

# 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

2020 has been a tough year for everyone. It has caused us to drastically reduce the scope of our activities. It has taken us from the camaraderie of our fellow Compatriots and the good times we enjoy \*in person\* each month at our Chapter meetings. While our Virtual meetings have met the requirements of conducting chapter business, drinking alone in our basements, (continued on page 3)

## WHILE COVID RAGES, THE CHAPTER CARRIES ON WITH VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Very little in person activities are happening these days. With everyone taking the safe approach, and our usual Buffet meeting place closed down, we have resorted to virtual meetings, catered by "Grub-Hub" and other delectable options. That does not mean that all activities have ceased. J. C. Hustis and Allen Greenly joined a Cub Scout Troop at the Cumming Methodist Church in September, giving them a rousing tour of our famous traveling trunk.

Just around the corner, probably before you get a chance to read this newsletter, our much awaited Grave Marking Ceremonies for Solomon Palmour and Edmund Singleton will have taken place. While many are taking the cautious route to in-person events, this one seems to be anticipated by many and should be well attended. Since it is outside, distancing should not be a problem. We will report on the success of this event in the coming quarter. As winter nears, a few good events are still scheduled, both virtually and in-person. Try to participate.



J.C. and Allen presented the traveling trunk to a packed house of Cubbies.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Dispatch....1
- Virtual Meetings... ..1
- Book Review.....2
- Ask the Expert.....3
- Community News.....5
- Stoddard's Stockade....7
- Event Calendar.....8

## Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

### Partisans and Redcoats

This is a story of untold brutality of the civil war that occurred in the South Carolina Back-county during the American Revolution. Whigs were against Loyalists and the fights were numerous and deadly. Generally the older men of the family remained Loyal to King George III whereas the younger generation had had enough of the tyranny imposed by the occupying British soldiers.

During the Revolution, Charleston remained one of the three main harbors in the Colonies – thus a natural target of submission by the British. While the majority of the population was living in the lowlands, the Backcountry remained an interesting challenge for those who sought to make a living out of the readily available land upcountry.

As the British changed their strategy to focus on suppressing the South, a great number of Whigs developed from the offensive tactics used by the occupying British. Partisan warfare erupted everywhere. From July 1780 to January 1781, 27 battles were fought with 19 being won by the Patriots. In the process, there was considerable destruction to home and family in the Backcountry.

A turning point occurred when Captain Christian Huck was sent by Lt Col Banastre Tarleton to track down the rebels in the New Acquisition District (near the SC/NC state line towards Charlotte). Huck assembled a group of old men (the young men were away with the Partisans) and told his listeners that “it appeared that God almighty had become a Rebel and if the Rebels were as thick as trees, and Jesus Christ himself were to command them he would defeat them.” During this proclamation, the horses were confiscated and the old men had to walk back home. As angry as they were about losing their horses, these devout Presbyterians were infuriated that Huck would take the Lord’s name in vain. Huck would pay a dear price for this transgression in a battle that became known as “The Battle of Huck’s Defeat.”

This book contains a number of stories of courage displayed by men and women during the British occupation. The author has captured the spirit of the times in this publication.

Walter Edgar is the George Washington Distinguished Professor of History at the University of South Carolina. He has published *South Carolina: A History*. Professor Edgar presented a lecture at the 2002 Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Cowpens and has appeared on C-Span.

Three Tricorns



ISBN 0-380-97760-5, HarperCollins Publishers 2001 by Walter Edgar, \$25.

### His Excellency: George Washington

From a review of the Washington papers now available at the University of Virginia, author Joseph J. Ellis has been able to provide a comprehensive review of the life and times of George Washington. He is able to capture the early years of the great man, developing his growth in the military and politics.

Author Ellis skillfully provides insight into Washington’s selection as the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and his leadership qualities. Washington’s ability to select top leaders and his determination to see the conflict through at all costs is remarkable. Even in the darkest of times, Washington was able to rise above all hardships and keep the fight for liberty alive.

The author is also able to provide valuable insight in Washington’s mindset in resigning his commission at the end of the war, having completed his mission. This move shocked the world.

As Washington returns to private life, he is again sought to lead his country by serving as the President of the Continental Congress and later, as the unanimous selection to lead his country as its first President. While not keen on serving a second term, Washington is convinced to run again, and, again is selected unanimously to serve a second term. Author Ellis provides the reader with considerable insight into the developing political arena and how remarkable it was for Washington to rise above it all.

The author does not delve in to the details of the number of battles led by General Washington, but focuses more on the man himself. One might wonder about the title of this book. While Washington was on his way to Cambridge to assume command of the newly created Continental Army, both the New York and Massachusetts legislatures wrote congratulations to “His Excellency.”

Three Tricorns



2004 by Joseph J. Ellis, \$26.95 ISBN- 10: 9781400040315

**President's Dispatch (Cont.)**

living rooms, or studys, (or while wandering the halls - we see you Peter) doesn't provide the same refreshment that a glass of Golden Corral iced tea brought to our souls. Those of us still in the workforce sit through our interminable Zoom calls and try to keep our kids and our dogs from interrupting us, while striving to remember to stay seated so no one sees our pajama bottoms (or lack thereof). We pray for those afflicted by COVID near and far and mourn for those taken from us no matter the cause. We also mourn the inability to jump in our cars to grab a forgotten shopping item or drink coffee with a friend.

