

The Marshal

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

Issue No. 21 Winter 2020



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Chip Van Alstyne

I am deeply grateful for the confidence you have placed in me to lead this chapter for the coming year. Having such examples to follow as Compatriots Page, Flikeid and Greenly is a humbling and challenging feeling. I look forward to working with everyone to continue the great works our young chapter has begun.

As we gather together in this place, next to the Bell Center and Forsyth Historical Society, we are reminded of those who came before us.

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ANNUAL BANQUET



2020 Officers of the Robert Forsyth Chapter. (L-R) Emil Decker, Editor; Allen Greenly, Chancellor; Tom Slaughter, Sergeant of Arms; Byron Tindall, Chaplain; Chris Russo, Registrar; Charles Meagher, Genealogist; John Flikeid, Historian; David Johnson, Treasurer; Gary Page, Vice President. & interim Secretary.

Once again the Robert Forsyth Chapter held its Annual Banquet and Officer turnover at Tam's Backstage, a restaurant located in the old Forsyth County School building downtown.

The Cumming Public School was first erected in 1923 at 101 School Street. It served students 1-11 offering the first Diploma in Cumming. Shortly after it burned, it was rebuilt within its same brick walls in 1927.

The building was used as headquarters for the Forsyth County Board of Education in its final years. The City of Cumming acquired the building in 1999, and it was named to The National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

The school provides an historic tour of Old Cumming via photographs, annuals, historic artifacts and authentically restored classrooms. It is home to The Cumming Playhouse, the Historical Society of Cumming/Forsyth County, as well as Tam's Backstage Restaurant.

Right: There was a flurry of email discussions prior to the event with members trying to decide whether to wear their uniform or simply a suit and tie. In the middle of the discussion, Ed Rigel Jr. stated he was not going to wear any pants. Digitally "Raised eyebrows" were answered as, upon arriving, we saw he was wearing his kilt. Ed.



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

Not just within our chapter but in our state and nation. As some of you know, I lost my father this past August. He was a man who served our country for 27 years in both war and peace, at home and abroad. He continued that service out of uniform by volunteering at the VA and other works of charity. He raised me to love our country and to believe in its values and history. He, too, was inspired by his grandfather, a veteran of World War I, and the Spanish-American war. A man who had a deep interest in genealogy. Whose work helped me greatly on my path to membership in our beloved SAR. All of us here are linked by our love for veterans. Whether it is those whom we knew personally, or those by whom we have proven our membership in this organization. As we enter 2020, I believe that we owe it to our forefathers who fought for, and formed this country, to help ensure that those who continue their works today are honored and remembered for their continued sacrifices. I plan to work with you championing our living veterans and continue to look for ways to expand and enhance our chapter's support for our heroes.

Of course, looking back isn't the only thing we as a chapter must focus on. We must continue to grow. We've heard many times over the past year that organizations such as ours continue to shrink and age. We must continue to get our message out to those who qualify and attract them to something larger than themselves. Whether it's to honor their ancestor's courage, or to educate the future of our country about the work done by our forefathers. We must continue the excellent work done by our Travelling Trunk and by our recent Genealogy Workshop and look for ways to get the stories of our ancestors in front of audiences far and wide.

In that light, we must not forget those who weren't born into our lineages. As the son of an immigrant, I understand the love of not only their new country, but pride in their own heritage. We should ensure that everyone is educated on the traditions, concepts and freedoms this country was founded in. While helping them to develop ways to celebrate their own traditions in ways that educate us, their new countrymen. Only in this way can we be assured that the ideals celebrated by our ancestors, will continue on to our children and theirs. This country and those ideals that are now shared with them, our new brothers and sisters, fellow heirs to "the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a nation of free men."

To sum it up, support for our veterans, support for students and support for the newest among us.

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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.

Who was the most intelligent of the American Founding Fathers?

Among the Founding Fathers, there were a number of truly bright men, among them Jefferson, Hamilton, and Franklin. That two of them disagreed so much doesn't make either of them fail to quality as "brilliant." It's hard not to love Franklin, with all his inventions and innovations. Hamilton has been getting a lot of press these days because of his musical, not to mention his contributions to our monetary system, the Federalist papers, and other areas.

Nonetheless, it is hard to deny the #1 slot to Thomas Jefferson, perhaps the last of the great Renaissance Men. The eighteenth century was about the very last time that any man could claim mastery over the breadth of nearly all human knowledge — but Jefferson could.

In Ken Burns' documentary about Jefferson, he describes how a number of people met a traveler one night but each described him differently. The farmer reported that the traveler was an expert in farming... the surveyor reported the traveler was an expert surveyor... the musician reported how the traveler was a great violinist... and so on. That man's name, of course, was Thomas Jefferson.

