

The Chisholm Trail News

JANUARY 1, 2026

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJ. K.M. VAN ZANDT CHAPTER

RON TURNER, EDITOR



Wreaths Across America



(l to r) Don Woodworth, Bobby Gresham, Jeff & Kimberly Sparks, Joe Wade & James Alderman

Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth, Saturday, December 13, 2025

Upcoming Meetings You Do Not Want to Miss!

At our January 19th meeting, District 5 Vice President Art Munford will administer the oath of office to the new slate of officers who will guide the chapter for the next two years.

At our February 21st meeting, Texas SAR President Mel Oller will be our special guest. For our Color Guardsmen counting points towards the Galvez medals, a presidential visit counts as a state event so be sure to wear your colonial uniform.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

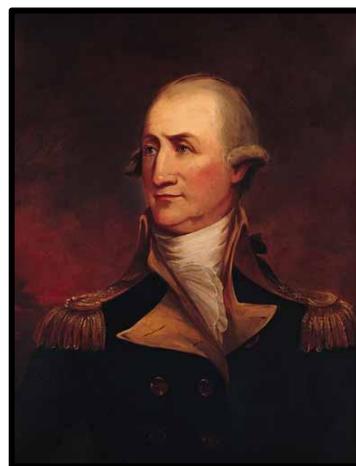
The 8th Virginia Regiment

The 8th Virginia Regiment or German Regiment was an infantry unit that served in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Authorized in January 1776, the regiment was raised from men of several northwestern counties in the strength of 10 companies. Its first commander was Colonel Peter Muhlenberg, a clergyman and militia leader. The unit marched to defend Charleston, South Carolina in 1776, but saw no fighting. At the start of 1777, the 8th Virginia moved to join George Washington's main army. When Muhlenberg was promoted to general officer, Colonel Abraham Bowman took command of the unit.

Assigned to the 4th Virginia Brigade of Charles Scott, the 8th Virginia Regiment was heavily engaged at Brandywine and Germantown in the late summer and fall of 1777. Soon after, the unit was reduced to an eight company establishment and John Neville became its colonel. Shortly after the regiment fought at Monmouth in June 1778, it was reassigned to the 3rd Virginia Brigade. James Wood assumed command of the 8th Virginia in September 1778. The unit was merged with the 4th Virginia Regiment on 12 May 1779 and went out of existence. Exactly a year later, the 4th Virginia was captured by the British army at the Siege of Charleston.

Formation to Germantown

The 8th Virginia Regiment was raised beginning on 11 January 1776 for service with the Virginia State Troops. The unit's first commanding officer was patriot leader and pastor Peter Muhlenberg, who became a militia colonel in 1775 at the request of Washington. In his last sermon from the pulpit, Muhlenberg read from Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to pray; but there is also a time to fight, and that time has now come." He removed his clerical robes to show that he was wearing his uniform as a militia colonel. He quickly enlisted 300 men from his congregation in the unit that became the 8th Virginia. Muhlenberg was appointed colonel on 1 March 1776. The 8th Virginia organized at Suffolk County Court House between 9 February and 4 April 1776. The unit's 10 companies came from Augusta, Berkeley, Culpeper, Dunmore, Fincastle, Frederick, and Hampshire Counties, plus the District of West Augusta. On 25 May 1776 the regiment officially became part of the Continental Army. Aside from Colonel Muhlenberg, the unit's field officers were Lieutenant Colonel Abraham Bowman and Major Peter Helphenstine.



Peter Muhlenberg

In 1776, Virginia regiments were typically organized into 10 companies, of which seven carried muskets and three carried rifles. The regiment's 792-man roster had three field officers, and a staff that included an adjutant, quartermaster, surgeon, surgeon's mate, chaplain, sergeant major, quartermaster sergeant, and drum major. Each company consisted of one captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and 64 privates.

The 8th Virginia marched south to Charleston, South Carolina and was there in time for the Battle of Sullivan's Island on 28 June 1776, but it was not in action. On 21 January 1777, the regiment received orders to join George Washington's main army. Muhlenberg was promoted brigadier general on 21 February and Abraham Bowman became colonel of the 8th Virginia on 22 March. At

that time, the other two field officers were Lieutenant Colonel John Markham and Major William Darke. On 11 May 1777, the unit was assigned to the 4th Virginia Brigade, together with the 4th and 12th Virginia Regiments, Grayson's Additional Continental Regiment, and Patton's Additional Continental Regiment. Charles Scott was appointed to lead the brigade.

