October, 2026

Ink & Quill

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

SAR SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Denton Chapter

America 250 Next Meeting: **Saturday, November 14, 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
Genealogist - Eric Berkheimer
Sgt at Arms—Todd Wilbur
Color Guard — TBD

Events

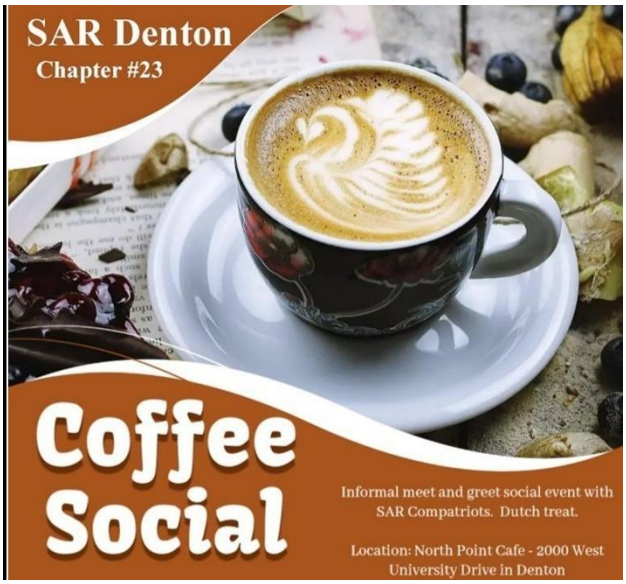
1. Oct. 10, Coffee Social
2. Oct. 16 DPL Family History Day
3. Oct. 23-25 Fall BOM Mtg, Arlington, TX
4. Nov. 14, Denton Chapter Meeting

Inside this issue

Page

President's Message.....2
Texas SAR BOM Meeting.....3-4
September Meeting Minutes.....5-8
Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin.....9
New Members Progress.....10
America 250 Marker Project.....11
Denton Chapter Color Guard.....12
250th Anniversary Dates.....13
October 1776 War Events,,,,,,,,,,.....14
Denton Public Library News 15-16
Chapter Social Media Info.....17

October 10, 2026, Coffee Social
Join Us



October 10, 2026, 9am we are having a Coffee Social at North Point Cafe, 2000 W University Dr. Denton, TX 76201
Members, spouses, and other guests are all welcome.



The August, 2026,
SAR Denton Chapter Coffee Social







Chapter President's Message: Friends and Fellow Members,

Compatriots:

As we look back on the defining moments of this past month, I am filled with immense pride in our chapter's dedication to keeping the spirit of our Revolutionary ancestors alive. Constitution Week provided us with wonderful opportunities to stand alongside our sisters in the **National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR)** to celebrate the bedrock of our American republic.

Our chapter was deeply honored to be invited to participate in two outstanding Constitution Day Celebrations. First, we joined the **Benjamin Lyon Chapter** for a resonant and beautifully organized tribute to our founding document. The following day, we had the distinct privilege of celebrating with the **Cross Timbers Chapter**, further strengthening the bonds of fellowship between our organizations. Thank you to every compatriot who attended or supported these events. Your presence vividly demonstrates our ongoing commitment to historical preservation and patriotic education.

Looking ahead, we have a monumental opportunity and responsibility just around the corner. Our chapter is proudly serving as a **co-host for the upcoming State Board of Managers (BOM) Meeting**, taking place from **October 23rd to 25th**.

I am incredibly honored that **Mike Connelley has lent his vast experience and volunteered to lead our Chapter at the meeting**. We are extremely fortunate to have his leadership guiding our efforts, but he cannot do it alone. Because we are co-hosting, we need the full mobilization of our chapter to ensure this event is a resounding success.

Registration is now officially open, and I encourage all of you to secure your place as soon as possible to represent our chapter well. To support Mike and make this weekend seamless, we are actively seeking:

- **Volunteers:** We need all hands-on-deck to staff the auction room throughout the weekend.
- **Auction Items:** We are collecting items for the event auction. Historical books, patriotic memorabilia, unique gift baskets, or artisan goods are all highly welcome.

