

April, 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
Color Guard — David Cook

Opportunities

1. **April 1 Denton SAR Meeting**
2. **Mar 30-Apr 2 Texas SAR Annual Spring Convention**
3. **April 5, Guyer High School AFJROTC awards**
4. **April 22 Gainesville Medal of Honor Parade**
5. **August 8, Denton SAR Mtg**

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Chapter President Jim Akers Message:

Next Meeting: April 1, 2023.

Since our last meeting the National Society has approved four new members: Stanley Hobbs, Jim Marshall, Fred Brown, Randy Nusbaum, and David Cook has added his dual membership. Stanton Black transferred his membership to Denton.

This past month we had seven Denton Chapter representatives attend the marking of Patriot James Lemmon's grave. In addition to speakers from the Dallas Chapter, the host of the event, the next State SAR President also addressed attendees. Our state color guard appeared in what appears to be as an expanded group, and a direct ancestor of James Lemmon also spoke. The Lancaster, Texas Fire Department, displayed an American flag from the top of their hook-and-ladder truck, and a bugler played a flawless Taps. Check out the photos on our Facebook (SAR Denton TX Chapter) page.

April tends to be a busy month for the SAR, and this April is no exception. Past president and current treasurer Chris Strauss has posted the schedule for JROTC
Continued on the next page...

and ROTC awards. Please consider presenting at these events, but even if you are not the presenter, please plan on being a co-presenter, or just attending. Only Guyer High School currently has a presenter, and if you need an outline for the presentation, I can help. See the list on the next page.

On April 18, 2023 Denton County Judge Andy Eads will issue a Proclamation proclaiming April 19, 2023 as Patriots Day in Denton County to our Chapter. Patriots Day commemorates the "midnight ride" of Paul Revere, who rode with William Dawes to warn the colonialists of the advancing British Army in 1775. As you know, Denton Chapter Compatriot Tom Richards is a direct descendent of William Dawes. The presentation is scheduled for 9:00 am in the Commissioners Court, 1 Courthouse Drive, Denton, TX. Please plan on attending, and if you have a uniform, please consider wearing it to the presentation.

The Denton Chapter has been invited to attend the Dallas Chapter meeting on April 8, 2023, at Ventana by Buckner, 8301 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, Tx. The speaker will be the new Texas SAR President, Sam Massey, as well as a speaker on the topic of "Hamilton vs. Jefferson." A \$10 optional breakfast buffet will be served at 8:00 am, with the meeting starting at 9:00 am. Please let me know by April 7 if you plan to attend the breakfast part, so that I can advise Dallas how many of us to expect for the caterer. And yes, there is free parking.

The Gainesville Medal of Honor Parade is still scheduled for 10:00 am, April 22, 2023 on California Street between the railroad and Braums, in Gainesville. Gainesville is the only city in America to host our nation's highest decorated hero's annually **to promote patriotism** and celebrate the heroism of the recipients. This parade caps off a three-day celebration of Medal of Honor winners, and there are usually six or seven Medal of Honor winners. Anyone interested in riding on the float, or donating the use of a vehicle or trailer for a float, please contact either me or Chapter Color Guard Commander David Cook. Otherwise, I will be watching the parade from the sidewalk on the east corner of the courthouse, near the reviewing stand. Bring a folding chair.

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.

Our next in-person meeting will be July 8, **2023, 10:00 am** at the **Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201**. The speaker is scheduled to be retired UNT history professor and current president of the New Mexico Historical Society, Gus Seligmann.

Ron Akers, Denton Chapter President

ROTC/JROTC Award Schedule

Several the JROTC/ROTC Detachments have nailed down their awards ceremonies, and some have their date/time/locations but are still choosing their awardees, so I thought I should let you know what the schedule is looking like.

5 April 2023 at 09:00 - Guyer High School AFJROTC - Guyer Football Field – I plan to present this one myself since I can only do the first three weeks of April.

27 April 2023 at 18:00 - Ryan High School AFJROTC - OLD RHS Auditorium – Unassigned - 5101 East McKinney, Street, Denton, TX

28 April 2023 at 19:00 - Denton High School AFJROTC - Denton High School Commons - Unassigned - 3001 Bronco Way, Denton TX

4 May 2023 at 15:00 - UNT Army ROTC - TWU Army ROTC Office - Unassigned - 1120 Club House Drive, Denton, TX

4 May 2023 at 18:30-20:00 - Braswell High School AFJROTC - BHS Auditorium - Unassigned – 26750 E. University, Aubrey, TX

xx XXX 2023 at XX:XX - UNT Air Force ROTC – Unassigned - Last year this was on 20 April 2022 and was a Dining Out (formal), and I presented in Colonial uniform. If they do something like that again, before 22 April 2023, I will take care of it again. If it is after 22 April, I will need someone to volunteer.

