

March, 2024



Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting: 10am April 6, 2024 NEW DATE

Emily Fowler Library in 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. **March 26, Welcome Home Green Valley Vietnam Veterans**
2. **April 6, Denton SAR meeting**
3. **April 11-14, Texas State Annual Conference**
4. **September 5, 250th anniversary of 1st Continental Congress**

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Chapter President Jim Akers Message:

Gentlemen:

FIRST, and foremost, please note that our next meeting has been moved to **APRIL 6, 2024** at our usual location, the Emily Fowler Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX. We made this one-time change in the date to accommodate the Texas Society's Annual Meeting in San Antonio on April 11 to April 14, 2024. Speaking of which, it is time for us to make those reservations! To do so, go to <https://txssar.org>, and click on "Events" at the top of the page, where the second item is "2024 Annual Conference...". This is your chance to see all the good programs that the SAR is involved in that meet our purposes of promoting patriotism, history, and education. All members are welcome, and encouraged to attend. You do not have to hold a state or chapter position, and as I have pointed out in past letters, San Antonio in April is always a good time. From personal experience, it is also an opportunity to meet many interesting and new friends, that just happen to be SAR members.

Bill Surles reminded me that on February 10, 2024 I was joined by Jim Hobdy and General George Washington (aka, David Cook) in presenting the SAR Martha Washington Medal to Emily Richardson at the Flower Mound meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Emily received this award for her sustained, expert advice and assistance over the past two years in assisting members and potential members of the Denton Chapter of the Denton *Continued on the next page..*

Chapter President's Message, continued

Chapter SAR with expert genealogical individual research, and instruction to the Denton Chapter in research techniques. Many of us will recall her presentation on the use of land records in genealogical research to our chapter in May of 2022. Over those past two years, Emily has had a direct role in recruiting, and assisting with researching the family lineage for *at least* ten members of the Denton Chapter of the SAR. See the picture of the presentation in the Color Guard section.

We have arranged for an especially good speaker for our next meeting on **APRIL 6, 2024**. Captain Arthur Avery, a currently serving US Army Officer will speak on the militias in the Revolutionary War, and their effectiveness in America's quest for independence. He is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, and in the fall of 2024 he will join the faculty at the United States Military Academy at West Point as an assistant professor in the history department. Captain Avery has an engaging and exciting manner, and his representation of the US military in general, and the US Army in particular is proof that the future defense of our nation is in good hands.

Also at our meeting on **APRIL 6, 2024** we will elect a new slate of chapter officers. SAR District Vice President and Denton Chapter member Tom Milson will swear in the new officers. The slate of new officers proposed by our Nominating Committee is attached in this month's newsletter for your review. Please note that as of this writing, we are still seeking a Chapter Vice President, and it is never too late to nominate someone for any of the positions. As I mentioned in the last Presidents Message, the Vice President position is a won-

derful opportunity to learn the intricacies of the Denton Chapter, and to see and implement opportunities for improvement.

The details have not been finalized, but we are also working with the Flower Mound Chapter of the DAR to arrange for the Mayor of Flower Mound to present a proclamation designating April 19th as Patriot's Day in Flower Mound. Many of you will recall that in 2023, Scott Smith arranged for the Mayor of Trophy Club to present a proclamation designating April 19th as Patriots Day in Trophy Club, and we were joined by members of the Flower Mound DAR Chapter when Denton County Judge Andy Eads designated April 19th as Patriots Day in Denton County. I will let you know when the Flower Mound presentation will occur so that you can plan on attending.

Also at our next meeting on **April 6, 2024**, we will be voting on the updated Chapter by-laws and Constitution. David Cook has prepared draft copies of these documents, so if you have not received them from Bill Surles, please contact David, or me directly. David has taken the reins on this project and done a phenomenal job at seeing it through to completion. Please take the time at our next meeting to thank David for his work on this project that needed to be done.

As a reminder, our next in-person meeting will be the first Saturday in April, **April 6, 2024, 10:00 am** at the Emily Fowler Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201. Please mark your calendar for this meeting, and remember that guests are always welcome.

Jim Akers, Chapter President

**Denton Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Nominating Committee Report**

Candidate Slate, voting at the April 6, 2024 meeting

Proposed 2024-2026 Chapter Officers:

President: Brandon Storey

Vice President: OPEN

Recording Secretary: Mike Frye

Secretary, Annual Reports: Mike Connelley

Treasurer: Chris Strauss

Assistant Treasurer: Bill Rowell

Registrar: Mike Lester

Sergeant At Arms: Billy Rousell, III

Webmaster/Newsletter: Bill Surles

Color Guard Commander: David Cook

The Sons of the American Revolution
What are we as an organization and how
do I make the most of my membership?

