

The Marshal

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROBERT FORSYTH CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Issue No. 19 Summer 2019



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Gary Page

I find that the older I get, the faster time goes by with 2019 rapidly coming to a close. It seems like just yesterday the year was just starting. This has been an exciting and eventful year in the SAR. As I mentioned in my last dispatch, I challenged myself to participate in more activities, attend more events and involve myself in more working committees. As such, I attended two Leadership Conferences, attended many Grave Markings and Ceremonies.

(continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

4th of July	1
Ask the Expert	3
Chapter News.....	4
Raffle.....	6
Officer Notes.....	7
Book Review.....	9
Event Calendar.....	10

4TH OF JULY WAS A REAL BLAST

Members of the Robert Forsyth Chapter enjoyed the Birthday of our nation in many ways, but a few made sure their nation remembered where it all started. It was a hot sunny day....and it just got hotter. President Gary Page, Past President Allen Greenly, and Emil Decker marched in the Cumming 4th of July Parade.

Meanwhile, J.C. Hustis and Byron Tindall appeared in the city of Jasper parade, and afterwards Byron gave a rousing reading of the Declaration of Independence to a cheering crowd.

In the interim, the 3 hot sweaty compatriots from the Cumming parade made their way to HOT-Lanta, where they joined with other members of the Georgia Society Color Guard and Elijah Clark Militia.



(Cont. page 2)

4TH OF JULY (CONT.)



Above Left: Chaplain Byron Tindall reads the Declaration of Independence to the crowd before a patriotic concert. J.C. Hustis makes sure everyone pays attention. (*just kidding...*) Everyone was eager to hear the inspiring words. Photo by J.C. Hustis

Above Right: Braves Pre-Game ceremonies featuring our award winning GASSAR Color Guard and Elijah Clarke Militia.

They met on an Indian ceremonial ball ground, commonly known, at least for a little while longer, as SunTrust Park. There they participated in the Pregame show for the local tribe of Braves. A Bald Eagle soared over the field; Flags were waving in front of home plate, and the militia marched out onto the infield, while the outfield was covered by a large U.S. shaped American flag. The 13 militiamen fired a round 13 gun salute for the original 13 colonies / states. As a barbershop quartet sang the Star Spangled Banner, they reloaded, and simultaneously, as the 4 men sang, "Home of the Brave," the muskets roared again and a flyover of National Guard jets occurred. It was an amazingly well timed experience.

Right: J.C. was accompanied by the DAR during the Jasper parade.

Photo by J.C. Hustis



HOW DID YOU SPEND THE 4TH ??



Not everyone attended baseball games or parades. Some compatriots spent time with family they hadn't seen in a while. Descendants of Patriot Charles Word Jr gather in Palm Harbor FL to celebrate Independence Day. L to R - Jonah Saperstein, Stephanie Russo Sule, Cynthia Curry Russo (DAR), Christopher Michael Russo (SAR), Eva Christina Russo (CAR). (The woman on the far left is a girlfriend and no relation).

[Ah,....but that's how relations start. Ed.]

PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

I am now the State Americanism Committee Chairman and volunteered to input membership data into the new Patriot Research System. We all have busy lives and commitments, but I encourage you to participate in the SAR as much as you possibly can. For me, it has truly been a rewarding experience! Patriotism, education and American Revolutionary history are the fundamental principals of the SAR for which our membership in this organization represents.

I also want to mention two exciting upcoming events; the 100th Anniversary of the Georgia Society in 2021 and the hosting of the 132nd National Congress in July 2022 being held in Savannah. Our own chapter past president and Vice President General of the South Atlantic District, Allen Greenly, is the 2022 Congress Co-Chairman. Savannah has such a rich history and what a great place to have the 2022 Congress as it relates to the SAR. I expect the 2022 Congress to be one of the best ever held. With that though, to make this the best experience ever, we need volunteers. There are numerous committees and many ways that you as a Georgia Society member can participate. If you can, please contact Allen Greenly and he can match you with a committee that best suits you.

Chris Russo is chairing the Officer Nominating Committee for our 2020 chapter officers and will be reaching out to each member. Again, I respectfully encourage you to get involved and participate in the SAR. There are various chapter roles and I am sure there is a role that will fit your schedule and time. New officers bring new ideas and a fresh perspective!

