

February, 2023



Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting: 10am April 1, 2023

Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton

Chapter Officers

President—Jim Akers
Vice President—Brandon Story
Registrar & Genealogist—
Tom Richards
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry
Treasurer—Christopher Strauss
Chaplain—Bill Rowell
Past President—Mike Connelley
Sgt at Arms—Johnny Loomis

Opportunities

1. [March 16-17: DAR State Conference](#)
2. [March 18: Patriot James Lemmon Grave Marking](#)
3. [Mar 30-Apr 2 Texas SAR Annual Spring Convention](#)

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Chapter President Jim Akers Message:

Great News!

Attached to this Chapter Newsletter is an order form for our Sons of the American Revolution shirts. Chapter Vice President Brandon Story and Coordinator of Membership and Publicity Jim Hobdy have done a great job in identifying a vendor for this project, and making these high-quality shirts available to our membership. And at a price that is less than on the national website. One of the unique features of the Denton shirts is the ability to customize each shirt with your name, and with the name of your Patriot Ancestor on the left sleeve. In addition to being a useful project, we are hoping to generate funds for Chapter projects through a small donation for each shirt. But don't hesitate to add to that donation!

The Denton Chapter submitted the application of Mr. Rodney Hess, a History Teacher at Denton ISD Ryan High School as our Teacher of the Year. We are working to schedule Mr. Hess to give us a history lesson at one of our future meetings.

We also identified Ms. Emma Figueroa as our candidate for the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. Emma is a Junior at the Dr. Ralph H. Poteet High School in Mesquite, Texas, and she has an impressive 4.0 grade point average. As of this writing, Emma has submitted her essay in draft form, and we are working on the details to submit her final essay to

Continued on the next page...

the Texas Society by the due date.

With these two entries, it is now time to start identifying our candidates for Teacher of the Year, the Knight Essay Contest, the Oration Contest, the Video Contest, and Eagle Scout Contest for 2024. This year's candidates were identified through teachers. Details on these contests can be found at <https://www.sar.org/youth-awards-contests/>.

Treasurer, Awards Coordinator, and past President Chris Strauss is preparing for the JROTC spring awards season. If you have an interest in presenting any of these awards, please contact Chris. It would be good if we had more than one person at each ceremony. These are usually a great opportunity to meet not only faculty members of Denton area high schools and universities, but also members of other civic organizations, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion, and others.

The Dallas Chapter continues to work on the next Patriot grave marking ceremony. The Patriot is James Lemmon, who is buried in the Old Edgewood Cemetery in Lancaster, Dallas County, Texas. The date has now been set for Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 3:00 pm. If you have an interest in helping with this activity, please contact Compatriot Bill Watts (bill_watts@att.net). Please consider "penciling in" this event to your March calendar.

Compatriot Jim Hobdy has obtained the documentation that proves John B. Denton, for whom the City of Denton and Denton County are named as an ancestor of Patriot James Carter. As each of you recall, the McKinney Chapter organized and sponsored a Patriot Grave Marking of James Carter in Bonham, Texas last summer. We are in the beginning stages of designating John B. Denton (July 28, 1806 - May 22, 1841) as a member of the Den-

ton Chapter of the SAR, and marking his grave with a Sons of the American Revolution Compatriot grave marker. I encourage you to visit John Denton's gravesite on the grounds of the Denton County Courthouse.

This year the Gainesville Medal of Honor Parade will be held on April 22, 2023 on California Street in Gainesville. This parade caps off a three-day celebration of Medal of Honor winners, and will feature six or seven Medal of Honor winners. We have considered sponsoring a float for this parade. Anyone interested in riding on the float, or donating the use of a vehicle or trailer for this float, please contact either me or Chapter Vice-President Brandon Story.

Due to employment schedule conflicts, our Sergeant At Arms, Johnny Loomis has had to give up his position for the foreseeable future. Everyone that is interested in this elected position are asked to contact either me, or Vice President Brandon Story for the duties of the position. Johnny has been a dedicated and dependable member of the Denton Chapter Board of Managers, and has always responded to Chapter requests.

Promote patriotism. Preserve American History. Promote education to our future generations. These three things describe what the Sons of the American Revolution does. The Denton Chapter is committed to each of them, as shown by our activities of not only this month, but this past year.

Mark your calendar for our next in-person meeting: **April 1, 2023, 10:00 am** at the **Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201**. This is a change from our normally scheduled meeting on the second Friday of the scheduled month. We made this one-time change to avoid any potential conflict with the Easter weekend, and the following Saturday is Tax Day.

Ron Akers, Denton Chapter President



Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Grave Marking Ceremony
for

James Lemmon



19 March 2023 at 3:00 PM

GPS coordinates 32.579738 -96.747121

Edgewood Cemetery
Nokomis Road
Lancaster, Texas

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.

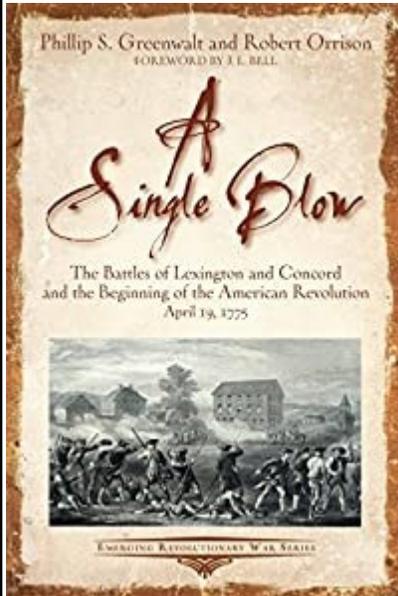
We now have a **Facebook page**, www.facebook.com, search for **Denton TX SAR**. Please join and participate.

