

# ARK-LA-TEX SAR

*The Official Newsletter of Chapter #69*

## DISPATCH

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Volume 2, Number 1

Copyright 2024

January – February, 2024

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Clarence V. Burns



Greetings Compatriots!

This is a reminder of what our ancestors were willing to endanger their lives for and we should be willing to preserve. It seems to me that in these times they are becoming more precious.

The Bill of Rights is among our nation's most admired documents, guaranteeing broad personal liberties and inspiring some of the federal courts' most famous and polarizing cases. And yet for well over a century, the Bill of Rights was one of America's best kept secrets.

Ratified on Dec. 15, 1791, a day now celebrated annually as Bill of Rights Day, the first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution were a response to broad public fears that a new national government might run roughshod over individuals and states.

It spells out Americans' rights in relation to their government. It guarantees civil rights and liberties to the individual—like freedom of speech, press, right to bear arms, and religion. It sets rules for due process of law and reserves all powers not delegated to the Federal Government to the people or the States.

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights talks about individual rights. Over the years, more

amendments were added. Now, the Constitution has 27 amendments.

By codifying fundamental freedoms, it won over states skeptical of a federal government at the time of our founding and proved our Constitution to be a living document. The basic rights it guarantees have come to define our nation.

Clarence V. Burns  
President  
Ark-La-Tex Chapter #69

### 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.**



**WE DESCENDANTS OF THE HEROES  
OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
WHO, BY THEIR SACRIFICES,  
ESTABLISHED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
REAFFIRM OUR FAITH IN THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY  
AND OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC,  
AND SOLEMNLY PLEDGE OURSELVES  
TO DEFEND THEM AGAINST EVERY FOE.**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.  
American Legion Post 258  
308 North Louise Street  
Atlanta, Texas 7555

**Spring Leadership Training**

Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
The Brown Hotel  
335 West Broadway  
Louisville, Kentucky, 40202

**2024 Annual TXSSAR Conference**

April 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
DoubleTree by Hilton  
611 NW Loop 410  
San Antonio, Texas, 78216

**134th Sons of the American Revolution Congress**

July 10<sup>th</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Lancaster Marriott Penn Square  
25 N. Queen Street  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

**Fall Leadership Training**

Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
The Galt House Hotel  
140 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Louisville, Kentucky, 40202

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Compatriots,

Last Year I published this Newsletter Quarterly, and starting this month, I will be publishing it every other month starting in January. Therefore, it will now be published around the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and Nov, 2024.

I am asking for your help, this is indeed “Our” newsletter and I want to include more information from our members. If you have or see an interesting article, please let me know.

I would dearly love to publish an article each month about a different compatriot’s “Patriot Ancestor”. If you have a biography or a short write up about one of your ancestors, please send

it to me. It doesn’t have to be the one that you joined under.

I also want you to know that I’ve added two new, and I think interesting, tabs to our Web Site at: <https://www.texassar.org/ArkLaTex/>. They are Education and Events tabs. Each one has some helpful and interesting information, give it a look.

Any time you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at: [Joe.Reynolds@larryjoereynolds.com](mailto:Joe.Reynolds@larryjoereynolds.com)  
Or (318) 691-2844.

Joe



**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**BIRTHDAY**

- Jan 02 ..... Marvin Patrick Tomberlain Jr
- Jan 16 ..... Nolan Ray Maxie
- Jan 25 ..... Joshua Wayne Beckham
- Jan 27 ..... Fred Murry Ott
- Feb 11..... Charles Edmond Pruitt II
- Feb 01..... Linda Ott
- Feb 23..... Carolyn Addington
- Jan 10 ..... Dennis & Stacey Beckham
- Jan 21 ..... Joe & Keesie Reynolds

**SAR Anniversary**

- January 14, 2022 ..... Christopher Jarrett Addington
- January 14, 2022 ..... Danny Warren Addington
- January 14, 2022 ..... Maximus Aaron Addington
- January 14, 2022 ..... Ayden Glen Forrest Wright
- January 14, 2022 ..... Rustin Perot Wright
- January 28, 2022 ..... Michael Evans Addington
- January 27, 2023 ..... Cody Lynn Howard
- January 27, 2023 ..... Jimmy Hilton Howard
- February 23, 2007 ..... Matthew Dent Burks
- February 15, 2019 ..... Cletis Murreald Millsap
- February 4, 2022 ..... Joshua Wayne Beckham



**THE AMERICAN 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 NATIONS;  
 A PERFECT NATION, ONE AND INSEPARABLE;  
 ESTABLISHED UPON THOSE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND HUMANITY;  
 FOR WHICH AMERICAN PATRIOTS SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES AND FORTUNES.  
 I, THEREFORE, BELIEVE IT IS MY DUTY TO MY COUNTRY TO LOVE IT;  
 TO SUPPORT ITS CONSTITUTION;  
 TO OBEY ITS LAWS;  
 TO RESPECT ITS FLAG;  
 AND TO DEFEND IT AGAINST ALL ENEMIES.



