



Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Chisholm Trail News



Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter
 Fort Worth, Texas
 July 1, 2018

NEXT MEETING: July 21, 2018

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: Woodhaven Country Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Greetings Compatriots,

July 4th of each year, Americans celebrate the Signing of our Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and the birth of this greatest nation on earth, The United States of America.

We have grown from 13 loosely knit colonies to a Nation of 50 states. Our founding fathers could never have imagined a land which stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific and beyond, but they crafted a document that established a guide for that Nation - Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Our Declaration was not the first of documents crafted by belligerent subjects of King George III. Ten years earlier, Richard Henry Lee, one of the only two brothers to sign, had composed the Leedstown Resolves (aka Westmoreland Resolves) but that did not go so far as to Propose rebellion. Another, the Mecklenburg Resolutions, went further and some historians believe it was a precursor document for our Declaration. At either rate, our Declaration is a magnificent document that lives in Infamy, and people all over the world would like to have a similar declaration of their own.

Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams each respected it, and believed our nation should commemorate and celebrate it, with gusto for time immortal. Both died on its 50th birthday.

Let every American respect it and live by the dictates that it prescribes - Freedom from Tyranny.

Hoping to see you on Saturday, 21 July.

Gerry

CHAPTER OFFICERS
2018-2019

President

Gerald A. "Gerry" Gieger

Vice-President

Charles O. "Chase" Sanger IV

Secretary

Ronald J. "Ron" Turner

Treasurer

L. Vaughn Oliver

Registrar

David R. Davidson

Chaplain

Roger L. Tate

Sergeant-at-Arms & Color Guard Commander

Robert G. "Bobby" Gresham



THIS MONTH DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (1776-1780):

In July of 1776, George Washington's letter of June 29 is read to Congress. In it he announces the arrival of the British fleet in New York.

Congress formally adopts Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence, asserting that the "United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved." The vote is unanimous with only New York abstaining.

In a letter to his wife Abigail, John Adams writes: "Yesterday the greatest Question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men..."

In Philadelphia, Committee member Christopher Marshall writes how "...in the presence of a great concourse of people, the Declaration of Independence was read by John Nixon. The company declared their approbation, by three repeated huzzas. The King's arms were taken down in the Court Room, State House, same time."

A New York newspaper reports: "The Equestrian Statue of George III, erected in the year 1770, was thrown from its Pedestal and broken in Pieces; and we hear the Lead wherewith this Monument was made, is to be run into Bullets."

In New York, General Washington's aide, Colonel Samuel Webb recorded in his journal that he had refused a truce flag and letter delivered from Lord Howe. The letter concerned a meeting for presentation of Admiral Howe's offer of reconciliation which become only a pardon for all who would return their former loyalty to the King.

The New York Mercury reported that a second flag of truce from Lord Howe addressed to George Washington, Esq. was rejected, "for the same Reason as the former."

The Continental Congress, learning of Washington's refusal to accept Howe's misaddressed dispatch, asserted that the commander-in-chief "acted with a dignity becoming his station," and directed all American commanders to receive only letters addressed to them "in the characters they respectively sustain."

In Boston, loyalist lawyer William Lynchon of Salem wrote, "At noon the Congress Declaration of Independence of the Colonies on Great Britain was read in the balcony of the Town house; a regiment under arms, and artillery Co. in King Street, and the guns at the several batteries were fired, three cheers given, bells ringing, etc.; (in the) afternoon the King's arms were taken down and broken to pieces in King Street, and carried off by the people."

The Congress resolved to publish in "several gazettes," a copy of the circular letter and enclosed declaration which Lord Howe had sent to former Royal Governors Franklin, Penn, Eden, Dunmore, Martin, and Wright. They hoped that in publishing the Commission's terms "the few, who still remain suspended by a hope founded in justice or moderation of their late King, may now, at length, be convinced, that the valour alone of their country is to save its liberties."

Benjamin Franklin, who had received a copy of the Peace Commission's circular letter and declaration, wrote and thanked Lord Howe, but expressed regret that the dispatch was nothing more than "offers of pardon upon submission."

Congress informed Washington that their "confidence in his judgment" was such that they will give him no direction on the disposition of troops in and about New York.

In a letter to General Phillip Schuyler, Congress President John Hancock asserted that the Congress was "concerned to find there should be a necessity of recommending harmony to the officers and troops of different States under your command...nothing can show greater weakness or wickedness than to throw provincial reflections on one another, which must have direct tendency to impede publick service, and weaken the union of the American States."

