



# The Continental Report

*Ellis County Chapter #70-Texas SAR*

*Sons of the American Revolution*



## Officers for 2025-2026

President - William D. Hill  
 Vice President **OPEN**  
 Secretary - John C. Haughton  
 Treasurer - Larry R. Williams  
 Registrar - William D. Hill  
 Historian - Philip A. Taylor  
 Chaplain - Calvin D. Brown  
 Sergeant -At –Arms - Ronald K. Finch  
 Past-President - John C. Haughton

## Serving Cities of

Waxahachie  
 Red Oak  
 Pecan Hill  
 Oak Leaf  
 Midlothian  
 Maypearl  
 Ennis  
 Bardwell  
 Avalon

**Vol. 4, Issue 4**

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## *News of Ellis County Chapter*

### NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED:



**Ronald Kevin Finch**, NSSAR 236889, TXSSAR 16714  
 His induction was the end of 3 years work with National Registrars. He has been with ECC from the beginning as our Sergeant-at-Arms.

### SCHEDULED FOR INDUCTION:

Brent Batla

### APPLICATIONS IN-PROCESS:

Joel D. Bradley, Mark L. Gundert, Ty Hall, Jake Hibbard, Tom Ker, Johnny Mitchell, Ian B. Perry, Robert G. Shelton.

### PREPARING APPLICATIONS:

Mark Reyes, Floyd Ross, David Vantreese, Eric Walker

### CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP:

The Ellis Count Chapter membership roster is available on the private side of txsar.org.

(last update Friday, March 27, 2026)

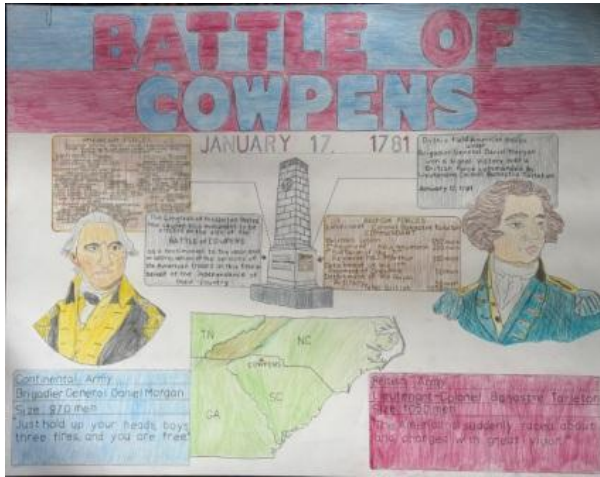
**Next Meeting April 25, 2026**  
**9:30am, Card/Poker Room**  
**The Hamilton at Garden Valley**  
**880 Garden Valley Pkwy.**  
**Waxahachie, TX 75165**



### MARCH SPEAKER:

Ron Finch presented a program about the individual conflicts endured by “common folk”.during the war.

**Texas Elementary Poster Contest 2025-2026.**  
 Tucker, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Cornerstone Christian Academy in McKinney, was the Ellis County Chapter entry in the Texas Elementary Poster Contest. He received \$100 from Ellis County Chapter in April. Tucker won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the North Texas Area competition which qualified him to be entered in the state contest at the Texas Congress.



### ECC Speakers Bureau

April Speaker: Philip Taylor will be presenting “An Abridged Military Autobiography” Kakazu Ridge, Okinawa, April 1945

The Speakers Bureau is currently compiling the upcoming speaker schedule. If you have a topic and would like to be added to the calendar, please contact Jack or Ron.

