



Sons of the American Revolution

East-Fork Trinity Chapter 47

President's Message



Greetings East Fork-Trinity compatriots. I hope you are enjoying some cooler weather and much needed rain.

As we celebrate the Semiquincentennial of American Independence, you may find yourself struggling to say that

word as I do. While our declaration was a major milestone there are other lesser-known anniversaries of 1776 that have passed and are yet to come.

Here are some notable events that occurred in September 1776.

On September 3 John Paul Jones commanding the 12-gun USS Providence sailed from the Delaware Bay and captured 16 British merchant ships.

On September 6 David Bushnell launched the first submarine attack in history against the HMS Eagle in New York Harbor. The American submarine was named the Turtle.

On September 9 the Continental Congress formally resolved that the new nation would be called the United States of America, replacing "United Colonies."

On September 11 the Staten Island Peace Conference fails when Britain refused to recognize American Independence, ending any hope of negotiated peace.

September 15 the British capture New York City after overwhelming American defenses at Kip's Bay.

September 16 Battle of Harlem Heights. Washington's forces defeat British and Hessian forces.

September 20 – 21 The Great Fire of New York destroys about 25% of the city. The cause is disputed, but many Americans believed the British were the culprits.

On September 21-22 American spy Nathan Hale disguised as a schoolteacher was captured by the British with sensitive documents. He was hung by the British on September 22. Before his execution he was reported to have said, "I only regret, that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Here are some notable events that occurred in October 1776.

October 11 Battle of Valcour Island was fought at Lake Champlain and while technically a British victory; Benedict Arnold's delaying action caused the British to halt their advance and retreat to winter quarters.

October 18 Battle of Pell's Point. John Glover's regiment inflicted significant casualties on British forces allowing General Washington time to withdraw toward White Plains.

October 28 Battle of White Plains. American forces were pushed back but were able to safely retreat into New Jersey.

October 1776 marked the final phase of the New York campaign.

One item of business that was discussed in our September meeting was amending our chapter Constitution and Bylaws to allow the chapter to have a second vice-president. We will vote on this during our October 8th chapter meeting.

Jason Gray, President

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

State Fair open work sessions that need to be filled

Sessions are from 10:00a to 2:00p and 2:00p to 5:30p every day except Sunday.

Sunday does not open until 11:00a.

Open sessions that need to be filled are in YELLOW (see calendar below). If you or one of your Chapter members can volunteer, please contact either Tom Whitelock 214-534-3476 or Tom Van Fossen 972-965-7224 so we can get you signed up and get you a pass.

<   MORNING 10:00-2:00 OCTOBER 2026 AFTERNOON 2:00-5:30   						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Jason Gray Opens
September Meeting



Jason Gray Gave the
September Treasurer's
Report



Jeff Witt Gave the
Registrar's Report for
September

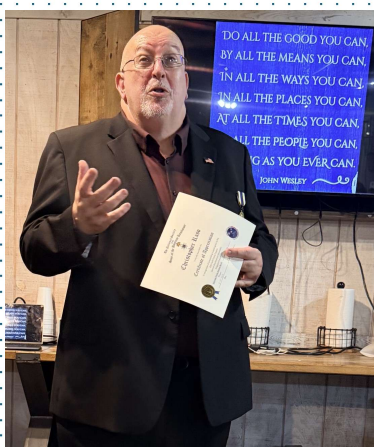
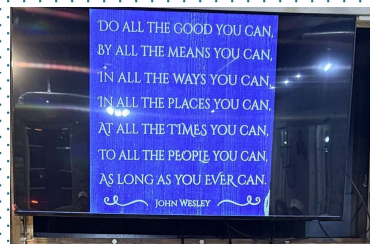
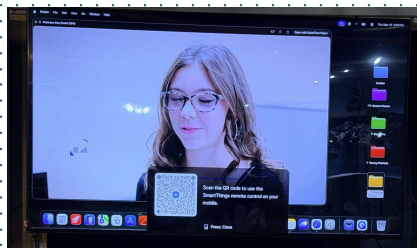
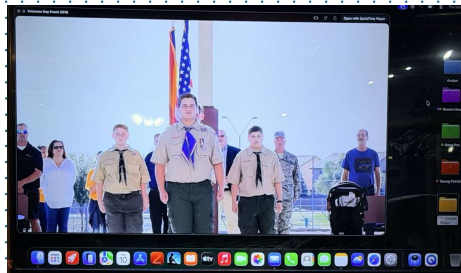
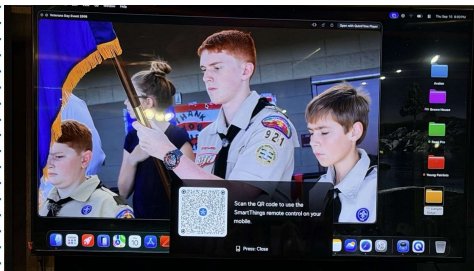


