

The Marshal

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

Issue No. 20 Fall 2019



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



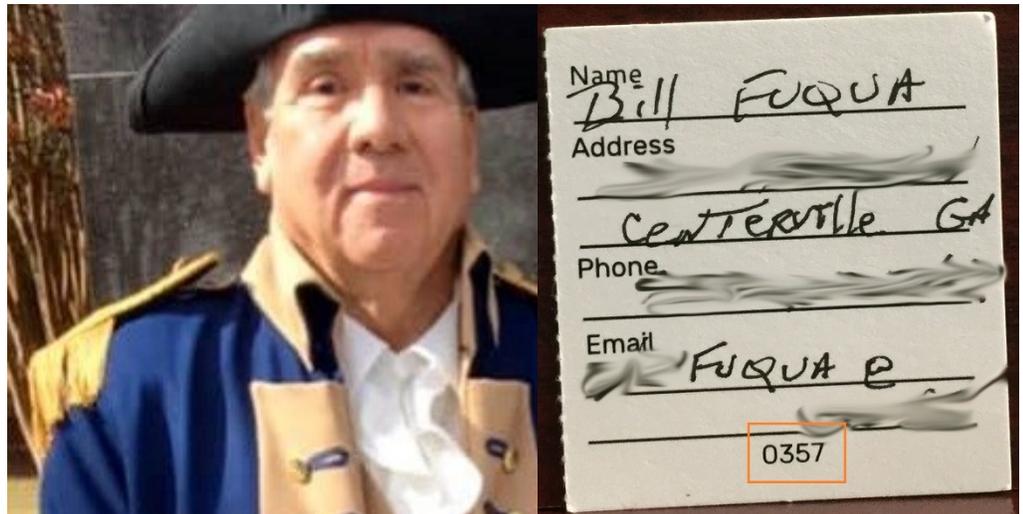
By Gary Page

Goodbye to 2019

Time flies and here we are at the end of 2019. It's been a great and eventful year for the Robert Forsyth Chapter. Our members have participated in numerous monument ceremonies, grave markings, battlefield commemorations and state and national conferences. The Robert Forsyth chapter is well represented at the State and National level with some of our members having significant roles as follows:

(continued on page 2)

MUSKET RAFFLE



Bill Fuqua, member of the Ocmulgee Chapter, bought the winning ticket for the Brown Bess, raffled off by the Robert Forsyth Chapter.

Once again the Robert Forsyth Chapter raised operational funds by purchasing a Pedersoli Brown Bess Model 2, and then raffling off tickets at \$20 each, or 3 for \$50. Total tickets were limited to 500, though not all were sold.

First produced for the British Infantry in 1769, the second model or Short Land Brown Bess was 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 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.

The musket is of Italian manufacture, and has a smoothbore barrel of .75 caliber. The barrel, lock and ramrod are unfinished steel; The lock has crown insignia with GR underneath with Grice and 1762 stamped on it. The flintlock uses 1 in. musket flints. There is no rear sight; The front sight serves as bayonet lug. The 1 piece stock is of European walnut. It has an approx. weight of 8.75 lb. Rear end of ramrod has a 10/32 male thread for optional cleaning jag [*highly recommended. Ed.*] There are sling attachment loops, and the overall length is 58.25 in. This is a fine weapon, and Bill is certainly happy with his investment in a raffle ticket.

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PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

Allen Greenly: South Atlantic Division Vice President General, past Georgia Society State President, National Trustee, past Chapter President, 2022 National Congress Co-Chair

Emil Decker: Georgia Society *The Hornet's Nest* Editor, Robert Forsyth Chapter *The Marshall* Editor

Ed Rigel, Jr.: South Atlantic District Secretary, past Chapter President, Chairman Georgia Fellows

John Flikeid: Georgia Society State Secretary, past Chapter President

Our members are very active at both the State and National SAR level and we should be proud and applaud their efforts and commitments.

As my time as Chapter President comes to an end, I am so proud to be a member of such an active SAR Chapter that has members serving as exemplary mentors and role models. They have certainly motivated me to take a much more active role in the SAR over the past year, taking on various chapter officer roles, State Committees and my most favorite, the State Color Guard and Militia.