### News of Texas SAR

**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL**  
**NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**  
 CELEBRATING THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
 SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
 1776-2026

**SPECIAL REDUCED REGISTRATION FEE**  
 FOR NEW & JR. MEMBER APPLICATIONS DURING JULY 2026

**NATIONAL APPLICATION FEE: \$76 IN HONOR OF 1776**  
 POSTMARKED JULY 1 – JULY 31, 2026

To qualify for the reduced fee, New Applications must be postmarked between July 1 and July 31, 2026.  
 Join the SAR to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's founding and honor the patriot ancestors who secured American independence.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS**

- New Member Applications
- Jr. Member (New Lineage) Applications

**EXCLUSIONS:**

- Family Plan Applications ❌
- Memorial Applications ❌
- Supplemental Applications ❌

Respectfully,  
*Keith A. Weissinger*  
 Keith A. Weissinger, MD  
 Registrar General  
 National Society Sons of the American Revolution

In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, the National Society Sons of the American Revolution will offer a special reduced registration fee for New Member and Jr. Member applications during the month of July 2026.



131<sup>ST</sup> Texas Society Convention Color Guard



Presentation of the TXSSAR Flag to designer John Knox

### News from National SAR



### "Sons of Liberty-1775" by James N. Muir

The statue stands outside the SAR national headquarters located along Main Street's Museum Row in downtown

Louisville. It was publicly unveiled in November 2015. The 800-pound, 8-foot high bronze statue of the Minuteman holding a musket rests upon 19,000 pounds of quarried Kentucky limestone, material specifically requested by the artist James Muir.

The sculpture is historically authentic in every regard as to arms, accoutrements, clothing and hair style. He is carrying a captured 42-inch barrel “Short Land” Model 1740 British Musket adopted in 1765 to replace the earlier 46-inch first model “Long Land” or “Brown Bess” (which is depicted in the maquettes of “Sons of Liberty-1775). Powder and ball were carried either in a powder horn and pouch or preferably, as depicted, in the more military cartridge box in the form of pre-made paper or linen cartridges. A vent pick and frizzen brush hang handily from his vest.

### *America 250 SAR Committee*



*For Spain and for the King—Gálvez in America*

The Patriots who supported the American Revolution were not only hardy New Englanders or resourceful Southern backwoodsmen. Many other groups aided the Patriot cause. King Carlos III of Spain supported the Revolution so many in Spanish North America advanced the Patriot cause by overt acts of resistance to Great Britain’s authority.

The SAR welcomes as members proven descendants of the Spanish army or colonial militia who served in a presidio or garrison in what is presently the United States of America, as well as those who made a donativo contribution or served under Gen. Bernardo de Galvez, including participating in the cattle drive from Texas to help feed the Patriots. Please see our Genealogy policies for qualifying categories of service. Spanish forces also served in Cuba and other portions of the Carribean. The

SAR recently added this category as eligible for membership. PG John L. Dodd, 2023-2024

### *God and Country*

As we approach the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation, we honor our patriots and founding fathers. Their wisdom and sacrifice established the framework on which our nation is founded. While we agree on this fact, a debated issue today is who influenced these men and women?

If we were to investigate each founder’s motivation, we would find innumerable influences in their thinking. However, there were two inspirations prevalent during the late 1700s. The first most sited today was the influence of the Enlightenment or Age of Reason. It is true that this period of human reasoning led to many inventions and the search for freedom by individuals and nations. But to say this was the only influence is disingenuous. The second influence with equal, if not greater, inspiration was the church.

Just before the Revolutionary War, our nation experienced the first great religious awakening. Then following just after the war was the second great awakening. Both led to the churches being filled. While people heard good biblical preaching, the church also became a place where ideas of freedom and justice were discussed.

So effective was the message of many pastors that John Adams said, “It was the opposition of militant clergymen which first led the colonists to question the authority of Parliament.” Later in a letter to his wife, Adams said, “The clergy of all denominations here preached upon politics and war in a manner that I have never heard in New England. They are a flame of fire.”

