



# Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

## Arlington Chapter #7 Bulletin

Arlington #7 Chapter

Established 1938

Re-Chartered 1994



June 2024

Chuck Andrews, Editor

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month, Visitors Welcome

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Skillet-N-Grill Cafe 1801 W. Division St. Arlington, Texas 76012

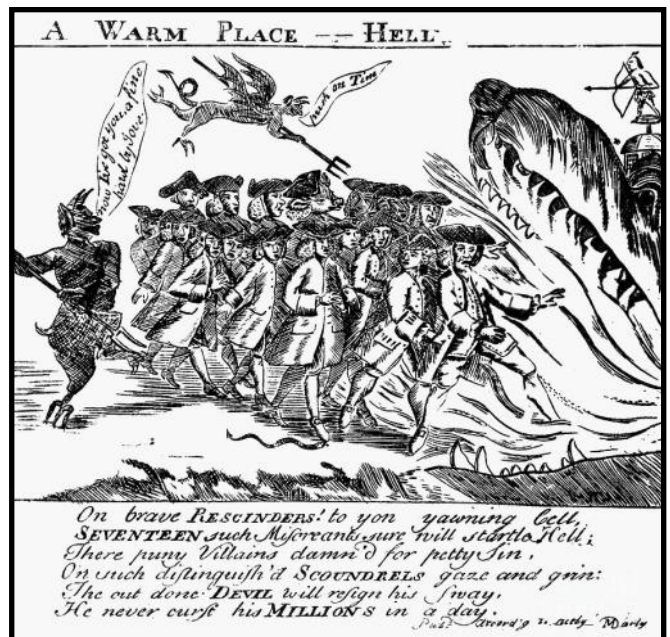
### Origins of War: The Townsend Acts, June/July 1767

The **Townshend Acts** or **Townshend Duties** were a series of British acts of Parliament passed during 1767 and 1768 introducing a series of taxes and regulations to fund administration of the British colonies in America. They are named after the Chancellor of the Exchequer who proposed the program. Historians vary slightly as to which acts they include under the heading "Townshend Acts", but five are often listed:

- **The Revenue Act 1767** passed on 29 June 1767.
- **The Commissioners of Customs Act 1767** passed on 29 June 1767.
- **The Indemnity Act 1767** passed on 2 July 1767.
- **The New York Restraining Act 1767** passed on 2 July 1767.
- **The Vice Admiralty Court Act 1768** passed on 8 March 1768.

#### Purpose

- raise revenue in the colonies to pay the salaries of governors and judges so that they would remain loyal to Great Britain,
- create more effective means of enforcing compliance with trade regulations,
- punish the Province of New York for failing to comply with the 1765 Quartering Act, and



TOWNSEND ACT CARTOON, 1768. 'A Warm Place - Hell.' American cartoon, 1768, engraved by Paul Revere, condemning to hell seventeen men who voted to rescind a Massachusetts circular letter against duties imposed by the Townsend Act, passed by the Parliament of Great Britain the previous year.

- establish the precedent that the British Parliament had the right to tax the colonies.

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## Reaction

The Townshend Acts met resistance in the colonies. People debated them in the streets, and in the colonial newspapers. Opponents of the Acts gradually became violent, leading to the Boston Massacre of 1770. The Acts placed an indirect tax on glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea, all of which had to be imported from Britain. This form of revenue generation was Townshend's response to the failure of the Stamp Act 1765, which had provided the first form of direct taxation placed upon the colonies. However, the import duties proved to be similarly controversial. Colonial indignation over the acts was expressed in John Dickinson's Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania and in the Massachusetts Circular Letter. There was widespread protest, and American port cities refused to import British goods, so Parliament began to partially repeal the Townshend duties. In March 1770, most of the taxes from the Townshend Acts were repealed by Parliament under Frederick, Lord North. However, the import duty on tea was retained in order to demonstrate to the colonists that Parliament held the sovereign authority to tax its colonies, in accordance with the Declaratory Act 1766. The British government continued to tax the American colonies without providing representation in Parliament. American resentment, corrupt British officials, and abusive enforcement spurred colonial attacks on British ships, including the burning of the Gaspee in 1772. The Townshend Acts' taxation of imported tea was enforced once again by the Tea Act 1773, and this led to the Boston Tea Party in 1773 in which Bostonians destroyed a large shipment of taxed tea. Parliament responded with severe punishments in the Intolerable Acts 1774. The Thirteen Colonies drilled their militia units, and war finally erupted in Lexington and Concord in April 1775, launching the American Revolution.

## Background

Following the Seven Years' War (1756–1763), the British government was deep in debt. To pay a small

new taxes on the colonies of British America. Previously, through the Trade and Navigation Acts, Parliament had used taxation to regulate the trade of the empire. But with the Sugar Act of 1764, Parliament sought, for the first time, to tax the colonies for the specific purpose of raising revenue. American colonists argued that there were constitutional issues involved.

The Americans claimed they were not represented in Parliament, but the British government retorted that

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Medal Spotlight:

### Roger Sherman Medal



The National Roger Sherman Commendation Medal may be awarded by the National Society to a Compatriot in recognition of, and in appreciation of, outstanding service that does not meet the requirements for the Meritorious Service Medal.

This Medal is named after Roger Sherman (1721-1793), who was a founding father, and the only person to sign all four Congressional papers of the United States: the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.



## INDUCTION



**June 8**– Chapter Vice-Pres. Bop Pope inducts **Curtis Oliver**. His Patriot is **Thomas H. Springfield, Capt., S.C.**, Buried–Springfield-Langston Family Cemetery, Greenville, S.C.

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they had "virtual representation", a concept the Americans rejected. This issue, only briefly debated following the Sugar Act, became a major point of contention after Parliament's passage of the Stamp Act 1765. The Stamp Act proved to be wildly unpopular in the colonies, contributing to its repeal the following year, along with the failure to raise substantial revenue.

