

<u>The Continental Report</u>

Ellis County Chapter #70-7exas SAR Sons of the American Revolution



Officers for 2025-2026

President Vice President -Secretary Treasurer Registrar Historian Chaplain Sergeant -At -Arms Past President

William D. Hill OPEN
John C. Haughton
James Cooper
William D Hill
Philip A. Taylor
OPEN
Ronald K Finch
John C. Haughton

Serving Cities of

Waxahachie Red Oak Pecan Hill Oak Leaf Midlothian Maypearl Ennis Bardwell

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Next Meeting February 22, 2025 9:00am, Poker Room The Hamilton at Garden Valley 880 Garden Valley Pkwy. Waxahachie, TX 75165

News of Ellis County Chapter



William Covington, from Arlington Chapter #7 presented his program on <u>Sergeant Major John Champe</u>, Enlisted by General George Washington, Champe became a double agent in a failed attempt to capture the American traitor General Benedict Arnold.



Color Guard Commander Larry Kollie Feb. CK magazine centerfold standing with a 1976 Chevrolet C-10 sporting a rare Spirit of '76 paint scheme

Chapter Award Recipient



Chief Marcus Brown



The Law Enforcement Commendation and Medal by David Hill, Mark Gundert and, Ron Finch

Marcus Brown is the Assistant Chief of Operations. He has been with the Waxahachie Police Department since 1999. He has worked and supervised in Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and Administration. Assistant Chief Brown served as the City's Emergency Management Coordinator for a period of five years. He holds a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management from Sam Houston State University. He is also a graduate of the Law Enforcement Management Institute Leadership Command College and the 286th session of the FBI National Academy. He holds a Master Peace Officer Certification through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

The Law Enforcement Commendation and Medal is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. The medal is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment in the field of law enforcement. Eligibility is not limited to peace officers but extends to the entire range of persons who make and enforce the law. This includes peace officers, attorneys, judges, prosecutors and legislators who have performed an exceptional act or service beyond that normally expected. The recipients are usually recommended by their superiors or peers for their accomplishments. The award may be presented posthumously. The medal may be presented to an individual only once. No Oak Leaf Clusters or ribbon attachments are permitted.

Chapter Activities

We are entered the following contests in state competition. The 2024 <u>USS Stark (Veteran Support)</u> <u>Report was submitted to Texas State Competition. ECC</u> is competing with other chapters in Texas with membership of 10 to 50. The winner will be announced at Texas SAR Congress in March. Ellis County Chapter will also be submitting the <u>Americanism Projects Report</u> for chapter competition.

We have also sponsored entries in four Youth Recognition Competitions: Outstanding Eagle Scout, Knight Essay, Americanism Poster Contest, and Outstanding JROTC Cadet. We will post winners of the State competitions in March and NSSAR competitions in July.

Explanations of how to be involved are in this month's *The Historian's Watch*.

For National and State links, reference Youth & Education Awards under About Us on the Ellis County Chapter website.

News from Division 6

Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center

Our Veterans center provides primary care and specialty health services, including mental health services, laboratory services, social work, and more.

Bonham Needs Listing Winter 2024-2025

All donations must be coordinated with Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) for acceptance and delivery drop off. Should you have questions regarding donations please call 903-583-6282 or email <u>brenda.magness@va.qov</u>.

CDCE Donating is just a click away with an online donation option that provides community members the account of their choice. <u>E-Donate</u> provides a quick, safe way for you to pledge your support to Veterans online.

<u>E-Donate</u> also allows donations in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or other person of your choice. You choose the medical center, the amount, and the program you'd like to help. And there are no extra fees to use the secure website, so every penny of your donation goes to help Veterans.

For monetary and in-kind Donations by mail, please send to:

Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center Center for Development & Civic Engagement (135) Attn: Brenda Magness, CDCE Specialist 1201 E.9th Street, Bonham, Texas 75418

Clothing & Comfort Items:

Sweatshirts (Men's Small -XL), Sweatpants/Tops (Men's Small - XL), Full Zipper Hoodie Sweatshirts (Men's Medium -2XL), Body Wash (no bar soap or hotel/motel toiletries), Deodorant , Lotion, Razors (disposable double to triple blade), Electric razors (for patients on blood thinners), Shaving Cream, Nail clippers, Brushes and comb, Chapstick

Refreshments:

Individually wrapped snack items to include ingredients are welcome, but no homemade food items. Items such as the following:

Bottled Water, Coffee & Supplies, Juices (small boxed), Individually wrapped snacks (no homemade), Chips, Cookies, Candy, Danishes, donuts

