



# The Hightower Recorder

Newsletter of the William Hightower Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution



April 2021

*Patriotic - Historical - Educational*

2019 Ross Shipman Best Newsletter Award Recipient

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## This Month in the American Revolution

**In Mint Condition!**

by Stu Hoyt

Ever wonder about the origin of the statement “In Mint Condition”? Pristine, original, and unblemished come to mind when equating items to mint condition. The U.S. mint has produced some beautiful product over the years but not everything comes out perfect. Because these flaws slip by the eye of the quality inspector, they become in high demand by Numismatists, ones who collect coins.



First U.S. Mint, 1792, Philadelphia

Up until this country established its own coin system on April 2, 1792, the colonies used almost any coinage available, the most common being the British Pound, German Thalers, and the Spanish milled dollar. If one needed to make change, they would cut up the coin, thus we have “pieces of eight”. Even

some states made their own coinage, which was promoted during the Articles of Confederation. The problem was that these coins were not of equal weight or value. Some countries would melt down the coinage of another country to make their own.

In 1792, when the U.S. Congress realized that coinage gave prestige to a country, as one of their first acts they passed a coinage act. The long name of this act was “An Act establishing a mint, and the Coins of the United States”. It directed that a mint be built in Philadelphia (the then Capital of the United States).

The Mint Act or the Coinage Act, as it was informally known, created five officer positions to oversee the direction of the mint and the creation of the coinage. The Act directed that the new coins would be based on the decimal system, with the dollar being the chief means of exchange. 10 types of coins were created with the Act: Eagles (\$10), Half Eagles (\$5), Quarter Eagles (\$2.50), Dollars (\$1), Half Dollars (\$.50), Quarter Dollars (\$.25), Dimes (\$.10), Half Dimes (\$.05), Cents (\$.01) and Half Cents (\$.005).

Eagles were made of gold, dollars and dimes were made of silver and cents were made of copper. Each coin was to have an image symbolizing “Liberty” on one side.

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### Coming Soon...

- Apr 8: Chapter Meeting
- Apr 10: TXSSAR Color Guard Rally
- Apr 14-18: TXSSAR 126th Convention
- May 13: Chapter Meeting
- Jul 3: 4th of July Parade, New Braunfels
- Jul 10: 131st Congress

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[krisk96@gmail.com](mailto:krisk96@gmail.com)

# Message from Chapter President Tom Jones



Both March and April are busy months for our Chapter. We are completing the activities we started earlier this year and at the same time starting to plan our activities for our next year starting in September after our summer break.

We had a very successful year in many of our programs in spite of the virus. Several of our Chapter members were active in many of our activities that we have included monthly in our newsletter with outstanding articles with pictures. I do not have the space in this letter to address them, however I do want to thank all our Compatriots that contributed to our success in many ways. We will continue our programs next year and hopefully add more successful programs.

In our meeting on 8 April, we will have a formal induction of our Chapter Officers for the fiscal year from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. Please plan to attend our Zoom meeting to support our Officers as they pledge to fulfill their responsibilities to you and their Obligations to our Society. Without them we would not have our successful and active Chapter and would not be able to honor our Patriots who fought for us in our Revolutionary War.

Our first shirt order was a big success. We had 11 members order our Chapter shirt and everyone was incredibly pleased. Kris has added an article in our newsletter to let you know of the second order we are going to make later this month. Please get you order in and if everything goes right I will have your shirt by the end of the month.

Unfortunately, like last year we were not able to organize a Chapter Program to honor our veterans on Memorial Day, May 31st. We still have some time available and if you have any ideas on what we can do, please contact me so we can address it. My email address is [tomandbet@aol.com](mailto:tomandbet@aol.com). I would be delighted to hear from you, and I welcome your ideas.

We have not been able to get details on the New Braunfels 4th of July Parade. As soon as we hear anything I will send it out by email. Hopefully, we will have one this year and I encourage everyone to attend. Cliff will provide us his trailer again. Will keep you informed.

