

The Chisholm Trail News

AUGUST 1, 2026

MEETINGS, 3RD SATURDAY, JANUARY – NOVEMBER, 9:00 A.M.

DIAMOND OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

5821 DIAMOND OAKS LANE NORTH

FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76117



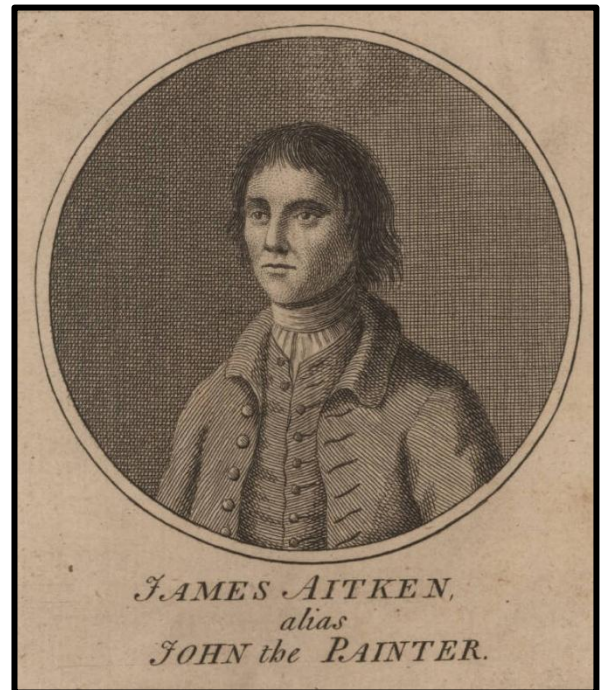
John the Painter

James Aitken, also known as John the Painter, was a Scottish mercenary who committed acts of sabotage in Royal Navy dockyards in 1776 and 1777 during the American Revolutionary War. He was captured and executed in March 1777.

Aitken was born in Edinburgh on 28 Sep 1752, the son of a whitesmith (tinsmith) and the eighth of twelve children. The early death of his father allowed Aitken to enter the charitable school for impoverished children at George Heriot's Hospital, which was founded to care for the "puir, faitherless bairns" of Edinburgh.

Upon leaving school at age 14, he tried his hand at a variety of low-paying trades, including an apprenticeship as a painter in 1767, before finding that the world of criminal activity offered him more immediate rewards. He admitted in his testament to being a highwayman, burglar, shoplifter, robber, and (on at least one occasion) a rapist:

... I made the best of my way through Winchester to Basingstoke, intending to return to London. Going over a down near Basingstoke, I saw a girl watching some sheep, upon whom, with some threats and imprecations, I committed a rape, to my shame it be said.



Fearful that his crimes would soon be detected, Aitken negotiated an indenture in exchange for a voyage to Jamestown, Virginia. He had no real intention of serving the terms of the indenture, however, and soon escaped to North Carolina. His next two years in the colonies were spent in such locales as Philadelphia, Boston, New York City, and Perth Amboy, New Jersey. It was during this period that he became exposed to revolutionary rhetoric, and Aitken claimed that he had been harassed by British troops for being a suspected Whig. At some point after a 1775 return trip to

England, he developed his scheme of committing political arsons. Some historians have speculated that Aitken was motivated by a desire to escape his life of insignificance and poverty and believed that by striking a blow on behalf of the American revolutionaries, he would be recognized and handsomely rewarded for his efforts.