In my previous dispatches, I have encouraged our members to become more active in the SAR organization. The more active you are, the more you will get out of this wonderful, patriotic SAR Organization.

As 2020 soon arrives, I welcome and pass the President's gavel to Chip Van Alstyne at our Chapter Annual Banquet on Jan. 4, 2020. Please RSVP to the Banquet Invitation and let's give Chip a big Robert Forsyth Chapter welcome as the 2020 Chapter President.

In closing, I wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Let's remember our Revolutionary Patriots that fought for our Republic and the freedoms we enjoy. Let's also remember our Veterans who fought and died to keep our freedoms and be reverent in our celebration of Christmas. God Bless America and Merry Christmas!

Gary



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.

Did American and British Soldiers during the Revolutionary War really stand in front of each other in lines and take turns at shooting?

They didn't really take turns. The company fired together to frame their united shots because the weapons were smoothbore, and terribly inaccurate. Understand that as weapons became more precise over time, as well as faster to shoot, formations became looser and distances of engagement got longer. Think of each regiment of foot like a giant shotgun. You can fire it three times a minute. Lines could apply massive fire in the best way possible. Warfare was a dangerous and deadly business, but the entire point of gentlemanly warfare of the time was to cause a rout of the opposing formation, and at the end of the day, the winner held the field of combat. It was a deadly game of maneuvering units, rather than individuals, to achieve a tactical end. Think of it as a game of Chess.

Let's play a scenario. It is 1776. You are part of a group of minutemen called up from a settlement outside of Augusta. You grab your smooth-bore hunting musket and meet the other patriots from town and form up under the command of General Nathanael Greene.

On the other side is a formation of battle-hardened British Regulars. Upon volunteering into the service, they received the best training in the world. They have been garrisoned in the colony for years and have fought rebel Continentals for months, though some may be relatively new. They drill constantly. They belong to the greatest army the world has ever known. They define the term discipline.

You walk onto the field, line up, and wait for your local regimental commander, a wealthy landowner with status enough to be entrusted with the command, and upon his orders, level your weapon to fire. The accuracy of smooth-bore muskets was in the range of 200-300 yards against a line of infantry or cavalry. Against a single enemy, however, the effective range was no more than 50-100 yards. Bear in mind that ordinary infantrymen were poorly trained in aimed shooting, due to the need to save gunpowder and lead. Modern reenactors can achieve much better results. Muskets were smoothbore, which lessened their accuracy and range, but made for faster loading, far less bore fouling and more robust, less complicated firearms than rifles.

Some of the enemy fall, but the wounded or dead are pulled back and a man takes their place in the line. You take a knee and a volley of return fire enters your formation. The man at your left and right fall. A man takes the position of the one to your right, but your left is open. Your smaller force becomes very apparent to you about now.

(cont. page 3)

Ask the Expert: (cont.)

With Lionel Hildebrand

You are just ramming home the paper wad and ball down the barrel, and cocking the lock when another volley of high caliber balls comes racing into your formation. You hear the British commander yelling instructions as a few shots ring out toward them from over your head. Gee, how did they reload so fast? You raise your weapon and squeeze off a shot from a kneeling position. You have no idea where the ball goes.

As you reach for your pouch of powder and ball, a thunderous crack erupts with a plume of smoke across the field and another volley of British lead pulverizes your formation. You look around now to find that your troop of foot, once 120 strong, is now about 40. Many dead, but many are just gone...where the..... oh, and you and the rest decide to join them as they advance to the rear.

The British stall for a moment while they fix bayonets and you gain distance. At least you hope you have distance. More is better, but running isn't easy. (Time to add some excitement?) At this point, as you look behind you (you were running away remember...) a battery of American cannons split the British formation in two. It is chaos. Some men are confused, some rally and attempt to reload. Half of the line fires but the balls fall short and spit tufts of grass and dirt into the air. The British formation is rattled again by another cannonball, tumbling in from an odd angle and bouncing, lazily yet tirelessly, causing them to jump out of the way, but it catches them nonetheless. Death reigns.