The Executive Committee has agreed to look into our Chapter's possibility of participating in the New Braunfels Folkfest on October 9-10, 2021. Patrick, the Chairman of our Public Events, is looking into all the details and we will keep us informed.

Another event that we are planning is a Christmas Party. Our goal is to accommodate as many members as possible in our selection of the time, food and location. We will be sending all members a survey form requesting your comments on how we should plan the Party. Please give us your comments so everyone can have a great time. 🌟

Sincerely,  
Tom

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## Texas Society 2021 Convention "Zooming" by Virtually

The 126th Annual Texas Society Convention is being held virtually through Zoom this year, April 16-17. You can register for the convention on the Texas Society's website at this [link](#). Registration this year is \$10, payable through the website using PayPal.

You need to hurry! By the printing of this newsletter, many of the committees are already meeting. This is a great opportunity to get involved with the Texas Society and learn more about the SAR from the comfort of your own home.

This is the second year the convention is being held virtually. Last year's event was a great success. Many compatriots enjoyed being able to continue their participation in the SAR during the COVID-19 lockdowns, and continue to enjoy the fellowship of their fellow compatriots. 🌟



### Washington's Rules of Civility Rule 1

Every Action done in Company, ought to be with Some Sign of Respect, to those that are Present.



## His Influence Spread Far and Wide

by Stu Hoyt



Richard Lee "Dick" Robinett  
January 3, 1929 – March 1, 2021

Born in Amarillo on January 3, 1929, to Gladys and Clifton Robinett, Richard Lee "Dick" Robinett spread his wings and soared through life. After graduating from Amarillo High School, he enrolled at Oklahoma University but made the switch to the University of Texas in Austin where he would meet the love of his life, Jo Ann. He graduated with a degree in business administration in 1952 and married Jo Ann in 1954. One of his favorite expressions was "Never a dull moment" and his life was symbolic of that saying. Besides his marriage and the Church, Dick was passionate about two things: his tour in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Sons of the American Revolution. He served in the JROTC, ROTC, military and reserves from 1943 to 1976. He was constantly reminding his audience that "Freedom is not free." He was an Eagle Scout and involved with scouting at all levels.

His application to become a member of the SAR was approved in September 1984, but he was already involved before his application came through. He told me that he and Billie Hightower would drive to San

Antonio until their own chapter was chartered in New Braunfels, then he helped charter the Boerne Chapter and the Aaron Burleson Chapter. He was instrumental in creating a Color Guard for the Texas Society. With Tom Green, then a member of the William Hightower Chapter, they spearheaded Laredo trips to march in the George Washington Birthday Celebration Parade and the annual Battle of Medina remembrance ceremony.

He rose through the ranks to Chapter President, State President, then to Vice President General of the South Central District and a National trustee. He chaired several committees from the National level to the chapter. During this time, he accumulated numerous awards, but his most cherished was a "thank you" and a hug from an eighth grade wheel chair bound student who whispered in his ear, "I wish that I could stand when the Flag passes by."

Each year the Austin-area SAR and DAR chapters sponsored a Memorial Day celebration at the Texas State Cemetery where two American Revolution veterans are buried. The grounds are immaculate, but I guess that has not always been the case. One of my Color Guard Compatriots told me a story that I would like to share. As a new member of the Color Guard, he was invited by Dick Robinett to a function honoring our fallen Patriot at the cemetery in Austin. Without question, he drove up from Houston on that chosen Saturday. He stopped in town to get a cup of coffee but before he could get out of the car his phone rang. It was Dick. Dick asked him to meet him up the street immediately. Dick was driving a military vehicle. They drove to a very nice home in the middle of town. Dick called a "Bob" and asked him to come out to meet them. When he arrived at the car, Dick asked him to join them on a ride back to the cemetery. The cemetery was a mess with tree limbs down, grass overgrown, and gravestones tipped over.



SAR's Bronze Color Guard Medal. Dick loved the Color Guard and was instrumental in developing Color Guards for the Texas Society and several chapters.