Congress was in the midst of discussing the first draft of Dickinson's "Articles of Confederation." Among other things, they discussed the boundaries of the thirteen states. Jefferson believed all Indian lands should be immediately bought and that Congress should in no way fix state borders. Others, Samuel Chase and James Wilson among them, disagreed, setting the stage for later debate.

In the North Carolina frontier, to discourage a reported Indian alliance with the British, troops from Virginia, North and South Carolina invaded Cherokee territory and began a campaign which would ultimately destroy 32 Indian towns and villages.

THIS MONTH DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (1776-1780): (CONTINUED)

In Ticonderoga, New York, the Declaration of Independence was read by Colonel Arthur St. Clair and when he read, 'God save the free independent States of America' the Army manifested their joy with cheers. "It was remarkably pleasing to see the spirits of the soldiers so raised, after all their calamities; the language of every man's countenance was, Now we are people; we have a name among the States of this world."

In July of 1777, American Brigadier General Arthur St. Clair is not able to continue holding defense of Fort Ticonderoga and evacuates leaving substantial supplies behind. During this time, the British occupy an undefended Mount Defiance, which overlooks Fort Ticonderoga.

Hessians and the British under command of German General Friedrich von Riedesel and British General Simon Fraser defeat the retreating Americans at Hubbardton, Vermont. St. Clair is able to escape British pursuit.

At Fort Anne, New York, British forces capture boatloads of supplies as well as invalids of the American rear guard retreating from Skenesboro. However, the British do not achieve their main objective, which is to cut off the retreating American forces.

William Barton, a militia officer, captures British General Richard Prescott in Newport, Rhode Island.

British General William Howe departs from New York with 15,000 troops.

British Colonel Barry St. Leger's forces advance from Oswego to Albany to meet John Burgoyne's troops. 875 British, Tory, and Hessian troops as well as 1,000 Indians under the supervision of Joseph Brant are involved in this advance.

Marquis de Lafayette and Baron Johann de Kalb arrive in Philadelphia. These men eventually become two of the best of the foreign officers in the Continental army. To Congress's delight the Marquis de Lafayette volunteers to serve the Continental Army without pay.

General Philip Schuyler retreats down the Hudson River from Fort Edward, New York.

In July of 1778, Congress returns to Philadelphia after the British evacuate the city in June.

The French, led by Admiral Comte D'Estaing, capture the island of Grenada, West Indies, while also beating off a British counterattack led by Admiral John Bryon. The British lose 7 of their 21 ships during this engagement.

Washington establishes his headquarters at West Point, a strategic point that dominates the Hudson River. Polish engineer Thaddeus Kosciusko plays a significant role in the construction of the fortifications.

The French, commanded by Admiral Louis D'Orvilliers, engage the English fleet under the command of Admiral Augustus Keppel at the Battle of Ushant. Although the French fleet suffers twice as much damage as the British, they prevent the British from launching an invasion of France. Keppel is later court-martialed but exonerated for his actions during the battle.

In July of 1779, British Colonel Banastre Tarleton, commanding a force of 360 mounted Loyalists, attempts to capture Major Ebenezer Lockwood and defeat the 2nd Continental Dragoons at Poundridge, New York, located 20 miles northeast of White Plains. These 90 dragoons are supporting local militia. Casualties were light on both sides although Tarleton is elated at capturing the colors of the 2nd Continental Dragoons that are discovered in the officer's baggage.

The British commanded by General William Tryon, the last royal governor of New York, raid the Connecticut coast. Tryon gathers a force of 2,600 men at Whitestone, New York, and arrives at New Haven, Connecticut on July 4. The 150-man strong patriot militia is unable to stop Tryon from burning a number of homes and ships in the harbor. The towns of Fairfield, Norwalk, and Green's Farms receive similar treatment.

General Anthony Wayne launches a coup de main against British fortifications after being ordered to do so by Washington. Stony Point threatens West Point, which is only 12 miles up the Hudson River. Wayne, at the head of 1,200 soldiers, assaults what the British believe is an impregnable position losing only 15 killed and 83 wounded. British losses are 94 killed and wounded and 472 captured. Two days later, Wayne, now dubbed "Mad" for this attack, destroys the fortifications and evacuates the area.