Please reach out to Mike or me directly if you can donate your time or an item to the auction. We encourage you to bring any auction items to the **Coffee Social on October 10th at the North Point Café.**

Thank you for your continued leadership, your patriotism, and your unwavering support of our chapter's mission.
In Patriotic Fellowship,
Ronnie

Texas SAR Board of Manager's Meeting

Arlington Texas, October 23-25, 2026

TEXAS SOCIETY • SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

2026 FALL

BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

MEETING THEME

THE TEN CRUCIAL DAYS

From Crisis to Victory



OCTOBER 23-25, 2026

HILTON GARDEN INN DALLAS / ARLINGTON SOUTH

521 East Interstate 20 • Arlington, Texas 76018

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

CO-HOST CHAPTERS

ARLINGTON • DENTON • FORT WORTH

REGISTER ONLINE

www.texassar.org/reg_oct26.htm

The Denton Chapter is responsible for the "silent auction". This is where items of historical, collectible interest will be displayed in a room and ultimately sold to the highest bidder in a "silent auction" concept. The room will contain history books on the Revolution, collectible items, autographed professional sports items, etc. The funds collected are then placed in the Society bank account to fund youth programs and other programs of the Organization.

The Denton Chapter monetary reward: we will ultimately receive from sponsorship of the State event a share of the net profit from the Board of Managers meeting led by the three chapters.

This is a welcome deposit to our chapter bank account that comes with our volunteer efforts at helping with the Board of Managers event. These funds will help supplement the sustainability of our annual youth programs and youth scholarship money we fund every year in addition to our support of the ROTC/JROTC programs within the Denton, Texas area high schools and colleges.

Contact Mike Connelley Call/text/email with any questions

Cell phone 817-994-1356 (text or voice mail)

Email: mikefbi6588@gmail.com

1. **Silent Auction Items** (bring them to the Chapter Coffee Social October 10) If a member doesn't have a book or some collectible item to donate, they can go to Walmart or Academy or Amazon and buy a gift card that can be put in the silent auction.
2. **VOLUNTEER to help October 23-25.** We'll be taking names at the Chapter Coffee Social October10.

September Chapter Meeting Minutes

Sept 12, 2026 DENTON CHAPTER #23 TEXAS SAR

President Ronnie Rencher called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Brandon Story opened meeting with prayer. Pres. Rencher led in the Pledges.

Pres. Rencher introduced the guest speaker General George Washington (Jack Crowder) and Mrs. Washington for a very informative Q and A program.

New Business:

Jim Hobdy, reported on the successful North Point July coffee/breakfast. Also reported on plans for the next gatherings on October 10.

President asked for officer reports - all officers present and gave reports.

Financial report by Chris Strauss: $4,136.64 in treasury, outstanding invoice of $500.00 and donations of $714.00 for the 250th Birthday of America park bench for City of Denton.

Mark Miller made motion to accept minutes, second Jim Akers.

Bill Surles reported on the ongoing meetings with the city concerning a location for the 250 Yr anniversary Bench/Marker to be given from this chapter to Denton County. No progress since July.

Jim Akers gave report on the youth programs and asked that donations be made at next meeting.

Pres. Rencher made motion that Eric Berkheimer will serve as the Chapter Geneologist, second by Mark Miller.

Chaplin Mike Frye reported on phone visits with members David Cook, and Bill Rowell as part of Member Care.

Scholarship Candidate Participants—Mike Connelly and Mike Frye are moving ahead on getting schools to recognize and participate in the SAR program.

Jim Hobney is working on plans to increase membership.

Bill Surles was verbally recognized for our outstanding newsletter.

Todd Wilber is asking for volunteers to be color guard members.

Pres. Rencher recognized new members Terry Brantly, James Quicker, David Jones and Amos Jones.

Brandon Story and Jim Akers spoke about possible SAR ball caps for the chapter coming soon.

Board of Managers State meeting Oct 23-24-25, 2026, in Ft. Worth, Tx. Please volunteer and attend.

Upcoming event for the Ringing of the Bells Sept 17, 2026, at Lewisville City Hall 5:00 p.m. with the Cross timbers chapter of the DAR to celebrant the Signing of the U.S. Constitution.

Next meeting for Denton Chapter Nov 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m. E. Fowler Library.

Closing prayer and benediction.

Adjourn Motion by Mike Connelly Second by Mark Miller.



Everyone wants their picture with the father of our county.



Chapter President Rencher thanks George Washington (Jack Crowder) for his fine presentation.

