

## The Red Coats Are Coming!!

Thomas Jackson gave an interesting talk about the time the call rang out – “The British Are Coming, The British Are Coming” and Robert Newman hung two lanterns in the Old North church. We all grew up with this story and the tale of the ride of Paul Revere.



Old North Church

*Listen my children and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day and year.  
Longfellow*

History records show that there were at least five riders that night sent by Joseph Warren

Contrary to popular belief, Paul Revere never shouted the phrase “The British are Coming,” and instead rode swiftly and in secrecy northward to Lexington where he met John Hancock and Samuel Adams.

William Dawes was sent by Warren to warn the colonial minutemen as well on his way to Lexington following Paul Revere. In 1896, American poet Moore would correct the minor oversight of history and composed a parody of Longfellow’s poem with her own.

*Tis all very well for the children to hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere;  
But why should my name be quite forgot,  
Who rode as boldly and well, God wot?  
Why should I ask? The reason is clear-  
My name was Dawes and his Revere.  
Helen Moore*

Samuel Prescott was also sent by Warren to Lexington, then to Concord. Prescott was from Concord and would be able to serve as a guide for the other men on their nighttime journey.

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### The Mission of the SAR

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.

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**CHAPTER EVENTS**

**Honor Flight**  
 Hobby Airport  
 June 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00pm

**2024 SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution**  
 Norfolk, Virginia  
 June 7 - 9

**National Congress**  
 Lancaster, PA.  
 July 10 – 16

**Summer Zoom BOM**  
 July 27th

**The Red Coats Are Coming (continued)**

Israel Bissell actually started five days earlier and rode the longest route along the Old Post Road, covering 345 miles to Philadelphia warning the militias along the way shouting, “To arms, to arms, the war has begun”.

*Listen, my children, to my epistle  
 Of the long, long ride of Israel Bissell,  
 Who outrode Paul by miles and time  
 But didn't rate a poet's rhyme.  
 Clay*

The American poet and historian, Clay Perry, in the manner of Longfellow, wrote an ode to Bissell.



Statue of Sybil Ludington  
 Carmel, New York

Sybil Ludington is the last of the famous night riders was, and surprising, a woman. She didn't start her ride until April 26, 1777. At the age of sixteen, she would double Revere's ride to warn the colonists at Danbury, Connecticut of the approach of the British.



Thomas Jackson giving presentation.

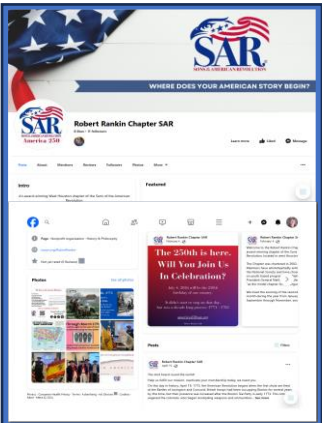
Sybil was the daughter of Colonel Henry Ludington. She was later commended by George Washington for her heroism. A statute of here was erected along her route in Carmel, New York, along with



President Alex Thorne reviews the new Facebook page.



Right, Co-Chair Tom Jackson gives updates from the National Communications Committee.



Left, The Robert Rankin Facebook Home Page.  
<https://www.facebook.com/rankin.sar>

## Robert Rankin Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps 2024 Bronze Medal Awards (JROTC)

The months of April and May certainly have been busy for Compatriots of Robert Rankin Chapter. During these two months seven different Compatriots drove sometimes over 1½ hours each way to present the SAR Bronze Medal or the Enhanced (or Outstanding) Bronze Medal to distinguished cadets of the Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) at the 16 schools we service. The Robert Rankin Chapter awards a Chapter Service Medal to a Compatriot for every 15 presentations. A proposal is before the Executive Committee to reduce the number, perhaps to 10 or 5. Tom Jackson is currently Chair of JROTC but will gladly step aside. If you have any questions, get in contact with him.

