

Edmund Terrill Chapter #34

Chartered October 15, 1983

On the Texas SAR website you will find a link to the Edmund Terrill website. There you will find a copy of the chapter's Charter, the charter members names, and a list of the past presidents. In January of 2019, a 35th Anniversary cake was cut by William J. Woods, one of the charter members.

The chapter was named for Captain Edmund Terrill who first served as a Sergeant and later a Captain in the Virginia Militia. He was the ancestor of Fred A. Ryle, Sr. who was one of the founders of the chapter. Edmund Terrill was born May 21, 1740, in Orange County, Virginia, the son of Robert and Mary (Foster) Terrill. He married Margaret (Peggy) Willis on November 24, 1760, and she was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Plunkett) Willis. They had eleven children over the years.

Edmund enlisted as a Sergeant on January 27, 1777, for three years and by 1779 he had been promoted to Captain in the Culpeper Militia. He was serving under Major Samuel Hawes of the 10th Virginia regiment at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina in 1781, and at Hobkink's Hill Battle after that. He is listed as being mustered at Valley Forge. After his three year enlistment was up in March of 1780, he was discharged. He died in Culpeper County, Virginia on June 1, 1784, and his will can be found in W.B.C. P91, Culpeper County, Virginia, 1 June 1784---15 Nov 1784.

Edmund Terrill is a very active chapter in the North Texas area for the community and state. Since its Charter, it has received a number of awards which are recorded in the The Texas Compatriot available on the <txssar.org>web site. Some of the more recent awards are:

- Partners in Patriotism (2016, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21)
- Ross Shipman Award (2017)
- E. A. Limmer Award (2018, 19)
- The Galveston Award (2018, 21)
- Wreaths Across America (2020, 21)
- Outstanding Chapter Award (2019)
- John Bruce Stuart, Jr. Memorial Award (2020)
- Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund Award (2021)
- Texas SAR Americanism Award (2020)
- Texas SAR outstanding Public Service Award (2021)
- Texas SAR Flag Presentation Award (2021)
- Yearbooks (2016 3rd, 2017 3rd, 2018 2nd, 2019-2023 1st)

Along the same line the following T. L. Holden, Ray Hargis, and Gary Barker have been awarded the LaFayette Volunteer Service Award for spending numerous man hours (5235 plus) to ensure that all SAR applications and supplements have been entered in the National Patriot Research System (PRS). Graham Martin was the Texas State President from 1991-1992. Five chapter members have received the patriot Medal to date: Graham Martin (1991), Delbert Taylor (1997), John Greer (2002), T. L. Holden (2016), and Bill Hurst (2021). Two members have received the Color Guardsman of the year Gold Medal, John Greer (2017) and T. L. Holden (2019). The chapter has provided two distinguished Color Guardsmen to be the North Texas Commander Ted Wilson and Gary Barker. Ted went on to become the State Color Guardsmen Commander in 2018-19 and Gary in 2024-25. Four of the chapter members have served in the position of Vice President District 11: John Greer (1999-2001), T. L. Holden, Ted Wilson, and Gary Barker. T. L. Holden along with Judy Ditmore, Honorary Regent of the Western Trail DAR Chapter in Vernon, Texas, helped get applications approved for SAR membership. In so doing on December 15, 2018, the new Quannah Parker SAR Chapter #67 was established. Ted Wilson worked with the Denton Chapter and Ambassador Fletcher Warren Chapter to reactivate each. Gary Barker was the TXSSAR State Treasurer for a year. In 2021, Bill Hurst donated to Sanford University Library, a 15 volume set of books on the Washington Family History. Edmund Terrill was the first SAR Chapter in Texas to become a partner with the U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner Program in 2017. This was an act passed by Congress to honor Vietnam Veterans and their families with a Lapel Pin; John Greer and T. L. Holden have done special programs and given out over 1100 lapel pins. The chapter received a special flag for these presentations. John Greer started the active Veterans Committee in 1997 and was chairman until 2010. Texas Society President John Robertson presented John his first Medal in 2003. He has volunteered at the Sam Rayburn Medical in Bonham, Texas since 2004.

When opportunity presents itself, the Color Guardsmen travel the distance to attend and participate, and this is true for those in the Edmund Terrill Chapter who have uniform. In 2017, the chapter was forth coming in preparing two grave markers in the Oakwood Cemetery in Denison, Texas, for Dr. Lawrence and Martha (Shrewsbury) Washington, the doctor being the grand nephew of George Washington. Attending the celebration were two area relatives plus other members from the local SAR and DAR Chapters. In 2018, two other American Revolutionary War Patriots graves were marked. John Abston on April 2, 2018, and Benjamin W. Anderson on November 24, 2018. The Texas SAR Society marked two of the past State Presidents that year George T. Jester (1906-07) and Edward M. Polk (1931). In 2019, two other past State President graves were marked Robert Kurth, Sr. (1986-87) and Chester Dorchester (1918-21). In 2022, the location of James Carter's grave was found, but the stone was broken in three pieces and there was no evidence that he was in the American Revolutionary War. T. L. Holden said he would volunteer on putting the marker back together and Ray Hargis volunteered

to work on finding the needed proof of his service. A plan was made and several members of the chapter joined in to help bring everything together and once that was completed; we could mark the grave. This was done on September 11, 2022, which was Patriot Day. Earlier in the year another new SAR Chapter was formed called Ark-La-Tex #69 in Atlanta, Texas. On January 15, 2022, some Color Guardsmen attended this event from the chapter to welcome these new members. New research was done on James Lemmon's service in the American Revolutionary War and the the War of 1812. This also brought to light that he was a citizen of the Republic of Texas. On March 18, 2023, Color Guardsmen from across the state came together to celebrate his life and Edmund Terrill guardsmen were there among them. On Saturday, November 4, 2023, Texas color guardsmen traveled to Arkansas to join other Color Guardsmen from the National South Central District to make graves of compatriots buried there.

On October 15, 2023, Edmund Terrill celebrated its 40th Anniversary, with chicken sandwiches and cake. State President Sam Massey was in attendance and talked about the past and what the future holds for the Texas SAR Society.

Going forth the chapter would like to increase its membership, but to do so it would need to re-evaluate its meeting time for younger members and working people. This will continue to be an area of discussion. The chapter believes that many of the current events it participates in are good and they should continue with them.

They are: Honoring Eagle Scouts when requested
Participating in recruitment at the State Fair of Texas
Public Service Awards and Wounded Warriors
Color Guardsmen for fallen Police Officers and
returning Veterans and other as needed
Color Guardsmen in parades and posting colors
Wreaths Across America and Constitution Day
Flag Retirement Ceremonies
South Central District Meeting
Texoma Hero Ceremonies

The chapter is always ready to break new ground to honor Veterans and remember those from the past. A new area the chapter has been involved with is the recognition of Veterans who give of their own time for the community and for other Veterans. These presentations come through the VFW and American Legion, and other Veteran organizations, and are covered by a local TV station (Chanel 10) plus a live radio (103.1) program. With the loss of John Hunt, Sr. and T. L. Holden in 2024, we believe this is a way to honor them both as being a compatriot and a deserving Texoma Hero.