President Rencher presents
Terry Brantly and
David Jones
their SAR Membership Certificates and pins.



Cross Timbers DAR Constitution Celebration September 17, 2026



SAR Denton Chapter President
Ron Rencher with other guests



Marine Color Guard





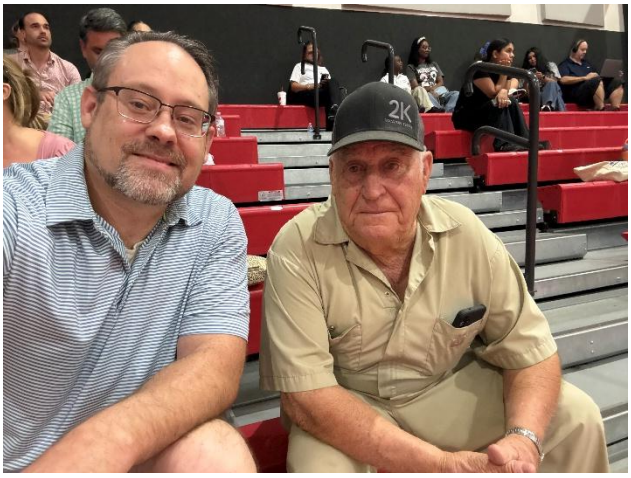
Honoring America

Our Chapter's Service to Veterans

Via The Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

The Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin project has been active for about 8-9 years now with the SAR organization, one of the major supporting organizations. The lapel pin is given to any veteran who served on active duty during the Vietnam War era which is considered to be November 1955 to May 15, 1975. For those of us who lived through that turbulent period of time in the late 60s to 1975, it was not always a good "welcome home" for those who were on active duty during that time-frame.

The goal of the program is to honor and say "thank you" to those who served. The veteran did not have to actually have served in Vietnam, but was on active-duty status during that timeframe. They could have served in Europe, or Stateside rather than Vietnam. The Military would determine where you went for active duty.



The Denton Chapter has been active with this program which is officially over, but there pins available.

Brandon Story recently honored his Great Uncle Mel Holloway with the SAR Vietnam Veterans Lapel Pin.

We have all heard the stories of the way many veterans were treated on their return from service in Vietnam. It was not good and many veterans were emotionally hurt, angered, confused by the treatment they received when coming back home. The lapel pin project has been a government program designed to correct a wrong from many years ago and it has worked.

Those that have given out these lapel pins can attest to the emotional response they generally get from the Vietnam War Era veteran who is presented with one of these lapel pins. It is something you will not soon forget. Check with me at the next chapter meeting and I will give you the lapel pin and the accompanying flyers for you to use.

Look around in your own family, your neighborhood, your work environment and take the time to identify someone that served in the military during this chaotic time and give them the thanks they deserve…. even if it is a few years late. They earned it.