Finally, we have just a couple of months before we draw the winning ticket for our Brown Bess Musket Raffle. This raffle is a fundraising event that funds our educational fund and other chapter activities. Please get out there and sell a few tickets so that this event is a success and we are able to increase our various funding levels. The drawing will be held at our December chapter meeting, so we still have a little over a month to get out there and sell some raffle tickets.

Now that fall is here, I wish our Compatriots and your families a safe and Happy Holidays.

Gary Page



Ask the Expert:

With Lionel Hildebrand

If you have a question you would like to ask, please forward to the editor, eldecker@windstream.net. He will see that it gets to me.

When did American leaders first reject the metric system, and why?

Thomas Jefferson was a fan of the metric system and wanted the US to adopt it.

That is, until he found out that the French scientists who were defining the system gave up on the idea of defining the second as the period of a pendulum of a given length.

Jefferson really didn't like the idea of depending on reference units that only existed in Paris. He wanted a pure system that could be derived entirely from natural constants, anywhere in the world.

When he saw that the French were unable to do that, he lost enthusiasm for it. (Pretty sure local politics had a lot to do with it too, but this is what dampened Jefferson's advocacy efforts.)

BTW, the reason why the second couldn't be defined with a pendulum length (at the time; it's actually defined by natural constants - different ones - today) is because the Earth's gravity varies too much from place to place.

I'm not sure if Jefferson knew that was the reason.

What would a list of US presidents look like IF each president was elected for a life term?

That is an interesting "What If....." scenario. Assume each president is laid to rest and his V.P. is elevated to the position. If the President had no living VP at his death, or didn't have one at all, whoever really was President at the time (in our chronology) is assumed to have won an election and become the new President. Regular elections as we know them otherwise are no longer relevant. Things would look something like this:

George Washington (1789-1799)

John Adams (1799-1826, Washington's VP)

John Quincy Adams (1826-1848)

John C. Calhoun (1848-1850, J.Q. Adams' VP)

John C. Calhoun resigned as VP in 1832, but this was entirely because of differences with President Andrew Jackson, who never becomes President in this timeline, so presumably Calhoun (who was retained as VP when Jackson replaced Adams in 1828) never has reason to resign.

Chapter and Community News



Above & Below: Our annual picnic is held in July in lieu of a regular meeting. Joined by our lovely ladies, we dined on Bar-B-Que, played Revolutionary Trivia, (won by Chris Russo), and simply enjoyed fellowship time together.



Below: President Gary Page attended the Constitution Day event in Augusta. This event was held at St. Paul's Church, where our chapter's namesake is buried.



Music Review by Your Editor

Ever felt that someone wrote a review and never even heard, saw, or was familiar with the item they were reviewing? That is me; right now; sort of..... But I can say if the past experience is any example, You can be sure that this review will prove true. I received an email from Townsend, a well known Sutler of fine Revolutionary clothing and goods. They have included a new item in their store. "The Sons of Liberty" released a new CD earlier this year. It's 14 tracks cover many period favorites and the inside cover gives a snippet of information for each song. "The Sons of Liberty" are teenagers Joshua, Noah, and Daniel Smith of Jonesville, Virginia. With a background in classical violin, they began re-enacting and playing music of the 18th century in 2014. I met this band of brothers at Kings Mountain when I attended the National event 2 years ago. Their performance overwhelmed everyone who attended. These young men are truly talented, and if you desire period music, these guys deserve your patronage.



Photo: <https://fiddlingforolderfolks.com/the-sons-of-liberty-cd/>

1st CD: <https://www.townsend.us/collections/cds/products/the-sonsof-liberty>

Newest CD: <https://www.townsend.us/collections/cds/products/a-delightful-recreation-cd-m-3627>

Chapter and Community News



Left: Robert Forsyth Chaplain Byron Tindall stayed closer to home with fellow member Gene Bryant and participated in the Constitution Day Celebration ceremony at the Jasper United Methodist Church. The event was sponsored by the Sequoyah Chapter, Captain James Kell Chapter and the Hightower Trail Chapter, DAR.



Right: J.C. Hustis and Emil Decker presented the Robert Forsyth Chapter's Traveling Trunk on Constitution Day, to the students of South Forsyth Middle School. 8th Graders learned of the hardships and resourcefulness of our 18th century ancestors.