Dick turned to Bob and said, "You have got to do something about this." Bob replied, "I can't. It belongs to the city and I'd be canned if I allocated any funds to fix it." Dick responded, "Find a way!" then took Bob home. Bob turned out to be Bob Bullock, Lieutenant Governor of Texas and he did find a way. He had the state claim the main road through the cemetery as a state road. With that they acquired the property, fixed it up and built a visitor center. It is amazing what can be done when you know the right people.

In his private life, Dick Robinett was many things, an insurance investigator, President of the New Braunfels Independent School District Board of Trustees, and founder of a family genealogical society, which met annually. I do not think that we will discover all the things that Dick touched in our lifetime. He left the campground on March 1, 2021, in the wee hours of the morning.

The Texas SAR Color Guard gathered at the Guadalupe Valley Memorial Park to act as an Honor Guard at the funeral of Richard Lee "Dick" Robinett on March 8, 2021. From Left to right are Robert Duckworth, Don Chandler, Blair Rudy, State Color Guard Commander; Stu Hoyt, Jim Clements, Texas SAR State Secretary and Patrick Henry Chapter member; Lou Colantoni and Stan Trull. All other color guardsmen were from the William Hightower Chapter at the request of the family. 🌸

### **Richard Lee Robinett**

Accepted into the Society  
September 26, 1984

#### **Positions Held**

National Trustee  
Vice President General  
Society President  
Chapter President  
State Color Guard Commander  
National Committee Chairman  
State Committee Chairman  
Chapter Committee Chairman

#### **Awards**

Distinguished Service Medal  
War Service Medal  
Patriot Medal  
3 Meritorious Service Medals  
Silver Good Citizenship Medal  
Bronze Good Citizenship Medal  
Silver Color Guard Medal  
Bronze Color Guard Medal  
Silver ROTC Medal  
Bronze ROTC Medal  
Texas Society Service Medal  
Texas Chapter Service Medal

#### **Charter Member**

William Hightower Chapter  
Aaron Burleson Chapter  
Boerne Chapter



Texas State Color Guard rendered honors to Dick at his funeral service on March 8.

### **Broken Arrow Ceremony**

Please join the William Hightower Chapter as we honor Dick Robinett with the Broken Arrow Ceremony during our Zoom meeting on Thursday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m.



Dick speaking about the first William Hightower Chapter Color Guard during one of the Past President Panels held by the Chapter.

## William Hightower Chapter Recognizes Compatriots and Friends for 2020-2021

Even with the challenges brought on by the pandemic, the Chapter had a successful year. See the February edition of the *Hightower Recorder* story [Chapter Submits 2020 Annual Report](#) for details. You can find the edition at this [link](#). During the March Chapter Meeting, the William Hightower Chapter took the opportunity to recognize the service of our Compatriots and friends who made that success possible.

This year's presentations were a little different. The Chapter meets using Zoom right now due to the pandemic, so we were not able to be together in person. Awards were distributed before the meeting. During the meeting, a slide show honored each recipient showing their certificate and medal. Chapter President Tom Jones spoke to each recipient's contributions to the Chapter and the SAR. The awards and awardees were:

### Color Guard

Robert Duckworth Color Guard Promotion to Major



### Texas Chapter Service Medal

Ed Blauvelt  
Robert Duckworth  
Stu Hoyt  
Will Moravits  
Rodney Young

### Martha Washington Medal

Michelle Castillo  
Shirley Chandler  
Rosie Moravits



### Bronze Roger Sherman Medal

Ed Blauvelt  
Cliff Caskey  
Robert Duckworth  
Kris Krueger

### Law Enforcement Commendation Medal

Lou Colantoni  
Will Moravits



### Meritorious Service Medal

Stu Hoyt  
Steve Polk  
Blair Rudy  
Stan Trull

### Chapter Distinguished Service Medal

Kris Krueger



The Chapter also recognized Lou Colantoni, who will be receiving the Patriot Medal from the Texas Society at its Annual Meeting April 17. Congratulations to all our awardees, and thank you for your service to the William Hightower Chapter and the SAR. Congratulations to all compatriots and friends on a successful year meeting our goals of patriotism and historical preservation and education. Here is to a great next year! 🇺🇸

## Chapter Shirts are Back, Get Yours Now!

In February, the Chapter offered shirts for our Compatriots. The feedback from our members was great. Due to the popularity of the shirts, the Chapter is offering another round of orders, this time with more sizes available.