Implicit in the Stamp Act dispute was an issue more fundamental than taxation and representation: the question of the extent of Parliament's authority in the colonies. Parliament provided its answer to this question when it repealed the Stamp Act in 1766 by simultaneously passing the Declaratory Act, which proclaimed that Parliament could legislate for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever".

### The Five Townshend Acts

#### The Revenue Act 1767

This act was the (joint) first act, passed on 29 June 1767, the same day as the Commissioners of Customs Act (see below).

It placed taxes on glass, lead, "painters' colors" (paint), paper, and tea. It also gave the supreme court of each colony the power to issue "writs of assistance", general warrants that could be issued to customs officers and used to search private property for smuggled goods.

"And whereas by an act of parliament, [...] it is lawful

*(Continued on page 5)*

## MILESTONES

### Anniversaries

#### April

Lloyd D. Hubler 04/18/1974 50 years  
David R. Friels 04/30/1999 25 years  
James M. Gibson 04/27/2010 14 years  
Ray H. Wehr 04/17/2013 11 years  
Robert W. Wehr 04/17/2013 11 years  
Christopher W, Saunders 04/15/2022 2 years  
Wendell W. Black 04/14/2023 1 year

#### Jr. SAR Members

Andrew D. Fehler 04/07/2023 1 year  
John Fehler 04/07/2023 1 year  
Kyle A. Stephenson 04/07/2023 1 year

#### May

John D. Anderson, Jr. 05/20/2010 14 years

#### June

#### Dual Member

F. Russ Godwin, Jr. 06/18/19 5 years

#### July

David R. Wells 07/18/2001 23 years  
Willard J. Sparks 07/24/2009 15 years  
James W. Benton 07/22/2016 8 years  
Roland A. Brucks, II 07/29/2016 8 years  
Dustin D. Decker 07/20/2018 6 years  
Daniel R. Hamilton 07/20/2018 6 years  
Christopher S. Martin 07/20/2018 6 years  
William J. McCoy 07/24/2020 4 years  
Branden A. Kennedy 07/01/2022 2 years  
Jonathan T. Kennedy 07/01/2022 2 years  
Stan Kennedy 07/01/2022 2 years

#### Jr. SAR Members

Grayson K. Kennedy 07/01/2022 2 years  
Preston C. Kennedy 07/01/2022 2 years

#### August

Robin D. Teagarden, Jr. 08/31/1977 47 years  
Ronald K. Carter 08/09/2007 17 years  
Robert H. Wehr 08/13/2012 12 years  
Roger E. Wehr 08/13/2012 12 years  
Jeffery D. Meller 08/11/2017 7 years  
Alexander S. Hamilton 08/30/2019 5 years  
Scott D. Hamilton 08/30/2019 5 years  
Phillip N. Roe 08/30/2019 5 years  
Ian A. Yuhasz 08/30/2019 5 years  
Douglas Scott Steward 08/07/2020 4 years

#### Jr. SAR Members

McCoy A. Salmon 08/06/2021 3 years  
Adrian B. Cole 08/13/2021 3 years  
Aeden C. Cole 08/13/2021 3 years  
Alexander E. Cole 08/13/2021 3 years  
Brent Houser 08/05/2022 2 year  
Charles H. Blumenfeld 08/18/2023 1 year  
Chase H. Blumenfeld 08/18/2023 1 year

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MY FELLOW ARLINGTON COMPATRIOTS,

BY THE TIME YOU ARE READING THIS MESSAGE WE WILL BE APPROACHING THE 4TH OF JULY AND ABOUT TO CELEBRATE THE 248TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR GREAT NATION. WE WILL BE HONORING OUR FIRST HEROES, THE AMERICAN PATRIOTS THAT RANGE FROM GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE CONTINENTAL ARMY TO THE LOCAL STATE MILITIAS AND DOWN TO OUR VERY OWN ANCESTORS THAT WE RESEARCH SO DILIGENTLY IN HOPE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAMILIES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION THAT MADE THIS NATION WHAT IT IS TODAY.

AS YOU CELEBRATE THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY, TAKE THE TIME TO THANK GOD FOR OUR FREEDOMS, OUR CHURCHES, OUR FAMILIES, AND THAT WE LIVE IN A FREE COUNTRY.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND SAFE TRAVELS AND THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

JOE

# Arlington Chapter #7 at the TX SAR State Convention



April 12– Compatriot Joe Sogan attended the Texas SAR Annual Convention serving as TX SAR to C.A.R. Liaison.



TX SAR President Sam Massey, Compatriot Will Deakyne, Sr. C.A.R. Sponsor and TX C.A.R. Society President Libby Sogan.



Mark Harrison, TX SAR Youth Awards Chair, from Dallas recognizes the Chapters with the highest C.A.R. points form 2023– Compatriots Bill Sekel, Athens Chapter, Ron Turner, Maj. K.M. VanZant Chapter and John Anderson, Arlington #7 Chapter.



President Dan Hamilton awards Compatriots David Friels and Bill Covington, not pictured the Roger Sherman Medal.

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for any officer of his Majesty's customs, authorized by writ of assistance under the seal of his Majesty's court of exchequer, [...] and in the day-time to enter and go into any house, shop, cellar, warehouse, or room or other place, and in case of resistance, to break open doors, chests, trunks, and other package there, to seize, and from thence to bring, any kind of goods or merchandize whatsoever prohibited or uncustomed, and to put and secure the same in his Majesty's store-house next to the place where such seizure shall be made; and whereas by an act [...] it is, amongst other things, enacted, that the officers for collecting and managing his Majesty's revenue, and inspecting the plantation trade, in America, shall have the same powers and authorities [as] is provided for the officers of England: but, no authority being expressly given by the said act [...] to any particular court to grant such writs of assistance for the officers of the customs in the said plantations, it is doubted whether such officers can legally enter houses and other places on land, to search for and seize goods, in the manner directed by the said recited acts.