Miscellaneous:

Leather Crafts, Plastic Models (Cars, Airplanes, Ships, Etc.), Dominoes (Big), Journals, notebooks, Adult coloring books, with colors or colored pencils, Paint by Stickers . Markers, Stamps, Pens, stationary, Gift Cards (Walmart, McDonalds, Whataburger, Braum's), Gas Cards

Seeking Sponsorship for the following items/activities:

Monthly Birthday Socials, Bingo & Prizes, Cooking Group - monthly or quarterly, Bowling for Domiciliary Residents, Bonham State Park Pass, Sporting & Music Events

News from Texas SAR

130th Texas SAR Conference

March 27-30, 2025 Richardson Dallas in Richardson, TX Speaker: Carl Flowers "The Untold Stories of American Independence" Details on <u>https://texassar.org</u> /Events

130th TxSSAR Conference 2025 RAFFLE

You do not have to be present to win.



Drawing Saturday Evening - March 29th

1 Ticket - \$10, 3 for \$25, 12 for \$100

The 2025 State Conference winning ticket holder will receive a GIFT CERTIFICATE of \$600.00 from his or her choice of a Colonial Attire Vendor. The Gift Certificate will apply to the order from that Colonial Attire Vendor. A \$150.00 Certificate will be awarded for the 2nd place winner. Not redeemable for cash.



Ask Jack Haughton about tickets, or order from Tom Whitelock, PO Box 191605, Dallas, TX 75219

News from National SAR



The mission of the **SAR Genealogical Research Library** is to maintain and enlarge the collection of genealogical and historical materials available for research by SAR members and the general public. Additionally, it is to acquire and preserve records of the American Revolution and foster and encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution period. The SAR Genealogical Research Library will serve to reinforce the Center for Advancing America's Heritage educational, patriotic, and historical outreach initiatives.

The Genealogical Research Service is an hourly-based search of the various sources available within the SAR Genealogical Research Library. The sources available may include, but are not limited to, SAR applications, documentation records, family Bible records, online services, and other genealogical societies.

Each separate hourly request will receive ten standard pages of photocopied material, with any additional pages billed to the requester at **\$0.25 per page** plus mailing costs. Any unused standard pages of the initial ten do not carry over to a new research request project. The minimum research request is for one hour. Individuals will receive a status report as agreed upon in the initial contact of the research project. Any Genealogical Research Service request must include a completed Genealogical Research Request Form, and payment-infull along with additional materials enumerated in the research request. The service fees are **\$45.00 per** hour for SAR members and **\$50.00 per hour** for nonmembers.

Please contact the SAR Genealogical Research Service at (502) 588-6135 for additional information and/or a cursory review of your needs.

Births in February

- ✤ John Witherspoon, NJ: February 5, 1723
 - Ronald Reagan: February 6, 1911
- William Henry Harrison: February 9, 1773
- Abraham Lincoln: February 12, 1809
- ✤ Abraham Clark, NJ: February 15, 1826
 - George Washington: February 22, 1732

Deaths in February

- ✤ George Walton, GA: February 2, 1804
- Woodrow Wilson: February 3, 1824
- ✤ William Ellery, NJ February 15, 1820
- John Quincy Adams: February 23, 1848
- ✤ George Taylor, PA February 23, 1781
- ✤ Richard Stockton, NJ: February 28, 1781
 - ✤ Signers of the Declaration

The Historian's Watch

CHAPTER AWARD PROGRAMS

USS Stark Memorial Award

SUMMARY OF STARK AWARD POINTS

	(as of 31 December, 2024)		
Section		Sub-Total	TOTAL
1	Chapter Member Appointed to a VA Hospital Council, etc.		0
2	Each Hour Served in VA Hospital Volunteer Service		0
3	Each SAR Member Visiting a Veteran or on an Outing		1,002
4	Each Gift Donated to Veterans (Personal Care Items, Food, Games, Etc.)		0
5	Each Dollar Donated to VAVS/CDCE, State Veterans Hospital, etc.		0
6	Each Publication Donated to VA, State Veterans Hospital, Etc.		0
7	Participation in the SAR Wounded Warriors Program		0
8	Activities Recognizing or Supporting Veterans w/Other Organizations		391
9	Decorating Veterans Graves and Attendance at Funerals		
	9 - A Decorating Veterans' Graves	334	
	9 - B Participation in a Veterans Funeral	0	
	Total (Section 9)		334
10	New or Used Clothing Donations		0
11	New or Used Items such as TVs, Computers, etc.		
	11 - A New Items	0	
	11 - B Used Used	0	
	Total (Section 11)		0
	-		
	TOTAL STARK AWARD POINTS EARNED		1,727

- Tracking vollunteer veteran support
- Recognizes outstanding Chapter & State Societies that support Veterans
- Reporting period, Jan 1-Dec 31 of previous year (2024) New year began Jan 1, 1025
- Compatriots must keep a log of their category entries and present at the end of the year for recording on the Summary.

