



The Continental Report

Ellis County Chapter #70-Texas SAR

Sons of the American Revolution



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News of Ellis County Chapter

Next Meeting September 26, 2026
9:30am, Card/Poker Room
The Hamilton at Garden Valley
880 Garden Valley Pkwy.
Waxahachie, TX 75165

TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER CHAPTER:

We have 3 new members transferring from other chapters. Please give a warm welcome to Robert (Robby) Keever (chapter 2), Bruce Perryman (Chapter 2) and from Indiana, T.Rex Legler.

NEW COMPATRIOT - Ty Hall



Patriot: Aquila/Aquilla GRIER/GREER, P-170602



Harlon Bounds presented the true meaning of the United States Constitution found in the First 3 Articles.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

David Vantrees

APPLICATIONS IN-PROCESS:

Barry Chase (S), Mark L. Gundert (S), Jerry Hill (N), Tom Ker(C), Gary MacLin (N), Johnny Mitchell(C), Ian B. Perry (N), Mark Reyes (N), Troy Roberts (S), Floyd Ross (N), Robert G. Shelton (C), Jack Springer (C) (N)NSSAR, (S)TXSSAR, (C)ECC

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER: David Spaulding "The Last Soldier: Remembering the Final Living Veterans of America's Wars"

Chapter Event Schedule

Oct 10	SAR/DAR Blood Drive
Oct 18	NHRA Color Guard event
Oct 23-25	Texas Fall BOM, Arlington
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Dec 19	Wreaths across America

News of Texas SAR



Plano eight-grade history teacher at Plano Haggard Middle School, **Ashlee Happy** received the 2026 Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award from the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). She was

first selected as the Texas winner and then found out she had also been chosen as the National Middle School Teacher of the Year.

“My plan is to create a “Night at the Revolution Museum.” My students will research people, documents and artifacts from the American Revolution using primary sources and then transform the classroom into a living museum for families and the community. I also want to celebrate America’s 250th birthday by helping students connect with the Declaration of Independence and our founding principles in a way that feels real. I don’t want history to just be something they read in a textbook. I want them to experience it. Each student will find an unsung hero that they will do a biography and portrait on. This will be the living museum part where they will dress up and talk about their hero.”

News from National SAR

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — 20 August 2026 — The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) has announced a major fundraising effort to modernize its information technology (IT) systems.

The President General has established a fundraising goal of \$3 million to support IT upgrades including records digitization, payments software, national dues billing, paperless applications and related database upgrades.

The Records Digitization Project is needed to preserve the extensive collection of genealogical records maintained at our National Headquarters. We have reached a critical point as the Society’s physical archival storage vault is at capacity at **more than three and a half million pages**.

Copies of supporting documents can be purchased from the Society; however locating, reproducing, and delivering paper records is a time-consuming and inefficient process. The Records Digitization Project will

help preserve these historically significant materials and prepare us for making these records easier to retrieve and provide to members and researchers.

God and Country

The love of our country is a speech given by **Chaplain John Hurt** to encourage the troops amid battle in 1777.

John Hurt was an Episcopal minister from Virginia. Soon after George Washington assumed command of the army Hurt was appointed Chaplain of the 6th Virginia Regiment, participating in several early campaigns. He served with his regiment at Trenton and Princeton fighting along with his men. His unit engaged a large British force at Brandywine Creek and a month later at Germantown. The 6th Virginia regiment took heavy casualties in these battles. Hurts fighting beside his men on the front lines earned him the description “the bravest of the brave.”

After Germantown the Continental Army led by Washington retreated to Valley Forge for the winter. Hurt as chaplain spent his time encouraging the men and spiritual guidance as the army endured the harsh conditions.

In 1779 the 6th regiment was merged with the 2nd Virginia regiment. In 1781 Hurt while serving with the 2nd Virginia in the southern theater was captured by the British at Charleston. He was confined on a prison ship where he suffered for several months. It is interesting that he was allowed to communicate with the Continental leaders. He wrote a letter to Washington expressing his desire to return to his duties as chaplain. He was later paroled by the British, but they restricted his movement. He was later released through a prisoner exchange, and he returned to his duties.

With the signing of the Treaty of Paris the continental army was disbanded and men like John Hurt returned to his calling as a pastor. But even during peacetime he was involved with the affairs relating to chaplains. In 1789 he wrote a letter to George Washington entreating for promised compensation to Continental Army Chaplains. He also was active in advising Virginia on logistic and disciplinary matters as they organized state militias. By 1791 it was evident that the US needed a fulltime army.

Washington presented John Hurts name to Congress to become the first US Army Chaplain, a position he held until 1794.