Mike Connelley, past Chapter President

New Member Progress

Applications at National

David Scott

Dale Spaulding

Tom Huebscher

Bailey Sanders

Applications at Texas State Registrar

Dennis Thompson

Lonnie Roy

JJ George

Applications at Texas State Registrar for Initial Review

Wil Poteate

Actively Working - Strong

John Cartright

Brooks McGraw

Forrest Broom

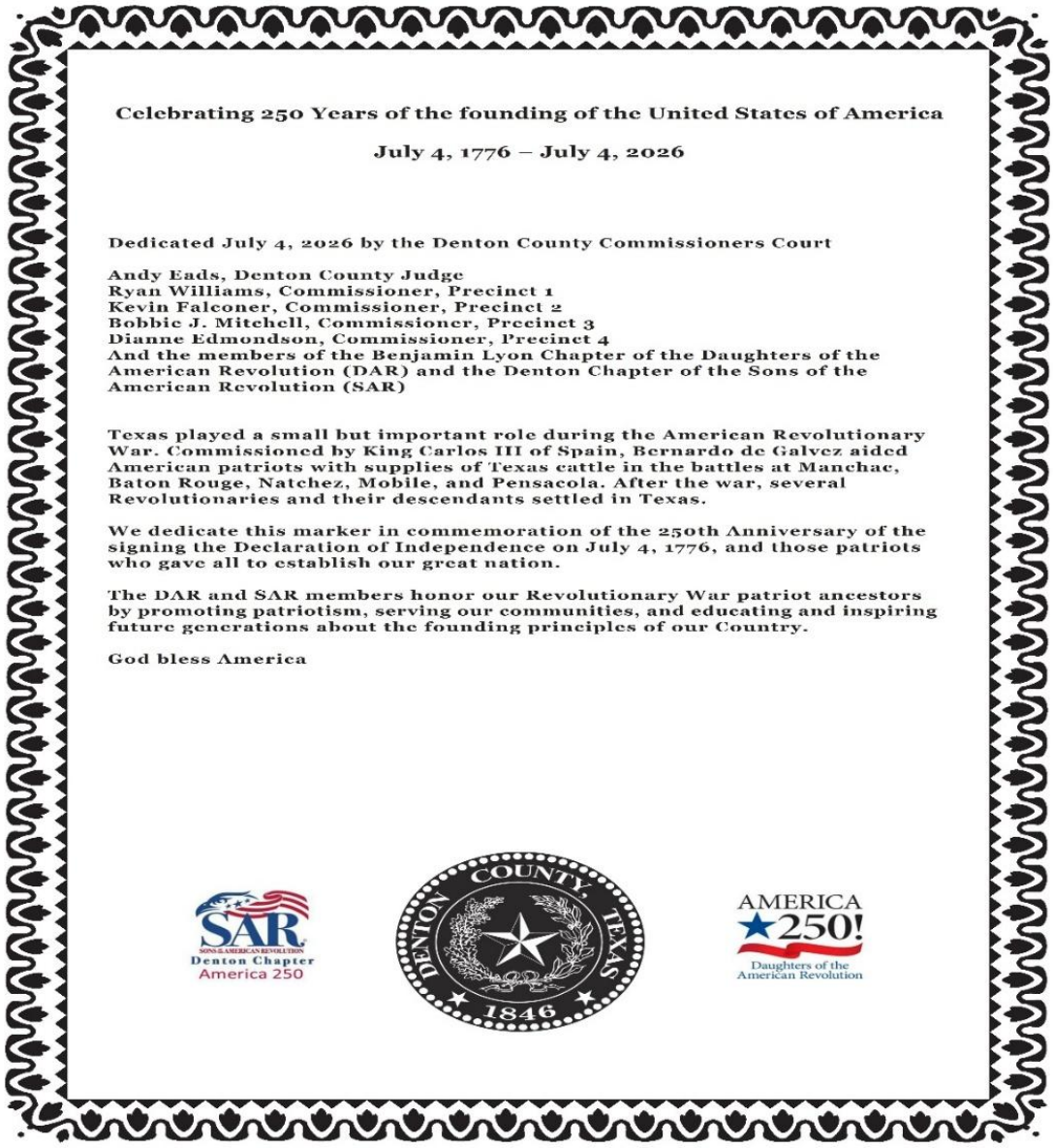
Ernest Gardner

Hunter Carman

Larry Voelkel

The AMERICA 250th Marker Project

Project Progress as of October 1, 2026



Celebrating 250 Years of the founding of the United States of America

July 4, 1776 – July 4, 2026

Dedicated July 4, 2026 by the Denton County Commissioners Court

Andy Eads, Denton County Judge
Ryan Williams, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Kevin Falconer, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Bobbie J. Mitchell, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Dianne Edmondson, Commissioner, Precinct 4
And the members of the Benjamin Lyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Denton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

Texas played a small but important role during the American Revolutionary War. Commissioned by King Carlos III of Spain, Bernardo de Galvez aided American patriots with supplies of Texas cattle in the battles at Manchac, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola. After the war, several Revolutionaries and their descendants settled in Texas.

We dedicate this marker in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and those patriots who gave all to establish our great nation.

The DAR and SAR members honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

God bless America

SAR Sons of the American Revolution Denton Chapter America 250

DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS 1846

AMERICA 250! Daughters of the American Revolution

Waiting for decisions from the Denton County officials.

1. Obviously, the marker will not be dedicated July 4, 2026.
2. Denton County has suggested that the marker be placed at the new Denton County Annex and Courthouse.
3. The marker was mentioned during the Commissioners Court proceedings, and the Judge said it would happen.

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"

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 adopted

July 5, 2026, Declaration of Independence signed

October 11, 1776 - Battle of Valcour Island, Lake Champlain

October 28, 1776 - Battle of White Plains, NY

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.