To obviate which doubts for the future, and in order to carry the intention of the said recited acts into effectual execution, be it enacted [...], That from and after the said twentieth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven, such writs of assistance, [...] shall and may be granted by the said superior or supreme court of justice having jurisdiction within such colony or plantation respectively.”

## GUEST PRESENTATION



March 9– James D. Runzheimer, Attorney and CPA in Arlington discussed Veteran’s activities in the city of Arlington. Planned for Veteran’s Day 2024 are a parade and ceremony at Veterans Park. He also mentioned that the Medal of Honor Museum is slated to open in April 2025.

7 Geo. 3. c. 46, s. 10

There was an angry response from colonists, who deemed the taxes a threat to their rights as British

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### ARLINGTON #7 MERCHANDISE

**Keep in mind that Arlington #7 offers logo merchandise:**

**Challenge Coins- \$10**

**Lapel Pins- \$5**

**Coffee Cups- \$15**

**These can be purchased by contacting:  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Richard Martin**

**[furball2604@gmail.com](mailto:furball2604@gmail.com)**



# Happy Birthday

## April

4/6 Arthur R. "Art" Brucks  
 4/11 James D. Friels  
 4/15 Christopher S. Martin  
 4/19 Alex S. Hamilton (Jr. Member)  
 4/30 John D. Anderson, III

## May

5/5 Kirby M. Anderson  
 5/6 Robt. B. "Bob" Pope  
 5/7 Andrew D. Fehler\*  
 5/8 R. Allen Vaughn  
 5/10 Nicolas Hamilton  
 5/20 Parker P. McDivit

## June

6/2 Phillip N. Roe  
 6/13 David L. Allison  
     Robin D. Teagarden, Jr.  
 6/14 Donald E. "Don" Billings  
 6/16 Lyndell "Wally" Penny  
 6/18 Robt. H. "Bob" Wehr  
 6/20 Grayson K. Kennedy\*  
     Ned G. Meyers  
 6/26 Gary S. Faletti  
 6/30 Grady D. Anderson\*

## July

7/2 John C. Fehler\*  
 7/3 Curtis L. Oliver  
 7/11 Grant A. Hamilton  
 7/20 Kevin S. Jorrey  
 7/21 Stanley J. Kennedy  
 7/22 Brent Houser  
 7/26 John D. Anderson, Jr.

## August

8/3 Preston C. Kennedy\*  
 8/11 Willard J. Sparks  
 8/14 Kyle A. Stephenson  
 8/19 Wendell W. Black  
 8/23 David K. Setzer  
 8/29 Ronald "Ron" K. Carter



March 9— Chapter President Joe Kohn presents the Past Presidents pin to Dan Hamilton.

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subjects. The use of writs of assistance was significantly controversial since the right to be secure in one's private property was an established right in Britain.

### The Commissioners of Customs Act 1767

This act was passed on 29 June 1767. It created a new Customs Board for the North American colonies, to be headquartered in Boston with five customs commissioners. New offices were eventually opened in other ports as well. The board was created to enforce shipping regulations and increase tax revenue. Previously, customs enforcement was handled by the Customs Board back in England. Due to the distance, enforcement was poor, taxes were avoided and smuggling was rampant.

“Be it therefore enacted [...] that the customs and other duties imposed [...] upon any goods or merchandise brought or imported into, or exported or carried from, any British colony or plantation in America,

*(Continued on page 7)*

**BILL GOODMAN  
RECEIVES THE  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**



.March 9– Bill Goodman, SAR Arlington Chapter #7 Secretary and Veterans Relations Chairman is presented the Distinguished Service Award by Outgoing President Dan Hamilton.

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may, from time to time, be put under the management and direction of such commissioners, to reside in the said plantations, as his Majesty [...] shall judge to be most for the advantage or trade, and security of the revenue of the said British colonies.”7 Geo. 3. c.

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**EVENTS**

**2024**

July 4 **Independence Day**

July 10-16 **134th NSSAR Annual Congress**, Lancaster, PA (N)

July 13 **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

July 18-20– **Nation SAR 250th Event– 250th Anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves**, Fairfax County, VA (N)

July 27 **Texas State SAR BOM** via Zoom (CG-S)

Aug 10- **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

Sept 14- **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

TBD– **Texas SAR Fall BOM**, Austin, TX (CG-S)

Oct 12- **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

December 14, **Wreaths Across America** -Parkdale & Arlington Cemeteries, Arlington, TX (CG-N)

**2025**

TBD **130th Annual Texas SAR Convention**, DFW Metroplex, TX (CG-S)

July 12-18 **NSSAR Congress**, Uncasville, Connecticut, (CG-N)

(CG) = Color Guard event, (C) = Chapter, (S) = State, (N) = National



**NATION’S  
250TH BIRTH-  
DAY IS COMING—  
4 JULY 2026**

The celebration of the founding of America includes the time period from the Stamp Act to the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War. As the Revolution included Political and Civic actions, as well as War activities, events will include all that shaped the development of our Great Nation during the time period.

America 250 Website: [www.america250sar.com](http://www.america250sar.com)

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41 s. 1

Once the new Customs Board was in operation, enforcement increased, leading to a confrontation with smuggling colonists. Incidents between customs officials, military personnel and colonists broke out across the colonies, eventually leading to the occupation of Boston by British troops. This led to the Boston Massacre.

## The New York Restraining Act 1767

This was the (joint) third of the five acts, passed on 2 July 1767, the same day as the Indemnity Act.

It forbade the New York Assembly and the governor of New York from passing any new bills until they complied with the Quartering Act 1765. That act required New York to provide housing, food and supplies for the British troops stationed there to defend the colony. New York resisted the Quartering Act saying they were being taxed, yet had no direct representation in Parliament. Furthermore, New York didn't think British soldiers were needed any more, since the French and Indian War had come to an end.

