

December, 2023



Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting: 10am January 13, 2024

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. December 16 250th anniversary of Boston Tea Party
2. **January 13 2024 Chapter Meeting**
3. March 1 2024 Color Guard at Colonial Dames Regional Meet
4. April 11-14 2024 Texas State Annual Conference
5. September 5 2024 250th anniversary of 1st Continental Congress

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Chapter President Jim Akers Message:

Gentlemen:

The Denton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution continues to grow! During the past month, we have added one new member, and we have two future member in the application process.

Please remember to submit your ideas for participants in this years youth contests, including the Oration Contest, the Essay Contest, and the Teacher of the Year Contest. The qualifications can be found on the Texas SAR website (www.txssar.org). The Texas SAR has approved the additional award of \$500 for second place Teacher of the Year Essays.

While reviewing the Denton Chapter Constitution and by-laws David Cook noted that it has been several years since we updated those documents. I am soliciting volunteers to form a committee to review and update those documents. Please let either David Cook, Bill Surles, or me know if you can participate in a committee to complete that review. I anticipate that this will involve only one or two meetings, of about an hour each.

Continued on the next page..

Chapter President's Message, continued

Let me remind you that several organizations, including the Denton Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Flower Mound DAR, the Cross Timbers DAR, and many SAR Chapters in North Texas will be participating in the Wreaths Across America ceremonies on December 16, 2023. So far, the Denton SAR will only be participating, as an organization, in the Flower Mound DAR Wreaths Across America ceremonies at the old Flower Mound Presbyterian Cemetery by providing only three parking assistants. Even if you cannot participate by volunteering your assistance in showing attendees where to park, please consider attending at least one of these ceremonies. The Flower Mound DAR ceremony starts at 11:00 at 1501 Flower Mound Road, Flower Mound, Texas 75028.

Remember our purpose: **We are a lineage-based organization that promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the history of the American Revolution.**

Our next in-person meeting will be the second Saturday in January, **January 13, 2023, 10:00 am** at the **Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201**. The speaker is again 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, and at least one of our members was in his class at UNT. Please mark your calendar for this meeting, and please feel free to bring your wives and other guests.

Denton SAR Chapter Challenge Coin





Minutes for Chapter Meeting

October 14, 2023

Denton Chapter #23, Texas SAR

President Jim Akers called this meeting to order at 10: 00 a.m.

Invocation by Ted Godwin-Stremler

Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag of the United States by Jon Lange

Pledge of SAR led by Mike Connelley

Comments by, and Award Presentation to Jennifer Bekker, City of Denton Director of Libraries

Program: Tracy Pounders, President-Elect, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution

addressed the Chapter on his visions and goals for the Texas Society

Old Business:

Minutes of the July 8, 2023 submitted by Dan Frye Secretary: seconded by Mike Connelley

Jon Lange brought update of his Eagle Scout project

Jim Akers brought update on SAR chapter shirt project

Mike Connelly announced the Chapter Challenge Coin project was completed and they were available for purchase and distribution.

Treasurer's Report \$3,903.00 Chris Strauss, Treasure

New Business:

Richard Zdunkewicz Zoom Meeting update on 250th Anniversary Monument located in the Texas State Cemetery, Austin, Texas

Mike Connelly brought update on Scholarships and the Texas SAR website

Jim Akers, David Cook brought framed copy of the U.S. Constitution to be presented to the Denton County Court House for permanent display.

David Cook reviewed the need for more Color Guard members and that the Color Guard had been used at several gatherings.

14 members and 5 guest present

Benediction: Ted Godwin-Stremler

Recessional and adjournment by Bobby Samuels seconded by Bill Surles

The Eagle Scout Project

Good day everyone!

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I'm excited to share the latest developments from my Eagle Scout project. The first execution workday was a tremendous success, and I can't wait to tell you all about it.

First Execution Workday Highlights:

Our team came together on Oct 7, 2023, and we couldn't have asked for a better day to kick off our project. Our incredible team of scouts, a total of 10 volunteers, showcased their dedication and hard work.

Sawhorse Surprise:

We had a minor hiccup during the workday that turned into a lighthearted moment. Our sawhorses, rated for 300 lbs, unexpectedly decided to take an early break after only 100 lbs of wood! Don't worry, no one got hurt, and it became the source of a few laughs. It's a reminder that even our tools need a breather sometimes.

