



Sons of the American Revolution

East-Fork Trinity Chapter 47

President's Message



2026 Officers

President:
Jason Gray

Vice President:
TBD

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

It's an honor to serve as the President of East Fork-Trinity, and I would like to thank each of you. If you have any ideas or suggestions for our chapter over the coming months, please let me know.

While July the Fourth is a big day, it took years of struggle to win our independence. It was only a singular moment when our founders mutually pledged "to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." Massachusetts delegate John Hancock made sure the British recognized his signature by signing larger than any other delegate. Pennsylvania delegate Benjamin Franklin, realizing the gravity of the situation, stated, gentlemen, "we must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately." A loss to the British meant a death sentence, and these men knew it.

When the Declaration of Independence was signed, the war had already been raging for over a year. The war would continue for more than five years after the declaration, until the British surrendered at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, ending major hostilities. Independence was not fully realized until almost two years later, when the Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783.

We as a nation—and as a chapter—will celebrate the 250th anniversaries of Revolutionary events over the next seven years. I have a calendar in my home office that reminds me of the dates of important Revolutionary events. For example, August 27th will mark the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Long Island.

John Adams wrote his wife Abigail in April 1777 and said: "Posterity! you will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make good use of it. If you do not, I shall repent in Heaven that I ever took half the pains to preserve it."

We owe it to our founders to preserve the gift they gave us.

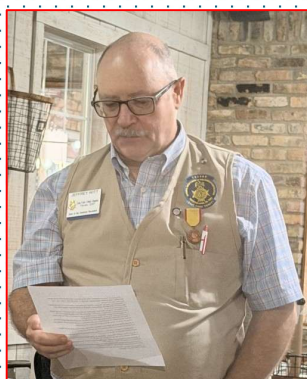
Jason Gray
East Fork-Trinity Chapter #47
214-226-9997
Bbear9505@yahoo.com



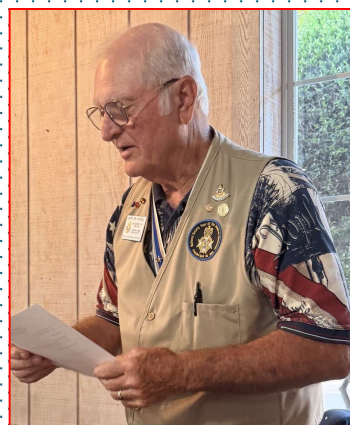
Jason Gray Opens July Meeting



**Randall van Heyst
Presents the
Americanism
Moment Kate
Smith singing
God Bless
America**

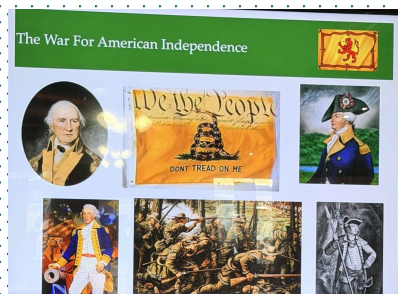
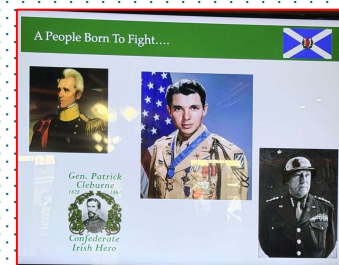


**Jeff Witt Gave the
Registrar's Report for July**

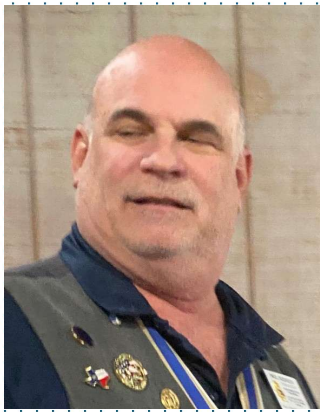


**Gary Lovell Gave the
July Treasurer's Report**





Michael Hurley Delivered an Excellent Program on the Part the Scots/Irish Played in the American Revolution



Patriot Spotlight Nicholas Reitenauer, II, et al

My Patriots
by Paul Ridenour

My 6th great grandfather Nicholas Reitenauer, II, came to America on the ship “Robert and Alice,” leaving Rotterdam and arriving in America on Sept 3, 1739. He brought his son Mathias. Mathias’ brothers Henry and Peter were already in America. Nicholas and his brother-in-law John Hager founded Hagerstown, MD. Mathias, Henry, and Peter enlisted in the French and Indian war for six days, getting paid £0.6.0 in British pounds each.

Mathias Ridenour was too old to fight in the American Revolution, but he gave grain to the military for their animals and possibly donated a musket. He had 3,000 acres of land.

