

**Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7**  
First Dixie Café, 2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013

**December 12, 2015**

**I. Call to Order**

President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately **9:05 a.m.**

**II. Invocation**

Chaplain **Bill Covington** led the invocation.

**III. Pledges**

The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The SAR pledge was led by **Kevin Jorrey**.

**IV. Guest Introductions**

There were **three** guests in attendance: **Don Peck** – SAR applicant, **Ned Myers** – SAR applicant, and **Gerald “Jerry” Bates** – SAR Chapter Flag Certificate recipient.

**V. Special Recognitions**

**A. Flag Certificate for Gerald Bates**

**John Anderson** presented **Gerald Bates** with a **Flag Certificate** for his impressive flag display and for following flag protocol.

**B. Chapter Distinguished Service Medal for Bill Covington**

**David Friels** presented **Bill Covington** with the **Chapter Distinguished Service Medal**. It was noted that Bill Covington provides a big service to the SAR and to the chapter. He has served as the chapter chaplain, sergeant-at-arms, and guest lecturer who has provided numerous informative programs. The award was given to him for his service and promotion of historical education. David Friels thanked Bill Covington for his service on behalf of the chapter.

**VII. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Month’s Meeting**

A motion was made to **approve the minutes** of the previous meeting by **Ron Carter**. This motion was seconded by **Dennis Walton**, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**VIII. Officer and Committee Reports**

**A. Treasurer’s Report**

**Ron Carter** presented the **Treasurer’s Report**:

1. From the previous meeting, \$120 was collected for grave markers.
2. Two checks were written on the chapter’s checking account. One check was written to John Anderson for reimbursement of money spent to purchase rosettes and medallions. A second check was written to the NSSAR to pay for a chapter advertisement which will appear in the next four issues of the SAR magazine. It was noted that chapter compatriot Dick Lee had contributed generously to pay for this advertisement.
3. The balance of the checking account was reported to those members in attendance.
4. Chapter dues collected at this time by the Texas SAR will be received by the Arlington chapter in spring 2016.

**B. State Activities Report**

**Ron Carter** presented the **State Activities Report**:

1. The goal for the Arlington chapter is to collect at least 100 posters.
2. It was noted that some of the Texas SAR chapters are targeting the brochure contest instead of the poster contest.
3. The CAR Essay Contest entries must be received by mid-January. A committee of three judges has been established for the judging and ranking of these essays. The CAR will offer scholarships for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place. To be eligible to compete for this scholarship, a CAR member must be at least a high school sophomore and been a member of CAR for two years. The deadline on this contest is January 15, 2016.
4. The East Forks of the Trinity River CAR is looking for someone to assume a senior leadership position. This group currently meets at Dalworthington Gardens and is led by Andrea Miller. It was noted that the East Forks CAR has excellent programs and that their website can be accessed through our chapter website.
5. Members are encouraged to attend at least a part of the upcoming State SAR meeting. At the banquet, **Ron Carter** will be receiving the Patriot Award, and he would appreciate seeing someone in the audience whom he recognizes. The state meeting will take place at the Hyatt in McKinney, Texas and will be hosted by the Plano SAR. This event will be an excellent opportunity for our chapter members to find out what is happening in the Texas SAR. Activities will take place from Friday until Sunday.
6. At the annual meeting, there will be student presentations at the State oration contest. Each district is eligible to send one candidate to the State meeting for a total of five candidates. **John Anderson** also noted that the **Region 3** winner has been invited to attend our March chapter meeting.

## C. Registrar's Report

**John Anderson** presented the **Registrar's Report**:

1. Mike Hutchins, his son, brother, uncle, and nephew (total 5) have been approved by National SAR. All are adult regular memberships. Their inductions could be as early as January 2016 if their packets are received by then. Only Mike lives in our area, and he states that February 2016 is probable for their induction, as some family members may travel here. If their travel to Arlington is not possible, then other arrangements will be made with their local chapters: Plano and Georgetown.
2. As of today's date and including the Hutchins family, our chapter has **40** active compatriots, including **6** junior chapter members.
3. Former chapter compatriot **Don Billings** has moved to Tennessee where he has retired.
4. 2016 Texas SAR dues are payable now. Please advise the chapter if there are any hardship issues.
5. Current applications in progress are:
  - a. **Corey Walker**, father, two sons, three grandsons, and two nephews (**9** total family members) have applications which have been approved by our Texas Inland Registrar and are now at the national level for their review.
  - b. Candidates **Joseph Connole** and **Ned Myers** have their applications in progress.
  - c. The addendums made to John Anderson's supplemental have been approved, but the SAR online listing has not yet been updated.