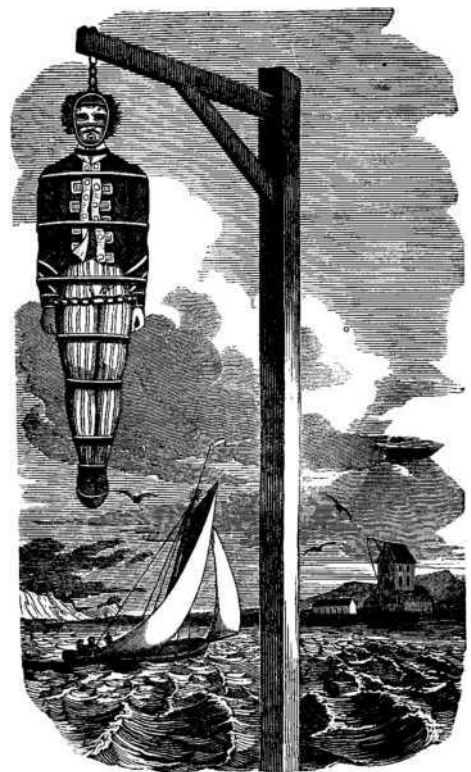
The British dockyards, Aitken believed, were vulnerable to attack, and he was convinced that one highly motivated arsonist could cripple the Royal Navy by destroying ships in the harbors, but more importantly the dockyards and ropewalks used to build, refit, and repair the massive Royal Navy fleet. Despite being a wanted fugitive for his other crimes, Aitken travelled freely to several dockyards to determine their vulnerability. Additionally, he travelled to Paris where he eventually forced himself into a meeting with American diplomat Silas Deane. Although Deane was skeptical that Aitken would be successful, Aitken left the meetings believing that he had the full backing of Deane and the American revolutionary government. Aitken never received remuneration beyond a few pounds that Deane lent him.

Aitken returned to England with Deane's instruction to meet the American expatriate, spy, and double-agent Edward Bancroft, and disclosed to Bancroft at least some of his intentions. Using his training with mixing chemicals and paint solvents from his trade as a painter, Aitken solicited the help of several others in constructing crude incendiary devices with the intention of burning down the highly flammable buildings in the Royal Dockyards. Over the course of several months Aitken attacked facilities in Portsmouth and Bristol, creating the impression that a band of saboteurs was on the loose in England.

Aitken's exploits, though only marginally successful at causing meaningful damage, did succeed in generating a significant amount of panic among the British public and government. Unsurprisingly, other fires detected during the same time period were incorrectly attributed to Aitken, fanning the alarm. At the height of the crisis, King George III was receiving frequent briefings and groups such as the Bow Street Runners were on the trail of Aitken. Eventually, through the help of Sir John Fielding, a description of Aitken naming him "John the Painter" and a reward for his capture were posted. Soon after, Aitken was arrested while travelling through the country.

Over the course of his imprisonment, British authorities were initially unsuccessful in gaining sufficient evidence to convict him of the sabotage. However, they soon co-opted John Baldwin, a young former Philadelphia painter, who visited Aitken frequently in prison and eventually gained his trust. Aitken soon provided a great deal of incriminating information to this agent, which was subsequently used in locating witnesses and strengthening the state's case against him.

British authorities hanged John the Painter on 10 Mar 1777 from the mizzenmast of HMS *Arethusa* for arson in royal dockyards after he was caught setting the rope house at



Gibbeting was a common law punishment, most often used for traitors, robbers, murderers, highwaymen, and pirates and was intended to discourage others from committing similar offences.

Portsmouth on fire. The mast was struck from the ship and re-erected at the dockyard entrance so as many people as possible could watch the execution. It was the highest gallows ever used in an execution in England. Some 20,000 people reportedly witnessed the hanging. His remains were gibbeted and displayed at Fort Blockhouse for several years.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_the_Painter
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gibbeting>

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We don’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

President Ronald Reagan

South Central District Annual Meeting

Texas SAR is one of five societies that makes up SAR’s South Central District (SCD). The other state societies are Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas, affording the acronym MOKAT. The South Central District meets annually in August. The host society rotates among the five states in this order: Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Dallas Chapter and Texas SAR are the hosts for this year’s meeting. This year’s meeting will take place from August 20th through August 23rd at the Hilton Richardson Dallas, 701 East Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75081.

Hotel reservations must be placed directly with the hotel before 24 July 2026. Links to both hotel and meeting registration are available online at <https://texas.org/scd/>.

This is a perfect opportunity for Color Guardsmen. Local Color Guardsmen who will NOT attend the meetings and NOT be voting delegates do NOT need to register – UNLESS they are buying a breakfast or dinner meal.



The Last Surviving Pensioner of the American Revolution

Daniel Frederick Bakeman was the last survivor receiving a veteran's pension for service in the American Revolution War (1775-1783).