Edition Number Two

Youth Scholarship Programs

One of the primary roles of the SAR organization is to honor / recognize those individuals who have excelled in school, both academically and in other areas of academic programs. These youth are pursuing any and all ways they can to (1) enter a highly rated high academic institution and (2) obtain financial aid to enroll in these higher institutions. The SAR organization at the National, State and local chapter provide a way for these youth to fill this goal: the Youth Essay, Oration and Eagle Scout award programs. These programs award significant monetary awards that are anywhere from \$6000 at the National level to \$3500 at the State level; 2nd, 3rd, 4th place winners pay lesser amounts.

For some youth, the monetary award is a significant factor allowing them to attend. For others, it is the winning first, or second, in a youth scholarship program; makes the resume look better. Either way, we want to have a program that the young person can enter; and we do. It is important for the chapter to reach out to schools, DAR or CAR organizations to reach as many potential entrants in these recognition or academic award programs in addition to having the information on our Webpage.

In today's environment it is very difficult, sometimes even impossible, to get a particular school to publicize these scholarship programs. What the SAR organization sees is that many students will search for organization / chapter websites, searching for information on college scholarships.

Another source for entry in the youth contests are the children or grandchildren of chapter members, who are eligible to enter these programs as well. If any of our members have a family member that is a teacher; English, speech, orations, history, etc. Any of the students in these classes are eligible to enter these programs. Our goal is to inform as many eligible and interested youth as we can; seeking the best possible entrants.

In the early fall of each year, the chapter should be alert for and aggressively seek candidates to enter the various youth program. A couple of years ago, the Denton chapter had a young man who entered both the Essay Contest and the Oration Contest. He won first place at the State level on the Essay Contest and placed 4th during the Texas State Oration Contest. He then went on to win scholarship money in the National Knight Essay Contest.

Continued on next page...

....What We Are, continued

Maybe some young entrants will see the information on the chapter website, or the State Texas SAR website or will be the children, grandchildren of our chapter members. What is important for the chapter is recognize these youth who takes the initiative to enter the contest and reward those that come in first.

One form of recognition is a cash / college scholarship money to aid in their funding of a college degree. While the Denton chapter is small when compared to chapters in Houston, or Dallas or Fort Worth; we still want to award the youth winners with a cash / scholastic award. We do that by placing funds in a youth fund account.

The Denton chapter receives additional funding every time you pay for a donut at the monthly meeting, buy a monogramed shirt through the Denton chapter, or pick up one the history books we offer each month for a cash donation. This extra cash funding then goes into the chapter bank account which allows us to pay an honorarium to youth contest winners.

So, each month, pick up a donut, buy a history book, order a monogramed Denton SAR shirt, or purchase a Denton chapter challenge coin. The money goes toward a very worthy cause.

A quick addendum on challenge coins. You should have received the Winter 2023-2024 copy of the National SAR magazine. The cover concerns "The Boston Tea Party". In this magazine is an article on the history of the challenge coin; where they began, etc., etc. Take my advice from the above paragraph; buy a challenge coin at the next meeting (April); the money goes to financing youth program awards.

Oh; don't forget!! We must judge these entries we receive. In the fall, the chapter will be looking for volunteers to review / judge any entry we get in the Essay, Oration, 4-H award, etc., etc. at the chapter level. When we get the entries, I will be reaching out for members to judge / review our entries before sending on to the Texas State contests. A great way to begin your service within the Denton chapter and it is not "heavy lifting..."

Mike Connelley, past chapter president, Denton Chapter # 23
Cell number 817-994-1356 (call me / text me with any question)

Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard
Denton Chapter Color Guard posts the colors
for the Colonial Dames of Texas



The Chapter's Color Guard posted the colors on Friday evening, March 1 for the Colonial Dames annual state conference in Grapevine Texas. Compatriots Brandon Story, Mike Lester, and Color Guard Commander David Cook performed the ceremony to an audience of approximately 75 attendees. The hotels' U.S. flag, The Texas State flag, and the Colonial Dames flag were posted as requested. The event was the conference banquet held at the Hilton Hotel at Silver Lake. This was the Color Guards first event of the 2024 calendar year and was an honor to be invited for their annual state conference.



Presentation of the Martha Washington medal and certificate to Emily Richardson. From left to right, Jim Hobdy, David Cook, Emily, and Jim Akers

Denton Chapter Color Guard at the Colonial Dames Convention.

Join the Denton Chapter Color Guard



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.

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

“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**

Greetings Compatriots,

Three NEW PowerPoint presentations have been added to the America250.org website under the "Decade of the Revolution" section.

