



**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

## Events

- 1. May 10, Denton Chapter meeting**
- 2. June 28, Denton 4th of July parade**
- 3. July 12, Denton Chapter meeting**
- 4. July 12, SAR National Conference, Connecticut**
- 5. April 17, 2026, dedication of the Texas SAR 250 Monument at the Texas State Cemetery**

## Inside this issue

Page

March Chapter Meeting minutes.....	2
Gainesville MofH Parade.....	3
Family Lore Article .....	4
Denton Bench Project .....	5
Denton Chapter Color Guard.....	6
Lafayette's 200 Anniversary to US.....	7
250th Anniversary dates.....	8
Denton Library Info.....	9-10
Chapter Social Media Info.....	11



**Denton SAR breakfast social—April 26, 2025**

# MINUTES FOR CHAPTER MEETING

March 8, 2025

## DENTON CHAPTER #23 TEXAS SAR

President Brandon Story called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Invocation by Ted Godwinstemler

Pledge of Allegiance of the flag of the United States by Brandon Story

Pledge to Texas Flag by Brandon Story

Pledge of SAR by Brandon Story

Guest speaker: Major General John Cambell (USAF) gave a presentation on drone usage in combat at Battle of Roberts Ridge in Afghanistan

### **Old Business:**

Bill Surles gave a report on the SAR stone bench project

Final design is approved and site determination is now in the hands of the

Denton County Historical Commission, working with the Texas Commission

Denton chapter has \$600.00 donated and we need \$1,400.00 to complete

Minutes of January 14, 2024 Motion to accept by Mike Frye Recording Secretary,

Seconded by Jim Akers

Treasurer's Report by Chris Strauss, \$4027.64

Motion to approve Billy Russel Second Todd Wilber

### **New Business**

Jim Hobdy reminded all of Coffee Social April 12, 2025

Jim Akers reminded members of SAR state convention March 28, 29, 30.

Also, Chapter Lapel Pens are available, and the chapter will be at the Denton Yankee Doodle 4th of July parade, June 28, 2025.

Motion made to send donation to Medal of Honor Museum by Pres. Story, second by Mike Frye. Motion passed. 2 nays.

\$26.00 donation by Bill Surles, winner of the drawing, to the SAR bench project.

Mike Connelly reminded members put out the word SAR that scholarship applications are being accepted at this time.

Motion to adjourn by Brandon Story, Pres. Second by Mike Frye



# Gainesville TX Medal of Honor Parade April 12, 2025

The highlight of the Medal of Honor week in Gainesville... We celebrate as the entire town turns up to welcome and support the Medal of Honor Recipients and show their American pride!

Various SAR chapters participated  
as a group



The Denton DAR Benjamin  
Lyon Chapter always has  
their jeep in the parade.

## Family Lore

By Todd Wilber

The bane of my existence as the self-proclaimed family genealogist is family lore.

For example, my 7<sup>th</sup> great grandpa Thomas Nickell (c1747-1807) was supposedly older, in the French and Indian War with his father John, served in Lord Dunmore's War, and gave supplies during the RevWar.

The only thing accurate above is he gave supplies to the Patriot cause. He provided 13 diets.

I see the same information passed on as fact by family members throughout the decades. None of it holds up to any scrutiny. Some have made Thomas older to make him able to serve in the F&I War with his father John. There is no evidence either served in the war. Nor was father John married twice to make it possible for Thomas to be older. The next persistent myth is Thomas and his brother Joseph served in Lord Dunmore's War and were at Point Pleasant. There was a Thomas and Joseph Nichols that served as guides out of Ft Pitt. They were well known scouts and interpreters out of PA. They, obviously, were not my Thomas and Joseph from what is now Monroe Co, WV. Their brother Issac was at Point Pleasant with the VA militia and is on the monument. Things must have gotten garbled along the way.

The facts are: Thomas was Scotch Irish descent, born in the Valley of VA, lived in what is now Monroe Co, WV, gave supplies to the Patriot cause, and passed away in 1807.

It was hard wading through the meadow muffins but I fell better knowing the truth.

I guess my point is: Let the facts guide you rather than family gossip and embellishment.

### Thomas and Joseph Nickell not in Dunmore's War

Decades of family lore notwithstanding,

Thomas and Joseph Nichols/Nickell did not serve in Dunmore's War in 1774.

The Thomas and Joseph Nichols(on) on the roster from Ft Pitt lived in PA.

The Thomas from PA also served in the disastrous Crawford expedition to Sandusky and was living in Washington Co, PA in 1782.

Our Thomas and Joseph lived in what is now Monroe Co, WV.

Two different sets of brothers.