In 1768 Rev. Jonas Clarke, pastor in Lexington, MA declared in a sermon, “*In a state of nature, every man has a right to liberty, property and life... Society is formed for the preservation and defense of the common rights of mankind, to the end, that the blessings of life may be secured to all.*” He closed by stating, “*To revive and encourage a military spirit and martial exercises, upon religious principles... from love to GOD and our country, from a sacred regard to our own safety and happiness... to mutual protection and defense.*”

John Witherspoon, president of Princeton University and signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a man of

great influence for the cause of freedom and justice. His sermon, Dominion of Providence, is said to have pushed the colonies toward independence.

While not all our founding fathers were church-going Christians, the influence of these and many other pastors is significant in the founding of our nation. It should be noted that the churches were not promoting a national religion, but that is another issue.

May God Bless America!

Your Chaplain,  
Calvin Brown  
Contact info –phone and text 573-680-2625  
Email [cal.sartx70@gmail.com](mailto:cal.sartx70@gmail.com)

### *The Historian's Watch*

#### **131st Texas Society SAR**

At the convention held in Austin, April 16-20, Ellis County Chapter received the following awards for 2025 from the National SAR:

- District 6, group 2, Outstanding Chapter Award
- Patriot Fund Award (total contribution exceed 2024)
- Stuart, Jr. Memorial Award (Veterans activities)
- US Flag Presentation Award (flag displays)
- Ross Sherman Award (chapter newsletter)
- Texas SAR Yearbook Award, Group 1
- SAR University Certificate (William D. Hill)
- SAR University Certificate (Philip Taylor)

### *May Flag Flying Days*



- ✓ May 3 Nat'l Fallen Fire Fighters
- ✓ May 15 Peace Officers Memorial
- May 16 Armed Forces Day
- May 25 Memorial Day
- ✓ Half staff until Sunset
- Half staff until Noon

### *May Dates to Remember*

- May 1, 1921 Loyalty (Americanization) Day
- May 8, 1945 VE Day (Victory in Europe)
- May 10, 1773 Tea Act passed by Parliament
- May 12, 1780 British capture Charleston, SC

### *May Event Schedule*

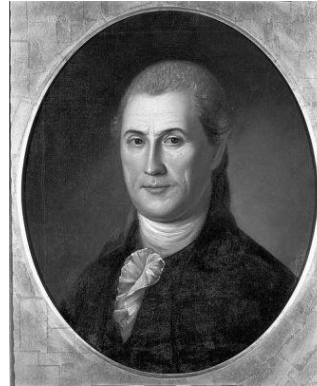
- May 23, 2026, Waxahachie, [Carry the Load](#)
- May 23-24, 2026, Ennis, [National Polka Festival](#)
- May 24, 2026, Midlothian, [Tanner Usery's Down Range Memorial Benefit](#)

### *Signers of the Declaration of Independence*

Delegates are listed in order of signing.

#### **Connecticut**

**Samuel Huntington (1731-1796)**—Samuel Huntington



was a self-made man who distinguished himself in government on the state and national levels. He was the President of Congress from 1779-1781 and presided over the adoption of the Articles of Confederation in 1781. He returned to Connecticut and was the Chief Justice

of the Superior Court in 1784, Lieutenant Governor in 1785 and Governor from 1786-1796. He was one of the first seven presidential electors from Connecticut.

**Roger Sherman (1723-1793)**—Roger Sherman was a



member of the Committee of Five that was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence. He and Robert Morris were the only individuals to sign the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. He was the Judge of the Superior Court

of Connecticut from 1766-1789, a member of the Continental Congress from 1774-81; 1783-84 and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Sherman proposed the famed “Connecticut Compromise” at the convention and represented Connecticut in the United States Senate from 1791-93.

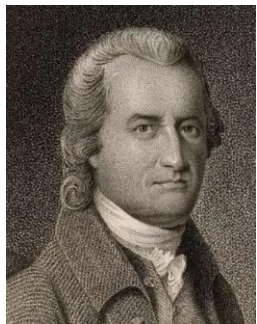
**William Williams (1731-1811)**—William Williams was



a graduate of Harvard, studied theology with his father and eventually became a successful merchant. He fought in the French-Indian War and returned to Lebanon, Connecticut where he served for forty-four years as the town clerk. He was elected to the Continental Congress from 1776-1777, and after

signing the Declaration of Independence, Williams was a member of the committee that was instrumental in framing the Articles of Confederation. He was a delegate to vote on the ratification of the Federal Constitution and also served as a Judge of the Windham County Courthouse.

