

November, 2025



# Ink & Quill

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



Next Meeting: **Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 10am**

**Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton**

## Chapter Officers

President—Brandon Story  
Vice President—Ronnie Rencher  
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry  
Secretary, Annual Reports —  
Mike Connelley  
Treasurer—Chris Strauss  
Asst Treasurer—Bill Rowell  
Registrar— Mike Lester  
Sgt at Arms—Billy Roussell, III  
Color Guard — David Cook

## Events

1. **November 8, Denton Chapter mtg**
2. **Nov. 10, Marines birthday**
3. **Jan. 10, 2026, Denton Chapter Mtg**
4. **Mar. 14, 2026, Denton Chapter Mtg**
5. **April 12, 2026 National Conference**
6. **April 17, 2026, dedication of the Texas SAR 250 Monument at the Texas State Cemetery**

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**The  
Denton Chapter  
Coffee Social was  
October 11  
at the  
North Point Café  
2000 W University  
Denton**

## The AMERICA 250 Anniversary Marker Project



The Denton County Courthouse square is controlled by the Texas Historical Commission.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is the state agency for historic preservation. They save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas.

The Denton County Office of History and Culture works with the THC for approval of any additions to the Denton Courthouse Square. I was told that a bench would not be approved, but that a marker would be appropriate. I met with Peggy Riddle, the Director of the Office. She will determine the format and location of a marker. It will be up to the Denton DAR and SAR chapters to suggest the layout and wording of the marker, that will then be approved by the Office, Denton County commissioners and then THC. (Logos will probably not be in color)

Displayed on the next page is a suggestion, reviewed by the Denton County office. Feel free to comment and/or present another idea. Please note that this design has not been reviewed or approved by the SAR, DAR, Denton or state organizations.



Example of a marker

Bill Surles at [wsmerch@gmail.com](mailto:wsmerch@gmail.com)

## Draft 250 Anniversary Marker

Celebrating 250 Years of the founding of the United States of America  
July 4, 1776 – July 4, 2026

While not a key player during the Revolutionary War, Texas did play a small but important role during the conflict. In 1779, King Carlos III of Spain, who controlled Texas at the time, vowed to aid the rebelling colonists by allying with France and declaring war on Great Britain. Texas' immense cattle herds and natural resources would prove pivotal in supplying the soldiers of Bernardo de Gálvez as they launched their attack on the British from the Louisiana territory. Aided by Texas supplies, Gálvez and his men defeated the British in battles at Manchac, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola. After the war, the Mexican government encouraged settlement in the territory, leading several Revolutionaries and their families to find a permanent home in Texas.

This marker was dedicated on July 4, 2026 by the Benjamin Lyon Chapter Denton of the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR), the Denton Chapter of the Sons of American Revolution (SAR), and citizens of Denton County in commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and those patriots who gave all to establish our great nation. Each member of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution has a direct ancestor who participated in the Revolutionary War to gain independence from Great Britain. The DAR and SAR organizations continue to preserve history, promote patriotism, and educate future generations about the principles of the American Revolution.



God bless America







Chapter Color Guard Commander David Cook has asked that someone else take over as Commander, as he is no longer able to continue.  
**Contact him for details.**

#### A SAR Color Guard Story



Our small SAR chapter Color Guard unit in North Georgia was asked one year to be in a small North Carolina town July 4 parade, in which we did.

An observer took a video of the parade and shared it with me after the parade. The video shows the police car leading the parade with a short break of nothing. Then it showed the very tops of four Colonial flags coming up a slight hill. Slowly emerging were four uniformed SAR Color Guard members caring the flags and flanked by militia musket bearers on each end of the line.

I know every spectator watching the Color Guard marching in that Fourth of July parade felt a strong sense of patriotism and were proud to be an American.

**That**, is what SAR Color Guard units do. It is the “pay” we receive for volunteering our time and energies to promoting patriotism.

**That** is what the Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard “COULD” do. Yes it takes time, priority and a little cash. But to be in that parade and pass by a little boy, flag in hand, and saluting our flag will remain in my mind forever.

Joining and participating in the Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard is up to you.

#### Join the Denton Chapter Color Guard

Members can participate individually or we can attend as a Color Guard unit representing the Denton SAR Chapter. New Color Guard members are welcome. Color guard members wanting to attend are to contact Color Guard Commander David Cook. It is significant to note that several events are designated as National Events which earns 20 points toward national and state Color Guard medals.

