



The Continental Report

Ellis County Chapter #70 - Texas SAR

Sons of the American Revolution



Officers for 2025-2026

President - William D Hill
 Vice President - OPEN
 Secretary - John C. Haughton
 Treasurer - James Cooper
 Registrar - William D Hill
 Historian - Philip A. Taylor
 Chaplain - OPEN
 Sergeant -At -Arms - Ronald K Finch

Cities of
 Waxahachie
 Red Oak
 Pecan Hill
 Oak Leaf
 Midlothian
 Maypearl
 Ennis
 Bardwell

Vol. 2, Issue 2
 Dec. 14, 2024

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NO MEETING THIS MONTH
Next Meeting January 25, 2025
9:00 AM, Poker Room
The Hamilton at Garden Valley
880 Garden Valley Pkwy.
Waxahachie, TX 75165

Who We Are

Ellis County Chapter #70 was chartered in Waxahachie, Texas to serve the county communities. (See the list of cities in the header.) Our meetings are always open to all chapter and visiting Compatriots, prospective members and guests. We welcome eligible candidates from the town, whole county and surrounding areas. Candidates should see our Membership menu [Joining Info](#) link on our website for more information. Our chapter is growing. All guests are welcome!

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country. Further information about joining is available at www.SAR.org and www.Texasar.org/EllisCounty or talk with a member.

Welcome Applicants

What are the benefits of being in the Sons of the American Revolution?

Self-Discovery and family.

Connect with your ancestors of several generations, back to colonial times, who are responsible for who you are today. Create a permanent archival record of your own family history. Investigate and share your family history, which is a piece of the American narrative.

What are the qualifications for membership?

To quote the SAR Bylaws, "Any male shall be eligible for membership in the SAR who is a citizen of good repute in the community; and a lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to and rendered acceptable service in the cause of American Independence".

Membership in the SAR requires documented, acceptable evidence that your ancestor participated in one or more of the following types of service: signing a pledge of association to the patriot cause, paying taxes specifically collected to support the war, serving in a civil capacity, serving in the Continental armed forces or local militia. The SAR does not restrict membership on basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, nation or citizenship, or residency.

News of Ellis County Chapter

In April, Ellis County Chapter #70 received the District 6 “**Wilbur S. Strong Award**” for a New Chapter awarded to the Chapter formed during the past year, having the highest score on the Outstanding Chapter Contest. Membership has reached 34 with several applicants still working with our registrar.



Ellis County Chapter #70 celebrated our first year anniversary, November 23, 2024. Chartered September 22, 2023 in Waxahachie, Texas to serve the county communities. Special guests attending were SAR State President Tracie Pounders, President –Elect Mel Oller, Past-State President Drake Peddie, Inland Registrar Jerry Pinkerton, and members of the Rebecca Boyce Chapter DAR.

Regent Patricia Hernandez brought Greetings from the DAR, and pledged continued support as Partners in Patriotism.

Special guest Sharyn Taylor, President of the Daffan-Latimer Ennis Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, issued congratulations of the newly founded SAR Chapter. Mrs. Taylor received a Certificate of Appreciation for support of the Color Guard and donation of the Betsy Ross Flag and use of the US flag for the C10 Trucks in the Park show.

Special recognition was given to **Andrea Haughton** for hosting the Chapter Charter and Anniversary meetings. **Patrick Haughton** received a service pin in recognition for his 35 year membership.

The SAR Medal of Appreciation was presented to three members for the Rebecca Boyce Chapter DAR Chapter. **Vickie Evans Williams**, DAR Chaplain and Past Regent was recognized for her assistance in forming the new SAR chapter. **Mickie Hill** was recognized for referring a significant

number of new SAR members. **Patricia Hernandez**, Chapter Regent was recognized for promoting and otherwise significantly aiding in the SAR program. The Rebecca Boyce Chapter DAR was responsible for referring 33 husbands, sons, friends and others for SAR membership. Of those referrals, 15 became SAR members with more in process.

Several Certificates of Appreciation :were presented by President Jack Haughton:

Philip Taylor for volunteer service in the Color Guard,

Mike Tull for leading a new JROTC and strong support of the Chapter,

Paul Ridenour, volunteer photographer,

Larry Kollie, Color Guard Commander and taking lead in recruiting,

Mark Gundert, Color Guard Leader and Public Service Award program, **Ron Finch**, for strong Chapter support and Sergeant-at-Arms.

William David Hill was given Special Recognition for his personal involvement in the founding of the Ellis County Chapter and superior work as Chapter Registrar. Being the major contributor of research, attention to detail and other aspects of the recruiting effort, the Chapter realized a 353% increase in membership its first year.