At the Battle of Brandywine on 11 September 1777, Scott's and William Woodford's Virginia brigades were part of Adam Stephen's division. That morning, Sir William Howe marched one wing of his army 17 miles to reach a position in the rear of the American right flank. George Washington immediately ordered the divisions of Stephen, John Sullivan, and Lord Stirling to block Howe. Stephen's 1,500 troops held the right, Stirling's 1,500 men defended the center, and Sullivan's soldiers began forming on the left of the position. The Americans were outnumbered by about 8,000 to 4,000 men. Supported by two cannons, Stephen's division held a wooded hill in an area called Sandy Hollow. At first, the division sturdily held its ground against the British 2nd Light Infantry Battalion and the Hessian Jägers. The British attack broke Sullivan's division first. Attacked in front and on their newly exposed left flank, Stirling's men withdrew next. At last, the British converged on Scott's brigade, which held the left flank of Stephen's line. The Virginians finally gave way and retreated.

At the Battle of Germantown on 4 October 1777, Scott's brigade in Stephen's division accompanied Nathanael Greene's column. Washington planned for this body of troops to assault the British right flank while Sullivan and Stirling attacked the enemy left. Sullivan's and Anthony Wayne's divisions attacked first and made some progress, but Greene's wing was late in arriving. The deployment of Greene's column was confused. The divisions of Greene and Stephen advanced so quickly that Alexander McDougall's Connecticut Brigade lost sight of them. Meanwhile, Stephen accused Scott of separating his brigade from the division. One observer believed that the brigades of Scott and Muhlenberg (in Greene's division) attacked together. Part of Woodford's brigade and its supporting artillery stopped to fire on 100 British troops at the Chew House. As Stephen's division went forward, it encountered some of Wayne's troops in the fog and a friendly fire incident resulted which caused Wayne's men to retreat.

Monmouth to Charleston



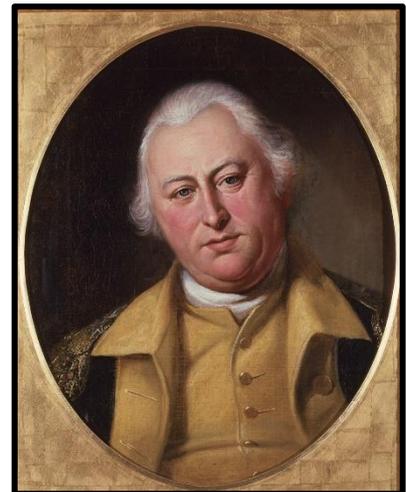
William Grayson led a detachment at Monmouth.

The number of companies in the regiment was reduced to eight on 1 November 1777. John Neville took command of the 8th Virginia on 10 December. At the Battle of Monmouth, the 4th, 8th, and 12th Virginia Regiments fought as a converged battle group under the command of James Wood. The Virginians were part of William Grayson's 600-man detachment along with Grayson's and Patton's Additional Continental Regiments and Thomas Wells' two-gun company of the 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment. Under the overall command of Charles Lee, Grayson's detachment led the American column of march at 8:00 AM on 28 June 1778. Meanwhile, Philemon Dickinson's New Jersey militia was being pushed back by the Queen's Rangers. As Grayson's detachment approached, the Queen's Rangers withdrew to the east. Dickinson advised Grayson not to advance across a bridge because it would put his troops in a difficult position with British troops nearby. However, Lee placed Wayne in command of Grayson, two detachments under Richard Butler and Henry Jackson, and Eleazer

Oswald's four cannons and sent the troops forward about 9:00 AM. Seeing British troops at 9:30 AM, Wayne sent Butler and Jackson to attack them while holding back Grayson's men.

Lee soon saw that, instead of a small rear guard, he faced Sir Henry Clinton and at least 6,000 troops. At this point, a number of American units began retreating without orders. One of Lee's aides ordered Grayson to pull back. Unable to halt the retrograde movement, Lee ordered a general retreat before the unexpected British advance. As Washington rode forward, he was distressed to see Lee's division retreating, led by Grayson's and Patton's Additional Regiments. Farther on, Washington encountered Walter Stewart and Nathaniel Ramsey and asked them to hold off the British with their detachments. They formed their men in a dense wood on the left while Jeremiah Olney and Henry Livingston Jr. deployed behind a hedgerow on the right, supported by Oswald's four guns. It is probable that Wood's Virginians joined Stewart and Ramsey on the left. A sharp action followed as the Americans in the trees ambushed the 1st Battalion of the Brigade of Guards as it attempted to move past. Stung by the surprise fire which wounded their commander, the Guards stormed the woods at the cost of 40 casualties and drove the Americans into the open. Stewart was wounded while Ramsey was cut down and captured by troopers of the British 16th Light Dragoons. British grenadiers then overran the hedgerow after heavy fighting that claimed the life of Colonel Henry Monckton.

