



Next Meeting: **May 10, 2025 at 10am**

**Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton**

## Chapter Officers

President—Brandon Story  
Vice President—Ronnie Rencher  
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry  
Secretary, Annual Reports —  
Mike Connelley  
Treasurer—Chris Strauss  
Asst Treasurer—Bill Rowell  
Registrar— Mike Lester  
Sgt at Arms—Billy Roussell, III  
Color Guard — David Cook

## Opportunities

1. April 12, Gainesville MOH parade
2. April 26, Coffee Social 9am North Point Café in Denton
3. May 10, Denton Chapter meeting
4. April 17, 2026, dedication of the Texas SAR 250 Monument at the Texas State Cemetery
5. July, 2027, SAR National Conference

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## The 2025 Texas SAR Board of Managers Annual Meeting

Over the weekend of March 27-30, 2025, the Texas SAR organization held its annual Board of Managers meeting in North Texas, specifically in the Plano, Texas area of north Dallas. Many people say “well, how was the convention??? Well, this is not a convention, it is a business meeting of the organization at which the various youth are recognized and awarded.

The location for the annual business session rotates to various locations in Texas, generally around Houston, San Antonio, Austin or Dallas/Fort Worth. It is a gathering of the State Officers and chapter presidents, genealogist, other chapter officers, etc., etc.: all in one place to discuss the affairs of the organization. It covers a 2–3-day schedule of business meetings, social visits among the members, awards and recognitions are conducted along with plenty of stories..... some true and some “maybe truthful”. This is where you make your connections with other

Continued on the next page.....

men around the State of Texas and among National SAR officers who generally attend the Texas SAR meetings. Why the National officers?? The Texas SAR Organization is one of the largest within the whole SAR organizational setup with many past Texas members filling important positions at the National SAR level.



You never know who you are going to spot there. Past chapter president Jim Akers and Bill Surles working the challenge coin table at the convention.

The meetings over this timespan included ROTC/JROTC committee, Color Guard committee, Genealogy, Finance, veterans' activities, Council of Chapter presidents and the "big project" now is the TXSAR 250<sup>th</sup> Monument event coming up in the next year celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of this Country.

A big deal which, over the next few months to a year, will become a very big event. Texas SAR is planning on putting a memorial bench in the State of Texas cemetery in Austin. Stay tuned, pay attention to emails, mailings, etc. as we approach this date this next year for major celebrations around the Country and in the Denton / Texas area.

Continued on the next page.....



Who is this group, you might ask?? These are the 5 State entrants in the Texas Oration Contest which was held at the Board of Managers Meeting. You guessed it, all the winners from around the State of Texas were young ladies. They did a great job and a winner was selected who will go forward to the National Convention of the SAR Organization. The competition was held at the noon lunch on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

A reminder to us; get a good, strong candidate in either the Oration Contest, Essay Contest, JROTC, etc. and let's get a Denton representative up there. We did that a year or so ago with J.B. Lilley as our chapter entrant and we, the Denton Chapter, need to come up with a good strong candidate for this next year. Surely, we have a good child, grandchild of a member or a good, strong candidate in our geographical area that can enter these contests this next year and bring home a championship.

One thing we can do is try and make an 'entre with a public school, private school, home-schooled youth and get some good, strong entries into the scholastic / academic programs offered by the Texas SAR organization. These competitions all start again this year, 2025, around October-November timeframe. Start looking now for a strong candidate – it could be your grandson or granddaughter or if you are the “correct age”- your son or daughter.

