

May, 2023



Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting: 10am July 8, 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. May 4, ROTC awards
2. May 15, Peace Officers Memorial Day
3. May 29, Memorial Day
4. July 8, Denton SAR Mtg
5. June 1, send Memorial Day notes to Newsletter editor (see Jim's message below)

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Chapter President Jim Akers Message:

For the Denton Sons of the American Revolution April kept up the "tradition" of being a busy month. Air Force JROTC medals were presented to cadets at Guyer High School, Ryan High School, Denton High School, and an ROTC medal was presented at Air Force ROTC at the University of North Texas. We are planning to continue with the medal presentations at the University of North Texas Army ROTC, and Braswell High School Air Force JROTC. Those presentation are scheduled for:

- May 4, 2023, 3:00 pm: UNT Army ROTC - TWU Army ROTC Office, 1120 Club House Drive, Denton, TX.
- May 4, 2023, 6:30 pm: Braswell High School AFJROTC - BHS Auditorium, 26750 E. University, Aubrey, TX.

Continued on the next page..

Even if you are not scheduled to be a presenter, please consider attending along with your fellow Denton Chapter SAR members to see how these presentations are conducted, to meet faculty and staff from the ROTC/JROTC units, and to meet the cadets. It is also an opportunity to meet members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other patriotic organizations.

Denton Compatriot and Color Guard Commander David Cook participated in a Naturalization Ceremony with the North Texas SAR Color Guard posting the colors on April 17, 2003. This ceremony, held at the University of Texas at Dallas included 18 state color guard members, and welcomed new US Citizens.

As promised in last month's President's Message, Denton County Judge Andy Eads and the Denton County Commissioners Court issued a proclamation on April 18, 2023 proclaiming April 19th 2023 as Patriots' Day in Denton County. As you know, April 19th is the day in 1775 that some historians regard as the start of the Revolutionary War when William Dawes, Paul Revere, and Samuel Prescott rode to warn John Hancock, John Adams and the patriots guarding war supplies at Concord, MA of the advancing British Army. Chapter members Randy Nusbaum, Mike Connelley, David Cook, and Jim Akers were present for Tom Richards to accept the procla-

mation. Tom's patriot ancestor is William Dawes. We were also pleased to have DAR Regent Andi Tart and Vice Regent Soundra Smith of the Flower Mound Chapter accept the proclamation on behalf of the DAR.

This month Compatriot Scott Smith accepted a Proclamation from the Trophy Club City Council designating April 19th as Patriots' Day in Trophy Club. These Proclamations will be on display at our next meeting. Scott took this project on himself, and saw it to completion. Please take the opportunity to congratulate Scott personally on this project.

Scott's leadership suggests another project for our Chapter. If you have someone you know, or are just interested in getting to know someone on the city council of one (or more) cities in Denton, Cooke, Wise, Montague, or Clay counties please let me or Brandon Story know. With your support, we would like to give the city council of other cities the opportunity to recognize July 4th by signing copies of the Declaration of Independence and as Independence Day in those cities. This is another chance to further our goals of patriotism, history, and education.

On April 22, 2023 Denton Chapter members Brandon Story, Bobby Samuel, Jeff Akers, Bill Surles and Jim Akers attended the annual Medal of Honor Parade in Gainesville, TX. part of the Texas SAR Color Guard.

Continued on the next page..

Chapter member David Cook rode on the SAR float, along with between 60 and 70 SAR members including State President Sam Massey, either riding on the float or marching as part of the Texas SAR Color Guard. This year eight of the 66 living Medal of Honor winners were in the parade, along with parade entries from other patriotic, historic, and educational organizations. This annual event conducted each April is something I hope you will consider for next year.

Peace Officers Memorial Day falls on May 15 this year, as part of National Police Week. This is a week set aside by Presidential decree to honor the men and women who risk their lives every day in the line of duty. We don't have anything planned as of this writing, but please stay alert to any emails announcing police awards by the Denton SAR.

Please remember that Monday, May 29th is Memorial Day. Originally called "Decoration Day," Memorial Day is observed on the last

Monday of May to honor those who died while serving in the U.S. Military. Let's all send Bill Surles (wsmerch@gmail.com), our Webmaster and Newsletter Coordinator, a quick note about how you recognize Memorial Day. Bill may have newsletter space to publish your activities.

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 throughout the 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

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

Denton County Commissioners Court
Approves Proclamation Declaring
April 19, 2023
Patriots Day in Denton County

What got the American Revolutionary War off to a quick start? The ride of Paul Revere on April 18 and April 19 of 1775, alerting the citizens of the New England colonies that the British were on the move. Remember - “the shot heard round the world”.