On 22 July 1778, the 8th Virginia transferred to the 3rd Virginia Brigade. James Wood became colonel on 14 September 1778 and led the unit for the remainder of its career. The regiment was merged into the 4th Virginia Regiment on 12 May 1779. Under the command of Woodford, about 750 Virginia Continentals arrived at Charleston, South Carolina on 6 April 1780 after a march of 500 miles in four weeks. The Siege of Charleston ended on 12 May 1780 with Benjamin Lincoln's surrender. At least 2,650 American Continentals were captured in addition to militiamen. Among the prisoners were the soldiers of the 4th Virginia.



Benjamin Lincoln

The 8th Virginia was known as the German Regiment. The regiment should not be confused with Colonel Nicholas Haussegger's regiment, which was known as the German Battalion.

Service Record

Designation ^[1]	Date	Brigade	Department
8th Virginia Regiment	11 January 1776	none	none
8th Virginia Regiment	25 May 1776	none	Southern
8th Virginia Regiment	21 January 1777	none	Main Army
8th Virginia Regiment	11 May 1777	4th Virginia	Main Army
8th Virginia Regiment	22 July 1778	3rd Virginia	Main Army
8th Virginia Regiment	12 May 1779	3rd Virginia	consolidated

~ [8th Virginia Regiment - Wikipedia](#)

Chapter Registrar's Report

Updated 31 Dec 2025

Compatriot	Patriot	Type	Action
2026 Approvals			
Current National Review			
Steven James Hole	Thomas Bishop	Supp	Received 21 Jul 2025
Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer	Benjamin Brimer	Supp	Received 20 Oct 2025
Pending State Review			
Clarence Bryan Kloppe III	Robert Lemon		NEW
Kyle Thaddeus Kloppe	Robert Lemon		NEW
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Robert R. Coleman, Sr.		NEW
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Roe		NEW
Pended Application by National Genealogist			
Joseph Paul DeWoody	James Alexander	Supp	Pended 09 Sep 2023
Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer	Joseph Benton	Supp	Pended 17 Jul 2023
Guy Thomas Bransford	William Bransford	NEW	Pended 22 Jan 2024
Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer	John King	Supp	Pended 06 May 2024
Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer	Thomas Connelley	Supp	Pended 16 May 2024
Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer	James Wooten	Supp	Pended 12 Nov 2024
Kenneth Kimberlin Brimer	John Childress	Supp	Pended 12 Nov 2024
Steven James Hole	Winifred Wiggins	Supp	Pended 03 Sep 2025

Chaplain Smith Available for Pastoral Care?

Chapter Chaplain Ralph Smith wants to encourage compatriots to contact him with any concerns for which they would like prayer.

Chaplain Smith writes, "Doesn't matter if the issue is personal or for any family member. I'm available by text or call, 817-808-1420. Texts are better when [you] are not in my contacts. Or by email at rsmithj74@gmail.com.

I'll be happy to pray for and/or with [you]. If [you] would like a personal visit, I will do my best to comply. I want to be more connected and available to serve [you] personally and confidentially."

Member Contact Information Change

Please complete and submit this form to report changes to your contact information. When submitted, this information is sent to the Texas SAR Secretary and to the National Office in Louisville.

End of Year Reports

It's time to notify the chapter of any activities for the year ending December 31, 2025, that need to be included in the Americanism or Stark Report. This includes any state meetings attended, color guard activities, flag certificates presented, Vietnam Era lapel pins presented, veteran funerals attended, or veterans' donations or visits to the VA. Send an email to [Chapter President Ron Turner](#).

2026 Calendar of Events

- January 17 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
INSTALLATION OF 2026-2027 OFFICERS
- February 21 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
Texas SAR President Mel Oller special guest (CG-S)
- March 11-14 Texas DAR State Convention, Dallas
- March 21 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- April 16-19 Texas SAR State Convention, Austin (CG-S)
- April 17 Medal of Honor Parade, Gainesville (CG-S)
- April 18 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- May 16 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- May 25 Memorial Day (CG-N)
- June 20 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- July 10-16 136th SAR Annual Congress, Greensboro, NC (CG-N)
- July 18 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- August 15 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- September 19 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- October 17 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
- November 21 Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth

(CG) = Color Guard event, (C) = Chapter, (S) = State, (N) = National



Jan 1	William L. Schwetke
Jan 3	Steven S. Fuller, Jr.
Jan 5	Raymond L. Leftwich David A. Rankin
Jan 6	Kenneth G. Rigoulot II
Jan 11	Richard L. Vandever Brian K. Faherty
Jan 13	Robert L. Goode, Jr.
Jan 16	Austing E. Davis
Jan 18	Floyd M. Cox
Jan 20	Jeremy M. Petosa
Jan 25	Billy E. Thompson Thomas E. Samuelson

Texas SAR History – Vol. 3 – LAST CALL

The Texas SAR History – Vol 3 is being compiled currently. All Compatriots are asked to submit a brief bio of your service with the SAR. A form is available on-line at https://www.texassar.org/pdf/TexasSAR_CompatriotQuestionnaire.pdf. This information is being requested to be submitted ASAP. You can send to John Anderson, Texas SAR Historian at historian@texassar.org. Please submit your bio information as soon as possible.