Sources:

Thwaites and Kellogg. Documentary History of Dunmore's War 1774

Williams, Glenn. Dunmore's War: The Last Conflict of America's Colonial Era

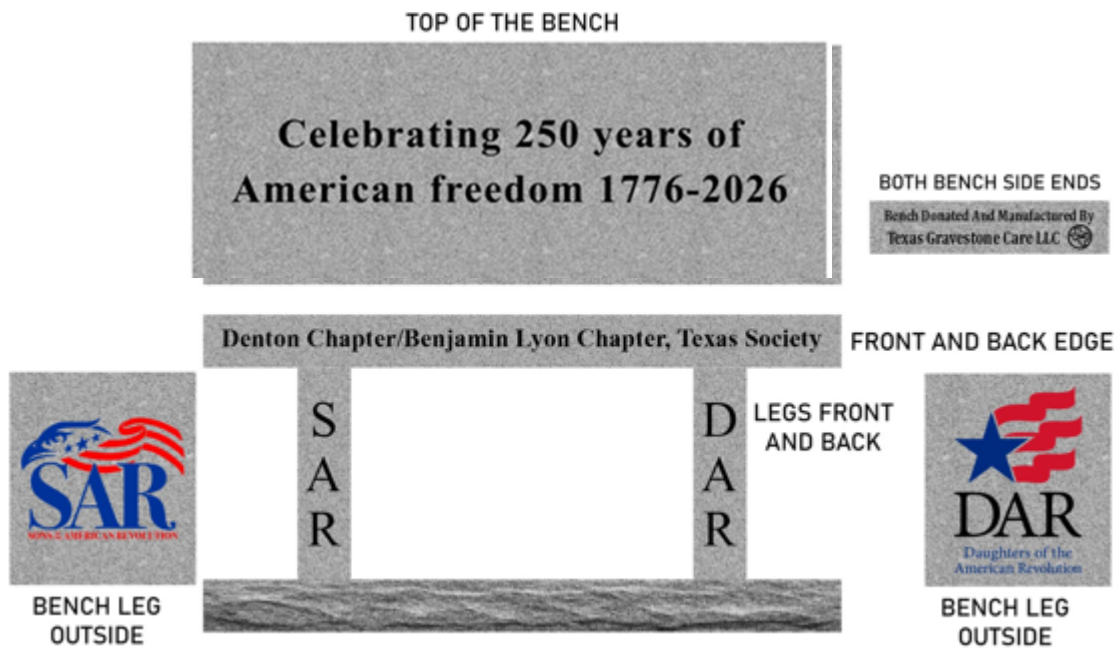
Butterfield, CW. An Historical Account of the Expedition Against Sandusky

Dunmore's War, Pittsburgh Payrolls, 1775, p. 59- Library of VA



# 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 are working with the Texas Commission to determine if and how we can place the SAR/DAR 250th Anniversary bench. (Update as of 4/30/2025)



### 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
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**

# 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?**

## May, 2025

May 1, 1825 — Ohio, River  
May 2, 1825 — Smithland, KY  
May 3, 1825 — Nashville, TN  
May 4, 1825 — Nashville, TN  
May 5, 1825 — Nashville, TN  
May 6, 1825 — Clarksville, TN  
May 7, 1825 — Cumberland, River  
May 8, 1825 — Shawneetown, IL  
May 8, 1825 — Lafayette Springs, IN  
May 9, 1825 — Ohio, River  
May 10, 1825 — Ohio, River  
May 11, 1825 — Portland, KY  
May 12, 1825 — Louisville, KY  
May 12, 1825 — Jeffersonville, IN  
May 12, 1825 — Louisville, KY  
May 13, 1825 — Shelbyville, KY  
May 14, 1825 — Frankfort, KY  
May 15, 1825 — Versailles, KY  
May 15, 1825 — Lexington, KY  
May 16, 1825 — Lexington, KY

May 17, 1825 — Lexington, KY  
May 18, 1825 — Georgetown, KY  
May 19, 1825 — Cincinnati, OH  
May 20, 1825 — Cincinnati, OH  
May 21, 1825 — Maysville, KY  
**May 22, 1825 — Gallipolis, OH \***  
May 23, 1825 — Marietta, OH  
May 24, 1825 — Wheeling, WV  
May 25, 1825 — Washington, PA  
May 26, 1825 — Brownsville, PA  
May 26, 1825 — Uniontown, PA  
May 27, 1825 — Point Marion, PA  
May 28, 1825 — Uniontown, PA  
May 29, 1825 — Rostraver Township, PA  
May 29, 1825 — Elizabeth, PA  
May 29, 1825 — North Braddock, PA  
May 30, 1825 — Lawrenceville, PA  
May 30, 1825 — Pittsburgh, PA  
May 31, 1825 — Pittsburgh, PA

**\* Where Lafayette met Surles' relative**



# **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 U.S. Tour**

**September 5, 2024 The First Continental Congress**

**April 19, 2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord**

**Military Branch 2025 Birthdays:**

**Army June 14, Navy Oct. 13, Marines Nov. 10**

**2025 Battle of Quebec**

**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 items, including the Chapter Newsletter, 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)**