

September, 2021



Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting DATE: Saturday, October 9, 2021 TIME: 10:00 AM
Location: TBD (Note, date and location are being determined)

President's Message

With September in our sights, we can start to kiss the hot summer goodbye. Hopefully COVID will stay manageable over the coming fall and winter months and allow us to make a return to normal. My wife and I have had both shots (Moderno brand) and are scheduled to get the booster shot from CVS in September. She and I are both are at the age where we don't need any more health issues to worry about. It was not complicated at all to register for the shot- go to the website, link to the COVID shots banner and fill out the questionnaire. Simple as "1-2-3".

The Texas SAR organization has just concluded hosting the annual meeting of the South-Central District (SCD) over the weekend of August 27-28, 2021 in Plano, Texas. Myself and chapter registrar Jim Akers attended the event to see what is going on at the multi-state and National level of the SAR organization. The event goes by the acronym "MOKAT". Any guesses what that stands for? Good guess: Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas: these are the State SAR organizations that make up the SCD.

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President's Message, continued

What is interesting is to see the impact/influence the Texas organization has within SAR. In sheer numbers alone, the Texas organization is larger in members and active chapters than all the other SCD member states added together. Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas have a combined total membership of 2307 while Texas, alone, has 3102 SAR members.

The attendees met with a number of SAR candidates for National SAR offices who explained their goals and objectives for the organization. Texas SAR will eventually put out a list of the recommended candidates for various national office.



Jim Akers, chapter registrar, photographed with T L Holden, a long time Texas SAR member and experienced registrar and genealogist. The photo was taken at the SAR South Central District meeting which was held in Plano over the weekend of August 27-28, 2021.



The members of the Texas SAR color guard practicing before conducting the posting of the colors ceremony at the annual meeting of the South Central District of the SAR organization. The district is composed of chapters from the states of Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas.

T L probably helped many of you in the Denton chapter with getting your membership paper work completed. He has been a "wise adviser" to many in the Denton chapter since we set our path toward becoming a growing and active chapter.

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President's Message, continued

The second weekend of October, the Texas SAR organization will hold its annual Board of Managers meeting in the Houston, Texas area. It is recommended that chapter officers make every effort to attend this event; a good way to learn about the various public service programs, ROTC / JROTC programs and scholarships for Texas youth. Check the Texas SAR website for details. I plan to attend this meeting and will report back to the chapter what occurred.

There is one problem for us with the Texas BOM (Board of Managers) occurring that 2nd weekend in October. That is when we have our chapter meeting. The current plan being studied by the chapter officers is moving our October meeting to the 3rd Saturday if (and that can be a BIG IF) we can find a suitable location. Trinity Presbyterian Church, where we met this last time, has already proactively cancelled their "in person / face to face church services" for the at least the next five weeks and cannot host our October meeting.

Right now, we are trying to come up with an acceptable, alternate location for the October meeting. Another option we have is to do a virtual "ZOOM" meeting for our October 2021 chapter meeting. Stay tuned as we try to get this worked out.

Also, on October 1st we will be awarding the Denton Police Department Law Enforcement Officer of the year award. This is a new public service program for our chapter and we hope to continue this on an annual basis for many years to come. I was hoping that many of our members could be invited to this program but because of COVID restrictions on gatherings, the Denton PD drastically limited attendance this year. We just can't get a break.

Chapter President: Mike Connelley

Scott Smith - Patriot & Bio

My American Patriot is Conrad Seiple. He was born November 25th 1747 in Rheindurkheim Germany and immigrated with his family to Philadelphia in 1749.

He married Maria Scheib in 1772 and had 12 children. They settled in Easton to farm which is in the eastern part of Pennsylvania near the New Jersey border.

He received a commission as 1st Lieutenant , 2nd Company 1st Battalion of the Philadelphia County Militia in May of 1777 serving until 1780. He participated in the battle of Brandywine and Germantown to defend the city of Philadelphia from British occupation. He also was instrumental in removing and hiding the Liberty Bell from the British who wanted to capture and melt it down. It was taken through the backwoods of Pennsylvania and hidden in Allentown until it could be moved back to Philadelphia.