What I need now is for members, especially those with Colonial uniforms or SAR blazers (or maybe our new shirts!) to sign up to attend the different ceremonies. You will be called up by whoever is master of ceremonies to present the Bronze ROTC Medal and Certificate to the selected JROTC Cadet (High Schools), or the Silver Medal and Certificate to the selected ROTC Cadet (UNT Army or UNT Air Force). We also present a Flag Certificate to each school, usually to the Cadet Commander or the Color Guard Commander. I will be turning over an envelope with the actual awards to each ROTC detachment, and to the Denton ISD JROTC coordinator (LTC Deal at Ryan High School) beforehand.

Christopher E. Strauss, Ph.D.

Major, U. S. Army, Retired; University of North Texas, Retired

Treasurer, Denton Chapter #23, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

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cell 940 368-7717

At John Lemmon's Grave Marking



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



Minutes for Chapter Meeting

Date January 14, 2023

Denton Chapter #23, Texas SAR

President Jim Akers called the meeting to order

Invocation Ted Goodwin-Stremmer

Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Richards

Pledge to Texas Flag by Johnny Loomis, Sergeant-at-Arms

Pledge of SAR led by Brandon Story

Introduction of guests: Mike Lester, David Rayson, Bill Fairhurst, Mark Lange, David Cook

14 members present and 5 guests. Total 19 present.

Program: Compatriot Kevin Shellman, Van Zandt Chapter

Old Business: Approve minutes of July 9th, 2022 meeting Dan Frye

Youth programs: Oration, Essay, Video, Teacher of the Year Contest.... Jim Akers

2022 Wreaths Across America was a success for DAR and SAR

New Business and Announcement:

Approve Minutes of the October 8, 2022 meetingDan Frye Recording Secretary

Treasures Report.....Chris Strauss \$2,360.44

Youth Report: JROTC/ROTC.....Chris Strauss

2023 Dues Reminder

Annual Reports.....Mike Connelley, Secretary, Annual Reports

SAR Shirt Proposal.....Brandon Story, Jim Hobdy

Next Meeting: April 1, 2023, Emily Fowler Library

Patriot Grave Marking, Lancaster, Tx. March 19, 3:00 P.M.

Gainesville Medal of Honor Parade, Saturday, April 22, 2023

Benediction.....Ted Goodwin-Stremmer

Recessional.....Led by Mike Connelley

Mike Fry, Chapter Recording Secretary

Denton Chapter SAR Color Guard



Current Status

The Chapter Color Guard now consists of three members as follows:

Compatriot David Cook- Commander- Colonial and Militia uniform and Kentucky rifle

Compatriot Tom Richards- Colonial uniform

Compatriot Christopher Strauss- Colonial uniform

A Color Guard Unit must have an absolute minimum of three members, with four the desired minimum

Recent Events

February 18- Compatriot Cook, dressed as General George Washington presented little known facts about General Washington to the Triesch Methodist Men's group of about 60 attendees including children.

March 19- Compatriots Cook and Tom Richards performed in the Color Guard for the Texas State Grave Dedication of Patriot James Lemmon at Lancaster TX

Future Opportunities

NOTE: JROTC schedules provided by Compatriot Christopher Strauss

All are Chapter events except the Medal of honors Parade and the ROTC review.

April 5- Wed. 0900 hours- AFJROTC at Guyer High School

April 18- Tue. 0900 hours- Patriot Day proclamation to Denton County Judge Andy Eads.

April 22-Sat.- 0900 hours- Medal of Honor Parade in Gainesville TX.

April 27-Thu. 1800 hours- AFJROTC at Ryan High School

April 28- Mon 1900 hours AFJROTC at Denton High School

May 4- Thu- 1500 hours at Army ROTC at University North Texas

May 4- Thu- 1830 hours AFJROTC at Brasswell High School in Aubrey Tx.