The preparation for these awards started last fall when the prior schools are contacted to update instructor contact information and to confirm participation. Medals are then ordered from National SAR and are distributed to the participating schools. The Chapter is reimbursed by the state when documentation of both purchase and presentation is forwarded to the state treasurer.

For the Enhanced Bronze Medal, the form must be turned in by December so that the essay can be judged by the Robert Rankin Chapter. When the winning essay is selected, it is forwarded to the Texas Society committee. The State committee then selects the best essay, notifies the cadet and the Robert Rankin Chapter. It is then forwarded to the National office to select the best essay in the country, and a decision is made and announced at the National Congress in July. The winner of the National Enhanced JROTC receives a \$5,000 check.

This year's Texas Society selection for Enhanced JROTC Bronze Medal is from Waller High School. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Compatriots Thomas Jackson and Jerry Martin traveled to Waller High School and presented Cadet Captain Colton Walleck with his awards. Jerry Martin presented Colton with the Chapter 1<sup>st</sup> place Outstanding JROTC Cadet Medal, Certificate, and \$100 check. Thomas Jackson then presented Colton with the Texas Society 1<sup>st</sup> place Outstanding JROTC Medal, Certificate and check for \$3,500.



Chapter Bronze  
Enhanced JROTC  
Medal



Texas SAR 1<sup>st</sup> Place Outstanding JROTC Cadet  
Colton Walleck, Waller High School. Colton is  
shown with Thomas Jackson (L), and Jerry  
Martin (R).



State Silver Bronze  
Enhanced JROTC  
Medal

Continued on next page.

## 2024 Bronze Medal Awards (JROTC) (continued)

**Royal High School**  
**General B.O. Davis, Jr. High School**  
**Cypress Fairbanks High School**  
**Cypress Springs High School**  
**Langham Creek High School**  
**Cypress Woods High School**  
**Mayde Creek Senior High**  
**Waller High School**  
**Cypress Lakes High School**  
**Cypress Creek High School**  
**Cypress Ridge High School**  
**Alief Elsik High School**  
**Cypress Falls High School**  
**Jersey Village High School**  
**Westpark High School**

Schools that Robert Rankin are responsible for.



Compatriot Tom Jackson and Jerry Martin presenting JROTC Bronze Medal at Katy Westpark High School.



Compatriot Ralph Reed presenting winner of the JROTC Bronze Medal at Cypress Creek.

Compatriot Allan Perkins presenting the Bronze JROTC Medal at Jersey Village High School



Compatriot Tom Jackson presenting the Bronze JROTC Medal at Cypress Ridge High School.



Compatriot Jerry Martin presenting the Bronze JROTC Medal at Royal High School.



Compatriot Jerry Martin presenting the Bronze JROTC Medal at Mayde Creek Senior High School.



Compatriot Allan Perkins presents Cypress Fairbanks Cadet Bronze JROTC Metal and Certificate



The Chapter Bronze JROTC Medal

Compatriots taking part in the presentation of JROTC Bronze Medals for 2024

- Thomas Jackson – 7
- Ralph Reed - 3
- Billy Sorrels - 1
- Allen Perkins - 2
- Jerry Martin - 5
- Harry Woodstrom - 1



## Honor Flight #30



On Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 139 WWII, Korean, Vietnam, and other veterans along with their escorts gathered at 4:00 am at Hobby Airport. They left Houston for Washington, D.C. to visit the monuments and museums associated with their service.

On Saturday evening, they returned to a crowd of several hundred.



Arlington National Cemetery



Freedom Chapter #38 Color Guard + Jerry Martin from Robert Rankin chapter



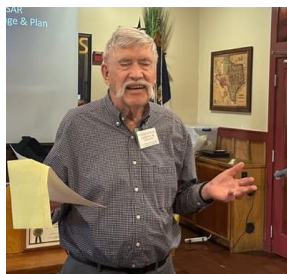
Freedom Chapter #38 Color Guard + Jerry Martin from Robert Rankin.



