



Edmund Terrill News

Edmund Terrill Chapter #34

January---February

2017

President – Dr. Wade Graves
Vice President – John Hunt, Sr.
Sec/Treasurer – William Woods

Registrar – T.L. Holden
Chaplin – Charles Hilbert
Newspaper Editor – Ted Wilson

FROM THE EDITOR: On Thanksgiving morning as I was approaching the Red River, I saw fog closing in around me. You could see it rising up out of the fields and going over the river the rising steam was more pronounced. I thought to myself what it must have been like two hundred years ago. Did they use this cover to move the equipment and men? Most likely! We know George Washington used the night to surround Boston.

As we prepare to go into 2017, let's not forget that our year begins in the middle of winter and many of us would like to set in front of a warm fire. But two hundred years ago the Continental Army was at Valley Forge with far less than we have today. Let's not forget any of our veterans. There are many that need our help, so let's give them what support we can.

An American's Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for this wonderful county,
Where I can live my life, both safe and free.
Each day, I count on brave men and women,
Who stand ready to sacrifice their lives for me.
Who could ask more than their determination
In defending all that America has come to be!
Thanks to those who give again, and yet again,
I enjoy a life in the world's greatest nation.
Care for those who will pay the price of war
Throughout their lives, Lord. The tragic scars
They bear portray the need for compassion
That I and all my countrymen must impart.

In Christ, Amen
Unknown Author

Dr. Wade Graves, President:

Compatriots

Happy New Year! We had quite a year in 2016 and I am looking forward to another great year in 2017!

Looking back at 2016, our chapter was quite active and I am proud to summarize some of our many accomplishments for you in this paragraph. We recognized 43 Eagle Scouts with a certificate, presented several recognition to members of the community, several flag certificates, and made a positive impact by providing personal hygiene products and magazines to the Veterans at the Bonham Veterans Administration facility. Many members contributed short biographical sketches of their Patriot Ancestors and these were forwarded to our National Headquarters. Additionally, our chapter members who are members of the Color Guard represented the SAR at several events throughout the year. As your President I was invited to speak at three community events and for one DAR Chapter during 2016. Furthermore, we presented two scholarships for the first time in at least 15 years to two very deserving young men to help them continue their education. Most importantly, we inducted new compatriots into our organization and have received several additional requests for information on how to join.

This year has started off with a bang! As I'm sure those in attendance will remember, we voted to fund the refurbishment and repair of the tombstones of Lawrence A. Washington and his wife Martha who are buried in Oakwood cemetery in Denison. He is the Grandnephew of George Washington. After our meeting, I went to the City of Denison and found some very helpful person who helped me navigate the path to make this occur. T.L. Holden and I met with the city approved monument man on January 6th. We caught him at a good time (he is all caught up on his projects) and he thinks we will be very pleased with the reconstruction. Once he is finished, and the weather warms up, we'll plan a ceremony with the SAR color guard and other (to be determined) to remind everyone of the historical significance of this grave site. I will update everyone on additional details at our meeting this month.

Here is a quick update on our Eagle Scout recognition initiative we approved at the November meeting. The purchase of the beautiful Eagle statues has occurred and we will present them to the Eagle Scouts of the Texoma Valley District (Grayson County, Texas and Bryan County, Oklahoma) on Saturday January 14th. Thanks to Vice President John Hunt for leading this effort to recognize these deserving young men!

Finally, I would also like to take a moment to welcome the members of the McKinney Chapter who will be joining us this year. The chapter has really grown in area covered this year – we now have members from the northern half of Collin County in addition to our members in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties in Texas and Byran County, Oklahoma.

I am looking forward to a great year in 2017 and hope to see everyone at our meeting on January 18th!

John Hunt, Sr., Vice-President

John reports that the chapter has purchased seventy-five (75) Eagle Statues. These statues are approx. six inches tall and will be given to new Eagle Scouts along with the certificates presented by the Sons of the American Revolution. Their awards banquet will be January 17, 2017; where the new Eagle Scouts will be named and honored.