**Oliver Wolcott (1726-1797)**—Oliver Wolcott was as



much a soldier as he was a politician and served as a brigadier general in the New York campaigns from 1776-1777. As a major general, he was involved in defending the Connecticut coast from attacks by the Royal Governor of New York. He was Commissioner of

Indian Affairs in 1775 and from 1784-89, a delegate to the Continental Congress from 1775-76 and 1778-84, Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut from 1786-96 and Governor from 1796-97.

*This Month – 250 Years Ago*

## Baker, Sailor, Soldier, Spy

In May 1776, **Christopher Ludwick**, a German



Ludwick Cookie Boards

immigrant baker, volunteered for the Continental Army as part of the “Flying Camp” militia force. His efforts were instrumental in persuading Hessian soldiers to defect to the American side.

Ludwick’s background as a translator for the

captured Germans and his role as a baker general were crucial in the service of the American cause. His efforts to rectify bread rationing and his ability to persuade the Hessian prisoners to leave their British service were a significant contributions to the Continental Army’s success in the American Revolution.

Born on October 17, 1720, in the small town of Giessen in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, Christopher Ludwick was introduced to baking by his father, a prosperous baker named Heinrich Ludwig.

At the age of 17, Ludwick enlisted in the German emperor’s army and fought against the Turks, took part in the siege of Prague, and eventually joined the Prussian Army. When the war ended, Ludwick decided to put his baking knowledge to use by becoming a baker aboard an East India Company ship.

After more than a decade at sea, both as a baker and as a common sailor, Ludwick traveled to London to complete his bakery training. It was there that Ludwick learned the craft that would help define his life: gingerbread-making.

In 1754, the ambitious baker emigrated to America in search of opportunity. He set up a shop in Philadelphia, specializing in gingerbread, and married a young widow. By the time of the American Revolution, Ludwick owned nine houses, a farm, and enjoyed his reputation as a respected, and wealthy, Pennsylvanian.

Risking everything he had earned, Ludwick jumped at the opportunity to support the American cause. He served as an elected representative for Pennsylvania in conventions from 1774 to 1776, gaining the admiration of many Founding Fathers in the process. When Thomas Mifflin stated the need for funds to raise arms for the new militia, many legislators sat silent—that is, until Ludwick stood and announced in his accented English, “Mr. President, I am but a poor gingerbread baker, but put my name down for two hundred pounds.”<sup>1</sup>

In the spring of 1776, Ludwick returned to his former occupation as a soldier when he volunteered for the “Flying Camp,” a militia force organized to assist Washington in his defense of New York. Ludwick was 56 years old.

The Flying Camp was the brainchild of General Washington, based upon the precedent of the French *Camp Volant*: “a strong body of horse or foot ... always in motion to cover its own garrisons, and to keep the enemy’s army in a continual alarm.”

During the American Revolution, the British had a shortage of soldiers so they hired almost 30,000 German Hessian auxiliary forces to fight against the Americans. The Continental Congress devised a propaganda campaign to encourage the Hessian mercenaries to defect to America. The campaign included offering land grants to those mercenaries fighting for the British on American soil. The offers were written in German on leaflets disguised as tobacco packets. Ludwick was an ideal agent for such a mission. In August 1776, Ludwick rowed to Staten Island, posing as a deserter, and spoke glowingly of America to the Hessians he encountered.

Later, placed in charge of Hessian prisoners, Ludwick urged, “Let us take them to Philadelphia and there show them our fine German churches. Let them see how our tradesmen eat good beef, drink out of silver cups every day, and ride out in chairs every afternoon; and then let us send them back to their countrymen, and they will all soon run away, and come settle in our city...”

