



Denton Chapter  
America 250

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

August, 2025

# Ink & Quill



Next Meeting: **Saturday, September 13, 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. August 23, Coffee Social**
- 2. Sept. 13, Denton Chapter meeting**
- 3. Nov. 8, Denton Chapter meeting**
- 4. April 12, 2026 National Conference**
- 5. April 17, 2026, dedication of the Texas SAR 250 Monument at the Texas State Cemetery**

## Inside this issue

Page

July Meeting Minutes .....	2-3
The Bench—Marker Project.....	4-5
Denton Chapter Color Guard.....	6
Lafayette’s 200 Anniversary to US.....	7
250th Anniversary dates.....	8
Yorkers versus Vermonters.....	9-10
The Founding of the U.S. Army.....	11
Denton Library Info.....	12
Chapter Social Media Info.....	13

**SAR Denton  
Chapter #23**



# Coffee Social

Informal meet and greet social event with SAR Compatriots. Dutch treat.

Location: North Point Cafe - 2000 West University Drive in Denton

**August 23 / 9 AM - 10:30 AM**

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

## Compatriots (and Guests)

As discussed in the last meeting, Jim Hobby has set up another Coffee Social at North Point Cafe on Saturday, August 23 at North Point Cafe - 9AM.

It's social - no agenda -- and Dutch Treat. Please bring prospects, spouses or guests. See picture to the left for details.

Hope to see you there.

Brandon

MINUTES FOR CHAPTER MEETING  
JULY 12, 2025  
DENTON CHAPTER #23 TEXAS SAR



**Chapter President Brandon Story** called the meeting to order at 10:04AM with the invocation led by Todd Wilbur. The pledge to the American Flag, the Texas Flag and the SAR Flag were led by Chapter President Brandon Story.



**Chapter President Brandon Story** discussed the recent July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in downtown Denton and the presence of several Denton Chapter members on the Denton trailer. President Story noted that Chapter vice president Ronnie Rencher took the lead on rebuilding and updating the chapter trailer which was utilized in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.

**Randall Bush**, a member of the Plano, Texas SAR chapter was introduced as the speaker for today's meeting; the topic was the "Whiskey Rebellion".

### Old Business

**Chapter President Brandon Story** asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the last chapter meeting. A motion was made by member Todd Wilbur and the second was made by member Mark Miller. The motion was approved.

**Chapter treasurer Chris Strauss** made a treasurer's report which shows a closing balance of \$4,262.64 with \$1,050.06 earmarked for Youth awards and \$626.00 set aside for the proposed 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bench.

Continued on the next page...

**Chapter President Story** opened discussion on the bench proposal. Denton County / Texas Historical Commission has pushed back on the Bench at the Courthouse Square and instead are asking for the Chapter to sponsor a Commemorative Plaque. Member Ronnie Rencher made the motion that the chapter secure a “plaque” with a cost of around \$2000.00 for display at the Square; the motion was seconded by Jim Akers and Mike Connelley. The motion passed.

**Chapter member Bill Surles** will pursue the discussion of a “large Plaque” with officials of Denton County and seek permission to place it on the Square.

**Chapter member James Hobdy** suggested a chapter coffee / mixer some time in August with the suggested date of August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Chapter member Mike Connelley** reported on the ordering of a new chapter Challenge Coin recognizing the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Founding of our Country. The new coins have been shipped and will be introduced at the next chapter meeting.

## New Business



**Chapter Awards:** District Vice President Jim Akers presented awards to the chapter from the State Organization for our chapter Scrapbook which had been submitted by chapter member David Cook. Another award from the State was for 100% retention of chapter members from the previous year.

**Chapter president Brandon Story** discussed the minor changes to the Denton Chapter By-laws, including officer elections and meeting time and for online meeting options. Member Mark Miller made a motion to accept the modifications to the Chapter Bylaws, seconded by Todd Wilbur. The motion carried.

**Chapter president Brandon Story** also mentioned that “email phishing schemes” continue to randomly show up using his email address; members were told to ignore these emails and the requests to purchase any gift cards or to send any money.

The chapter meeting was adjourned. Attendance was 17; 13 members and 4 visitors. Minutes were prepared by chapter member/ past chapter president Mike Connelley in the absence of chapter secretary Mike Frye.

The AMERICA 250 Anniversary Bench Project is now  
**The AMERICA 250 Anniversary Marker Project**



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.

