Sons of the American Revolution

East-Fork Trinity Chapter 47



2026 Officers

President:
Jason Gray

Vice President:
David Routh

Secretary:
Guy Sergeant

Treasurer:
Gary Lovell

Registrar:
Jeffrey Witt

Chaplin:
Walt Thomas

Historian:
Jason Whitbeck

Color Guard Commander:
Randall van Heyst

DAR Liaison:
Michael Goode

JROTC Coordinator:
Harmon Adair

Quartermaster Medal & Awards Coordinator:
David Routh

Web Master:
Paul Ridenour

Veterans Coordinator:
Michael Goode

Education Coordinator:
Gary Lovell

Community Service Coordinator:
David Routh

Sargent at Arms:
Ben Derryberry

Newsletter Editor:
David Jackson

Greetings East Fork-Trinity compatriots. November marks Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day! If you are a Veteran thank you for your service! If you are not a Veteran, please take the time to thank a Veteran. Without them you would not have the liberties that you enjoy today. I hope that each of you will be able to spend quality time with family over the Thanksgiving holiday. In a world bombarded with constant bad news, take time to reflect on the things you are thankful for.

Here are some notable events that occurred in November 1776.

On November 16, 1776, The Dutch Republic formally recognized the independence of America.

On November 16, 1776, British and Hessian forces captured Fort Washington, in New York. This was a significant loss for the Patriots that resulted in the capture of almost 3,000 American soldiers.

On November 20, 1776, British forces attacked Fort Lee, causing George Washington and his Continental Army to retreat across New Jersey.

On November 29, 1776, the Battle of Fort

Cumberland in Novia Scotia, ended after British reinforcements arrived and defeated the Patriots in their attempt to seize the fort. The chapter Constitution and bylaws will be voted on during the November 12th chapter meeting. On Thursday, October 29 you should have received an email from our chapter Secretary Guy Sargent. I ask that each member read the email and the two attachments. If you did not get the email, please let me know and I will send it to you with the attachments.
The email reads as follows –
Hello Compatriots,

In the last meeting some members voiced concerns that the proposed office of second vice-president was not well defined and was without specific duties. The duties of the second vice-president have now been more clearly defined. The role of the second vice-president is similar to the office as defined by the Dallas Chapter bylaws. Also, there was some concern that we would not be able to fill the position. The nomination committee has identified a member who has agreed to take the role, pending the office of second vice-president is approved.
In addition, we had an executive meeting last week and did some housekeeping regarding the bylaws. The bylaws have largely been unchanged since the chapter inception. Some items are out of date, have been misunderstood or something we have never done as a chapter.
For instance, in our meeting, it was our understanding that the President, Treasurer or Secretary can sign checks for the chapter. However, the bylaws state "In the absence of the President and the Treasurer, the Vice President may sign checks for the Chapter." Since we already have the President, Secretary and Treasurer on the checking account we removed the word "Vice President" and replaced it with "Secretary."

Under Secretary we struck out "In the absence of the President and Vice President, he will preside over Chapter meetings." We moved this under the role of second Vice-President, if the office is approved.

Under Quartermaster it reads "the quartermaster must present to the Board an inventory of items on hand..." We struck the word "Board" and replaced it with "Executive Committee."

In addition, we struck the Eagle Scout Coordinator. We discussed this and none of us recalled our chapter ever participating with the Boys Scouts and the "Boys Scouts" as it is reported under Eagle Scout Coordinator, is no longer, but rather is now called Scouting America.

Also, the Programs Committee was struck. It was our opinion that the first vice-president would oversee programs. This is how we as a chapter have conducted our programs in the past. We were not aware of ever having a program committee.

Under Article XI - Expenditures and Contracts we struck "Vice President and replaced it with "Secretary". This was to be consistent with the revision we made under the office of Secretary.

We also added the following on the last page. This would only impact chapter officers. "When officers are sworn in in January of each year, they must swear that they have read, understood, and will follow the Chapter's Constitution and bylaws."

Please carefully read the attached, bylaws and Constitution. The words in red are the changes made. You will also note that some items were stricken.

We plan to vote on these items at the November 12th meeting. It will require a 2/3 vote for passage. I hope we can get your support.