Bakeman claimed that he was born on October 9, 1759, in Schoharie County, New York. Other sources indicate that he may have been born in northern New Jersey, near the Delaware River, and that his parents moved to the Schoharie County area when he was a boy. His parents were Dutch immigrants Andreas Phillip Bakeman and Catarien Miller, and his name sometimes appears in written records as "Bochman". He was baptized in Schenectady on November 17, 1773.

According to Bakeman's later testimony, during the American Revolution, he served as a private in the Tryon County militia for the last four years of the war, and was a member of the company commanded by a captain named Van Arnum during the period when the county militia was commanded by Marinus Willett. According to an obituary, Bakeman took part in the 1781 Battle of Johnstown and served as a teamster for the militia following his time in the ranks.



Though no captain named Van Arnum (possibly Van Aernam, a prominent family in Cattaraugus County in Bakeman's later life) or anything approximating it appears in the rolls of the Tryon County militia, and though no soldier named Bakeman or Bochman appears in the roll; the descriptions Bakeman provided of his Revolutionary service in the pension application he submitted later in life were judged to be credible. The U.S. Department of the Interior had one listing of "Bakeman:" "Bakeman, Henry of Granbry, Oswego" [County] with the following remarks: "Suspended for evidence of identity of the service credited to a soldier of the same name of Colonel Willett's regiment, Captain Peter B. Teare's company.

His [Pension File](#) is available online, containing 132 pages of details of his life and service.

After the war, Bakeman farmed in the Mohawk Valley. In 1782, he married Susan Brewer, and they were the parents of eight children: Philip, Richard, Christopher, Betsey, Margaret, Susan, Mary, and Christine. Records show that in 1825 the Bakeman family settled in Arcade, New York, where they owned a home on the north side of the County Line Road. In 1845 they moved to Freedom, New York, and they later moved to Stark. Bakeman appeared in the 1860 United States census as "Frederick Bakeman" living in Freedom with his wife, his daughter Susan, and a grandchild, Jacob N. Bakeman (born 1838). His wife died on September 10, 1863, at the age of 105, after 81 years of marriage.

In Bakeman's later years, he was often called upon by local leaders to take part in important ceremonies, and on Independence Day he was known to march around Freedom firing salutes with his musket.

Bakeman was the victim of house fires at least three times during his lifetime, including once while on a four-day trip from central New York to Albany to buy wheat and other farm supplies. In the mid-1860s, he applied for a pension, and stated that the records of his service burned in one of his house fires. As with many veterans who could not provide discharge certificates or other verifying documents, Bakeman's application included affidavits from friends and neighbors, who attested that he had a reputation for honesty, and that they had previously heard him describe his military service. The testimony of these individuals and Bakeman's own affidavit were judged to be credible, and on February 14, 1867, the United States Congress passed a special act which granted Bakeman a pension of \$500 per year. At the time, the longest surviving veterans who were on the pension rolls were Lemuel Cook of Clarendon, New York (died May 20, 1866), and Samuel Downing of Edinburgh, New York (died February 19, 1867). George Fruits (died August 6, 1876) also claimed to be the last surviving veteran of the Revolutionary War, but he was never on the pension rolls, and research by A. Ross Eckler Jr. in the 1970s indicated that Fruits was 17 years younger than he claimed and was not a veteran of the Revolution.

Bakeman died in Freedom on April 5, 1869, and is buried in Freedom's Sandusky Cemetery. The Annual Report of the U.S. Commissioner of Pensions for 1874 noted that "With the death of Daniel T. Bakeman, of Freedom, Cattaraugus County, N.Y., April 5, 1869, the last of the pensioned soldiers of the Revolution passed away."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_F._Bakeman

Texas SAR to Launch New Scholarship Program

The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (Texas SAR) will be launching a new scholarship program this year.

Our chapters all have young members who are of college age (17 -24) who are seeking or planning to seek post-secondary education degrees or certificates. As we all know, these members and their families could all use additional resources to help these young members pay for school. Here are our proposed scholarship details.

- To be eligible for these scholarships the applicants must be a member of National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and affiliated with one of the Texas Society's chapters.
- These scholarships will not be merit based.
- Eligible applicants will be asked to submit their application to the Texas SAR to be put in a drawing hopper.
- Winning names will be drawn from that hopper.
- Each scholarship is \$2,500 payable to the winner's school for their benefit.
- At least two (2) scholarships will be awarded at the 2027 State Convention.
- Eligible higher ed institutions can be 4-year universities or colleges, community colleges, or technical colleges and schools. If there is a concern please check with the State Treasurer.

