

January, 2024



Ink & Quill

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.®



Next Meeting: 10am January 13, 2024

Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton

Chapter Officers

President—Jim Akers
Vice President—Brandon Story
Registrar & Genealogist—
Tom Richards
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry
Treasurer—Christopher Strauss
Chaplain—Bill Rowell
Past President—Mike Connelley
Sgt at Arms—Johnny Loomis
Color Guard — David Cook

Opportunities

1. **January 13 2024 Chapter Meeting**
2. **March 1 2024 Color Guard at Colonial Dames Regional Meet**
3. **April 11-14 2024 Texas State Annual Conference**
4. **September 5 2024 250th anniversary of 1st Continental Congress**

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Chapter President Jim Akers Message:

Gentlemen:

It seems like December was a short month for the Denton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. But maybe that was because we were involved in so many activities!

One of those activities was the annual Wreaths Across America marking of graves. Denton SAR members participated in placing wreaths on veteran graves in *at least* four different cemeteries. Each of these ceremonies are usually well-attended by not only SAR and Daughters of the American Revolution members, but by civic leaders, elected officials, and just patriotic Americans. In the case of the Flower Mound ceremonies, and I'm sure other ceremonies, it was also a chance for chapter members to get to know each other better.

As we begin the new year, please take a moment to renew your SAR dues, if you have not already done so. Your dues can be easily paid on-line by credit card or PayPal at www.texssar.org, and then clicking on the "Events" tab, and "online Dues/Donation Payments." Your single payment of \$72.00 for the year includes the Denton chapter dues, state dues, and national dues.

Continued on the next page..

Chapter President's Message, continued

The uses of dues are best described by our mission statement: We are a lineage-based organization that promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the history of the American Revolution. We do this through patriot research, support of youth activities such as the ROTC/JROTC awards, youth scholarships awarded primarily through the essay contests and oration contests, history teacher of the year recognition, civic and public servant recognitions and many other activities. In addition, the Patriot Research System (PRS) is available to you through the national website (www.sar.org), the quarterly SAR Magazine, and the SAR Library & Archives, including original 18th Century two-dimensional documents and artifacts.

At our next meeting, we will be proposing new chapter officers, who will take office in April 2024, for two-year terms. Please send me short note for your nominations for chapter officers, and please let me know if you have any interest in being nominated for one of the positions. Chapter officers, even more so than other chapter members have the opportunity to influence the views of the community about our American heritage, patriotism, and community service. The positions for which we will be seeking nominations are Chapter President, Vice President, Recording secretary, Secretary-Annual Reports, Treasurer, Registrar, Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain, and Webmaster/Newsletter Coordinator of Membership/Publicity. New chapter officers have an inter-locking support network to assist them in their new position, if they so desire. Not only are previous chapter officers always available, but state and nearby chapter mem-

bers who have held that position previously are also available for consultation.

Immediately following our January 13, 2024 meeting, we will hold a short (maybe half an hour) new member orientation. Mike Connelley will help new members (or everyone) log on to the Texas SAR private website, which is the source of a lot of Texas SAR information. This will also be an opportunity to have any questions members may have answered.

Speaking of upcoming events, it is not too soon to begin thinking about and acting on attending the Texas Sons of the American Revolution in San Antonio, April 11 to April 14. All members are welcome, and encouraged to attend. You do not have to hold a state or chapter position. This is an opportunity to see what other chapters around Texas are doing, and to meet other members from distant and nearby chapters that share our common interests. And, as I've commented before, San Antonio is always a nice city to visit, especially in April.

As a reminder, our next in-person meeting will be the second Saturday in January, **January 13, 2024, 10:00 am** at the **Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201**. The speaker is again scheduled to be retired UNT history professor and current president of the New Mexico Historical Society, Gus Seligmann. Dr. Seligmann is an informative speaker, with an entertaining style of delivery. We have scheduled Dr. Seligmann for two prior meetings, but his attendance was overcome by events. The third time is the charm. Please mark your calendar for this meeting, and remember that guests are always welcome.