THIS MONTH DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (1776-1780): (CONTINUED)

Massachusetts, without consulting either Continental political or military authorities, launches a 4,000-man expedition commanded by Commodore Dudley Saltonstall and Generals Peleg Wadsworth and Solomon Lovell. Their objective is an 800-man British garrison at Penobscot Bay. The expedition is a total failure. British warships destroy a large number of American ships while the patriots' losses are in excess of 470. The British accomplish this at a cost of only 13 men. Several American officers are later court-martialed because of this fiasco, including Paul Revere, who is acquitted.

Mohawk Indian Chief Joseph Brant, leading a mixed force of Loyalists and Indians, surrounds a force of colonial militia commanded by Lieutenant Colonel (Dr.) Benjamin Tusten at Minisink, New York. The patriots are overwhelmed and Tusten and approximately 45 others are killed in the battle and ensuing massacre while 29 others manage to escape.

In July of 1780, Captain Christian Huck, a prominent Loyalist attorney from Philadelphia, leads a mixed force of British dragoons and Loyalists from Rocky Mount against the backwoods Scotch-Irish, whom he loathes. The engagement takes place at Williamson's Plantation when the Patriots launch a surprise attack at dawn inflicting complete defeat on the British forces. British losses are variously given at 25-50 killed, including Huck, at least twice as many wounded, and 29 captured. Continental morale receives a boost.

Led by General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, 2 brigades of Pennsylvania militia, supported by 4 artillery pieces, attempt to destroy a fortified blockhouse located approximately 4 miles north of Hoboken. The 70 Loyalists are able to hold on despite the best efforts of the Americans. The Patriot losses amount to 18 men killed and 46 wounded in this unsuccessful assault.

General Horatio Gates takes command of the Southern Army from General Johann De Kalb at Coxe's Mill, North Carolina. The Americans number about 1,200 regulars that are severely debilitated by hunger and are in need of equipment. This force is supported by a large group of militia whose number is unknown. De Kalb remains with the force as part of Gates' headquarters staff.

Patriot forces numbering 600, led by Colonel Isaac Shelby, take Thicketty Fort (Fort Anderson), located ten miles southeast of Cowpens and held by a Loyalist garrison, without firing a shot. This action precedes the Battle of Kings Mountain.



On June 8th, Compatriot David Davidson presented Vietnam Commemorative Pins to Veterans at the Fort Worth HUD/VASH Supportive Housing Quarterly meeting. He was assisted by Denise Salubi, HUD Case Manager, and photographer, Compatriot Ron Turner.

On June 9th, the Color Guard presented the colors at the Flag Ceremony conducted by the Fort Worth DAR Chapter at the Cowtown Museum. Compatriots Ron Turner, David Davidson, Kevin Shellman, and Commander Bobby Gresham made up the Color Guard unit.



The Museum of the American Revolution

The month of July is a prime vacation month for Americans and what better way to spend your vacation than visiting the **Museum of the American Revolution** in Philadelphia. It was formerly The American Revolution Center and is dedicated to telling the story of the American Revolution. The museum was opened to the public on April 19, 2017, the anniversary of the first battle of the war, Lexington and Concord, on April 19, 1775.



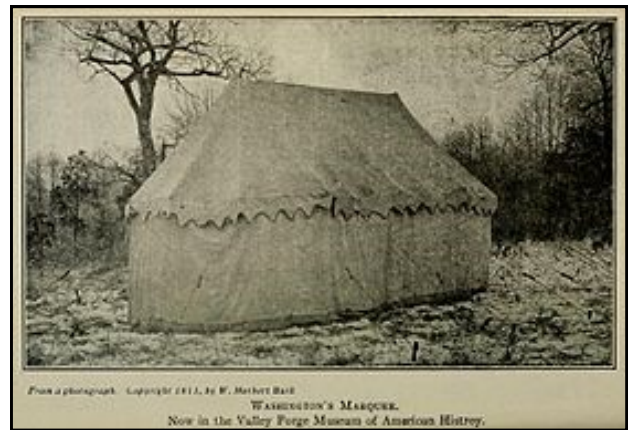
At the museum, you can see distinguished collections of several thousand objects. Included in the collections are items owned and used by General George Washington during the War of Independence, an extensive collection of historic firearms and edged weapons, important art and manuscripts, and rare books, all to engage you in the history and continuing relevance of the American Revolution.

The museum is located in the historic heart of Philadelphia. It is across the street from the First Bank of the United States and two blocks from Independence Hall, the National Constitution Center, Second Bank of the

United States, American Philosophical Society, Carpenter's Hall, and the Liberty Bell.