My 5th great grandfather Silas Bent was born in 1644 in Massachusetts. He joined the militia when he was 17. He dressed up as an Indian and participated in the Boston Tea Party. He is not listed as a member of the Sons of Liberty or the New England Historic Genealogical Society/Boston Tea Party. However, the book *Bent’s Fort* by David Lavender, University of Nebraska Press, copyright 1954, Library of Congress. Page 17, 1st paragraph, Chapter “The Town on the River,” talks about a Bent family letter describing his participation, written by Silas.

Silas Bent had four children:

Silas Bent, Jr., who surveyed the town of St. Louis. He was also a judge on the Missouri Supreme Court.

William Bent and Charlie Bent were the founders of “Bent’s Fort” and William Bent was the First Governor of the New Territory of New Mexico. William was assassinated by Catholic Mexicans and Pueblo Indians in his home in Taos, NM. William was good friends with Kit Carson as they married Mexican sisters, who were quite young.

Lucy Bent was the grandmother of the famous painter and sculptor Charles M. Russell.

My 6th great Moses Shelby (Patriot) came from Wales and founded the Mecklenburg Militia but died three weeks before the American Revolution started. Moses Shelby had a son named Thomas Shelby and I incorrectly have Thomas as my Patriot 5th great grandfather. The DAR application was incorrect and there are numerous members of the DAR and SAR whose genealogies are incorrect. Here is the mistake:

Moses Shelby married Isabel Alexander - my 6th great / Patriot

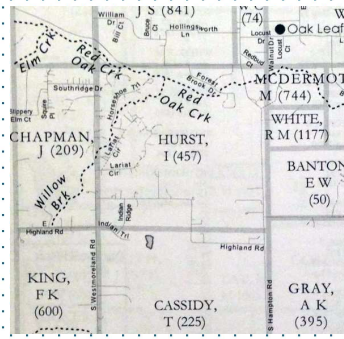
Son "Thomas Shelby married Sarah Helms" - my incorrect 5th great / But still a Patriot

Son Moses Shelby married Mary Ann Knox

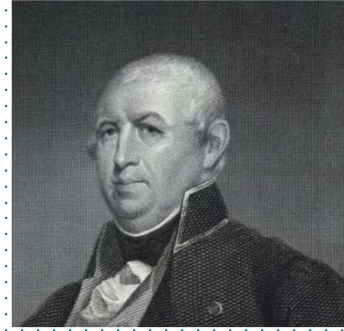
Son James Madison Shelby married Amanda Ann Henderson



William Hurst



Hurst's 640 Acres



Isaac Shelby



John Hurst

The correct genealogy is:

Moses Shelby married Isabel Alexander

son "Dr. Evan Shelby married Susannah Polk Alexander" - also a Patriot

Son Moses Shelby married Mary Ann Knox

Son James Madison Shelby married Amanda Ann Henderson

Thomas Shelby (wife Sarah Helms) was a brother of Dr. Evan Shelby. Thomas Shelby and Sarah Helms' son Moses Shelby (also Moses A. Shelby or Moses Alexander Shelby) married Martha Washington Polk. The confusion is with the two Moses Shelby's who married two Polk's. Dr. Evan Shelby was in Sumpters Brigade, Mecklenburg County, NC. I have sent documentation to the DAR and SAR to redline this incorrect genealogy.

This is the same family as the 1st (American Revolution) and 5th (War of 1812) Governor of Kentucky, Isaac Shelby. All Shelby counties and towns are named after Isaac. Another descendant of Moses was Carroll Hall Shelby.

My 5th great grandfather George Wiles was a Private, 1st Light Dragoons, Continental Troops, Virginia. His daughter Margaret married my 4th great grandfather David Ridenour, Sr.

I am currently waiting on National approval for my 4th great grandfather John "Mill Creek" Hurst. John was drafted from Shenandoah Valley for services in the Colonial Army in May 1781. His officers were Col. Michael Radar and Capt. George Prince. His son, Henry, served this term for three months for him but John received a discharge for his service. He also served one three-month term for his son Henry, who was sick when called and could not answer. He is reported to have served one or more additional terms. John was killed by a falling tree

John's son Isaac Hurst from his second wife was my 3rd great grandfather, and he was a Citizen of the Republic of Texas. Isaac received 640 acres near Red Oak, TX, under Peters Colony Second Contract, November 9, 1841. The northwest corner of his land was at the Red Oak Creek Road and Westmoreland Road. John's 2nd great grandson William "Uncle Billy" Letchworth Hurst from his first wife gave land for the train depot which would become Hurst, TX. Billy was the best fiddle player in the area, and his fiddle is on display at the Hurst Public Library.

