



## State Historian Visit



### Importance of Chapter Historian

- **Is your chapter in danger of losing its history?**
- Can you provide documents of the origins of your chapter? Do you know of **when, what, where your Chapter was chartered?** Do you have the Chapter Charter and Charter Program? Can you list the Charter Members?
- **Do you have dated old rosters?** Do you know who your previous members were? Do you know their Patriot Ancestors?
- **Do you know the significant professional accomplishments of your current and past membership?** Who were your Prominent/Notable members? We are all notable in our own way.
- Do you have a list of **memorial members?** Does your chapter plan to mark member gravesite?
- Do you have a list of **Past Presidents, Officers and Committees?**
- Does your chapter still have the **Chapter Charter** and can you identify the Charter members?
- Can your chapter identify **what significant past events your chapter covered?** Including Grave Markings? What other chapters assisted?
- Can your chapter identify the history of **Chapter Awards awarded as Personal Awards, Contests and Commendations?** Examples: Medal of Honor, Patriot Medal.
- Can your chapter identify the history of **Chapter Awards received from the State Society?**
- Can your chapter identify the history of **Chapter Awards received from the National Society?**
- **Does your chapter have a Newsletter or a Scrapbook?** This is the best place to not lose your chapter history! Be creative, there is no set format. Video formats are gaining popularity.

## Historian Data Collection & Retention

- The **Notable Compatriots** discussions at the 2019 Spring Convention led to no resolutions nor motions.
- Later discussions have led to development of a **pilot program of a new Texas Compatriot Questionnaire**. A draft of that questionnaire is available.
- Purposes:
  - **Chapter internal usage**
  - **Texas Society usage, specifically for our future Texas SAR History, Vol 3.**
- Goals:
  - **For Chapter Registrars to add an optional questionnaire to their new member packets** along with any other chapter documents they currently add, like the Chapter President Welcome letter, etc.
  - **Encourage older members to participate.**
- Discussions Review:
  - NSSAR and Texas SAR had a Compatriot Survey.
  - It is optional. No compatriot is required to participate.
- Future:
  - Hopefully, success will be identified by the Texas SAR Annual Convention in April 2020 such that proper motions can be made and passed to expand throughout the Texas Society and for the **State Secretary to add the optional questionnaire to all new member packets.**

## Chapter UNT Archive

- **Has your chapter ever archived documents to the UNT Willis Library?**
- If not, then I bet a few of your **members have boxes of stuff somewhere**. It may not seem important to you, but I bet it is important for historical purposes. Keep what you're currently using, but please don't lose those documents, please archive them!
- The UNT Archive makes our Texas SAR donations available in two procedures.
  - Onsite research at the Willis Library via a scheduled appointment; visit and peruse through identified boxes. A reservation is required as our Texas SAR Archives are stored offsite. See our Texas SAR public website for an > About Texas SAR > History > Archives at UNT > Collection Overview link to <https://findingaids.library.unt.edu/?p=collections/findingaid&id=207> to identify and select the documents you wish to research.
  - Online research from your location through public access to those items digitized. See our Texas SAR public website for an About Texas SAR > History > Archives at UNT > Collection Search link to <https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TSSAR/browse>
- The UNT Archive procedure is easy. First organize the documents by some category. **Separate those with digital copies and those that are paper only. UNT much prefers digital copies.** They can be put on DVDs or flash drives and donated to UNT. Paper copies, newsletters, scrapbooks, etc. can be **mailed** or **delivered** to UNT. **Or you can bring them to the Texas SAR meetings** and I collect them from you. Identify your TX SAR District, Chapter name, number and the time period covered. It's just that simple.
- More UNT archival information is available on the Texas SAR Public website under "About Texas SAR" > "History" > "Texas SAR Archives at UNT". They are annually digitizing our archived documents. Those delivered in digital form are archived first. Thereafter, they get an annual priority directive from the Texas SAR Historian.
- UNT is guarding against putting online current **member private information of addresses, emails, phone numbers, social security numbers and birthdates**. That includes recent/old rosters, recent/old new applications, and/or any document with that private data.
  - UNT offers an "**Embargo/restricted**" period whereby they digitize but withhold making online searches available to documents containing private information for a specified time period. The unofficial embargo policy is currently 25 years. I plan to make a motion on this at the next Texas SAR meeting.
  - To avoid the embargo period, the **chapters should omit/redact the private information prior to archival.**
  - It is my opinion that at this time our chapters should **NOT** archive digital or new applications because NSSAR has a plan for making them available online soon within the SAR.org website!