

June, 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. July 1, Denton July 4th Parade SAR participation
2. July 8, Denton SAR Mtg
3. July 13-20 133rd SAR Annual Congress
4. September 17-23 Constitution Week

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Chapter President Jim Akers Message:

Compatriots:

During the past month we presented six medals to outstanding Army ROTC cadets at the University of North Texas (UNT) and Texas Women's University, and to an Air Force ROTC cadet at UNT. We also presented medals to JROTC cadets at six Denton area high schools, as well as a medal to our Knight High School Essay Contest winner.

The Denton Chapter is scheduled to appear in the Denton "Yankee Doodle Parade" on Saturday, July 1, 2023, starting at 9:00 am. The parade route begins near the Wells Fargo building at Austin Street and Hickory Street, and continues around the square, then down McKinney Street to the Denton Civic Center. Bring your lawn chairs and meet me and other chapter members near John Denton's grave site on the southeast side of the square to watch the parade.

Continued on the next page..

Compatriot Mike Lester has volunteered the use of his pickup or jeep for our parade entry, and we hope to have three members with uniforms, and other members as part of the parade. Our winning entry (hopefully) in the "Most Patriotic Vehicle" theme will be judged at 8:15 to 8:45 am in the Wells Fargo parking lot. I am sure the judges could use our help.

Our Chapter Color Guard has been asked to participate in the Denton Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Benjamin Lyon Chapter Constitution Week "Ringing of the Bells" celebration in the fall. We will have more information on that event in future newsletters, but please keep this in the back of your mind. Last year we had five or six members present for the DAR Ringing of the Bells celebration.

In addition to the ROTC/JROTC youth programs previously mentioned, we are still seeking an entrant for the Eagle Scout Recognition and Award Program. The Eagle Scout Award Contest is open to all Eagle Scouts who are currently registered in an active unit and have not reached their 19th birthday during 2023. A cash award for the first place winner on the national level is \$10,000, with

the first and second runner-up winners receiving \$6,000, and \$4,000 respectively. Please check you contacts folders, your neighbors, and your relatives for a deserving Eagle Scout. Additional information about the contest can be found on the SAR national website (www.sar.org), and search on "Eagle Scout" in the upper, right hand corner.

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. Dr. Seligmann is an informative speaker, with an entertaining style of delivery. Please mark your calendar for this meeting, and please feel free to bring your wives or other guests.

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.

Ron Akers, Denton Chapter President

**Yankee Doodle Parade
July 1, 9:00am, Denton Square**

Come celebrate July 4 Independence Day with the SAR

Those not marching in the parade, meet near John Denton's grave site on the southeast corner of the Courthouse to celebrate and cheer. The parade route begins near the Wells Fargo building at Austin St. and Hickory St., continues around the square, then down McKinney St. to the Denton Civic Center.

The SAR jeep will look something like this:



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

University of North Texas

Battle Flag

Designed by SAR Compatriot Jim Hobby



In the spring of 1986 the North Texas Alumni Association was having a meeting of its Fort Worth chapter. It was late in the afternoon of the event and I was working in my office at the athletic department. I had been noticing that the university president, Dr. Al Hurley always traveled with a portable podium that he would use at various functions. He was to speak that night. It had no university indicia whatsoever on it, so I thought I would do something to put on the podium that night.

Upon reflection, the idea of a flag came to mind. I quickly dismissed the idea of a Texas state flag, as he was not the governor. Then, the idea came to me to do a flag with the same templet as the Texas State Flag, but in greens. In place of the blue on the state flag

I chose the green that was used by athletic teams at North Texas for years and years and the red on the state flag was replaced with the lime green that was used by athletic teams during the productive Hayden Fry era...voila, there was the flag in greens. I painted in and took it and placed it on the front of his podium for use that evening. He seemed to like it and the people at the meeting did, too.

The next day I got calls at the office wanting to know where they could buy the flag..since it was 'hot off the press' I told them it was not available. So, they went to a flag manufacturer in Fort Worth and bought some to fly at their homes. Soon the Talons spirit group on campus had a large one made and started using it at football games and basketball games. Then, it became commercially available at local books stores and it was purchased and taken by alumni to places all over the world as they traveled. Later, in the 2000's the university itself started using it in advertising, alumni events and even on flag poles at the university. The highest profile use of the flag is the giant one that flies at Apo-gee Stadium on campus on I-35. There have been critics who say that the flag is disrespectful to the Texas State Flag, but just the opposite—in my mind it is a tribute to the great state and as a Texan, I meant it to honor the state.

Jim Hobby

Denton SAR Chapter
Color Guard News, June 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 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

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

June 14- Flag Day events, Flag retirements

June 17- Audie Murphy Day parade, Farmersville, TX

July 1st Denton Yankee Doodle Parade

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.

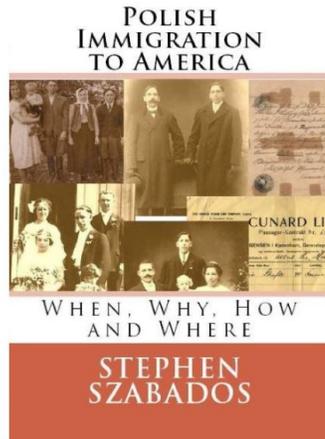
Townsend Company now offers costume Continental coats without lining and pockets for \$185 which is much less than the original coats for about \$500.

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.

