HISTORY
OF THE
DALLAS CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

MINUTE MAN STATUE
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

1929-1984

DEDICATION

THIS HISTORY IS HEREBY DEDICATED TO EACH OF THE COMPATRIOTS OF THE DALLAS CHAPTER SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION THROUGHOUT ITS EXISTENCE. THEIR PATRIOTIC ENDEAVORS HAVE MADE AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY, MAKING IT A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO RESIDE.

HISTORY OF THE DALLAS CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Before directing our attention to the history of the Dallas Chapter, it is appropriate that we pay our respects to those early day Compatriots who laid the groundwork on which the Chapter was founded. Two Dallas Compatriots who were Charter members of the Texas State Society when it was organized in 1896 were Robert V. Davidson (State #3) and Phillip Lindsley (#7). Lindsley served as a member of the State Board of Managers during 1896-97-98 and 99. John Timothee Trezevant (#51) was elected the first Vice President of the Texas Society in 1911. In 1910 the name of Lindsley was missing from the list of Dallas Compatriots, but, in addition to the names of Davidson and Trezevant, the names of William L. Cabell (#63), Charles J. Maxwell (#84), Cyrus I. Scofield (or Scheofield, #97) had been added.

On the 1923 list of Dallas Compatriots, the names of Cabell #63, and Scofield #97 were missing, but the following had been added; Benjamin E. Cabell (#55), Samuel P. Cochran (#189), Francis E. Heafer (#148), William Christopher Jones (#152), Huling Parker Robertson (#169), Paul Teagarden (#177), Menter B. Terrill (#184) and Charles L. Wakefield (#188). One year later the names of Davidson (#3), Jones (#152) and Terrill (#184) were missing from the list of Dallas Compatriots, and the names of William G. M. Cothran (#206) and Farmer D. Cochran (#205) had been added.

Samuel P. Cochran (#189) was elected President of the Texas State Society in 1924 and 1925. His administration must have been an unusually energetic one as the State Meeting was held in Dallas, April 18, 1925. The following Dallas Compatriots were listed as being present at the meeting: Paul Teagarden, Benjamin E. Cabell, Chas. J. Maxwell, Sam P. Cochran, Chas. L. Wakefield and Farmer D. Cochran. Also in attendance were Compatriots John Martin Spellman (#227), John H. Connell (#232), Walter E. Nason (#231), Perry W. Wimberly (#216), Spencer C. Relyea (#256) and James C. Jones (#213).

The scant existing records indicate Colonel John T. Trezevant was the prime mover in organizing the Dallas Chapter and in nurturing the new chapter during the first three years of its existence. During the period 1929-30-31,

he served continuously as Chapter President. Doubtless, though, there were other faithful workers, the records of whose deeds are no longer in our files. The first recorded project of the Chapter was the purchase of an SAR marker in 1931, which was placed on the grave of a Revolutionary War veteran, John Abston, whose grave is in a sadly neglected cemetery located some three miles north and east of the village of Lavon in Collin County.

The founding of the Chapter in 1929, contemporaneous with the onset of the "great depression," was a most inopportune time for establishing any kind of a new enterprise, and the young Chapter soon felt the effects of the deepening depression. With the ending of Colonel Trezevant's tenure as President, the Chapter became inoperative and remained in that state during 1932-33-34 and 35.

In 1936 the Chapter was revived and given a new lease on life under the presidency of Horace P. Eller (#328). Since that time the Chapter has remained active and has shown slow but steady progress. In 1971 it was rated as the outstanding chapter in the State Society. Some two years after the revival of the Chapter in 1938, Dallas was host to the National SAR Congress. We are told that the Congress was a resounding success, due in no small measure to the leadership of the then State Society President, Senator Tom Connally (#266).

Perhaps the oldest surviving project of the Chapter is that of awarding ROTC medals to the outstanding cadet in each Senior High School, and Good Citizenship medals to the outstanding student, of either sex, in each Junior High School. This project, originally confined to the City of Dallas, has been expanded year by year until it is now county-wide. At the present time 23 ROTC medals and 45 Good Citizenship medals are being awarded annually. Three Compatriots, Judges Dee Brown Walker, John H. Bryant and Joe M. Hill, have been the most active workers on this project for several years. Former Compatriot, Floyd L. Shirey, until his untimely death, assumed the numerous details of arranging with the school officials for presentation of the medals.