Shirts are long sleeve, white, button down collar with the Texas Society Logo and the William Hightower Logo embroidered on. Sizes available are Extra Small, Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large, 2 Extra Large, 3, Extra Large, and 4 Extra Large. The cost is \$40, which includes postage to ship it to you.

Our next order is being placed April 12. Send an email to Tom at [tomandbet@aol.com](mailto:tomandbet@aol.com). Include the quantity of shirts and the size you would like in your email. Payment can be made when you receive the shirt.

This is another great opportunity to show your pride in being a member of the SAR and the William Hightower Chapter, and contribute a few dollars to our many programs. Ready to place your order? How many are you going to get? 🇺🇸



## Plans for the Future are Taking Off!

The Leadership Team met on March 25 to discuss some future plans for the William Hightower Chapter. As we probably can all sense, our Nation is starting to come out of the pandemic and our communities are reopening. We believe this translates to a slow and paced return to the things that keep our communities together. We are looking into future Chapter events.



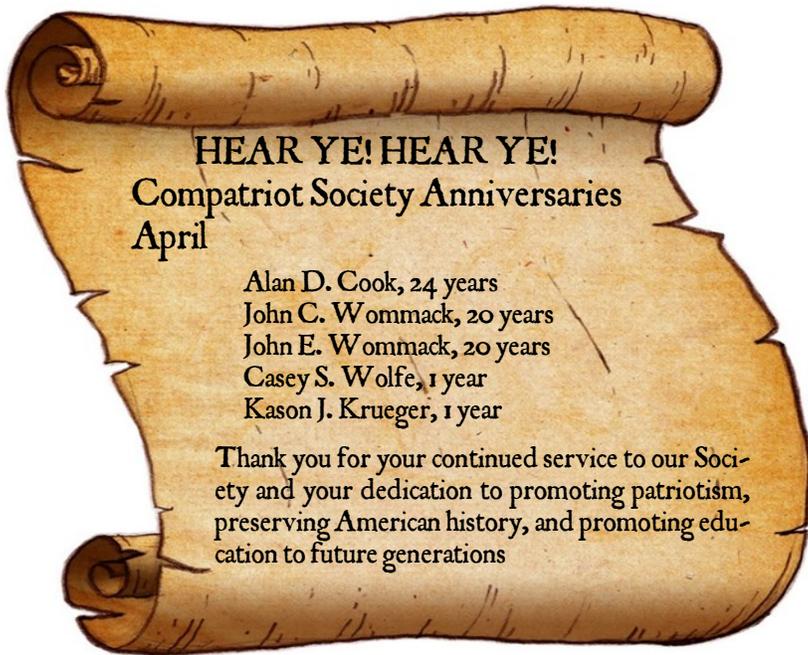
William Hightower Chapter at 4th of July Parade 2019 in New Braunfels. Start getting ready for the fun and camaraderie as our communities begin reopening!

The New Braunfels Fourth of July Parade was a staple of Chapter participation for years. Unfortunately, the pandemic prevented the parade from happening in 2020. At this time, it looks like New Braunfels will be holding the parade again this July. We do not know any details as of this newsletter, and cannot be sure the parade will not be cancelled down the road. Right now, it looks like it is back. The Chapter will keep everyone informed on our progress. Thanks go to Patrick Hollis for taking the lead on our ability to participate and to Cliff Caskey for offering us the use of his trailer again this year. Patrick is going to need more help and the Chapter is going to need your participation to make this a success.

Folk Fest is a New Braunfels event held in the Fall. It showcases the history of our community and the organizations that keep it alive. This year, Folk Fest is happening October 9-10. Thanks again to Patrick Hollis for volunteering to be our lead for Folk Fest. The planning is in the early stages and Patrick is going to need plenty of help to ensure a great experience for the Chapter and the community.