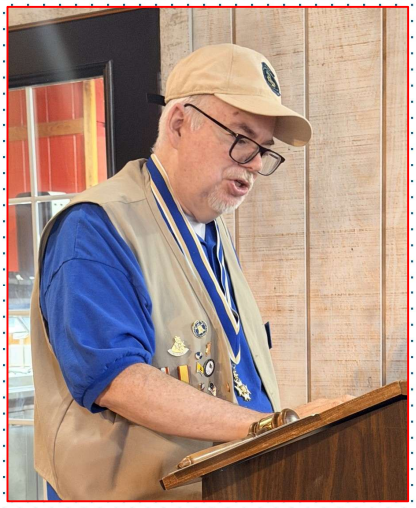
In early December we are planning to participate in the Rockwall Christmas parade as well as the Terrell Christmas parade. The Rockwall Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 5, 2026, from 9 to 10:30 AM. The Terrell Christmas Parade will be the

following Saturday, December 12, 2026. The parade will begin at 10 AM with staging and check-in starting at 8:30 AM. We didn't participate in the July 4th parade in Heath this year. You're your calendars and please consider participating; it will be great opportunity considering this is our nation's 250th birthday and it will not be as oppressively hot as the July 4th parade.

Also, if anyone would like to host a Christmas White Elephant event for our chapter, please reach out to me.

See you Thursday, November 12, for our next chapter meeting.

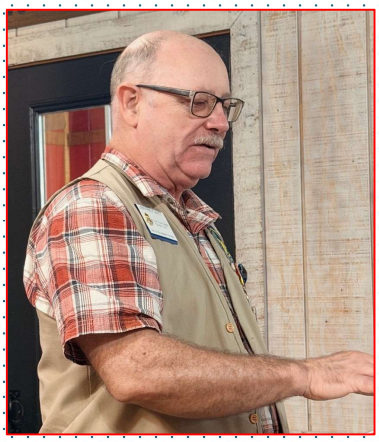
Jason Gray
President - East Fork-Trinity, Chapter 47
bbear9505@yahoo.com



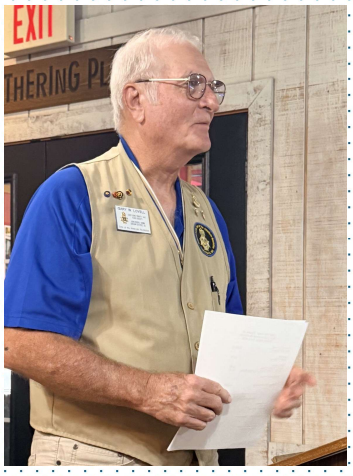
Jason Gray Opens October Meeting



Jason Gray Gave the October Americanism Moment on John Tyler



Jeff Witt Gave the Registrar's Report for October



Gary Lovel Gave the October Treasurer's Report

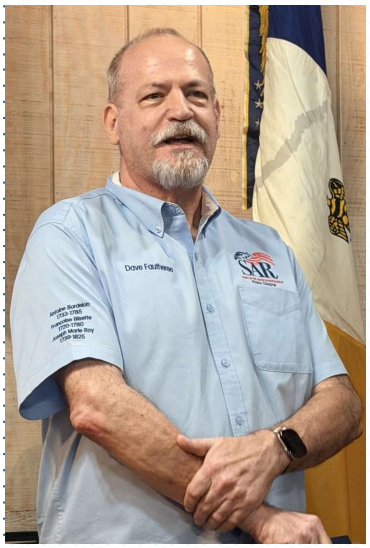




Michael Goode Announces New Challenge Coin

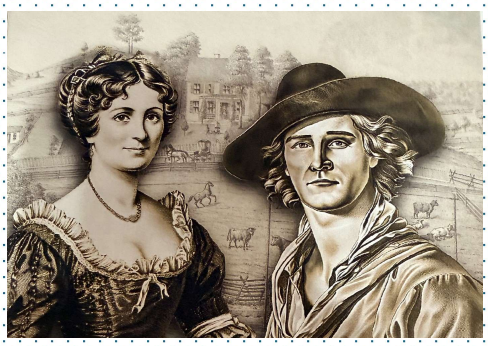


Left: Randall van Heyst Gives the Chapter Color Guard Report.



Right: Dave Fautheree Gives the Texas Color Guard Report







Andrew Hubacek Gives an Excellent Presentation on Revolutionary War Hero Deborah Sampson



Bob Vickers Receives Bronze Liberty Medal



Della Vickers Receives Abigail Adams Medal





David Powell Receives Both the Liberty Medal and the Silver Liberty Medal from Jason Gray



John Niemeyer Wins Door Prize



Left: Dave Fautheree Awards Randall van Heyst a Commission Certificate for the Rank of Major



Rockwall Chapter NSDAR invites you to our National Defense Brunch on November 14th, 2026. We will meet at the Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal Church located at 1524 Smirl Drive, Rockwall 75032 in the Community Room. Hospitality is 9:30, brunch at 10:00. Cost is $10.00. Please come and meet our speaker, Lt. Col. Thomas G. Smith Retired Vietnam Veteran Army Pilot and Author.