Hill was also received the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal gives to a compatriot for significant service to the Chapter. The Medal is named for Roger Sherman of Connecticut, a Founding Father of our country, and the only person to have signed all four Congressional papers of the United States; The Continental Association, The Declaration of Independence, The Articles of Confederation, and The Constitution



District 6 Vice-President Michael Goode presented to John (Jack) Haughton the **Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service**, the highest recognition of service rendered at the Chapter level.



Tracy Pounders (Texas SAR President) swore in the new officers for 2025-2026. (r-l) William D. Hill, President/Registrar; John (Jack) Haughton, Secretary; James Cooper, Treasurer; Ron Finch, Sgt-at-Arms; Philip Taylor, Historian

We need compatriots to accept the offices of Vice-President and Chaplain. Any Applicant that has been approved by the State Registrar may hold office as "acting" officer until such time as their application is approved by the National Registrar. Upon final approval the disclaimer of "acting" will be removed. So if you signed your application and gave a check for application fees, you are eligible to hold any "open" position.

News from Texas SAR

Review of the public artifacts is available to the **public archives** via <https://texasSAR.org/public-archives> using the magnifying icon by enter a



simple search and press enter to view and select more search options and categories. For more information about searching check the Search Tips link.

Research of the **private archives** available artifacts is available via the magnifying icon at <https://www.txssar.org/!!TXS!!SAR!!> ; **login is required**. If needed, ask your Chapter Officers for the credentials to access the Texas SAR private website.

Remember search engines will find and use the verbiage inside PDF files. Therefore, the captions within PDF files with images will be included in the search.

Easy research uses the search options identified in the Search Tips. Take advantage of search keywords and use the leading + and – options to require or exclude certain data. Use quotation marks to search phrases. It should not be difficult to quickly get the hang of researching artifacts.

News from National SAR

SAR Named New Executive Director
September 18, 2024. Michael Scroggins will serve as the organization's new Executive Director, effective immediately.

Scroggins oversees the operations of the National SAR Headquarters, which is based in Louisville, while collaborating with the SAR General Officers and other leaders of the organization to promote the goals of the SAR and the well-being of the organization.



“The Sons of the American Revolution is working hard to remind our citizens of the Revolutionary War events through the upcoming 250th Anniversary celebrations of those events.”

Scroggins added, “We are also excited to be adding an Education Center and Museum on Louisville’s Historic Museum Row in Downtown Louisville. This will serve as the SAR’s gift to the nation in celebration of the 250th.”

organization while promoting many elements of the American Revolution, beginning with the Stamp Act through the Treaty of Paris. We manage a variety of projects that include programs and educational presentations and resources that our members and educators can download and use.

America 250 SAR Programs Toolkit
<https://america250sar.org/>

National News



The USPS issued a 250 Anniversary of the First Continental Congress, September 5, 2024. The stamp features a bold design evocative of what would eventually become the U.S. flag. A thin red stripe decorated with a dozen white stars delineates the far left side

of the stamp. The 12 stars represent the number of Colonies that participated in the Congress. A thick, vertical blue band, bordered on either side by narrow white stripes, dominates the rest of the stamp art. The center of the blue band features a brief, powerful plea taken from a petition sent by the Congress to King George III on October 25, 1774.

The *First Continental Congress, 1774* stamp is being issued as a Forever® stamp. This Forever stamp will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail® one-ounce price.

America 250

Welcome to the Programs Department of America 250 SAR, an important committee of the Sons of the American Revolution that helps brand our patriot



The Historian’s Watch

Accepting the challenge of being the first Historian for the Ellis County Chapter, I will be forming the **Chapter Historian Committee** to work closely with the Vice-President (when named) as the Chapter Publicity Officer.

The Historian will be responsible for converting all documents and photos into PDF format for archiving in the Texas SAR public and private archives. Yearly scrapbooks will document the history of Ellis County Chapter. Sources and citations should be included with all items to be documented. Minutes, motions, awards, certificates, newsletters, yearbooks, various lists, and photos with captions are examples of meaningful archive artifacts.

The Photographer will be responsible for documenting the chapter activities: meetings and award ceremonies, etc. Photos need be well documented with captions describing who, when, and where (or what). Photos without captions have minimal value.

In order to receive documents necessary for the preservation of the Ellis County Chapter #70 history, an email account has been established for transferring items for the Historical Collection.

Please send all Chapter Photos and Documents to:
Philip A. Taylor
Ellis County SAR Historian 2025-2026
Taylor.txsar70@gmail.com
214-808-0258

NOTE: We need to encourage all members to nominate Flag recipients, especially for Flag Day recognition.