The next time the Board of Managers meeting is in North Texas (best guess by me would be 2027), make an effort to attend, even if you are not a State or chapter officer. You can still attend, make new friends, observe the various youth awards, which, we hope, would be the daughter, or son or granddaughter or grandson of a member of the Denton Chapter Texas SAR Organization.      By Mike Connelly



## Additional Pictures



Denton Chapter Yearbook in SAR  
State yearbook competition



Bill Surles met with Edmond McKin-  
ley, SAR National Chancellor (left),  
and Daryl Addington, SAR National  
President General



## Additional Pictures



**Youth & Compatriots Awards**



**Denton Chapter Table**

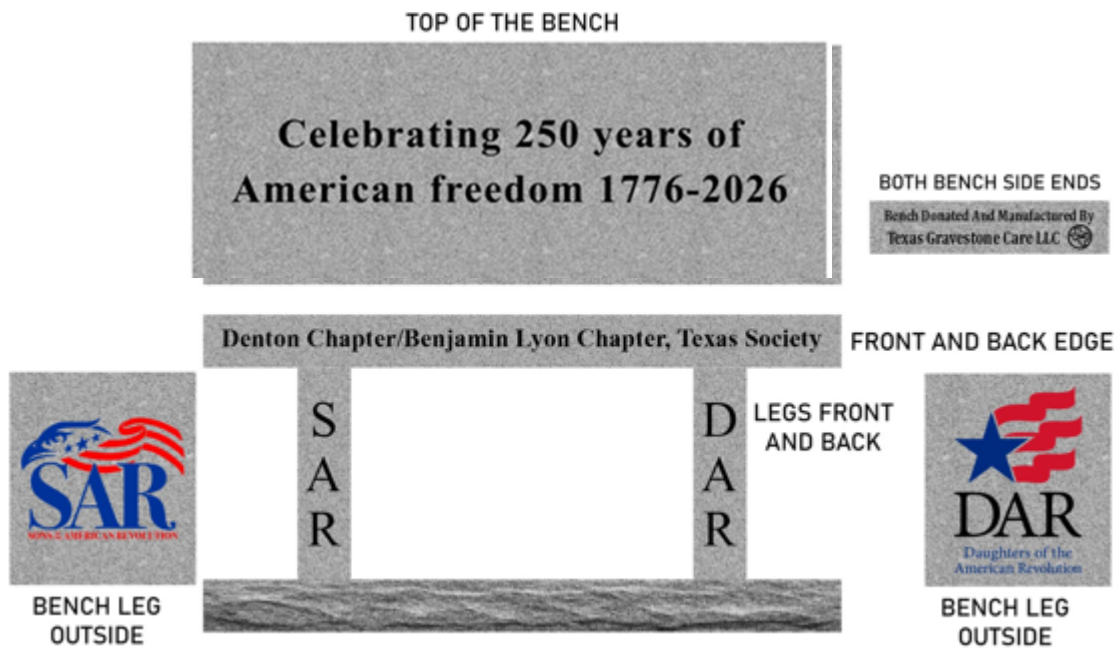


**Hail Hail the gangs all here**



# Bench for Denton

## Current Design Choice



The Denton County Courthouse square is controlled by the Texas Historical Commission. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is the state agency for historic preservation. They save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas.

**We have contacted the Denton County Historical Commission and they will work with the Texas Commission to determine if and how we can place the SAR/DAR 250th Anniversary bench.**



### A SAR Color Guard Story

Our small SAR chapter Color Guard unit in North Georgia was asked one year to be in a small North Carolina town July 4 parade, in which we did.

An observer took a video of the parade and shared it with me after the parade. The video shows the police car leading the parade with a short break of nothing. Then it showed the very tops of four Colonial flags coming up a slight hill. Slowly emerging were four uniformed SAR Color Guard members caring the flags and flanked by militia musket bearers on each end of the line.

I know every spectator watching the Color Guard marching in that Fourth of July parade felt a strong sense of patriotism and were proud to be an American.

**That**, is what SAR Color Guard units do. It is the “pay” we receive for volunteering our time and energies to promoting patriotism.

**That** is what the Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard “COULD” do. Yes it takes time, priority and a little cash. But to be in that parade and pass by a little boy, flag in hand, and saluting our flag will remain in my mind forever.

