 troops unopposed at Gravesend Bay on Long Island (present-day Brooklyn), New York, beginning their push to capture New York City.

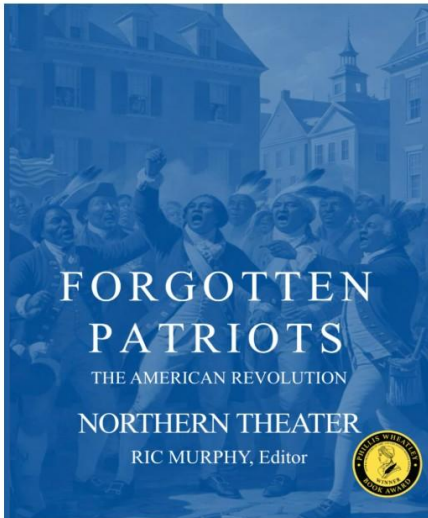
August 27: The Battle of Long Island (also known as the Battle of Brooklyn) began. British and Hessian forces outmaneuvered and routed the American army, causing heavy casualties and forcing the Patriots to retreat to their defensive lines in Brooklyn Heights.

August 29–30: Under the cover of heavy night fog, Gen. George Washington successfully orchestrated a stealthy, tactical evacuation of the besieged Continental Army across the East River to Manhattan, saving his army from total destruction.

Denton Library Resources

Heralding the Unheralded: Forgotten Patriots Remembered

By Ric Murphy, Editor



“The historical account of the American Revolution is often told through the lens of the military officers and the men who formed the Continental Congress; Beneath these stores are accounts of unsung heroes, the Forgotten Patriots—Americans, African, Indigenous, and mixed ancestry who are the heartbeat of our nation’s story.”¹

So begins the book *America’s Forgotten Patriots: African and Indigenous Americans in the Northern Theater for the American Revolution*. More than just a mere recounting of military tales, the book is a tribute to these unheralded patriots, researched and compiled by a diverse group of authors, the descendants of these very Patriots.

One of a series of books covering the various military theaters, this volume focuses on the Northern Theater, including all the New England states and northern New York state, from north of New York City into Eastern Canada from Montreal through the islands in the Atlantic Ocean. Other volumes feature the Mid-Atlantic, Southern, Naval, and Western Theaters.

The introduction addresses the difficulties in finding records for Native, indigenous, African, and mixed-race Patriots, including enslavement, refusal to recognize Native American languages in legal documents, lack of identification of Indigenous soldiers, poor record keeping, Anglicization or Christianization of soldiers’ names by colonists, etc.

Still, the authors combed through pension applications, bounty land records, state and local archives, military reports, orders, and rosters, newspapers, diaries, deeds,

¹ Ric Murphy, editor, *America’s Forgotten Patriots, African and Indigenous Americans in the Northern Theater of the American Revolution* (Palmyra, Virginia: Franklin Pearson Publishing, 2025), xi.

and much more, to piece their ancestors' service together. In doing so, they bring new life to the stories of these men who helped found our nation.

With a textbook feel, *Forgotten Patriots* first lists major battles and introduce the Continental, British, and French generals who steered the conflict.

Chapters cover:

- Colonial America
- Setting and Events
- Opening Acts
- Battles of 1776
- Battles of 1777
- Battles of 1778-1783
- African American regiments
- Indigenous Nations
- Coming Home

Among the most interesting of the book's features are the callout boxes which encapsulate a particular Patriot's story. We learn about Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Louis Cook, the son of an African father and an Abenaki mother, a veteran of the French and Indian War, who was the highest ranking Native American officer during the war.² We read of Benjamin D. Brooker, born into slavery, who was an 11-year old drummer enlisted by his owner.³ We learn of Private Cato Copeland, a free Black man from North Carolina, who served seven years, including time as a prisoner of war.⁴ And so many more. Each profile is documented in endnotes giving credibility to each Patriot's story.

² Ibid, 118.

³ Ibid, 80.

⁴ Ibid, 110.

In addition to these features the book includes numerous maps, illustrations, and other brief contextual callouts, explaining, for example, the “Origins of the Smallpox Inoculation,” “Wages and Bounties,” or the “Corps of Invalids and Disability Pensions.” Each provides valuable information which may be relevant to a reader’s research.

A glossary, reading group guide, research notes, and lists of Connecticut’s Segregated Patriots, 1st Rhode Island Regiment Patriots, Indigenous Patriots, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Mohegan Tribe, as well as copious endnotes round out the book’s many features. Endnotes—so often overlooked—can provide multiple resources in which to search for a forgotten patriot’s records and are well worth perusal.

Forgotten Patriots is available from the Emily Fowler Library Special Collections for in-library use only.

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