This is another Founding Father tale. When JFK hosted a great dinner of talented people in the White House state dining room, he said:

"This is the very greatest assembly of talent and ability this room has ever seen... since Thomas Jefferson dined here alone."

For my money, it's Thomas Jefferson.

How tough was Andrew Jackson?

Tough as Hickory. On the morning of 30 May 1806 Jackson fought a duel with a rival politician, Charles Dickinson. Jackson and Dickinson were rival horse breeders and southern plantation owners with a long-standing hatred of each other. Dickinson accused Jackson of renegeing on a horse bet, calling Jackson a coward and an equivocator. Dickinson also called Rachel Jackson a bigamist. (Rachel had married Jackson not knowing her first husband had failed to finalize their divorce.) Armed with .70 caliber dueling pistols, the two men stood a mere 24 feet apart awaiting the signal from General Overton to fire. Dickinson was an excellent pistol shot and had already killed 26 men in formal duels. When Overton gave the signal to fire, Dickinson fired first, aiming for Jackson's heart, while Jackson apparently hesitated. Even though a puff of dust from Jackson's coat was obvious to onlookers, Jackson put his hand over the wound to staunch the flow of blood and stayed standing long enough to fire his gun. Dickinson's seconds claimed Jackson's first shot misfired, which would have meant the duel was over, but, in a breach of etiquette, Jackson re-cocked the gun and pulled the trigger again. and took aim and fired, dropping Dickinson. Dickinson would die later that night from his wound.

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PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

These are the goals for my upcoming term and I hope that we can all work on making them a reality. Again, thank you for the trust you have placed in me and I look forward to serving you with honor and passion in 2020.
certificate and membership award.

Chip

Chapter and Community News



Left: Past and current Presidents were ask to come lay hands on the incoming President Chip Van Alstyne.

Below: Allen Greenly and Ed Rigel Jr. were awarded their 10 year certificate and membership award.



Left: Tom Davis receives his 15 year certificate and pin.

Below: President Gary Page presides over the meeting before Chip takes over.



Above: Gary awards the Lydia Darragh award to Angie Page, his chief supporter and wife.



Chapter and Community News (Cont.)

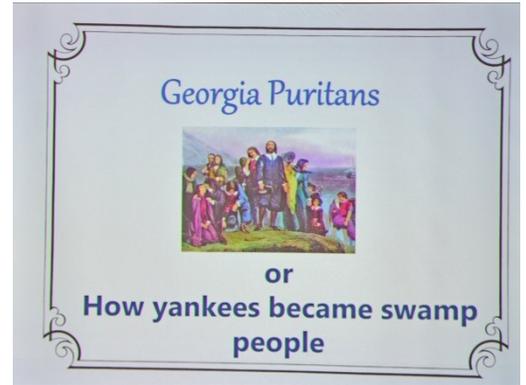


Above: Members and guests enjoyed the delicious meal, fellowship, and ultimately a well received program and installation of officers.

Below: John Flikeid, Chris Russo, and Charles Meagher receive their 5 year certificate and pin.



Below: 2019 officers are recognized for their contributions during the previous year.



Above: The beginning of the southern migration of retirees from the North. GASSAR President Scott Collins presented the founding and leadership of the Midway Community in the period prior to and during the American Revolution.

Below: Gary Page presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Scott for his program.



Book Review 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 second review of an American Revolution book you are sure to enjoy reading. Ed.]

George Washington's Indispensable Men

This is a very interesting book by Author Lefkowitz who provides a great deal of detail about the 32 aides-de-camp of George Washington during the American Revolution. Further, he reports on their activity following their service to their great Commander.

Three tricorns.

ISBN 0-8117-1646-5  Stackpole Books.,
2003 by Arthur S. Lefkowitz, \$29.95

William Washington Cavalryman of the Revolution

by Stephen E. Haller, Heritage Books, Inc.

ISBN 0-7884-1803-3

William, second cousin of George Washington, stepped up early to fight for independence. He first served in the Infantry as a Captain and fought in the early battles around New York. Later he was able to transfer to the Continental Light Dragoons where he distinguished himself a number of times.

William fought at the historic battle of Trenton as an Infantry Officer where he gained a reputation for being clear headed in the midst of combat. At the great victory of Trenton, William and his second in command, James Monroe, were both wounded.

William was assigned to escort the prisoners taken to Philadelphia, which prevented him from participating in the follow up battle of Princeton.



He served as a Cavalry Officer in the Middle States until 1779, during which time he was promoted to Major and later as Lt Colonel and Commander of the 3rd Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons. With the shift in British policy to invade the South, William was assigned to join General Benjamin Lincoln in Charleston, South Carolina. William participated in a number of skirmishes during the period prior to the surrender of the command.