Patriot Monument in Tarrytown NY

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 12th at Soulman's Barbeque at 691 East Interstate 30 in Rockwall. Dinner is at 5:30ish and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00.

Below is an excerpt from this quarter's Howland Quarterly. They published a very nice article about my experience holding my Patriot's Fidelity Medal earlier this year. The medal is actually in Albany in the New York Historical Museum.

The Howland Quarterly
Published by
THE PILGRIM JOHN HOWLAND SOCIETY
(Founded in 1897)
Volume 91 September 2026 No. 3

David Jackson, Editor

Howlands in the News

Editor's Note: Isaac is not a Howland descended patriot, but this story is important and worthy for Howlands in the News. Please enjoy reading about this very special medal awarded to David's ancestor, and it's being donated to a museum. How many treasures have been lost being passed down in families? This one will not be lost! David's grandfather was David Crouch, a Howland descendant. David married Edith Van Wart, a direct descendant of Isaac Van Wart.

My Patriot Ancestor: Isaac Van Wart

By David B. Jackson

The story of my Patriot, Isaac Van Wart, has been proudly passed down through my family for generations. My grandmother's maiden name is Van Wart. Isaac Van Wart was awarded a Congressional medal made at the direction of George Washington. The medal is called the Fidelity Medallion, a silver military decoration awarded by Congress. It is also called the "Andre Capture Medal" and was authorized in 1780. Only three were made and they were awarded to Van Wart, Paulding and Williams. This medal was never awarded again. Isaac's medal is the only one of the three still surviving* and is located in the Historical Museum in Tarrytown, New York. I was there and got to hold it in June of this year!

Isaac Van Wart and several other men had dropped by Jacob Romer's home for breakfast on the morning of September 23rd, 1780. Three of the men, including Isaac, went just north of Tarrytown and three others went south. That morning a man claiming to be John Anderson came upon the three men. He first thought they were British and offered money to be escorted to the British front. They turned down his offer and arrested him, finding documents in his boot relating to fortifications at West Point. He then handed them a pass from Benedict Arnold and offered them money to be taken to West Point. They turned that down and did what they were supposed to do. They took him to their superior officer, Colonel John Jameson there in Tarrytown, where it was eventually discovered that John Anderson was actually Major John Andre of the British Army. He had been conspiring with Benedict Arnold to overthrow West Point.

The three men went back to the Romer house and had dinner.

General Washington and Congress recognized that if the three men had done anything different than what they did, West Point would have been taken and the chances of winning our independence would have been even more bleak than it already was. 37 years after the fact, in 1817, John Paulding, one of the three men, came before Congress with a request for a raise in his pension. Then Senator Benjamin Tallmadge made a statement before Congress that caused a firestorm of controversy. In his argument to deny the request he told Congress that Major John Andre had told him that the three men were merely robbing him. That statement set in motion an investigation of the events and after many sworn statements, interviews and hearings the three men were vindicated, and in 1853 a 30-foot monument was erected in their honor on the site of the capture just north of Tarrytown.

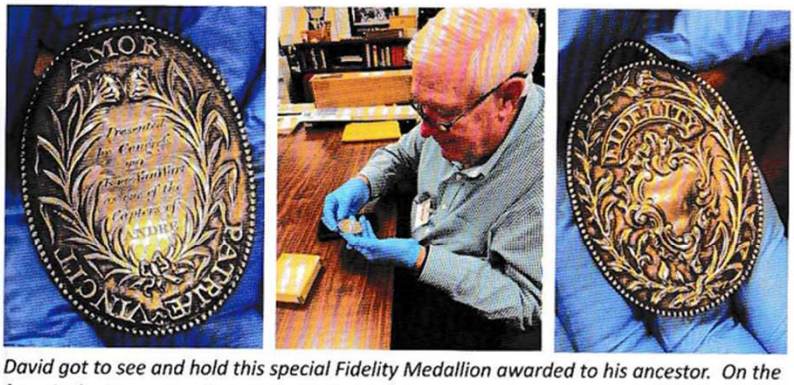
A recent television series, in an attempt to glamorize Major Andre', Peggy Shippen-Arnold and Benjamin Tallmadge, ignored adjudicated facts and made up a story that portrayed the three men as criminals.