“That from and after the first day of October, one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven, until provision shall have been made by the said assembly of New York for furnishing his Majesty's troops within the said province with all such necessaries as are required by the said acts of parliament ... it shall not be lawful for the governor ... to pass, or give his or their assent to, or concurrence in, the making or passing of any act of assembly; or his or their assent to any order, resolution, or vote, in concurrence with the house of representatives for the time being within the said colony, or for the said house of representatives to pass or make any bill, order, resolution, or vote, (orders, resolutions, or votes, for adjourning such house only, excepted) of any kind, for any other purpose whatsoever.”

7 Geo. 3. c. 59



May 1– Compatriot John Anderson is awarded the Bronze Hannah White Arnett Award by the Lucretia Council Cochran NSDAR Chapter. This recognition is given to a member in good standing of the SAR for unselfish devotion, tireless efforts, and assistance to the DAR; and who has dedicated his time, energy, talents, and/or resources to the organization in support and furtherance of the DAR mission of historic preservation, education and patriotism. John is accompanied by his wife Meg Anderson to the right.



May 2– Chapter Vice-Pres. Bob Pope presents Range Officer Corp. Charles Crawford with a commendation as Arlington Police Officer of the Year.

Before the act was implemented, New York reluctantly agreed to provide some of the soldiers' needs, so it was never applied.

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## The Indemnity Act 1767

This Act was passed together with the New York Restraining Act, on 2 July 1767.

'Indemnity' means 'security or protection against a loss or other financial burden'. The Indemnity Act 1767 reduced taxes on the British East India Comp-

any when they imported tea into England. This allowed them to re-export the tea to the colonies more cheaply and resell it to the colonists. Until this time, all items had to be shipped to England first from wherever they were made and then re-exported to their destination, including to the colonies. This followed from the principle of mercantilism in England, which meant the colonies were forced to trade only with England.

The British East India Company was one of England's largest companies but was on the verge of collapse due to much cheaper smuggled Dutch tea. Part of the purpose of the entire series of Townshend Acts was to save the company from imploding. Since tea smuggling had become a common and successful practice, Parliament realized how difficult it was to enforce the taxing of tea. The Act stated that no more taxes would be placed on tea, and it made the cost of the East India Company's tea less than tea that was smuggled via Holland. It was an incentive for the colonists to purchase the East India Company tea.

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MISSION

*The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.*



Compatriot Bill Covington regaled the Chapter with two interesting presentations, the first was concerning the Intolerable acts of 1774 and the second regarding the Battle of Ticonderoga.



Compatriot David Hubler provides the Chapter with the Comment of the Day.

## The Vice Admiralty Court Act 1768

This was the last of the five acts passed. It was not passed until 8 March 1768, the year after the other four. Lord Charles Townshend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, after whom the Townshend Acts were

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# NEW SAR CHAPTER # 7 OFFICERS



March 9– TX State SAR President-Elect Tracy Pounders swore in the new slate of officers for Arlington SAR Chapter #7. Pictured above are Compatriots John Anderson, Historian, Bob Pope, Vice-President, Joe Kohn, President, Bill Goodman, Secretary, David Martin, Sergeant-at-Arms and Bob Wehr, Chaplin. Not pictured is Richard Coffey, Treasurer.



March 9– Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Compatriots (from L to R) Brent Houser, Joe Kohn, Chuck Andrews, Bob Wehr, Richard Martin, John Anderson, Chip Black, Roger Wehr, and Roger Wehr. Not pictured are David Friels, Gary Falleetti and Bill Goodman.

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named, had died suddenly in September 1767, and so did not introduce this Act.

The Act was passed to aid the prosecution of smugglers. It gave admiralty courts, rather than colonial courts, jurisdiction over all matters concerning customs violations and smuggling. Before the Act, cus-

*(Continued on page 11)*



March 9– Compatriot Mike Hutchins was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation.



May 7– Chapter President Joe Kohn presented Dalworthington Gardens Officer of the Year, Corp. Benjamin Witts, was the Law Enforcement Commendation.



May 11– State Historian John Anderson awards Compatriot Chuck Andrews, Arlington Chapter #7 Bulletin Editor, TX SAR Historian Honor Award.

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toms violators could be tried in an admiralty court in Halifax, Nova Scotia, if royal prosecutors believed they would not get a favorable outcome using a local judge and jury. The Vice-Admiralty Court Act added three new admiralty courts in Boston, Philadelphia and Charleston to aid in more effective prosecutions. These courts were run by judges appointed by the Crown and whose salaries were paid, in the first instance, from fines levied. when they found someone guilty.

“[...] all forfeitures and penalties inflicted by any act or acts of parliament relating to the trade or revenues of the British colonies or plantations in America, may be prosecuted, sued for, and recovered, in any court of vice-admiralty appointed, or to be appointed, and which shall have jurisdiction within the colony, plantation, or place, where the cause of such prosecution or suit shall have arisen.”

8 Geo. 3. c. 22 s. 1

The decisions were made solely by the judge, without the option of trial by jury, which was considered to be a fundamental right of British subjects. In addition, the accused person had to travel to the court of jurisdiction at his own expense; if he did not appear,

he was automatically considered guilty.

## Townshend's program

### Raising revenue

The first of the Townshend Acts, sometimes simply known as the Townshend Act, was the Revenue Act 1767 (7 Geo 3 c 46). This act represented the Chatham ministry's new approach to generating tax revenue in the American colonies after the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766. The British government had gotten the impression that because the colonists had objected to the Stamp Act on the grounds that it was a direct (or "internal") tax, colonists would therefore accept indirect (or "external") taxes, such as taxes on imports. With this in mind, Charles Townshend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, devised a plan that placed new duties on paper, paint, lead, glass, and tea that were imported into the colonies. These were items that were not produced in North America and that the colonists were only allowed to buy from Great Britain.