**Next Honor Flight #31 -- Leave Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – Home , Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 pm**

## Fred Jackson Presentation on Theopolis Stevens

Fred Jackson gave a presentation on Theopolis Stevens, a member of the New Hampshire Militia, and his contribution to the American Revolution.



During the Revolution (1775-1783), elements of New Hampshire's militia fought at Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Trenton, and Monmouth. Two New Hampshire militia regiments were at the Battle of Saratoga serving in Ebenezer Learned's Brigade helping to defeat General John Burgoyne.



John Stark, an officer in Rogers' Rangers, raised the 1st New Hampshire Regiment and took it to the Siege of Boston in 1775 and fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill, along with James Reed's 3rd New Hampshire Regiment.

General John Stark at the Battle of Bennington, Vermont 1902 Frederick Coffay Yohn. Great quotes by Stark: "Yonder are the Hessians. They were bought for seven pounds and tenpence a man. Are you worth more? Prove it, "Tonight the American flag floats from yonder hill or Molly Stark sleeps a widow!"

OR TRY THIS ONE: I am the enemy of all foreign influence, for all foreign influence is the influence of tyranny. This is the only chosen spot of liberty-this is the only republic on earth." "Live Free Or Die; Death Is Not The Worst Of Evils."

### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

When a new compatriot is created, they know little to nothing about the committees, governance, documentation, or other aspects of this organization. Our goal with this new newsletter is to address this need by highlighting different committees and other groups.

When we can, we will have the committee chairmen explain how that team works, how you can take part, and what kind of time commitment is required.

### THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

Have you read an interesting book the concerning the Revolutionary War time period? Send me the information and I share it with everyone.

Have you read and interesting Magazine article lately – try to scan it or take a picture of it and send it to me and I will summarize and share the information.

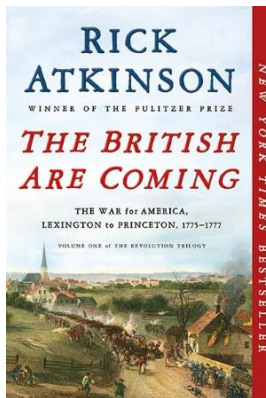
Does one or more of your Patriot's have a history or story that you want to share – send me the story and I will share it.

This is your newsletter – you have the invitation to add to the richness of our history.

[Newsletter.rankin.sar@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.rankin.sar@gmail.com)

Looking for some light reading this summer?  
Check out this great book!

***The British are Coming***  
**The War for America, Lexington to  
Princeton, 1775-1777**  
Volume One of the Revolution Trilogy  
Author: Rick Atkinson



From the battles at Lexington and Concord in spring 1775 to those at Trenton and Princeton in winter 1777, American militiamen and then the ragged Continental Army take on the world's most formidable fighting force. It is a gripping saga alive with astonishing characters: Henry Knox, the former bookseller with an uncanny understanding of

artillery; Nathanael Greene, the blue-eyed bumpkin who becomes a brilliant battle captain; Benjamin Franklin, the self-made man who proves to be the wiliest of diplomats; George Washington, the commander in chief who learns the difficult art of leadership when the war seems all but lost. The story is also told from the British perspective, making the mortal conflict between the redcoats and the rebels all the more compelling.

Full of riveting details and untold stories, *The British Are Coming* is a tale of heroes and knaves, of sacrifice and blunder, of redemption and profound suffering. Rick Atkinson has given stirring new life to the first act of our country's creation drama.

**Over the years, Robert Rankin Chapter has presented one 1<sup>st</sup> Place National SAR Enhanced JROTC winner, nine 1<sup>st</sup> Place Texas SAR winners, and 13 Top 5 Texas SAR winners.**

**The 250<sup>th</sup> is here.**  
**Will You Join Us**  
**In Celebration?**

July 4, 2026, will be the 250<sup>th</sup>  
birthday of our country.