It was during this time that he met Jane Elliott, daughter of a wealthy Planter at nearby Sandy Hill. The seventeen year old presented William with an 18-inch cloth taken from the drapery of her room as the "Regimental Colors." This flag became known as the "Eutaw Flag."

William's real fame occurred from his heroics at the Battle of Cowpens. For his courage and decisive action, William was awarded a Silver Medal by the Continental Congress. (It would take 10 years for Congress to fulfill this action!). His action at Guilford Courthouse was equally impressive. However, he received setbacks at Hobkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs where he was wounded and captured.

William married Jane Elliott whose 44-year-old father had died one day prior to William's famous duel with Lt Colonel Banastre Tarleton at the Battle of Cowpens. Following the war, William settled on his wife's Sandy Hill Plantation to take up the life of a Planter in his adopted state of South Carolina. He lived out his life with distinction, passing away at age 58 in 1810. He and his wife are buried at "Live Oak," a plantation near Sandy Hill.

Three tricorns. 

George Thurmond

Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



Above: Allen Greenly, Gary Page, Bill Fuqua, musket winner, John Flikeid, Chip Van Alstyne, & Emil Decker (photographer) attended the Georgia Society Annual conference, where they gave the Raffle winner his marvelous new toy.

Left: Gary Page, followed by Emil Decker, carry the Colors at the Annual State event.

Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



Left: One of the true highlights of the Annual Conference is watching the awards handed out to individuals and Chapters. The Patriot Medal is awarded for continued service at the highest level, and is extremely limited in numbers. The winners must be nominated, and the committee looks hard at the service of each individual nominated. This year, the Georgia Society was spot on when it awarded the Patriot Medal to Edward Paul Rigel Jr.

Below Center: At the Heroes of the Hornet's Nest Celebration at Elijah Clark State Park, J.C. Hustis performed duties in the Georgia Society Color Guard, while Emil Decker and Don Loudermilk both fired their muskets as members of the Elijah Clarke Militia.



Below: Many members of the Robert Forsyth Chapter attended the Kettle Creek festivities in Washington, Georgia on the second weekend of February. Among the "over 37" members of the militia on the firing line, you can include our members Don Loudermilk, Emil Decker, John Flikeid, & Byron Tindall.



Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



Above Left: Though not as windy as the previous day at Elijah Clark State Park, it was still pretty cold on Saturday morning. J.C. Hustis raises the Betsy Ross Flag in the opening ceremonies.



Above right: Ed Rigel Jr. looks nice and toasty in his multiple layers. The event concluded just as the rain came in. Luckily, we missed the 4+ inches of snow received back home.

Below: Before the rain, a parade marched two laps around the green in front of the courthouse.



Left, Right, and Below: Chapter members marched in true military fashion carrying their muskets at left shoulder. (Left shoulder puts the lock and possible powder flash danger facing away from the militiaman.)

Lower Left: The parade was led by Past President Scott Collins, a Drummer from John Collins. and followed by current President Bill Dobbs GASSAR.



Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



Left and Below: Emil Decker, John Flikeid, and Byron Tindall were selected to be Loyalist for the reenactment of the Battle of Kettle Creek in the park behind the Wilkes County Courthouse. After making a valiant stand, when their Colonel (portrayed by Scott Collins) is shot and killed, they run away.



Below: As the weather turned worse, we moved inside for the Kettle Creek Commemoration Ceremony. Ed Rigel Sr. and Ed Jr. ran the registration and handed out the streamers to participants.



Left: Emil Decker, his musket rendered un-fire-able due to a worn flint, took on the role of handing out programs and helping pre-place wreaths.



Left: Allen Greenly marches through the raised sabers from the JROTC and gives honor to the patriots that fought at Kettle Creek.

Right: Byron presented the wreath at the Heroes of the Hornet's Nest event. From his clothing, you can surely appreciate the dedication to come out when the cold temp and blustery wind of the day would keep many inside.



Chapter and Community News (Cont.)

Left: J.C. Hustis attended the George Washington Birthday Party held in Gainesville, GA.



Right: Deputy Jeffrey Folk received a Law Enforcement Medal during the Forsyth County Board of Commissioner's meeting in March.



Below: Compatriots Emil Decker and J.C. Hustis take a small amount of time to pose during their "world tour" presenting the Robert Forsyth Traveling Trunk. They made stops at Shiloh Point Elementary and North Forsyth Middle Schools.



The 2020 Corona Virus Pandemic has really put a hold on many events that would have been covered in this edition, and promises to put a damper on future events in the coming days.....or months. Be safe. Stay home; socially distance yourself in the physical sense, but be mindful of the fact that we all have needs of the social nature. Take advantage of email, telephones, and other means of communication to check in on significant family and friends. Keep your spirits up, and one day, hopefully soon, we can meet again, sharing our tales of perseverance and trials faced, and honor our ancestors as we have in the past.



