

October, 2025



Denton Chapter
America 250

Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting: **Saturday, November 8, 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. Oct 11, 9am Coffee Social**
- 2. November 8, Denton Chapter meeting**
- 3. Jan. 10, 2026, 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**

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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

**The next
Denton Chapter
Coffee Social is
9am October 11**

**North Point Café
2000 W University
Denton**

Minutes for CHAPTER MEETING
September 13, 2025
DENTON CHAPTER #23 TEXAS SAR

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

Jim Akers led in the open prayer

Brandon Story led in the Pledges

Old Business: Review of the coffee social and it was a success organized by Jim Hobdy

Guest speaker, author Lewis Ben Smith gave an outstanding review of the life of Alexander Hamilton

New Business: July minutes, motion to be approved by Jim Hobdy, Second by Bill Surles

Chris Strauss gave Treasurers report \$4,302.00 general fund, \$800.00 for the 250 year Marker for the U.S. birthday celebration.

Bill Surles gave update, that we were waiting on approval of a location from Denton County, for the marker.

Reminder was made Challenge Coins and Lapel pins are available for \$10.00.

President Story stated chapter will elect 2026 officers to be installed in May 2026.

Bill Surles and Jim Akers received Certificates of Appreciation from SAR McKinney Chapter for participation in the DAR Revolution Experience Traveling Show at the Collin County Historical Museum in McKinney.

David Cook spoke regarding Color Guard needs: *We need to elect a new color Guard Commander.*

Our chapter was asked to post the colors for DAR Chapter on Oct 11, 2025, that is under consideration.

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Mike Connelly reminded the chapter this is scholarship and poster contest for current year and for the need to recruit candidates.

Chris Strauss asked for volunteers to present awards and certificates to ROTC/Jr. ROTC unit in the Spring of 2026.

Veterans Day Nov 11, 2025 and our chapters involvement was discussed.

Next meeting November 8, 2025

benediction by Jim Akers

Recessional and Adjourn by Bill Surles



Brandon Story thanking our speaker Lewis Ben Smith



Jim Akers and Bill Surles receiving appreciation certificate from McKinney SAR Chapter

The AMERICA 250 Anniversary Marker Project



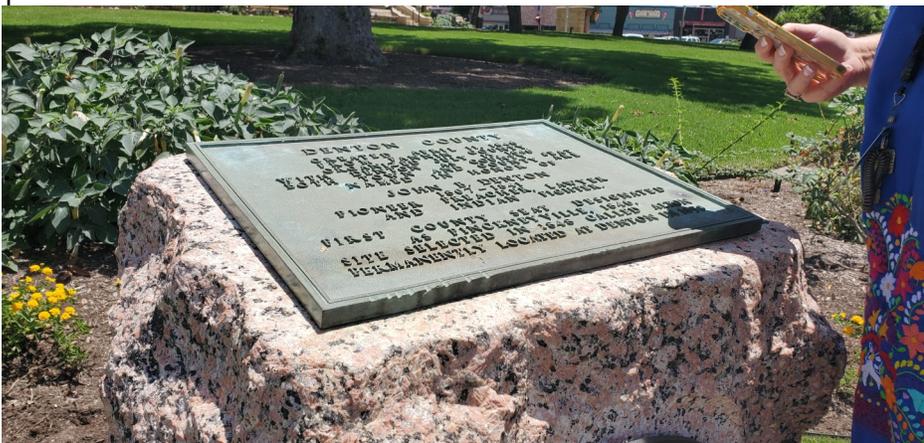
The Denton County Courthouse square is controlled by the Texas Historical Commission.

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 by 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
Denton SAR Chapter meetings



Chapter Color Guard Commander David Cook has asked that someone else take over as Commander, as he is no longer able to continue. Contact him for details.

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.

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



Farewell to Lafayette

**His 13 month tour of America has ended
24 States, 6,000 miles**

The 13-month AFL Bicentennial Farewell Tour followed Lafayette's footsteps from the original 1824/1825 tour including large cities such as New York, Boston and New Orleans, along with the many small towns he visited. Events were educational presentations, parties and other festivities. AFL also supplied lesson plans to the schools in each area so students can learn about Lafayette's history and impact on the US.