The William Hightower Chapter is looking into a Christmas Party in December. We are in the early stages of putting ideas and plans together. We are thankful to Blair Rudy and his wife, Candy, for agreeing to lead this initiative. Candy has already started gathering information to help with planning. If you are a member of the Chapter, you should have received an email invitation to complete an online survey. The information will help Blair and Candy with planning.

Last year was a long one for all of us. The pandemic created limitations we never thought we would experience in the United States and Texas. We are now starting to come out of it all, and can now anticipate the time when we will be together again in person. The time is here to begin planning for that future. The Chapter will continue communicating progress on these events in the coming months so that you will be able to participate. 🇺🇸



*Happy Birthday to our Compatriots  
And Remembering our Patriot Ancestors*  
**Happy Birthday, Compatriots**

Clarence Patton, April 4  
William S. Spaitzer, April 8  
Michael T. England, April 13  
Norman D. Sanders, Jr., April 14  
Francis G. Sloane, Jr. April 19

**Remembering our Patriot Ancestors**  
Josiah Barby, ancestor of Mike Pryor, born April 15, 1734  
Moses Soule, ancestor of Joe Cox, Stuart Cox, Wendell Cox, and Luke Warner, born April 2, 1738  
George Fluker, ancestor of Norman D. Sanders, Jr., born April 19, 1759

### Sons of the American Revolution Gets a New Logo!

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution approved our new logo in March, which you can see at the bottom of this article. The logo was selected from a design contest conducted in 2019. Stephen Harrington, a graphic designer from Connecticut, made the winning design. The logo combines the majestic beauty of an eagle in flight with a flag waving in the breeze, all in patriotic red, white, and blue. Get the full story in the Winter 2020-2021 issue of The SAR Magazine. You will see the logo popping up more and more.



In fact, check out the William Hightower website at this [link](#). Thanks to our "Johnny on the Spot" Webmaster, Will Moravits, we have already incorporated it. The SAR Store is beginning to offer items using the new logo, with more offerings soon. Feel free to do a little shopping at this [link](#). 🌟

In Mint Condition!  
Continued from page 1

The back of the gold and silver coins was to have an image representing "Liberty", while the back of the cent to have the coins denomination.

In 1792, during the construction of the new mint, 1500 silver half dimes were made in the cellar of a nearby building. These coins may have made it into the hands of the "Friends of Liberty" because they never made it into circulation.

David Rittenhouse, a renowned scientist, mathematician, and astronomer was appointed by George Washington as the first director of the Mint. Rittenhouse had served as Pennsylvania's treasurer from 1777 to 1789, giving him much experience dealing with currency. Rittenhouse's first job was to actually build the Mint. He purchased two lots in Philadelphia on July 18, 1792 and construction began immediately. The first circulated coins were copper pennies. There were 11,178 copper cents made on March 1, 1793. The hairline of Liberty was pulled back and the expression portrayed was "a Fright", so this coin was not popular.

The first building was the smelting building where the metal ores were melted and separated. The second building contained offices, vaults, weighing rooms and the presses for striking the coins. A third building contained a horse-powered mill where the metal was rolled into sheets. The first coins minted were made from silver flatware donated by George Washington himself. Rittenhouse struck the coins himself to test the new equipment and delivered the coins to Washington.

Today there are five mints in operation. Philadelphia, which mints coins for distribution east of the Mississippi and Denver coins west of the Mississippi. San Francisco stopped minting circulating coins in 1955 and only produces "Proof" coins today. West Point Mint produces special proof coins sets and Fort Knox, named after Gen. Henry Knox, is a storehouse for bullion. Washington D.C., not a mint, is the Mint headquarters. A penny for your thoughts, not at today's rate. 🌟

# Introduction to the Patriot Research System

By Rodney Young



A year ago, I was invited to become a Patriot Research System (PRS) volunteer after I inquired about entering info for my patriot, Capt. John Young, P-326268. Once enrolled I spent time researching my numerous Supplemental Patriots and transcribing applications from various chapters. As I better understood the PRS volunteer program, I recognized my responsibility to update applications for our chapter. Since then, I have transcribed many applications and Patriot records.