Joining and participating in the Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard is up to you.

David R, Cook, Denton SAR Chapter, Color Guard Commander

### 2025 Schedule:

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	ATTENDEES- PLANNED
April 9/7:45 am	Providence Christian School, Patriot Day	Lovers Lane, Dallas	David Cook
April 12	Medal of Honor parade	Gainesville	
April 18/ 9am	Historical presentation Lexington/Concord-greeters	Little Elm	David Cook Mike Lester
June 28	Denton Independence Day parade	Denton	

### Join the Denton Chapter Color Guard

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.

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

**“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**

## “Time Changes Everything” Per the song title by Bob Wills

David Cook, March 2025

Bob Wills’ famous song might describe many historical events, OR maybe not. (For those too young, Bob Wills wrote and sang many true AND best Country Western songs back in the 1930’s-1950’s)

But this is not about music. It is about thanking The African Muslims for encouraging the United States to establish the United States Navy and Marines.

You see, back in the late 1700’s the Barbary pirates (early day terrorists) continued their attacks on commercial ships by doing so on American ships. While not new, since they have been fighting everyone since about the time of the Crusades. Thus, Congress in 1795 authorized the building of six frigates to combat the pirates. One of the ships is still commissioned as the USS Constitution, the oldest commissioned war ship in the world.

Now, to the present time. The news reported in March this year that the navy was launching planes to attack the Muslims in Yemen as they had been firing rockets at our commercial ships in international waters.

So, maybe Bob Wills was right, “Time Changes Everything”, but not history. History just seems to continuously repeat itself, but only in different methods. The 1795 Constitution ship does not have rockets and bombs, just old fashion cannon balls.





# Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour



**August 16, 2024** saw the kick off this monumental Bicentennial celebration. The hundreds of events planned will trace Lafayette's footstep on the exact dates and in the exact order he followed on his tour of America as the "Guest of the Nation" between 1824 and 1825. Celebration and party at every stop.

An introductory video is here:

<https://vimeo.com/855470022>

**Did your Patriot meet Lafayette on his tour? Check out the map on the Tour website <https://lafayette200.org/>, research your Patriot's life and/or family in 1824-1825. Was he still alive? Was he or his ancestors on the Tour route? Any family documentation for that period of time?**

## April, 2025

April 1, 1825 — Warriorstand, AL  
April 2, 1825 — Waugh, AL  
April 3, 1825 — Montgomery, AL  
April 4, 1825 — Selma, AL  
April 5, 1825 — Cahawba, AL  
April 6, 1825 — Claiborne, AL  
April 7, 1825 — Mobile, AL  
April 8, 1825 — Gulf Shores, AL  
April 9, 1825 — Delra, LA  
April 10, 1825 — New Orleans, LA  
April 11, 1825 — New Orleans, LA  
April 12, 1825 — New Orleans, LA  
April 13, 1825 — New Orleans, LA  
April 14, 1825 — New Orleans, LA  
April 15, 1825 — New Orleans, LA

April 16, 1825 — Baton Rouge, LA  
April 17, 1825 — Natchez, MS  
April 18, 1825 — Natchez, MS  
April 19, 1825 — Natchez, MS  
April 20, 1825 — Mississippi, River  
April 21, 1825 — Mississippi, River  
April 22, 1825 — Mississippi, River  
April 23, 1825 — Mississippi, River  
April 24, 1825 — Mississippi, River  
April 25, 1825 — Mississippi, River  
April 26, 1825 — Mississippi, River  
April 27, 1825 — Mississippi, River  
April 28, 1825 — Carondelet, MO  
April 29, 1825 — Saint Louis, MO  
April 30, 1825 — Kaskaskia, IL



# **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.

**December 16, 2023 Boston Tea Party**

**August 14, 2024 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's arrival in the U.S. for his Tour**

**September 5, 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.

## Denton Library Info

### Explore the Denton Record-Chronicle from Home

Our series on genealogical databases available to you for FREE and accessible from home with your Denton Public Library card continues with a look at the Denton Record-Chronicle Collection available through NewsBank. Grab your DPL library card and navigate to the Denton Public Library website and the Denton Newspapers page. Next, click on the Denton Record-Chronicle Archive, where you will enter your DPL card number to gain access to the database.