### The Winter at Valley Forge

Imagine spending a winter in a makeshift hut with no central heating, scant food supplies, and threadbare clothing. That was the reality for Washington’s troops during the infamous winter at Valley Forge in 1777-78. Frostbite and disease were as much a threat as the British, and yet, they endured. Your thermostat suddenly doesn’t seem so uncooperative, does it?

**Fun Fact:** Did you know that during this winter, a Prussian military officer named Baron Friedrich von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge and helped train the Continental Army, significantly improving their military skills and discipline?



### COLONIAL TRIVIA

(answers on page 9)



1. What are the two places that the "shot heard 'round the world" refer to?
  - a. Lexington and Boston
  - b. Lexington and Concord
  - c. Boston and Trenton
  - d. Concord and Trenton
  
2. Who was the British King during the war?
  - a. George III
  - b. William IV
  - c. Edward VIII
  - d. George II



### TRUTHS ABOUT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION!



### LAST CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2023

**Members Present**

- Clarence Burns
- Joe Reynolds
- Rodney Love
- Danny Addington
- Dennis Beckham
- Shawn Tully
- Bill Sekel
- Rick Blackwood

- Bob Woodroff
- Pat Tomberlain
- Wendell VanHook

**Attended Via Zoom**

- Cletis Milsap

**Visitors Present**

- Carolyn Addington

Chaplain Shawn Tully gave the invocation.

Pledges to the flag of The United States of America, State of Texas and SAR Pledge led by President Clarence Burns.

The minutes of the previous meeting were emailed to all members. A motion to accept the minutes by acclamation was made by Chancellor Bill Sekel and seconded by Wendell Van Hook. Approval was unanimous.

Treasurer Danny Addington presented the treasurers report. A motion to approve treasurer's report by acclamation was made by Rodney Love and seconded by Chaplain Shawn Tully. Approval was unanimous.

Registrar Dennis Beckham presented the Registrar's report. James Drew was added as a new member. Seven supplementals were approved. A motion to approve registrar's report by acclamation was made by Chaplain Shawn Tully and seconded by VP Joe Reynolds. Approval was unanimous.

Chancellor Bill Sekel presented information from the State Board of Managers meeting in College Station.

- the SAR Mission Statement the came out of the meeting.
- the Windswept Eagle would be the symbol of all SAR.
- there are fifty active SAR Chapters in Texas.
- Birthday-Project 250- a monument at the Texas State Cemetery on Monument Hill at a cost of \$55K. Some would be donated by National and rest from Texas Chapters or individual members.
- He awarded Registrar Dennis Beckham Bronze Liberty Medal for having recruited 10 members over a period of time.
- Chancellor Sekel stated he would buy next years' Service Awards

Chaplain Jim Burns presented "Blackrobes in the Revolutionary War"

President Clarence Burns presented Dr. Jim Burns with a certificate of appreciation. Rick Blackwood received a certificate of appreciation for his presentation "Constitutionalism."

The following were discussed during the Business Session:

- Nominations for new officers were: Chancellor- Bill Sekel, Chaplain- Shawn Tully, President- Clarence Burns, Registrar- Dennis Beckham, VP- Larry Joe Reynolds, and Secretary- Rodney Love. There were no other nominations. These will be presented in January meeting to be voted upon.
- Chancellor Bill Sekel moved that \$210 be taken from available funds to support TX SAR Project 250. Specifically the building of a SAR Monument at the Texas State Cemetery. Rodney Love seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Chancellor Bill Sekel brought up the point that before presenting veterans certificates of appreciation we need to determine if they were awarded a purple heart before we present them with a Wounded Warrior Coin.
- VP Joe Reynolds asked permission to do six Newsletters for the Chapter. Motion by Rickwood and second by Wendel Van Hook. Motion carried.
- Chaplain Shawn Tully asked if we could change meeting time to 6 starting in January due to distances some members travel. Motion by Sec. Rodney Love and second by Wendel Van Hook. Motion carried.
- VP Joe Reynolds was given permission to conduct Zoom mtgs.
- Wreaths Across America was discussed. Each wreath would cost \$17. \$200 was donated for project. Wreaths will be placed in Old Liberty Cemetery at 1 pm and Courtland Cemetery at 11pm. Manpower needed to place wreaths on Dec. 16.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