In the 1950's the Chapter became an active participant in ceremonies in connection with awarding of Citizenship Papers in the Court of Judge T. Whitfield Davidson, a Past President of the Dallas Chapter. Judges Dee Brown Walker and Joe M. Hill have been the most active workers in this field. In the

same decade the Chapter became a participant in the annual Fourth of July Downtown Parade, a custom followed until the present day. Compatriots Dee Brown Walker and John R. Bryant have been consistent workers on this project.

On November 10, 1963, the Dallas Chapter joined with the Military Order of the World Wars in observing the first Massing of the Colors at SMU, and has continued this practice until today. In 1968 the Chapter provided team trophies to be awarded to 1st and 2nd place winners in county-wide ROTC Drill Team competition, and to 1st and 2nd place winners in the ROTC Rifle Team competition.

In 1968 Compatriot J. Ray Andrews conceived a plan for awarding a Certificate of Honor to the survivor of each deceased Dallas County serviceman. The plan was promptly adopted by the Chapter and it has proven to be one of the most rewarding projects. It has since been adopted on both a State and National level.

For many years the Dallas Chapter has, on occasion, sponsored entrants in the State and National Oratorical Contests. This year the State winner was sponsored by the Dallas Chapter, and will compete in the National Contest. On request and without cost, the Chapter will provide an SAR grave marker to the survivor of a deceased Chapter member. The Chapter has available for loan to schools and civic organizations two copies of the patriotic sound-film "Washington Crossing the Delaware."

It is a custom of long standing to hold breakfast meetings on the second Saturday of each month. At the present time, meetings are being held in the Melrose Hotel. Over the years various meeting plans have been tried, but the present day and time seem to be best suited for the majority of members.

The winning of the Walter G. Sterling Outstanding Chapter Plaque is the culmination of years of faithful service by many Compatriots and is a fitting tribute to the effectiveness of their labors.

Joseph B. Latimer
December 1971

HISTORY OF THE DALLAS CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CHAPTER 2 1969-1984

Compatriot Joseph B Latimer wrote the first history covering the early times of our chapter. This history was published in 1972. It is now felt that an additional chapter of our history should be recorded while the Compatriots involved might add input for historical accuracy.

The year 1969 was selected because at that time our Chapter began to grow and to participate in many programs that were to be beneficial to our Society and to the citizens of Dallas.

As a resource for this chapter history, previous rosters published by Compatriots Hershel W. Anderson, Charles T. Brown, Clovis H. Brakebill and Samuel G. Kail have been utilized. The annual reports of our Chapter Presidents have also been used to show the thrust of their administrations. The Chapter has been blessed with outstanding leadership since its organization and this has certainly been true during the past fifteen years. Each president has left his imprint and, in most cases, the programs that began in each of their administrations have continued to flourish. We have continued to have scheduled monthly breakfast meetings and 1969 was the year we began the routine of having an outstanding guest speaker at every meeting.

One of the most heartwarming programs we established was a "Certificate of Honor" program. We presented these certificates in the Dallas area to the families of soldiers who had given their lives in the Vietnam conflict. Compatriot James Andrews conceived, designed and printed this beautiful Certificate of Honor. The program began in 1969 and continued through 1973. During that time we presented this certificate to seventy-four families, letting them know that there were people in America who appreciated and recognized the sacrifices that were made for our nation.

Under BG Graber Kidwell's administration, we demonstrated our support to the ROTC program by sponsoring an ROTC Drill and Rifle Competition for

city championship. This has developed into one of the most prestigious Drill and Rifle competitive meets in the High School ROTC program.

In 1970, our chapter participated with several Veterans' organizations to purchase 7,500 small flags to give to the children at the Fourth of July parade. Compatriot Judge John Bryant arranged and participated in several 4th of July parades proclaiming our liberties and the sacrifices of our ancestors in the American Revolution.

Through the donation of BG Frank Bell, the Dallas Chapter became the custodian of a full color sound film called "Washington Crossing the Delaware" which was made available to civic groups, schools, and patriotic organizations. It is estimated that over 13,000 people viewed this firm.

