



June, 2021

Ink & Quill

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.®



Next Meeting DATE: July 10, 2021 TIME: 10:00 AM

Location: Trinity Presbyterian Church

President's Message

May 2021 has continued to be a busy month for Denton chapter activities. On May 4th, Chris Strauss and I met with the other North Texas chapter ROTC/ JROTC coordinators in effort to ensure that all schools in our part of Texas are adequately covered for medal recognition of outstanding cadets. In this regard, the Denton chapter will work with the Vernon, Texas chapter, to assist them in taking over ROTC / JROTC responsibility in the Burkburnett / Wichita Falls area. Put it on your "to do" list to assist in this worthy program this next school year (April 2022); let Chris or me know that you are interested in participating.

On May 11th chapter vice president Jim Hobdy and I met with a Denton Police Department representative to set up a plan to honor / recognize worthy law enforcement officers from the police department. Hopefully, this will become an annual event for us to honor a law enforcement or fire department officer in Denton County. I will keep you posted as we work out details of this proposed award program.

At this time, we are planning to have an "in-person" meeting on Saturday morning, July 10th at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 N. Bell Avenue, Denton (north of University Drive). The public library is not going to allow in-person meetings until later in the year and Trinity Presbyterian, the home church for chapter member Jim Johnson, has graciously consented to have us for the July meeting. We will take contributions that morning as a donation to the Church for allowing us to visit their facility. We will also have at least one new member induction that date; the SAR paperwork for Scott Smith has been received.

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President's Message, continued

Don't forget; this past month the password for the Texas SAR "private website" changed; the username remained the same but the password changed; contact me for the username & password. In addition, the State SAR sent out a "DADA message" (that's an email to all members with email addresses on file) reminding everyone that the 2021 invoices will be coming in the mail shortly. **Reminder; it's not junk mail.** Along that same line; if you **didn't get the email**, let me know. That means the State does not have your email address or they have an incorrect one. In this case, get hold of me; an easy fix.

SUPPLEMENTAL PATRIOTS

One of the tasks I have been working on the last few weeks (actually it is a continual work project that has been going on for several years) is adding supplemental Patriots to my ancestral line. The one I am currently trying to find documents on is "Thomas Lowery (Lowry)" who was in the North Carolina volunteers.

What is a supplemental Patriot? A supplement is essentially any other distant grandfather that you identify who also was in the American Revolutionary War. Experience has shown over the years that if you had one Patriot ancestor, you probably have several others; you just have to look for them. If you were born in the 1940's, you have about 128 great-to-the-6th grandparents.

Like others in the chapter, I have found some. In my case two other Patriot grandfathers were identified and on record with the SAR organization. The others in my ancestral line have "holes in the descendants verification" but records, files and documents are found all the time that can clear up the path to verification.

I think it is important to identify and memorialize all of these men who were part of our Nation's history. Look at your own family history, etc. and see if there are other ancestors we can honor as having had a part in the founding of the Country. Zap an email to me or Jim Akers, our chapter registrar, if you have any questions on this task."

Chapter President: Mike Connelley



The photograph depicts a portion of the American Flags that were flown on Robson Ranch Development, I-35W just South of Denton for Memorial Day. The property puts out flags on all National Holidays and military veteran recognition days. July 4th is coming up this next month; pick a location that will be conducting a July 4th event and go celebrate the founding of this great Country.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The newsletter needs input from YOU. Don't make me come over there!

Ideas for articles:

1. Officer and committee reports
2. Biographies of Patriot members, with a picture
3. Articles about ancestor searches
4. Write-ups about your Patriots, with pictures
5. Book reports
6. Articles about Denton, Texas and National SAR activities, with pictures.

Ideally, the input would roll in to me via email before the end of each month.

Bill Surles, wsmerch@gmail.com

Member Spotlight—Jim Johnson



Color Guard members at the rededication of the John Abston grave marker in the wild field of Bluebonnets beside the Cemetery in Lavon, TX where the Abston grave site is located. Jim Johnson is third from the left.