You have made it to your redoubt behind a sturdy fence, or hastily piled wall of dirt. You take position with some of your compatriots and continue to fire from the relative safety of the embankment, regardless of whether or not you will hit anything at the incredible range of 150 yards. On the left flank a troop of Continental regulars rush forward with bayonets, clashing against a British line. The melee lasts about thirty seconds before a line of American reserves rush up to join. A bugle sounds and the British bring up a line of their reserves, quickly moving across the field. Heart pounding, wiping sweat from your brow, you see the English line you faced falling back, only to be met in their retreat by a squad of American cavalry that picks off a number of them, passing them as it rushes in a broad flanking maneuver to the left, crashing into the reserves cutting off the left flank, breaking the remaining line and ensuring your general's victory.

What would have happened if the cavalry was British? What if the British reserves had arrived first and reinforced their position instead of the other way around? What if there had been no American cannon at all, as was often the case. All of this takes place in the span of about six minutes.

An hour later, a local Reverend is on the field offering last rites to the wounded. All the bodies of the dead are shoeless, gun-less, and foodless (if they had anything of value or usefulness, it has been taken.). About 40 British have been taken prisoner, including a major. This is a huge prize. Greene personally takes him prisoner. He takes the major's pistol in surrender and treats him relatively well. Better than the average American soldier captured by the British. Using him as leverage, Greene sends a courier under truce, and trades for a large number of American prisoners, resulting in a massive boost of morale and momentum for the war effort. All of this came from Greene placing your inexperienced unit in a manner as to goad the enemy into believing you represented a weak flank.

It's not so much "trading" volleys as it was the purposeful application of units where they may be most effective for the desired outcome. With untrained militia, the purpose was to shoot enough lead into the enemy to achieve a goal. A general may put weaker units on the right flank, knowing they are likely to break and run. He might know they would not be able to amass enough fire to drive off the enemy line, and use that time and space to set up a cavalry flanking charge, or a volley of cannon fire. If the enemy falls for the gambit (yeah...chess...), the result may be devastating. Who shall hold the field at the end of the day? Read about Greene's strategy as he avoided Cornwallis across the Carolina's, and ultimately lost/won the day at Guilford Courthouse. Also read about Daniel Morgan's strategy at Cowpens.

Which US presidents were not born in the United States?

One could say there are eight former U.S. Presidents who were not born in the United States. George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Q. Adams, Andrew Jackson, and William Henry Harrison were all born prior to 1776, and therefore were born in British colonies. Martin Van Buren, the 8th President, was the first to be born in the United States. William Henry Harrison (9th) succeeded him, but every President since John Tyler (the 10th) has been born in the U.S.

As for someone being born outside the country and becoming President in the future? Well, it hasn't happened yet, but it could at some future date. John McCain was born in the Panama Canal Zone when it was controlled by the United States. Both McCain's father and grandfather were Admirals in the U.S. Navy. An official ruling was made in his case that he was eligible when he received the GOP nomination in 2000.

George Romney, Mitt Romney's father was born in Mexico, but both of his parents were U.S. citizens, so he was a U.S. citizen at birth regardless of where he was born. This was raised and quashed as an issue when he ran.

One possibility (long shot) is Tulsi Gabbard, the U.S. Senator from Hawaii. As a Democratic contender, Gabbard was born in American Samoa, but is a natural-born U.S. citizen through her mother, and has lived in Hawaii since she was two.

LH.

Chapter and Community News



Left, Right and Center: Most Chapters sponsor grave markings in their immediate area. Some might co sponsor a marking somewhere in their state. Allen Greenly found the grave of one of his patriot ancestors, John McCabe, in Delaware had not been marked, and so the Chapter immediately co-sponsored the event. Allen flew to Delaware, and carried a Georgia granite patriot marker with him. Allen was, in turn, honored by the city for his work in arranging the ceremony.



[I wonder what TSA thought about a traveler carrying a granite marker in his carry-on? Ed.]



Right: Lee C. Dunn, author, introduced us to her book, "John Fletcher Hanson – How One Man Changed the Face of the South". Fascinating history of the Father of Georgia Tech.



Left: Members of the chapter gathered once again in the Forsyth County Commissioner's chamber, where they read the Veterans Day Proclamation.