The museum is arranged so you follow a chronological journey from the roots of conflict in the 1760s to the rise of armed resistance, the Declaration of Independence of 1776 through the final years of the war.

Immersive gallery experiences show you a full-scale replica of Boston's Liberty Tree and the recreation of an Oneida Indian Council. In the Battlefield Theater, you experience the Battle of Brandywine. You see a recreation of Independence Hall and a large model of an 18th-century privateer ship. See one of the most iconic surviving artifacts of the Revolution: General Washington's Headquarters Tent, which served as both his office and sleeping quarters throughout much of the war.



Other items of special note include silver camp cups from Washington's field equipment, wartime correspondence and books from Washington's library, the thirteen-star flag known as the Commander-in-Chief's Standard, a copy of the first newspaper printing of the Declaration of Independence, printed by the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* on July 6, 1776, Hessian headgear, the British plan of the Battle of Brandywine, and soldier's letters and orderly books as well as volumes owned by Patrick Henry, George Mason and other founders.

The museum located at 101 S. 3rd St., Philadelphia, 19106, is open Sunday-Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.





On June 14th, members of the Capt. Nathaniel Mills Chapter hosted a DAR Vietnam Veteran 50th Anniversary event at the Presbyterian Night Shelter in Fort Worth. Pictured are: Donna Moore, Barbara Collier, Ann Marie Thompson, and Jan Turner. Not pictured is Judy Ramos, Regent.



Compatriot Ron Turner (r), and David Davidson (l) distributed a total of 9 pins to Vietnam Veterans.



Compatriots Ron Turner, with David Davidson assisting, presented a Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Pin to Vietnam Vets at the Presbyterian Night Shelter in Fort Worth.



History of the SAR Flag (or Banner?)

Author: Rae Ann Sauer

Published on January 31, 2018

When a recent inquiry from an SAR member to the staff was made regarding the history of the SAR flag, the staff was surprised to find that unlike most of the society's symbols and notable events, there was little extant literature of its history. This led to some research into the society's archives, which revealed an intriguing history of how the flag came into existence.

According [to] Bylaw No. 28 Official Standard, found in Volume 1 page 38 of the current SAR Handbook, "The official SAR Flag consists of three equal vertical bars of blue, white and buff, the blue to be at the hoist. Upon the center or white bar is the insignia of the Society and the name, 'The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.'"

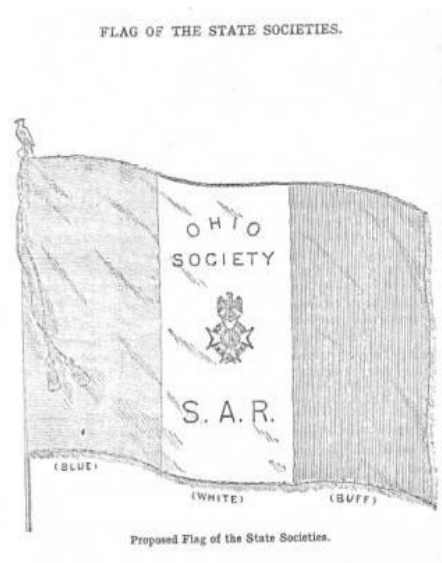


Unlike some SAR regalia, such as the membership badge and lapel pin, the SAR flag wasn't introduced at the founding of the society in 1889. It was at the 1897 SAR Congress that the idea for an official flag of the National Society was first introduced. At the next Congress in 1898, there was a discussion about creating a committee to investigate the matter. However, there were many in attendance who did not feel the society needed to adopt a national flag, feeling that it might detract from the importance of the United States flag. In the end, it was decided that a committee would be formed to investigate the issue and was called the "Committee on the Adoption of a National Banner for the S.A.R. Society."

At the next Congress in 1899 the committee reported their findings to those assembled. The committee also put forth a resolution that the National Society adopt three flags, two for the National Society, and one for the State Societies. The first national flag was to "...be a silk flag of the United States colors, bearing no inscription or device whatever...", while the second was to "...be of silk material, having thirteen stripes of alternate buff and blue, with a white field, upon which shall be embroidered in gold the cross of the insignia of the Society." These flags were proposed to be a regulation flag size of four feet four inches by five feet six inches.



The state society flag was proposed to be "...a flag of silk material, of the same regulation size, having three broad perpendicular bars of equal breadth, and in color blue, white and buff, with the blue next [to] the staff. Upon the center of the white bar shall be embroidered in gold the insignia of the Sons of the American Revolution (including eagle.) And in gold letters, either painted or embroidered, the inscription ".....Society S.A.R...."."