Details of Hurts life were lost by fire in 1812. One of his speeches to the troops, “The love of country,” was preserved and has been quoted often:

“The love of our country is a principle which hath been more celebrated in all ages, hath been the subject of more praise and panegyric, than any other affection in the whole train of virtue. It hath been the constant theme of poets, orators and historians; statues and medals have been erected and struck, and all the treasures of art and wit perpetually exhausted, in doing honour to those who have excelled in this character: And indeed the name of Patriot implies, in its true sense, everything that is most great and godlike among men; it carries in it the idea of a public blessing; it implies a power of doing good, exerted and extended to whole communities; and resembles, within its sphere, that universal providence which protects and supports the world”

God Bless each of you and God Bless the USA.

Your Chaplain,
Calvin Brown
Contact info –phone and text 573-680-2625
Email cal.sartx70@gmail.com

SAR Color Guard Commander

Call for Color Guardsman

You are invited to step into one of the most meaningful and visible roles within the Sons of the American Revolution—the Color Guard. This is your opportunity to transform membership from something quiet and passive into something vibrant, active, and deeply rewarding. When you join your Chapter’s Color Guard, you immediately become part of the State and National Color Guards as well, connecting you to compatriots across the nation who share your passion for history and patriotism. Color Guardsmen are required to complete **Youth Protection** training. The course is available on the SAR University website. Renewal is required every 3 years.

Notes: The Ellis County Color Guard, chapter #70 will be participating in the ESPN televised opening ceremony of the fall 2026 NHRA Nationals. **All TX State CG are invited to participate.** Please confirm your participation to me by **September 30, 2026.**

Additional information regarding parking and admittance will be provided as it becomes available. The event actually runs from Thursday -Sunday.

So far, four Color Guardsmen have confirmed their participation:

- Dan Hamilton, Northern Region Commander
- Dave Fautheree, Northern Region Adjutant
- Roger Harding, Plano Chapter
- Ronald Carey, Plano Chapter

Date: **Sunday, 18 October 2026**

Time: all day event; 12:00pm show time

Event: **NHRA Fall 2026 Nationals**

This is a **Chapter** CG event

Texas Motorplex, 7500 W Hwy 287 Ennis, TX 75119

Contact: Larry Kollie

akl011915@gmail.com or 972-903-9037

[Color Guard Notification Signup](#)

The Color Guardsman (Vol. 15 No 2 April 2026)

<https://www.sar.org/app/uploads/April-2026-3.pdf>

[NSSAR Color Guard Reporting Form](#)

(login to Color Guard Committee)

[TXSSAR Color Guard Reporting Form](#)

(login to private side)

October Dates to Remember

Oct 4, 1957	Russian Sputnik I Launched
Oct 6, 1927	1 st “talkie” Motion Picture
Oct 7, 1765	The Stamp Act Congress, NY
Oct 8, 1871	Great Chicago Fire
Oct 13, 1775	Navy Founding
Oct 13, 1792	Whitehouse Cornerstone laid
Oct 17, 1777	Burgoyne surrendered, Saratoga
Oct 17, 1944	Battle Leyte Gulf began
Oct 19, 1781	Cornwallis surrendered, Yorktown

October Flag Flying Days



- ✓ Oct 12 Columbus Day
- ✓ Oct 12 Indigenous Peoples Day
- ✓ Oct 13 Navy Birthday

The Historian's Watch

This month, the Ellis County Chapter needs you to step forward and take an active role in our leadership. While membership brings a name tag and a certificate, true service carries the responsibility and commitment required to amplify our chapter's impact in the community. Don't just hold a membership—answer the call to service today and help drive our mission forward by taking on a leadership position! Handouts will be available at the next meetings.

To-date only two ECC Contest Committees have been established. They are as follows;

JROTC Outstanding Cadet Competition -
Chaired by Mike Tull
Knight Essay Contest - Chaired by Calvin Brown
Rumbaugh Oration - open
King Eagle Scout Contest - open
Martin Video Contest - open
Poster Contest - open
Brochure Contest - open
Lawrence History Teacher - open

The following are two items for the SMART Report File accessible on the SAR.org website.
(login is NOT required).

The NSSAR's Youth Protection Policy:

"The SAR strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in SAR sponsored activities. To the best of their ability, Compatriots and staff, their spouses and partners, and other event volunteers must safeguard the children and young people with whom they come into contact and protect them from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse."