In 1971 during the administration of Col. Joe M. Hill, Jr., our Chapter assisted Judge T. Whitfield Davidson with the Naturalization Program. For this program we were awarded the Walter G. Sterling Plaque as the outstanding Chapter in the Texas Society. Since that time, we have won the award ten times.

In 1972 under Compatriot Craig Tips' administration we began to recognize outstanding law enforcement officers in the Dallas Area. We honor these officers and their wives at a dinner and present them with the SAR Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate. We continue this fine program today.

In 1973 our entry in the Douglass G. High Historical Oration Contest, John Davis of Highland Park High School, won the National Contest with an oration about freedom of the press and the Peter Zenger trial.

One of the most popular programs was begun in 1973 under Col. N.G. Richardson. Compatriot Lewis K. McElhaney suggested we have one meeting with our ladies and this became known as the Annual Ladies Night meeting. Agnes Richardson, wife of President N.G. Richardson, provided the decorations for the first night and has helped provide the theme for many enjoyable evenings since that date.

Under President Richardson's guidance, an Executive Committee was organized to run the business affairs of the Chapter and this committee still functions effectively today.

One of the projects in 1973 was to recognize local business organizations that demonstrated the proper display of the U.S. Flag.

In 1974, with MG Louis J. Rumaggi as our President, we began our national Bicentennial project. This was to be an illuminated flagpole at a city park selected by the City of Dallas and the SAR Chapter. Contributions by the Chapter members fully financed this project. Also upon leaving office Gen. Rumaggi donated U.S., Texas and SAR flags to our Chapter. These are the flags we now use at each of our meetings.

Because of Dr. Frank H. Kidd's outstanding efforts, we finished the Bicentennial Project during his administration. We will never forget the Dedication Ceremony on Flag Day, 1975, when the Mayor of the City of Dallas and Dr. Kidd ran the beautiful flag up the flagpole to fly forever, day and night. As you drive toward Houston on Highway 45, you can observe our Nation's flag flying in downtown Dallas.

Compatriot Alfred H. Benjamin was president of the Dallas Chapter when it was the host to the State Convention in 1976. Also, in that year members contributed money to the Chapter to donate to the Freedoms Foundation Medal of Honor Grove at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Our name is on the Texas marker which is in that beautiful memorial which commemorates our American heroes.

Further, in 1976 our contestant for the Douglass G. High Historical Oration contest won first place at the National SAR Congress. He was Kelly Gallagher and his speech was entitled "Nation of Freedom." Also in 1976, the Dallas Chapter won the Allene Groves Wilson Award which is presented annually by the National Society to the Chapter which best presents evidence of implementing SAR resolutions and principles.

In 1977 under Col. William H. Hastings, our Chapter collected enough money from its members to purchase a film by the American Security Council entitled "The Price of Freedom." Through the efforts of Compatriot Thomas R. Leggett this film was shown to over thirty patriotic and civic organizations, schools and private groups. It is estimated that some 5,000 people viewed this film.

While Compatriot Clovis H. Brakebill was our President in 1978 we displayed the SAR Liberty Bell to some 40,000 State Fair of Texas visitors. Compatriot Brakebill also arranged for an SAR display at the Jane Douglas Continental DAR House on the State Fair grounds. He has developed this display for the past 7 years and it is estimated that some 175,000 visitors to the State Fair of Texas have seen this SAR exhibit of patriotism.

In 1979, after Compatriot Blaine Wilhoite served as Treasurer, the Dallas Chapter found itself with a substantial cash reserve. Judge John M. Marshall, the President, utilized this reserve to establish a fund to support the partiotic endeavors of the Chapter.

In June 1980, the Texas Society was host to the 90th Annual National SAR Congress which was held in Dallas. Compatriot Clovis H. Brakebill served as the General Chairman of this most successful Congress attended by SAR members from all over the United States. Although other Texas Chapters participated, it was the Dallas Chapter compatriots who gave an outstanding performance.

In 1980, Dr. Tom McCall, our President, obtained official proclamations for Constitution Week from the Governor of Texas, the Mayor of Dallas, and from eight other cities in the Dallas area.