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

A Single Blow:
The Battles of Lexington and Concord and the Beginning of the American Revolution.
April 19, 1775

by Phillip Greenwalt (Author) , Robert Orrison (Author)
(Emerging Revolutionary War Series)



“I have now nothing to trouble your Lordship with, but an affair that happened on the 19th instant . . .”

General Thomas Gage penned the above line to his superiors in London, casually summing up the shots fired at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775.

The history of the Battles of Lexington and Concord were the culmination of years of unrest between those loyal to the British monarchy and those advocating for more autonomy and dreaming of independence from Great Britain in the future. On the morning of April 19th, Gage sent out a force of British soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith to confiscate, recapture, and destroy the military supplies gathered by the colonists and believed to be stored in the town of Concord.

Due to the alacrity of men such as Dr. James Warren, Paul Revere, and William Dawes, utilizing a network of signals and outriders, the countryside was well-aware of the approaching British, setting the stage for the day’s events.

When the column reached the green of Lexington, Massachusetts, militiamen awaited their approach. The first shots of April 19th would be fired there. The rest of the day unfolded accordingly.

Historians Phillip S. Greenwalt and Robert Orrison unfold the facts of April 19, 1775, uncovering the amazing history that this pivotal spring day ushered in for the fate of Massachusetts and thirteen of Great Britain’s North American colonies with A Single Blow.

Review from Amazon.com



Denton Public Library Offers New Digital Obituary Collection

The Denton Public Library is pleased to announce the immediate availability of its new digital obituary collection, HeritageHub. This new resource provides online access to hundreds of years of obituaries and death notices from thousands of newspapers across the United States. Also included are over 94 million records from the Social Security Death Index.

HeritageHub enables library customers to easily search and browse obituaries and death notices from 1704 through today. The scanned obituaries have been manually indexed to enhance search accuracy. In addition to using HeritageHub at workstations in the library, customers can access the collection from home by logging in with your library card at https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_resources.html.

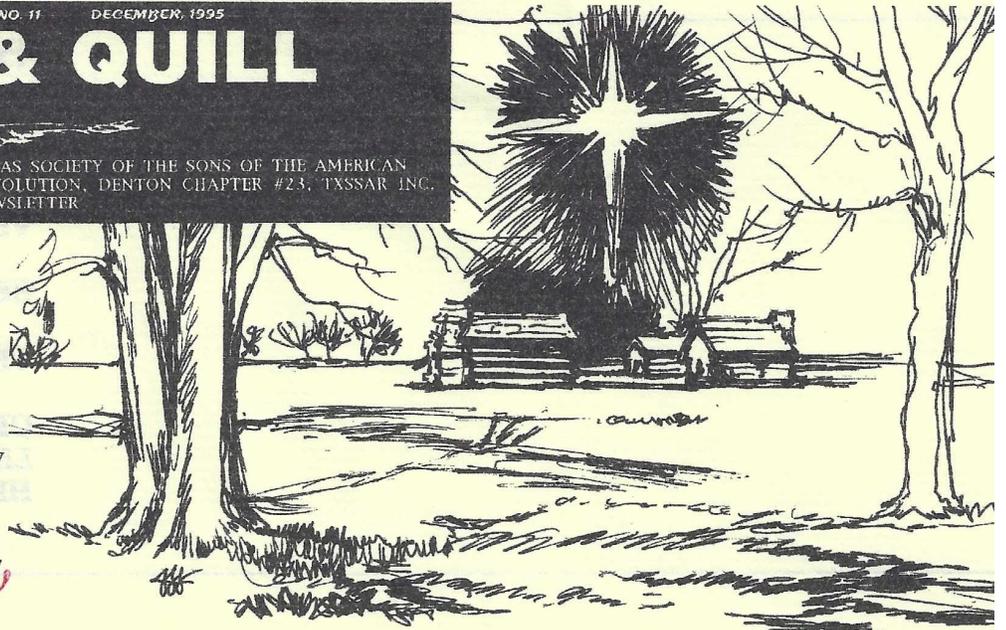
A helpful guide to using HeritageHub can be found at: <https://www.newsbank.com/sites/default/files/PDF/hhub-help-documentation.pdf>

This one-of-a-kind collection helps patrons and family historians uncover new family members and understand family relationships on a deeper level than ever before. For more information about HeritageHub or other genealogy databases available at the Denton Public Library, contact Laura Douglas by calling (940) 349-8749 or emailing Laura.Douglas@cityofdenton.com.



Christmas at Valley Forge

The winter of 1777 was a particularly difficult one for George Washington's troops. Poorly equipped and short on food, they struggled to survive housed in canvas tents, lean-to shelters, and log cabins. On Christmas Day, 1777, four inches of snow fell, making survival even more difficult. Replicas of the original dwellings may be seen today at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.



"Valley Forge"

THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF S.A.R. (1889-1989) IS THE TOPIC FOR DECEMBER

Jack Haughton will present a video tape on *the first 100 Years of S.A.R.* on December 7, 1995, 7:00 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Village in Denton. The program focuses on the founders, accomplishments, and outstanding members of the organization. Guess how many American Presidents were members of the Sons of the American Revolution?

Voices of the Revolution

"The leaves and the ground were as wet as water could make them. We endeavored to get fire by flashing powder on the leaves, but, this failing, we were forced by old master necessity to lay down with three other of our constant companions: fatigue, hunger, and cold."

Pvt. Joseph Plum Martin

REMINDER: NEXT MEETING, DEC. 7,