



America 250

Next Meeting: **Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 10am**

Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St, Denton, TX 76201

Chapter Officers

President— Ronnie Rencher
 Vice President— Mark Miller
 Recording Secretary—Mike Frye
 Secretary, Annual Reports —
 Mike Connelley
 Treasurer—Chris Strauss
 Chaplain —Mike Frye
 Registrar— Eric Berkheimer
 Sgt at Arms—Todd Wilbur
 Color Guard — TBD

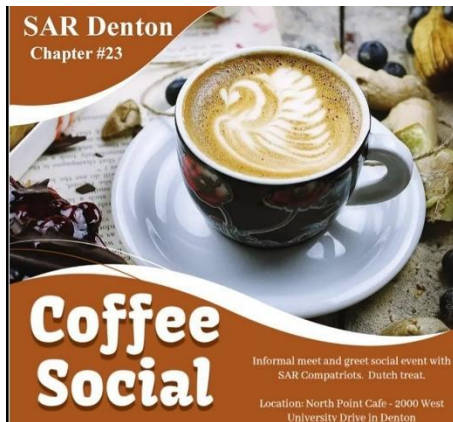
Events

1. **June 20, Coffee Social 9am**
2. **June 27, Float Building Party**
3. **July 4, Denton Yankee Doodle parade**
4. **July 4, Dedication of Denton Marker?**
5. **July 11, Denton Chapter Meeting**
6. **July 11-16, National Conference**

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Coffee Social
 June 20, 2025 9am
 At North Point Café
 2000 West University Blvd
 Denton, TX 76201
 Informal get-together for socializing and fun
 Guests encouraged, including significant others

Welcome incoming President Ronnie Rencher

As we mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation, we are reminded of the courage, sacrifice, and vision of the patriots who secured the liberties we enjoy today. This historic milestone gives us an opportunity not only to reflect on our nation's remarkable journey, but to also renew our commitment to the principals of freedom, service, and citizenship that inspired the American Revolution.

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the Denton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution during such a meaningful time in our nation's history. I look forward to working alongside our dedicated members as we commemorate this anniversary, promote patriotism, preserve our heritage, and educate future generations about the founding ideals of the United States.

Thank you for your confidence and support. Together we will continue to uphold the legacy of our patriot ancestors and ensure their sacrifices are remembered for generations to



Yours in Patriotism

Ronnie
 Ronnie Rencher

ronnie.rencher@hillwood.com

INDEPENDENCE DAY IN DENTON, TX



Last Year's Float

Ronnie will host a "*float building party*" at his home on Saturday, June 27th. Times are from 1pm to 4pm. We will provide all tools, supplies, and light refreshments, including tea, lemonade, and water. Feel free to bring your own adult beverages. A pool is also available for anyone who wants to "splash around". Spouses

and family are welcome. The address will be provided directly to the Chapter distribution list.



INDEPENDENCE DAY IN DENTON, TX

Celebrate Independence Day the Denton way! Denton's annual 4th of July celebration is a beloved community tradition filled with patriotic fun, family-friendly activities, and festive spirit.

Mark your calendars now for the Yankee Doodle parade in Denton on Saturday, July 4!

Ronnie Rencher has volunteered his jeep and a trailer again this year.

Color Guard members, please wear your uniforms and your best 'pirate scowl.' Remember all powder rifles should be SAR Color Guard rule book compliant (Unloaded; leather over the frizzen and a cover around the powder pan.)

Contact acting Commander Brandon Story brandondstory@aol.com for details.

It will be hot, so please bring sunscreen and water.