## D. Webmaster's Report

**John Anderson** presented the **Webmaster's Report**:

1. Our chapter homepage is at [www.txssar.org/Arlington](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington) or [www.texassar.org/Arlington](http://www.texassar.org/Arlington). Since inception in June 2011, we now have had 3,231+ total hits (accesses) to this website. Most of these are by our membership, but occasionally by candidates and other chapters.
2. Last month, all of the "Youth Awards" webpages were revised to improve formatting and add links to examples of past winning poster pictures, essays, videos, et cetera. Check them out and advise of your thoughts for possible revisions.
3. Please click on your Compatriot Profile at <http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/roster.php> and contact **John Anderson** if the profile needs revision or if you wish to be added to the "Speakers Bureau" at <http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/speakers.php>
4. Recent pictures are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2015.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2015.php)
5. Scrapbook videos are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/video2014scrapbook.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/video2014scrapbook.php). Also, included is the link to the "TX SAR and You" by Bob Cohen.
6. **John Anderson** thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
7. Once enrolled, the online **private** chapter **Dropbox** can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com>. Contact **John Anderson** if you need a new login or have access questions.

## E. Grave Marking Committee Report

**John Anderson** presented the **Grave Marking Committee Report**:

1. The Arlington chapter has two Texas Society SAR Past Presidents both buried in the Arlington Cemetery at 801 Mary Street. They are cousins and are:
  - a. **Benton Carter Collins**, 1893-1972, TX SAR President 1942, unmarked.
  - b. **Dr. Valin Ridge Woodward**, 1890-1969, TX SAR President 1938, currently marked.
2. Both descend through maternal lines to their common ancestor Patriot **William Terrell Lewis** of Surry Co, NC. He was active in the organization of troops in Hanover County, VA and the suppression of Tories in Surry County, VA.
3. The grave marking is now scheduled for Saturday **March 12, 2016 at 2:00 PM**. This date is the same as our 2016 inductions by Texas SAR President **Larry Stephens**. He has agreed to stay in Arlington for the day and take part in the Grave Marking ceremony. **John Anderson** has re-contacted the compatriot families and have advised them of the schedule.
4. Several chapter members stayed after last month's meeting and quickly decided that we would pay for the marker and expenses via member personal contributions. John Anderson thanked everyone who contributed. By his calculations, the chapter is within a few dollars of breaking even on this endeavor.
5. Suggested invitees to the grave marking include: the Collins & Woodward families, the Arlington Historical Association, the Arlington Genealogical Society, local city government officials, local DAR & SAR chapters, the local Boy Scout troops, the North Texas SAR Color Guard, and local ROTC groups. **Ron Carter** also added that those members who have a uniform or SAR clothing should wear this attire at the March 12<sup>th</sup> grave marking ceremony.

## F. Historian's Report

**Kevin Jorrey** presented the **Historian's Report**:

As noted previously, the chapter continues to work on the grave markings of the two past state society SAR presidents who are buried in Arlington, Texas: **Benton Carter Collins**, 1893-1972, TX SAR President 1942, and **Dr. Valin Ridge Woodward**, 1890-1969, TX SAR President 1938. At the end of the year, pictures will be collected and later taken to the Texas SAR archive at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. Additionally, **John Anderson** and **Kevin Jorrey** will be doing research using the SAR archival information at the UNT Special Collections Library.

## G. Eagle Scouts & Awards Report

**Roger Wehr** presented the **Eagle Scout and Awards Report**:

1. Local **Troop 68** will have at least two more **Eagle Scout** presentations in the months ahead. Certificates will be awarded pending the upcoming Eagle ceremonies.
2. Two new Eagle Scouts from Troop 68 – **Kristofor Pas** and **Jarod Peterson** - were presented with SAR Eagle Scout certificates.