Work Progress:

During our first workday, we successfully prepared an impressive 60 feet of wood. It's incredible to see how much we accomplished! This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the support of our 10 effective scouters.

Trial Panel and Redesign:

During our workday, we decided to put our materials to the test by creating a trial panel. To our surprise, it turned out to be incredibly sturdy, perhaps even too strong! While this might seem like a good problem to have, I recognized that we could use our materials more efficiently and create an even better panel. So, I've embarked on a slight redesign to ensure we maximize our resources and produce an even more impressive final product.

Reflecting on Our Workday: Start, Stop, Continue

One of the keys to success is the ability to reflect and make improvements as we go along. During our first execution workday, we took a moment to engage in a valuable exercise known as "Start, Stop, Continue." This exercise allowed us to evaluate our progress and make necessary adjustments to ensure future workdays are not only more effective but also more enjoyable.

Stay tuned for more updates on the project's progress and photos from our workdays. This project is just beginning, and I'm thrilled to have had all of the support I have been given.

Thank you for your continued support!

Jonathan Lange,
Troop 192 Crew 60





Wreaths Across America (<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>) is a national effort to place wreaths on the graves of service members at cemeteries all over America, and involves a financial commitment for sponsoring organizations.

The Lewisville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has been an active supporter of this ceremony for several years.

We have been invited to assist the Lewisville Chapter of the DAR on December 16, 2023 at 11:00 AM at the 150 year old Flower Mound Presbyterian Cemetery

(<https://flowermoundcemetery.com/location/>). **Our assistance will be providing some members to direct participants to parking areas within the cemetery.**

Please let Jim Akers know if you will be able to assist as a parking assistant in this project.

Again, the details are:

December 16, 2023, 10:00 to noon
Flower Mound Presbyterian Cemetery
1501 Flower Mound Rd
Flower Mound, TX 75028

The Denton DAR chapter annual Wreaths Across America ceremony and wreath laying is scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 2023 at **Oakwood Cemetery, 601 East Hickory St, Denton.**

If you wish to support this effort and the Denton DAR chapter Benjamin Lyon by donating a wreath, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org
2. Select "Local Sponsorship Group"
3. Select the number of wreaths you wish to purchase
4. Under number selection is an open box asking you to select a group to support
5. Type Benjamin Lyon Chapter
6. That takes you to cart summary and payment

There will be a brief ceremony, followed by DAR members distributing wreaths to be laid at graves. All are welcome. Dress is weather-appropriate.

Carol Webster, DAR Benjamin Lyon Chapter Chair 903-451-1895

Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard



Commander David Cook represented The Denton SAR Chapter at the Veterans Day ceremony in Plano Texas noted as the Flag of Honors on November 11. Colonial items on display were brought to the ceremony by the Dallas SAR Chapter with several chapters participating. Compatriots met with attendees and explained what items were and how they were used. The attached photo show some items on display.

Commander David Cook represented the Denton SAR Chapter at the H.P. Eller Grave Dedication on November 16 at McKinney Texas. Attached photos show the Color Guard performance.



Grave Dedication



Grave Dedication



Grave dedication



Flag of Honor, Plano, November 11



A new scheduled event is March 1 at Grapevine TX for the Colonial Dames Regional Meet where we have been asked to post the colors. This is a big event for the Denton Chapter Color Guard and an honor to be invited. **All hands on deck.** The event will be at their banquet held in the evening. Members can participate individually or we can attend as a Color Guard unit representing the Denton SAR Chapter. New Color Guard members are welcome. Color guard members wanting to attend are to contact Color Guard Commander David Cook.

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It is significant to note that several events are designated as National Events which earns 20 points toward national and state Color Guard medals.

Date	Time-muster	Event	Location	Chapter /State /National
3/1/2024		Colonial Dames Regional Meet	Grapevine	S

**“We are the face of the Sons of the American Revolution at the national, state, and chapter levels. Accordingly, as we further the Patriotic, Historic, and Educational Goals of the SAR let us have fun, enjoy the comradely, and practice safety for yourself and others. Yours in Patriotism
K. Scott Collins National Society SAR Color Guard Commander”**

**David R. Cook
Denton Color Guard Commander
706-835-5910
davidcook1936@gmail.com**



America 250 Decade Of The American Revolution



The National SAR has created this **Decade of the American Revolution** calendar to list Revolutionary War signature events each year that will be the focus of the NSSAR main celebration. Every State Society and all State Chapters should download the programs for the year and celebrate with us in your local area.