SAR Patriot biographies (PRS)

Patriot biographies must be the original work of the author, and work submitted must not belong to another person or group, in observance with copyright law. Patriot biographies are to be written in complete sentences, follow the established rules of grammar, syntax and punctuation, be free of typographical

errors, and follow a narrative format. The narrative should unfold in a logical manner (e.g. the narrative does not jump from time period to time period) or have repeated digressions, or tell the history of the patriot's line from the patriot ancestor to the author. The thinking here is that this is a patriot biography, not a lineage report or a kinship determination project or other report published in a genealogy journal. The biography should discuss the qualifying service (military, patriotic, civil) of the patriot ancestor, where the service was rendered, whether this was a specific state or Continental service, as well as significant events (as determined by the author) of the patriot's life. This is the entire purpose of a patriot's biography.

Send your submission, in a Microsoft Word compatible format, to patriotbios@sar.org for inclusion.

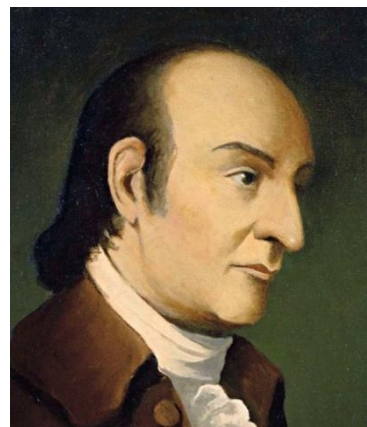
Biographical sketch submitted to the Patriot Records Committee and published in the SAR Patriot Research System (PRS) earn the chapter **10 points per submission / 1000 point maximum.**
<https://sarpatriots.sar.org/pdfs/Patriot-Graves-and-Biographies-Report-2020v1.pdf>

Signers of the Declaration of Independence

Delegates are listed in order of signing.

VIRGINIA

GEORGE WYTHE was a lawyer, judge, professor,



and influential Founding Father whose contributions shaped the legal and political foundations of the United States.

Born in 1726 in Elizabeth City County, Virginia, Wythe

attended the College of William and Mary and studied law in his uncle's office. His legal talent earned him a strong reputation, and in 1748, he was appointed clerk to two House of Burgesses committees. In 1754, he became acting Attorney General of Virginia—the youngest to hold the position.

In 1758, Wythe became William and Mary's representative to the House of Burgesses, mentoring students like Thomas Jefferson, with whom he discussed literature, science, architecture, and politics.

As tensions rose with Britain, Wythe became an advocate for independence and earned a seat in the Second Continental Congress. Though he returned to Virginia before the Declaration of Independence was finalized—to help draft the state constitution and design the state seal—his colleagues left room for his signature. He added it upon his return in September 1776.

Wythe later served as Speaker of the House of Delegates, a member of the Virginia Convention, and one of three judges on the High Court of Chancery. He was also named the first professor of law at William and Mary, making him the first law professor at any American institution. His students included James Monroe and John Marshall.

Wythe later moved to Richmond, where he spent time studying ancient Hebrew and conducting electrical experiments. He died in 1806, allegedly poisoned by his grandnephew.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrxAG4-5Pbo>

RICHARD HENRY LEE, born on January 20, 1732, at Stratford Hall in Virginia, played an indispensable role for American independence. Over a long public life, he served in the Virginia House of Burgesses, as president of the Continental Congress, a U.S. Senator from Virginia, and as one of the first to hold the title of president pro



tempore of the Senate.

Lee was educated at home before being sent to England at age 16 for formal schooling. He returned to

Virginia in 1753 and soon entered public life, serving as a justice of the peace and later as a member of the House of Burgesses. Alongside figures like Patrick Henry, Lee became one of the earliest advocates for American independence, speaking out against British taxation policies.

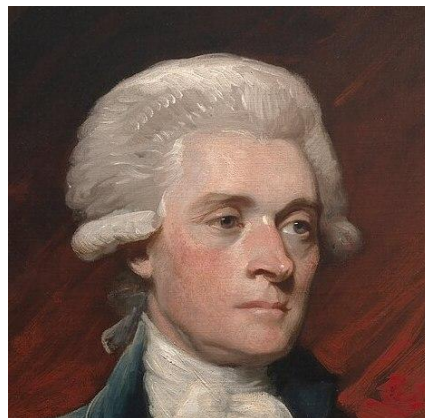
As a delegate to the Continental Congress, Lee introduced the Lee Resolution, declaring that “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States...” The resolution's passage marked the formal break from British rule and set the stage for the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Lee remained active in national leadership after the war. From 1784 to 1785, he served as president of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation. In 1789, he was elected one of Virginia's first U.S. Senators and briefly held the position of president pro tempore. He resigned in 1792 due to declining health.

Richard Henry Lee died on June 19, 1794, at the age of 62, at his estate in Chantilly, Virginia.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek6EWHBY5_4

THOMAS JEFFERSON Born on April 13, 1743, near



present-day Charlottesville, Virginia, Thomas Jefferson was the primary drafter of the Declaration of Independence and the third President of the United States. The son of Peter Jefferson, a

farmer and surveyor, and Jane Randolph, who hailed from a prominent Virginia family, Jefferson was educated by private tutors.