The Denton County Office of History and Culture works with the THC for approval of any additions to the Denton Courthouse Square. I was told that a bench would not be approved, but that a marker would be appropriate. I met with Peggy Riddle, the Director of the Office. She will determine the format and location of a marker. It will be up to the Denton DAR and SAR chapters to suggest the layout and wording of the marker, that will then be approved by the Office, Denton County commissioners and then THC. (Logos will probably not be in color)

Displayed on the next page is a suggestion. Feel free to comment and/or present another idea. Please note that this design has not been reviewed or approved the SAR, DAR, Denton or state organizations.

Bill Surles at [wsmerch@gmail.com](mailto:wsmerch@gmail.com)

# Draft 250 Anniversary Marker

Celebrating 250 Years of the founding of the United States of America  
July 4, 1776 – July 4, 2026

We honor our Patriot Ancestors that established this great country. Each member of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution has a direct ancestor that participated in the Revolutionary War to gain freedom from Great Britain, which began with the signing of The Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 4, 1776.

The DAR and SAR organizations promote patriotism, preserve history, and educate future generations about the principals of the American Revolution.

This marker was dedicated on July 4, 2026 by the Denton DAR and SAR Chapter members and the citizens of Denton. God bless America.

DAR Chapter President *name*

SAR Chapter President *name*

County Official *title & name*

City Official *title & name*



## 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

### 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?**

**August, 2025**

**August 1-6, 1825 — Washington, DC**

**August 6, 1825 — Fairfax Courthouse, VA**

**August 7-8, 1825 — Aldie, VA**

**August 9, 1825 — Leesburg, VA**

**August 10, 1825 — Belmont, VA**

**August 11-13, 1825 — Washington, DC**

**August 14-15, 1825 — Fredericksburg, VA**

**August 16-19, 1825 — Monticello, VA**

**August 20, 1825 — Charlottesville, VA**

**August 21, 1825 — Montpelier, VA**

**August 22, 1825 — Orange Court House, VA**

**August 22, 1825 — Culpepper, VA**

**August 23, 1825 - Jeffersonton, VA**

**August 23, 1825 — Warrenton, VA**

**August 24, 1825 — Aldie, VA**

**August 25, 1825 — Washington, DC**

**August 29, 1825 — Mount Vernon, VA**



# 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**

**December 31, 2025 Battle of Quebec**

**2026 Declaration of Independence**

**2027 Battle of Saratoga**

**2028 French Alliance**

**2029 Siege of Vincennes/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.

## Yorkers versus Vermonters

By Todd Wilber

The Hampshire Grants (i.e. Vermont) was disputed territory between the colonies of New York and New Hampshire. The royal governor of New Hampshire started giving out land grants in 1749 and continued to do so until New York got a Royal decree in 1764 confirming the land was actual New York territory. In 1770, the New York Supreme Court invalidated all the land grants given out by New Hampshire which caused a kerfuffle amongst those who had them. A resistance movement arose against the authorities of New York which caused a few altercations and skirmishes until the outbreak of the Revolution.

Starting in 1776, Vermonters tried to get the Continental Congress to recognize the independence of Vermont and get it admitted as the 14<sup>th</sup> state. The Congress did not want to upset New York and ignored Vermont's pleas. In 1777, Vermont declared Independence from New York and Great Britain and formed the Vermont Republic which lasted until statehood in 1791.

Those within Vermont who remained loyal to New York were called Yorkers. They resisted Vermont authorities and refused to submit to what they considered a usurper government. Yorkers were arrested and their land was sometimes confiscated. Night raids by Vermont authorities became commonplace in the early 1780s. Some Yorkers were banished from Vermont and even threatened with death if they ever returned.

In late 1783, southern Windham County was a hotbed of Yorker activity. To keep the Yorkers under control, Vermont had a force of state troops in the area under Major Josiah Boyden. The officers of the detachment were staying at the Inn of Josiah Arms in Brattleboro. The local Yorkers, incensed by the harassment they had received from the Vermont troops, hatched a plan to capture some Vermont officers.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1784, a group of about two dozen Yorkers under the command of Nathaniel Carpenter attacked the inn where the Vermont officers were staying. They demanded the surrender of Ensign Oliver Waters. Waters had been overzealous in the prosecution of his duties and merited a special hatred from the Yorkers. Commissary General Farnsworth tried to reason with the Yorkers but they ignored him and demanded Waters be turned over. When their demand was not heeded, the Yorkers commenced an assault on the inn. They fired about thirty buck and ball cartridges at the inn. They wounded a traveler in the thigh and Major Boyden in the leg. They then stormed the inn and grabbed Waters