They have Robert Rogers, a former Queen's Ranger, meeting with the Captors the night before at West Point and putting them on Major Andre's trail; then showing up at the scene of the capture, telling the men where to take Major Andre'.

There is proof the men were in Tarrytown the night of September 22nd, having breakfast with Jacob Romer on the 23rd and dinner there the same evening; and, that Rogers had left Halifax for London on April 26th, 1780, some five months before he was supposedly in the woods telling the three men the right thing to do.

A quote from the show by Robert Rogers, "I was never here" was true. He was never there.

*The other two medals were located, but then both were stolen from a locked showcase at the New York Historical Society in 1976.



David got to see and hold this special Fidelity Medallion awarded to his ancestor. On the front is the inscription "Presented by Congress to Isaac Van Wart as one of the Captors of Andre." It also says "Amor Patriae Vincit" which means "The love of country conquers."



Our November program is entitled the “Common Soldier in the American Revolution” and will be presented by James Owsley.
Mr. Owsley is a member and past President of the Ambassador Fletcher Warren Chapter #43 of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution in Greenville, Texas.
Mr. Owsley is an adjunct instructor of Government, History, and Theater at Paris Junior College. He has a Bachelor of Science in History, a Master of Science in History, a Master of Science in Political Science, and a Master of Science in Theater, all from East Texas A&M University in Commerce.
Honors and Awards include the Silver Beaver and Eagle Scout issued by the Boy Scouts of America, Teacher of the Year at Quinlan ISD, and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal.

Bonham Needs Listing
Summer 2025

CDCE
VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

We appreciate your interest in wanting to serve Veterans and below is an updated needs listing. All items must be new and in original packaging.

Gift Cards:

- Exxon or Shell gas cards (Social Work to assist Veterans to/from appointments)
- Whataburger Gift Cards
- Braum's Gift Cards

Clothing & Comfort Items:

- Diabetic gripper socks – Special request as regular gripper socks are too restrictive on legs of the diabetic or patients with larger legs.
- Athletic Shorts (Men – various sizes)
- Womens summer tops (various sizes)
- Crop pants or long pants summer weight (Women – elastic waist, various sizes)
- T-shirts or short sleeve pullover
- Body Wash (no bar soap or hotel/motel toiletries)
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Electric Razors (for Veterans on blood thinners)
- Razors (disposable double to triple blade)
- Shaving Cream

Refreshments: Individually wrapped snack items to include ingredients are welcome, but no homemade food items. Items such as the following:

- Breakfast pastries/muffins for coffee cart
- Peanut Butter/Cheese Crackers
- Chips, Cookies (Variety Pack, Individual Bags)
- Bottled Water
- Small Bottles Gatorade
- Ground Coffee (regular only)
- Juices (small boxed)
- Liquid Creamer (individual packs/cups only)
- Coffee supplies (8oz cups, sugar/Splenda packets)

Miscellaneous:

- Plastic Models (Cars, Airplanes, Ships, Etc.)
- Dominoes (Big)
- Journals, notebooks
- Adult coloring books, with colors or colored pencils

- Markers
- Postage Stamps
- Pens, stationary
- 1,000, 1.500 and 2,000 piece Jigsaw Puzzles
- Cross word puzzles/word search (large print)
- Sudoku books (large print)
- New books, new magazines

Seeking Sponsorship for the following items/activities:

- Monthly Birthday Socials
- Popcorn & Movie
- Bingo & Prizes
- Cooking Group – monthly or quarterly
- Bowling for Domiciliary Residents
- Bonham State Park Pass
- Sporting & Music Events

Monetary and In-Kind Donations by mail, please send to:
Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center
Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)
Atten: Brenda Magness, CDCE Specialist
1201 E. 9th Street
Bonham, Texas 75418

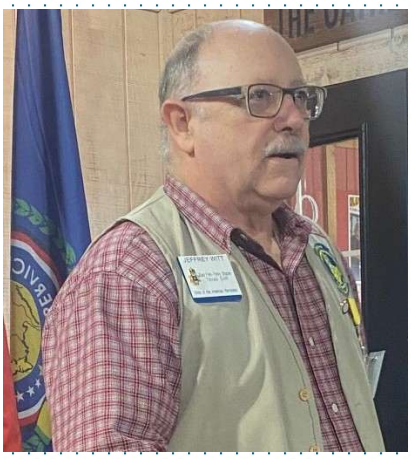
If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make check or money order **payable to Bonham VA Medical Center.**

You can also donate to the Bonham VA Medical Center using E-Donate online:

Donating is just a click away with an online donation option that provides community members the account of their choice. E-Donate provides a quick, safe way for you to pledge your support to Veterans online. E-Donate also allows you to make a donation in memory of a loved one. Select VA North Texas Health Care System and choose a designated medical center and program, along with amount that you'd like to donate. There are no extra fees to use the secure website, so every penny of your donation goes to help Veterans.

