

July, 2021



Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting DATE: July 10, 2021 TIME: 10:00 AM

**Location: Trinity Presbyterian Church
(see txssar.org/Denton/ for directions)**

President's Message

Hopefully, everyone was able to attend a Memorial Day service somewhere on May 31st. My wife and I, along with prospective chapter member Bobby Samuels, attended the one at Robson Ranch. Rain caused the service to be held indoors but still had a good crowd and program.

As you are aware, we have been approved to hold our July meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 N.

Bell Avenue, Denton (a block or two north of the intersection with University Drive (hiway 380) in Denton). We will have at least one new member to induct that day. The new member is Scott A. Smith who resides in Roanoke, Texas.

Be sure and have some cash money on you at this meeting. One thing we will do is take up a cash collection to give to the Presbyterian Church for allowing us to utilize the facilities. The second thing requiring some cash on your part is the discussion below on starting your Revolutionary War uniform.

Our speaker that day will be **Jeff Bryan Lilley, the winner of our high school Essay Contest this past year.** He appeared on one of our ZOOM meetings but the suggestion was made that he be invited to our "in-person" meeting to read his winning Essay. Lilley is a Denton County resident and is a junior attending Coram Deo Academy in Flower Mound, Texas.

We will also have a guest speaker from the K M Van Zandt chapter in Fort Worth who will discuss the Texas SAR color guard and how you can become a member.

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President's Message, continued

Bobby Gresham is the color guard commander with the Van Zandt chapter and is very active in State color guard events. He will talk about Revolutionary War flags and how a member can join the state color guard.

In connection with this, the chapter will be auctioning off two donated colonial era shirts that can be the beginning part of your Revolutionary War uniform. The color guard is the most visible, widely recognized part of the SAR Organization and I hope to see strong participation from the Denton chapter in the not to distant future.

Also, don't forget to create your Patriot ancestor's story about what he did and where he served in the Revolutionary War. I know that several members have created a writeup on your Patriot ancestor, including one of my own. We want to put these in future copies of the chapter newsletter BUT you have to create the one on your Patriot. This shouldn't take much work; a paragraph or two about where he enlisted and where he served and / or which battles was he involved with. Include a photo of the grave headstone, if you have one. I think we will see our ancestor spread out all over the various colonies fighting this war; many of them probably were in the same battles. Once you have this done, send it to chapter member Bill Surles who will then put them in future editions of the newsletter.

Another award program the chapter is starting is the Public Service Award program of the SAR organization. It is designed to recognize exceptional representatives from the Fire Department, Sheriff's office or police department along with emergency medical personnel. We have been in touch with the Sheriff's office and the Denton Police Department and have asked them to nominate an outstanding representative of their respective agencies for our chapter to recognize in the near future. Once this is received, we will make the presentation.

Make plans to attend a July 4th celebration somewhere in your geographical location. See you at the July 10th chapter meeting.

Chapter President: Mike Connelley

New Member Spotlight—Bill Surles



I have been a proud member of the Sons of the American Revolution since 1997. I joined the Piedmont chapter in Georgia with my cousin Ed Hereford, a descendant of Patriot John Hereford I and his son, Patriot John Hereford II. In 2001 I transferred to the Ozark Mountain chapter in Springfield, Missouri. In Missouri, I was the state newsletter editor. I initially joined the Denton chapter in 2005, but was inactive until recently.

I was born in Dallas, and graduated from Richardson High School and North Texas State University (now UNT). I met my wife at UNT, and we have been married for 55 years. We have two boys, one works for Southwest Airlines, the other was in the U.S. Army for 33 years, and has recently retired as a Sergeant Major with over 20 years in the Special Forces.

After graduating from UNT I joined IBM and worked on the Apollo Space and Safeguard Antiballistic Missile projects. I joined Ross Perot's Electronic Data System in 1969, and retired after 30 years. I have lived all over the U.S. and overseas, including Iran, England, The Netherlands, Korea and Venezuela.