Below: (L) John Wassell shared his Grandfather's Missionary, and WWII story. (C) John's wife pulled the winning ticket for the Brown Bess Musket raffled during the Dec. meeting. (R) Dr. Corydon M. Wassell, Naval Physician and Navy Cross awardee. Cecil B. DeMille produced a movie about him.



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

Almost a Miracle

By John Ferling

In this gripping chronicle of America's struggle for independence, award-winning historian John Ferling transports readers to the grim realities of that war, capturing an eight-year conflict filled with heroism, suffering, cowardice, betrayal, and fierce dedication. As Ferling demonstrates, it was a war that America came much closer to losing than is now usually remembered. General George Washington put it best when he said that the American victory was "little short of a standing miracle"

Almost a Miracle offers an illuminating portrait of America's triumph, offering vivid descriptions of all the major engagements, from the first shots fired on Lexington Green to the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown, revealing how these battles often hinged on intangibles such as leadership under fire, heroism, good fortune, blunders, tenacity, and surprise. The author paints sharp-eyed portraits of the key figures in the war, including General Washington and other American officers and civilian leaders. Some do not always measure up to their iconic reputations, including Washington himself. Others, such as the quirky, acerbic Charles Lee, are seen in a much better light than usual. The book also examines the many faceless men who soldiered, often for years on end, braving untold dangers and enduring abounding miseries. The author explains why they served and sacrificed, and sees them as the forgotten heroes who won American independence. Ferling's narrative is also filled with compassion for the men who comprised the British army and who, like their American counterparts, struggled and died at an astonishing rate in this harsh war. Nor does Ferling ignore the naval war, describing dangerous patrols and grand and dazzling naval actions.

Finally, *Almost a Miracle* takes readers inside the legislative chambers and plush offices of diplomats to reveal countless decisions that altered the course of this war. The story that unfolds is at times a tale of folly, at times one of appalling misinformation and confusion, and now and then one of insightful and dauntless statesmanship.

Oxford Press

Comments by George Thurmond

A comprehensive account of enjoyable reading of the several phases of the Americana Revolution from the causes of the war, the war in the North, then in the South and finally, the victory. One of the best books that I have read on the American Revolution.

Three Tricorns



ISBN 978-0-19-518121-0, Oxford University Press, 2007 by John Ferling, \$29.95



Above: J.C. Hustis, Allen Greenly, and Emil Decker brought the Traveling Trunk to the Cub Scouts meeting at the Bethelview Methodist Church. The scouts were attentive, and well behaved.

Right: As a reward for their behavior, (and because we often cannot fire our muskets at schools) we took them out back to demonstrate musket firing. Since the sun was set, the "fire-works" were spectacular. Even shooting blanks is dangerous. Always safety first.

Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



Robert Forsyth Chapter President Leads the Award winning Georgia State Color Guard as they present the Colors at Oconee Hills Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony in Athens, GA. In the shadows you may also recognize fellow Robert Forsyth members J. C. Hustis and Emil Decker.

Below: J.C. Hustis attended an 1812 Patriot grave marking in Dahlonega.



Left: J.C. Hustis provided cover for the Piedmont Color Guard at a recent Phoenix University Graduation in Atlanta, GA.



Left: Not all Halloween costumes are cartoon, Super Heroes or witches and ghosts. These young men chose to honor their forefathers at Northlake Baptist's "Fall Festival in October. Maybe they will become C.A.R. members in the near future.

Right: On a blustery December Saturday, J. C. Hustis attended the National "Wreaths Across America" Day. Veteran Graves across the US, Europe, and elsewhere are honored during this season.



Stoddard's Stockade



Peter Stoddard can talk all day about the exploits of his ancestors, which can be quite entertaining. I have persuaded him to send me some of those stories, so you may look forward to multiple stories of dare doing, interesting side-notes, and historical shoulders being brushed against by his family line. We hope you find them interesting.

Stoddard Ancestral Ties to the Salem Witchcraft Hysteria

Today I spoke to the real estate agent who recently sold the John Proctor House in Salem MA. He later sent me a copy of the 1703 deed for the sale from a descendant of Emanuel Downing to a descendant of John Proctor. Though this house is on 1/2 acre, Downing owned 300 acres. Remarkably, this house stands on the foundation of Downing's original house - which burnt to the ground.