DAR/SAR COORDINATOR:

On November 17th, the Martha Jefferson Randolph Chapter, DAR, invited members of the Edmund Terrill Chapter, SAR to their meeting. It was a continuing observation of the anniversary of Vietnam. Their program would be "A Touch of Home: Red Cross Girls in Vietnam," presented by Joyce Denke and Eileen O'Neil. They told about how they were chosen as young college age women. There were to be 27 units with four or five women per unit. They told a story of fun, grief, the unexpected, and raising the moral of the troops. They became known as the "Donut Dollies" riding on jeeps handing out donuts and drinks to the troops; and putting on shows from Cam Ranh Bay to Da Nang. Even though they were given everything they needed along the way they found they needed to improvise—so they did. The DAR also presented Don Grammer the Congressional Vietnam Veterans pin. SAR members to attend were Dr. Wade Grave, T. L. Holden and Ted Wilson.



Eileen O'Neil & Joyce Denke



Don Grammer

The Martha Jefferson Randolph Chapter, DAR will be having it's 90th Anniversary in December with a "Period Style Show" and members of the Edmund Terrill Chapter, SAR have been asked to participate in period uniforms. They included Bill and Laura Watts (Ben and Debra Franklin), Don Babbs, T. L. Holden (Capt. James Ewing of 1812), and Ted Wilson (Aaron Adams). Ten of the DAR members wore clothing styles from 1755 to 1940. Each participant had submitted a short story about whom they presented in the show. A great time was had by all who attended.



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES:

Eagle Scout—Color Guard members T.L. Holden, Alan Johnson, Don Babbs, and Ted Wilson attended Eagle Scout Court for Jason Woodrum grandson of Don in Prosper, Texas on November 6th.



Regional Veterans Day Observance in Bonham, Texas: Color Guard members John Greer, Bob Crabbs, T. L. Holden, Bill Watts, Don Sielert, Larry Melton, and Ted Wilson handed out flags and programs on November 10th. We were joined by the Oklahoma Patriot Guard riders from Durant, OK.



Naturalization Ceremony: On December 2nd the Color Guard posted and retrieved the colors in Irving, Texas. Those attending were Bill Watts, T. L. Holden, Alan Johnson, Dan Reed, Jerry Cope, Larry Melton, and Ted Wilson. Our new citizens took many pictures.



November 11th: VFW Veterans Event in Fairview Park in Sherman was attended by T. L. Holden and Ted Wilson. A wreath was placed in memory of those who did not return from our many Wars by the Women's Auxiliary. A lunch was served to all veterans. On November 12th a Veterans Day Parade was held in Denison, Texas and attended by T. L. Holden.



Veterans Services: On December 9th various support groups for veterans in North Texas met at the VA in Bonham, Texas to prepare Christmas packages for veterans. The SAR was represented by T. L. Holden, Jack Hughes, John Greer, Dr. Wendell E. Edwards, Don Sielert, and Ted Wilson. We packaged cookies and candy canes. Around two hundred veterans came through gathering various items and approx. another 70 bags were prepared for those unable to come.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: It continues to grow in the North Texas area with various Chapters of the SAR and DAR participating in the purchase of wreaths on line at “Wreaths Across America” webpage. Generally for every two purchased one free one is given. Many members of both organizations help place the wreaths. CedarLawn Memorial park in Sherman/Denison had approx. two hundred fifty wreaths to place this year. Ted Wilson attended and also handed out 4x6 inch flags to those who attended. The Plano Chapter had approx. 150 wreaths to place on graves in the DFW National Cemetery. Color Guard to attend included Dan Reed, Larry Melton, Don Sielert, Jerry Cope, and T. L. Holden, and two other Plano chapter members. Also, the East Fork Trinity Chapter SAR joined forces with the Rockwell DAR and placed approx. 625 wreaths in Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Rockwell, Texas. I am certain there were other Chapters of the SAR and DAR who participated that I do not know about. This is a good way to remember our veterans this time of the year. May we continue to support it.