**It didn't start or stop on that day,  
but was a decade long process:  
1773 - 1783**

[america250sar.org](http://america250sar.org)

**Memorable events**

250 years ago...

- 2023 Boston Tea Party
- 2024 The First Continental Congress
- 2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- 2026 Declaration of Independence
- 2027 Battle of Saratoga
- 2028 French Alliance
- 2029 Siege of Vincennes/Kettle Creek
- 2030 Battle of Kings Mountain
- 2031 Siege of Yorktown
- 2032 Battle of Blue Licks
- 2033 Treaty of Paris

# Rankin Chapter Arrives on Facebook

– by Ash Jackson

## What should I do about it?

In brief: like it. Not in the acerbic sense of “eat your vegetables and like it,” but in the logistical sense of clicking “Like” on the chapter’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rankin.sar>

In seriousness, if you read no further, please use the link above and click “like.” You are helping the chapter achieve its many aims by doing so.

## Why do we need a Facebook page?

In brief: because SAR National told us to. Of course, brief answers rarely tell the whole story.

For the chapter to achieve its aims in programs, membership, and achieving the SAR mission, we must reach and engage with a group of people that is outside current chapter membership. Based on the demographic reality of the internet, Facebook is the most likely place for the chapter to encounter those users online.

The graph above shows the age distribution of the approximately 243 million US Facebook users in 2024. Users over the age of 35 comprise more than half of current US Facebook users. The chapter can ill afford to ignore this concentration of potential program facilitators and prospective new members on one website of the internet.

Secondarily, a presence on Facebook can help to re-engage those existing chapter members who are inactive or minimally active, and are also Facebook users.

## OK. What’s the plan?

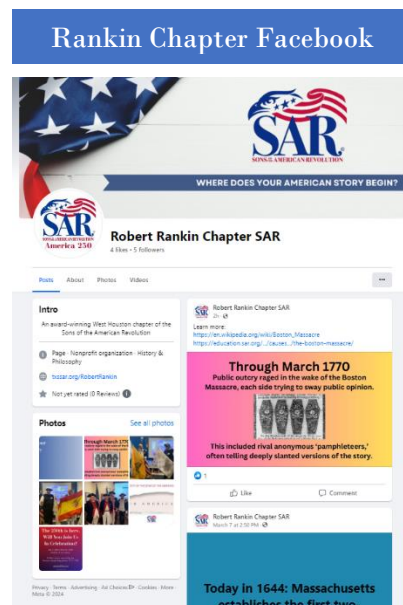
I have created the chapter’s Facebook page, and a half-dozen posts to “populate” it. See the image above.

I have also drafted a concise plan for the chapter to reach its goals with that Facebook page. This plan includes metrics for the chapter to track its progress through the plan. These metrics do not track how many ‘likes’ the chapter’s page or posts receive for reasons detailed in the plan.

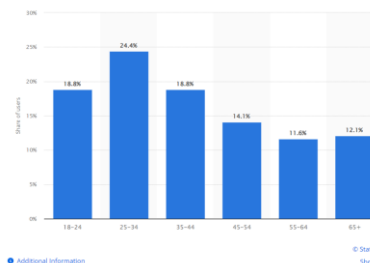
In brief, the chapter’s Facebook plan is:

1. Have chapter members “like” the chapter Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/rankin.sar>)
2. Have a chapter member create a post for each chapter event and contest.
3. Have at least one chapter member “like,” “comment,” “rsvp” or otherwise interact with that post.
4. Spread out the work and knowledge required for steps 2 and 3 to ensure long-term sustainability.

The plan is more detailed than that, of course, as are the metrics and the methodology behind those metrics. Then again, brief answers rarely tell the whole story.



## U.S. Facebook Users by Age



Source:

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/187549/facebook-distribution-of-users-age-group-usa/> - Accessed 3/16/2024.

If you take nothing else from this article, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/rankin.sar> and click “like.”