He later attended the College of William and Mary, where he studied mathematics, philosophy, law, and languages. A man of the Enlightenment, he inherited a large estate from his father and designed his lifelong residence, Monticello.

At 26, Jefferson entered the Virginia House of Burgesses, where his eloquence earned him a seat in

the Second Continental Congress. At 33, he agreed to draft the Declaration of Independence upon John Adams's insistence that Jefferson was more eloquent and well-liked than him. He penned the words that inspired thousands of young men to give their lives for the ideals that still ring true in the heart of every American: *"that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

Following a term as Governor of Virginia, Jefferson became Minister to France, strengthening ties with America's key wartime ally. Under George Washington, he served as the first Secretary of State. In 1796, Jefferson was elected Vice President under John Adams, and in 1800, he defeated Adams in a fiercely contested election. As President, Jefferson orchestrated the Louisiana Purchase, doubling the nation's size, and pursued neutrality during the Napoleonic Wars.

After two terms, he retired to Monticello, where he corresponded with former rival John Adams. Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. According to one account, just before he died, he asked his physician, "Is it the Fourth?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPzmuYxMRO0>

BENJAMIN HARRISON V was born on April 5, 1726, at Berkeley Plantation in Virginia. His father, Benjamin Harrison IV, held public office as both the Sheriff of Charles City County and a member of the House of Burgesses. Harrison attended William and Mary College, where he met future



revolutionaries like Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, but he soon had to leave school after his father and a sister were killed by a lightning strike. He returned home to manage the family's 1,000-acre estate, including shipbuilding and horse breeding.

In 1748, Harrison married Elizabeth Bassett, niece of Martha Washington. They had eight children, including William Henry Harrison, who became the

9th president in 1841, and his great-grandson Benjamin Harrison, who became the 23rd president in 1889.

Harrison entered politics in 1749 as a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, where he began opposing British rule in the 1760s. When the House passed resolutions condemning the Stamp Act, the Royal Governor tried to sway Harrison with an executive council appointment, but Harrison declined.

After the House was dissolved in 1774, Harrison was elected to the Continental Congress, and in 1776, he signed the Declaration of Independence. He returned to Virginia politics in 1777 and served as a militia lieutenant.

In 1778, Harrison was elected Speaker of the Virginia House, and in 1781, became Governor of Virginia, serving three terms. In 1788, he took part in the Virginia Ratifying Convention, advocating for protections that would later form the Bill of Rights.

Harrison returned to private life and died in Virginia on April 24, 1791, at age 65.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buiZwsjEgU4>

THOMAS NELSON JR. was born in 1738 in



Yorktown to one of Virginia's First Families. He grew up in all the trappings of wealth and prepared for taking his eventual place as a top businessman and leader.

In 1761, Nelson entered public service, elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses. When the patriots issued a resolution excoriating British Parliament's "Boston Port Bill," Nelson sided with the colonists against the Royal Governor, who dissolved the assembly. This event set in motion the cause for independence.

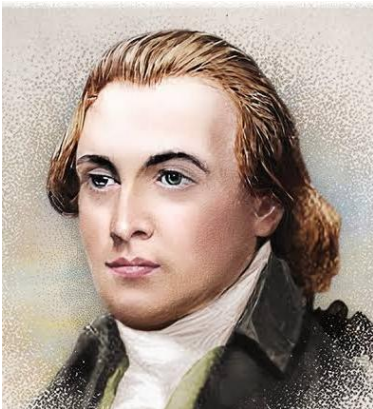
Nelson was elected to the Virginia Convention of 1774 and 1775, and in the latter nudged the members toward action—proposing organizing a militia in the Commonwealth.

Between 1775 and 1777, Nelson served in the Continental Congress, proudly supporting the cause of Independence.

In 1781, Nelson was elected to replace Thomas Jefferson as Governor. To repel the British invasion, the legislature granted him robust powers to effectively defend Virginia. As Brigadier General, he raised volunteer troops. He led militia forces. Alongside Washington and Rochambeau, he besieged the British in his hometown, Yorktown. According to family tradition, Nelson told Washington to aim fire on his home when he heard it was occupied by the British. Nelson was among the signers of the Declaration to make good on his pledge to give his fortune to the cause of Independence. He died poor in 1789, leaving behind his wife and 11 children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guNBdWHvpaE>

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE was born on October 14, 1734, at Stratford Hall Plantation, Virginia, into the prominent Lee family, a political dynasty with roots in America dating back to the 1630s.



Raised on his father's tobacco plantation, Lee was privately educated by tutors but did not attend college.