3. Regarding the **SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship**, **Andrew Faletti** has been noted as a potential candidate. There are three merit badges which Andrew Faletti has earned which gives him greater consideration for this award by the SAR: American Heritage, Genealogy, and Law. Moreover, Andrew Faletti is an Eagle Scout with four Eagle palms and is a Vigil (highest honor) member of the elite Order of the Arrow.

## H. Nominating Committee Report

**Bob Wehr** presented the **Nominating Committee Report**:

1. The Nominating Committee will meet the week after Christmas. After this meeting is completed, those chapter members in attendance will conduct work regarding the Chapter's Annual Report.
2. **Bob Wehr** noted that **Bill Covington** has created a "great image for SAR." He also noted that **John Anderson** has been another "large contributor" to the organization.
3. **Bob Wehr** invited any chapter member who has any interest in serving as a chapter officer in any capacity to please contact the Nominating Committee.

## IX. Unfinished Business

### A. Kroger's Support of Non-Profit Organizations

**David Friels** discussed how the Kroger program operates. First, it is necessary for our chapter members to have a Kroger card. Second, the chapter member should go to the Kroger Service Center. Third, the chapter member should give his Kroger card number to the Kroger Service Center and designate our chapter as the intended non-profit organization. Finally, when money is spent at Kroger using the Kroger card, then a certain percentage of the money spent will be donated to our non-profit organization.

## X. Meeting Plans for the Future

The results of the Nominating Committee will be announced at the next meeting. In a future meeting, a member of the Pantego Department of Public Safety (either Fire or Police Department) will be recognized.

## XI. Guest Lecture

**James Gibson**, chapter compatriot and author of *A War Without Rifles*, presented a lecture on "The 1792 Militia Act & Privately Owned Arms." **Key topics** in his lecture included:

1. The purpose of the Militia Act of 1792 was to create a more uniform army with regard to weaponry. During the American Revolution, there was a lack of consistency in the types of arms used by the American militia.
2. Unfortunately, the secondary effect of the Militia Act was that strict enforcement of the Act with regard to the ratio of rifles to muskets would leave America vulnerable in future hostilities – most notably the War of 1812.
3. Based on the "caliber clause" of this Act, it is possible to calculate precisely the specifications of the weaponry using physics formulae. **James Gibson** has made the following calculation: **V= W/D = 0.13468**
4. In 1792, the required ratio of musket men to rifleman was fifteen to one.
5. If forces of 600,000 musket men are assumed, then the number of riflemen would have been 40,000.
6. Due to accuracy, the rifle was the preferred weapon of those Americans who lived on the frontier. Even among soldiers, it was understood that the rifle was superior to the musket in armed conflicts.
7. Andrew Jackson gave a speech which demonstrated a pragmatic approach to evading the limit on the number rifles used by the militia. He stated that "the Volunteers will arm and equip themselves."
8. At the onset of the War of 1812, there was a lack of rifles available which had nearly catastrophic consequences for the newly formed United States. At the federal level, there was one regiment of 900 riflemen, and at the state level, there were 70,800 rifles available.
9. "Mad" Anthony Wayne (1745-1796) was responsible for creating a legion system which had a ratio of one rifle battalion to two infantry battalions. (NOTE: Wayne earned the nickname "Mad" after his daring victory at the Battle of Stony Point in 1779.) This system was later discarded by Jim Wilkinson – a foolish decision.
10. Henry Dearborn argued in favor of bringing the rifle back to the American militia and lobbied on behalf of the creation of the first rifle regiment in 1808.
11. Unfortunately, during the Battle of Bladensburg –the battle which allowed the British to capture Washington, DC- the U.S. Army "riflemen" were actually carrying muskets. This example was just one of a series of unfortunate mistakes and disasters associated with this particular battle.

## XII. Meeting Adjournment, SAR Closing Admonition & Benediction

At approximately 10:41 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. **Kevin Jorrey** concluded the meeting with the SAR closing admonition, and Chaplain **Bill Covington** gave the benediction.

## XIII. Attendance Summary & Next Meeting Information

**Attendance for the November meeting** included **three** guests and **twelve** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, Richard Coffey, Bill Covington, David Friels, James Gibson, Mike Hutchins, Kevin Jorrey, Dennis Walton, Bob Wehr, Daniel Wehr, & Roger Wehr.

Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **January 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013.**

Roger Wehr  
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