- The next meeting will be January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Dec. 2 is Atlanta's Christmas Parade. Participates asked to wear Colonial clothing and ride on float or walk.
- The Chapter has awarded all five service awards and a Flag etiquette award.

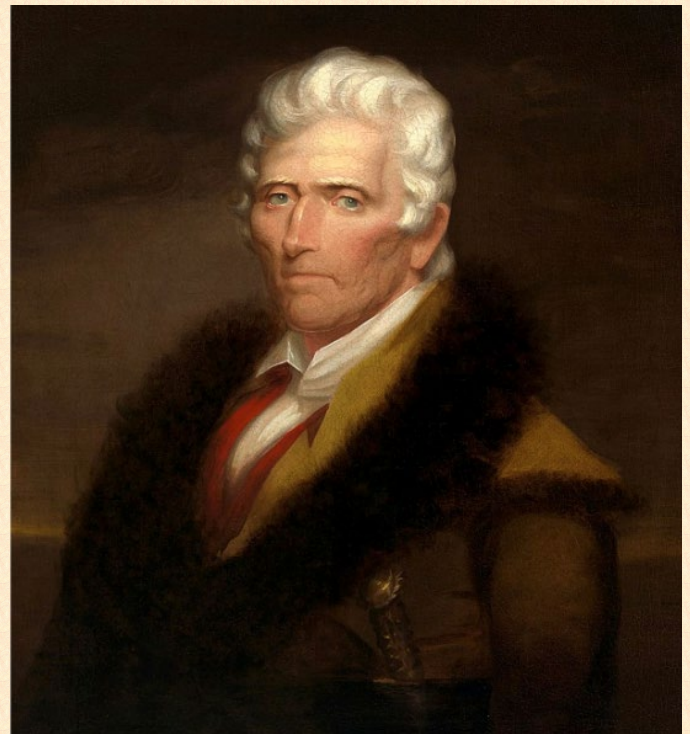
President Clarence Burns entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Chaplain Shawn Tully and seconded Rick Blackwood. The motion carried.

President Clarence Burns led members in the SAR Closing Admonition.

## Benediction by Chaplain Shawn Tully



*President Clarence Burns presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Chaplain Jim Burns for his Program, Chaplains in the American Revolution, the Black Robed Warriors.*



No name looms larger in the story of the early American West than Daniel Boone. A wanderer for most of his life, he is forever associated with the exploration of Kentucky. Boone's exploits in exploring and hunting in the Bluegrass, as well as its defense during the American Revolution made him a legend in his own time.

Born on November 2, 1734, Daniel Boone grew up in Oley Township northwest of Philadelphia. As a young man, he spent many hours alone in the forest where he developed and refined the skills that one day would make him famous. At the age of fifteen, he left Pennsylvania with his family following a break with the Society of Friends (better known as the Quakers). Boone resided for about a year in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley before he finally settled along the Yadkin River in North Carolina.

Rather than take up a life of farming, Boone preferred to make his living as a marker or long hunter. Ranging far from home for months and sometimes years at a time, these individuals relied on the money from the sale of deerskins collected on their hunts to support themselves and their families.



*Chancellor Bill Sekel presents the National Liberty Medal to Registrar Dennis Beckham for Recruiting 10 new members.*



## OUR AMERICAN PATRIOTS

**Daniel Boone**  
 Lieutenant Colonel, Revolutionary War  
 5<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather of Compatriot  
 Larry Joe Reynolds

In the spring of 1755, Boone returned to Pennsylvania as a wagoner on Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock's expedition to Fort Duquesne. During the march, he met a trader named John Findley who regaled him with tales of a veritable Eden west of the Allegheny Mountains, Kentucky. This relatively untouched land was populated by deer, buffalo, elk and other game which presented a significant financial opportunity. Fortunately, both men survived the ensuing ambush and defeat of Braddock's command.