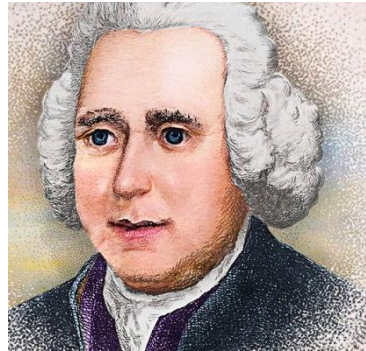
As a young man, he focused on managing family landholdings, but by the late 1750s, he turned to politics. He was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses, where he opposed British policies such as the Stamp Act and spoke out for colonial rights. His dedication to the Patriot cause led to his election to both the First and Second Continental Congresses, where he served alongside his brother, Richard Henry Lee. Though equally committed to independence, the two brothers differed in style: Richard was known for his public speaking, while Francis was quieter and led through action rather than oratory.

In 1776, Francis Lightfoot Lee signed the Declaration of Independence. He also helped draft the Articles of Confederation and briefly served in the Virginia State Senate.

Following his public service, Lee retired to his estate, Menokin, where he lived a quieter life. He died on January 11, 1797, at age 62, just days after the death of his wife, Rebecca. The couple had no children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTREyEFGL-w>

CARTER BRAXTON was a wealthy landowner, businessman, and financier of the American Revolution. Born on September 10, 1736, at



Newington Plantation in Virginia, Braxton graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1755. At 19, he married into another influential family, further elevating his social standing. Tragedy struck when his wife died after two years,

leaving him with two daughters. To recover, he spent time in England, where he became familiar with British politics and its colonial policies.

After remarrying, Braxton resumed life as a planter and businessman in Virginia. As tensions with Britain escalated, he joined the Virginia House of Burgesses and in 1776 was appointed as a delegate to the Continental Congress. Though initially reluctant, he came to support independence and signed the Declaration of Independence, risking his wealth and status in the process.

Braxton invested heavily in the Patriot cause, funding the Continental Navy and military efforts. Many of his ships and ventures were lost to British blockades and wartime destruction. Once one of Virginia's wealthiest men, he took on tremendous debt due to his commitment to the cause.

After the war, Braxton continued to serve in the Virginia state government. He died on October 10, 1797, at the age of 61, having sacrificed much of his fortune in support of American freedom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgwk7iQoM9A>

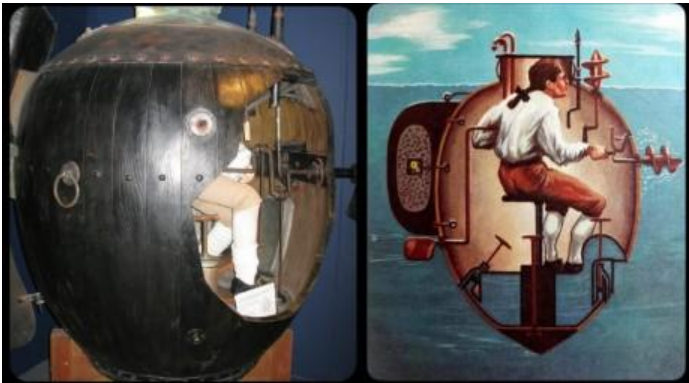
Source: [Signers of the Declaration of Independence – The White House](#)

This Month – 250 Years Ago

The Turtle

A chapter of early American maritime history that has often been overlooked is that of early submarines and, in particular, the story of the first American submarine in the War of Independence. She was called Turtle and was

designed by David Bushnell, who also developed the naval mine. Turtle's first engagement was also the first naval battle in history involving a submarine and took place in New York Harbor in September 1776. While pondering the idea of a vessel to transport and attach timed explosives to enemy warships, Bushnell considered using a submarine. It was actually constructed as an afterthought. Bushnell, from nearby Westbrook, Connecticut was a Yale graduate interested in creating an explosive weapon to use against the British during their occupation. Bushnell and fellow Yale University intellectual, Phineas Pratt, had developed an underwater bomb with a time delayed flintlock detonator. The covert mission? Slip into New York Harbor and attach a bomb to a British warship. There were, however, many engineering and design problems, which he had to solve with the limited technology of that time - problems such as building a watertight, pressure-proof hull, providing for vertical and horizontal propulsion, vertical stability, variable ballast, steering controls, and a weapons-delivery system, to name a few. Bushnell eventually solved these problems and introduced some innovations. For example, he was the first submarine designer to equip such a vessel with a snorkel breathing device and to use a two-bladed propeller for ship propulsion.



