

September, 2025



Denton Chapter
America 250

Ink & Quill

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



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. Sept. 13, Denton Chapter meeting**
- 2. Nov. 8, Denton Chapter meeting**
- 3. April 12, 2026 National Conference**
- 4. April 17, 2026, dedication of the Texas SAR 250 Monument at the Texas State Cemetery**

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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/dentontsar>



The Coffee Social was well attended. An overflow group had good food and good conversation.

Texas District VP Jim Akers

As the SAR District 11 Vice President, I wanted to bring you up to date of some of the events going on in the Texas SAR.

Most of you will recall that last year at one of our Denton meetings, Richard Zdunkewicz from the Paul Carrington Chapter (Houston) gave a “Zoom” presentation on a proposed SAR Monument commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War. Richard has done an exemplary job at raising the funds, and coordinating the design and construction of the monument. Fund raising for this project (including printing of programs and other ancillary costs) has been completed, and as of August 11, 2025 the foundation for the monument has been poured. Under the category of “fun facts”, the concrete foundation is six feet deep, and the completed monument will be dedicated on April 18, 2026 at the Texas State Cemetery (<https://cemetery.texas.gov>) at 10 AM.

Although the Texas SAR currently has 2,940 active, dues paying members, we continue to emphasize growth. To that end, there is currently a proposal from Dustin Whittenburg of the San Antonio chapter to establish college scholarships to be awarded to students from around the Texas SAR. It is hoped that in addition to providing a community service through education, members of the future may be developed.

Revolutionary War education in schools continues to be a topic of interest. The Texas SAR is proposing that one school event, per chapter, per year be set as a goal.

SAR-DAR “mixers” is another proposal. These probably small events will serve to identify potential new members from friends and family members of DAR members, as well as for DAR to identify potential new members from friends and family members of the SAR.

Please mark your calendars for our next Denton Chapter meeting, September 13, 2025 at the Emily Fowler Library, 10 AM. Our speaker will be Lewis Smith, author of the “President Hamilton, a Novel of Alternative History”.

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Mr. Smith will be driving from Greenville to address our group, and we would like to make sure that we have a good showing. I have heard Mr. Smith speak, and it is worth your time to attend. I will ask him to bring copies of his book to sell and sign, or they are available of Amazon.

Our speaker for November will be Colin Kimball. Colin is one of the original founders of the Courthouse Valor Project. This project has taken the initiative to honor 46 Texas veterans from 32 different counties of Texas by highlighting their military accomplishments and placing their technically correct portraits in the respective courthouses of their home counties. This project has also installed 100 (so far) oil portraits in the Steindam Courts Building in McKinney, Collin County. Colin Kimball is the artist, and he provides these portraits without cost, with only an occasional request for donations for the cost of the frames. The portraits are approximately four feet by three feet, and they make the Collin County Courthouse a true museum-quality portrait gallery of veterans who have been recognized for their accomplishments by each of the services (except, perhaps the Space Force), with awards of the Bronze Star (with “V”), the Silver Star, the Services Crosses, the Medal of Honor, and the Purple Heart.

Prior to our meeting with Colin, it will be worth your trouble to visit the Steindam Courts Building, 2100 Bloomdale Road, McKinney, TX 75701 to see the displayed portraits. This is something to which you may wish to bring your family and friends. Admission is free, and if you let me know when you are coming I will try to meet you for coffee, lunch, dinner, or just to view the portraits with you. At any rate, please plan to attend our meeting on November 8, 2025 at the Emily Fowler Library.

Jim Akers sandakers@msn.com or vpd11@texassar.org

The AMERICA 250 Anniversary Marker Project



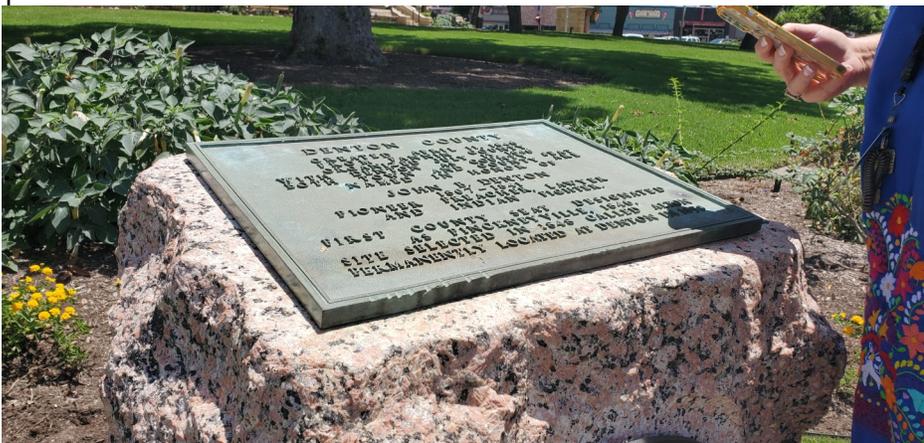
The Denton County Courthouse square is controlled by the Texas Historical Commission.