October 1776 War Events

The naval Battle of Valcour Island, also known as the Battle of Valcour Bay, took place on October 11, 1776, on Lake Champlain. The main action took place in Valcour Bay, a narrow strait between the New York mainland and Valcour Island. The battle is generally regarded as one of the first naval battles of the American Revolutionary War, and one of the first fought by the United States Navy. Most of the ships in the American fleet under the command of Benedict Arnold were captured or destroyed by a British force under the overall direction of General Guy Carleton. Despite losing 11 ships and nearly 200 sailors to capture or casualty, the American defense of Lake Champlain stalled British plans to reach the upper Hudson River valley

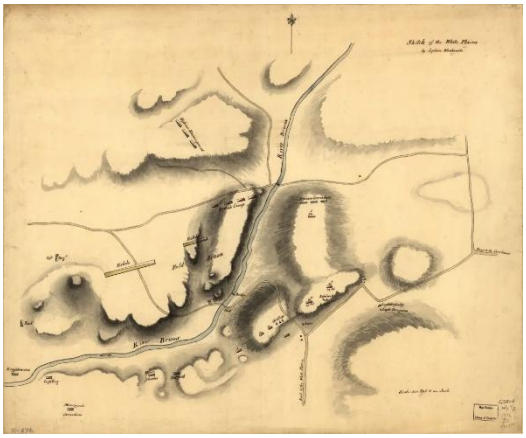
American: Benedict Arnold



British: Guy Carleton



On October 28, 1776, George Washington's Patriot army was attacked by British forces under the command of William Howe at the **Battle of White Plains**. In the resulting action, the Patriot force was defeated and forced to retreat from the field. Faced with the crippling defeats at White Plains followed by Forts Washington and Lee, Washington was forced to evacuate New York and New Jersey.



Retreating from New York City, George Washington's army was nearly cut off and destroyed at White Plains. After a short but sharp fight, Washington managed to keep his men together as they withdrew further northwards.

Denton Public Library News



Join Us for Family History Day — A Statewide Genealogy Celebration

Join the Denton Public Library and the Denton County Genealogical Society this October as we celebrate Family History Month with Family History Day — formerly known as the Lock-In. This year's event is a collaboration with libraries and genealogy societies from across Texas, bringing together a full day of programming for researchers at every level.

The event will take place Friday, **October 16, 2026**, from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St., Denton, TX.

Attendees can join for select workshops, stay for the entire day, or tune in virtually from home. Eight presentations, recorded specifically for this event and sponsored by the Genealogy Network of Texas, will be streamed throughout the day, covering a range of genealogy topics and research strategies. One-on-one research assistance and Special Collections tours will also be available for those who'd like more personalized help, and the day will wrap up with an after-hours research and collaboration session.

Classes include:

- *Building Your Digital Family History Archive*, presented by EvaAnne Johnson, Genealogy & Local History Librarian at Wilmette Public Library
- *Researching Your Scottish Ancestors*, presented by Erika A. Ward, PGCERT (Genealogical, Palaeographic & Heraldic Studies)
- *Cluster Research, or Discovering You're Related to the Whole Block*, presented by Jessica M. Trotter, Genealogy Presenter and Researcher
- *Unlocking Your Roots: Starting Your Genealogy Journey*, presented by Barbara Coakley, Genealogy Researcher, Speaker, and Author

- *Beyond the Family Tree: An Introduction to Oral History for Genealogy*, presented by Adrienne Cain Darough, MLS, CA, Assistant Director and Clinical Associate Professor, Institute for Oral History
- *Texas & Southern Genealogy Resources at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History*, presented by Margaret Schlankey, Assistant Director for Public Services, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, UT
- *Researching Your Revolutionary War Soldier: A Case Study*, presented by Craig R. Scott, CG, FUGA, President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc.
- *Gen Z + Genealogy: Getting the Younger Generation Interested in Genealogy Research*, presented by Carl Smith, MLIS, Manager of the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus

To see the complete agenda for the day along with program descriptions please visit: https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_workshop.html

Refreshments will be provided, though attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch.

The event is free to attend, but registration is required for both in-person and virtual participation. Registration opens October 1, 2026. To register, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/yeyr5bux

Please call (940) 349-8749 or email laura.douglas@cityofdenton.com with questions or for more information.



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