Compatriot Society Anniversaries in January

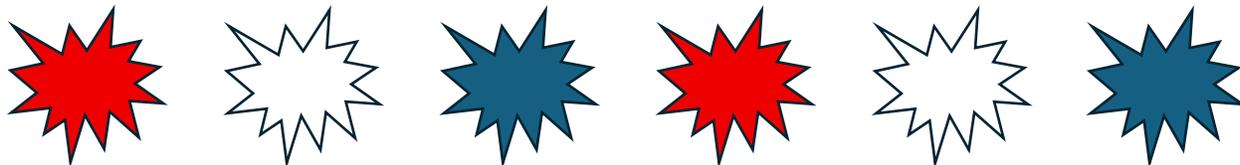
Thank you for your continued service to our Society and your dedication to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to future generations

Jan 3	40 yrs	David P. Brown
Jan 17	26 yrs	James E. Alderman
Jan 28	26 yrs	Robert J. Devine
Jan 17	14 yrs	John K. Faherty
Jan 27	9 yrs	David N. Boyd
Jan 31	6 yrs	Andrew K. Walker
Jan 31	6 yrs	M. Anthony Walker
Jan 14	4 yrs	Charles W. Thomas
Jan 27	3 yrs	Bryant M. Jarrell
Jan 24	1 yr	Timothy W. Ulrich
Jan 24	1 yr	William A. Ulrich



WOW! You Came Through for WAA 2026!

You are amazing! Wreaths Across America promotes a 2-for-1 program at the end of each year. Our goal for 2026 is again 150 wreaths for Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. Through your generosity with the 2-for-1 program, we have already reached 64.0% of our goal, or 96 wreaths. Well done, compatriots!



The SAR Mission Statement

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.

General Information

The Sons of the American Revolution is the leading male lineage society that perpetuates the ideals of the War for Independence.

As an historical, educational, and patriotic non-partisan, non-profit corporation organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, we seek to maintain and expand the meaning of patriotism, respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and the unifying force of “e pluribus unum” that was created from the people of many nations—one nation and one people.

The Chisholm Trail News is published for members and friends of the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt Chapter #6, Texas SAR.

The American’s Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States, a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

William Tyler Page, 1917, accepted by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 3, 1918.



Important Links

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

Join our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292616193535075/>

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>.

Did You Notice the Change?

With a new year comes changes. Last fall, Microsoft announced the discontinuation of its *MS Publisher* software effective in October 2026. Its replacement is supposedly an enhanced version of *MS Word* or *MS PowerPoint*. In preparation for this huge and disappointing change, your newsletter editor made the decision to move to *Word* effective with this edition of *The Chisholm Trail* newsletter. You will notice a simplified layout of the content. *Word* is simply not as robust as *Publisher* when it comes to laying out content. If you have suggestions on enhancing our monthly newsletter, please email Ron Turner at rjturner0815@gmail.com.



Membership Status

Our chapter membership levels as of December 31, 2025, are:

Active / Current Member.....	102
NSSAR Life.....	11
TXSSAR Perpetual.....	11
Active/New Member	10
Active/Reinstated (current yr)	11
Active/Reinstated (Over 1 yr)	0
Deceased (current yr)	1
Deceased Perpetual (current yr)	0
Dual w/Other Primary State	2
Emeritus (50+ years)	0
Junior Member/Reinstated.....	0
Junior SAR Member.....	2
Non-Paid Junior Member	0
Not Paid (Current Year).....	13
Not Paid Dual State	1
Reinstated/Transferred In	0
Transferred In	2
Dual Members (other chapters).....	3

Our active membership currently is 127.

Chapter Officers

2024-2025

President
 Vice-President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Acting Registrar
 Assistant Registrars

 Chaplain
 Historian
 Quartermaster
 Sergeant-at-Arms
 Color Guard Commander

Ronald J. TURNER
 Steven J. HOLE
 Vacant
 M. Anthony WALKER
 Ronald J. TURNER
 Steven J. HOLE
 Arthur G. MUNFORD
 Ralph E. SMITH
 John D. ANDERSON, Jr.
 John D. ANDERSON, Jr.
 J. Vann CUNNINGHAM
 J. Vann CUNNINGHAM

2026-2027

Steven J. HOLE
 Jeffrey W. SPARKS
 E. Bruce MORGAN
 Gregory A. RIFFEL
 Ronald J. TURNER
 Arthur G. MUNFORD

 Ralph E. SMITH

 J. Vann CUNNINGHAM
 J. Vann CUNNINGHAM

