
Guide to the

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BLAINE C. WILLHOITE, SR., CHAPTER RECORDS 1986-1998

2.8 linear ft.

Accession Numbers: 9798-65 and 9798-73

Collection Number: 8

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CITATION: Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution; Blaine C. Willhoite, Sr., Chapter Records, Collection 8, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Historical Sketch

In February of 1986, the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution requested that members of the Dallas chapter living in Irving form a new chapter of the Society. In March 1986, a meeting was held in which the new chapter organized, applied for a charter, and elected officers. The charter was presented and accepted at the organization's March 1986 state convention. The new chapter, Irving Chapter No. 39, met and installed officers in April 1986.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution had its beginnings in various local organizations that sprang up during the last quarter of the 19th century. The first such group was formed in San Francisco in October 1875. Calling itself the "California Society of Sons of the Revolutionary Sires," the group organized in anticipation of the centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1876. The group's purpose was to perpetuate the memory of ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War.

In 1883, a group was organized in New York City under the name "The Sons of the Revolution." Another group, "The Society of Sons of the Revolution," was formed in New Jersey in 1889 as part of the centennial celebration of George Washington's inauguration. This group decided to form a national organization. In April of 1889, a meeting was held in New York City, which was attended by twenty delegates representing twelve states. At this meeting the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was formed.

The purposes of the group are:

- to promote patriotism and historical and educational themes designed to perpetuate the memory of those who served in the American Revolution; and
- to "carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble of the constitution of our country and

the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.”

Membership is restricted to male Americans who can trace their ancestry back to veterans of the continental army during the Revolutionary War. Types of acceptable service are combat veteran, surveyor, tax payer, petition signer, and those who furnished corn, hay, or brandy to the army during the Revolutionary War.

Seven years after the founding of the national society, a state society was formed in Texas. At a meeting in Galveston in December 1896, the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution was organized.

The Irving Chapter No. 39 of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution changed its name to the Blaine C. Willhoite, Sr., Chapter in honor of the chapter's organizer and first president, Blaine C. Willhoite, Sr., on December 6, 1991.

Sources:

Irving Daily News

Jessee, Howard G., comp. Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution: Society History, Biographies, Portraits, and Genealogy, 1st ed., Volume 1. Austin, Texas: Hart Graphics, Inc., 1980.

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution; Blaine C. Willhoite, Sr., Chapter Records

Series Description

Series I. Scrapbooks, 1986 and 1991-1998. 2 linear ft. (8 scrapbooks).

Materials include chapter scrapbooks. The 1995-98 scrapbooks won awards at the annual state conventions.

Series II. Records, 1986-1996. .7 linear ft. (10 folders and one three-ring binder).

Materials include minutes, treasurers' reports, newsletters, correspondence and miscellaneous material. The following is a summary of the document types and inclusive dates. There are gaps in many of the records.

Agendas – 1994-1998

Correspondence – 1986-1987; 1994-1998

Minutes – 1986-1987; 1989-1998

Newsletters – 1995-1996

Rosters – 1986-1998

Treasurers' Reports – 1986; 1991-1998

Series III. Published Material, 1980 and 1986. .1 linear ft. (three items).

Materials include two SAR pamphlets and one bound history of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution.

Scope and Content Note

The collection, housed in nine flat boxes and one manuscript box, is divided into three series. Series I consists of scrapbooks. The scrapbooks contain photos, newspaper clippings, meeting agendas, attendance rosters, newsletters, minutes, etc. Series II is made up of

chapter records such as minutes, treasurers' reports, newsletters, and correspondence. Series III consists of published material. The original order of the collection has been maintained.

Box 1 contains the original and a copy of the 1986 scrapbook. Also in this box is an binder with the Sons of the American Revolution insignia on the cover.

In order to maintain the original order of the collection, Series II has been divided into five groups: attendance reports; minutes; minutes and treasurers' reports; minutes, treasurers' reports, newsletters and miscellaneous; and minutes, treasurers' reports and newsletters. The folders within each group are in chronological order, and the material within each folder is in chronological order. The material covers the years 1986-1996.

