

The Marshal

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

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PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Chip Van Alstyn

Greetings Compatriots, the past few months were certainly not how I envisioned my term as our President would proceed. I'm sure it has also not gone as you foresaw either. We've had to postpone or cancel a significant number of events and even our National offices have been temporarily unstaffed.

Many of us who are still working have had to adjust to being around

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COPING WITH COVID

COVID - 19 DISRUPTS CHAPTER, STATE, & NATIONAL EVENTS.

As the world came apart at the seams, so too did the Robert Forsyth Chapter's plans for regular meetings, Grave markings, and Flag Retirement Ceremonies. State and National events were not spared, and annual events throughout early spring were postponed, then delayed again, and eventually cancelled. Even the 2020 National Congress that was scheduled for Richmond, VA was ultimately cancelled.

The National Bylaws, specifically No. 17, of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution does not permit the National Society to hold a Congress by "alternative means." This is not the first time the Congress was cancelled however. Looking back in history, it was not held on two additional years as well, 1918, and 1945. As a result, current National Officers will continue to serve for a 2 year appointment instead of one.

When everyone realized too much time was passing us by, we resolved to do our best within the virtual world, since State and Chapters can amend their bylaws to allow alternate meeting formats. Holding Zoom or Go-To-Meeting online meetings required some adjustments, but we soon got the hang of it. There is no telling at this time how long we will need to keep this up, but being flexible is one of our trademarks. (Especially when dressing in militia uniforms).

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

The Return of George Washington: 1783 - 1789

So what happened to George Washington after he surrendered his commission to Congress at the conclusion of the War for Independence? Historian Edward J. Larson's *The Return of George Washington* provides a well researched study of Washington's activities, starting with a newly developed protocol for his resignation to Congress and ending with his installation as our first president. The development of our Constitution occurs during this period along with the election process and what we call today, the Electoral College.

Washington's behind the scene role in the passage of the Constitution is fascinating along with his friendship with the founding fathers that played key roles in our first government.

Historian Larson has provided great insight in the little published life of Washington after leading the Continental Army to victory. This is a "must" read for those interested in how our country's government got its first start.

Three Tricorns



ISBN 978-0-06-224867

William Morrow

The Drillmaster of Valley Forge

The Baron de Steuben and the making of the American Army
Recommended reading.

Two Tricorns



ISBN -10: 0-06-145163-0 , Harper Collins Publishers,
2008 by Paul Lockhart, \$27.95

John Laurens and the American Revolution

John Laurens was the eldest son of Henry Laurens, the successor to John Hancock as President of the second Continental Congress. Born into the family of a wealthy planter, John received special attention by his father who steered John's path aimed at greatness. Early on, John displayed considerable skills and received an education in England under the careful guidance of his father.

As war appeared eminent, John longed to join the fray and distinguish himself in battle. With his connections, he received an assignment to become an aide to George Washington where he developed a close relationship with another aide – Alexander Hamilton. He longed for a command but was held off by the General himself.

When the opportunity to command did develop, John appeared reckless and took unusual chances, not to his credit. He also was a leading proponent of arming slaves and approached the South Carolina legislature twice to approve such a venture, agreeing to start by freeing his own slaves to start the venture. All was to no avail.

He was wounded several times and spent time as a prisoner of war.

Coping with COVID (Cont.)

Some chapters found ways to continue to keep the SAR in the camera's eye during the Memorial Day holiday. A limited number of members from the Georgia Society Color Guard and Elijah Clarke Militia were able to do honors at the virtual event at the Veteran's Memorial in Watkinsville, GA. The Coweta Falls Chapter also held a "Social-Distanced" event at a memorial within a local cemetery, with attendees observing from their cars, and moving in a convoy into and out of the cemetery, with flags flying.

While events and some meetings were cancelled, work in the background continued. Emil Decker and John Flikeid, the members in charge of regularly emptying, counting, and transporting flags collected at the local Cumming and Dawsonville Home Depot stores, were "on task" after Memorial Day, when large numbers of flags are dropped off at the stores.



He saw service at Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Savannah, Charleston and Yorktown.

I leave it for the reader to find out what happened to John Laurens – a prominent Patriot of the American Revolution for whom Laurens County is named.

