

February, 2022



# Ink & Quill

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



**Next Meeting: Scheduled for 10am April 9, 2022  
at the Denton Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St .**

## President's Message

2022 has begun with the chapter having nominated and elected a new slate of chapter officers who take office at the April 2022 meeting. The chapter is in good hands with the new chapter president, Jim Akers, and vice-president Brandon Story. The full slate of new officers can be seen on the Denton chapter webpage.

We also ended 2020 with one strong entry in the Texas SAR youth programs. J.B. Lilley, our Knight Essay winner from last year, entered both the chapter's Essay Contest and the Oration Contest for this year. His entries have gone forward and we will see how he fares at the State competitions.

The sad note is the death of long time Texas SAR and Denton chapter member, James Jefferson "Jim" Johnson in January 2022. Jim passed away on January 21<sup>st</sup> in Denton, Texas. Plans for a public service or memorial are unknown at this time. Jim always had a drawing pad and a pencil in his hand at the chapter meetings along with other Texas SAR events. Many of you have been the recipient of a drawing done by Jim Jefferson.

The Texas SAR State convention will be held in Richardson, Texas this year over the time period of March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration details will come out on the Texas SAR website in the next 30 days or so. I hope a number of our members can attend the convention, especially with it literally in our back yard. The winners of the youth contests will be recognized at the Convention in addition to other events and awards by the State organization. Put it on your "to do" list.

*Continued on the next page...*

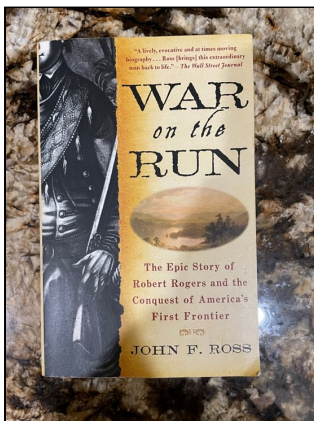
### Inside this issue

President's message, con't .....	2
Book Review .....	2
American Revolution Podcast.....	3
Chapter Meeting Minutes.....	4
James J. Johnson .....	5

The chapter continues to grow as we add new members to our chapter roster. At this time the chapter has 2, maybe 3 new members in the final stages of membership. Our total membership is around 32 at this point with a goal of adding 2-4 members each year. For a chapter our size, that is about a 10 percent growth each year.

Stay safe and stay healthy as we, hopefully, begin to put the COVID issue behind us. I am hopeful that the coming warmer weather will put COVID on a back burner. It has been an issue we, along with the rest of the Country, has had to deal with for several years now. **Next meeting? April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**Chapter President: Mike Connelley**



## War on the Run by John F. Ross

This book is about the life and military career of Robert Rogers, the man generally credited with the development of the military concept of “Rangers, Special Forces, DELTA, etc.” groups. Small, mobile, independent, efficient and deadly. Most of the action is set in the era of the French and Indian Wars when Rogers’ career began.

It is not a long book and is, in my opinion, fast moving. He was a contemporary of George Washington. Rogers is the guy that that you went to when you needed something done, especially if that “thing” was dangerous, difficult or deadly. His way of fighting and moving through the countryside was right out of the playbook of the Native American Tribes of the mid-1700s.

I found it to be a good book and difficult to put down, especially in the chapters when he and his men roamed the New England territory during the French and Indian War.

Speaking of books. I am thinking about the chapter having another “Book silent auction” like we did at some point in 2021. The idea is to bring in some history / biographic books and donate them to the chapter to put up for sale on a silent auction format. Bid what you want and if you win- **you get the book and the chapter gets the money**

If you have a couple of good Revolutionary War era books that you have read; hang on to them and bring them to the April meeting for use in the fund-raising silent auction.

**Chapter President: Mike Connelley**

The American Revolution Podcast  
by Michael Troy

A Chronological Journey Through the Revolutionary War

*The American Revolution Podcast* is a free collection of 244 (so far) episodes of events that comprise the American Revolution and the people that influenced those events. Each episode is about 25 minutes, plus the author and narrator Michael Troy includes a short sequel to each episode with book recommendations pertaining to that particular episode. Many of these book recommendations are “on-line” books, with many from the free website Archive.org, and include the original book or pamphlet written in the 1700’s.

The author/host, Michael Troy is an attorney, by education and experience, but later developed an interest in information technology. He currently works as an IT Manager for a Philadelphia law firm and says that he developed an interest in history, especially Revolutionary War history, during the bicentennial of the United States.

This podcast is my first adventure into podcasts on the Revolutionary War, and I intend to use it as a ready reference to specific events and time periods of the Revolution. It is that well organized.

*The American Revolution Podcast* episodes were published by Troy over a period of about four years, with a new episode released every week. I don’t know how he has the time to research each episode, write a script for each episode, record each episode, and still have time to spend time with his family, work, and keep the seemingly never-ending things done around the house.

Episodes are broken down into groups that include the 1754-1764 period of the French and Indian War to set the background, the beginning of the War in 1775, 1776, the British Offensives of 1777, the French Alliance in 1778, and the War in 1779, so far. Each episode includes a written text of the episode on the website (<https://blog.AmRevPodcast.com>), as well as in the podcast itself. Included on the website and podcast are maps and pictures that support the events of that particular episode, as well as on-line links to recommended sources.