I most likely have eight to 10 more Patriots, but I am not sure I can prove the genealogies and do not want to spend the money for more certificates. One such Patriot would be my 7th great grandfather Captain Samuel Stone of MA.

Bonham Needs Listing Summer 2025



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

below is

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.





Captors Monument in Tarrytown NY

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 13th 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.

Scheduled for August 13th is Dave Fautheree. He will be making a presentation on Spain's Contributions to the Revolutionary War.

David Jackson, Editor

Our August speaker will be District 6 Vice-President Dave Fautheree.

Dave's program is titled "Spain's Contribution to the American Revolution" which will include the Galvez Expedition.



David (Dave) Fautheree was born in Stuttgart, Germany and grew up primarily in Hampton, Virginia. He graduated from High School in Naples, Italy and then attended Louisiana Tech University on a four-year Air Force ROTC scholarship. He graduated with a BS in Mathematics with minors in Engineering and History. He then served as a Computer & Communication Systems Development and Analysis Officer (Instructor) for 9 years.

He has an MS in Computer Systems from the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and was assigned there as an Instructor of Computer Engineering until he was honorably discharged. He then joined the faculty of Wright State University in Fairborn Ohio for eight years followed by working for several consulting companies until he joined Southwest Airlines in the Technology Department. He was with Southwest for over 23 years until his retirement in April 2025.

In addition to being a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, he is a member of the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, the American Legion, the Scottish-American Military Society, the Air & Space Forces Association, and is an Associate Member of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Dave is currently serving as District 6 VP.



Find A Grave needs your help. You can honor your Revolutionary ancestor by marking their grave site with a special 1776 Badge. Not only do you honor your ancestor, but you help Find-A-Grave identify Revolutionary War burial locations. I have already honored several ancestors.

[https://news.findagrave.com/2026/06/15/honoring-revolutionary-war-participants-with-the-1776-badge/?utm_source=Internal&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Newsletter June-2026](https://news.findagrave.com/2026/06/15/honoring-revolutionary-war-participants-with-the-1776-badge/?utm_source=Internal&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Newsletter+June-2026)



Honor the *Spirit* of 1776
Discover and remember those that participated.

Sign into Find-A-Grave or create a new log-in. It's free.

Enter your patriot's name and burial location and click search

World's largest gravesite collection.
Over 265 million memorials created by the community since 1995.

First Name John	Middle Name	Last Name(s) Abston
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Year Born Exact ▾	Year Died Exact ▾	Cemetery Location Lavon, Collin County, Texas, USA X Browse
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SEARCH More search options ▾ Search tips >

You will see that patriot John Abston's grave already has the badge.



John Abston  
2 Jan 1761 – 4 Feb 1856

Abston Cemetery
Lavon, Collin County, Texas

But if it did not, you would add it by clicking on his name.

John Abston 
1761 – 1856 • Abston Cemetery

MEMORIAL PHOTOS 5 FLOWERS 29

[Add Photos](#) [Request Photo](#) [SHARE](#) [SAVE TO](#) [SUGGEST EDITS](#)

BIRTH 2 Jan 1761
Pittsylvania County, Virginia, USA

DEATH 4 Feb 1856 (aged 95)
Lavon, Collin County, Texas, USA

BURIAL [Abston Cemetery](#)
Lavon, Collin County, Texas, USA [Show More](#)

MEMORIAL ID 8586206 · [View Source](#)

Flowers • 29

 Left by Lila Cole on 5 Aug 2025

Then click on suggest edits

The edit page will come up. Scroll toward the bottom of the page. Under “Designations” move the purple buttons to the right. Then click on “Save Suggestions.”

To add a child, go to the child's memorial and add their parents. To **add siblings** add the same parents for each of the siblings.

Designations

☒ Designate this person as a veteran
A small icon  will be placed next to their name denoting their veteran status. [Read more](#)

☒ Designate this person as an American Revolutionary War participant
The special 1776 badge  will be placed next to their name during the celebration of America's 250. [Read more](#)

Notes (Optional) Add notes about your suggested edits

Other [Contact manager](#)

[Save Suggestions](#) [Back to memorial](#)

If your ancestor does not have the badge yet, it normally takes anywhere from a day to a couple of weeks to get approval. Once approved you will receive an email. Go back to your ancestor's Find-A-Grave page and the badge should be present.



Flowerdew Hundred Post Mill • Marker Dedication Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026 • 2:00PM CST Lubbock, Texas

The Flowerdew Hundred Post Mill was the first windmill built in North America, constructed around 1621 at the Flowerdew Hundred Plantation in Virginia. It was built on land granted to Governor George Yeardley. Although the original mill was destroyed, a commemorative reconstruction was built in 1977-78. In 2010, Mary McClurg, a Yeardley descendant, was instrumental in obtaining the replica of the Flowerdew Hundred Post Mill for the American Windmill Museum and led the effort in moving it from Virginia to Lubbock, Texas.

