

**Merry Christmas!!!**

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY SILVER  
(SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS)

# INK & QUILL

Volume 3 Number 9

December, 1997

Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution  
Denton Chapter #23, TXSSAR Inc. Newsletter

## Colonial Christmas Customs

Christmas as we know it is an amalgam of Dutch, English, German, and Russian customs. Many of our favorite Christmas traditions were products of the nineteenth century and did not exist in Colonial America. Typical eighteenth century Christmas celebrations centered around church, dinner, and decorating with evergreens. Gift giving consisted of people giving to their dependents such as parents giving books and sweets to children. The notion of everyone giving gifts did not occur until the nineteenth century. The primary focus of a colonial Christmas was not on children and toys; that came much later.

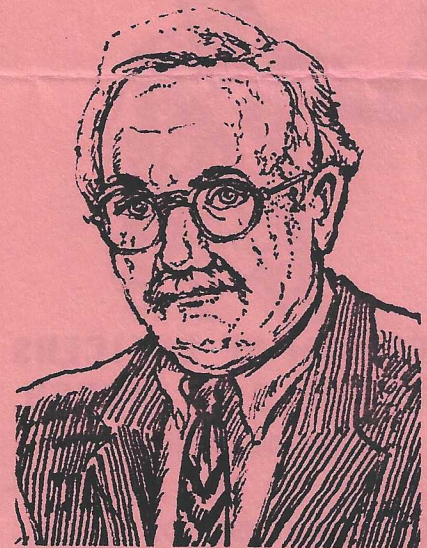
*The Colonial Williamsburg Interpreter , Vol. 16, No. 4, winter 1995*

## UNT SOVA DEAN TO SPEAK AT SAR

D. Jack Davis, Dean of the School of Visual Arts at the University of North Texas will present a program on "Early American Silver" at 7 P.M. December 4, 1997. The meeting will be held at the Good Samaritan Village in Denton.

Dr. Davis is a nationally known art educator and was instrumental in establishing the North Texas Institute for Educators in the Visual Arts.

Dr. Davis is an avid collector of English and American silver and is quite knowledgeable in these areas. If any SAR members have silver tea pots, spoons etc. that they would like to know more about, they may bring these objects to the December meeting.



**D. JACK DAVIS**

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
DENTON CHAPTER # 23

Meeting 7:00 p. m. at the Denton Good Samaritan Village

Minutes for the meeting of November 6, 1997

The meeting was called to order with the opening ceremony led by President Baird.

Treasurer Vaughn reported expenditures leaving a balance of \$258.14.

Compatriot Tom Cain announced a program change for the December 4 meeting. The program presented by Dr. Donald Jack Davis will be entitled *The Silver Work of Paul Revere*. An invitation was given to bring in silver pieces for identification or display.

Tonight's program was presented by Dr. William Vaughn with the title *Benedict Arnold, Patriot and Traitor*.

Lee Capps and Sam Haynes attended the meeting. Both have either been approved or have the necessary lines established for membership.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15, with the S. A. R. Closing.

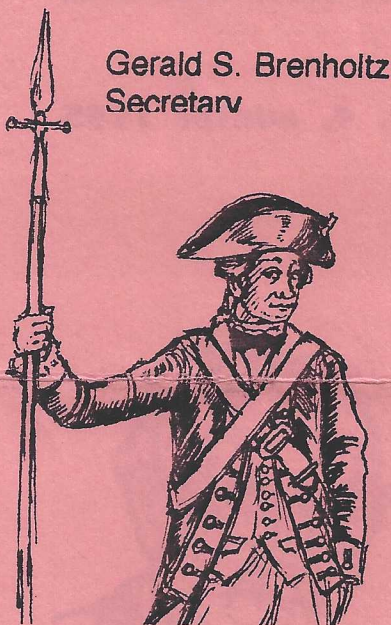
Respectively submitted by

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
JOHN CASEY ARE  
GREATLY APPRECIAT-  
ED BY TKSSAR #23**

Compatriot John Casey performed many tasks for our chapter. He saw to it that the room was always ready for our meetings and supplied with the appropriate equipment. He was the first to arrive and the last to leave and not because he lived there. He always greeted us with freshly brewed coffee and a warm smile. He will be missed!

**PRESIDENT BAIRD  
ATTENDS DAR MEETING**

President James Baird and wife Sheila attended the annual DAR meeting held at the Denton Country Club on Nov. 15. The program, "The Santa Fe Trail," which was presented by Joanne Rumley, was enjoyed by all in attendance. A spirit of co-operation exists between the SAR and DAR as exemplified by the upcoming President's Day Program.



**ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
TO BE HELD IN MARCH**

Anyone who wishes to serve on the nominating committee for next year's officers is asked to contact President Baird.

**REMEMBER TO PAY DUES  
BEFORE DECEMBER 31**

By now you should have received the request for dues. Please complete this and mail it before the end of the year. Put paying dues on your list of things to do.

## *In Memorium*

# John Benjamin Casey, Sr.

John Benjamin Casey, Sr., of Denton, Texas, veteran radio engineer, was born October 9, 1909, in a log cabin in the Texas hill country near Barksdale, a place of bluffs and valleys and creeks good for fishin' that he always recalled warmly. He died peacefully at the age of 88 on November 7, 1997, survived by wife, Betty, sons J. Ben, Jr. of Aubrey, President of the Dallas Metropolitan YMCA, and Tom of Redmond, Washington, daughter, Rosanne Keller of St. Joseph, Minnesota, five grandchildren, Luke, Daniel, and Matthew Keller, David and Ann Casey, a brother, Mat Casey of Ballinger, Texas and two sisters, Barbara Lane of Abilene, Texas and Alva Williams of Edmond, Oklahoma.