As some of you may know, our Registrar Tom Richards and I are working on a classroom presentation of the ride of William Dawes and Paul Revere. Tom is a descendent of Dawes and has in-depth knowledge from family sources and obscure historical documents. I, on the other hand, find that *The American Revolution Podcast* is a great source of information, well-suited to this project. See episodes 53, 54, 55, and 56.

I also developed an interest in the Battle of Bunker Hill from *The American Revolution Podcast* because my early research of my wife’s family indicated that her ancestor Andrew McClary had fought at that battle. Andrew McClary was in fact a patriot of some note for his valor at Bunker Hill, and his final moments in life are depicted in John Trumbull’s 1786 painting of the battle. Unfortunately, additional research revealed that my wife’s Andrew McClary was a patriot militiaman, but not that Andrew McClary.

In addition to Troy’s well-researched podcast, I like this podcast because of the 25-35 minute format, that matches up nicely with my 40 minutes walk each morning. At just over 2.5 miles covered during each of those walks, and considering that I have about 123 episodes left, I have just over 307 miles to go!

Ronald Akers

**Minutes for Chapter Meeting**  
**January 8, 2022**  
**Denton Chapter #23, Texas SAR**

**10:10 AM**

**President Mike Connelley** called the meeting to order at 10:10AM. President Connelley led the attendees in the Pledge to the American, Texas and National SAR flags. All of the attendees were members of the chapter with the exception of J.B. Lilley, the winner of the chapter's Knight Essay contest and the Oration contest. The meeting was held at the Emily Fowler Library in Denton, Texas.

J. B. Lilley read his Knight Essay entry along with presenting his winning Oration. Lilley was presented with certificates to represent his winning both the Knight Essay Contest and Texas SAR chapter Oration contest.

**Chapter Treasurer Chris Strauss** stated the current balance as of 12/31/2021 in the checking account is \$2,360.44. He mentioned the dues money for 2022 will be sent over the next month or so. Strauss has ordered the list of medals for the ROTC / JROTC awards to be presented in March – April 2022. Funds spent for the medal order is \$212.90, which is to be reimbursed by Texas SAR treasurer.

Chapter Secretary Mike Connelley stated the minutes of the last meeting are on file with the chapter website. The minutes were approved by Jim Hobdy and seconded by Brandon Story. Chapter president Mike Connelley also suggested to the attendees to go on the State SAR website and check out the current roster; double check your own listing and make sure all entries are correct.

Old Business: None

New Business: Chapter president Mike Connelley presented the slate of chapter officers for the year beginning April 2022. They are Jim Akers, president; Brandon Story, vice president; Mike Frye, recording secretary; Mike Connelley, secretary-annual reports; Christopher Strauss, treasurer; Bill Rowell, chaplain; Johnny Loomis, Sgt. At Arms. A motion to elect was passed and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

President Connelley also mentioned that the chapter has two members serving in non-electable positions. Bill Surles serves as the chapter webmaster and editor of the monthly newsletter. Jim Hobdy serves as coordinator of membership / publicity for the chapter.

The new chapter officers will be sworn into office at the April 2022 meeting.

A discussion was held on creating a color guard for the chapter. President Connelley noted it takes a minimum of three members to create a chapter color guard; a commander along with one person to carry the American flag and another member to carry the Texas flag. At present, only two people expressed interest in being part of the color guard, Brandon Story and Tom Richards.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM with the attendance being 9 attendees; 8 members and 1 guest.

**Michael Connelley, chapter president and secretary, Denton Chapter #23, Denton, TX 1/9/2022**

## James J. Johnson Tributes and Memories

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Dr. Jim Johnson of the Denton Chapter on Wednesday, January 19. . Jim was a fixture in the Texas Society and North Texas area since joining the SAR in June 1995. He was instrumental in getting our Texas Society Archives set up at North Texas in Denton years ago, in addition to doing hundreds of color guard events, story- telling at chapter meetings and so many hand drawings of so many of our members.

There are no formal service plans at this time from the family. As those mature, they will be shared. Please keep Jim and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Jim was a true prince to our State and National Society and a great friend to so many of us. He will be missed by us all.

Regards,  
Drake Peddie  
State President - Texas SAR

---

Dallas Chapter Compatriots and friends :

I regret to inform you that Compatriot Jim Johnson (James J. Johnson, Jr.) of the Denton Chapter passed from this world this morning. Jim was a long-time friend of the Dallas Chapter and frequently joined our Zoom meetings over the last year.

**James J. Johnson, Denton, Texas**



*James J. Johnson's self-portrait*

This picture appeared in the SAR Magazine in the Fall 2020 edition.

Jim founded the TXSSAR Archive project with the University of North Texas Library. He was well known as a talented artist. Jim was featured with a two page write-up in The SAR Magazine's summer 2020 edition.

More information about his funeral service will be forthcoming.

In Patriotism,  
Mark Harrison