Schedule of Events:

- 7:30 a.m. - Parade Check-in/Staging begins**
- 7:45 - 8:45 a.m. - Parade Entries Judged**
- 9 a.m. - Parade begins**

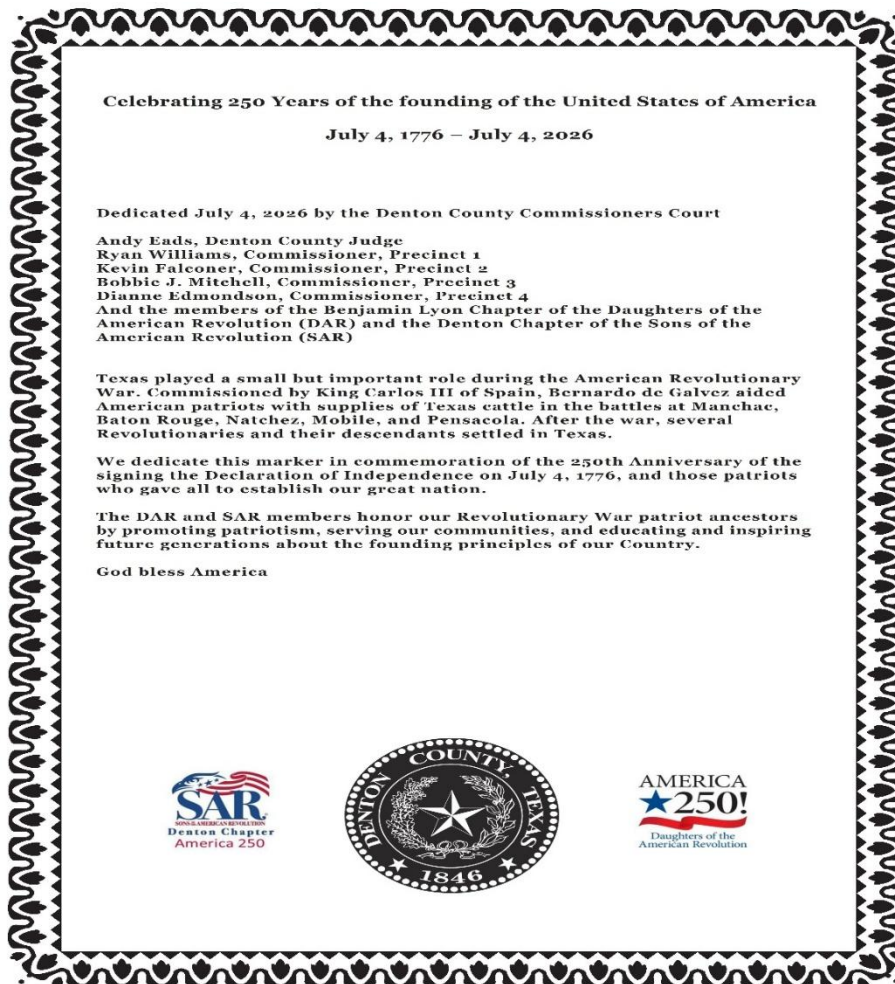
This year's parade will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 4, leaving the City of Denton Development Service Center (401 N. Elm St.) and traveling south on Elm Street, east on McKinney Street, south on Locust Street, west on W. Hickory Street, north on Elm

Street, and then west on McKinney Street and back to the Development Service Center where it will end.



The parade will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 4, leaving the City of Denton Development Service Center (401 N. Elm St.) (NOT the Wells Fargo Building to the south of the square)

The AMERICA 250th Marker Project Project Progress as of June 1, 2026



Waiting for final approval from the Denton County official. July 4th dedication may be delayed.

1. The City of Denton has selected Saturday, July 4, 2026, as the date of the Denton parade.
2. Peggy Riddle, DCHC Director, has:
 - a. Reviewed and edited the Marker text
 - b. Assigned staff to work with SAR and DAR on details of the commemoration ceremony: when, what, who, how.
 - c. Working to finalize identification of the memorial stone
 - d. Finalizing costs and who pays for what – **Peggy has indicated that the county will pay for the marker, stone and installation.**

Comments, questions: wsmerch@gmail.com



Contact acting Commander Brandon Story brandondstory@aol.com 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 carrying 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”

Ronnie's Column

Committees are a valuable part of any organization. They bring together different ideas, share responsibility, and help keep important work moving forward. As the new Chapter SAR President, I want to make strong use of committees because they allow more members to become involved, contribute their talents, and take ownership of the work we do together. Committees also help ensure that no single person carries the entire burden of leadership, while giving us the opportunity to develop future leaders within the chapter. By working together through committees, we can strengthen communication, encourage participation, and accomplish more for our chapter and our community.