Points are earned in 11 sections: VA Representatives; VA Hospital & Non Hospital Volunteer Hours; Visits; Donations of Gift. Cash, Publications, Clothing, Furniture; Wounded Warrior Program, Activities Supporting Vets, Decorating Graves, Veteran Funerals.

SUGGESTION: Login to the NSSAR website, www.sar.org . Under the Members dropdown, select Forms & Manuals, choose USS Stark Memorial Award Tracker from the list of Award & Program Forms. Download and Save the Excel form. A description and explaination of services is noted are the top of each Sheet.

John Haughton submitted the 2024 Summary of Stark Award Points with a total of 1,727 points earned.

Additional service awards to individuals are the General William C. Westmoreland Award (for distinguished service to veterans) and the Service to Veterans Medal (5000 Stark points).

The Texas SAR Americanism Award



Not to confused with the Elementary School Americanism Poster Contest

- Tracking vollunteer activities
- Recognizes outstanding Chapter & State Chapters
- Reporting period, Jan 1-Dec 31 of previous year (2024) New year began Jan 1, 1025
- Compatriots must keep a log of their category entries on the **Combined Score Sheet.**

The Americanism Score Sheet can be considered one of the most important documents utilized by the SAR. It provides a guide for a chapter or State Society to follow for meeting the stated goals and purposes of the SAR.

Points are earned in 12 categories: Media Publicity, Speaker Bureau, DAR-CAR Support, Youth Programs, Public Service Programs, Historic Sites, Grave Marking, Color Guard, Medals & Awards, National Society Service, Membership, and Meeting Attendance.

SUGGESTION: Login to the NSSAR website, www.sar.org . Under the Members dropdown, select Forms & Manuals, choose Americanism Contest Score Sheet from the list of Award & Program Forms. Download and Save the Excel form. Detailed explanations and points assigned are noted on each of the Excel Sheets. More information and training is found at https://www.sar.org/committees/americanismcommittee/

OTHER CHAPTER COMPETITIONS: The Liberty Bell Chapter Award, based upon evidence of best implementing S.A.R. resolutions and principles. The President General's State Society & Chapter Activities Streamer, and the President General's Award to the Chapter based upon size which presents evidence of the most complete program of activities.

SAR YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES

E-mail Communications: According to the SAR Youth Protection Policies, SAR members are prohibited from exchanging e-mails with a minor without including another adult, preferably the minor's parent/guardian, in any such communication. Therefore, when Contestants send an e-mail to any SAR members, please include at least one of your parent(s)/guardian(s).

JROTC Recognition Program



Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) prepares student participants for life beyond the high school classroom with courses about leadership, health and wellness, physical fitness, first aid, geography, American history and government, communications and emotional intelligence. The program also teaches "soft skills" in the areas of collaboration, personal reflection and critical thinking.

More than 3,500 high schools in the United States offer JROTC, which is run by enlisted and retired service members from various military branches. The JROTC program typically lasts two to four years, with enrollment starting in 9th grade. Some schools also grant credits for core subjects taught in JROTC programs. There is no service commitment and there is no requirement to enlist in the Military after JROTC participation.

The Sons of the American Revolution awards the Bronze Medal to foster the principle of the "Citizen-soldier", exemplified by the Minutemen of the Revolutionary War Days. The program recognizes the "Best of the Best" cadets that demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, community service, and excellence in their school and JROTC careers. The Bronze JROTC Medal is presented only to students in secondary school JROTC units. Being selected to receive this award also entitles the qualified cadet to enter the **Outstanding JROTC Cadet** competition.

The Texas JROTC/ROTC Committee, chaired by John Haughton is currently testing a pilot revision of the practices and procedures of this competition. New Procedures will be presented to the NSSAR JROTC subcommittee for review at the Spring Leadership Conference (February 27-29, 2025). Ellis County Chapter is participating in the statewide pilot program. Lead by Mike Tull, the Red Oak and Midlothian Heritage High School JROTC units entered the competition.

Once the winner has been determined, that cadet and their SMI will be invited to the SAR Chapter meeting to receive their awards. The **winning entry** of the SAR Chapter competition will be forwarded to be judged in the SAR State Contest. The State winner will receive a **\$3,500** Scholarship to any approved school. Second and third place winners at the State level will receive scholarships of **\$750** and **\$500** respectively.