FLAG COMMITTEE: The chairman, appointed by the chapter president shall be responsible for identifying potential recipients of the SAR flag award certificate. The executive committee will approve the award and the committee chairman will arrange for the award ceremony.

This Month – 250 Years Ago



*The Seizure of His Majesty's Fort William and Mary
New Castle, New Hampshire, December 14 – 15, 1774
(Photo courtesy of New Hampshire Son of the American Revolution)*

Boston's Committee of Correspondence dispatched Paul Revere to Portsmouth with a message suggesting they had received intelligence from the British that all Forts of the Colonies were to be secured by British soldiers.

December 13, 1774

Paul Revere arrived Portsmouth on the afternoon of December 13th with the message from the Boston Committee of Correspondence and also information indicting more British were coming to Portsmouth. The HMS Canceaux was sailing to Piscataqua. Within 24 hours of Revere's message several hundred patriots from Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye and Kittery were headed to Fort William and Mary with the intent of attacking a British facility. Many of these men were members of their local militias.

December 14, 1774

John Langdon leads his men through Portsmouth to seize the gunpowder stored at

Fort William and Mary. The Fort is stormed by Langdon's men. The Fort defenders fired three cannon shots and musket volley and did not hit anyone. Four hundred New Hampshire men stormed over the Forts walls with injuries inflicted to both sides, no deaths. The defenders captured, the rebels gave three cheers and hauled down the British Flag that for more than century the declared British possession of Portsmouth, the first to be hauled down at a Fort captured by Americans.

The New Hampshire men seized about 100 barrels of gunpowder loaded them onto gundalows and hauled away. The issue of what to do with the stolen gun powder was left to militia Major John Sullivan from Durham. Some of the gunpowder was offloaded from the gundalows and shipped overland to Exeter, Durham and Dover. The bulk of it 72 Barrels went to Exeter.

December 15, 1774

John Sullivan arrives on the morning of the 15th with 30 to 40 patriots from Durham. As the day wore on, more than 100 more men from NH arrived and 600 from Massachusetts (Maine) to take part in the NH act of defiance that was begun the day before by John Langdon and his men. John Sullivan and his men knew that Boston's act of resistance, the Boston Tea Party brought the wrath of the British down on Boston – closed the Port of Boston and passed the Intolerable Acts to punish Boston for the acts of their zealots. What they were contemplating had the potential to bring the full wrath of the British down on New Hampshire. What would the punishment be for a second assault on a British installation with the intention of seizing British arms? After debating the seriousness of impending their actions, John Sullivan leads New Hampshire and Maine men on a second assault of Fort William and Mary. Late in the evening of the 15th, they seized all small arms, cannon shot stores and 16 cannons, they could carry and loaded them onto gundalows to be hauled off. They were on

their way by 8:00 the next morning, December 16th, but fighting the tide on the Piscataqua.

December 16, 1774

Companies of Volunteers arrive in Portsmouth from Exeter. These men were the best trained militia in NH and were prepared to fight the British Regulars that were expected to arrive at Portsmouth. When the tide turned, the British had still not arrived and Sullivan was able to take the seized weapons and supplies further inland, primarily to Durham, up the iced choked Great Bay and its inland tributaries. On December 17th , at around 8:00 that evening the 8-gun British armed merchant ship HMS Canceaux arrives Portsmouth, followed two days later by 20-gun Frigate HMS Scarborough. By the end of 1774, New Hampshire permanently slipped from British control. The Colonial forces, always short of gunpowder and supplies needed the supplies and gunpowder seized at Fort William and Mary. They were used by George Washington and the Colonial forces to replenish the powder used at Bunker Hill and to conduct the Seize of Boston. (note: A **gundalow** is a type of flat-bottomed sailing barge once common in Maine and New Hampshire rivers)



Color Guard Opening Ceremony
1st Anniversary Of
Chapter Ellis County #70



Retrieving the Colors
US Flag, Mark Gundert

Fort William and Mary, New Hampshire
(<https://fortwilliamandmary250.org/history/>)

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Facebook pages:

Ellis County Chapter #70 Texas SAR
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1368629110703478>

Sons of the American Revolution
<https://www.facebook.com/NationalSocietySAR>

Web Sites

<https://www.texassar.org/EllisCounty/>

<https://www.txssar.org/>

<https://www.sar.org/>

Daughters of the American Revolution

Ellis County also has an active DAR Chapter. For more information please contact **Barbara Coan**, Registrar, Rebecca Boyce Chapter, NSDAR at barbaraanncoan@hotmail.com.