Randall van Heyst
Gives the Color Guard
Report for September



Jeff Witt Wins the Door Prize

East-Fork Trinity Chapter 47 Sons of the American Revolution



**Christopher Raso Gave an Excellent Program on America 250 -
The Importance of Teaching History in Schools**



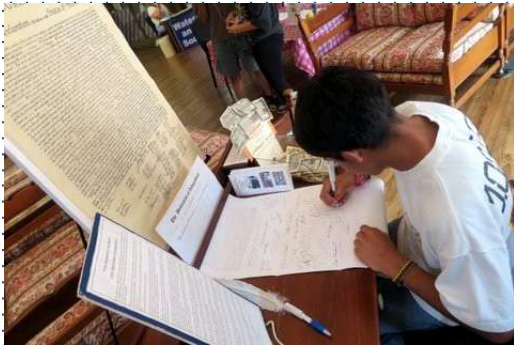
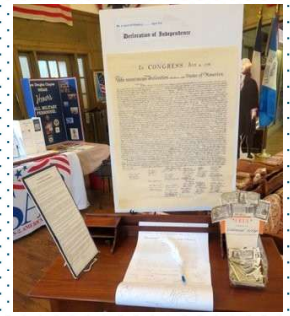
Bob Kubin Receives Past President's Lanyard from Jason Gray

East Fork Trinity Member enters The Military Academy at West Point

Preston Scott Nottingham, Grandson of Past Chapter Registrar Dave Powell, applied, and was nominated by the Vice President of the United States and accepted to West Point on 27 March 2026. Preston is in the 3rd Regiment, C Company (Coyotes), and he is studying History and War Studies. Preston joined the EFT Chapter on 17 February 2017 as a Junior Member NN: 201520.



East Fork Trinity Chapter 47 Sons of the American Revolution



Texas Vietnam Memorial
Members Present:
Reagan van Heyst
Randall van Heyst (Color Guard
Commander for event)
Tom Van Fossen



Captors Monument in Tarrytown NY

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 8th 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.

David Jackson, Editor



Our program for October is titled "Deborah Sampson: Veteran of the American Revolution" and will be presented by Andrew Hubacek.

Andrew is a Mesquite city council member representing District 4. He is a licensed Realtor and married to Jana. Together they have two sons and a grandson. He graduated from North Mesquite High School, Eastfield College and the University of Texas at Dallas. He is involved with Historic Mesquite, Inc, the Downtown Mesquite Design Committee, and is a deacon and member of Sunnyvale First Baptist Church.

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

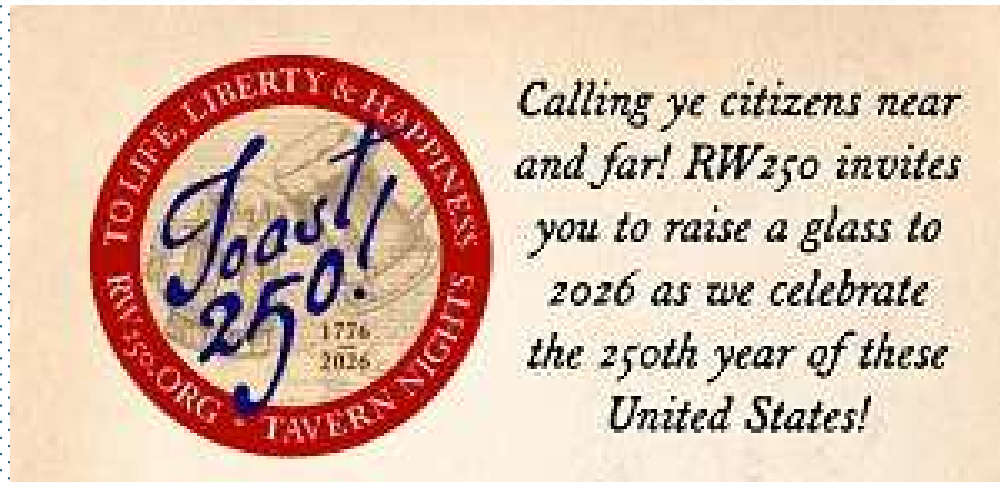
If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make check or money order **payable to Bonham VA Medical Center.**

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.





Title: Toast 250 Capture Day

Date and time: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Meet 5:30 pm at the Captor's Monument in Patriot Park on Broadway in Tarrytown for a musket salute.

Location: Horsefeathers at 94 North Broadway in Tarrytown

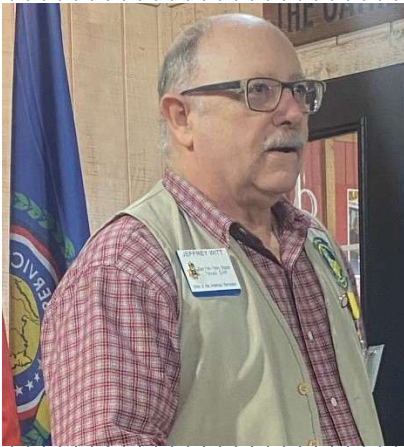
Description: Come Toast 250 and celebrate Capture Day at Tarrytown's legendary Horsefeathers with the infamous British spy Major André—some say he still haunts nearby Patriots Park where he was captured. Chat with Ben Franklin, George Washington, the hero-turned-traitor Benedict Arnold, Revolutionary women and the soldiers of the 5th New York Regiment. Enjoy tavern music and dancing with fiddler Henry Burby and Adam Hart on guitar. Test your skill at colonial games hosted by Philipse Manor Hall. At 7:30 p.m., get your team ready for American Revolution Trivia, the Westchester Edition.

Presented by: Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, RW250

Registration: None

Contact: Call (914) 965-4027





Jeff Witt

Registrar's Report for October 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.

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.

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 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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.