In March of 1980, Governor of Texas William P. Clements became a member of the Dallas Chapter. He was instrumental in obtaining permission for the permanent installation of the Texas Society Patriot Plaque in the state Capitol Building.

Following the highly successful National Congress in 1980, the Dallas Chapter was awarded the President General's Cup Plaque as the outstanding Chapter in the nation at the National Congress in 1981. Compatriot Clovis Brakebill became Dallas Chapter's only recipient of the highly prestigious Minuteman Award in 1981. Compatriot Brakebill did yeoman work for the National Society as a member of its Executive Committee in 1980-81 and we in Dallas were overjoyed that National recognized his extraordinary talent and efforts.

The practice of inviting SAR members from other jurisdictions to attend meetings and to join the Chapter, instituted by Compatriot Wm. R. Eddleman as Secretary, was continued. A program for cooperation with the DAR was instituted. The activities of Officers and Committee Chairmen were recognized by President Eddleman when he presented them with the Yorktown Bicentennial Medal in recognition of their outstanding services to the Chapter.

In 1982 Col. Sam Kail, our President, invited all SAR members in our area who were members of other chapters to attend our meetings. From this endeavor we received many new members. Also, our Chapter assisted the State Society in locating four additional graves of American Revolutionary Soldiers that are buried in Texas.

The Dallas Chapter recognized the outstanding patriotism of H. Ross Perot and awarded him the Gold Good Citizenship Medal for his efforts to return the U.S. Prisoners of War from Vietnam and the brilliant rescue of two of his employees who were prisoners in Iran.

MG Louis J. Rumaggi, Vice President General of the NSSAR, asked and obtained help from Senator John Tower, a Texas Compatriot, to clarify the extent the Federal Government will go in restoring the graves of the Revolutionary War Veterans. For his assistance in this endeavor the President General presented a special SAR plaque to Senator Tower.

In 1983, First Lieutenant Robert F. Ritchie was our President. With the help of Clarence W. Bohanan Jr., we commenced our participation in the National SAR Eagle Scout Program. We anticipate this program will grow each year.

Our Compatriot LTG John M. Wright Jr., is chairman of the Eagle Scout program for the Texas SAR. It is one of the fastest growing projects of our state activities.

In 1984, with Col. E. Graham Martin as president, we participated in a joint meeting with the DAR Chapters in the Dallas area to commemorate Constitution Week. This is the first time in twenty-five years for a joint meeting in Dallas with the DAR. Compatriot Joseph H. McCracken III delivered a speech pertaining to the writing of the U.S. Constitution. There were 393

SAR's, DAR's and guests at this patriotic gathering which was organized by Compatriot Clovis Brakebill.

Our Dallas Chapter contestant, Miss Rhonda Robinson, won the state Oration Contest and represented Texas at the National Contest. We had six delegates from Dallas. Those in attendance were Compatriots Clovis H. Brakebill, Wm. R. Eddleman, Robert F. Ritchie, Alfred H. Benjamin, E. Graham Martin, and LTG John M. Wright, Jr.

In 1984 our Chapter members presented more awards to the citizens of the Dallas area than in any other year. We presented seventy-five medals to deserving citizens of our community. These include Bronze Good Citizenship Medals to our Junior High School students and oration contestants, ROTC Medals to cadets from the High Schools and Universities, and a Law Enforcement Medal to an outstanding Lawman from the Grand Prairie Police Force. Of particular interest was the presentation of Silver Good Citizenship Medals to Compatriots Clarence W. (Tom) Bohanan and Robert F. Ritchie. Compatriot Bohanan received his medal for organizing and developing the Eagle Scout Program, while Compatriot Ritchie received his for his outstanding leadership during his presidency and his loyal support in the Oration Contest. Compatriot Blaine Wilhoite was presented an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Silver Good Citizenship Medal for his many years of outstanding service and leadership in the Dallas Chapter.

The Dallas Chapter has provided leadership at both the National and State levels. Compatriot Clovis H. Brakebill is currently our National Treasurer General. MG Louis J. Rumaggi and Capt. Alfred H. Benjamin have served as Vice Presidents General of the South Central District of the NSSAR. Compatriot Lloyd D. Bockstruck was Librarian General in 1981-82. BG Graber Kidwell, Col. Joe M. Hill, Jr., MG Louis J. Rumaggi, Captain Alfred H. Benjamin, and Captain Clovis H. Brakebill have served as President of the Texas Society.

