

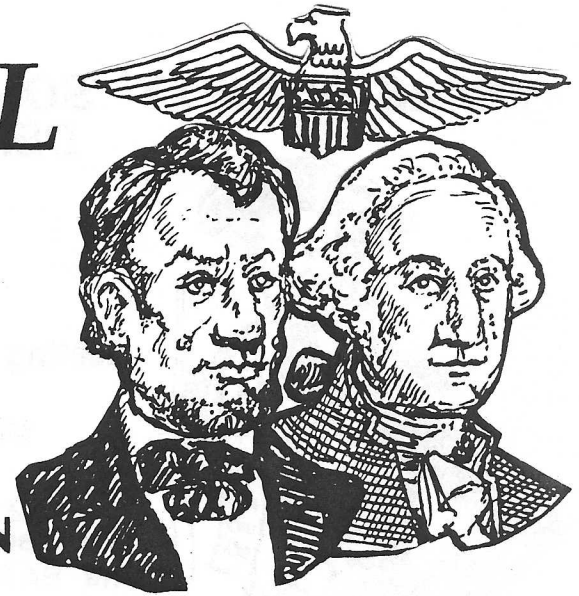
INK & QUILL

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

PATRIOTISM, AMERICAN HISTORY, & EDUCATION
ARE CORNERSTONES OF THE TXSSAR

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PRESIDENT'S DAY CELEBRATION

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. For more information see article below.

Last Survivors of the Revolution

(Continued from last month)

Almost forty years ago portions of the interviews, submitted by Rev. Hillard's grandson, the poet Archibald McLeish, were featured in *American Heritage* (April 1958 Volume IX, Number 3).

When Rev. Hillard reached the home of Rev. Daniel Waldo, he discovered that he was dying. In 1778 Daniel Waldo, age 16, enlisted in the service of the state of Conn. In March 1779 he was surprised by the Tories at Horseneck. One of them fired at Daniel, but the musket "flashed in the pan" (misfired). He was taken prisoner and upon his release by exchange, he returned to his home in Windham Conn.

William Hutchings enlisted in the coastal defense of what was then Mass. (now Maine) at age fifteen. In was involved in the fighting at the seige of Castine where he was taken prisoner by the British. He was promptly released because "it was a shame to take as a prisoner one so young."

Although all of the survivors were over one hundred years of age at the time of the Civil War, Lemeul Cook was the oldest at one hundred and five. He enlisted at age sixteen in 1775. To use Mr. Cook's own words, he "first smelt gunpowder" at a skirmish at Valentine's hill near West Chester, New York. He was at the Battle of Brandywine and at the surrender of Cornwallis.

We are indeed fortunate to have the opportunity to hear the presentation by Sarah Grant Reid. She will bring to life the first hand accounts of the Revolutionary War by men who were actually involved in the conflict. Attend the program on Feb. 22 and experience the Revolution through the eyes of Samuel Downing, Adam Link, Alexander Millner, Daniel Waldo, William Hutchings, and Lemuel Cook, *The Last Revolutionaries*.



NEXT MEETING: FEB. 22, 2 P.M. ST. DAVID'S

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DENTON CHAPTER #23



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

Minutes for the meeting of January 8, 1998

Meeting was called to order by President, James Baird, with the Pledge of allegiance to the flag and with the pledge to the SAR.

Treasurer Vaughn reported a balance of \$155.88 with 1998 dues not yet received from National. It was announced that an anonymous gift was given to the Good Samaritan Village Employees Fund in appreciation for their provision of our meeting place.

The next meeting is to be Sunday, February 22, 1998 at 2:30 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church on Ector Street as a joint meeting with members of the DAR. Families are invited to attend.

Jack Haughton commented on the state meeting in Kerrville, Regional Oration Contest, election of District Vice-president, and the National ROTC program with the top student selected to have a trip to Orlando.

Jim Johnson reported on ideas for the design of the Fourth of July parade float and of his Revolutionary War uniform developments.

Compatriot Jack Haughton presented the program, *Myths and Truths About the Minutemen*.