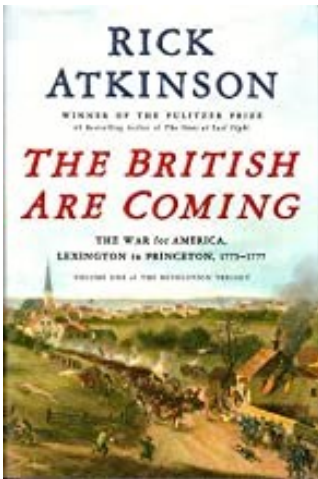
There is a plaque on the grounds of the Easton Public Library commemorating his service and the Seiple Family's arrival to America. This was originally the site of his and his wife's burial. Conrad died in 1813 at the age of 66, hopefully unscathed from his service in the war.



I am also in the process of researching 8 of my other Patriot ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War, 2 in the Continental Army and 6 in the Pennsylvania Militia. They were present at the battles of Valcour Island Canada, Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth and Springfield.

I myself was born in Pottstown Pennsylvania, moved to Texas in 1973 and have been here ever since ! I have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Live in Trophy Club where I served as Mayor and am self-employed with an entertainment business, consisting of DJ's, bands and trivia hosts.

Book Review



The British Are Coming

The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777 (The Revolution Trilogy Book 1)

by Rick Atkinson, reviewed by Jim Akers

The British Are Coming is a history of the early part of the Revolutionary War. Atkinson claims that this is the first in a trilogy of the Revolutionary War, and from his past history trilogy of the United States in World War II in Africa and Europe, I expect that he will fulfill that promise.

Atkinson clearly and plainly lays out the British retreat from Boston, when General Howe begins to notice the Patriot cannons at Dorchester overlooking his positions, and continues to the British defeat of the Patriots at Long Island and New York, in early 1776.

The British Are Coming recounts the battles at Lexington and Concord, and on through the crossing of the Delaware River during Christmas, 1776 and on to the battles of Trenton and Princeton. Who knew that Washington actually crossed the Delaware three times that night?

The descriptions of the battles in this book made me feel like I was there with Washington and Knox, as they entered Trenton in the early morning hours, and fired a cannon down a main street in Trenton at the sleeping Hessian soldiers. My son's father-in-law, who lives and works in Yardley, Pennsylvania offered to show me that street, as long as went during daylight hours. (Yardley, Pennsylvania is on the Delaware River, only about two miles from Washington's Crossing.)

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I was particularly interested in the Battle of Brandywine, another Patriot defeat, because I believe that I have a Patriot ancestor who fought at Chads Ford, a part of the Battle of Brandywine. After Brandywine, Atkinson describes the Patriot retreat down Germantown Road. One of the wonders of 2021 is that you can, and I did, access Google Maps, and journey down Germantown Road in Street View. Of course, today's Germantown Road is populated with small businesses, and the bars on the windows reflect the changes that over 240 years have seen.

One of the most moving descriptions for me was the Battle of Paoli, Pennsylvania, where after the British commander ordered his men to remove the flints from their rifles, the British attacked the Patriots in the very early morning hours with their bayonets.

Atkinson does not deviate from his past works in the effort and detail of his research of the Revolutionary War. He usually takes about three years for each work, but he gets it right. I was able to attend an in-person presentation by Atkinson on a book tour in about 2020 at SMU. During that presentation, he recounted his month-long stay in London reviewing documents in the British archives of King George III's reign. He commented that he was pleasantly surprised by the access that he was granted by the British government, even allowing him to handle and review original documents of King George's diary. (The British archives allowed him to handle those papers without insisting on wearing cotton gloves, although Atkinson says that he wore gloves as a matter of best practice and respect.) Atkinson's research is so detailed that he is able to describe many of the events in this book from the British perspective.

I borrowed this book from the Plano Public Library, but it is also available in electronic format from apps such as Libby. This book is definitely a "keeper", and is worthy of Amazon's Editor's Pick for History and five stars.

(Henry Holt and Company, 2019, hardcover \$18.89, also available in paperback, \$12.18, and at many public libraries)