True except for one thing: Revere did not ride out alone. Two other Patriots accompanied him; Samuel Prescott and William Dawes- all going in different directions to sound the alarm throughout New England. And most important from the Denton chapter view is that Denton Chapter member Tom Richards is a descendant of William Dawes.

The British Army activity indicated a planned crackdown on the local Massachusetts government. The Patriot plan was to warn the local citizens of the advance of the British Army. The Sexton at Boston’s North Church used a lantern to alert the Patriots of the British advance. Revere and Dawes then rode to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams in Lexington, and then headed toward Concord to warn the colonist of the British movement to capture military supplies in Concord. The ride played a pivotal role in future Colonial victories and in today is part of the lore of “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere....”

Denton Compatriots Jim Hobdy, Scott Smith, and David Cook prepared a petition to the Denton County Commissioners Court declaring April 19th “Patriots Day” in Denton County, explaining this local historical connection to a major event in the creation of this Unites States of America.

Denton County Judge Andy Eads and the Commissioners Court approved a Proclamation declaring April 19, 2023 as Patriots Day in Denton County, Texas. The Proclamation was read in open court with several chapter members and members of the Flower Mound DAR chapter present in the audience.

Denton Chapter member Scott Smith also presented a Proclamation to the Mayor of Trophy Club for the naming of April 19th as Patriot Day by the Trophy Club City Council. The Proclamation was met with strong citizen support from those in attendance. All in all; a good day for American freedom and for the citizens of these North Texas communities.

Thanks to William Dawes, Paul Revere, and Samuel Prescott along with all the other Patriot solders of the American Revolution.

Denton SAR Chapter
Color Guard News, May 2023

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

April 17 –Naturalization ceremony (See photo)

April 18- Patriots Day proclamation (See photo)



April 22- Medal of Honor parade in Gainesville, Texas

The photos show member participation in Color Guard events. The visibility of the Color Guard really promotes the Sons of the American Revolution. Our chapter needs more Color Guard members in order to have sufficient numbers to perform at different events.

Contact the Denton SAR Chapter, Color Guard Commander for answers to any questions. Seriously consider obtaining a uniform and join the Chapter Color Guard.

David Cook

706-835-5910

davidcook1936@gmail.com

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

April 28- Mon 1900 hours AFJROTC at Denton High School

May- TBD- State Color Guard Rally

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

May 29- Memorial Day parade- Dennison, or others

June 14- Flag Day events, Flag retirements

June 17- Audie Murphy Day parade, Farmersville, TX

July 4th Independence Day- Various events

Additions will be added as information becomes available.

“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 tricorn hat or round hat costing about \$50.

Townsend Company now offers costume Continental coats without lining and pockets for \$185 which is much less than the original coats for about \$500.

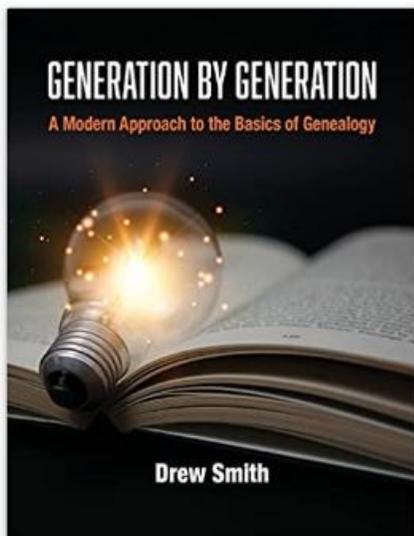
The time commitment is minimal where members participate based on their schedules and availability. Events normally last for one to two hours.

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

Generation by Generation: A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy

By Drew Smith

Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2023



Drew Smith's hot-off-the-presses book, *Generation by Generation: A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy*, might be just the book you're looking for as a beginning genealogist struggling with where and how to begin your research.

Smith describes his 170-page book as, "...a better beginner's book..." "...organized in the same way that genealogical research should be done: starting with oneself, then one's living family and relatives, and then moving back in time, generation by generation..." Hence the book's title.

Smith's approach differs from most traditional how-to genealogy books in that those usually jump into describing each type of genealogical record set (census, probate, land, court, etc.), even if those are not immediately relevant to the researcher.

Instead, Smith focuses each chapter on the records relevant during specific historical time periods and moving backwards in time, highlighting the most valuable and relevant sources a researcher might want to seek to document his or her family.

Generation by Generation is divided into two sections:

Part I For all the Generations: Preparing to Research covers the basic topics all genealogists need to learn such as:

Names, Places, Dates and Events covers surnames, given names, suffixes, prefixes; place names, how they change, and how to find them; various calendars, etc.