The colonists' objection to "internal" taxes did not mean that they would accept "external" taxes; the colonial position was that any tax laid by Parliament for the purpose of raising revenue was unconstitutional. "Townshend's mistaken belief that Americans regard-

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## SAR Color Guard And Plano Symphony



Compatriot and Color Guard Member Dan Hamilton presented the Bronze Good Citizenship Award to the Plano Symphony Orchestra Conductor Hector Guzman.

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ed internal taxes as unconstitutional and external taxes constitutional", wrote historian John Phillip Reid, "was of vital importance in the history of events leading to the Revolution." The Townshend Revenue Act received royal assent on 29 June 1767. There was little opposition expressed in Parliament at the time. "Never could a fateful measure have had a more quiet passage", wrote historian Peter Thomas.

The Revenue Act was passed in conjunction with the Indemnity Act 1767 (7 Geo 3 c 56), which was intended to make the tea of the British East India Company more competitive with smuggled Dutch tea. The Indemnity Act repealed taxes on tea imported to England, allowing it to be re-exported more cheaply to the colonies. This tax cut in England would be partially offset by the new Revenue Act taxes on tea in the colonies. The Revenue Act also reaffirmed the legality of writs of assistance, or general search warrants, which gave customs officials broad powers to search houses and businesses for smuggled goods.

## Arlington Chapter #7 State Recognition



April- During the State Convention the Chapters 2023 reporting that assisted in Texas SAR receiving the USS Stark Award earning the NSSAR Streamer. This award recognizes state societies that support veterans. **John Anderson accepted on behalf of Arlington #7 whose excellent reporting efforts are under the purview of Veterans Committee Chair is Bill Goodman.** Also included Bill Sekel, Athens Chapter President and current Dist. 10 VP, Richard Harshman, Dallas Chapter President, Ron Turner, Major K.M. VanZant Chapter President.

The original stated purpose of the Townshend duties was to raise a revenue to help pay the cost of maintaining an army in North America. Townshend changed the purpose of the tax plan, however, and instead decided to use the revenue to pay the salaries of some colonial governors and judges. Previously, the colonial assemblies had paid these salaries, but Parliament hoped to take the "power of the purse" away from the colonies. According to historian John C. Miller, "Townshend ingeniously sought to take money from Americans by means of parliamentary taxation and to employ it against their liberties by making colonial governors and judges independent of the assemblies."

Some members of Parliament objected because Townshend's plan was expected to generate only £40,000 in yearly revenue, but he explained that once the precedent for taxing the colonists had been firmly established, the program could gradually be expanded until the colonies paid for themselves. According to historian Peter Thomas, Townshend's "aims were political rather than financial".

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### American Board of Customs Commissioners

To better collect the new taxes, the Commissioners of Customs Act 1767 (7 Geo 3 c 41) established the American Board of Customs Commissioners, which was modeled on the British Board of Customs. The board was created because of the difficulties the British Board faced in enforcing trade regulations in the distant colonies. Five commissioners were appointed to the board, which was headquartered in Boston. The American Customs Board would generate considerable hostility in the colonies towards the British government. According to historian Oliver Dickerson, "The actual separation of the continental colonies from the rest of the Empire dates from the creation of this independent administrative board."

The American Board of Customs Commissioners was notoriously corrupt, according to historians. Political scientist Peter Andreas argues:

merchants resented not only the squeeze on smuggling but also the exploits by unscrupulous customs agents that came with it. Such "customs racketeering" was, in the view of colonial merchants, essentially legalized piracy.

Historian Edmund Morgan says:

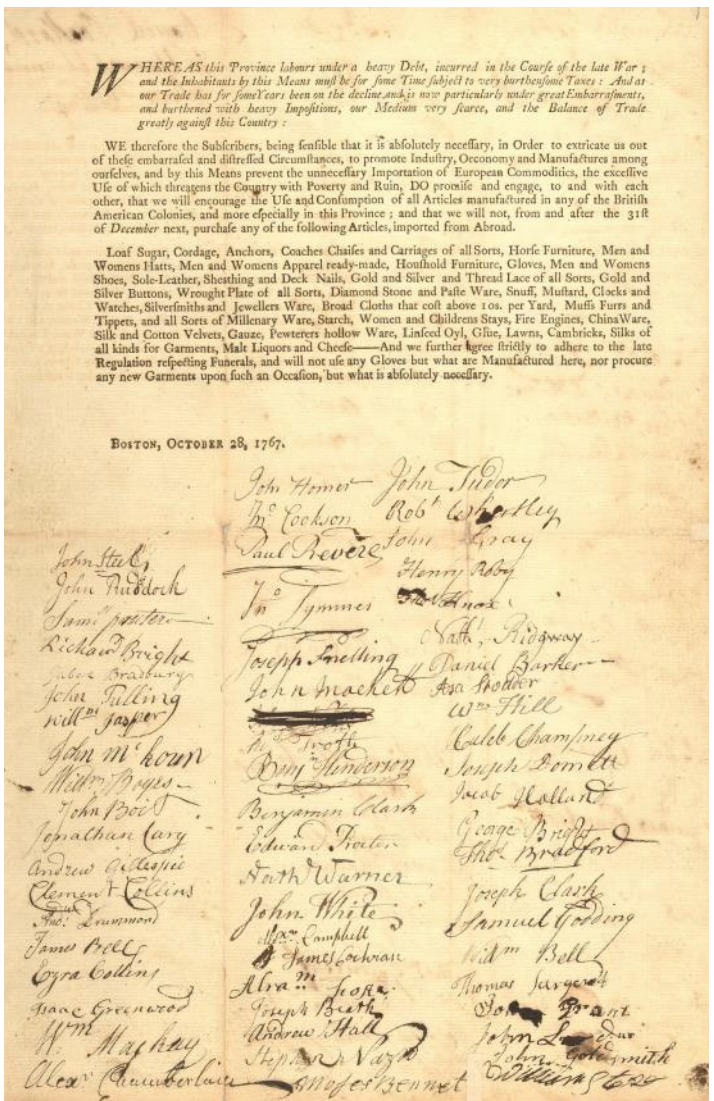
In the establishment of this American Board of Customs Commissioners, Americans saw the extension of England's corrupt system of officeholding to America. As Professor Dickerson has shown, the Commissioners were indeed corrupt. They engaged

in extensive "customs racketeering" and they were involved in many of the episodes of heightened the tension between England and the colonies: it was on their request that troops were sent to Boston; The Boston Massacre took place before their headquarters; the "Gaspee" was operating under their orders.