At most events there were Lafayette interpreters, or re-enactors, that entertained the crowds and dressed in period clothes. The man who plays Lafayette

on the [AFL and the Bicentennial websites video](#) is Mark Schneider.



Mark Schneider portraying Lafayette © AFL



Marquis de Lafayette © Gilbert du Motier



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 13 October 1775 resolution of the Continental Congress established what is now the United States Navy with “a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible despatch, for a cruise of three months....” After the American War of Independence, the U.S. Constitution empowered the new Congress “to provide and maintain a navy.” Acting on this authority, Congress established the Department of the Navy on 30 April 1798.

In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized official recognition of 13 October as the birthday of the U.S. Navy. Since then, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion “to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service.”



*13 October 2025
will mark the Navy's
250th birthday.*



An Epic Adventure By Todd Wilber

On my vacation, I decided to drive up and see the Revolutionary War sites in New York and Vermont. I had ancestors on both sides of the Saratoga Campaign so I have been hankering to get up there for a while. I drove a grand total of 3990 miles. Whew.... that's a lot even for an old truck driver like me. Two days up, two days back, and three and half days to see what I wanted to see.

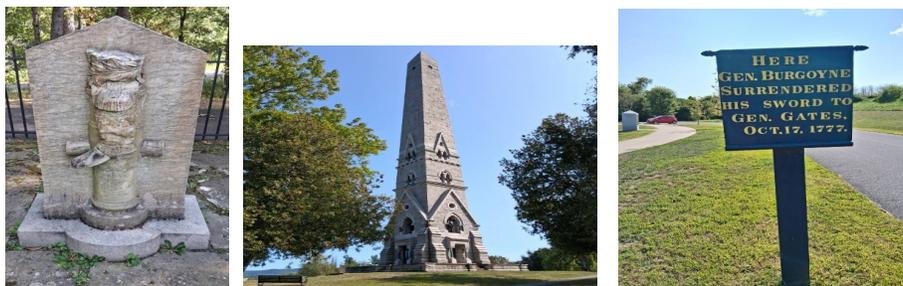
I visited the Oriskany Battlefield. The monument was nice. The battlefield was well preserved. The Indian's picked a beautiful spot for an ambush. It is a state historic site and free to visit from dawn to dusk.



Right up the road in downtown Rome is Ft Stanwix. It is a 1970's reconstruction of the fort. It saw action in both the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. It is a National Park site. No fee for entrance. They do a good job telling the history of the fort from all perspectives. It was odd though looking over the parapets and seeing modern buildings.



Next, I journeyed two hours east to the Saratoga NHP. The grounds are well preserved. It is quite a well-maintained park. There are ten stops on the 10-mile driving tour. The signage does a good job explaining the campaign. The vistas are great. Up the road several miles from the park are the Phillip Schuyler House, the surrender site, and the Saratoga Monument. And my second favorite after bacon, it was free.



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I went up the road a piece (12 miles) to Ft Edward. They have a little cluster of historic buildings in a living history village. The centerpiece is the Old Fort House which Schuyler, Washington, & Arnold visited. I barely arrived in time before they closed but I was able to take a quick visit around the village. Since I was late, I got to wander for free.



Another dozen miles up the road is Ft Ann. The locals have preserved 160 acres of the Ft Anne battlefield. There are no walking trails and only a handful of signs. I am still glad I was able to see it. And best of all: free.



I stayed over in Lake George that night. The next day I went to see Ft William Henry. Originally it was built by the British in 1755 during the French and Indian War. The French arrived in August 1757 and took the fort in a six-day siege. Then the French burned it down. In the 1950's it was decided to rebuild it on the original site. It is right on the Southern edge of Lake George. They have great artifacts on display. Plus, some knowledgeable docents in period garb. It costs \$25 to get in but the ticket is good for two days. Veterans get in for free.



I took scenic NY Hwy 9N along Lake George the 41 miles up to Ft Ticonderoga. Ft Ticonderoga was built by the French as Ft Carillon during the French and Indian War. It was eventually captured by the British. Then captured by the Americans. Then the British. Then finally the Americans. Starting in the early 20th Century they started rebuilding the fort. Reconstruction continues to this day. They have excellent displays of artifacts. Plus, a boat load of period cannon and mortars. You can wander at will all over the fort. Included in the admission is entry to Mt Defiance. Once the British got cannons on Mt Defiance, the Patriots had no other recourse but abandon Ticonderoga. An epic view. It is \$30 to get in but the ticket is good for two days. Vets can get \$3 off.