Source Name	Dates	Location	Type	Format	Language
<a href="#">Denton Record-Chronicle (TX)</a>	2004 - Current	USA - TX - Denton	Newspaper	Text	English
<a href="#">Denton Record-Chronicle (TX)</a>	2018 - Current	USA - TX - Denton	Newspaper	Image	English
<a href="#">Denton Record-Chronicle: Blogs (TX)</a>	2006 - 2015	USA - TX - Denton	Blog	Text	English

You'll see that there are three items in the collection under "Source Name":


The major difference between the three options is that some of the issues are available as images, while the others are text transcriptions only. The date ranges are different as well, with the text-only versions spanning 2004-present, and the image-only versions from 2018-present. The third entry, "Denton Record-Chronicle Blogs (TX)" are text versions of various sports-related blogs published by the newspaper. Check there for local high school and college sports info.

You can begin to search the newspaper for articles of interest by entering info on the main page or clicking any of the choices in the collection. Here's a demonstration of searching in the first two collections.

#### Text-Only Collection


I entered "Denton County Genealogical Society" in the search box for the first text-only collection and produced 233 results ranging as far back as 2004. Each results page shows a preview of the result:

☐ **A**

 August 5, 2004 | Denton Record-Chronicle (TX) | Page 2 | Lexile: 1440, grade level(s): >12

... Denton County, Texas 1900-1949 given by the **Denton County Genealogical Society ...**

JUNE 2004 MEMORIAL DONATIONS Adam James King - Memorial Fund donation given by Beth and L.L. LaRue. Jean A. Fladger Shanelec - Memorial Fund donation given by Joella Orr. Lera Pedigo Brightwell - Memorial Fund donation given by Helen, Stewart & Donna Peterson, Bruce & Liz Homfeldt, and Don & Kris Staples. Zona Mae Davis LaGrone

 Preview

You can preview the article by clicking the eyeball icon, then click on either the highlighted headline (in this case "A") or the preview box itself to go to the text version of the page. Scrolling down, the search term will be highlighted.

Continued on the next page...



The menu bar across the article page lets you change the text size, cite the article, email, print, download, save, or link the article, or even share to Google Classroom!

### ***Image-only Collection***

I repeated my search term “Denton County Genealogical Society” in the image-only collection next and got 33 results from 2018-2024.

In the list of results, clicking on the eyeball preview icon shows a larger pop-up section of the page; clicking the blue headline takes me to an image of the entire page, where thumbnails of the entire issue are on the right. Click on any page image to change pages.

Here are a few more tips on using the ***Denton Record-Chronicle Collection***:

If you plan to search the collection often, create a personal folder or save clippings to a session folder once you’ve logged in.

You can also save a search or create an alert for your search terms, all from the results page for your search term.

Refine your search results using the left menu: Sort by best match, newest or oldest clipping. Select dates with the slider bar or enter specific dates you wish to search, choose the specific year from the Year option, select a specific source, or even pick an article based on how easy it is to read with the “Lexile (readability)” option which divides the search results into ranges from a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through high school level of reading complexity.

The Denton Record-Chronicle Collection is just one more in the amazing free resources available to DPL cardholders. Get a local slant on a national issue or look for your Denton-area ancestors in this terrific database.

—Nancy Gilbride Casey, DPL 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/dentontxsar>



### 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. NOTE: **There is now a Chapter calendar on the website.** Right-most tab: <https://www.texassar.org/Denton/calendar.htm>

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](mailto:wsmerch@gmail.com)**