All donations must be coordinated with Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) for acceptance and delivery drop off. Should you have questions regarding donations please call 903-583-6282 or email brenda.magness@va.gov. Items may be mailed to address block as noted above.

SAR
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Jeff Witt

Registrar's Report for November 2026

1. Prospective Regular Member Seth Dowdle was referred to EFT by his father (Member) Jeff Dowdle. Application Mailed to State 20 Apr 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125400. First Line Sponsor: David Powell. Application approved at national 15 October 2026. National Number is 241002.

2. Prospective Regular Member Chase Dowdle was referred to EFT by his father (Member) Jeff Dowdle. Application Mailed to State 20 Apr 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125401. First Line Sponsor: David Powell. . Application approved at national 15 October 2026. National Number is 241003.

3. Prospective Regular Member: Brandon Kobel was referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. First line Sponsor Jeff Witt. Application in work.

4. Prospective Regular Member: Curt Coltharp was referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. First Line Sponsor Jeff Witt. Research Currently in Progress.

5. Regular Member Paul Ridenour has submitted a Supplemental Application for review on a Patriot on his mother's line of Ancestors named John Hurst. Mailed to State

mother's line of Ancestors named John Hurst. Mailed to State on 12 June 2026. Received at National 29 June 2026. First Line Sponsor: Jeff Witt.

6. Prospective Regular Member: Charles Werner. Referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. First Line Sponsor: Jeff Witt. Research Currently in Progress

7. Prospective Regular Member: Lee Brett. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125393. First Line Sponsor: Walt Thomas. Application Approved at National 15 October 2026. National Number is 240995.

8. Prospective Regular Member: Michael St. Clair. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125391. First Line Sponsor: Walt Thomas. Application Approved at National 15 October 2026. National Number is 240993.

9. Prospective Regular Member: King Moss. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125390. First Line Sponsor: Walt Thomas. Application Approved at National 15 October 2026. National Number is 240992.

10. Prospective Regular Member: Dan Turner. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026. Received at National 27 Jul 2026. ACN # 125392. First Line Sponsor: Walt Thomas. Application Approved at National 15 October 2026. National Number is 240994.

11. Prospective Regular Member: Garron Wall. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application mailed to State 24 July 2026.Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125897. First Line Sponsor: Walt Thomas.

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12. Prospective Regular Member: Elliot Davis. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application mailed to State 30 July 2026. Received at National 11 August 2026. ACN# 126148. First Line Sponsor: Walt Thomas.
13. Prospective Regular Member: Michael Orr. Referred to EFT by Cynthia Goode. Application mailed to State 23 July 2026. Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125898. First Line Sponsor: Michael Goode.
14. Prospective Regular Member: Christopher Orr. Referred to EFT by Cynthia Goode. Application mailed to State 23 July 2026. Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125899. First Line Sponsor: Michael Goode.
15. Prospective Junior Member: Liam Derryberry. Referred to EFT by Elizabeth Witt. Application Mailed to State 20 July 2026. Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125886. First Line Sponsor Ben Derryberry.
16 Prospective Junior Member: Logan Derryberry. Referred to EFT by Elizabeth Witt. Application Mailed to State 20 July 2026. Received at National 03 August 2026. ACN# 125887. First Line Sponsor Ben Derryberry.
17. Prospective Regular Member: Robert Cooley. Referred to EFT by Elizabeth Witt. Application mailed to State 28 July 20t26. Received at National 04 August 2026. ACN# 126039. First Line Sponsor Jeffrey Witt.
18. Prospective Regular Member: Christian Paul. Referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Welcome Letter sent September 23, 2026.
19. Prospective Regular Member: Mark Henderson. Referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Welcome Letter sent October 11, 2026.
20. Prospective Regular Member: James Schlake. Referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Welcome Letter sent October 14, 2026. Research in Progress. First line Sponsor Jeff Witt.
21. Prospective Regular Member: William Martin. Referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Welcome Letter sent October 18, 2026.
22. Prospective Regular Member: Mark Scott. Referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Welcome Letter sent October 18, 2026.
23. Prospective Regular Member: Jay Wiley. Referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Welcome Letter sent October 22, 2026.