Although the submarine that Bushnell designed and built has been called many different names by historians, Turtle is the one most commonly used. Turtle had an unusual appearance, resembling two upper tortoise shells of equal size, joined together. She measured 7 feet in depth from the bottom of her detachable keel to the top of her upper "shell," and was constructed of oak timbers, which were carefully shaped, joined together, and caulked at the joints. To insure water tightness, the

vessel was bound with iron bands and entirely covered with pitch on the outside.

A little egg-shaped wooden submarine held together by iron straps, Turtle bobbed like a cork in rough surface winds and seas even though she was lead weighted at the bottom. In this hand- and foot-operated contraption, one person could descend by operating a valve to admit water into the ballast tank and ascend with the use of pumps to eject the water. Two flap-type air vents at the top opened when the hatch was clear of water and closed when it was as not.

The submarine was capable of carrying one person who sat upright on a seat resembling that of a bicycle. Turtle's supply of air, in the submerged state, would last about 30 minutes. Located at the bottom of the submarine were a lead weight for ballast and an aperture with a valve to admit water for descent. Two brass forcing pumps served to eject the water from within for ascent. In front of the seated operator was a screw type oar for propelling the vessel forward or backward while, above him, there was a similar oar for ascending, descending, or maintenance of depth. The rudder, located behind the operator, was operated by foot. Furthermore, Turtle was equipped with a depth gauge, a compass to direct the course, and a ventilator to supply the vessel with fresh air at the surface.

Turtle was built at Saybrook, Connecticut, by David Bushnell and his brother, Ezra. After the vessel's completion in 1775, they tested her in the Connecticut River. Unfortunately, the tests indicated that Turtle was not ready to be used against the ships of the British fleet which were blockading Boston Harbor. Problems ranged from the failure of a ballast pump to the need for phosphorescent fox-fire to light the interior of the submarine.

In the spring of 1776, Turtle was ready to be transported by a sloop to Boston to fight the British fleet. By that time, however, the news was received that the British had broken off their blockade there and had moved their ships north to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Since there were still British warships in New York Harbor, Turtle was secretly transported there and stationed at The Battery in Manhattan, which was still under the control of

America's General Putnam, with his army of about 9,000 men.

The waters of New York Harbor, between The Battery and Governor's Island, had complex patterns of currents and tides, presenting navigational problems completely different from those in the Connecticut River. Ezra, who operated Turtle, trained through June, 1776 until he and David were satisfied that he was familiar with the tidal conditions. General Putnam gave them permission to attack the 64-gun British warship Eagle at the first opportunity.

The opportunity presented itself on July 12 when Lord Howe, the commander of the British naval forces, anchored HMS Eagle off Staten Island, but one adversity followed another. Ezra Bushnell became ill with fever and was unable to operate Turtle. Since General Putnam and George Washington agreed that the submarine should be tried against the enemy, Sergeant Ezra Lee of Old Lyme, Connecticut was selected from a group of volunteers to operate her. For the next two months, Ezra Lee trained intensively.

Near midnight of September 6, the moon and the tide were favorable for attack. Turtle was towed by a small rowboat toward Eagle. Halfway to Staten Island, the rowboat stopped, and Lee entered Turtle and fastened the hatch over his head. **For the first time in the history of naval warfare, a submarine was engaged in a war against an enemy ship.**

The *Turtle* was successfully launched in the early morning of September 7, 1776. It then went on to complete a mission against the British flagship, HMS *Eagle*, a 64-gun frigate moored at the port of New York harbor. The *Turtle* made its way underwater to the rudder of the *Eagle's* hull.

After diligent pedaling, Lee brought Turtle on the side of Eagle. After taking some ballast, he submerged completely. When he thought he was under his target, he pumped out a small quantity of water from the ballast tank, until a jarring bump indicated he was beneath Eagle. For the next few minutes, Lee vainly tried to attach a torpedo to her hull. When the air in his little cabin was almost used up, Lee had no choice but to abandon his attempt and surface. After replenishing the

air in the cabin and resting, he again descended underneath Eagle to try to affix a torpedo on her hull. He failed. A metal plate covered the area where he was trying to drill. Having consumed his air, he was forced to abandon his goal and surface.

Lee was exhausted, and the outgoing tide threatened to take the small craft out to sea. Desperately, he ejected all the ballast water and began pedaling with all his remaining strength. With the ballast water pumped out, one third of Turtle's hull stuck out of the water, making it clearly visible in daylight. In fact, as dawn broke, two British soldiers set out from Governor's Island in a patrol skiff to investigate the floating object. To divert the patrol and to lighten his craft, Lee released a time operated 250-pound (250 pounds = 113 Kilograms) torpedo and, picking up speed, reached The Battery and safety.

Soon thereafter, the torpedo exploded, shattering the silence of the early morning and arousing the British fleet. Quickly, the British raised their anchors and hurriedly moved their ships to the safer waters of lower New York Bay.