May 5- Fri. ROTC General Review, Lewisville high School

I consider all to be Color Guard events according to the Texas State Color Guard handbook policies and the note: "A Color Guard member should have fun presenting historical presentations of our ancestors to the public"

Color Guard member Requirements

A member must have a Continental or Militia uniform. The militia is the least expensive and easiest to obtain. It requires a white pair of jeans, checkered or striped shirt and a tricorne hat or round hat costing about 50 \$

The time commitment is minimal where members participate based on their schedules and availability. Events normally last for one to two hours.

Color Guard participation is fun and exciting where they interact with the public, especially with children.

See me at the April 1st chapter meeting in order to get started.

David R. Cook

Commander, Denton Chapter SAR

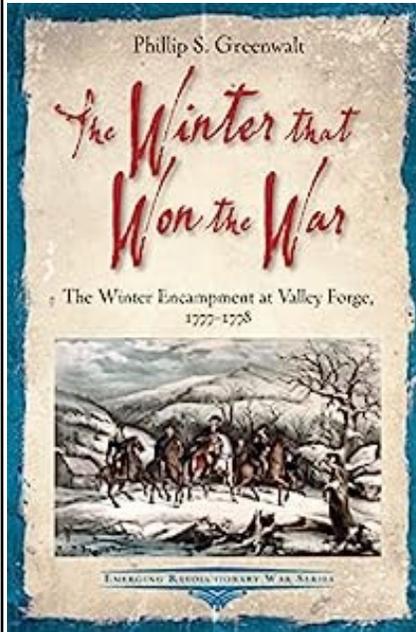
Color Guard

Cell-706-835-5910

Email-davidcook1936@gmail.com

The Winter that Won the War: The Winter Encampment at Valley Forge, 1777–1778

by Phillip S. Greenwalt
(Emerging Revolutionary War Series)



“An Army of skeletons appeared before our eyes naked, starved, sick and discouraged.” Gouverneur Morris recorded these words in his report to the Continental Congress after a visit to the Continental Army encampment at Valley Forge. Sent as part of a fact-finding mission, Morris and his fellow congressmen arrived to conditions far worse than they had initially expected.

After a campaigning season that saw the defeat at Brandywine, the loss of Philadelphia, the capital of the rebellious British North American colonies, and the reversal at Germantown, George Washington and his harried army marched into Valley Forge on December 19, 1777.

What transpired in the next six months prior to the departure from the winter cantonment on June 19, 1778 was truly remarkable. The stoic Virginian, George Washington solidified his hold on the army and endured political intrigue, the quartermaster department was revived with new leadership from a former Rhode Island Quaker, and a German baron trained the army in the rudiments of being a soldier and military maneuvers.

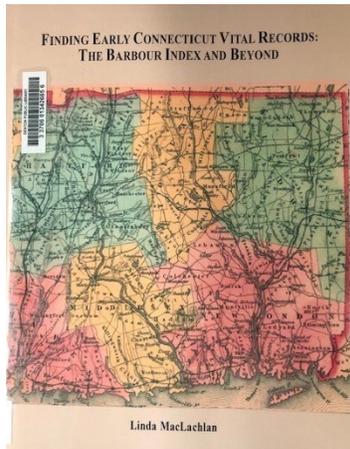
Valley Forge conjures up images of cold, desperation, and starvation. Yet Valley Forge also became the winter of transformation and improvement that set the Continental Army on the path to military victory and the fledgling nation on the path to independence.

In *The Winter that Won the War: The Winter Encampment at Valley Forge, 1777-1778*, historian Phillip S. Greenwalt takes the reader on campaign in the year 1777 and through the winter encampment, detailing the various changes that took place within Valley Forge that ultimately led to the success of the American cause. Walk with the author through 1777 and into 1778 and see how these months truly were the winter that won the war.

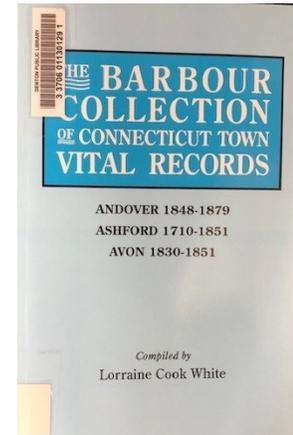
Review from Amazon.com

The Barbour Collection and Beyond: Resources for Connecticut Researchers

If your ancestors called Connecticut home, then these books in the Denton Public Library Special Collections will be of particular interest.



The set, *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* by Lorraine Cook White and *Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond*, by Linda MacLachlan (2019) each provide insight and access to one of the most important vital records collections available for the Constitution State. But what is the Barbour Collection?