You can download them and the script to make your own presentations on the:

- Boston Tea Party
- The First Continental Congress
- Lexington & Concord

[Click Here to Download](#)



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.



***Welcome Home Ceremony
for the
Green Valley School Chapter Vietnam Veterans
of America***

Presented by the
Patriotic Committee of
Benjamin Lyon Chapter, DAR
Sylvia Hobdy, chair
Committee Members
Susanne Barnett, Teddie Ryan,
Sarah Mack and Sandra Robertson

*Tuesday, March 26, 2024
11:00 am
6900 FM 2153, Aubrey, TX 76227*

To honor Vietnam Veterans and Surviving
Spouses and
To help their chapter celebrate their chapter's
Birthday (there will be cake!)

PRESIDENTS DAY Historians say meaning is lost. Washington was famously low-key, but is he forgotten?



By BEN FINLEY
The Associated Press

Like the other Founding Fathers, George Washington was uneasy about the idea of publicly celebrating his life. He was the first leader of a new republic — not a tyrant.

And yet the nation will once again commemorate the first U.S. president on Monday, 292 years after he was born.

The meaning of Presidents Day has changed dramatically, from being mostly unremarkable and filled with work for Washington in the 1700s to the consumer-

ism bonanza it has become today. For some historians the holiday has lost all discernible meaning.

Historian Alexis Coe, author of **You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George of Washington**, said she thinks about Presidents Day in much the same way as the towering monument in D.C. that bears his name.

“It’s supposed to be about Washington, but can you really point to anything that looks or sounds like him?” she said. “Jefferson and Lincoln are presented as people with limbs and noses and words associated with their memorials. And he’s just a giant, granite point. He has been sanded down to have absolutely no identifiable features.”

Washington was born Feb. 22, 1732, on Popes Creek Plantation near the Potomac River in Virginia. Technically, though, he was born Feb. 11 under the ancient Julian calendar, which was still in use for the first 20 years of his life.

Either way, Washington paid little attention to his birthday according to Mountvernon.org, the website of the organization that manages his estate. Surviving records make no mention of observances at Mount Vernon, while his diary shows he was often hard at work.

Washington’s birthday was celebrated by his peers in government when he was president — mostly.

Congress voted during his first two terms to take a short commemorative break each year, with one exception, his last birthday in office, Coe said. By then Washington was less popular, partisanship was rampant and many members of his original Cabinet were gone, including Thomas Jefferson.

“One way to show their disdain for his Federalist policies was to keep working through his birthday,” Coe said.

Washington was very aware of his inaugural role as president and its distinction from the British crown. He didn’t want to be honored like a king, said Seth Bruggeman, a history professor at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Still, he said, a market for Washington memorabilia sprang up almost immediately after his death in 1799 at age 67, with people snapping up pottery and reproductions of etchings portraying him as a divine figure going off into heaven.

By the late 1960s, Washington’s Birthday was one of nine federal holidays that fell on specific dates on different days of the week, according to a 2004 article in the National Archives’ Prologue magazine.

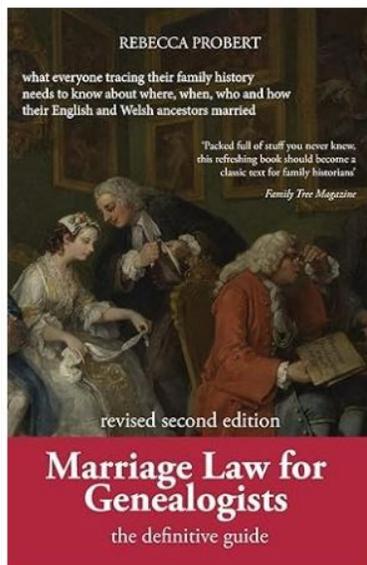
Congress voted to move some of those to Mondays, following concerns that were in part about absenteeism among government workers when a holiday fell midweek. But lawmakers also noted clear benefits to the economy, including boosts in retail sales and travel on three-day weekends.

Coe said by now the day is devoid of recognizable traditions.

“There’s no moment of reflection,” Coe said. ([See book review below](#))

New Books examine English and Welsh Laws on Marriage, Divorce, and more

Within every family tree there are inevitably happy, long-lived marriages. But there also are likely to be instances of marital breakups, desertions, divorces, and possibly multiple marriages. If your family tree grows in England or Wales two books authored by legal historian Rebecca Probert on the topics of marriage and marital dissolution may provide needed context to your ancestor's actions in days past.