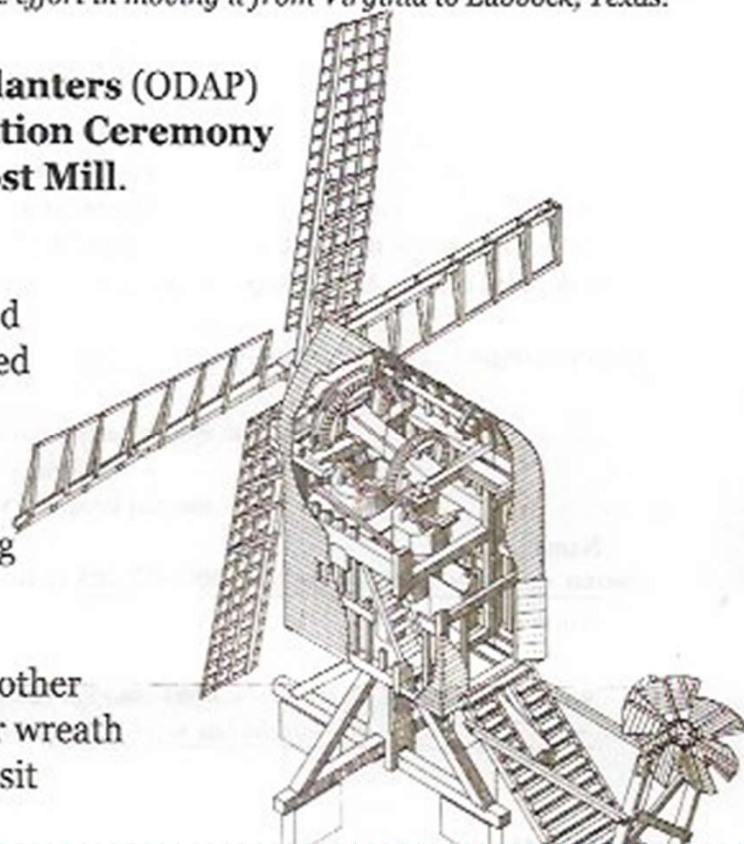
The **Order of the Descendants of Ancient Planters (ODAP)** cordially invites you to attend a **Marker Dedication Ceremony** honoring the historic **Flowerdew Hundred Post Mill**.

ODAP is a lineage society established to honor and preserve the legacy of men and women who arrived in Virginia before 1616. These early colonists, known as "Ancient Planters," were among the first English settlers to establish a permanent presence in the New World following the founding of Jamestowne in 1607.

Presentation of wreaths will be welcomed by other historical and hereditary societies. To register for wreath presentations, please use the below QR code or visit www.Ancient-Planters.org.

American Windmill Museum
1701 Canyon Lake Drive • Lubbock, Texas
Saturday, September 12, 2026 • 2:00PM CST

We look forward to your presence as we celebrate a remarkable piece of early-American industrial history and honor the ingenuity of our ancestors.





Jeff Witt

Registrar's Report for August 2026

1. Prospective Regular Member Seth Dowdle was referred to EFT by his father (Member) Jeff Dowdle. Application Mailed to State 20 Apr 2026. First Line Sponsor: David Powell.
2. Prospective Regular Member Chase Dowdle was referred to EFT by his father (Member) Jeff Dowdle. Application Mailed to State 20 Apr 2026. First Line Sponsor: David Powell.
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. Research 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 on 12 June 2026. Received at National 29 June 2026.
6. Prospective Regular Member: Charles Werner. referred to EFT by the State Communications Secretary. Research Currently in Progress
7. Prospective Regular Member: Lee Brett. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026.
8. Prospective Regular Member: Michael St. Clair. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026.
9. Prospective Regular Member: King Moss. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026.
10. Prospective Regular Member: Dan Turner. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application Mailed to State 01 July 2026.
11. Prospective Regular Member: Garron Wall. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application out for signing.
12. Prospective Regular Member: Elliot Davis. Referred to EFT by Barbara Thomas. Application out for signing.
13. Prospective Regular Member: Michael Orr. Referred to EFT by Cynthia Goode. Application out for signing.
14. Prospective Regular Member: Christopher Orr. Referred to EFT by Cynthia Goode. Application out for signing.
15. Prospective Junior Member: Liam Derryberry. First Line Sponsor Ben Derryberry. Application Mailed to State 20 July 2026.
- 16 Prospective Junior Member: Logan Derryberry. First Line Sponsor Ben Derryberry. Application Mailed to State 20 July 2026.