2023 Boston Tea Party

2024 The First Continental Congress

2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord.

2026 Declaration of Independence

2027 Battle of Saratoga

**2028 French Alliance 2029 Siege of Vincennes/Fort Sackville
Battle of Kettle Creek**

2030 Battle of Kings Mountain

2031 Siege of Yorktown 2032 Battle of Blue Licks

2033 Treaty of Paris

Visit <https://america250sar.org/rd/> for details of each event.



America 250 Decade Of The American Revolution



2023 Boston Tea Party

December 16, 2023

A Resolution

Whereas the Boston Tea Party is a seminal event in the history of the founding of these United States of America, and

Whereas the nature of this event enacted by American Colonists, generally known as the "Sons of Liberty", was in defiance of the tax on tea which was seen unlawful as "taxation without representation," and

Whereas it is with the spirit and mission of the Compatriots of our great organization to join with our patriotic brothers and sisters in a ceremonial act of independence, and

Whereas, thanks to the sacrifices of our patriot ancestors, we have the liberty to join with others in the ceremonial "Destruction of Tea" as a sign of solidarity with those patriot ancestors.

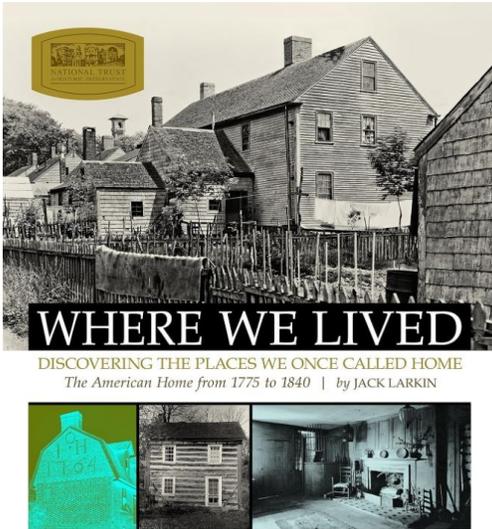
I, John Dodd, President General of the Sons of the American Revolution do Proclaim Saturday, December 16, 2023, the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, as a time of celebration for every patriotic American, and encourage every patriot to assemble with other patriots and at 8:00 PM Boston time join in unison to "destroy tea" as our Patriot Ancestors did 250 years before, be that by imbibing, sharing, or tossing of tea, as the case may be, and general merrymaking.

(And be sure to check out our Boston Tea Party "merch" at the SAR store!)

Under my seal as President General, I proclaim this on November 27, 2023, in Louisville, Kentucky, Headquarters of the Sons of the American Revolution.

John L. Dodd
SAR National President General, 2023-2024

Farm and Home: Books Look Back at Places That Shaped Our Family's Lives

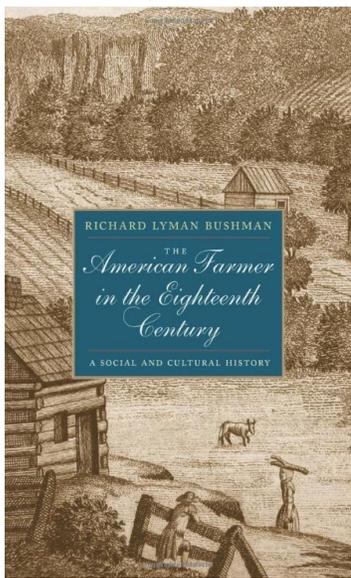


Photos of the houses in which we lived have the power to evoke distinct and visceral memories. In *Where We Lived: Discovering the Places We Once Called Home—The American Home from 1775 to 1840*, author Jack Larkin posits that studying our houses provides a gateway to the past; that houses are messengers from another time. As places where all the major events of life—birth, illnesses, and eventually death—occurred, these structures shaped our lives as families. In Larkin's words, we were “held together, contained and shaped” by our houses.

Where We Lived includes hundreds of photographs taken during the Great Depression by Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) workers, who documented structures dating from the early 1600s to the mid-1800s. Many of these structures, photographed between 1934 and 1940, have not survived to today. Larkin notes that, “...these photographs are crucial documents linking us to the past, as important in their way as our own family photographs.”