My Revolutionary War Patriot is John Hereford I. He supported the war with supplies and money, and his son John Hereford II was a distinguished officer. John I is buried in Leesburg, Virginia.



Patriot Hereford had three sons. John Hereford II was quite famous for his participation in the war. His brother Robert, my direct relative, was less excited about supporting the Revolution. After the war, Robert and John II moved to West Virginia and are buried there.

John Hereford II, who was of Revolutionary fame, held the rank of Adjutant Major under General Lafayette at the siege of Yorktown. Few men ever enjoyed higher reputation for sterling honesty and veracity. In his nature, brave, generous, and magnanimous he commanded respect and won esteem wherever he went. Without an enemy in the world he lived; admired and regretted by all he died in the 89th year of his age. He visited with General Lafayette when the General toured the U.S. in 1825.

Born in Fairfax County, Virginia USA on 03 Feb 1758 to John Hereford I and Margaret Ammon. Captain John Hereford married Sarah Anne Mauzey and had 15 children. He passed away on 13 May 1846 in Mercers Bottom, Mason, West Virginia, USA.

His boyhood home was on the paternal estate of his great-grandfather on the Potomac River, who settled there after coming from Wales. Before he was sixteen years old, Hereford in 1774 was enrolled in a company in Leesburg that was being drilled in expectation of the coming war with England. In 1777, John enlisted as a sergeant in the Second Virginia Regiment under Lieutenant Gill, and marched under Marquis Calmus or Colms to Philadelphia where he was attached to Captain John Peyton Morrison's Company, and was in the Battle of Monmouth. In 1778-79, he enlisted for the war, obtained a substitute and received a discharge from Colonel Christian Febiger. He was then appointed commissary at Leesburg. When Cornwallis invaded Virginia, Hereford was adjutant of Colonel John Alexander's Regiment under Lafayette, and finally drove Cornwallis to Yorktown where he was captured. He continued as adjutant of Colonel Charles Dabney's Regiment and of Colonel West's Regiment under General Weedon.

John Hereford lived next door to Robert Hereford, Robert being in my ancestral line and the son of Patriot John Hereford I. John was a Federalist, smoke and drank, and was a Baptist. Robert was a Democrat, did not smoke or drink, and was a Methodist. The brothers enjoyed each others company, and their arguments, sitting on the porch in their rocking chairs.

Mercers Bottom is named for the celebrated Revolutionary War General Hugh Mercer (1726–1777) who (posthumously) received a large land grant here for his services. The 16,000 acre tract was surveyed by order of George Washington for the General's heirs.

Source: <https://seletyn.com/>, Thoughts and Ponderances



The Death of General Mercer at the Battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777 by John Trumbull. George Washington is the figure on the horse.

Hugh Mercer (16 January 1726 – 12 January 1777) was a Scottish soldier and physician. He initially served with the Jacobite forces of Bonnie Prince Charlie, and with the British forces during the Seven Years' War, but later became a brigadier general in the Continental Army and a close friend to George Washington. Mercer died as a result of his wounds received at the Battle of Princeton and became a fallen hero as well as a rallying symbol of the American Revolution.

Fun Note: In the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, **General Mercer** is referenced by Aaron Burr in the song "The Room Where It Happens": "Did ya hear the news about good old General Mercer? You know Clermont Street? They renamed it after him. The Mercer legacy is secure."

An example of investigating Revolutionary War ancestors

Searching for Robert

In October, 2000, my wife and I made our way down to the south-west corner of West Virginia to search for the home and grave of Robert M. Hereford, my gggg-grandfather (son of Patriot John Hereford I). We had some basic information from a description of Robert's home written by Mr. Joseph Miller in the book "The Descendants of Capt. Thomas Carter". The book indicates that Robert purchased a thousand acres of farmland in 1805 in the lower end of the Mercer grant on the Ohio River. Finding Mercer's Bottom in the 2000 edition of Microsoft Streets and Trips, we had a place to start.