In 1984, Compatriot Clovis H. Brakebill received the highest competitive award of the National Society, the Florence Kendall Award, for securing the most new members in 1983-84. Compatriot Brakebill sponsored sixty-two new members.

During 1984-85 Compatriot William R. Eddleman is serving the Texas Society as Senior Vice President, and Compatriot John M. Wright, Jr. is serving as Vice President of District 6.

The Dallas Chapter played a major role in the production of the Texas SAR History Book. Col. Joe M. Hill, Jr., as State President, commissioned Howard Jessee of Hondo to write a history of the Texas Society. Compatriot Jessee worked diligently for four years in the preparation of the Texas Society History. Compatriot Al Benjamin was the State President when the book was ready for publication. There was not enough money in the book fund for the publication so Al Benjamin and Robert Ritchie advanced enough money in order that the book could be published.

One of the most forward moving projects the Texas Society has undertaken has been the TSSAR Patriots Fund. The project was started during MG Louis J. Rumaggi's administration and it has grown immensely due to the efforts of BG Graber Kidwell as the driving force. This project supports the patriotic endeavors of the Society using only the interest from the fund's principal money.

To summarize the efforts of the Dallas Chapter in the past 15 years, we can point with pride to its growth and patriotic endeavors. We have grown from 165 members to over 300 members. We have given out approximately 245 ROTC Medals, 600 Bronze Good Citizenship Medals and 12 Law Enforcement Medals to deserving law enforcement officers. We have shown concern for the Vietnam casualties in our area. We have recognized businesses for their display of the U.S. Flag, and as a Bicentennial project, the Chapter erected an illuminated flag pole in a prominent location in downtown Dallas.

We actively recognize those patriotic days that mean so much to the freedom of our country; namely, the 4th of July, Constitution Week, Bill of Rights Day and George Washington's birthday. We have done this through programs and proclamations throughout the metropolitan area of Dallas.

We have supported the objectives of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution by our patriotic, historical and educational activities designed to perpetuate the memory of our American Revolutionary ancestors

PRESIDENTS OF THE DALLAS CHAPTER

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1929-31	Col. John T. Trezevant
1932-35	Chapter Inactive
1936	Mr. H. P. Eller
1937	Dr. John H. Connell
1938	Mr. Alvin H. Lane
1939	Mr. Paul W. Carrington
1940	Mr. Alvin H. Lane
1941	Mr. Earle D. Behrends
1942	Mr. A. Frank Hamm
1943	Mr. Frank W. Lynn
1944	Mr. Chauncy W. Egbert
1945	Mr. Robert W. Thompson
1946	Mr. Charles J. Maxwell
1947	Judge Harold A. Bateman
1948	Mr. Sam L. Randlett
1949	Mr. Frank G. Harmon
1950	Mr. E. B. Comstock
1951	Judge John R. Bryant
1952	Mr. A. W. Gibbs
1953	Mr. Harold Van Buren
1954	Mr. Tracy Walsh
1955	Capt. Frederic Carroll
1956	LTC Arving E. Morris
1957	Rev. S. B. Bedinger
1957	Judge Paine L. Bush
1958	Judge Dee Brown Walker
1959-60	Judge Joe M. Hill
1961-62	Mr. John D. Thornton
1963-64	Mr. Joseph B. Latimer
1965	Judge T. Whitfield Davidson
1966-67	Mr. Hershel W. Anderson
1968-69	BG Graber Kidwell
1970-71	Col. Joe M. Hill, Jr.
1972	Mr. Craig Tipps
1973	Col. N. G. Richardson
1974	MG Louis Rumaggi
1975	Dr. Frank H. Kidd, Jr.
1976	Capt. Alfred H. Benjamin
1977	Col. William H. Hastings
1978	Capt. Clovis H. Brakebill
1979	Judge John Mc. Marshall
1980	Dr. Thomas S. McCall
1981	Hon. William R. Eddleman
1982	Col. Samuel G. Kail
1983	Hon. Robert F. Ritchie
1984	Col. E. Graham Martin