Of course, committees also remind us that one person can open a meeting in five minutes... while twelve people can discuss the color of the napkins for an hour and a half.

Still, when good people work together with a common purpose, committees can accomplish a great deal — and occasionally even finish before the coffee runs out.

Denton SAR Chapter Social Committee Meeting May 28, 2026

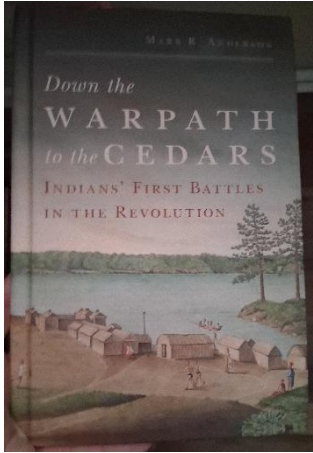
Present: Bill Surles, Jim Hobdy, Mark Miller, Ronnie Rencher

Action Items:

1. Jim Akers to get a cost for an upgrade cost of the caps that includes verbiage on the side of the cap.
2. Mark Miller and Jim Hobdy are to get speakers for this coming year.
3. Bill Surles to attempt to include more information about our members, such as their patriot, their time in the chapter, their occupation, etc. Bill to make a list and keep track of member participation.
4. The registrar to provide up to date status of pending membership applications.
5. Members should 'work the room' welcoming all attendees.
6. Jim Hobdy will remain as chair of the coffee/mixer breakfast committee (currently a committee of one).
7. Jim Hobdy will be supplied a printout of the membership with their phone numbers and will call each of them to invite/remind them of the next upcoming meeting.

Book Review: **Down the Warpath to the Cedars**

by Todd Wilber



Down the Warpath to the Cedars: Indian's First Battles in the Revolution by Mark Anderson is Anderson's follow up book on his work *The Battle for the Fourteenth Colony*. This book focuses on the attitudes and actions of the Native Americans during the Quebec Campaign. There was no united Indian response to the Revolution. Many of the tribes wanted to wait and see what happens before they picked a side. Some were more than happy than help the Americans against the British while other stayed loyal to the British. The Americans did their best to get the Indians to stay neutral while the British did their best to get the Indians to fight the Americans. It was a confused time for all involved. I definitely was confused trying to keep up with the multitude of shifting alliances. Once the British got the upper hand in

Quebec, it became easier to find and recruit Indians to fight the Americans. The book also looks at the Battle of the Cedars which has been called a massacre. The hard evidence says it was not. There was some post battle killing but it was not a general thing. This book is a good supplement to *The Battle for the Fourteenth Colony* but I would not recommend it on its own. You would need a working knowledge of the Quebec Campaign before you dive into this book.

Patriot Profile: **James Hobdy**

Born in Pampa, TX, then moved to Oklahoma and Missouri. Spent my boyhood in Sedalia, Missouri. I have one sister who lives in Dallas and a nephew in Houston. I am a 1969 graduate of North Texas State University and a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.

Married to Sylvia Klein Hobdy in 2008, who is from Sedalia, Missouri. She spent 42 years as a middle school orchestra teacher in Sherman, Richardson and Garland, TX. She also played in three symphony orchestras over the years. We live in Lantana, TX.

I spent 15 years as a graphic artist for Moore Business Forms in Denton and did work for Moore in Stockholm, Sweden. I was in Stockholm in the winter of 1979, which was the coldest recorded winter in modern history. I was assistant athletic director for the UNT for 10 years. I started my own business, Hobdy Graphics and Signs in Denton. Currently retired and working on a cartoon series called Nevil & Norton that appears in the Lubbock and Amarillo papers.