- Institutions can be in state or out of state institutions.
- Winners must provide the appropriate contact information to their school for the delivery of the funds.

July Chapter Meeting

At our July 18th chapter meeting, we once again had great attendance – 19 members, 8 prospective members, and 2 guests for a total of 29. Following our normal delicious buffet breakfast, President Steve Hole opened the business meeting.

President Hole, assisted by Vice President Jeff Sparks, presented the SAR Life Saving Award to Haltom City Fire Department Battalion Chief Chaise Hudson.



President Hole, Battalion Chief Chaise Hudson, and Vice President Jeff Sparks



President Steve Hole, Firefighter Clint Ferguson, Vice President Jeff Sparks

President Hole, assisted by Vice President Jeff Sparks, presented the SAR Life Saving Award to Haltom City Firefighter Clint Ferguson.



Battalion Chief Chaise Hudson and Firefighter Clint Ferguson were accompanied by two fellow firefighters from the Haltom City Fire Department.

Sadly, we said farewell to our dedicated server, Isabel Waltz, who is moving to College Station to pursue her college education. Isabel always had a huge smile when in our meeting room. She diligently fulfilled our every need with graciousness and speed. We will miss her each month.

President Steve Hole, assisted by Vice President Jeff Sparks, presented Isabel with the SAR Martha Washington Medal and Certificate.



President Steve Hole, Isabel Waltz, Vice President Jeff Sparks

Farewell and Godspeed to Compatriot Robert Jacobs who is retiring to Roatan, Honduras, and to Compatriot Scott Stoddard who is moving to North Carolina.

President Steve Hole inducted new member Robert Scott Morris. Registrar Ron Turner pinned the SAR Rosette on Compatriot Morris' lapel.

Robert joined the SAR under his Patriot William Morris. William was born 30 Oct 1755 in Virginia and died 10 Dec 1823 in DeKalb County, Georgia. He is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Ellenwood in DeKalb County. He served as a Captain in the South Carolina Militia.



President Steve Hole, Compatriot Robert Morris, and Registrar Ron Turner



Vice President Jeff Sparks presented a very interesting program titled “Colonial Coinage Through Semiquincentennial.” He showed coins from his personal collection, as well as some coins and paper currency from James Alderman’s personal collection.



Chapter Registrar's Report

Updated 01 August 2026

Compatriot	Patriot	Type	Action
2026 Approvals			
Steven J. Hole	Thomas Bishop	Supplemental	06 Feb 2026
Clarence B. Kloppe III	Robert Lemon	NEW Regular	10 Apr 2026
Kyle T. Kloppe	Robert Lemon	NEW Regular	10 Apr 2026
Ian R. Billington	John Bradley	NEW Regular	08 May 2026
Robert S. Morris	William Morris	NEW Regular	08 May 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John King	Supplemental	15 May 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Thomas Connelley	Supplemental	15 May 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Childress	Supplemental	15 May 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Benjamin Brimer	Supplemental	04 Jul 2026
Pending Review and Approval by Staff Genealogist (National)			
Steven J. Hole	Winifred Wiggins	Supplemental	Pended 03 Sep 2025
Steven J. Hole	John Eddy	Supplemental	Received 28 Jan 2026
Steven J. Hole	Joseph Eddy	Supplemental	Received 28 Jan 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	Robert R. Coleman	Supplemental	Received 28 Jan 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Roe	Supplemental	Received 28 Jan 2026
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	John Holcomb	Supplemental	Received 03 Apr 2026
Pending Review by Inland Registrar (State)			
Daniel D. Mesch	Samuel Dean	NEW Junior	
Andrew F. Mesch	Samuel Dean	NEW Junior	
William M. Ray	Asa Douglas Sr	NEW Regular	
Clarence B. Kloppe IV	James Lemon	NEW Regular	
Troy M. Kennedy	William Johnson	NEW Regular	
Gavin W. Kennedy	William Johnson	NEW Regular	
Logan R. Kennedy	William Johnson	NEW Regular	
Monte D. Fite	Peter Fite, Sr.	NEW Regular	
Colin M. Fite	Peter Fite, Sr.	NEW Regular	
Gavin J. Fite	Peter Fite, Sr.	NEW Regular	
Bradford L. Shaw	Timothy Meeker, Sr.	NEW Regular	
Steven Y. Christensen	Uriah Carpenter	NEW Regular	
Ricky C. Wylly	John Sevier	NEW Regular	
James L. Avery	Nicholas Day	NEW Regular	
Dean G. Chesney	Turner Christian	NEW Regular	
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	William Armstrong	Supplemental	
T. Jeffery Kennedy	John Tillman	Supplemental	
Robert A. Jacobs	Benjamin Stanley	Supplemental	
John G. Wissinger	John Faust	NEW Regular	
Robert D. Templeton	Joseph Dixon	NEW Regular	
Jacob A. Wilson	Elisha Clayton	Supplemental	