Jim Akers, Chapter President

REMEMBER

HONOR

TEACH



WREATHS — *across* — AMERICA



Arlington National Cemetery

The Wreaths Across America organization was established in 2007 whose goal was to place Christmas wreaths on graves in military cemeteries. In December 2008, the U.S. Senate agreed to a resolution that designated December 13, 2008 as Wreaths Across America Day. The affect around the Country has been dramatic with each passing year. The effort began earlier.

In 1992, The Worchester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine had a surplus at the end of the Christmas holiday season. Recalling a trip to Arlington National Cemetery as a youth, Company founder, Morrill Worchester, donated 5000 wreaths to honor the cemetery's deceased. This was done with the help of volunteers and a local trucking company. After thirteen (13) years of similar donations, in 2005 a photo of snowy gravestones covered with the wreaths received widespread circulation on the Internet. Thousands of people called Worchester, wanting to replicate the wreath-laying service at their own nearby veteran cemeteries and as they say "the rest is history....."

In 2014, volunteers placed over 700,000 wreaths on 1000 locations in the USA and overseas, including Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center site. In 2016, this number increased to 1.2 million wreaths being placed at more than 1,230 cemeteries across the nation.

Both the Texas SAR Organization and the DAR Organization have been very active in this program for a number of years. With the revitalization of the Denton SAR chapter, we have begun adding our own "member power" to this program. Over the past couple of years, some of our chapter members have worked with local area DAR chapters, assisting them with their particular Wreaths Across America projects.

Continued on the next page.....

....Wreaths Across America, contined

This year myself (Mike Connelley), chapter president Jim Akers and his son (and Denton chapter member) Jeff Akers assisted the Flower Mound DAR chapter with their Wreaths project at Flower Mound Presbyterian Cemetery on Flower Mound Road.



Thsee two photos were taken at the event held at the Flower Mound Presbyterian Cemetery; it is supported by one of the local Flower Mound, Texas area DAR chapters. Jim Akers, his son Jeff and myself assisting with parking lot duty



Chapter vice-president Brandon Story and his family (left photo) work with the St. Martin de Porres Catholic school who support the Little Elm Cemetery on King Road. The above photo was taken this year at the event in Little Elm Cemetery.

Chapter secretary Mike Frye was supporting his wife's DAR chapter at another cemetery in Flower Mound, Texas. I am sure that more of our chapter members were also supporting other DAR chapters where their wives are members or other organizations around Denton, Texas as they placed the Christmas wreaths this year.

It is a great program that annually honors the lives of many, many deceased American military veterans who are buried in cemeteries from one end of the Country to the other.

This activity also is counted on the SAR annual report /STARK veterans report which is in the process of being completed by our chapter and by other chapters all around the Country. Be sure and let me know if you participated in any Wreaths Across America event whether it was with another SAR group, a DAR group, any veteran group and church or school in which you are associated. Maybe next year we can see more of our members involved with this very worthwhile event.

Contributed by Mike Connelley

Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard

The next scheduled event is March 1 at Grapevine TX for the Colonial Dames Regional Meet where we have been asked to post the colors. This is a big event for the Denton Chapter Color Guard and an honor to be invited. **All hands on deck.** The event will be at their banquet held in the evening. Members can participate individually or we can attend as a Color Guard unit representing the Denton SAR Chapter. New Color Guard members are welcome. Color guard members wanting to attend are to contact Color Guard Commander David Cook.



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It is significant to note that several events are designated as National Events which earns 20 points toward national and state Color Guard medals.

Date	Time-muster	Event	Location	Chapter /State /National
3/1/2024		Colonial Dames Regional Meet	Grapevine	S

**“We are the face of the Sons of the American Revolution at the national, state, and chapter levels. Accordingly, as we further the Patriotic, Historic, and Educational Goals of the SAR let us have fun, enjoy the comradely, and practice safety for yourself and others. Yours in Patriotism
K. Scott Collins National Society SAR Color Guard Commander”**

**David R. Cook
Denton Color Guard Commander
706-835-5910
davidcook1936@gmail.com**



America 250 Decade Of The American Revolution



The National SAR has created this **Decade of the American Revolution** calendar to list Revolutionary War signature events each year that will be the focus of the NSSAR main celebration. Every State Society and all State Chapters should download the programs for the year and celebrate with us in your local area.

December 16, 2023 Boston Tea Party

September 5, 2024 The First Continental Congress

2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord.