Bread was the engine of an 18th-century army. So when the Continental Congress began looking for a knowledgeable baker to oversee the army’s breadmaking operations, they turned to a gingerbread maker who had already proven his devotion to the cause: Christopher Ludwick.

On May 3, 1777, Congress commissioned Ludwick superintendent of bakers (or baker general).

Ludwick immediately set to work hiring bakers and building bake ovens in strategic locations across the colonies. He faced significant obstacles, namely a lack of labor, supplies, and funds. When Washington’s army was encamped at Valley Forge, Ludwick advanced his own money to purchase baking supplies and even sold a house to obtain cash.

Despite the logistical challenges, Ludwick performed his duty admirably, inspiring the Board of War to note that Ludwick “has acted with great industry and integrity in the character of principal superintendent of bakers...”

In his role, Ludwick often communicated with General Washington to align the production and delivery of bread with troop movements.

Washington was happy to hear of Ludwick’s appointment, writing two days later, “I trust the appointment of Mr Ludwick as Superintendent of Bakers, will have the salutary consequences you mention. I have been long assured, that many abuses have been committed for want of some proper regulations in that department.”

At Valley Forge, Ludwick is said to have had frequent interactions with Washington, who invited him to dinners and addressed him in company as his “honest friend.” Ludwick, toting a china bowl engraved with his own name, entertained those around him by drinking from his bowl with the toast, “Health and long life to Christopher Ludwick and wife.”

It appears that Ludwick also performed some private baking for the General. In 1778, while at Valley Forge, Ludwick submitted a bill to Washington, which the commander in chief would pay 10 months later.

As Washington’s army prepared to besiege Yorktown, he wrote in his general orders, “It is expected that bread of a good quality will be furnished by Mr Ludwick superintendent of the Bakers, nearly sufficient for the Army...”

Following his wartime service, Ludwick worked to rebuild his business and personal finances, both of which had suffered greatly. He successfully appealed to Congress to recoup a small sum of what he had sacrificed during the war, aided in his petition by testimonials from notable officers—as well as General Washington.

Among other things, Ludwick is remembered for his uncommon generosity. During Philadelphia’s yellow fever epidemic of 1797, he chose to stay in the city and bake free bread for the poor, at great personal risk.

After his death in 1801, the eccentric baker distributed his estate generously to schools, churches, hospitals, and charitable organizations. Of what remained, Ludwick started a fund in Philadelphia to educate poor children from any background.

Today, the Christopher Ludwick Foundation trust has grown to almost \$6 million, and grants amounting to over \$250,000 are awarded each year.

Christopher Ludwick , SAR Patriot #: P-239565

Source: <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-revolutionary-war/christopher-ludwick>

### *News from the DAR*



From the Texas Society DAR facebook page:

On March 29, 2026, members of the Mary Vaughan Corner Chapter, NSDAR, Mary Martin Elmore Scott

Chapter, NSDAR and Captain John McAdams Chapter, SAR attended as guests of the H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum for their Annual Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home Dinner, held in recognition of National Vietnam Veterans Day on this date each year.

The chapters presented 60 commemorative lapel pins to Veterans in attendance. Certificates were given to those whose names were provided, and additional names were recorded so certificates can be presented at a later time. It was an honor to recognize and thank our Vietnam and Vietnam-era Veterans for their courage, service, and sacrifice as we welcomed them home.

Thank you for honoring our veterans!

### *Daughters of the American Revolution*

Ellis County also has an active DAR Chapter. For more information please contact **Barbara Coan**, Registrar, Rebecca Boyce Chapter, NSDAR at [barbaraanncoan@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaraanncoan@hotmail.com).