. Waters was then impelled to go along with the Yorkers as a prisoner. He was put under a strong guard and taken to the Massachusetts' border. At the border, Water's was crudely handcuffed and given into the care of two Yorkers to take to Poughkeepsie, New York. They made it to Northampton, Massachusetts by the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Meanwhile, the news of the raid reached Halifax, Vermont on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Joseph Tucker and sixteen men (including my 6<sup>th</sup> G-G Caleb Owen) gathered arms and horses and set out to rescue Waters. They knew the route the Yorkers took and made haste. They caught up with Waters and his guard at Northampton. They freed Waters and took his guard into custody.

Continued on the next page...

....continued from the previous page

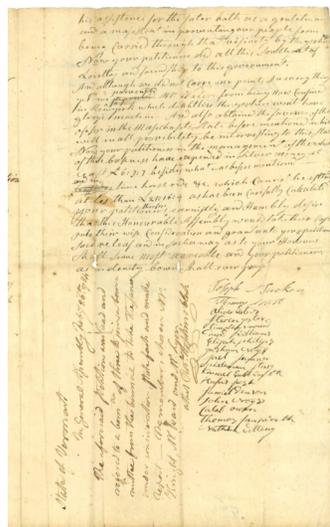
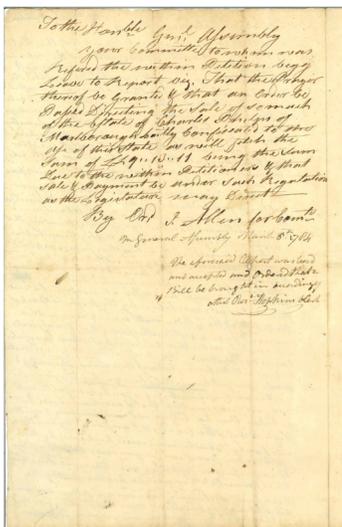
Tucker and his men, realizing a Yorker named Timothy Phelps was in nearby Hadley at his brother Charles' house, decided to pay a visit to the Phelps and nab Timothy. They intended to return him to a Vermont jail. Arriving after dark, they forced their way into Phelps' homestead and scuffled with Charles. Timothy came forward and was taken into custody. The Vermonters left with Timothy and headed back towards Vermont.

Timothy's brother Charles contacted Sheriff Elisha Porter of Hampshire County and informed him of the attack on his house and his brothers kidnapping. The sheriff had warrants issued and a posse of thirty men set out to stop the Vermonters. They caught up with the them on the 19<sup>th</sup> in Deerfield at Blood Brook. The sheriff called out "Where are these damned Vermonters" and his men commenced their attack. Tucker and his men thought the posse were Yorkers and resisted. The sheriff finally got it through to the Vermonters who he was and they surrendered to him.

Timothy Phelps was freed and Tucker and his men were taken back to Hadley and tried before a court of three justices. Four of them were convicted of "riotous conduct" and fined 21 pounds 8 shillings. Once the whole story was explained to Sheriff Porter, he forgave the Vermonters and vowed to help free anyone abducted by Yorkers in the future.

In February 1784, Tucker and his men sent a petition to the General Assembly of Vermont asking for reimbursement for the expenses of their rescue of Oliver Waters. A committee of three was appointed to examine and report on validity of the claim. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the committee endorsed the petition and it was approved by the assembly. Part of the confiscated land of Charles Phelps was ordered to be sold to the tune of 49 pounds 13 shillings 11 pence for the reimbursement.

#### THE PETITION



#### Sources:

A Journal of the proceedings of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont. Feb 1784. pp. 20 & 47  
Hall, Benjamin. History of Eastern Vermont, 1858. pp. 488-513  
Robinson, Rowland. Vermont: A Study of Independence, 1892. pp. 245-6  
Thompson, Zadok. A Gazetteer of the State of Vermont, 1824. p. 142  
Tucker, Joseph. Petition to General Assembly of Vermont, Feb 1784. VT State Archi



## 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the U.S. Army



The U.S. Army was founded on June 14, 1775, with the establishment of the [Continental Army](#) by the [Second Continental Congress](#). This decision was made in response to escalating tensions with Great Britain and the outbreak of armed conflict at [Lexington and Concord](#).