2026 Declaration of Independence

2027 Battle of Saratoga

**2028 French Alliance 2029 Siege of Vincennes/Fort Sackville
Battle of Kettle Creek**

2030 Battle of Kings Mountain

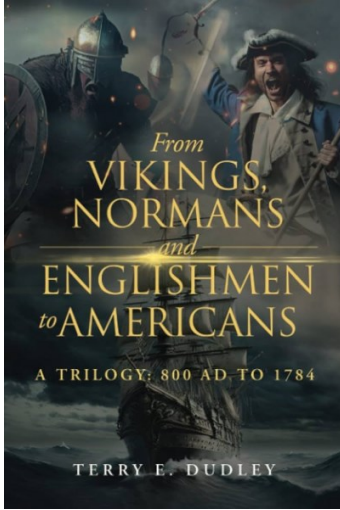
2031 Siege of Yorktown 2032 Battle of Blue Licks

2033 Treaty of Paris

Visit <https://america250sar.org/rd/> for details of each event.

From Vikings, Normans and Englishmen to Americans A Trilogy by Terry E Dudley

800 AD To 1784



Did you ever wonder how far back your family roots go?

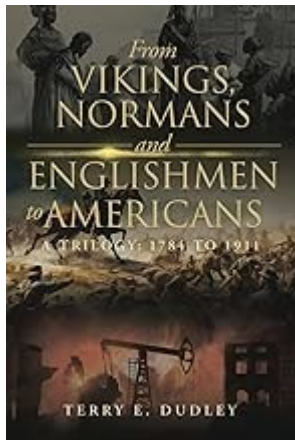
This is the question Terry had when he started his journey into studying his family history. Using interviews, family tales and genealogy he made progress but hit a brick wall. Through DNA testing he was able to uncover a fascinating story and decided to tell this through the lens of recorded history. His family takes part in the invasion of England, endures civic upheavals, fights in wars, flirts with royalty and attempts to seize the crown, experiences religious intolerance, relocates to the colonies, and fights for independence in the American Revolution.

In this book, you will learn:

- How British and American histories link together.
- Family history is more interesting if you know the events and context.
- Every family has hidden stories to uncover.
- How you can use genealogy, DNA and methods in this book to help you tell your own history.

Written as a way to honor the history that came before, this book aims to shed light on the history of his family and the steps they took to reach the present. Filled with exciting stories that were lived by real people, Terry hopes this pushes people to find their hidden history as well.

1784 To 1911



This is the second book in Terry Dudley's trilogy. As with the first book it is told through the lens of recorded history. The story begins with the family relocating from New England to North Carolina in the Antebellum South. In addition to their rural lifestyle they encounter the War of 1812, a "peculiar institution" better known as slavery, and a different class of people called Free People of Color. It doesn't take long for an affair to happen with these people. An unwanted son is born and is quickly abandoned. He inherits his mother's social status and they certainly do not have an easy life. When he matures he is told that he can take his original father's surname, but the correct identity of this person is kept secret. While toiling in the farm fields he befriends a fellow worker. He becomes his mentor and eventually his father-in-law. As life for Free People of Color in North Carolina becomes more and more difficult they decide to seek freedom in Ohio. The Civil War then erupts and unknown to the unwanted son is that his real family in North Carolina joins the Confederate cause. When the terrible conflict finally comes to an end his spouse passes leaving the family in turmoil.

A second spouse is then found but family arguments erupt. An oil boom in Ohio begins followed by the Spanish-American War. This book ends with the passing of the family patriarch and his descendants squabbling over their share of inheritance. As they marry local spouses and begin having their own families they reunite and many begin moving to other states. Unknown to anyone is that they are about to face World War I.

In this book, you will learn:

- How genealogy and DNA can help you find your ancestors
- Family history and how it is related to American history
- How historical events shaped the lives our ancestors
- That every family has their own, often hidden, story to tell

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SARmagazine>



Also see the Denton Chapter Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/409893430767486>



Editor's Note

The Chapter **website** is <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/>. On that site are the back copies of this newsletter, information about the Chapter, and links to the SAR State and National web sites.

All of these communication devices take time to maintain. If you would like to help and/or take over one of these, please let me know.

Bill Surles, wsmerch@gmail.com