Two Tricorns



ISBN 1-57003-330-7, University of South Carolina Press, 2000 by Gregory D. Massey \$35

George Thurmond

President's Dispatch (Cont.)

our families much more than we're used to and undertaking the education of our children in a more direct manner than the SAR is used to providing. Certainly the past few weeks have been even more challenging and disturbing for those with a keen interest in preserving our country's heritage as most of us are. I would hope that we all take a breath and remember the great promise of our country as we look to our path forward from this place in our nation's history.

First we must remember our own patriots, who no matter how imperfect, envisioned a land where each person could walk free and follow their own path to success and well-being. The ideals they fought for and brought us together to honor are defended down the years by those who have served our country to the present day. Gary Hoyt, our State Veteran's Chairman has issued a plea for support for Georgia's VA Voluntary Service office. These offices manage the dedicated volunteers who help our nation's veterans when they visit the VA. My father spent many hours of his retirement serving his fellow Veterans at his local VA hospital and thousands of others do the same across this land. During these trying times, the Volunteer office could use your support. If you are unable to volunteer due to health concerns or time constraints, I urge you to follow the lead of Compatriot Hoyt and myself and donate money so that the volunteers can fulfill the needs of those who have served us honorably.

Speaking of serving honorably: This past weekend, I had the privilege to lead our annual flag retirement ceremony. With the assistance of the Piedmont Chapter and under the astute guidance of our Editor and Event Chair, Emil Decker, our chapter helped Ingram Funeral Home retire over 2000 flags. In addition to the good that did, with the help of Compatriot Rick Reese, we hosted our first ever Virtual Flag Retirement Ceremony. Compatriot Reese broadcast the ceremony live via Zoom to compatriots across the state. The YouTube video he created is available online as we speak and shows our Chapter in a great light as we hosted multiple DAR Chapters, the local VFW Post and our own State Society President for a moving tribute to the symbol of our nation's glory. This event was one of the most well-attended Flag Retirements I have been to and concluding the ceremony with Taps was a tear-jerker for those of us who have attended military funerals in the past year. The subsequent flagpole dedication ceremony to thank our partner, Ingram Funeral Home, for their long-standing support was truly appreciated by the staff in attendance. Afterwards, Compatriots Decker, Hustis, and myself made the trek to Dawsonville where we presented another Flag Certificate to the manager and veteran's of the Dawsonville Home Depot for hosting one of our flag disposal bins. That bin has taken in over 2000 flags in its lifetime and the folks at Home Depot should be applauded for their work.

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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.

Which founding father was the humblest?

I would nominate Robert Morris. Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was one of the richest men in the Colonies.

At one time, Morris was so rich that he owned pretty much the entire state of New York.

When the war started, he took on the role of financing it. He begged and pleaded with everyone he knew to provide money and goods to support the cause. As things got worse for the untried nation, he sold off many of his assets to supply the men at Valley Forge. By the end of the war he was broke having sold all his properties in support of the nation.

Most of the people who came to him for money during the war abandoned him, and he ultimately ended up in debtor's prison, too proud to beg or ask his friends for money. Thomas Jefferson took up his cause and finally raised enough money to get him out of prison. He died a penniless, shattered man, mostly forgotten by history.

Without him, the United States would never have been able to get the war off the ground. The Revolutionary War was said to have cost \$73 million and there were only three ways it was paid for. 1) funds from France, 2) spoils of piracy, which were very limited, and 3) the work and property of Robert Morris.

Did America ever try to invade Great Britain during its fight for independence?

Invade? Yes. Well, sort of.... Conquer? No.

In 1778 the Legendary John Paul Jones, in his ship, the Ranger, was attacking shipping in the Irish Sea. They had been fairly successful, and he was earning a reputation among the British, who had begun to see him more as a pirate.

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President's Dispatch (Cont.)

Finally as we look forward to the 244th anniversary of the birth of our nation, I hope we can all enjoy all the fruits that the labors of our forefathers have sown for us and enjoy the sight of our families and loved ones. While we are currently planning events starting in July, as I write this, Georgia is seeing an increase in COVID cases and it may be that we must continue to make changes for the safety of our Compatriots and the surrounding community. We have certainly proven over the past few months that we can continue our fellowship and patriotic duties via webcam and phone. I thank you for your flexibility, your faithfulness and your trust in me. On this 4th of July, may God bless you, your families, and the United States of America.