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

<https://www.sar.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalSocietySAR>

Texas Sons of the American Revolution

<https://www.texassar.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thetexassar>

Ellis County Chapter #70

<https://www.texassar.org/EllisCounty>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1368629110703478>

SAR Patriot Search

<https://sarpatriots.sar.org/patriot/search>

SAR University

<https://www.sar.org/sar-unuiversity/>

Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution

<https://www.txdar.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Texas-Society-DAR-61564337526320/>

DAR Ancestor Search

[https://services.dar.org/public/dar\\_research/search](https://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search)





All donations will be collected at the Chapter monthly meetings and delivered to the Dallas VA Hospital. The list refers to the needs of Bonham, but needs are the same with the Dallas VA Hospital. Copy this list and take it with you when you go shopping. Remember the Vets.

This will be a recurring activity and contributions are applied to our 2026 SMART Report, category 3K.

## Wants and Needs Listing

### Comfort Items (Travel Size and Regular)

- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush (Single pack)
- Denture Cream
- Denture Cleaner
- Shower Gel/Wash (no bars)
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Powder
- Medicated Powder
- Shaving Cream
- Razors
- Manicure sets
- Hairbrushes
- Combs
- Hair Clips/Pony tail Holders
- Feminine Products
- Shower Shoes
- Lip Balm
- Hair Gel/Mousse

*\* If making a donation for comfort items, please remember all comfort items donated need to be new items.*

### Other items needed for patients

- Phone Cards
- Envelopes #10
- Small writing tablets and Pen/Pencils
- Gas/Gift Cards for patients
- Reading Glasses (Variety of Strengths)
- Canteen Books
- Puzzle Books
- DART/TRE Passes
- Mailing Stamps
- Lap Robes
- Wheelchair bags
- Stoma Covers
- Bags/Luggage (new)
- Books

- Magazines (no magazines over a year old will be accepted)

### Clothing (Gently worn items or new)

**NOTICE:**

The VA has stopped accepting donations of used clothing

### Equipment Needs

- TV's
- DVD Players
- DVD's
- Wii/ Wii Games
- Refrigerators (Small and Full Size)
- Coffee Pots (12 cup and larger)
- Laptops
- Microwaves
- Fax Machines

### Fund for Coffee Cart and Supplies

- Coffee
- Coffee Filters
- Sugar
- Artificial Sweetener (Equal/Splenda/Sweet and Low)

[FILLABLE ONLINE FORM LINK](#)

## Sons of the American Revolution Compatriots Military Service Record Form

SAR Compatriot Name:		SAR National Number:	
SAR Society and Chapter Information:			
Mailing Address:			
City:		State:	ZIP Code:
Telephone:		E-Mail Address:	
Date of Birth:		Date of Death:	
Occupation:			
Relationship to SAR Compatriot (Self, Wife, Sibling, Other):			
Service Number:		Dates of Service:	
Wars/Conflicts: World War I   World War II   Korea   Vietnam   Desert Storm   Iraqi Freedom Other: <input type="text"/>			
Branch of Military: Army   Navy   Marine Corps   Coast Guard   Air Force   Merchant Marine   Reserves National Guard   Other: <input type="text"/>			
Branch of Service (i.e. Infantry):			
Unit(s):			
Location of Unit(s):			
Highest Rank (Active Duty): Enlisted: <input type="text"/> Warrant Officer: <input type="text"/> Officer: <input type="text"/>			
Highest Rank (Reserve Duty): Enlisted: <input type="text"/> Warrant Officer: <input type="text"/> Officer: <input type="text"/>			
Status: Active   Retired   Discharged   Reserved   Other: <input type="text"/>			
Military Awards (Please Begin with Highest):			
Enclosed is a copy of my separation papers (DD-214 or equivalent):   Yes   No   Other Document:			
<input type="text"/>			
Signature of Compatriot:			
<input type="text"/>			
Signature of Submitter:			
<input type="text"/>			

Information on obtaining a DD214 or equivalent is available on-line at <http://www.archives.gov/>

Please send to: Archives of Honor; SAR National Headquarters; 809 West Main Street; Louisville, Kentucky 40202-2619

Revised 08/31/2016