Below: A dual grave marking in Elbert County was attended by J.C. Hustis and Emil Decker. One Compatriot was honored in the morning, and one Revolutionary War Patriot was honored in the afternoon. As is often the case, the patriot grave was near the old homestead, where now there are cattle pastures. Even back then, Elberton Granite was the stone of choice for Cemetery stones. The report from the muskets rebounded across the gentle hillside, and made it sound as if three times as many muskets were present.



Left: Pres. Gary Page attended the Constitution Day Celebration held in Augusta, Ga. In addition, there was a Patriot Grave Marking observance recognizing 5 Rev. soldiers as well. This event was held at St. Paul's Church, the resting place of Robert Forsyth.





Robert Forsyth Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution



Sons of the American Revolution is a patriotic organization. Its members are male descendants of people who served in the Revolutionary War, or who contributed to establishing the independence of the United States.

Tickets: \$20 each; 3 for \$50

**Prize: Davide Pedersoli & Co.
Brown Bess 2nd Model Short
Land Musket**

First produced for the British Infantry in 1769, the second model or Short Land Brown Bess was in the result of a slow evolution of the first model of 1728. The Short Land Brown Bess saw extensive use throughout the American Revolution. Through captured stores, the American Continental forces as well had a number of this weapon. It continued its dominance in the British Army until the 1790s when it gave way to the 3rd Model or India Pattern Brown Bess. A number of this black powder muzzleloader continued to be used by some regiments until the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

Musket Raffle

Proceeds will be used to fund our many Programs

Winning ticket to be drawn at the Golden Corral on Dec. 12, 2019

Italian manufacture. NOT made in India

Smoothbore barrel: .75 caliber

Barrel, lock and ramrod are unfinished steel; not blued or brown.

Lock has crown insignia with GR underneath with Grice and 1762 stamped on it.

No rear sight; Front sight serves as bayonet lug

Non-adjustable single trigger

Threaded touch hole (drilled through)

Approx. weight: 8.75 lb.

1 piece European walnut stock.

Flintlock uses 1 in. musket flints

Rear end of ramrod has a 10/32 male thread for optional cleaning jag

Sling attachment loops.

Overall length: 58.25 in.

Length of Pull: 14.5 in.

Cast lead ball; .735 in. (IK-217933 .75 cal.) (per 20)



As a member of The Robert Forsyth Chapter we need you to go beyond the minimum purchase and sell, sell, sell raffle tickets to your neighbors, friends, relatives, your enemies, and even people of the other political persuasion..... This is a very fine piece of workmanship, as we only want to raffle the best. . . But we have to sell a lot of tickets to break even. To make something on the raffle, we need to sell more. Do your part. Do more. Sell tickets like the Revolution depended on it.

A few notes from our officers:

Compatriots,

As we approach year-end, we are conducting a review of our Chapter records. Often a member's information will change but that change is not passed on to the Chapter Secretary, who in turn cannot inform State or National of the change. We ask that you take a moment to review the attached sheet for accuracy and reply to this email with any needed corrections. Your assistance in helping us maintain the Chapter records is greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Ed Rigel, Jr.

Secretary, Robert Forsyth Chapter, GA SAR



Robert Forsyth Compatriots,

I wanted to remind you that it is dues renewal time. Dues should be paid by early December as the Chapter has to pay National and State dues by that time. Sooner is better for ensuring you are not counted as lapsed.

Dues amounts for renewals are as follows:

Regular Membership is **\$78.00**

Dual Membership is **\$25.00**

Junior Membership is **\$15.00**

You can pay by check or via PayPal. If you pay by check, you can either mail the check to me or bring the check to a monthly meeting. My address is:

David Johnson
4725 Connie Mara
Suwanee, GA 30024

To pay through PayPal, there is a **\$2.00** transaction charge so the dues amounts change to:

Regular Membership is **\$80.00** Dual Membership is **\$27.00** Junior Membership is **\$17.00**

Open the Robert Forsyth website (RobertForsythSAR.org) and move the pointer to "ABOUT" on the menu line. There is a list of options displayed. Move pointer to "JOIN/RENEW" and click on it. Near the bottom of the "JOIN/RENEW" screen you will see the renewal rates listed. Below that a drop down box appears in which you can select your membership level. Click on "Pay Now" to take you to PayPal. Click on "Pay with Debit or Credit Card" at the bottom of screen and enter all the mandatory card information. At the bottom just click on "Pay Now" and you're done.

PLEASE NOTE: It takes longer to read these instructions than it takes to pay using PayPal.