LOSS of a PATRIOT: We are saddened to report the loss of a charter member of the Edmund Terrill Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Delbert L. Taylor (1930-2016) was a very active member for the past 30 years. He served at the chapter level in the positions of President, Register, and Veterans Affairs chairman. At the state level he served on the Veterans Affairs Committee and was a member of the Board of managers. He was recognized by the Texas Society with numerous awards for work on behalf of the SAR. He will be missed.

SHERMAN LIBRARY: Any one who has been to the Sherman Library has discovered the Genealogy has been moved into the same room with the internet users. It is a little crowded and I've been told all the books are there. If you don't find what you are looking for—just ask. This is temporary. The library is doing an expansion on the South side of the building. Unknown how long it will take.

The library also put some older genealogy books on a table in the lobby for anyone to take. I picked up books on Connecticut, New York, Virginia, and some other states. Some of the information is difficult to come by. Parts of it tell you where the original documents can be found. I will be glad to help in your research.

I've only looked at some of the books but they cover many areas. The Virginia books were published from 1900 to 1920 and contain a lot of information on the Revolutionary War. I will try to present some of this in future newsletters.

Edmund Terrill Chapter Yearbook

In November, I began making a list of the Edmund Terrill Chapter activities for 2016. This was a random list that needed structure. What did the chapter actually do? A lot! Everything that I has was put into the book. Other information was provided or obtained from other sources and members. Now that it is completed, I hope that you take the time to review 2016 at our next meeting. If you did something in 2016 involving the SAR and did not get it to me; I'm sorry I missed it. I am sure there is more personal and chapter activity that needed to be included. So in 2017, if you do something get it to me. So in 2017, we begin the New Year with the induction of new Eagle Scouts and a SAR member.

New Member Applications

Prospective Member Ray Hargis application was approved and registered at National on 30 Nov 2016. Ray's Patriot is John Cogburn. Awaiting Induction.

We also have six other prospective members who are getting their paper work in order.

Schedule of Upcoming Events

On January 19th the Color Guard will present a Flag Program at the Texas Federation of Women's Club Fidelis Inter Se meeting at 2:00 pm at Bethal Baptist Church, 8382 Country Road 128, Celina, TX.

On February 18th, George Washington Birthday Parade in Laredo, TX.

March 2nd thur 4th is the Spring Leadership/Trustee Meeting in Louisville, KY.

March 30th thur April 2nd, is the 123rd Annual Texas Convention at El Tropicana Hotel in San Antonio, TX.

Meeting Notice:

Mike Radcliff, Texas SAR President, will be our speaker. Part of his address to the 121st Convention was that "The Heart of any organization is membership and attention must be paid to members renewal and retention. Some strategies we can use to improve member retention is communications. It is very important especially to new members as it shows what is happening and what we are accomplishing all year long. We need to begin to publish an on line newsletter to the membership to say 'here is what we are doing.'" We look forward to hearing his message.

The next meeting of the Edmund Terrill Chapter SAR will be Wednesday, January 18th, 2017, at the **Denison County Club**, Denison, TX. At 11:30 we will meet for a Dutch-treat lunch and the meeting will be called to order at 12:00.

Directions: Take Hwy 75 North thur Denison to just past the railroad overpass (Exit 70), go left on FM 84. The Country Club will be on the left about 1.5 miles. Please make a special effort to attend and bring your wives, guests and prospective members, they are always welcomed.



This is the current conditions of the tombstones marking the graves of Lawrence A. and Martha Washington in the Oakwood Cemetery in Denison.

2017

Restoration of the tombstones will be a priority for the chapter.

We begin the New Year with the induction of new Eagle Scouts on January 14