Once the flags were proposed by the committee, a debate ensued regarding whether the society needed its own flag when there was already the United States flag for all to unite under. It was decided to give the matter further consideration and not take a vote on the issue at that time.

At the 1900 Congress, the subject was once again brought to the forefront. Further discussion was held regarding the proposed designs of the SAR flags. Some members felt that the proposed national SAR flag too closely resembled or would deter members from using the United States flag. It was suggested SAR adopt the proposed state society flag, but it would be known as a banner, rather than a flag. This motion was approved. Next, it was proposed that instead of the proposed national SAR flag, the state society banner be adopted as the National banner "...with this change that in place of the name of the State Society, there shall be inscribed the name of the National Society." This motion was passed, and with it, the SAR gained its official standard which is still in use today.

Sources:

SAR Handbook
1899 SAR Yearbok
1900 SAR Yearbook

"Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Beside, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of Nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us."
— Patrick Henry

JUNE MINUTES

Please review the minutes for our June chapter meeting prior to attending the next meeting in July.

<http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/docs/minutes/minutes201806.pdf>

Significant days and observances for the United States Armed Forces

July 4 - Independence Day

July 27 - Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (1953)

July 29 - Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps

Calendar of Events

2018

- July 4 White Lake Hills Independence Day Parade, Fort Worth (CG)
- July 12-18 **NSSAR** National Congress, Houston (CG)
- July 21 Chapter Meeting, Woodhaven Country Club, Fort Worth
- August 11 Oakwood Cemetery Graveside Marker Dedication, Corsicana (CG)
- August 18 Chapter Meeting, Woodhaven Country Club, Fort Worth
- October 5-6 **Texas SAR** Fall BOM, New Braunfels
- September 15 Chapter Meeting, Woodhaven Country Club, Fort Worth
- October 20 Chapter Meeting, Woodhaven Country Club, Fort Worth
- November 10 Veteran's Day Parade, Fort Worth (CG)
- November 17 Chapter Meeting, Woodhaven Country Club, Fort Worth
- December 1 **Texas SAR** participation in the Dickens on the Strand Parade, Galveston (CG)

2019

- March 6 General Granbury Parade, Granbury (CG)
 - April 3-7 **Texas SAR** 124th Annual Conference, Austin (CG)
 - April 13 **Texas SAR** participation in the Medal of Honor Parade, Gainesville (CG)
- (CG) = Color Guard event



- July 3 Matthew Micajah Truitt
- July 8 Robert James Devine
- July 8 Robert Maitland Howe, Jr.
- July 10 Bryan Hart Blakely
- July 11 James Edward Alderman
- July 12 Mikel James Lokensgard
- July 13 David Richard Davidson
- July 21 Carl Thomas Blakely
- July 21 Zachary Vann Cunningham
- July 24 Timothy Ted Hawkins
- July 26 John David Anderson, Jr.
- July 26 Rolland Jory Moraine
- July 29 Thomas Paul Wilkinson
- July 31 John William Via III

THE COLOR GUARD IS ALWAYS RECRUITING

Several times a year the Chapter is asked to present the colors or provide a color guard or honor guard for various civic functions. We are always looking for new members. Please contact the chapter color guard commander, Compatriot Bobby Gresham, at email address: gresham817@att.net.



MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Our chapter membership levels as of July 1, 2018, are:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Active / Current Member | 95 |
| NSSAR Life..... | 5 |
| TXSSAR Perpetual | 13 |
| Active / New Member | 7 |
| Active / Reinstated | 5 |
| Deceased | 2 |
| Dual w/Other Primary State..... | 1 |
| Emeritus (50+ years) | 1 |
| Inactive by Member Request ... | 2 |
| Junior Member / Reinstated | 1 |
| Junior Member | 3 |
| Not Paid (Current Year) | 14 |
| Not Paid (Dual State) | 2 |
| Reinstated / Transferred In | 1 |
| Transferred In..... | 1 |
| Memorial..... | 0 |

Our membership currently is **115**.



See You At The Meeting!!!

Visit and bookmark our chapter website at <http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/index.htm>.

Visit and Like/Follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/vanzandtsar/>.

Join our Google Group for emails at <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/sar-km-van-zandt>.

Visit and Like/Follow the Texas Society Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/txssar>.