From the National Society's website:

*The SAR Patriot Research System (PRS) is a database combination of the previous SAR Patriot Record Index, the SAR Revolutionary War Graves Registry, and information from the SAR Patriot Index CD (2002), plus additional information and updates from various state grave registry databases and patriot biographical sketches submitted to tell the story of our patriot ancestors.*

The PRS is a valuable tool for current and future members, supporting new member applications and Supplemental Application for current members. The PRS offers searches of Patriots, SAR members, descendants (someone who sits between a SAR Member and a Patriot in their lineage), biographies, and cemeteries.

You can access and explore the PRS at this [link](#). All Compatriots can contribute Patriot grave and biography information at this [link](#).

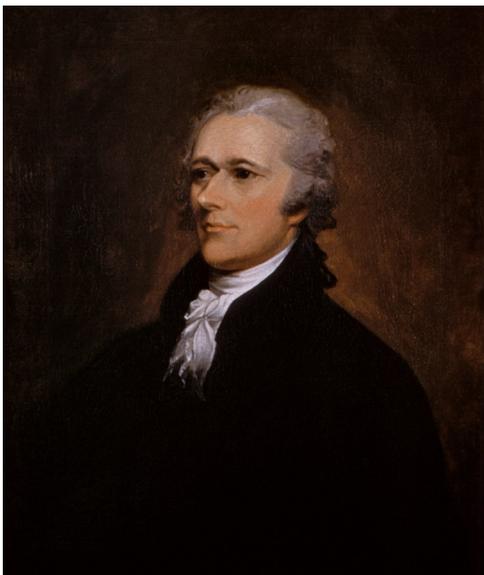
How are we doing so far in incorporating all the SAR's applications since 1889? Well, as of April 6:

	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Record Copies Available</b>	<b>Complete Lineages</b>	<b>Percent Complete</b>
NSSAR	129,245	126,485	91,983	72.7%
TXSSAR	11,733	11,562	8,504	73.5%
Wm. Hightower	199	195	142	72.8%

## Still Owe Dues for 2021?

Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton wants to make sure you have paid your dues for 2021! It is never too late to get caught back up. Your dues help support our scholarship programs and keep the Chapter running. If you have not paid your dues yet, it's easy to fix! You can pay safely online. Just go to <https://www.txssar.org/dues.htm>.

Help us accomplish our patriotic, educational, and historical missions of keeping the ideals of the American Revolution that gave birth to this Great Nation alive!



# William Hightower Chapter Leadership

2020-2021

## Officers

President Tom Jones  
Vice President Ed Blauvelt  
Secretary Kris Krueger  
Treasurer Stan Trull  
Registrar Robert Duckworth  
Chaplain Don Chandler  
Historian Stu Hoyt  
Parliamentarian Joe Cox  
Sergeant at Arms Robert Duckworth  
Past President Steve Polk  
Webmaster Will Moravits  
Newsletter Editor Kris Krueger

## Committee Chairs

Color Guard: Blair Rudy  
Flag Awards: Tom Jones  
Finance & Budget: Stan Trull  
Fund Raising: Steve Polk  
George Washington Proclamations: Joe Cox  
Grave Marking: Open  
Medals, Awards & Citations: Kris Krueger  
Public Events: Patrick Hollis  
Public Service Awards: Will Moravits  
Publicity & Media: Will Moravits  
ROTC & CAP: Tom Jones  
Scouting: Kris Krueger  
Youth Awards & Contests: Will Moravits

## About Us

The William Hightower Chapter is the New Braunfels-based chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. We are a male genealogical society dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to our future generations. Please feel free to join us the 2nd Thursday of each month September through May at Granzin's BBQ in New Braunfels at 6:00 p.m.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to meet online using Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. from this Zoom meeting [link](#).