The **winning Cadet entry** from the State Competition will be forwarded to be judged along with entries from other States in the National contest.

The National Outstanding JROTC Cadet winner will receive an additional \$6,000 scholarship award and will be invited to the National SAR Congress. There are, in addition, 2nd (\$3,000), 3rd (\$1,000), along with 4th and 5th (\$500 each) place cash awards sent to the respective winners.

Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest

The **SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship** is open to all Eagle Scouts (boys and girls) who are currently registered in an active unit and have not reached their 19th birthday during the year of application and have not previously finished first place in the National contest. A Scout who earned the Eagle rank before their 19 may apply for the contest in more than one year. The contest year is from January 1 to December 31.

The competition is conducted in three phases: Chapter level, State Society level, and National level. The competition is usually entered at the Chapter level, though in some cases, the competition may be entered at the State Society level. Applicants may not enter at the National level.

Contest entrants need to complete only one application for the SAR Chapter level competition. The application of the Chapter level winner is forwarded to be used in State Society and National level competitions by the SAR as appropriate. **Prizes and recognition may also be awarded at the SAR Chapter and State Society level.**

The National First Place Winner receives \$10,000 taken as either a cash award or as a scholarship to an educational institution. Additional places 2nd thru 15th place also receive cash awards. The First Place Winner will be asked to appear at the SAR Annual Congress, held in June or July, to be recognized and receive the award.

A complete set of rules, along with the application for both the applicant and the sponsoring SAR members, can be found on the Eagle Scout Application Form. Among the requirements are a 4- generation ancestor chart and a 500 word themed essay related to the Revolutionary War period.

Contest application, essay example and topics, and the 4generation chart may be downloaded from the SAR Education website dropdown.

https://www.sar.org/arthur-m-berdena-king-eagle-scout-

contest/



Ellis County BSA Troops are: Troop 0232, Waxahachie Troop 0247, Red Oak Troop 0215, Midlothian Troop 0512, Midlothian Troop 0524, Ovilla

George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest

The George S. and Stella Knight Essay Contest is designed to give high school students (Grades 9-12) an opportunity to explore events that shaped American history. The contest is conducted in three phases: the local chapter, state-level society, and national phases.

The contest calls for an original researched and proven topic. The topic of the essay shall deal with an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution; the Declaration of Independence; or the framing of the United States Constitution. Each student's 800 to 1,200-word essay will be judged based upon its historical accuracy, clarity, organization, grammar and spelling, and documentation. The essay must have four parts: 1) title page, 2) essay pages, 3) bibliography or works cited, and 4) applicant's biography.

Students must source at least five references with the minimum of three being published works to allow for verification of sources if necessary. References from encyclopedias or the Internet will be accepted, but are not considered as part of the three published book sources.

Knight Essay Resources including essay application, rules, and example can be downloaded from the <u>SAR.org Education</u> dropdown.

Who We Are (My Patriot)

NOTE: This section is for you to submit YOUR patriot. We each have a Revolutionary ancestor that we like to talk about. This is your opportunity to do that. Just send a Word file to the Editor (and photo if available).

No one sent a story of their Patriot, so I am submitting my 5th great-grandfather.



Captain Joshua Daniel Palmer

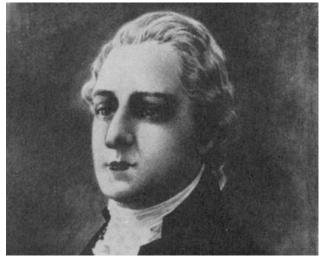
Palmer was born March 12, 1749-50 in Amelia, Virginia, British Colonial America to Parmenas and Mary Ann (Draper) Palmer. In his will he mentioned his wife Rhoda, sons William, Joshua Vardy, Purr [Permenas], Richard, Joshua, and Thomas; daughters Martha Cudd, Lutecia McDaniel, and Ann Davis; grandson Robert Smith.

Joshua, in his Revolutionary War Pension Application S21912: October 3, 1832, age 82, stated under oath "that he was born in Amelia County, Virginia on 12 March 1750. He further stated that he enlisted in the war from Union County, South Carolina and served several tours of duty between 1775 and the end of the war, first as a volunteer, then as a draftee, then as a captain. He participated in a number of engagements, including the battles of Stono Ferry near Charleston, South Carolina in June 1779 and in Jan 1781 served as adjutant to Col. Thomas Brandon at the Battle of Cowpens. He served at various times under Colonel John Thomas, Major Henderson, Captain Jolly, Colonel Wofford, Colonel Purvis, and Colonel Thomas Brandon. He served as a scout after his discharge. Finally, he stated that he lived in Union District when he entered the service, and had lived there ever since."

