

March, 2022



Ink & Quill

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



**Next Meeting: Scheduled for 10am April 9, 2022
at the Denton Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St .**

President's Message

It looks as if the winter of 2021-22 and COVID is starting to lose its grip on North Texas. Hopefully, the chapter will now begin to consistently get together, all in the same room at the Denton Library for our regular meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 9, 2022.

The April meeting is particularly important for us since this is when we formally install our new slate of chapter officers.

They will begin a two-year term of continuing the steady growth and community involvement that we have been building this past 2-2 ½ years. We had to deal with COVID shutdowns and even snowstorms but our chapter has continued to weather these issues and show steady growth.

The registration form for the Texas SAR annual convention is up and running on the Texas SAR public website. I hope many of you will take the opportunity to register for the Convention and see, first hand, how the organization operates.

While the registration forms show the full dates for the convention run from Thursday March 31st to Sunday, April 3rd you can get the full enjoyment of the **convention in TWO DAYS- Saturday and Sunday**. The actual business meetings begin on Saturday morning, last all day and conclude with the dinner Saturday night. Sunday morning meetings only last for a couple of hours.

It is close enough to us that you really don't have to rent a hotel room; it's just down the road in Richardson. A special reason to make it this year, especially on Saturday is that the Texas SAR Oration Contest finals will be at the luncheon on

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Saturday, April 2nd which will include our own Denton Chapter winner, J. B. Lilley.

A special reason for many of the Denton member to register, come to the meetings on Saturday and attend the luncheon and support J B as he attempts to win the State Oration Contest.

If anyone has any question or issues on trying to register for the convention, give me a call (817-994-1356) or zap me an email. It is a simple 1-2-3 process. I hope to see you there.

Jim Akers, our chapter registrar and incoming chapter president, has been very busy over this past year working with prospective chapter members. As I mentioned, we have seen a steady number of inquiries from prospective members in the Denton / north Texas community and currently have probably 4-6 applications at SAR headquarters awaiting approval along with several other in different stages of preparedness. This continued growth allows us to take on more and more educational projects, history activities and community recognition projects within the Denton metro area and neighboring schools.

This past year we were heavily committed to JROTC and ROTC awards in the Denton area, had a winner in both the Knight Essay contest and the Texas SAR Oration Contest, made an award to the Denton Police Department for "officer of the year" and served as host for the North Texas SAR region Oration Contest (which our candidate, J B Lilley) won.

The goal now for our chapter is to keep up the steady pace of growth and continue to increase our involvement with Denton area public service organizations and educational institutions.

Quick question for our chapter members- are you routinely receiving emails from the Texas SAR organization? If I am discussing activities / events going on with Texas SAR organization and you are hearing it from me FIRST; then it may be that the Texas SAR organization doesn't have your email OR it has been entered incorrectly. This is a quick and easy fix which begins by going to the Texas SAR "private side" website, looking at the current SAR roster, scrolling down to the Denton chapter and then find your name and the email associated with that name. Is it there? Is it there but it is incorrect?

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There is a special login and password to reach this website; we have discussed it several times but if you are not sure or don't recall the login information- call me or zap me an email and I will walk you through it. It is not brain surgery but if not done correctly, you will not get access to the "Private Side" website.

Warm weather is here and time to get outside and enjoy it. Take a walk and start working on the yard and flower beds. Hope to see you at the Texas SAR convention and the April meeting.

Next meeting? April 9th.

Chapter President: Mike Connelley

Late, breaking news....

J.B.,

I'm please to advise you that you've been selected as the winner of the Texas Society's Knight Essay Contest as a representative of the Denton Chapter. Your excellent essay was well received by the judges. As the winner of the Texas Society contest, your Essay has already been submitted to the National Society of the SAR for inclusion in their national contest. Those results will be announced in June with recognition of the National Winner at the SAR Congress in Savannah, GA around July 12, 2022.

As the Texas Society winner, you will receive a scholarship letter worth \$2,500 and inclusion in the Youth Awards Luncheon at the Texas Society state convention April 2, 2022 in Richardson. I know you are already planning to be at the luncheon for the Oration Contest. We'll find some time on the schedule for you to read your essay.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

I look forward to meeting you in Richardson April 2.

Congratulations,
Mark Harrison



The Denton chapter continues to receive interest from surrounding men in surrounding communities wanting to join the SAR organization. Myself and Jim Akers met the other day with two men who are, hopefully, in the final stages of their application process. They are Todd Wilber and Donald Peden who both live in the Denton area. The continued population growth in the Denton is probably a contributing factor to the increase in interest in membership in our chapter and we will take from wherever it comes.

Editor's Note

The Chapter **website** is <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/>. On that site are the back copies of this newsletter, information about the Chapter, and links to the SAR State and National web sites.

We now have a **Facebook page**, www.facebook.com, search for **Denton TX SAR**. Please join and participate.

All of these communication devices take time to maintain. If you would like to help and/or take over one of these, please let me know.

Bill Surles, wsmerch@gmail.com

GAR AND MASONS: DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDS FRATERNAL ORG BOOKS TO SHELVES

If you had a Civil War ancestor who fought for the Union, there's a chance he was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)—the preeminent Union Army veterans' organization formed at the close of the Civil War.

Developed by Civil War surgeon Benjamin Franklin Stephenson of Springfield, Illinois, the first G.A.R. post was organized and chartered in Decatur, Illinois, on April 6, 1866. Membership reached its peak in 1890, when over 400,000 members were reported. By then the G.A.R. had over seven thousand posts, ranging in size from fewer than two dozen members in small towns, to more than a thousand in some cities.

Author Gary W. Clark brings the history and record sources of the G.A.R. and its auxiliaries to genealogists and family historians in

The Grand Army of the Republic and Union Veteran Research: The Essential Guide for Genealogists and Family Historians (2021). Chapters include: 1) Grand Army History, 2) Record Sources, 3) Affiliate Organizations, 4) African-American G.A.R., 5) Badges, Monuments & Cannons, 6) Federal Records, 7) State and Local Records, 8) State G.A.R. Resources, three Appendices, Glossary, and Research Checklist. Check out this time-saving and comprehensive guidance to finding valuable and sometimes well-hidden information about the G.A.R. and Civil War veteran, now on the DPL Special Collections bookshelf.

Interested in learning more?

[The Grand Army of the Republic and Kindred Societies](#) (Library of Congress)
[Interview](#) with author Gary Clark on *Extreme Genes* podcast, segment 2.

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