Members were invited to rotate coffee services and flag detail. It was also suggested that several members be prepared to present comments pertaining to their own patriot during the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned with the SAR closing at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

**Gerald Brenholtz
Secretary**

In Memorium

Richard Earl Fletcher

Editor's Note: Compatriot Richard Fletcher's funeral was held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Deberry Funeral Home in Denton. He was interred at Roselawn Cemetery wearing his SAR Membership Badge. The following eulogy was given at the funeral by Compatriot Jack Haughton:

Good afternoon, I am Jack Haughton, State Secretary for the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, a member of the Denton Chapter SAR, and Richard Fletcher was my friend, my very dear friend. I had the misfortune of only knowing Richard for just a few years, but during that time we worked very closely together and got to know each other very well.

I met Richard when I came back to Denton to recruit and organize a Chapter of the Texas Sons of the American Revolution. I spoke at a meeting of the Denton Geneological Society, and, after the meeting, Richard introduced himself to me. In his casual remarks he said that he wanted to join and get involved in the new chapter. Well that, of course, was music to my ears, but I didn't know the importance of that first meeting. This quiet, unassuming, soft spoken man was to be a source of energy to spark the new chapter.

For those of you who may not know who we are: the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a patriotic, historical, non-profit organization. Our charter is to promote patriotic awareness, stimulate factual historical education, and preserve our American heritage in the community. We are a fraternal organization and join with our sisters, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Children of the American Revolution in fostering true patriotism and support the

principles of the government founded by our forefathers.

Richard was, in fact, the first new member of the Denton Chapter and was elected to be the first president of the new organization. During one of our getting organized meetings, my wife, Maryanne, came with me, and she recognized Richard. You see Maryanne is a graduate of Texas Woman's University, and as did other students of her time, she visited the student union daily. Richard was the manager of the SUB during this time, and, to her great surprise, he recognized her; in fact he still remembered what she ordered for breakfast every morning. They resumed conversations that had been interrupted 25 years ago. They renewed their friendship. Now the reason I mention this is that this was a typical situation with Richard, for he never forgot a friend.

Richard became my friend. Richard did get involved in the new chapter, and he had fun doing it. He told me about midway through his two and a half year term that, before he got involved with SAR, his retirement was a dull existence. However, now he was doing something constructive and having fun doing it. He had a great deal of fun, setting goals for the organization, accomplishing them, and more often than not the members exceeded his goals. He frequently called me to discuss issues or just to tell me how happy he was that Bill Bell was chairing the Elementary School Poster Contest; that Tom Cain had done a marvelous job with the 4th of July float, winning 1st place; that James Johnson was doing a terrific job with the Chapter Newsletter, and so on. During Richard Fletcher's term in office, the Denton Chapter won:

1. Best New Chapter Award in the State of Texas.
2. Best Chapter Meeting Attendance Award.

(contd. on back panel)

Upcoming Events

February 22, 1998....President's Day
St David's (In
lieu of monthly
meeting)

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

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3. Best Chapter Newsletter Award
4. Numerous other recognitions, honorable mentions, 2nd and 3rd place awards.
5. But, best of all, was that this two year old chapter won the coveted Louis J. Rummagie Award for the Chapter in the State of Texas having the most outstanding and complete program of Americanism Activities.
6. Richard was personally recognized when he received the Meritorious Service Medal from the Texas Society for his work in the organization and development of a new chapter.

Richard Fletcher was a Patriotic American, and he was proud of it. He presented a paper at one of our meetings and told us about his ancestors. It was obvious that he had enjoyed doing his research, but he virtually glowed with pride as he spoke about his family and his heritage.

Even after Richard stepped down from the office of Chapter President, Richard stayed active with the

chapter. In fact, on the day of his passing, Richard had visited with four chapter members, discussing SAR business. This was not just going about the business of the chapter, Richard was visiting with his friends. For this was the reason for the success of the young chapter. This was what was behind the winning of awards and the doubling of the chapter membership. Richard was everyone's friend. Tom Cain called all our members to tell them of Richard's passing, and later he told me that each and everyone said that Richard made them feel like they were a very close friend. Richard died as he had lived, helping a friend.

Richard was a Patriotic American, a tenacious leader, but of most importance....our very dear friend. I would like all members of SAR that could join us today to stand. On your behalf, I'll say, "Good-bye Richard, good-bye dear friend."

INK & QUILL

Denton Chapter No. 23

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