Relationships—covering their names, how they are visualized, pedigree and family group sheet charts, etc.

The Genealogical Research Process—defining a research goal, the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS), and what information researchers can find at each of the major genealogical websites

Additional chapters on Tools and Methods to Keep Us Organized, Looking for Previous Research, DNA Testing, and Using Online Repositories complete this section.

Part II Generation by Generation: Doing the Research is, in Smith's words, "...a slow and careful journey into the past." Each chapter covers the most important sources to use in documenting ancestors in that period.

Chapter 8 begins in the present and moves back to 1950 in the U.S.

Chapter 9 focuses on the U.S. from 1880-1950

Chapter 10, U.S. from 1850-1880

Chapter 11, U.S. from 1776-1850

Chapter 12, British America before 1776

Chapters 13-14 focus on Generations outside the U.S. and Generations with Records in Other Languages.

Chapter 15 "Now What?" wraps up the book.

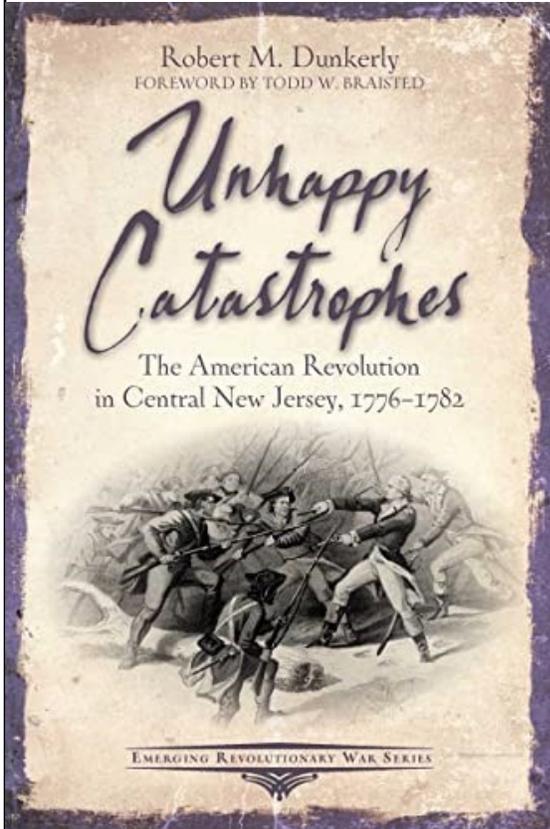
Smith is right that "Each beginning genealogist's journey is unique," and that excepting our nuclear family, each of us has a unique set of ancestors that no one else has. *Generation by Generation* might open your eyes to a new approach to documenting your unique family's story.

Find *Generation by Generation* on the Special Collections shelves at the Emily Fowler Central Library.

—Nancy Gilbride Casey
DPL Volunteer

Unhappy Catastrophes: The American Revolution in Central New Jersey, 1776-1782

(Emerging Revolutionary War Series)



“The Importance of the North River (the Hudson), and the sanguine wishes of all to prevent the enemy from possessing it, have been the causes of this unhappy catastrophe.” So wrote General George Washington in 1776 as the British invaded New Jersey. Worse was to come, as the British overran the state, and the Americans suffered one unhappy catastrophe after another.

Central New Jersey witnessed many small battles and important events during the American Revolution. This area saw it all: from spies and espionage, to military encampments like Morristown and Middlebrook, to mutinies, raids, and full-blown engagements like Bound Brook, Short Hills, and Springfield. The British had their own catastrophes too. So did civilians caught in the middle.

In the fall of 1776, British forces drove the Americans out and secured the state. Following the battles of Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey became a battleground.

The spring of 1777 saw the formation of a new Continental Army, one that served the rest of the war. That spring, British and American forces clashed in a series of small but sharp battles.

By summer, British General Howe tried to lure Washington into a major engagement, but the Americans avoided the trap. As the conflict dragged on, civilians became engulfed in the fray, and a bitter civil war erupted, continuing until the end of the conflict.

In *Unhappy Catastrophes: The American Revolution in Central New Jersey, 1776–1782*, Robert M. Dunkerly follows the course of the war through its various phases and details lesser-known battles, military campsites, raids, espionage, and more. The book also includes historic sites to visit, markers, and websites for further research and study. This part of New Jersey saw more action during the Revolution than anywhere else in the young nation and has been called the Cockpit of the Revolution. To truly understand the war, look at central New Jersey.