Although Turtle's original mission was unsuccessful, some historians claim that the venture was not a complete failure. They suggest that the incident drove the British ships to a new location from which they could not maintain an effective blockade of New York. Also, although Turtle inflicted no damage to any British vessel, an intangible psychological victory might have been attained, simply through her use as a weapon.

Turtle was equally unsuccessful in two subsequent efforts against Eagle and another British frigate. In both instances, the tides and tricky currents of New York Harbor frustrated the ventures. In an effort to move the submarine to areas where attacks could occur under more favorable conditions, Bushnell loaded Turtle aboard a fast sloop, hoping that the sloop could slip unnoticed past the British into Long Island Sound and back to Connecticut. A British frigate discovered the sloop, however, and, according to the British, sank her and her precious cargo.

Americans claimed that she was dismantled and moved inland to keep her out of enemy hands. Whatever the

final fate of Turtle, as the first American war submarine, she came to a premature end and closed a not-so-glorious chapter of maritime history in the American Revolution.

Not a commissioned U.S. Navy vessel, it was a military craft built for naval warfare and used in combat against the British Royal Navy during the American Revolutionary War. Since the **United States Navy did not exist until 1794**, the Turtle would not have been a Navy vessel in the official sense. However, it was a **naval weapon**, designed specifically to break the **British naval blockade** and attack Royal Navy ships.

In a 1785 letter to Thomas Jefferson, George Washington wrote, "*Bushnell is a man of great mechanical powers, fertile in inventions and master of execution ... I then thought, and still think, that it was an effort of genius*".

Sources: Naval History and Heritage Command / **Naval Documents of the Revolutionary War**
<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/s/submarine-turtle-naval-documents.html>

Connecticut River Museum
<https://ctrivermuseum.org/turtle-submarine/>

SAR / DAR Partnering

Notice: I am revising this section of the newsletter to reflect the partnership of the SAR and the DAR



From Vickie Evans Williams

I wanted to take a moment to remind each of you about the preparation required to have a successful blood drive on Oct. 10, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. ~ 3:30 p.m. in downtown Waxahachie. Carter's big bus will be parked outside the Ellis County Museum on the square in Waxahachie. These are things you can be doing right now. This is our National Day of Service project. Closer to the blood drive, I will be able to

send information from Carter BloodCare as to how to sign up online to donate blood. Please save the date and advertise, advertise, advertise to friends, family, your church, and organizations to which you belong.

Plan on being an active participant as we prepare for and conduct our National Day of Service on October 10th. "Be there on the square."

As Vicki says: "*Please remember that each donation has the potential to save 3 lives. What a worthwhile gift!*"

LAST WORDS

The Final Days of Thomas Jefferson

At 83 years old, **Thomas Jefferson** lay bedridden in his



alcove room at Monticello. His body was failing, broken by rheumatism and severe illness, but his mind remained fixated on a single, poetic ambition: he wanted to live to see the **50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.**

He knew his time was short. Weeks earlier, he had been forced to decline an invitation to Washington, D.C., to celebrate the upcoming Jubilee. Instead, on June 24, he dipped his quill one last time to author his final public letter. He wrote with his characteristic brilliance, calling the Declaration a "*signal of arousing men to burst the chains*" of ignorance.

In his final weeks, Jefferson was haunted by staggering financial debt. He knew his passing would likely force his family to lose Monticello—a heavy anxiety he carried alongside his physical agony. To comfort his daughter, Martha, he penned a touching farewell poem, writing, "*The last pang of life is in parting from you!*"

As the calendar turned to July, Jefferson drifted in and out of consciousness, kept comfortable by laudanum.

Yet, his final days became a literal race against the clock. His family noted that he woke up fitfully, not to ask about his health, but to check the date. On the evening of July 3, he looked at his physician, Dr. Robley Dunglison, and asked, "Is it the Fourth?" The doctor gently replied, "It soon will be."

Jefferson held on. He lived through the night and took his final breath at **12:50 p.m. on July 4, 1826**—exactly 50 years to the day after the country adopted his famous words.

His lifelong friend, rival, and fellow founding father, John Adams, passed away in Massachusetts just five hours later, unaware that the author of the Declaration had already gone before him. (John Adams's last words on July 4, 1826, were famously reported as "Thomas Jefferson survives" (or "Thomas Jefferson still lives").