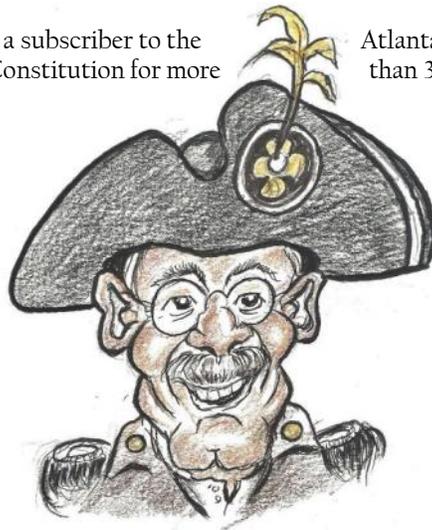
Chip Van Alstyne

Community News

So how did you spend your down time? If you are an artist, maybe this is one way. You saw an example of chapter member Ken Baldowski's caricatures in the previous *Hornet's Nest*. Ken comes by his talents honestly. Ken Baldowski was born in Augusta, GA and attended Georgia Military Academy in College Park (now Woodward Academy). He later attended the University of Georgia, graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Journalism. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force where he attended pilot training and later received a Master Degree from the U.S. Air Force Air War College and later Air Command and Staff College. He was employed by The Coca-Cola Company for 12-years, Lockheed-Georgia before Georgia's Adjutant General appointed him as the Director of Public Affairs for the Georgia Department of Defense. He has served for more than 30 years in the Georgia National Guard with overseas tours in Bosnia and Iraq. Ken has published cartoons and caricatures for most of his career. Ken moved to Cumming, GA in 2016 with his wife. He has three grandsons with another on the way.

Ken's father might be a familiar name if you were ever a subscriber to the Baldowski, the editorial cartoonist with the Atlanta Constitution for more

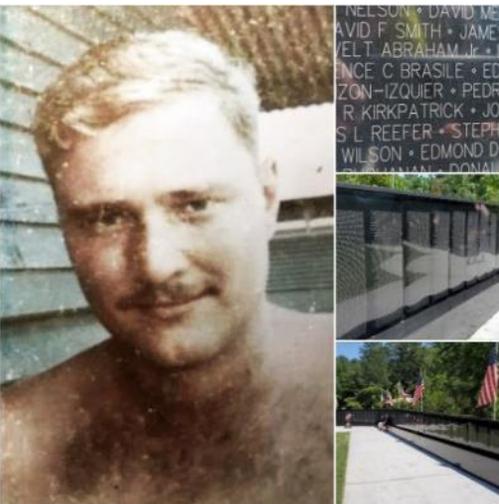
Atlanta Constitution. Clifford "Baldy" than 30 years.



Bill Palmer, Color Guard Commander, was one of the first victims of caricaturization. [is that a word?] If you have a notable Georgia Society member who needs the treatment, send me a good photo and I will see if we can get Ken to do a number on them.

The Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony was held again this year at Ingram Funeral Home, however, this year several things were different. 1) We were inside. 2) We included a flag certificate and Flagpole Dedication. 3) We included a ZOOM attendance option. 4) Much of the above was due to COVID-19 Response.

Below the Georgia Society Color Guard presents the Colors, in proper uniform (with notable distancing and plague masks on many).



Genealogist Chris Russo spent Memorial Day visiting and remembering past heroes at the Johns Creek Memorial Walk.



Chris Russo is at Johns Creek Veterans Memorial Walk.

May 25 at 4:26 PM · Alpharetta, GA · 📍

Eva and I paid our respects to a cousin we never had the fortune to meet.

Terry Brasile of Ridgewood, Queens.

Terry was killed in action in Vietnam, 7 Aug 1969.

Community News (Cont.)



Multiple members of Robert Forsyth provided critical roles in the Flag Retirement ceremony. Tom Slaughter, Sergeant - At - Arms, and Gary Page were the detail responsible for presenting the flags for retirement; John Flikeid, J.C. Hustis, and Allen Greenly were members of the Color Guard Formation; Emil Decker introduced the Flag Pole portion of the event; Ed Rigel Jr. presented the flag Certificates; Chip Van Alstyne, as president of the chapter, presided over the ceremony.