Included in the records series is a three-ring binder containing stapled packets made up of copies of meeting agendas with attachments, such as copies of treasurers' reports, minutes, and society correspondence. This binder encompasses April 1994-February 1998. The binder contains some minutes and treasurers' reports, but the primary document throughout is chapter correspondence.

An additional binder in the collection included incomplete sets of original minutes from 1986, 1987, and 1990. Also included were original minutes and treasurers' reports from 1991-1993. Further documents included were information regarding forming an SAR chapter, letters approving membership applications, and other correspondence, primarily from 1986 and 1987. The material was removed from the binder and placed in acid-free folders. The binder, with an SAR insignia on the cover, has been retained in box number one.

When received, the collection included three soft-back folders. These folders contained the original minutes, treasurers' reports for the organization, and monthly newsletter for the years 1994, 1995, and 1996. Although some of this material is duplicated in the white three-ring binder in box nine, the duplicated material is retained in order to reflect the chapter's record-keeping system. In addition, neither group of documents is consistent nor complete in content, so the two groups of documents work together to form a more comprehensive record of the chapter. All of the material received in the soft-back folders was transferred to acid-free folders.

Provenance Statement

The Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution; Blaine C. Willhoite, Sr., Chapter Records were donated to the Irving Archives in February and March 1998. Prior to the donation, the collection was in the possession of the chapter historian.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution; Blaine C. Willhoite, Sr., Chapter Records must be obtained from the Irving Archives.

Container List

Series I. Scrapbooks, 1986 and 1991-1998

Box

- 1 Scrapbook, 1986-1987
- 2 Scrapbook, 1991-1992
- 3 Scrapbook, 1992-1993
- 4 Scrapbook, 1993-1994
- 5 Scrapbook, 1994-1995
- 6 Scrapbook, 1995-1996
- 7 Scrapbook, 1996-1997
- 8 Scrapbook, 1997-1998

Series II. Records, 1986-1996

- 9 Monthly Meeting Packets, April 1994-February 1998

Contains agendas for monthly meetings; attached are copies of correspondence received during the month, rosters, some copies of minutes, and some copies of treasurers reports.

Box 10

Folder

- 1 Attendance Records, 1986-1993
Contains member and guest sign-in sheets from monthly meetings.
- 2 Minutes, 1989 and 1990
Contains the March, April, and June minutes from 1989 and the rough drafts of minutes for the July-September 1990 meetings.
- 3 Minutes and Treasurers' Reports, 1991
Contains the original minutes from March-October and December 1991, and treasurers' reports from May, July, August, September, and November 1991.
- 4 Minutes and Treasurers' Reports, 1992
Contains the complete minutes and treasurers' reports from 1992.
- 5 Minutes and Treasurers' Reports, 1993
Contains the complete minutes from 1993 and treasurers' reports from February-December 1993.
- 6 Minutes and Treasurers' Reports, 1994
Contains minutes from January-April and July, August, November, and December 1994. Also contains treasurers' reports from January-May and July-December 1994. Included are monthly meeting packets, like those in the box 9, for the months of June and

July.

7 Minutes, Treasurers' Reports, Correspondence, 1986

Contains minutes from March-October, and December 1986, and treasurers' reports for February, June-August, and December 1986. Also included are an annual report from 1986, chapter correspondence, membership acceptance cards, and special meeting programs.

8 Minutes, Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1987

Contains minutes from January-June 1987. Also included are chapter rosters, society by-laws, and society correspondence.

9 Minutes, Treasurers' Reports, Newsletters, Miscellaneous, 1995

Contains a complete set of minutes from 1995 and treasurers' reports from January-April, July, and September-December 1995. Also included are newsletters, program information, and society correspondence.

10 Minutes, Treasurers' Reports, Newsletters, Miscellaneous, 1996

Contains minutes for January-November 1996 and treasurers' reports for February-April and June-November 1996. Also included are newsletters, program information, and society correspondence.

Series III. Published Material, 1980 and 1986

11 Pamphlets, 1986

Contains two pamphlets, "Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution: Texas Society Chapter Manual" and "Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution: Constitution and By Laws."

12 Book, 1980

Contains one book. Jessee, Howard G., comp. *Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution: Society History, Biographies, Portraits, and Genealogy*, 1st ed., Volume 1. Austin, Texas: Hart Graphics, 1980.