Compatriot	Patriot	Type	Action
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Completed and Awaiting Applicant Signature

Azariah A. Goldstein	Valentine Keyser	NEW Regular	
Charles A. Richard	Pierre Richard	NEW Regular	

In Work

Judson D. Clark	David Verner/Varner	NEW Regular	
Jimmy K. Jackson	Stephen Jackson	NEW Regular	
Stephen J. Soss	William Powell	NEW Regular	
Andrew T. Bush	Abraham Cooper	NEW Regular	
Dusty C. Traylor	William Traylor Sr.	NEW Regular	
Robert D. Gurney	Asa Gurney	NEW Regular	
Thomas W. Leake	Josiah Leake	NEW Regular	
Kelly E. Seis	John Dunagan	NEW Regular	
Jacob A. Wilson	Peter Bartrug	Supplemental	
Jacob A. Wilson	Adam Ice	Supplemental	
Jacob A. Wilson	Levin Okey	Supplemental	
Jacob A. Wilson	Ludwick Minsker	Supplemental	
Jacob A. Wilson	Isaac Horner	Supplemental	
Jacob A. Wilson	James Jack	Supplemental	

Pended Application by National Genealogist

G. Thomas Bransford	William Bransford	NEW	Pended 22 Jan 2024
Kenneth K. Brimer, Jr.	James Wooten	Supplemental	Pended 12 Nov 2024

As of July 30th, the Registrar has received a total of 45 inquiries for membership in 2026.

From the Patriot Research System (PRS) Report:

Date of oldest New Application awaiting approval: 15 Jun 2026 (6 weeks)

Date of oldest Supplemental awaiting approval: 17 Dec 2025 (32 weeks)



Aug 4	David C. Fleming
Aug 6	Andrew M. Cox
	Gary W. Munford
Aug 8	Charles L. Boyd
Aug 10	Clarence B. Koppe II
Aug 15	Ronald J. Turner
Aug 16	PM William M. Ray
	PM Gavin W. Kennedy
	PM Logan R. Kennedy
Aug 17	W. Lawrence Bannister III
Aug 21	PM James L. Avery
Aug 22	Wayne A. Heide

2026 Calendar of Events

August 15	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
August TBD	Battle of Medina, San Antonio (CG-S)
August 20-23	Southeast Central District Conference, Dallas (CG-N)
September 19	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
October 1-3	NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY
October 17	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
October 18	NHRA Fall 2026 Nationals, 12:00 pm, Ennis (CG-C)
October TBD	Texas SAR Fall BOM, North Texas, (CG-S)
November 9	MOWW Massing of the Colors, 2:00 pm Trimble Tech HS, Fort Worth (CG-N)
November 11	Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade, Fort Worth, (CG-N)
November 21	Chapter Meeting, 9:00 am, Diamond Oaks Country Club, Fort Worth
December 19	Wreaths Across America, 11:00 am, Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth (CG-N)

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

Compatriot Society Anniversaries

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

Aug 17	44 yrs	James R. Herman III
Aug 23	27 yrs	Charles L. Fogerson
Aug 27	16 yrs	William L. Schwetke
Aug 7	12 yrs	Douglas L. Schwetke
Aug 11	9 yrs	James L. Stanley
Aug 30	7 yrs	Joseph P. DeWoody
Aug 6	5 yrs	Rodney E. Buttermore, Jr.
Aug 6	5 yrs	David C. Fleming
Aug 4	3 yrs	C. Matthew Sparks
Aug 22	1 yr	J. Stanley Reid
Aug 22	1 yr	John C. Reid

Congratulations

The SAR Colorguardsman

The July issue of *The SAR Colorguardsman* is now available to read online! This SAR magazine is only published electronically.