After a brief courtship, Boone married Rebecca Bryan on August 14, 1756. Their marriage spanned more than half a century and produced ten children, despite Boone's long absences. In the ensuing years Boone's hunting took him throughout the Carolinas and south to Florida.

Sometime in early 1769, John Findley appeared at the Boone cabin. His visit rekindled Daniel's interest in exploring Kentucky. Along with Findley and several others, Boone set out to find his promised land. Boone's party traveled from the Upper Yadkin Valley to part of what became Tennessee, Virginia and through the Cumberland Gap. On June 7, Boone climbed an eminence later known as Pilot Knob and caught his first sight of Kentucky. He spent the next two years hunting and exploring the wilderness, going as far as the Falls of the Ohio River. He did not return home until May 1771.

In the summer of 1773, Boone led settlers west to permanently settle Kentucky. While traveling through Powell's Valley in southwestern Virginia, a small group traveling behind the main party were ambushed by Delaware, Shawnee and Cherokee warriors. Among those killed were Boone's oldest son, James. The tragedy prompted Boone to abandon the effort.

Another opportunity, however, came in March 1775. Judge Richard Henderson, along with other business associates had formed the Transylvania Company. Their goal was to buy Kentucky from the Cherokees.

Henderson enlisted Boone's help to assemble tribal leaders at Sycamore Shoals on the Watauga River. The negotiations resulted in the Cherokees signing over their claims to Henderson, who directed Boone to cut a road through the mountains to allow for the passage of settlers. Heading a band of axmen, Boone cleared a path that would later become part of the Wilderness Road. Boone's party stopped near a salt lick along the Kentucky River on April 6. There, he established a small fort to which he gave his name, Boonesborough.

Thirteen days later in far away Massachusetts, Minutemen clashed with British infantry at Lexington and Concord. The battles ignited the American Revolution, which soon spread westward as the Crown hoped to maintain control over the Ohio River Valley. With many of its troops committed to the colonies, the British had to rely on the assistance of allied Indian tribes to engage American settlers.

On July 14, 1776, Boone's daughter Jemima, along with Fanny and Betsy Callaway were abducted by a group of Indians while canoeing along the Kentucky River. Boone, along with several others, immediately set out in pursuit. Picking up the kidnappers' trail, Boone and his men overtook the party and successfully rescued the girls. This episode would eventually be immortalized by author James Fenimore Cooper in *The Last of the Mohicans*.

As 1777 opened, the British stepped up their raids in Kentucky. Their operations were directed at the destruction of crops and livestock in order to force the abandonment of the settlements. Boone himself was shot in the ankle during an April raid on Boonesborough. Although the bullet was extracted, he was disabled for several weeks.

The following February, Boone led a contingent to boil salt at the Blue Licks along the Licking River. While out hunting, he was overtaken and captured by a large party of Shawnees. Led by the war chief Black Fish, they were headed to attack

Boonesborough. Boone reverted to diplomacy and was able managed to arrange the surrender of the men in order to delay the assault. The ploy worked and the Shawnees took Boone and the salt boilers north to their towns above the Ohio River. Many were adopted by the Shawnees, including Boone who became Black Fish's son. Boone managed to escape in the middle of June and made his way back to Boonesborough.

Black Fish, at the head of 400 warriors surrounded Boonesborough on the morning of September 7, 1778. Boone had only 60 men to face the onslaught. After negotiations broke down, the siege commenced. Both sides exchanged fire at long range and the Shawnees even attempted to tunnel into the fort. The engagement lasted for nine days and miraculously, the Americans were able to hold on. Unable to capture the fort, Black Fish retired to the Ohio River.

For the next three years, Boone hunted and served as a representative in the Virginia Legislature. Despite the surrender of Lord Charles Cornwallis' army at Yorktown in October 1781, raids by Shawnees and Great Lakes tribes continued. In the middle of August 1782 Boone headed a party to relieve Bryan's Station which had been attacked by a combined Loyalist and Indian force under British Capt. William Caldwell. At the head of about 180 militia, including Boone, Col. John Todd set off in pursuit of Caldwell. Early on the morning of August 19, Todd attacked Caldwell on a ridge overlooking the Licking River at the Blue Licks. In a battle of just fifteen minutes, Caldwell managed to set the Kentuckians to flight and inflicted over 50% casualties. Among them was Boone's son, Israel.