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I stayed over in Ticonderoga. The next morn I took the Fort Ti Ferry across Lake Champlain to Orwell, VT. There has been a ferry in operation here since 1759. \$12 to get across.

My first stop in Vermont was Mt Independence which is across from Ft Ticonderoga. There is nice museum built in the 1990s. The rest of the site is walking trails. I walked the short 'easy' trail of 1.6 miles. There were 14 signs on the trail marking various foundations and locations of Patriot and British buildings. The groundskeeper pulled me off to the side to show me a fortification stone that someone carved a dog's head on. It was \$8 to get in. The trail wore me out but it was worth it.

I then headed to the Hubbardton Battlefield. It is about 20 miles southeast of Mt Independence. Just when you think you are lost, you are almost there. There is a battle monument put up in 1859. There is walking trail with six signs explaining the battle. The visitor's center is a quaint little building. The view is spectacular. You are surrounded by mountains. It is \$5 to get in. It was 9-11 though so admission was free.

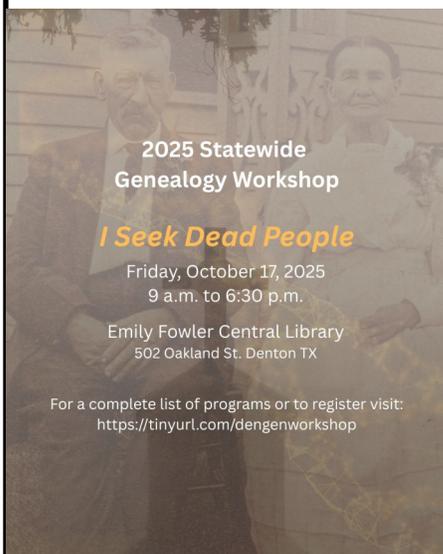


Afterwards, I drove 71 miles south to the Bennington Battle Monument. US7 is scenic. You are driving down a valley between two mountain ranges. The monument was finished in 1891. The monument is 306 feet tall and the second tallest unreinforced masonry building in the United States. Unfortunately, the elevator was out of commission.



Denton Library Info

Get into the Genealogy Spirit at the Annual Genealogy Workshop



Family History Month and Halloween spirit align for “I Seek Dead People,” a free genealogy workshop sponsored by the DPL and the Denton County Genealogical Society in October.

The free workshop, held on Friday, October 18 from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Emily Fowler features a full day of recorded genealogy webinars by noted presenters from around Texas and across the country.

Participants can come-and-go, stay for the full day, or view the programs from the comfort of their own home. Eight presentations will be offered throughout the day.

· In-person participants will gather in the Emily Fowler Central Library’s meeting room, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, to view the webinars. Librarians and volunteers will be available for one-on-one help with genealogical questions for those attending in person; tours of Special Collections will round out the day.

· At-home participants will receive a link to view the webinars via email 24 hours prior to the event.

This event is co-sponsored by the Waco-McLennan County Library’s Genealogy Center and the Central Texas Genealogy Society. This is DPL/DCGS’s 24th year participating in the annual lock-in event, which will also be a featured in Denton’s Halloween festivities. Follow this link or call 940-349-8749 to register for this FREE event.

The event features the following presentations:

9:00 a.m. From Names to Narratives: A Simple Guide to Writing

10:00 a.m. Following a Civil Case Through Documents Filed in Court

11:00 a.m. Jakten - Researching Your Scandinavian Ancestors

11:50 a.m. Lunch on Your Own

12:50 p.m. The Stories of Our Lives: Beginning Your Family History

2:25 p.m. Research Road Trips: Productive for You, Fun for Family

3:30 p.m. Resources for New Orleans Area Genealogical Research

4:35 p.m. Family Trees Get Smart: AI as Your Genealogy Assistant

5:40 p.m. All in the Family: Using Collateral Research to Build Your Family Tree

Sandra Crowley, Director of Development for the Texas State Genealogical Society

—*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