Please feel free to call me (David Johnson) at (770) 344-8375.

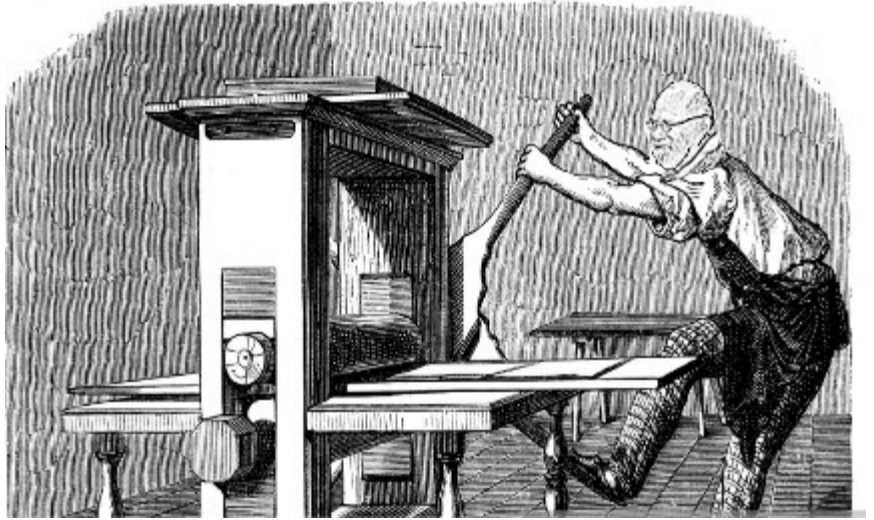
Best Regards,

David Johnson



Chapter Compatriots,

The Marshal is all about chronicling this chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Each quarter of the year is filled with exciting opportunities to participate in what is happening across the nation, the state, or simply across town. As a member, you should seek out these events. Participation is what brings richness to both the event and the participant. Much like the story of *Stone Soup*.



An old man, hungry and penniless showed up on a village doorstep with a simple request. "May I borrow a pot to cook some soup?" Intrigued, the owner asked what kind of soup was planned. "Stone soup" came the answer.

Curiosity forced the occupant to comply just to see how this would be accomplished.

The old man started a fire, put water into the pot, and dropped in a smooth fist sized stone he unwrapped from his bundle of things. Plop. He then sat and watched it boil. Soon the occupant came out to see how the soup was progressing. Just fine replied the old man. After watching for a few, the villager murmured that it would probably taste better with some carrots. He hustled away and returned with some he had diced and added them to the pot. They both watched as the pot boiled away.

Soon a neighbor passed by and inquired as to what was going on. "We're making Stone Soup," the villager replied, taking pride in his participation. After a few minutes of discussion, this man declared that some corn would really help make it more palatable. He hurried off and returned a short while later. The crowd continued to grow, one by one, as others stopped to inquire, and soon hurried off the find an ingredient that was absolutely necessary to make the soup taste better.

Before long, a vast crowd had gathered any number of supplies and added them to the soup. Salt, a bit of beef, some Potatoes; and so the list grew. The comradery and brotherhood grew, and a larger pot was produced to hold it all. Through merriment and the passing of time, soon the soup was ready, and everyone partook of the feast. All proclaimed it to be the best they had ever eaten. The old man, having retrieved his stone, and eaten his fill from the pot, moved on to the next town along his journey.

I (alone) cannot produce the continuing story of the Robert Forsyth Chapter. Through participation, you have a unique view into our story. Each of the villagers would tell the tale above from their perspective. Similar stories, and yet different. Readers want to hear about chapter happenings from more than just the editor. I cannot be at every event, nor take the picture you might. I need your help to make this happen.

This is what I want:

1. You. Go. Do. Participate.
2. Take note of what's going on. How can you make it more meaningful to yourself?
3. Find ways to get more involved.
4. Take pictures if you can. If not, note who is taking photos and ask them to share.
5. Write a brief account of the day's activities.
6. Send them to me; photos and notes.

Right now I could use the following submissions for future editions:

- A. Your personal bio related to becoming a member of the SAR.
- B. Your Patriot's bio. Who, what, etc. Could make interesting reading for the rest of us.
- C. Recent trips / vacations where you saw/visited a significant site/object, etc.
- D. Book reviews. Magazines, blogs, websites.
- E. Other items that might be of interest to your fellow members.
- F. Officers. Express your office's needs and desires.
- G. Requests for things you might like to see.