The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records is an index to and transcription of most town vital records of births, marriages, and deaths from a town's inception to about 1850. It was first created by Lucius B. Barbour, examiner of public records (1911-1934). He directed a project whereby town vital records were copied and abstracted. He presented the completed transcriptions to the Connecticut State Library where the info was typed onto printed forms, which were then cut, producing twelve small slips per sheet. Slips were alphabetized, typed a second time, and bound into separate volumes for each town. The slips were then interfiled, forming a statewide alphabetized index for most surviving town records.

The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records is comprised of 55 volumes, each focused on a set of towns; for example, volume one contains records for Andover 1848-1879, Ashford 1710-1851, and Avon 1830-1851. DPL's Special Collections holds all 55 volumes. Coverage dates vary from town to town, and some town's records are more complete than others. Regardless, this resource is a must-use for any researcher with Connecticut roots.

New to the DPL bookshelves, ***Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond*** identifies the original sources of millions of early Connecticut vital records abstracted in the Barbour Index. From an online review: "Finding Early Connecticut Records contains a town-by-town bibliography of both Barbour's actual sources for the information in his Index and all vital records not in the Barbour Index that may be in church and cemetery records, town records, and published sources. For each town we are given the Family History Library (FHL) film numbers for derivative and original sources that have been microfilmed, and other source information for those that have not. These town chapters also note (in boldface) discrepancies and other town records that Barbour did not abstract."

Connecticut researchers can take advantage of these two excellent resources at the Emily Fowler Special Collections area.

*Nancy Gilbride Casey
Denton Public Library Volunteer*



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FEBRUARY, 1996

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
George Washington!



B. 2/22/1732

D. 12/14/1799

106th NATIONAL SAR CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN SAN ANTONIO

The National SAR Congress will meet on June 8th-12th at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. Many activities are planned including the South Central District Breakfast (see insert). Complete details regarding the meetings, including reservation forms, can be found in the Winter and Spring issues of the SAR Magazine.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR SERVICE OF CAPTAIN EDWARD BEESON TO BE PRESENTED AT THE FEB. MEETING

Compatriot James Baird will present a program on the military adventures of his Revolutionary War ancestor, Captain Edward Beeson at, 7 p.m. February 1st at the Good Samaritan Village in Denton. The actual court records of his petition for a Revolutionary War Pension reveal the details of his military service.

REMINDER: MEETING-FEB. 1, 7 P.M.

Denton SAR Newsletter From the Past
(back)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH.....ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8-10-----SAR STATE MEETING-GALVESTON

APRIL.....INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

JUNE 8-12-SAR NATIONAL CONGRESS-SAN ANTONIO

Don't forget to write the biography of your ancestor for the newsletter.

SUBMIT YOUR NAME SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR CHAPTER ASAP.
CHAPTERS ARE USUALLY NAMED FOR REVOLUTIONARY WAR
SOLDIERS OR PATRIOTS.

REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE APPROPRIATE INSERT FORMS.

**TXSSAR CHAPTER #23
OFFICERS**
PRESIDENT
RICHARD E. FLETCHER
VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN B. CASEY, JR.
SECRETARY
JAMES BAIRD
TREASURER
WILLIAM P. VAUGHN
CHAPLIN
LINWOOD J. ROBINSON
HISTORIAN
TOM CAIN
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
JIM JOHNSON

“Voices of the Revolution”

It was the spring of the year 1778 as I believe. David Brower was my Captain, James Woods, Lieutenant, I was Ensign, and William Brown, Sergeant. Robert McCannas was our Major, Thomas Dugan, Colonel and Butler, General.

Our objective was the destruction of the Tories. The next day after we left Johnsonville, our place of rendezvous, our Captain and three men were killed by the Tories who waylaid us. The Tories were commanded by Major Rainey and fired on us from a steep hill on the side of Brush Creek. After Brower was killed, Woods became Captain and I became Lieutenant.

We pursued the Tories about forty miles to Fork Creek and there besieged them in a house belonging to one John Needham. In the morning before we got to Needham's, our Colonel (Dugan) joined us.

Captain Edward Beeson

(paraphrased from court records)

ATTEND THE FEBRUARY MEETING FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

STATE SAR TO MEET IN GALVESTON IN MARCH

The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will hold its annual meeting in Galveston, Texas on March 8th, 9th, & 10th, 1996. If you are making plans to attend, additional information may be found in the state newsletter.

INK & QUILL

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TXSSAR Inc.
c/o Jim Johnson, Editor
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