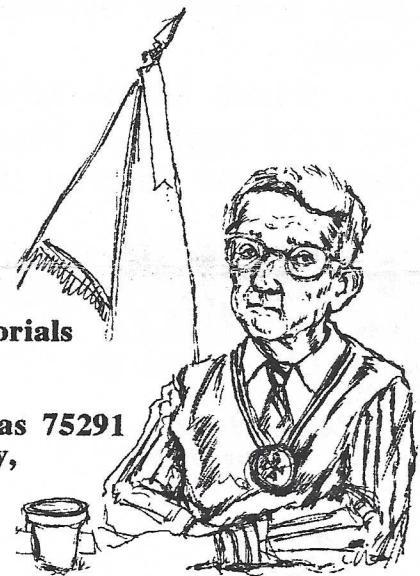
Having a formal education only through the seventh grade, John worked at odd jobs from grocery clerk to truck driving during the depression, supporting his mother, brother and sister. Then, although he had never seen a radio station and didn't own a radio, he signed up for a correspondence course in radio engineering and the "new" technology of television. He received his FCC License and became Chief Engineer at KBST in Big Springs, Texas in 1936, then Chief Engineer of KRBC in Abilene, Texas in 1941.

He married Betty Greer December 28, 1940. In 1952, he became a foreign service radio engineer for the government agency of Voice of America, advancing to an administrative position second from the top. Assignments included Manilla, Phillipines; Munich, Germany; Tangier, Morocco; Monrovia, Liberia; and Hue, Vietnam. On retirement in 1972, he received a certificate of service from the United States Information Agency for 19 & 1/2 years of patriotic service to the government of the United States of America. he did not slow down one step. He and Betty moved to Kerrville, Texas where John built, almost from scratch, a unique dream home with a panoramic view of the Guadalupe, River. As avid square dance enthusiasts the Caseys danced around the world.

In 1992, John and Betty moved to the Denton Good Samaritan Retirement Village. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Denton and The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Denton Chapter #23.

A memorial service was held at 2 P.M. on November 22, 1997 at the First United Methodist Church in Denton. The family has requested that memorials be made to the charity of choice or the John Casey Scholarship Fund (for trade school students) c/o Dallas Metropolitan YMCA, 601 N. Akard Street Dallas, Texas 75291

John Casey, a self-made man, did it with dignity, perserverance and integrity. He was a man who took advantage of opportunities at hand, however meager at the time, did jobs that needed doing without whining and to the best of his ability, and above all, accepted responsibility for the care of those he loved. He made the most of native intelligence despite lack of the opportunity for formal educational training. He was respected and loved by family and friends.



Betty Casey and Family

## Upcoming Events

December 4, 1997.... Monthly Meeting  
Good Samaritan

## SAR Membership Participation List

1. Submit articles for newsletter
2. Complete & submit the biography of your ancestor
3. Complete your supplementals

### TXSSAR CHAPTER #23

#### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**

**JAMES BAIRD**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**TOM CAIN**

**SECRETARY**

**GERALD BRENHOLTZ**

**TREASURER**

**WILLIAM P. VAUGHN**

**CHAPLAIN**

**LINWOOD J. ROBERSON**

**HISTORIAN**

**ADAM DAVIDSON**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**JIM JOHNSON**

## SPECIAL PROGRAM PLANNED FOR FEB. 98

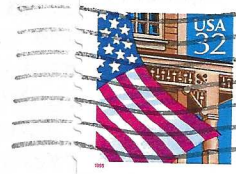
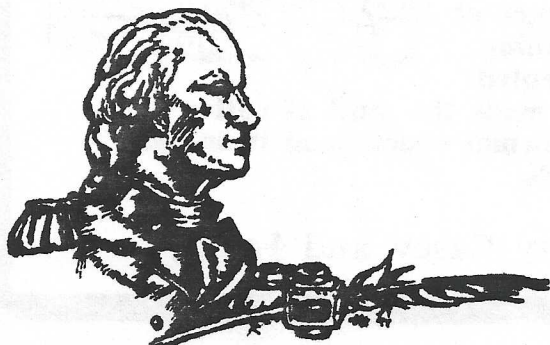
Denton Chapter #23 TXSSAR and the Benjamin Lyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will co-sponsor a special president's day event entitled "The Last Revolutionaries," a presentation by Sarah Grant Reid on February 22, 1998 at 2 P.M. in St. David's Episcopal Church in Denton.

The program is based on interviews with Revolutionary War pensioners who were still alive during the American Civil War. The original interviews were conducted by Elias Brewster Hillard and later compiled by Mrs. Reid's mother, Elinor Brewster Davenport Grant.

Sarah Grant Reid has performed many informational programs on such topics as Madame Tussaud, the Empress Josephine, Clara Barton, and Audrey Hepburn. Please put this event on your calendar.

## INK & QUILL

Denton Chapter No. 23  
TXSSAR Inc.  
P.O. Box 425812  
Denton, Texas 76204



James J. Johnson  
2004 Croydon Lane  
Denton, Texas 76201-1300