Community News (Cont.)



At the Retirement service, over 2000 flags were honored and retired. Elizabeth Mitchell from Ingram Funeral Home unveiled the Dedication stone for their flagpole. Multiple DAR and C.A.R. Societies attended and participated in the program. We were honored to have Georgia Society President Bill Dobbs attend as well.

Ask the Expert: (Cont.)

Eventually, he and his crew decided to undertake a raid on Whitehaven. The port there was home to somewhere between 200 to 400 various British merchant and transport ships.

US Marines and sailors set out with 30 men in two boats under cover of darkness. This was the first foreign invasion to set foot on British soil since 1066. The attack on Whitehaven on April 23, 1778 was the first landing of a hostile power on British soil in 702 years.

One of the groups sabotaged some of the town's cannons so they would be worthless to the British. Another group were to set fire to the town, but by the time they were ready to light the fires, their lamps had run out of oil.

Marines, being ever ready to adapt and overcome, decided to raid the town for more oil to light it up. There was one snag in this plan, though... the Marines, on their way to find more oil, decided that, in the middle of the first invasion of Britain in 700 years, they should stop for a drink.

The subsequent delay caused the attackers to have to withdraw before they finished their plan. By the time they had gathered the oil and made it back to the harbor to begin burning the ships and town, the sun was coming up.

The Americans decided to fire a coal transport ship, hoping this would cause an expanding inferno and spread to other ships in the docks and subsequently to the town. A local saw this happening, and alerted the townspeople who turned out on mass to put out the fire and repel John Paul Jones's inebriated sailors and marines.

The sailors boarded the Ranger and sped away. The British attempted to shoot at their ship, but luckily the group that spiked the guns was not in the presence of alcohol and the British efforts were to no avail. The fires were contained by the locals, and in the end not a single ship or building was destroyed.

While an abysmal failure in its mission to destroy the ships in Whitehaven, the action did score a psychological setback against the British Empire, and they promptly began to dedicate more resources to protecting their home islands.

And sailors and marines continue to drink, even unto today.... Not to mention the army, and their alcoholic zeal as well.....just ask the commander of American forces at Eutaw Springs.

Stoddard's Stockade



Compatriot Peter Stoddard regales us with more of his ancestors' hijinks. This month its not a direct relative, but a cousin. One you might not know, but perhaps reminds you of one of your own I hope not.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_George_Downing,_1st_Baronet#/media/File:Sir_George_Downing_by_Thomas_Smith.jpeg



In 1639 my 8th great-grandfather Anthony Stoddard of Boston married Mary Downing, who had a bratty little half-brother named George. The brat later became a world class reprobate - pardon my condescension.

George Downing was born in 1623 in Dublin, Ireland. The Downing's, highly esteemed Puritans, encouraged his mother's brother, John Winthrop, to establish a college as a condition for their move to the new colony. They only immigrated to the colonies in 1638 when Harvard College was founded and a quality education was assured for their son. They lived with Gov. John Winthrop until their house was built. George attended Harvard and was one of nine students in the first graduating class of 1642.

He was Harvard's first tutor, and began his career as a preacher. In 1645, he became an instructor of the seamen bringing slaves to Caribbean plantations. Downing sailed to England to join Oliver Cromwell's rebellion against King Charles I. He served as chaplain to Col. John Okey's regiment in the Parliamentary Army. He was elected to Parliament and was appointed Teller of the Exchequer. Downing was in Holland as an ambassador when Cromwell died.

With the return of the King, Charles II in 1660, George Downing, loyal to Cromwell, was in danger. He showed himself to be a cunning politician and switched allegiances. Downing said he was led astray by 'principles ingested during his time in the American colonies and now 'saw the error.' Downing's Puritan mentors and teachers in the Massachusetts Bay Colony were furious when he blamed them. It became a proverbial expression in New England to refer to a dishonest man who betrayed his trust as "an errant George Downing."



Downing handed over secret documents to the king, and was knighted in 1660, given his old Treasury job back and granted a tract of land near St James's Park that includes the present site of Downing Street, where George built #10.