It appeared the most direct route from our starting point was Highway 13 north from Milton, WV, so we took exit 28 off of I-64. Although we never saw a sign for Highway 13, the only road going north out of Milton indicated it went to Mt. Olive, which appeared to be the correct direction. We soon arrived at the intersection of Highway 41 and Highway 2, on the Ohio River just south of Ashton, WV.

Surprise, surprise, there were no signs pointing to Mercer's Bottom. The cashier at the small gas station had never heard of Mercer's Bottom or Hereford, but suggested we try the post office. The Postmaster at the Glenwood Post Office evidently had a secret map—he wouldn't let me see it but said the Hereford's were on Jerry's Run Road. We found nothing on that road, but we noticed a new subdivision called Mercer's Bottom. The Postmistress at the Ashton Post Office said that there was a road named Hereford just past Jerry's Run Road, although she had no idea how it got its name. She also mentioned the genealogy section of the Point Pleasant library might have some information.

We traveled down Hereford road about a hundred yards after it turned to dirt/mud. We could hear construction equipment over the hill, but decided not to attempt the mud. We turned around, and got back to the paved road. A man was unloading a tractor from a trailer. He was very helpful, indicating two old ladies, Toots and Mabeleen, had lived in the Hereford house on top of the hill, but when they passed the house was torn down. There was a cemetery near the house, and we were able to access it from another road. There were a number of Hereford's buried there, but we were unable to find Robert's among the weeds and broken headstones.

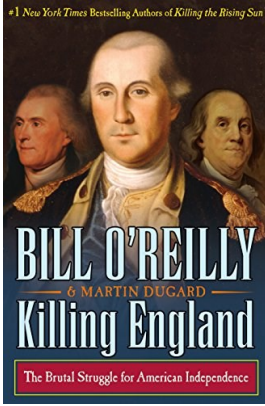
We did visit the Point Pleasant Library. Point Pleasant is at the intersection of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers. George Washington owned land there. The first battle of the American Revolution was fought here on October 10, 1774. Colonel Andrew Lewis' 1,100 Virginia militiamen decisively defeated a like number of Indian forces lead by the Shawnee Chieftain Comstalk. The defeat prevented an Indian alliance with the British.



Chieftain Comstalk and Andrew Lewis

The Point Pleasant genealogy library was very helpful. There were many references to Robert and John II Hereford and their descendants. The Hereford family is very well documented. My Hereford ancestors arrived in Texas from Louisiana in the 1880's. Hereford's still live in the Herefordshire Manor in England, and have hosted a family reunion.

Book Review



The Revolutionary War as never told before.

This breathtaking installment in Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard's mega-bestselling Killing series transports readers to the most important era in our nation's history: the Revolutionary War. Told through the eyes of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Great Britain's King George III, *Killing England* chronicles the path to independence in gripping detail, taking the reader from the battlefields of America to the royal courts of Europe.

What started as protest and unrest in the colonies soon escalated to a world war with devastating casualties. O'Reilly and Dugard recreate the war's landmark battles, including Bunker Hill, Long Island, Saratoga, and Yorktown, revealing the savagery of hand-to-hand combat and the often brutal conditions under which these brave American soldiers lived and fought. Also here is the reckless treachery of Benedict Arnold and the daring guerrilla tactics of the "Swamp Fox" Frances Marion.

A must read, *Killing England* reminds one and all how the course of history can be changed through the courage and determination of those intent on doing the impossible.

Review on [Amazon.com](#)

Editor's Message

This month, in the absence of input from other members, this issue is all about **ME**. My introduction, information about my Patriot John Hereford, and my search for my ancestors, the sons of Patriot John Hereford.

You'll hear from me at the July meeting, signing you up for your participation in the SAR Denton newsletter. Be prepared.

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