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, reviewed by the Denton County office. 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.



Example of a marker

Bill Surles at 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

While not a key player during the Revolutionary War, Texas did play a small but important role during the conflict. In 1779, King Carlos III of Spain, who controlled Texas at the time, vowed to aid the rebelling colonists by allying with France and declaring war on Great Britain. Texas' immense cattle herds and natural resources would prove pivotal in supplying the soldiers of Bernardo de Gálvez as they launched their attack on the British from the Louisiana territory. Aided by Texas supplies, Gálvez and his men defeated the British in battles at Manchac, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola. After the war, the Mexican government encouraged settlement in the territory, leading several Revolutionaries and their families to find a permanent home in Texas.

This marker was dedicated on July 4, 2026 by the Benjamin Lyon Chapter Denton of the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR), the Denton Chapter of the Sons of American Revolution (SAR), and citizens of Denton County in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and those patriots who gave all to establish our great nation. Each member of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution has a direct ancestor who participated in the Revolutionary War to gain independence from Great Britain. The DAR and SAR organizations continue to preserve history, promote patriotism, and educate future generations about the principles of the American Revolution.

God bless America



Challenge Coin Choices



Lapel Pin



These items available for purchase at the
SAR Chapter meeting Sept 13

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
dhjones1940@outlook.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?