The Continental Army, initially comprised of ten companies of riflemen, was led by [George Washington](#), who was appointed Commander-in-Chief. The period from 1775 to 1778 saw the Continental Army grow, face significant challenges, and engage in key battles, including those in New York, New Jersey, and around Philadelphia.

### Key Events (1775-1778):

- **Battles in New York and New Jersey:** The Army experienced both victories and defeats in these crucial early campaigns.
- **Valley Forge Encampment:** The winter encampment at Valley Forge in 1777-1778 tested the Army's resilience and highlighted the leadership of Washington and the training of Baron von Steuben.
- **Battles of Trenton and Princeton:** These victories in late 1776 and early 1777 boosted morale and demonstrated the Army's ability to fight effectively.
- **Saratoga:** The decisive victory at Saratoga in 1777 was a turning point in the war, leading to French support.

**Legacy:** The Continental Army, though disbanded after the war, laid the foundation for the modern U.S. Army, establishing traditions of service and professionalism.

# Denton Library Info

## *New Virginia Genealogy Resources in Special Collections*

Library patrons with Virginia ancestry will be pleased with several new Virginia resources recently added to the Special Collections shelves at the Emily Fowler Central Library.

Elise Greenup Jourdan's *Early Settlers of Tidewater Virginia* (Heritage Books, 2019) covers the Henrico and Charles City Counties—the parent counties of Goochland, Albemarle, Amherst, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Cumberland, Powhatan, Chesterfield, Richmond City, Prince George, Brunswick, Lunenburg, Halifax, Bedford, Pittsylvania, Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Amelia, Prince Edward, Nottoway, Dinwiddie, and Petersburg City.

Using a wide range of documented sources such as unpublished manuscripts, published family histories, magazine and newspaper articles, history books, biographies, record abstracts, as well as some original records of Henrico and various other counties, Jourdan takes the lineage from the earliest colonial records up through about 1800.

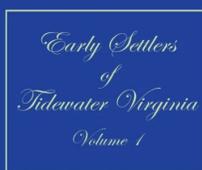
The work is in four volumes:

**Volume 1** includes the families: Akin, Archer, Ashbrook, Babbicom - Parker - Milner, Batte, Branch, Burton, Cocke, Ligon, Lound, Pleasants, Woodson, and allied families of Henrico and surrounding counties.

**Volume 2** includes Baugh, Bevill, Bland, Bullington, Cousins, Cox, Giles, Gower, Hancock, Hatcher, Howlett, Knibb, Mann, Perkinson, Perrin, Ragsdale, Soane, Stratton, Tanner, Trent, Walthall, and Webster families.

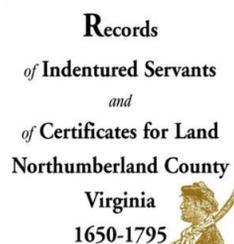
**Volume 3** includes the families lines Anderson; Blackman; Bolling; Farrar; Gathright; Napier; Osborne; Parsons; Randolph, Henry; Randolph, William; Redford; Royall; Sharpe, Traylor; Turpin; Ward; Worsham.

**Volume 4** includes the surnames Carter, Cheatham, Goode, Gregory, Hutchins, Knowles, Michaux, Mosby, New, Parsons, Perkins, Porter, Povall, Rowlett, Sherman, Stith, Walters, Whitlow, and Womack.



*Early Settlers  
of  
Tidewater Virginia  
Volume 1*

*Elise Greenup Jourdan*



**Records  
of Indentured Servants  
and  
of Certificates for Land  
Northumberland County  
Virginia  
1650-1795**

Compiled by  
W. Preston Haynie

In his introduction to his book *Records of Indentured Servants and of Certificates for Land, Northumberland County, Virginia, 1650-1795* (Heritage Press, 2008), W. Preston Haynie states, "One frequently reads about plantation life and prominent planters; without a study of servants, however, no one can have a complete picture of life during the colonial and revolutionary periods."

In it, he hopes to begin answering questions about the system that endured in the country for almost 150 years, such as:

- What were the fates of the Northumberland servants after they completed their term of service?
- How many remained in the county?
- What were their points of origin?
- How closely do the punishments of the county court follow the laws of the colony?

And more...

*Records of Indentured Servants* provides an overview of indentured servitude and historical perspective on the practice. It contains one of the most extensive lists of Northumberland County names included in a single work; transcriptions of over 2,000 entries found in the pages of court records detail both land and indentured servant transactions.

All five volumes are available in Special Collections for in-library use.

—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)**