Inside you'll find updates, photos, and stories highlighting the dedication and service of SAR Color Guards from across the country.

Read the July issue here: <https://buff.ly/pzUVqRL>



Purchase your Chapter Name Badge with the SAR
logo from our local vendor.

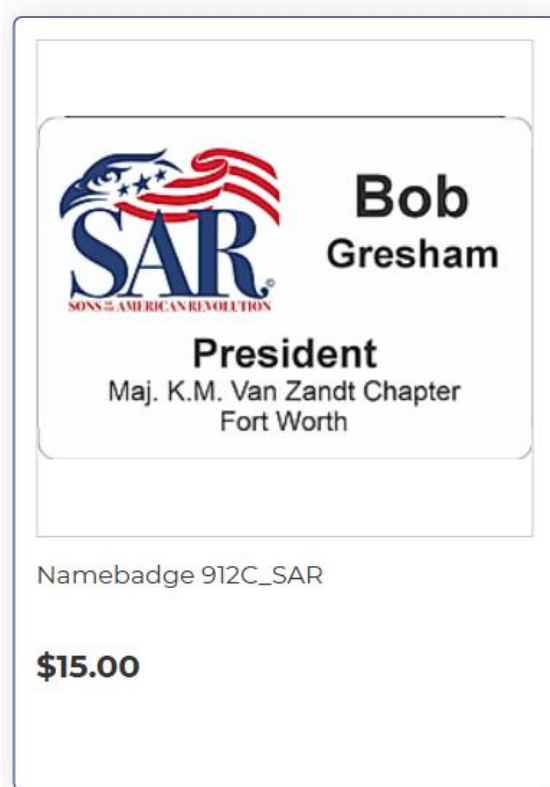
SAR Shop



Sons of the American Revolution 2025

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://sarnamebadge.itemorder.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card



Registrar Ron Turner will pick up all purchases and deliver to you at a chapter meeting.

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.



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.

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.

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>.

Chapter Officers

2026 & 2027

President	Steven J. HOLE
Vice-President	Jeffrey W. SPARKS
Secretary	E. Bruce MORGAN
Treasurer	Gregory A. RIFFEL
Acting Registrar	Ronald J. TURNER
Assistant Registrars	Arthur G. MUNFORD
Chaplain	Ralph E. SMITH
Sergeant-at-Arms	Steven J. HOLE
Color Guard Commander	(vacant)

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.

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."

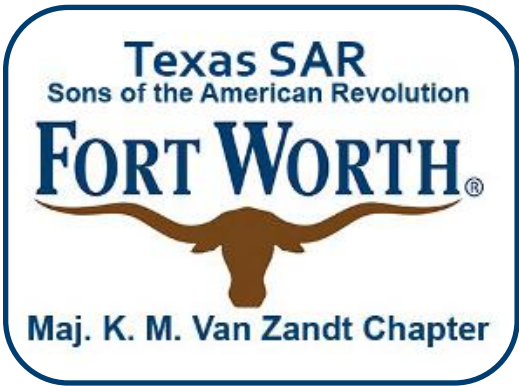
Next Chapter Meeting - September 19th

Membership Status

Our chapter membership levels as of June 8, 2026, are:

Active / Current Member	90
NSSAR Life	11
TXSSAR Perpetual.....	10
Active/New Member	4
Active/Reinstated (current yr)	20
Active/Reinstated (Over 1 yr)	0
Deceased (current yr)	2
Dual w/Other Primary State	2
Emeritus (50+ years)	0
Junior SAR Member.....	2
Junior Member/Reinstated	0
Not Paid (Current Year).....	15
Not-Paid Junior Member	0
Not Paid Dual State	1
Reinstated/Transferred In	0
Transferred In	2
Transferred Out (Current Year)	0
Dual Members (other chapters).....	2

Our active membership currently is 120.



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Ron Turner, Editor & Publisher