Historian Doug Krehbiel argues:

Disputes brought to the board were almost exclusively resolved in favor of the British government. Vice admiralty courts claimed to prosecute vigorously smugglers but were widely corrupt—customs offi-

(Continued on page 14)



Nonimportation Agreement signed October 28, 1767 by Boston merchants to suspend all imports of British goods. New York and Philadelphia merchants followed with similar pledges.

**JULY 4th POTLUCK**

Thanks to Compatriot David Hubler for offering to host a Potluck get-together on July 4th. Please consider coming for fellowship, food and a tremendous venue for fireworks viewing. Email David with food info and he will provide the details and directions.

[David@hubler.org](mailto:David@hubler.org)

### Snippets #1

1. The Medal of Honor Parade was held April 27, 2024 in Gainesville, TX.
2. David Friels coordinated Chapter volunteers to present JROTC and ROTC awards.
3. Compatriot and State Historian John Anderson is working on an archival process and Procedures Manual for the Texas SAR.
4. Per Compatriot Dan Hamilton– the Chapter has Color Guard and C.A.R. t-shirts for sale.

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cials falsely accused ship owners of possessing undeclared items, thereby seizing the cargoes of entire vessels, and justices of the juryless courts were entitled to a percentage of the goods from colonial ships that they ruled unlawful. Writs of assistance and blanket search warrants to search for smuggled goods were liberally abused. John Hancock, the wealthy New England merchant, had his ship "Liberty" seized in 1768 on a false charge, incensing the colonists. Charges against Hancock were later dropped and his ship returned because of the fear that he would appeal to more scrupulous customs officials in Britain.

Another measure to enforce the trade laws was the Vice Admiralty Court Act 1768 (8 Geo 3 c 22). Although often included in discussions of the Townshend Acts, this act was initiated by the Cabinet when Townshend was not present and was not passed until after his death. Before this act, there was just one vice admiralty court in North America, located in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Established in 1764, this court proved to be too remote to serve all of the colonies, and so the 1768 Vice Admiralty Court Act created four district courts, which were located at Halifax, Boston, Philadelphia, and Charleston. One purpose of the vice admiralty courts, which did not have juries, was to help customs officials prosecute smugglers since colonial juries were reluctant to convict persons for violating unpopular trade regulations.

Townshend also faced the problem of what to do about the New York General Assembly, which had refused to comply with the Quartering Act 1765 because its members saw the act's financial provisions as levying an unconstitutional tax. The New York Restraining Act (7 Geo 3 c 59), which according to historian Robert Chaffin was "officially a part of the Townshend Acts", suspended the power of the Assembly until it complied with the Quartering Act. The Restraining Act never went into effect because, by the time it was passed, the New York Assembly had already appropriated money to cover the costs of the Quartering Act. The Assembly avoided conceding the right of Parliament to tax the colonies by making no reference to the Quartering Act when appropriating this money; they also passed a resolution stating that Parliament could not constitutionally suspend an elected legislature.

### Reaction

Townshend knew that his program would be controversial in the colonies, but he argued that, "The superiority of the mother country can at no time be better exerted than now." The Townshend Acts did not create an instant uproar like the Stamp Act had done two years earlier, but before long, opposition to the program had become widespread. Townshend did not live to see this reaction, having died suddenly on 4 September 1767.

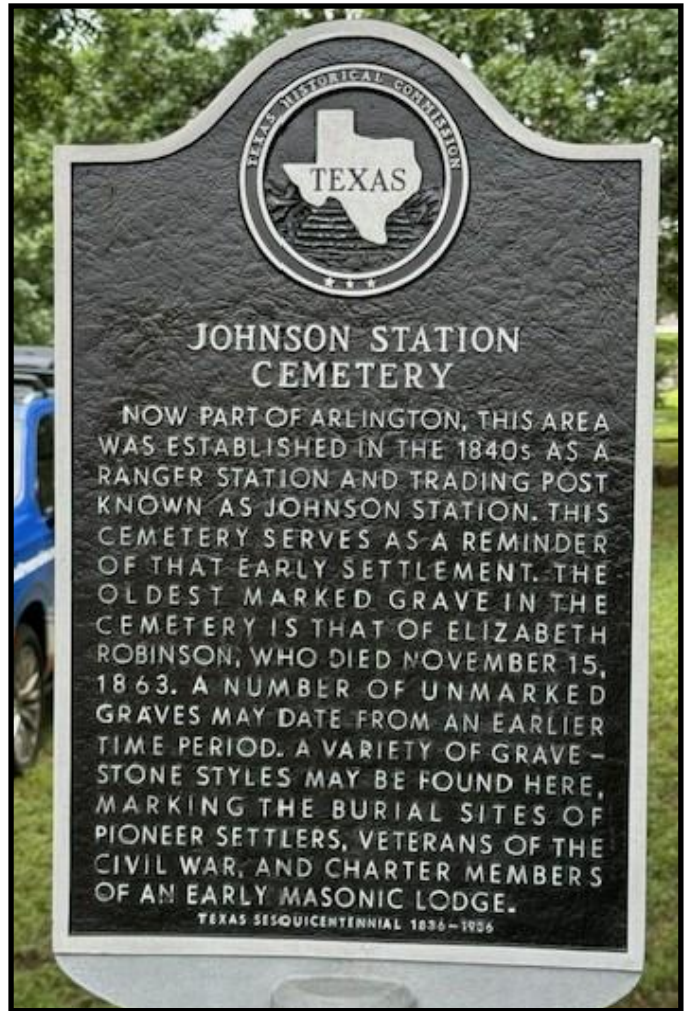
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### Snippets #2