Review from Amazon.com



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 14

March, 1996

Ink & Quill

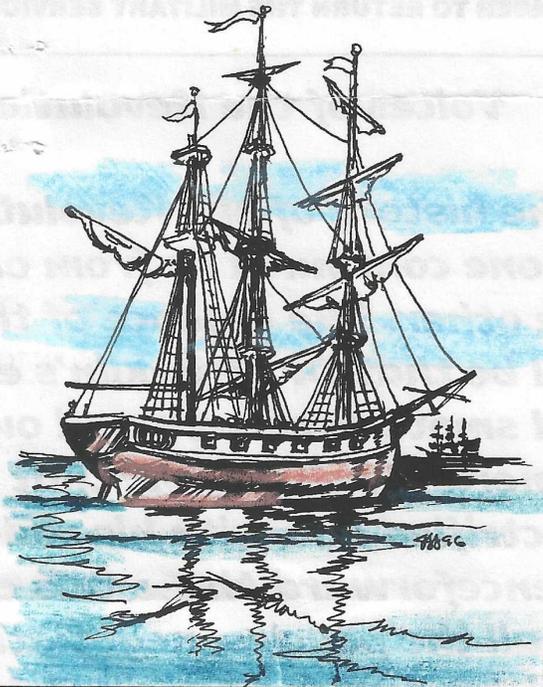
TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.
NEWSLETTER

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & EDWARD BEESON PART TWO FEATURED FOR MARCH SAR MEETING

Compatriot James Baird will present the rest of the story concerning his ancestor, Captain Edward Beeson on March 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Village in Denton. Captain Beeson began his military service in 1778 and served in numerous engagements.

OFFICER INSTALLATION CHAPTER #23 IS APRIL 13

The installation of officers for Chapter #23 of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday, April 13, 1996 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Denton. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. The featured Speaker for the evening will be Ross L. Shipman, President Elect of the TXSSAR. Mr. Shipman will also participate in the installation ceremony. Please make checks for \$ 21 per person payable to TXSSAR Chapter #23 and give or send to the Treasurer, William D. Vaughn, 600 Hill Street, Denton, TX 76201.



"The Bonhomme Richard"

FRENCH FUNDS HELPED TO FINANCE JOHN PAUL JONES AND OTHER PRIVATEERS

The diplomatic abilities of Benjamin Franklin helped to obtain aid from France which permitted Jones and others to continue to attack British shipping. His ship was named for Franklin's "Poor Richard's Almanac."

**REMINDER: NEXT MEETING
MARCH 7TH AT 7 P M**

Denton SAR Newsletter From the Past
(back)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR. 7 ELECTION OF OFFICERS
8-10-----SAR STATE MEETING-GALVESTON
APRIL 13.....INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
JUNE 8-12-SAR NATIONAL CONGRESS-SAN ANTONIO

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

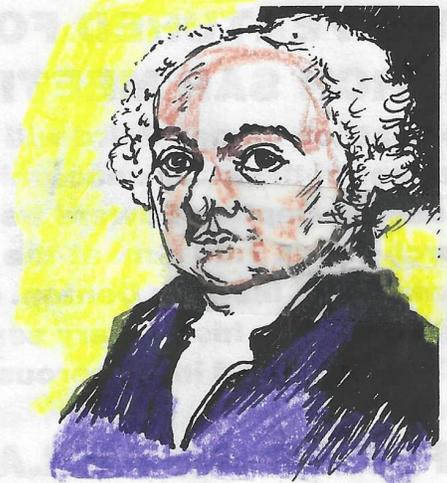
SUBMIT YOUR NAME SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR CHAPTER ASAP.
CHAPTERS ARE USUALLY NAMED FOR REVOLUTIONARY WAR
SOLDIERS OR PATRIOTS.

REMEMBER TO RETURN THE MILITARY SERVICE FORMS.

TXSSAR CHAPTER #23
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VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN B. CASEY, JR.
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JAMES BAIRD
TREASURER
WILLIAM P. VAUGHN
CHAPLAIN
LINWOOD J. ROBINSON
HISTORIAN
TOM CAIN
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
JIM JOHNSON

Voices of the Revolution

"The history of our Revolution will be one continued lie from one end to the other. The essence of the whole will be that Dr. Franklin's electrical rod smote the earth and out sprang General Washington. That Franklin electrified him with his rod-and thenceforward these two conducted all the policies, negotiations, legislations and war." John Adams



JOHN ADAMS

INK & QUILL

Denton Chapter No. 23
TXSSAR Inc.
c/o Jim Johnson, Editor
3004 Croydon Lane
Denton, Texas 76201