Marriage Law for Genealogists: The Definitive Guide ...what everyone tracing their family history needs to know about where, when, who and how their English and Welsh ancestors married (Revised 2nd edition, 2016)

As a leading authority on the history of marriage laws and practice in England and Wales, Probert had been studying the context of marital breakdown, as well as remarriage and bereavement, for about 20 years.

She importantly begins *Marriage Law for Genealogists* with the answers to the question, "Why do genealogists need a guide to marriage laws?" Primarily, Probert's work dispelled the myth that many marriages were informal agreements or folk ceremonies; through years of studying marriage registers across England, she came to find that the overwhelming majority of couples married in the Church of England, rarely cohabited, and informal marriage were practically non-existent. She realized that this information would

be important to family historians and this book was born. The revised second edition includes new case studies and examples, including answers to queries raised by family history researchers.

The book is structured around a range of basic questions:

Whether and Why covers the possibility that a couple went through a valid ceremony

Who looks at who could marry, and whom they could and could not marry

How examines the formalities required for valid marriage as well as how Catholic and Protestant dissenters married

When examines minimum ages, parental consent, as well as the seasons, days, and hours when marriages could be celebrated

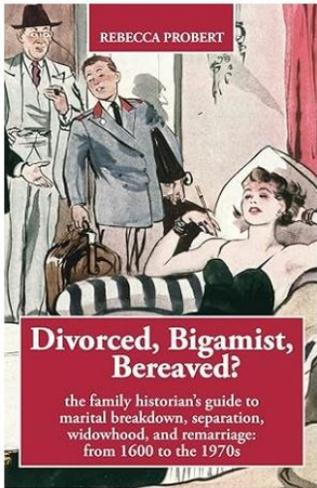
Where goes beyond the legal requirements, and offers guidance to the family historian on where they may need to look for their ancestor's marriage.

Probert also includes sections on key definitions of legal terms, how the law of marriage works, as well as common mistakes made when conducting marriage research.

In short, the book explains clearly and concisely why, how, when and where people in past centuries married. One reviewer states, "Ms. Probert presents her material in a way that even a non-academic and non-professional genealogist can understand it."

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Divorced, Bigamist, Bereaved? The family historian's guide to marital breakdown, separation, widowhood, and remarriage: from 1600 to the 1970s(2015)



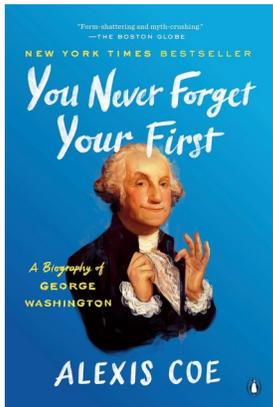
Spurred by the inquiries and examples of ancestral breakups sent by readers of her first book *Marriage Law for Genealogists* Probert began to investigate not only why marriages ended, but the various legal options available historically to couples and how such events were viewed by society at large.

The book's five sections detail major types of marital statuses. Divorced, Separated, Bigamist, Bereaved, and Remarriage to the Same Person. Within each section Probert introduces the various laws and processes defined by various eras.

For example, in the Bigamist section, she notes the laws pertaining to the time frames 1603-June 30th, 1828, and July 1st, 1828 through the present day. She then defines bigamy and who committed the crime, notes how a second bigamous marriage needed to be proved, explores why people committed bigamy, describes what second courtships and ceremonies looked like, and notes the risks a bigamist ran if caught or prosecuted. Other sections include similar examinations.

Whether read separately or together, Probert's books could offer valuable context to the historical marriages and divorces of English and Welsh ancestors. The books are available in the Special Collections area of the Emily Fowler Public Library for in-library study.

– Nancy Gilbride Casey
Denton Public Library Volunteer



You Never Forget Your First:

A Biography of George Washington by Alexis Coe

Young George Washington was raised by a struggling single mother, demanded military promotions, caused an international incident, and never backed down--even when his dysentery got so bad he had to ride with a cushion on his saddle. But after he married Martha, everything changed. Washington became the kind of man who named his dog Sweetlips and hated to leave home. He took up arms against the British only when there was no other way, though he lost more battles than he won.

After an unlikely victory in the Revolutionary War cast him as the nation's hero, he was desperate to retire, but the founders pressured him into the presidency--twice. When he retired years later, no one talked him out of it. He left the highest office heartbroken over the partisan nightmare his backstabbing cabinet had created.

Back on his plantation, the man who fought for liberty must confront his greatest hypocrisy--what to do with the men, women, and children he owns--before he succumbs to death.

With irresistible style and warm humor, *You Never Forget Your First* combines rigorous research and lively storytelling that will have readers--including those who thought presidential biographies were just for dads--inhaling every page. FROM AMAZON.COM

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