Stoddard's Stockade



My 7th great-grandpappy Solomon Stoddard was a 1600s - 1700s honcho Puritan pastor in the western wilderness of Northampton MA.

If interested please Google him or go here for a whole lot more:

<http://www.americanrealities.com/stoddard-solomon.html>

<https://shareok.org/handle/11244/6778>

Solomon championed the Half Way Covenant movement, a measure vital to church survival and expansion of membership in his western New England domain.

One of his nonconformist acts was to offer communion to well behaved church members who could not necessarily claim a salvation experience. Those taking communion were entered into record books and such. Solomon himself was saved while taking communion a year or more into his 59+ year gig as Northampton pastor.

That is pretty astonishing for an early Harvard divinity graduate, the college's first librarian and 2 year chaplain in Barbados to have not been saved. That would surprise no one about modern day Harvard graduates, 98.37% of whom are pinko communists. *Did Solomon bluff his way thru all that higher education kinda like I did centuries later as a Marketing major at UGA?*

But I digress.

Solomon later tried to fly under the radar with the even bolder step to stop recording names of those who took communion. He believed only God knew who was saved and deserving, so why report it to church hierarchy? I once saw that identified as, to paraphrase, "the first revolutionary act in colonial America".

This all drove traditional priggish pastors like Increase and Cotton Mather in Boston friggin nuts! THEY wanted to say who was saved and who was not. They whined that Solomon had no business leaving such matters to God. But they worded it a little differently.

And of course, it threatened both Mather's authority.

Solomon's movement away from strict Puritan doctrine came to be known as Stoddardism and Stoddardeanism. Solomon's grip on western Mass was so firm some derisively referred to him as the Pope of the Connecticut River Valley. The pomp and circumstance of Popes, Catholicism and the Anglican church are what compelled Puritans to leave Europe in the first place.

Thus, Stoddard's Way made it on to Jeopardy.

Of all my ancestors' accomplishments, nothing beats 7 seconds of recognition on Jeopardy.

Peter Stoddard

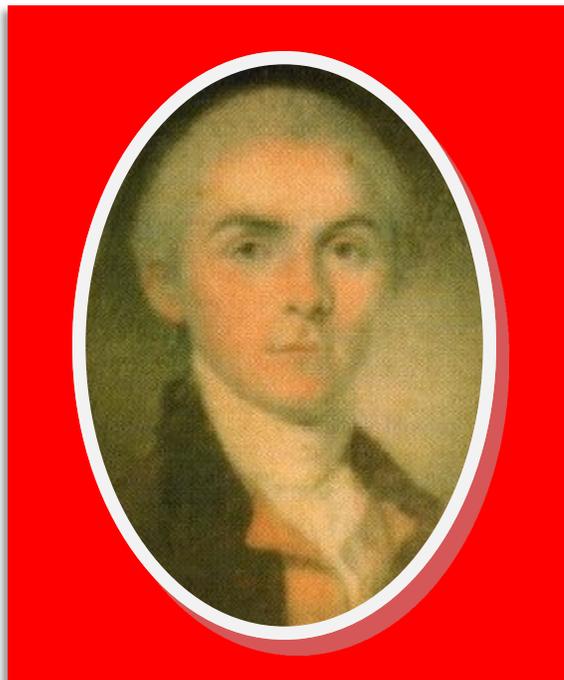


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**STODDARD'S WAY
WAS A RELIGIOUS
INNOVATION IN
17th C. NEW ENGLAND
ALLOWING ANYONE
TO RECEIVE THIS
DURING MASS**

SAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Level
Grave Markings	Postponed	Marietta, GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Postponed	Cumming, GA	Local
Patriots Day	Postponed	St. Simons Island, GA	State
State BOM	Postponed	May 30, 2020	State
Grave Markings	Postponed	Midway, GA	State
Grave Markings (2 Locations)	Postponed	N. Augusta, SC Washington, GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Postponed	Cumming, GA	Local
Grave Marking	Postponed	Dawsonville, GA	State
Memorial Day	May 25, 2020	Various Locations	National
July 4th	Jul. 4, 2020	Various Locations	National
National Congress	Jul. 6 - 16, 2020	Richmond, VA	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 Jun 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 .

Ask the Expert: (Cont.)

Jackson then turned and walked off the field to his carriage, never letting on that Dickinson's shot had been true. Upon being examined by his doctor, it was found that Dickinson's ball had shattered two of Jackson's ribs and lodged just inches from his heart, causing the doctor to remark, "I don't see how you stayed on your feet after that wound." Jackson would carry that lead ball in his chest to his grave, and the wound would bother Jackson for the rest of his life, but that too, showed his toughness.

America received the Statue of Liberty from France as a gift. Did America give back something equally impressive to France ?

Yes. And much more impressive than a statue.