1. SAR Chapter Arlington #7 presented the Public Service Award to the City of Arlington.
2. Chapter death update:
  - Rod Ashford- Feb. 2, 2023 Age 79 years
  - Burton Watkins- June 17, 2023
  - Dick Lee- Sept. 28, 2023 Age 96 years
  - Mike Fairchild– Dec. 23, 2024 Age 71 years

### Snippets #3

1. Compatriot Bill Covington delivered presentations to the Colonial Dame Chapters and the Duncan Oklahoma DAR. Bill is also preparing talks to be presented during a summer trip to Upstate New York.
2. President Joe Kohn provided an engaging presentation about his family lineage and invites all members to consider informing the Chapter about their family history.



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The most influential colonial response to the Townshend Acts was a series of twelve essays by John Dickinson entitled "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania", which began appearing in December 1767. Eloquently articulating ideas already widely accepted in the colonies, Dickinson argued that there was no difference between "internal" and "external" taxes, and that any taxes imposed on the colonies by Parliament for the sake of raising a revenue were unconstitutional. Dickinson warned colonists not to concede to the taxes just because the rates were low since this would set a dangerous precedent.

Dickinson sent a copy of his "Letters" to James Otis of Massachusetts, informing Otis that "whenever the Cause of American Freedom is to be vindicated, I look towards the Province of Massachusetts Bay". The Massachusetts House of Representatives began a campaign against the Townshend Acts by first sending a petition to King George asking for the repeal of the Revenue Act, and then sending a letter to the other colonial assemblies, asking them to join the resistance movement. Upon receipt of the Massachusetts Circular Letter, other colonies also sent petitions to the king. Virginia and Pennsylvania also sent petitions to Parliament, but the other colonies did not, believing that it might have been interpreted as an admission of Parliament's sovereignty over them. Parliament refused to consider the petitions of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

June 19– Members of SAR Arlington Chapter #7 attended a workshop by Atlas Preservation sponsored by Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter TX DAR and Tarrant County Historical Commission. The workshop involved gravestone cleaning, repair and restoration.

In Great Britain, Lord Hillsborough, who had recently been appointed to the newly created office of Colonial Secretary, was alarmed by the actions of the Massachusetts House. In April 1768 he sent a letter to the colonial governors in America, instructing them to dissolve the colonial assemblies if they responded to the Massachusetts Circular Letter. He also sent a letter to Massachusetts Governor Francis Bernard, instructing him to have the Massachusetts House rescind the Circular Letter. By a vote of 92 to 17, the House refused to comply, and Bernard promptly dissolved the legislature.

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## Johnson Station Cemetery Workshop



Pictured above are participants attending the Cemetery Preservation Workshop at Johnson Station Cemetery in Arlington that include **Compatriots John Anderson**, with Meg, of the sponsoring DAR Chapter and **Chuck Andrews**. Also in attendance was **Wally Penny**.

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When news of the outrage among the colonists finally reached Franklin in London he wrote a number of essays in 1768 calling for "civility and good manners", even though he did not approve of the measures. In 1770, Franklin continued writing essays against the Townsend Acts and Lord Hillsborough and wrote eleven attacking the Acts that appeared in the Public Advertiser, a London daily newspaper. The essays were published between January 8 and February 19, 1770, and can be found in The Papers of Benjamin Franklin.

### Boycotts

Merchants in the colonies, some of them smugglers, organized economic boycotts to put pressure on their British counterparts to work for repeal of the Townshend Acts. Boston merchants organized the first non-

importation agreement, which called for merchants to suspend importation of certain British goods effective 1 January 1768. Merchants in other colonial ports, including New York City and Philadelphia, eventually joined the boycott. In Virginia, the non-importation effort was organized by George Washington and George Mason. When the Virginia House of Burgesses passed a resolution stating that Parliament had no right to tax Virginians without their consent, Governor Lord Botetourt dissolved the assembly. The members met at Raleigh Tavern and adopted a boycott agreement known as the "Association".

The non-importation movement was not as effective as promoters had hoped. British exports to the colonies declined by 38 percent in 1769, but there were many merchants who did not participate in the boycott. The boycott movement began to fail by 1770 and came to an end in 1771.

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## Unrest in Boston

The newly created American Customs Board was seated in Boston, so it was there that the Board concentrated on enforcing the Townshend Acts. The acts were so unpopular in Boston that the Customs Board requested assistance. Commodore Samuel Hood sent the fifty-gun fourth-rate ship HMS Romney, which arrived in Boston Harbor in May 1768.

On 10 June 1768, customs officials seized the Liberty, a sloop owned by leading Boston merchant John Hancock, on allegations that the ship had been involved in smuggling.

Bostonians, already angry because the captain of the Romney had been impressing local sailors, began to riot. Customs officials fled to Castle William for protection. With John Adams serving as his lawyer, Hancock was prosecuted in a highly publicized trial by a vice-admiralty court, but the charges were eventually dropped.

Given the unstable state of affairs in Massachusetts, Hillsborough instructed Governor Bernard to try to find evidence of treason in Boston. Parliament had determined that the Treason Act 1543 was still in force, which would allow Bostonians to be transported to England to stand trial for treason. Bernard could find no one who was willing to provide reliable evidence, however, and so there were no treason trials. The possibility that American colonists might be arrested and sent to England for trial produced alarm and outrage in the colonies.