Member and worker for St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Denton....have served as deacon and elder at that church.

Former member of the Denton Kiwanis Club and the Denton County Historical Commission, as well as a board member of the University of North Texas Alumni Association. Member of the SAR for about six years. I received the Alumni Association outstanding service award in 1984. In 1986 I created the North Texas battle flag that flies from the north end of DATCU Stadium.

My patriot is William Abernathy, who was born in Virginia on April 4, 1742 and died in Pulaski Giles county Tennessee on February 8, 1832. He furnished supplies for the Continental Army, as well as transporting sick soldiers. He also furnished provisions and guns for Generals Lafayette, Von Stuben, Nelson, Greene, Washington and others. I am a descendant of Abernathy through my fraternal grandmother, Cora Abernathy Hobdy.



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 100-year Birthdays

March 2026 The British Evacuate Boston

April 2026 - Halifax Resolves, NC—First colony to authorize its delegates to vote for independence

May 2026 - The American colonies rapidly shifted toward independence

June 2026, Siege of Charleston

July 4, 2026, Declaration of Independence signed

2027 Battle of Saratoga

2028 French Alliance

2029 Siege of Vincennes/Battle of Kettle Creek

2030 Battle of Kings Mountain

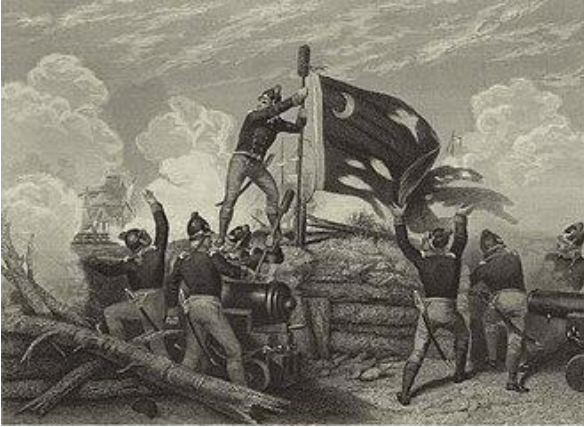
2031 Siege of Yorktown

2032 Battle of Blue Licks

2033 Treaty of Paris

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

June 2026, Siege of Charleston



Sergeant William Jasper raising the flag over the fort, painted by Johannes Adam Simon Oertel, 1858

The **Battle of Sullivan's Island** or the **Battle of Fort Sullivan** was fought on June 28, 1776, during the American Revolutionary War. It took place near Charleston, South Carolina, during the first British attempt to capture the city from American forces. It is also sometimes referred to as the **first siege of Charleston**, owing to a more successful British siege in 1780.

The British organized an expedition in early 1776 for operations in the rebellious southern colonies of North America. Delayed by logistical concerns and bad weather, the expedition reached the coast of North Carolina in May 1776. Finding conditions unsuitable for their operations, General Henry Clinton and Admiral Sir Peter Parker decided instead to act against Charlestown. Arriving there in early June, troops were landed on Long Island (now called Isle of Palms), near Sullivan's Island where Colonel William Moultrie commanded a partially constructed fort, in preparation for a naval bombardment and land assault. General Charles Lee, commanding the southern Continental theater of the war, would provide supervision.

The land assault was frustrated when the channel between the two islands was found to be too deep to wade, and the American defenses prevented an amphibious landing. The naval bombardment had little effect due to the sandy soil and the spongy nature of the fort's palmetto log construction. Careful fire by the defenders wrought extensive damage on the British fleet, which withdrew after an entire day's bombardment; the British withdrew their expedition force to New York and would not return to South Carolina until 1780.

The battle is significant in the history of South Carolina, and a palmetto on the flag of South Carolina commemorates the trees that enabled Moultrie's fortress to withstand British cannon fire. More info: [Battle of Sullivan's Island](#)

May Chapter Meeting Minutes



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

Mike Frye led with a prayer.