Dr. Johnson (Jim), is a native Texan. He joined SAR in 1985 and has served in many capacities including chapter President. A lifelong artist, Jim has a bachelors degree in art and art education, a masters degree in education and his doctorate from Penn State. He has taught art at the high school and college level including 27 years at the University of North Texas.

He has served SAR in many capacities and for over 3 decades Jim has documented SAR Congresses with his pen and ink drawings. His art work was featured in the Summer 2020 SAR magazine.

Jim has served as TXSSAR State Historian, and State Color Guard Commander. In recognition of his long career of service, Jim received the TXS-SAR Patriot Medal, the highest state society award given for service, awarded “for long and outstanding service to SAR at the chapter and state level.”

Finding Your Ancestor- the Patriot's Road

Identifying and locating ancestors can be bewildering, frustrating, rewarding, disappointing, enlightening, or all of the above. Listed below are some sources for genealogical or historical information. Hopefully, some of these sources will be useful in completing your application for membership or supplemental applications for adding patriot ancestors to your family history.

As a suggestion, start with what (or who) you know. Talk with relatives. Review military records and religious records in your possession, or the possession of relatives. Conduct on-line searches, and ask for help or suggestions from your local SAR Registrar, librarian, or SAR member.

If you have other sources, please consider providing those to your Denton Chapter Registrar for further dissemination to chapter members, or potential members. Your comments on the sources listed may also be helpful. Feel free to give feedback to me or the Newsletter editor.

While the information below is believed to be correct at the time of this writing, I make no promises or guarantees of accuracy or suitability.

....Mike Connelly

sar.org

The SAR Patriot Research System includes information from SAR records, Revolutionary War Graves Registry, and other biological information available to the SAR.

www.dar.org

The Daughters of the American Revolution website is an excellent free source of information. Searches on a known ancestor can lead to an already established genealogy chain to more recent relatives. DAR Record Copies (\$10.00 for a copy) can be obtained on-line and used as evidence for membership or supplemental submissions in SAR.

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Public Libraries.

Many public libraries maintain genealogy sections, including computer access to genealogy websites, for use by patrons. I have been to the Dallas Public Library genealogy section, and it can be described as extensive. I took DART to a station about five blocks from the library, and spent not-enough-time exploring their collection.

The Plano Public Library has an entire room, or otherwise described as a floor (the basement) in the Haggard branch on Coit Road. Their staff is available to assist with local, national, and international research, and they occasionally have classes on genealogy research. Some on-line resources (such as ancestry.com and fold3.com) require a Plano Library card. Check with the staff on duty for the very minimal requirements as far as residency is concerned. “Roaming” through the genealogy stacks does not require a Plano Library card, and is a great place to spend a rainy, cold, or hot afternoon.

www.ancestry.com

This site is one of the more widely used on-line resources. It has many features, including access to photo copies of original documents, such as census records, birth and death certificates, military rolls, military pension applications, and others. Information on individual family members can be found through Ancestry’s “hint” system, which includes references to other Ancestry client’s family trees.

This service is about \$26.59 per month, with unlimited access, although promotional sales events have been offered in the past. Many public libraries, such as the Plano Public Library, provide free access through a library version. Be sure to take a thumb drive to copy any documents you discover.

www.archives.com

This site indicates that it strives to provide the “very best” set of records available on-line, from census and military records to year-books and newspapers. This services is about \$10.63 per month, again with promotional sales events including a free trial period, and may be available in public libraries.

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www.archives.gov

This is very comprehensive free website maintained by the US National Archives. It includes census records, military service records, immigration records, naturalization records, court records, maps of interest to genealogists, and many, many other records.

www.familysearch.com

This site is a free site, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The site is easy to use, with an easy to view family tree. It also draws on the family trees of other subscribers to help fill in those missing links.

newspapers.com

This commercial (pay for subscription) site claims to provide newspapers from the 1700's to the 2000's, and appears to be fully indexed. It's newspapers include those of some foreign countries and many US newspapers. This site also features a free trial period, currently seven days, but occasionally offers other incentives or free trials.