Even before the Liberty riot, Hillsborough had decided to send troops to Boston. On 8 June 1768, he instructed General Thomas Gage, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to send "such Force as You shall think necessary to Boston", although he conceded that this might lead to "consequences not easily foreseen".] Hillsborough suggested that Gage might send one regiment to Boston, but the Liberty incident

convinced officials that more than one regiment would be needed.

People in Massachusetts learned in September 1768 that troops were on the way. Samuel Adams organized an emergency, extralegal convention of towns and passed resolutions against the imminent occupation of Boston, but on 1 October 1768, the first of four regiments of the British Army began disembarking in Boston, and the Customs Commissioners returned to town. The "Journal of Occurrences", an anonymously written series of newspaper articles, chronicled clashes between civilians and soldiers during the military occupation of Boston, apparently with some exaggeration. Tensions rose after Christopher Seider, a Boston teenager, was killed by a customs employee on 22 February 1770. Although British soldiers were not involved in that incident, resentment against the occupation escalated in the days that followed, resulting in the killing of five civilians in the Boston Massacre of 5 March 1770. After the incident, the troops were withdrawn to Castle William.

## Partial repeal

On 5 March 1770—the same day as the Boston Massacre, although news traveled slowly at the time, and neither side of the Atlantic was aware of this coincidence—Lord North, the new Prime Minister, presented a motion in the House of Commons that called for partial repeal of the Townshend Revenue Act. Although some in Parliament advocated a complete repeal of the act, North disagreed, arguing that the tea duty should be retained to assert "the right of taxing the Americans". After debate, the Repeal Act (10 Geo 3 c 17) received royal assent on 12 April 1770.

Historian Robert Chaffin argued that little had actually changed:

It would be inaccurate to claim that a major part of the Townshend Acts had been repealed. The revenue-producing tea levy, the American Board of Customs and, most important, the principle of making governors and magistrates independent all remained. In fact, the modification of the Townshend Duties Act

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was scarcely any change at all.

The Townshend duty on tea was retained when the 1773 Tea Act was passed, which allowed the East India Company to ship tea directly to the colonies. The Boston Tea Party soon followed, which set the stage for the American Revolution.



### Townshends' Fate

Charles Townshend was a British politician who held various titles in the Parliament of Great Britain. His establishment of the controversial Townshend Acts is considered one of the key causes of the American Revolution.

He served various political roles, including as a member of the Board of Trade, Lord of the Admiralty, Paymaster of the Forces, and Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Under the ministry of William Pitt the Elder, Townshend accepted the role of Chancellor of the Exchequer in August 1766. A few weeks later he made an appeal to the Prime Minister for increased power. He was admitted to the inner circle of the cabinet and proposed the continuance of the land tax at four shillings in the pound with hopes that it might be reduced next year to three shillings, whereupon his predecessor, William Dowdeswell, carried a motion that the reduction should take effect at once. Townshend pledged to find revenue in America with which to meet the deficiency caused by the reduction.

Early in 1767, the Stamp Act was repealed owing to colonial protests and boycotts of British goods, Townshend proposed that the Parliament could procure revenue from the Americans without causing them offense via "external" import taxes instead of internal taxes. These were known as the Townshend Acts.

The Acts taxed exports to America, such as glass, paint, paper and tea and established a Board of Commissioners in Boston to enforce them, which was seen as a threat to the American colonial tradition of self-government.

The Townshend Acts would be Townshend's last official act as he died somewhat suddenly of a fever on September 4, 1767.

Soon after that he died somewhat suddenly of a fever on September 4, 1767.

## Grave Markings

June 1– Chapter members traveled to Maud and Clarksville, Texas to honor two Patriots with Grave Marking Ceremonies.



Patriot Evan Thomas Watson– Married Lucy Coleman. He served Captains Harris, Leek and Martin. His grave was lost when the Sulphur River was flooded to make Lake Wright. His memorial is in Center Ridge Cemetery, Maud, TX.



Texas SAR President Tracy Pounders and Compatriot John Anderson, State Historian prepare for the Grave Marking Ceremony in Maud, TX.

# Grave Markings



Patriot William Blevins served under Capt. Swift and Col. Crockett and spied on Indians. Memorial is in the Clarksville.

Compatriots Dan Hamilton and Bill Covington provided Color Guard support for the Grave Marking Ceremony for Evan Thomas Watson in Maud, TX.



Compatriot Bill Covington participating in the presentation of the Colors, Clarksville, TX.



Compatriot Will Covington and an unidentified Color Guardsman participate in the Grave Marking Ceremony in Maud, TX.



Ron Turner, Pres. Major K.M. VanZant Chapter #6 and Dist. 5 Vice-Pres. TX SAR provided an introduction to the Sons of the American Revolution at the Grave Marking Ceremony for William Blevins held at First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, TX.



Representing the SAR Arlington #7 Chapter were— Dan Hamilton, Color Guard, Chuck Andrews— Photographer, Bill Covington, Color Guard and John Anderson, State Historian.

# Grave Marking



SAR Color Guard prepares to present the colors.



Dan Hamilton participated Color Guard activities supporting Grave Marking activities in Clarksville, TX.



SAR Color Guard, includes Compatriots Dan Hamilton and Bill Covington. Also pictured are TX State SAR Pres. Tracy Pounders (Jacket L) and John Anderson (Jacket R).



TX State SAR Pres. Tracy Pounders welcomes those attending the Grave Marking Ceremony. State Historian John Anderson led the group Pledge of Allegiance.

*Editor's Note:*

Quotation:

"...that the Acts (Townsend) made there, imposing duties on the people of this province, with the sole and express purpose of raising a revenue, are infringements of their natural and constitutional rights; because, as they are not represented in the British Parliament, his Majesty's commons in Britain, by those Acts, grant their property without their consent."

—Samuel Adams and James Otis |  
Massachusetts Circular Letter 1768

Note:  
Source material for this Newsletter have been taken from Wikipedia, Kahn Academy and the National Constitution Center.