**“We are the face of the Sons of the American Revolution at the national, state, and chapter levels. Accordingly, as we further the Patriotic, Historic, and Educational Goals of the SAR let us have fun, enjoy the comradely, and practice safety for yourself and others. Yours in Patriotism**

**K. Scott Collins National Society SAR Color Guard Commander”**

**David R. Cook**  
**Denton Color Guard Commander**  
**706-835-5910**  
[dhjones1940@outlook.com](mailto:dhjones1940@outlook.com)



# America 250 Decade Of The American Revolution



*The National SAR has created this **Decade of the American Revolution** calendar to list Revolutionary War signature events each year that will be the focus of the NSSAR main celebration. Every State Society and all State Chapters should download the programs for the year and celebrate with us in your local area.*

*December 16, 2023 Boston Tea Party*

*August 14, 2024 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's U.S. Tour*

*September 5, 2024 The First Continental Congress*

*April 19, 2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord*

*Military Branch 2025 Birthdays:*

*Army June 14, Navy Oct. 13, Marines Nov. 10*

*December 31, 2025 Battle of Quebec*

*2026 Declaration of Independence*

*2027 Battle of Saratoga*

*2028 French Alliance*

*2029 Siege of Vincennes/Battle of Kettle Creek*

*2030 Battle of Kings Mountain*

**2031 Siege of Yorktown**

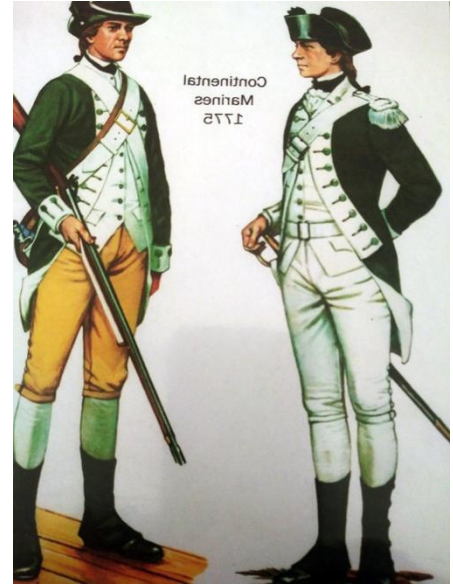
**2032 Battle of Blue Licks**

**2033 Treaty of Paris**

Visit <https://america250sar.org/rd/> for details of each event.

# Commemorating the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps

**Explore Our Legacy. Embrace Our Future.**



In 1776, the Continental Marines participated in their first amphibious raid at the Battle of Nassau in March and engaged in the Continental Army's crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night. These actions were part of the early American Revolution, marking a pivotal period for the newly formed Corps, which was established in November 1775 by the Second Continental Congress.

## Key events in 1776

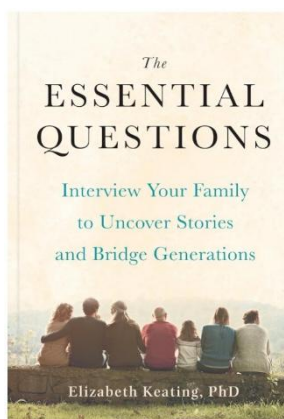
- **Establishment:** The Continental Marines were established by the Second Continental Congress on November 10, 1775.
- **First amphibious raid:** The Marines embarked on their first expedition in February 1776 and conducted their first amphibious landing in March, capturing the British port of Nassau in the Bahamas.
- **[Battle of Trenton](#):** Over 600 Marines joined General George Washington's forces for the daring Christmas night crossing of the Delaware River, which preceded the decisive Battle of Trenton.
- **Uniforms:** The Marine Committee issued uniform regulations on September 5, 1776, specifying green coats with white facings, which led to the "Leatherneck" moniker.

# Denton Library Info

## Family Interviews & Heritage Journaling: Two New Books Explore Collecting & Reflecting on Family History

As we gather with our families this November let's remember that there is no time like the present to start collecting our family stories. This will benefit our descendants, fellow researchers, and even historians or sociologists who might want a peek into our ancestors' times.

Two recently published books on collecting and preserving family stories are now available at the Denton Public Library: ***The Essential Questions: Interview Your Family to Uncover Stories and Bridge Generations*** by Elizabeth Lillian Keating (New York: TarcherPerigee, 2022) and ***Unlocking the Power of Heritage Journaling*** by Dovie Archer (Coppell, TX: Dovie Archer Press, 2024).



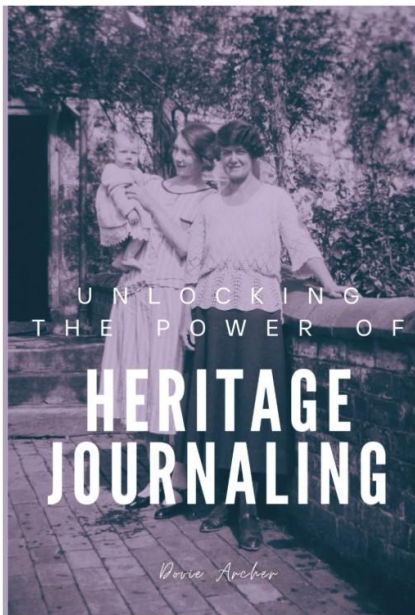
In *The Essential Questions: Interview Your Family to Uncover Stories and Bridge Generations*, author Keating takes an anthropologist's perspective on interviewing family members. Rather than focus simply on dates, places, and familiar anecdotes, with a focus on what individually we wish to learn, an anthropologist is trained to gather information about people who are different from themselves. Keating thought about "...how to learn more about the history of a person, how to enter a parent's or grandparent's world from their perspective, how to honor the language they choose to describe their experiences..." Her reflections led to developing a set of topics and questions to tease out the interviewee's cultural experience which can be vastly different from our own—reflective of the place and time they grew up in. "Interviewing your elders by using the topics in this book will give you a personal glimpse into lived history. You'll get eyewitness reports that create a picture of your ancestors' past in a way that a family tree diagram never could. Your parent or grandparent might share stories of hunting and fishing with their father, wearing clothes their mother made out of feed sacks, cringing at the sound of cruise



missiles overhead during World War II, helping during washday, or going barefoot from June to September.”