September, 2025

August 29- September 1, 1825 — Mount Vernon, VA

September 2-7, 1825 — Washington, DC

September 8, 1825 — Down the Potomac, MD/VA

September 8, 1825 — Mount Vernon, VA

September 9, 1825 — Down the Potomac, MD/VA

Farewell to Lafayette

His 13 month tour of America ends

24 States, 6,000 miles



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

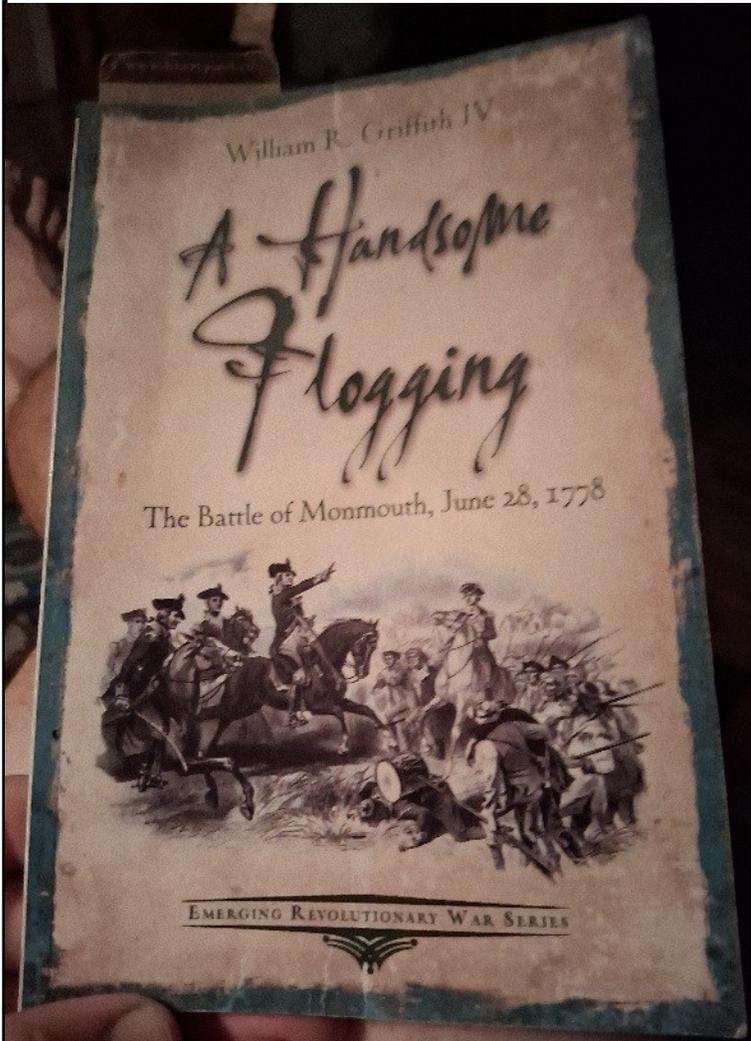
2032 Battle of Blue Licks

2033 Treaty of Paris

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

A Handsome Flogging: A Review

By Todd Wilber



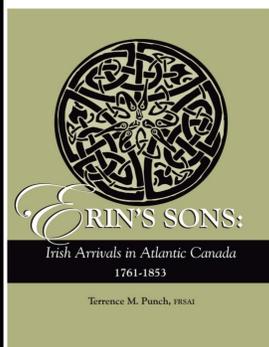
A Handsome Flogging: The Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778 by William R Griffith IV is a jet tour of the campaign that culminated in the Battle of Monmouth. It opens with an overview of the Philadelphia campaign of 1777. It then touches on Valley Forge and the professionalization of the Continental Army during that Winter. It then touches on the French entrance into the war and the British reasons for abandoning Philly. The succeeding chapters gives the reader the movements of the armies and a step-by-step overview of the battle itself. At

the end of each chapter, the author gives directions and locations of the historic sites mentioned. There are some great maps to help one sort out the confusing battle. The book also dispels some long-standing myths. The biggest one is Washington cursing out Lee on the battlefield. No one at the scene mentions this. Plus, Lee continues to lead troops during the battle. It is only after the battle that the controversy that ends Lee's career starts. If you can find a nice pre-owned copy at reasonable price, I recommend *A Handsome Flogging*.

Denton Library Info

Genealogy Book Potpourri: New Titles to Aid Your Research

New titles added recently to the Special Collections shelves at the Emily Fowler Central Library might give your research a needed boost, especially if you have Irish, New England, or Texas ancestors.



In the four volume set: *Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada*, author Terrence M. Punch has combed through a wide-ranging and disparate group of sources including newspaper articles and advertisements, local government documents and census records, church records, burial records, land records, military records, passenger lists, and more to identify Irish pioneers and where they came from in the Old Country.

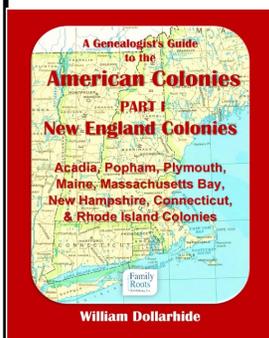
Each volume covers a particular time span with a slightly different focus:

Vol. I, *Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada, 1761-1853* includes surname and ship indexes

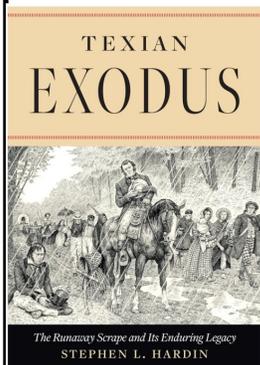
Vol. II covers the same time period and lists additional 7,000 Irish arrivals in Atlantic Canada, uses hard-to-find sources such as church marriages and burials, cemetery records, headstone inscriptions, military description books, poor house records, etc. Includes Irish embarkation port maps and additional ship and surname index.

Vol. III *Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada 1751-1858* extends coverage through 1858 and adds 7,000 immigrant names largely based on newspaper notices of marriages and deaths 1854-1858, regimental records, and land records such as petitions for land grants. Includes maps of peak migration from Ireland to Atlantic Canada.

Vol. IV brings the work forward to 1863, the mid-point of the American Civil War, when migration to Atlantic Canada had diminished to a trickle following out-migration to the U.S. and "upper Canada," and a relative decline in the proportion of the Irish-born population in Atlantic Canada.



William Dollarhide's *A Genealogist's Guide to the American Colonies: Part 1 – New England Colonies* will be a go-to resource for anyone with Colonial ancestors from New England, Acadia, Plymouth, Colonial Maine, Massachusetts Bay Colony, Providence Plantations, and more. It includes an introduction to the American Colonies, numerous maps, colonial timelines, and important New England resource centers with over 900 website links. Colonies are organized and displayed by their colonial counties and include the towns in place during the colonial era, with important references to county boundary changes which might impact the focus research locality.



Texian Exodus: The Runaway Scrape and Its Enduring Legacy by Stephen L. Hardin, is a narrative account of the 1836 evacuation of Texians—a refugee crisis which ranks among the most memorable historical events in Texas. *Texian Exodus* transports readers to the frigid, sodden spring of 1836, when thousands of Texians—Anglo-American settlers—fled eastward for the United States in fear of Antonio López de Santa Anna's advancing Mexican army. Hardin draws from accounts of the runaways themselves who paint a vivid picture of incalculable pain and suffering paired with dignity and loss, and yet among their finest hour.

All volumes are available now 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