Emanuel Downing is my 9th great-grandfather. He was my immigrant ancestor Anthony Stoddard's father-in-law. Downing was John Wintrop's brother-in-law and an attorney, instrumental in drafting the 1639 charter for the Massachusetts Bay Colony. A clever inclusion was the power of the colony to hold meetings and make decisions in Boston, not London. This detail escaped the attention of an otherwise distracted King Charles. After Downing returned to England he rented his house and tavern to John Proctor, who was hanged for witchcraft in 1692. The entire Act 2 of *The Crucible*, a satiric and highly fictionalized play, takes place in the living room owned by my 9th great-granddaddy!



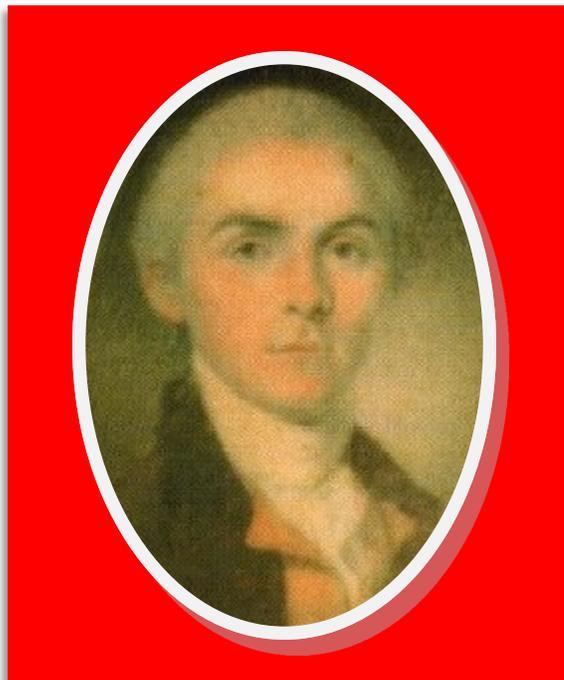
DOWNING HOUSE.

Right: 1703 Deed from Emanuel Downing et al to Thorndike Proctor, John Proctor's son.

Downing (continued)			
1701 Jan 11 Emanuel et al	(Disposition)	18	5
1705 Feb 9	Thorndike Proctor	17	7
1705 Jan 3	John Pickering	17	14
1706 Dec 4 Experience	Thomas Southwick	18	20
1707	Michael Bowden	18	19
1708 July 22	Nathaniel Shepard	28	60
1708 Dec 11 James et al	Isabel Downing	16	17
1708 Jan 6 James et al	William Staley	18	23
1692 Dec 13 John et al	John Downing et al	9	18
1697 Dec 16	William Anderson et al	11	19
1690 Dec 30	Nicholas Boyce	13	21
1700 Dec 14	Joseph Bradshaw et al	14	10
1700 Dec 15	Thomas Bufffkin	51	2
1700 Aug 7	Thomas Bufffkin et al	16	33
1700 Jan 22	David Downing	15	28

SAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Level
Robert Forsyth Annual Chapter Banquet	Jan 4, 2020	Tams Backstage Cumming, GA	Local
State Annual Conference	Jan 24-25, 2020	Lawrenceville, GA	State
Heroes of the Hornets Nest	Feb 7, 2020	Elijah Clark Park, GA	State
Kettle Creek	Feb 8-9, 2020	Washington, GA	National
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Feb 13, 2020	Cumming, GA	Local
Grave Markings	Apr 04, 2020	Marietta, GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Mar 12, 2020	Cumming, GA	Local
Patriots Day	Apr 18, 2020	St. Simons Island, GA	State
Grave Markings	Apr 26, 2020	Midway, GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	May 14, 2020	Cumming, GA	Local
Memorial Day	May 25, 2020	Various Locations	National



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 Mar 20, 2020. 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@weegrr.space .

Stoddard's Stockade (Cont.)



The 2018 real estate listing stated the home was built in 1638, though that would be the house built by Emanuel Downing. That was said to be the largest house in Massachusetts. I take that to mean it was also the largest house in colonial America. Records reveal that the current Proctor House was built in the early 1700's.