A couple of other newspaper sites that have some additional coverage:

<https://www.genealogybank.com/>

<https://newspaperarchive.com/>

rootsweb.com

This site appears to be affiliated with ancestry.com, fold3.com, and other sites. I have apparently used this in the past, but I just don't recall.

findagrave.com

This is a great free site, with an interesting history. It was started to memorialize the grave sites of "famous" people, and evolved into listings of anyone. The site includes photos of many headstones, cemetery "census" and gravesites of related persons.

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MyHeritage.com

This commercial site, claims 13.3 billion historical records. They also cross-reference other family trees, and notify you of common ancestors.

fold3.com

This commercial site is targeted at military records from the Revolutionary War, through the War of 1812, Mexican American and Early Indian Wars, both World Wars, Vietnam, “recent wars”, and others. Fold3 also offers a free seven day trial, although it is also available without charge through the library edition and many public libraries, including Plano.

Religious Organizations

Some churches maintain archives of church records, including marriage, birth, baptism, death, and burial records for existing and “retired” congregations. As an example, I was able to locate the archives of the Tri-Synod Pennsylvania Lutheran Church, which is housed on the campus of Thiel College, Greenville, PA.

Unfortunately, at least some of these church archives are administered by volunteers, and they can be frustrating to deal with.

Local Historical Societies

Many municipalities are the home to local historical societies that can be very rewarding. As of this writing, Covid 19 restrictions have resulted in at least temporarily closing the physical locations, with varied telephone and internet responses.

State Historical Organizations

States also maintain historical records, including those records relating to individuals. Of particular note is the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission website, phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-online. This is a free resource, in the case of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, Sherman’s Army burned many records in courthouses in his “March to the Sea.”

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County Clerks Offices

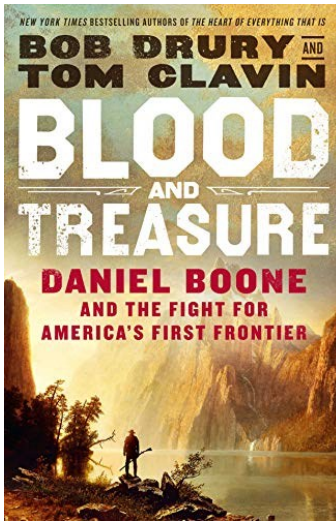
Many employees of county clerks are very willing to help you find documents. I suspect some may be genealogy or history buffs in disguise. I have had the best experiences by calling ahead to determine office hours, or just asking if there are any records available for a specific individual ancestor. Time permitting, they seem willing to help fellow SAR members, genealogy fans, or just visitors from afar.

Many County Clerks offices for select counties in Pennsylvania and New York provide access and on-line copy services for a fee through landex.com, a document publishing service.

And of course, **GOOGLE**: Google searches on your ancestor's name, military unit, battle, or other identifier may yield astonishing results.

....Mike Connelly

Book Review



The explosive true saga of the legendary figure Daniel Boone and the bloody struggle for America's frontier by two bestselling authors at the height of their writing power--Bob Drury and Tom Clavin.

It is the mid-eighteenth century, and in the 13 colonies founded by Great Britain, anxious colonists desperate to conquer and settle North America's "First Frontier" beyond the Appalachian Mountains commence a series of bloody battles. These violent conflicts are waged against the Native American tribes whose lands they covet, the French, and finally against the mother country itself in an American Revolution destined to reverberate around the world.

This is the setting of *Blood and Treasure*, and the guide to this epic narrative is America's first and arguably greatest pathfinder, Daniel Boone—not the coonskin cap-wearing caricature of popular culture but the flesh-and-blood frontiersman and Revolutionary War hero whose explorations into the forested frontier beyond the great mountains would become the stuff of legend. Now, thanks to painstaking research by two award-winning authors, the story of the brutal birth of the United States is told through the eyes of both the ordinary and larger-than-life men and women, white and red, who witnessed it.

This fast-paced and fiery narrative, fueled by contemporary diaries and journals, newspaper reports, and eyewitness accounts, is a stirring chronicle of the conflict over America's "First Frontier" that places the reader at the center of this remarkable epoch and its gripping tales of courage and sacrifice.

"[The] authors' finest work to date." —*Wall Street Journal*

Review from Amazon.com