Web Links

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

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

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalSocietySAR>

Texas Sons of the American Revolution

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

<https://www.facebook.com/thetexassar>

Ellis County Chapter #70

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1368629110703478>

SAR Patriot Search

<https://sarpatriots.sar.org/patriot/search>

SAR University

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

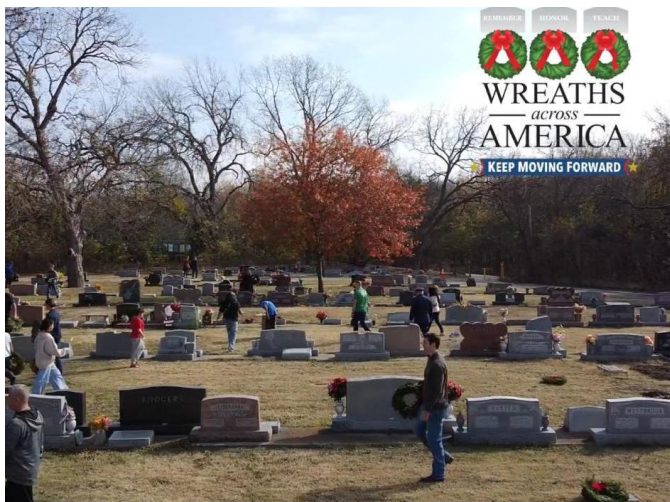
Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution

<https://www.txdar.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Texas-Society-DAR-61564337526320/>

DAR Ancestor Search

https://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search



Wreaths across America

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/14966>

Daughters of the American Revolution

For more information please contact

Barbara Coan, Registrar, Rebecca Boyce
Chapter, NSDAR at

barbaraanncoan@hotmail.com.



All donations will be collected at the Chapter monthly meetings and delivered to the Dallas VA Hospital. The list refers to the needs of Bonham, but needs are the same with the Dallas VA Hospital. Copy this list and take it with you when you go shopping. Remember the Vets.

This will be a recurring activity and contributions are applied to our 2026 SMART Report, category 3K.

Wants and Needs Listing

Comfort Items (Travel Size and Regular)

- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush (*Single pack*)
- Denture Cream
- Denture Cleaner
- Shower Gel/Wash (no bars)
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Powder
- Medicated Powder
- Shaving Cream
- Razors
- Manicure sets
- Hairbrushes
- Combs
- Hair Clips/Pony tail Holders
- Feminine Products
- Shower Shoes
- Lip Balm
- Hair Gel/Mousse

** If making a donation for comfort items, please remember all comfort items donated need to be new items.*

Other items needed for patients

- Phone Cards
- Envelopes #10
- Small writing tablets and Pen/Pencils
- Gas/Gift Cards for patients
- Reading Glasses (*Variety of Strengths*)
- Canteen Books
- Puzzle Books
- DART/TRE Passes
- Mailing Stamps
- Lap Robes
- Wheelchair bags
- Stoma Covers
- Bags/Luggage (new)
- Books

- Magazines (*no magazines over a year old will be accepted*)

Clothing (Gently worn items or new)

NOTICE:

The VA has stopped accepting donations of used clothing

Equipment Needs

- TV's
- DVD Players
- DVD's
- Wii/ Wii Games
- Refrigerators (*Small and Full Size*)
- Coffee Pots (*12 cup and larger*)
- Laptops
- Microwaves
- Fax Machines

Fund for Coffee Cart and Supplies

- Coffee
- Coffee Filters
- Sugar
- Artificial Sweetener (*Equal/Splenda/ Sweet and Low*)

Sons of the American Revolution Compatriots Military Service Record Form

SAR Compatriot Name:		SAR National Number:	
SAR Society and Chapter Information:			
Mailing Address:			
City:		State:	ZIP Code:
Telephone:		E-Mail Address:	
Date of Birth:		Date of Death:	
Occupation:			
Relationship to SAR Compatriot (Self, Wife, Sibling, Other):			
Service Number:		Dates of Service:	
Wars/Conflicts: World War I World War II Korea Vietnam Desert Storm Iraqi Freedom Other:			
Branch of Military: Army Navy Marine Corps Coast Guard Air Force Merchant Marine Reserves National Guard Other:			
Branch of Service (i.e. Infantry):			
Unit(s):			
Location of Unit(s):			
Highest Rank (Active Duty):			
Enlisted:	Warrant Officer:	Officer:	
Highest Rank (Reserve Duty):			
Enlisted:	Warrant Officer:	Officer:	
Status:			
Active Retired Discharged Reserved Other:			
Military Awards (Please Begin with Highest):			
Enclosed is a copy of my separation papers (DD-214 or equivalent): Yes No Other Document:			
Signature of Compatriot:			
Signature of Submitter:			

Information on obtaining a DD214 or equivalent is available on-line at <http://www.archives.gov/>

Please send to: Archives of Honor; SAR National Headquarters; 809 West Main Street; Louisville, Kentucky 40202-2619

Revised 08/31/2016