Emil Decker
Editor

Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

[Colonel George Thurmond, Retired, is a dual member of the Piedmont and Robert Forsyth Chapters. We are happy to present his review of a couple of American Revolution books you are sure to enjoy reading. Ed.]

Lafayette

Author Unger displays a rare excellence in researching his subject. This book is the most complete works by any author I have read on the American Revolution. His careful attention to the life of young Lafayette who is frequently referred to as "Gilbert" (Gilbert du Motier, marquis de LaFayette) is noteworthy.

Lafayette at two years old (Lafayette spelled his name with a lower case f when he served in America) inherited a fortune when his father was killed in the Battle of Minden. His mother dies when he was only 12. At age 17 he marries Marie-Adrienne-Francoise de Noailles, an arranged marriage, who was only 14. This would prove to be one of his best decisions he would make in his life.

As a young man, he becomes a free mason and inspired by the idea of "freedom", decides to leave his wife and family to sail to America to join the American cause for Independence. In America we know his story well as he distinguishes himself by displaying his courage and loyalty to George Washington, not to speak of his financial contribution to our cause.

Returning to France, he becomes the commander of the French army known as the National Guard. During the following years the idea of freedom cracks the century old concept of Kings and Monarchs, leading to several revolutions during which time Lafayette spends five years in prison. At this point his wife Adrienne and her two daughters voluntary join him in prison for the last two years. The revolutions take their toll on the health, finances and well being of his family. His wife proves to be quite a hero in her own right and it is her estate, LaGrange that they will live out their life.

President James Monroe invites Lafayette to be our guest for the 50th anniversary of the American Revolution in 1824. His 14 months touring our now 24 states bring back fond memories of glories gone by. The outpouring by American citizens during his tour is remarkable.

Following his laying the cornerstone at the monument at Bunker Hill, he collects dirt for his return to France to be used to cover his grave. He died at age 76, the last remaining general of the American Revolution.

ISBN 978-0-471-46885-1

Harlow Giles Unger

George Thurmond

The Military Badge of Merit

Does this sound familiar? General George Washington, "ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers," established as the Badge of Military Merit on August 7, 1782. He directed that it be "the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding." Although Washington intended this forerunner of today's Purple Heart to be bestowed "whenever any singular meritorious action is performed," only three soldiers of the American Revolution were awarded this medal.

Sergeant Elijah Churchill, 2nd Regiment, Light Dragoons, was awarded the Badge for his part in two successful raids behind British lines. In November 1780, leading only 16 men, he was able to capture and destroy the heavily manned British fortifications at Corum, New York. Not only did they burn 300 tons of hay, but they also burned a British supply schooner and captured 50 prisoners. In accomplishing this, only one of his men was wounded. The second raid was on Ft. Slongo in October 1781. Churchill's unit, without the loss of a single man, captured and destroyed the fort in less than 24 hours.

The Badge was awarded to Sergeant William Brown, 5th Connecticut Regiment, for leading an advance party who, using only bayonets, penetrated the British fortifications at Yorktown, Virginia on October 14, 1781. Although challenged by enemy gunfire and grenades, Brown's party drove the British from their position in only 125 minutes.

The third and last badge was given to Sergeant Daniel Bissell, 2nd Connecticut Regiment, for masquerading as a British soldier from August 1781 to September 1782. The information he gathered helped prepare for the American-French attack on the city of New York.

With the American Revolution over and the army disbanded, the Badge of Military Merit seemingly passed into history until February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth. On that date General Douglas MacArthur, then War Department Chief of Staff, announced the restoration of the Purple Heart for use by the U.S. Army. Elizabeth Will of the Office of the Quartermaster General is credited with the 1932 design. The modern medal is reminiscent of Washington's Badge of Merit with its heart shape, however, it now contains a likeness of Washington and his family coat of arms.