*(Continued in next Newsletter)*



## MYTHS ABOUT COLONIAL AMERICA WE ALL BELIEVED

### Paul Revere Never Shouted, "The British Are Coming!"



©GraphicaArtis/Getty Images

Many Americans are familiar with the poem about Paul Revere riding through Lexington and Concord warning the inhabitants that "The British are coming!" Yet, most of this story is untrue. Revere would never shout "The British are coming!" because the people of Massachusetts still considered themselves to be citizens of Britain.

Instead, he shouted "The Regulars are coming!" which made a lot more sense. In addition, Revere never made it to Concord and was captured and interrogated at Lexington. The poem was written in 1860 by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow with the intention to make America feel unified although at the brink of the Civil War.



## OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

**Thomas Adams**  
1730 – August 1788

Thomas Adams (1730 – August 1788) was a politician and businessman from Virginia. One of the Founding Fathers of the United States, he was a delegate of the Continental Congress and signed the Articles of Confederation.

**Early years**

Adams was born in New Kent County, Virginia, about 1730, son of Ebenezer Adams and Tabitha Cocke. His father was a native of London, England, who settled in Virginia previous to 1714 and received grants in Henrico and New Kent counties. Adams attended there the common schools.

### Career

His first political position was as a clerk of Henrico County and vestryman of that parish, from 1757 to 1761, and later a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, and church warden until 1762. Adams had extensive business interests in England and resided there from 1762 to around 1774.

In 1774, he resumed his residence in Virginia before the outbreak of the American Revolution. He became chairman of the New Kent County Committee of Safety and signed the Virginia Association entered into by the House of Burgesses, on May 27, 1774. Adams was chosen as a delegate from Virginia to the Continental Congress in 1778 and 1779, and signed the Articles of Confederation.

### Later years

In 1780, Adams moved to Augusta County, Virginia, where he was elected to the Virginia State Senate in the 9th, 10th and 11th legislatures, from 1784 to 1787. He married Elizabeth (Fauntleroy) Cocke, widow of his cousin, Bowler Cocke. Adams died on his estate, "Cowpasture", in Augusta County, in August 1788. Some other sources report that he died in October 1788.



## STATS AND FACTS ABOUT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS

Despite the many disadvantages of the American Revolutionary Soldiers the War of Independence was won. There were 36 major battles in the war, but the smaller conflicts and battles took the number to

over 100. A total of 35,000 American Revolutionary Soldiers served in the Continental Army backed by 44,500 militia.

But, as in all wars, victory came at a price:

- 25,000 men died during the war,
- 8000 died in battle,
- 17,000 died of sickness, missing in action and other causes,
- 9000 soldiers suffered serious wounds and injuries,
- 40% - 45% of American colonists supported the revolution,
- 15% - 20% of American colonists were loyalists.
- The remaining colonists took a neutral stance.



## BET YA DIDN'T KNOW!

### WASHINGTON RETURNED BRITISH GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE'S DOG TO HIM AFTER A BATTLE.

After a Patriot defeat at the Battle of Brandywine, Washington hoped to turn the tide with a nighttime assault on British troops—but it didn't work. The Battle of Germantown was another disaster: 150 of Washington's men were killed, 500 wounded, and 400 taken prisoner.

But Washington didn't lose his sense of good manners with the battle. After the fight, a fox terrier with British General William Howe's name on its tag showed up in the Patriots' camp. In keeping with the etiquette of the times, Washington promptly returned the pup to the commander with a note (likely written by Alexander Hamilton, Washington's aide-de-camp at the time):

*To General William Howe [Perkiomen, Pa.] Octr 6. 1777 General Washington's compliments to General Howe. He does himself the pleasure to return [to] him a dog, which accidentally fell into his hands, and*



by the inscription on the collar appears to belong to General Howe.



### COLONIAL TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. What are the two places that the "shot heard 'round the world" refer to?

Answer: b. Lexington and Concord

These two battles were the first time that the colonists and British troops engaged in a battle. It is known as the "shot heard 'round the world" because the whole world was waiting to see what would happen next with the rebel colonists.

2. Who was the British King during the war?

Answer: a. George III

King George III was the third British monarch from the House of Hanover.



Adjutant Rodney Love presents Jason McConville with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service in the United States Army.



Adjutant Rodney Love presents Louis Koob with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service in the United States Army Air Force.



Secretary Rodney Love and Chancellor Bill Sekel prepare to lay a wreath on the grave of a veteran in Old Liberty Cemetery.



**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

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**Sons of the American Revolution**

**Atlanta, Texas**

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