*The Essential Questions* includes chapters such as “Questions on Space: Learning About Where Your Elders Grew Up,” “Questions on Social Interactions: The Importance of Everyday Encounters,” and “Questions on Fear: Learning Courage Through Fear,” and thirteen more chapters covering tips on interviewing, questions on time, identity, belief, kinship and marriage, material culture, and more.

*The Essential Questions* is available for in-library use at the Emily Fowler Central Library Special Collections or to borrow from the DPL North Branch.



***Unlocking the Power of Heritage Journaling: Your Guide to Writing Personal and Family History*** by Dovie Archer calls heritage journaling, “...the art of capturing the soul of our ancestry through written reflection.” Heritage journaling, “stitches together the threads of stories, memories, and emotions, creating a vivid tableau of our familiar heritage.” This is accomplished through preserving intangible heritage, capturing oral traditions, rituals, and everyday nuance, connection generations through shared narratives, and passing the torch of family history to those who follow.

The book features nine chapters, including six chapter chock-full of interesting prompts. Some chapters are geared toward personal reflection on family history. The prompt “Untold Stories,” asks readers to “Consider the gaps and silences in your family history. Choose a period or event that remains shrouded in mystery and resurrect the untold story. Use your journal to speculate, imagine, and piece together a narrative that time may have concealed.”

Other chapters invite readers to include others in activities and then journal on the results. For example, “Generational Craft Workshop” encourages readers to “Engage in a craft workshop focused on common creative traditions within your



family. Journal about the shared artistic expressions, the collaborative process, and the artifacts created during the workshop.”

*Unlocking the Power of Heritage Journaling* urges readers to reflect deeply on their family culture and history from a variety of perspectives. Whether the results of these reflections are ever seen by others or not, the exercise alone may bring readers a new appreciation of their family’s story.

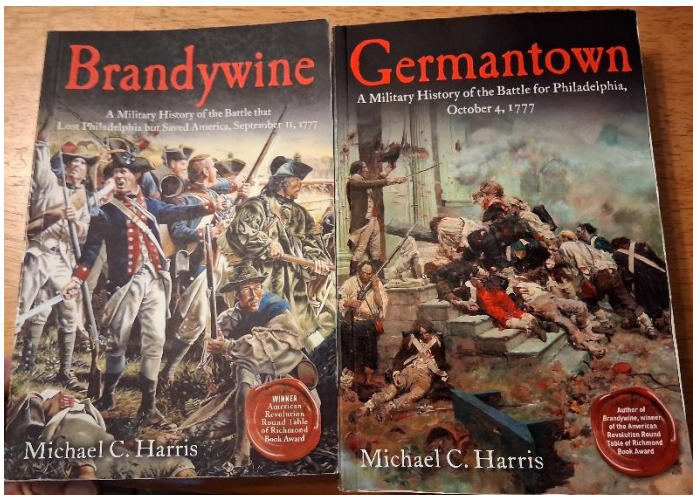
*Unlocking the Power of Heritage Journaling* is available for in-library use at the Emily Fowler Central Library Special Collections.

*Contributed by Nancy Gilbride Casey, DPL volunteer*

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## Books on the Philadelphia Campaign

by Todd Wilber



Michael C Harris has written books on *Brandywine* and *Germantown*. Unlike previous works on these battles, Harris sticks to the primary sources. He also uses previously untapped accounts from the British side. He also debunks many of the myths that have been passed down

as dogma about the battles. Harris gives a candid assessment of leadership of both armies. Overall, Harris gives an updated look at both battles in an evenhanded way. I recommend the books.

Harris has just released a new book covering the time after Germantown and before Valley Forge called *Fighting for Philadelphia*. I am looking forward to it.

## National Society Sons of the American Revolution

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SARmagazine>



Also see the Denton Chapter Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dentontxsar>



### Editor's Note

The Chapter **website** is <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/>. On that site are the back copies of this newsletter, information about the Chapter, and links to the SAR State and National web sites. NOTE: **There is now a Chapter calendar on the website.** Right-most tab: <https://www.texassar.org/Denton/calendar.htm>

All of these communication items, including the Chapter Newsletter, take time to maintain. If you would like to help and/or take over one of these, please let me know.

**Bill Surles, [wsmerch@gmail.com](mailto:wsmerch@gmail.com)**