Polish Resources to Aid Your Genealogical Research

Two books new to the Emily Fowler Central Library Special Collection shelves may be useful to those tracing their Polish roots.



Wondering why your Polish ancestors may have emigrated to the United States? *Polish Immigration to America: When, Why, How and Where*, by Stephen Szabados (2016), explores possible answers to that question, and much more.

Chapters in *Polish Immigration* cover:

Emigration from Poland - When did they leave and what were the reasons?

Emigration from Poland - Leaving their Villages - What experiences did immigrants have as they bid farewell to their homeland?

Emigration from Poland - Departure Ports and Arrival in America: The Ports offer brief histories of most ports used by Polish immigrants on both sides of the ocean—from Bremen and Antwerp to New York and even Galveston, among others.

The Voyage - What did the passage from the Old Country to America look like for immigrants?

Arrival in America: The Process - What did Polish immigrants find as they set foot in America?

Beginning a New Life - How did the immigrants become acclimated to their new country?

Additional reading recommendations are also included in this 137-page volume.

If your ancestors settled in Illinois, authors John Radzilowski and Ann Hetzel Gunkel's *Poles in Illinois* (2020) offers "the first comprehensive history to trace the abundance and diversity of this ethnic group throughout the state from the 1800s to present."

Illinois boasts one of the most visible concentrations of Poles in the United States, the largest Polish community outside of the country centered in Chicago, and many smaller Polish settlements around the state. *Poles in Illinois* emphasizes the lived experiences of ordinary Polish Americans, with chapter topics ranging from "Settling in America" and "Faith and Religious Life," to "Polish Community Life in Illinois" and "Poles in Industrial Illinois."

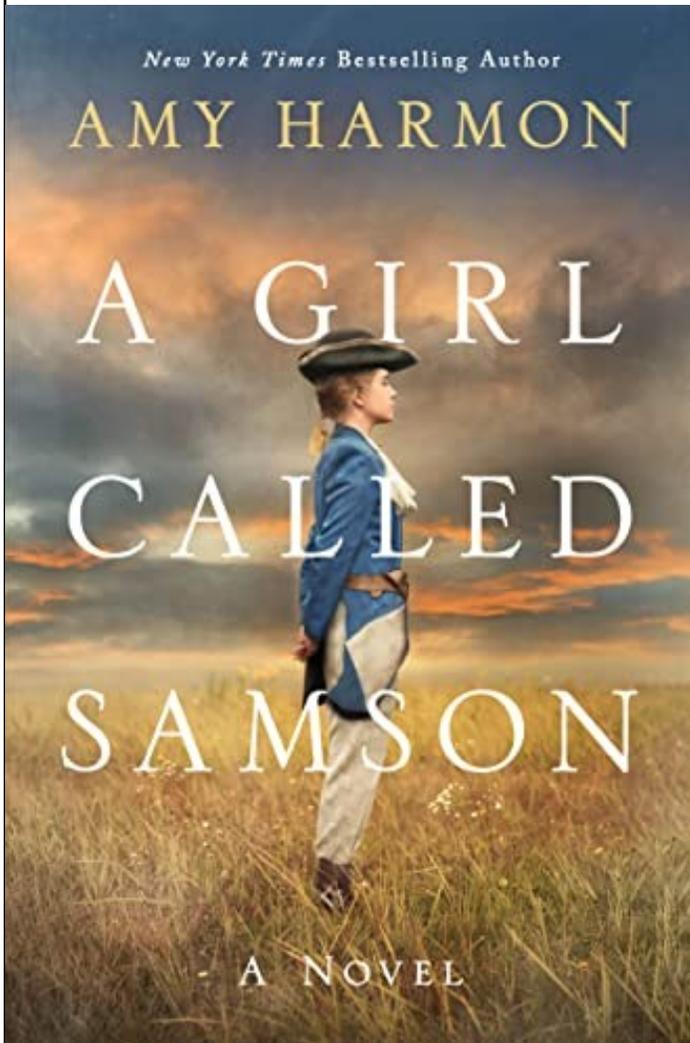
The 244-page volume also offers further reading suggestions, 45+ photographs, and excerpts from first-person accounts and Polish newspaper articles.

The library's purchase of both books was made possible by a donation from the Denton County Genealogical Society (DCGS) in honor of past society president and member Erik Kaszynski, who passed away this spring. Browse either volume at the Emily Fowler Central Library Special Collections area.

—Nancy Gilbride Casey
DPL Volunteer

Book Review: A Girl Called Samson

From *New York Times* bestselling author Amy Harmon comes the saga of a young woman who dares to chart her own destiny in life and love during the American Revolutionary War.



In 1760, Deborah Samson is born to Puritan parents in Plympton, Massachusetts. When her father abandons the family and her mother is unable to support them, Deborah is bound out as an indentured servant. From that moment on, she yearns for a life of liberation and adventure.

Twenty years later, as the American colonies begin to buckle in their battle for independence, Deborah, impassioned by the cause, disguises herself as a soldier and enlists in the Continental army. Her impressive height and lanky build make her transformation a convincing one, and it isn't long before she finds herself confronting the horrors of war head-on.

But as Deborah fights for her country's freedom, she must contend with the secret of who

she is—and, ultimately, a surprising love she can't deny.

Review from Amazon.com

Historical fiction—Deborah Samson really did serve in the Continental Army. The author, Amy Harmon, takes some liberties in writing the story, but the accounts of the locations and battles are riveting and true to history.—Bill Surles