Captain Joshua Palmer died in December 1835 and is buried at Skull Shoals Baptist Church. The church is located south of Gaffney, South Carolina.

SAR #P- 264962, DAR # A086691, Fold3 memorial www.fold3.com/memorial/641445850/capt-joshuapalmer

This Month – 250 Years Ago



Dr. Benjamin Couch, Doctor/Spy (*image courtesy of battlefields.org/*

Benjamin Church, a Rhode Island-born, Harvard-trained physician, was considered by friends and neighbors a fierce Patriot and unwavering advocate for independence. He was a known member of the famed **Sons of Liberty** – a secretive band of colonists who organized opposition to British policies – and a close associate of revolutionary figures John and Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and Paul Revere

Prior to the war, Church was elected to the Massachusetts Provincial Congress and was involved in planning preparations against the British occupation, including militia efforts to acquire weapons and other military supplies. Before that, he treated victims of the Boston Massacre and participated in the Boston Tea Party. Church was eventually appointed by the Continental Congress as the Director General and Chief Physician of the Continental Army's Hospital Department – essentially the first Surgeon General.

He was also a longtime British spy.

Under enormous debt and the influence of his English wife, Church began betraying his fellow colonists in 1772, three years before the Revolutionary War began. Church's letters to British Gen. Gage divulged intelligence regarding American munitions, military plans and equipment that would later prove critical to the British march on Concord. He sold information to the British commander in Boston, including details of colonial military plans, likely spurring the British to march on the villages of Lexington and Concord to seize arms and munitions that the militias were rumored to be stockpiling. British forces skirmished with Massachusetts Minutemen in the two villages, leading to "the shot heard 'round the world."

Church's treachery was discovered months later, when Colonials intercepted an encrypted letter his mistress delivered to the British in Boston using a courier. The captured correspondence was brought to the attention of General George Washington, the newly appointed head of the Continental Army. Though Church claimed the letter was innocent, it was found to include a number of sensitive details about the composition of the Continental Army, and the longtime Patriot activist was immediately imprisoned. After the discovery of his espionage, Church faced an army court martial. Because Congress had not yet authorized the hanging of spies, Church evaded the death penalty and was instead charged with treason, convicted, sentenced to life in prison, and held in solitary confinement. After Church became ill in prison, Congress ordered him exiled to the West Indies in 1780. In a twist of fate, the schooner upon which Church was being transported never reached its destination. The schooner, its crew and Church were never located.

Historians to this day debate the reason for Church's treason; maybe he was always a Tory loyal to the British Crown, or maybe he was in a large amount of debt and needed the money, or maybe he considered himself a mediator between the two enemies. But, when General Gage's files were able to be opened in the early 20th century, it was hard to ignore the amount and content of information that was concealed and sent to British troops.

The American military intelligence system during the Revolutionary War was an active and effective instrument that helped counterbalance British numerical and operational superiority by informing American generals about their movements while it also deceived the British into making strategic errors.

Source: <u>https://www.intelligence.gov/evolution-of-</u> espionage/revolutionary-war/britishespionage/benjamin-church

Source: <u>https://www.dia.mil/News-</u> Features/Articles/Article-View/Article/566969/doomedfate-of-dr-benjamin-church/

Ellis County Chapter #70 Texas SAR https://www.facebook.com/groups/13686291107 03478

Ellis County Chapter #70 https://www.texassar.org/EllisCounty/

News of the DAR

SAR members attended the **Rebecca Boyce Chapter DAR**'s "Patriots Tea". This is an award ceremony to recognize Graduating High School Seniors that submitted patriotic essays. 15 High Schools from across Ellis County were represented in the competition. **Ella Taylor Ford,** representing Waxahachie Global High School, was name the winner of the \$1,000 scholarship.



John Haughton was invited to speak briefly on behalf of the SAR and congratulated the students in their accomplishments. He also took the opportunity to let the parents and counselors attending, that SAR and DAR are joining in their support of the schools across the County with several scholarship programs planned for next school year. During the reception that followed the ceremony, Haughton distributed SAR Youth Programs brochures and talked with parents and students to provide additional details on the contests.

Tom Whitelock in full colonial uniform joined in the photo session with the students. Tom is a dual member of Ellis County and Dallas SAR Chapters.

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 <u>barbaraanncoan@hotmail.com</u>.