As first-person descriptions of houses are rare, the book relies not only on photographs, but on traveler's diaries, letters, community and family histories, public documents, and more, to describe how houses were built and lived in, and how they signaled wealth and power, comfort, independence, or other attributes.

Chapters cover “How We Lived,” and then focuses on dwellings in New England, the Middle States, the South, and the West. The period studied ends about 1840, as traditional building methods were being swept away by newer technologies. A list of resources for further study of houses completes the book.



Most family historians can claim a farmer in their lineage—not surprisingly—as three-quarters of Americans farmed during the 18th century. In *The American Farmer in the Eighteenth Century: A Social and Cultural History*, author Richard Lyman Bushman examines farms and farming, explores how North American farms were primarily run to provision the farmer's family, and sets out how farming provided a secure foundation which underpinned all other trade and production in the country.

Bushman also describes how methods of farming varied widely in the country's various geographic regions. He covers the similarities across the country in Part 1: Farm Thought, and Part 2: North America, 1600-1800, and then delineates regional differences in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, at various periods. Finally, he covers American agriculture, 1800-1862.

As family historians, examining cultural context is key to understanding the lives of our ancestors. *Where We Lived* and *The American Farmer* could provide just the background needed to truly understand how our homes or farming may have affected the course of our family's life.

Both books are available for in-library viewing at the Emily Fowler Central Library Special Collections area.

– Nancy Gilbride Casey
Denton Public Library Volunteer

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SARmagazine>



Also see the Denton Chapter Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/409893430767486>



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.

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



SAR Embroidered Shirt Order Form

Shirts will be ordered from Angelheart Embroidery (tim.angelheart@gmail.com) who is located in Saginaw. Shirts will be embroidered with the new SAR Logo (above) on the left breast (Jim Akers has our SAR approval to use this.) **Optional:** Patriot, Compatriot Name and Chapter can be added as well.



Shirt Styles

		
Polo	Short Sleeve Button Down	Long Sleeve Button Down
Price (includes logo): (S-XL) \$32.42	Price (includes logo): (S-XL) \$34.98	Price (includes logo): (S-XL) \$36.98
(XXL) \$34.42	(XXL) \$36.98	(XXL) \$38.98

Color Palette – Button Downs

 Athletic Gold/ Light Stone	 Bark	 Black/ Light Stone	 Bright Lavender
 Burgundy/ Light Stone	 Classic Navy/ Light Stone	 Clover Green	 Court Green
 Dark Green/ Navy	 Light Blue/ Light Stone	 Light Stone/ Classic Navy	 Maui Blue
 Mediterranean Blue	 Navy/ Light Stone	 Purple/ Light Stone	 Red/ Light Stone
 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Royal/ Classic Navy	 Steel Grey/ Light Stone	 Stone	 Strong Blue
 Teal Green	 Texas Orange/ Light Stone	 Ultramarine Blue	 White/ Light Stone
 Yellow			

Color Palette – Polos

 Black	 Blue Lake	 Deep Orange	 Forest Green
 Gold	 Grey Concrete	 Iron Grey	 Kelly Green
 Lime Shock	 Maroon	 Purple	 Texas Orange
 Tropic Blue	 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> True Navy	 True Red	 True Royal
 Vegas Gold	 White		



Shirt Order Form	
Name (as you want this to appear):	Personalize with Name (right breast): <div style="text-align: right;"> Y [] N [] - Plus: \$6 </div>
Chapter Name (as you want it to read):	Personalize with Chapter Name under SAR logo (left breast): <div style="text-align: right;"> Y [] N [] - Plus: \$4 </div>
Patriot Name (as you want this to appear):	Personalize with Patriot Name (right sleeve): <div style="text-align: right;"> Y [] N [] - Plus: \$6 / name </div>
Shirt Color (see palette above):	
Shirt Style:	Short Sleeve Polo [] Short Sleeve Button Down [] Long Sleeve Button Down [] - Prices detailed above by shirt size & type: \$32.42 – \$38.98
Shirt Size:	S [] M [] L [] XL [] XXL []
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Delivery Address:	<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> Shirts to be returned to Denton Chapter during next scheduled meeting. </div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> ORDER DEADLINE: October 7, 2023 </div>
Donation to Denton SAR:	\$8.00
TOTAL REMITTED:	\$.

Return Order Form & check made out to "SAR Denton Chapter" to:

Brandon Story
BrandonDStory@aol.com
 1412 Chestnut Dr.
 Savannah, TX 76227