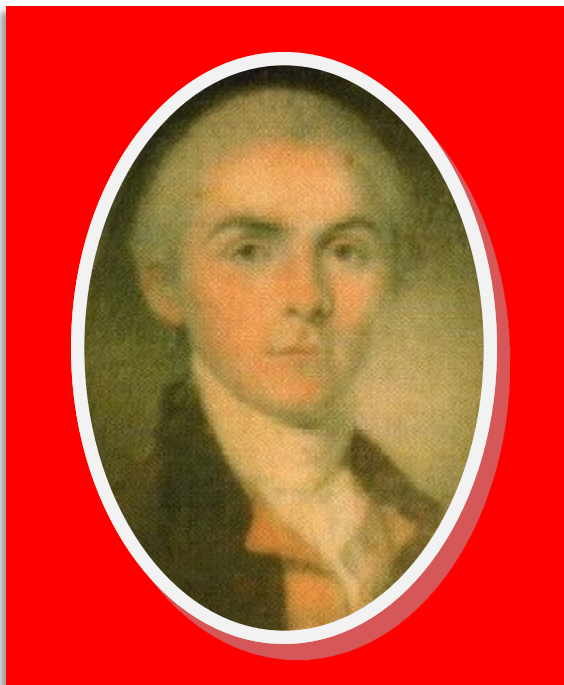
Over the years, Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman and John Kennedy established uniform standards and extended eligibility for the award. Today, the medal can only be given to military or civilian nationals, serving with one of the U.S. Armed Forces since April 5, 1917, that have been wounded or killed under a specific set of circumstances. Although the criteria for the award is very different than that set by General Washington, it still honors those who have demonstrated "unusual gallantry" and "extraordinary fidelity."

George Thurmond

[I could not find his title on Amazon or Google. However, there are other books on this subject if you are interested in more information about the award. A very interesting subject. Ed.]

SAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Location	Date	Level
Little River Chapter Charter Banquet	Thomson, GA	Oct. 5, 2019	State
Grave Marking	Selbyville, DE	Oct. 5, 2019	State
South Atlantic Dist. Mtg	Spartanburg, SC	Oct. 6, 2019	National
Kings Mountain	Blacksburg, SC	Oct. 7, 2019	National
Siege of Savannah	Savannah, GA	Oct. 9, 2019	State
Traveling Trunk	Cumming, GA	Oct. 21-22, 2019	Local
State BOM	Barnesville, GA	Oct. 26, 2019	State
Grave Marking (3)	Athens, Ga	Nov. 2, 2019	State
Veterans Day Program	Snellville, GA	Nov. 9, 2019	Local
Veterans Day Program	Watkinsville, GA	Nov. 11, 2019	Local
Vann's Creek	Elberton, GA	Dec. 7, 2019	State



Robert Forsyth, First Marshal of the state of Georgia & first Marshal killed in the line of duty.

The Marshal

This publication is the newsletter for the Robert Forsyth Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. It is printed quarterly and is distributed to current and prospective chapter members and to certain officers of the state and national organizations and to certain officials of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at "The Golden Corral", 2025 Market Place Blvd., Cumming, GA 30041. Meal: 6:00 / Meeting 7:00.

Prospective members are always welcome at monthly membership meetings. Men, eighteen years of age and older, who are interested in documenting their relationship to their American Revolutionary ancestors and in joining an active group with similar interests are urged to contact the Chapter Registrar,

Christopher Russo at 770-315-6348, via email at guido139@yahoo.com or any chapter officer.

Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Dec 10, 2019. In addition to the material, please include hi-resolution imagery. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding *The Marshal* to the Editor:

Emil L. Decker: Txt. at 706-482-8248 or via email to: eldecker@windstream.net.

Ask the Expert: (cont.)

With Lionel Hildebrand

Zachary Taylor (March 31, 1850-July 9, 1850)

Millard Fillmore (1850-1874, Taylor's VP)

Ulysses S. Grant (1874-1885)

Grover Cleveland (1885-1908)

Adlai Stevenson I (1908-1914, Cleveland's VP)

Woodrow Wilson (1914-1924)

Thomas R. Marshall (1924-25, Wilson's VP)

Calvin Coolidge (1925-33)

Charles G. Dawes (1933-51, Coolidge's VP)

Harry S. Truman (1951-1972)

Richard Nixon (1972-74, resigned)

Nixon's resignation is assumed to have still taken place. If it doesn't, Ford still succeeds him, but not until 1994.

Gerald Ford (1974-2006, Nixon's VP)

George W. Bush (2006-present)

Obviously, we can't actually predict events like this in the scenario where Presidents served for life, but this is as reasonable a conjecture as any. Who knows what other aspects of history would be changed. Oh, and by the way, Gerald Ford, who never won an election, becomes the nation's longest-tenured President ever...

LH.