George organized spy rings that hunted down his former comrades who supported Cromwell. John Okey, his former commander and sponsor, was arrested in the Netherlands. Downing deported him to England, condemning him to a brutal death by hanging, and then being drawn and quartered. (ouch).

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Stoddard's Stockade (Cont.)

In 1671, George was sent to Holland to break up the Triple Alliance of England, Sweden and the United Provinces in support of Spain. He hated the Dutch, and the Dutch hated him. After three months he was forced to flee to England, in fear of his life. For his unauthorized departure, Downing was sent to the Tower of London in 1672 but released within a few weeks.

America owes a small a debt of gratitude to George. He is primarily responsible for wresting a kind-a major city away from the Dutch - when New Amsterdam became New York City. Downing Street in Manhattan and in Brooklyn, N.Y., were named in his honor. Strange choice of words, huh?

In addition to sending his former friends to death for political gain, he was a miser who financially screwed his father and mother in their old age. George Downing died in Cambridge, England, in 1684, after acquiring a substantial fortune. He was the largest landowner in Cambridgeshire.

Sir George Downing's brother John was married to the infamous Mehitabel Braybrooke, accused of witchcraft during the Salem witch trials. Although George and his parents had returned to England, most of his younger siblings remained in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Of good old Uncle Sir George, Winston Churchill said: *"Downing Street consists of houses two hundred and fifty years old, shaky and lightly built by the profiteering contractor whose name they bear"*

George's portrait has hung in the Number 10 foyer for centuries.

In 2017 I emailed the official 10 Downing street historian to ask when the mugshot was first placed there. He vowed to look into it but never provided an answer.

By all accounts my Gramma Mary Downing Stoddard was a saintly woman. That just goes to show ... whatever it goes to show.

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/massachusetts-scoundrel-downing-street-named/>

Peter Stoddard

Stoddard
Scoundrel Cousin
Sir George Downing

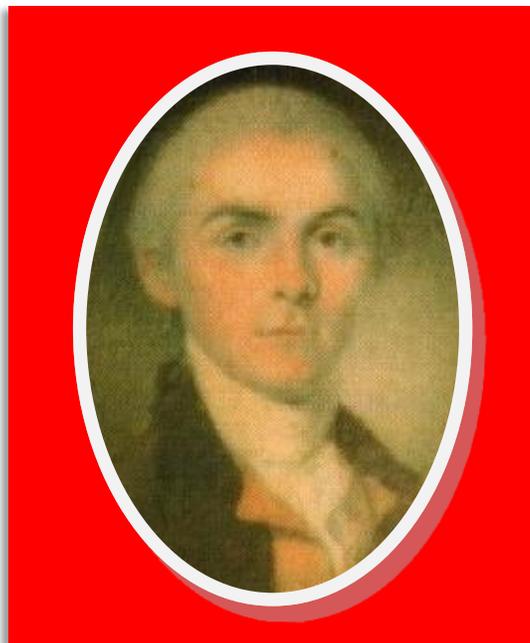


Sir George Downing, infamous rogue & scoundrel who built 10 Downing Street in 1682 as a cheaply constructed investment property.

Number 10 Downing Street Entrance

SAR Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location	Level
National Birthday	Jul 04, 2020	Various Locations	National
Cumming Parade	Jul 4, 2020	Cumming, GA	Local
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg. / Picnic	Jul 9, 2020	Cumming, GA	Local
State BOM	Jul 25, 2020	Online	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Aug 13, 2020	Cumming, GA	Local
DAR Conference	Aug 29, 2020	Macon, GA	State
1st Battle of Augusta	Sep 12, 2020	Augusta, GA	State
Leadership	Sep 24-26, 2020	Louisville, KY	National
Grave Marking	Oct. 3, 2020	Dawsonville, GA	State
Kings Mountain	Oct. 7, 2020	Kings Mt., SC	National
Grave Marking	Oct. 10, 2020	Hoschton, GA	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 normally 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. Until the COVID situation is resolved, we are holding ONLINE meetings. Contact us for the most current information. 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 Sep 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.com.

Community News (Cont.)



After the flag program, Chip, J.C. and Emil took a short trip to the Home Depot in Dawsonville, where they presented Assistant Manager Kyle Kessinger along with a couple of veteran associates with a flag certificate recognizing the team's commitment to honoring the flags and to continuing flag collection for the program at their store.