Brandon Story led in the Pledges.

New Business: Todd Wilber attended The Medal of Honor parade in Gainesville, Tx April 18, 2026



Brandon Story commented about the chapter's recent participation in High School and College ROTC recognition programs, including the Braswell AFROTC, and to continue our involvement.



Guest speaker, Richard Bonapart, from the Mckinney Chapter of SAR presented a very informative talk of his ancestor Col. John Tyson, The Reluctant Loyalist, from Kentucky.

Old Business: Minutes of meeting of March 14, 2026 submitted by Mike Frye for approval, motion to approve Ronnie Rencher, seconded by Mark Miller, passed.

Treasurers report not available until next meeting.

Bill Surles gave update on Denton Chapter of SAR presenting the 250 year Marker for the U.S. birthday celebration with Denton DAR Chapter for its dedication on

July 4, 2026. More info from City of Denton and Denton County officials will be communicated, but at this point a July 4th dedication might not happen.

Pres. Story proceeded by asking for nominations from members for Chapter officers' election. Nominations were made, voting completed: Pres, Ronnie Rencher, VP Mark Miller, Secretary Mike Frye, National Secretary Mike Connelley, Treasurer Chris Strauss, Todd Wilber Sargent at Arms, Chaplin Mike Frye

Motion to accept the slate Jim Hobdy second Bill Rowell.

Pres. B. Story- reminder to pay our dues.

Mike Connelly made the motion the chapter participate in the City of Denton 4th of July Parade motion Second Jim Akers.

Mike Connelly suggested the chapter participate in giving to the SAR Youth Fund. Discussion and suggestion tabled.

Motions from the floor:

That we have a volunteer Newsletter committee. Volunteers Jim Hobdy, Ronnie Rencher and Mark Miller. Floor vote passed.

Suggestion we all put forth an effort to recruit new members and for each of us to call at least 1 member that has not been attending.

Next Meeting July 11, 2026.

Note: Conference for BOM committee meet is in Oct. Mike Connelley will bring info concerning when, where, what and asked for members to volunteer.

Motion to adjourn Jim Hobdy second Mark Miller

15 present.

Adjourn by Bill Surles Second by Mark Miller.

Closing Prayer Mike Frye

Submitted By Mike Frye Secretary

Denton Library *Info*

Local History & Genealogy Programs at the Library

If you are looking for cool ways to beat the summer heat the Denton Public Library is hosting a series of programs that are of particular interest to genealogists and those interested in local history.

Please register for these programs through the library's website at:

<https://denton.bibliocommons.com/v2/events> or email

Laura.Douglas@cityofdenton.com

Connections, a Genealogy Discussion Group

Join us for a group that explores genealogical research through discussion of articles published in the TxSGS Journal STIRPES. This group is for anyone interested in learning more about genealogical research and the historical context of their family history. As a registrant, you will receive the focus article and a list of questions to guide our conversation.

6/26 11 a.m. The featured article for The June 26 meeting is *Laid to Rest: Church Death and Burial Records* by Nancy Gilbride Casey

7/24 11 a.m. *Life in the Public Eye: Locating Records for Appointed and Elected Officials* by Paula Perkins

Emily Fowler Central Library

Lineage Societies" Choices, Applications and Requirements

Choosing to join a lineage society is one way to honor your ancestor. And the variety of societies has increased in recent years to include military, fraternal, religious, heritage, hereditary, ethnic, and patriotic foci, to name just a few. But which one should you join? Are the applications the same for each? What are the requirements? What types of records are they looking for? All of these questions will be answered, and samples of several society applications will be examined. Presented by Emily Coffman Richardson.

7/18 3 p.m. Emily Fowler Central Library

Please register for these programs through the library's website at:

<https://denton.bibliocommons.com/v2/events> or email

Laura.Douglas@cityofdenton.com

Contributed by 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.texasar.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