As we continue our march to December 31st, let us try to also think of the successes of the year. Our annual Flag Retirement ceremony was the first in-person event held in the state after the lockdown and was one of our most well attended Flag Ceremonies in years. We had our State Society President, the Commander of the Cumming VFW, multitudes of DAR sisters and our future members, the C.A.R.

For those of you eager for the change a hopeful end to our pandemic brings, I remind you that there are rumblings of things continuing as they are. I am, of course, speaking of the election. Not of Trump and Biden, but of our own Chapter officers. Compatriot Russo has agreed to act as our Nominating Committee Chair again this year and he is working to assemble a slate of officers for 2021. I encourage you to get involved in your chapter, bring your many and diverse talents to the service of not just your fellow Compatriots, but our ancestors who sacrificed to bring this nation into the freedom's with which our Creator has endowed us. Please reach out to Chris to put your name in the hat. Be the change! You should probably also go vote in that little thing happening on November 3rd.

As always, I thank you for your trust and support. I wish you continued health and well being. May God bless you and may God bless this land our forefathers brought forth - The United States of America.

*Chip Van Alstyne*

**Ask the Expert:**

With Lionel Hildebrand

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

**What did Benedict Arnold do in the British Army in the American Revolution?**

Arnold had been on one of Washington's bravest and most intrepid field commanders, and he was grievously wounded twice in service of the Continental Army, having demonstrated uncommon valor in the field.

He was not well liked among Washington's staff, however, particularly by Alexander Hamilton, who regarded Arnold as an ambitious and self-serving man. Arnold's expectations of compensation and proper recognition by the Continental Congress also went without redress or response, and his disgruntlement eventually evolved into resentment, all of which led him to the conclusion that to preserve his own honor and fortune, he would have to go over to the British side.

He did so after fighting off a court-martial for various minor infractions, most of which were trumped up charges brought about by both military and political enemies he had made, and all of which would probably have been ignored but for his insistence on having a day in court to clear his name. This was accomplished, but Washington did not give him back a field command, which stung him deeply and led him to consider changing sides, which, eventually, he did.

Ultimately, his plot to lead the British to a victory at West Point was foiled when his main contact, Major John Andre was captured with the incriminating documents in his boots. He was in civilian clothing when captured behind Washington's lines and therefore was arrested and tried as a spy.

Arnold, though, escaped capture and punishment, effectively abandoning John Andre, who may or may not have had an affair with the notoriously beautiful Peggy Shippen,

(cont. page 4)

### Ask the Expert: (Cont.)

before or even after she and Arnold were married. Shippen was reputed to be the most beautiful woman in the Americas, although she was still in her late adolescence at the time, (only sixteen when she and Arnold first met.) She became the second wife of Arnold's during Washington's Army's occupation of Philadelphia, and she remained behind with her family after the British (and Andre) left the city.

Shippen was the daughter of a wealthy loyalist Philadelphia family that shifted back and forth seamlessly between the two sides. She supposedly arranged for the secret correspondence between Andre and Arnold that set up Arnold's betrayal. Regardless, her role as a famous spy in the American Revolution is well established. When the plot to turn over the defense plans of West Point to the British was foiled and Arnold's treasonous act was uncovered, he fled and abandoned her and their infant child, and she faked a bout of hysteria that provided cover for his escape.

Once safely behind British lines, Arnold's agreement was fulfilled although the plot had failed, and he received a handsome bounty for his attempted treasonous acts and was made a general in the British Army. Andre, who was by all accounts a highly intelligent, talented, and honorable man, was hanged as a common spy by Washington, some felt because Washington was so personally aggrieved by Arnold's duplicity. Shippen, discovered to be pregnant again, was eventually allowed to go to New York to rejoin Arnold. Arnold in the meantime was denied a field command in the regular army, although such had been his expectation. He was finally commissioned to raise a regiment of loyalists, who were dispatched to Virginia, as the British did not anticipate much of a fight developing along the Peninsula, and they did not trust him entirely with a command in New York, where Washington's forces were mostly arrayed and the penultimate battle of the Revolution was anticipated.

By and large, all Arnold accomplished was to do a good deal of damaging vandalism in Virginia. He burned Jefferson's tobacco stores, for one thing, brutalized a couple of towns known to be supportive of the Patriots, although they had no military advantage, and allowed his loyalist militia troops a free reign of cruelty and atrocity, all in an attempt to demonstrate his loyalty to the British and secure a regular command. It didn't work. He was last stationed at Yorktown, about which he complained bitterly, since he saw it as a backwater and outpost where there would be no opportunity for glory or distinguished service. (Ironically, he did note to the British high command that it was not a good defensible position and cautioned against fortifying it, as it was surrounded on three sides by water.) He was ultimately removed just as the Continental Army began approaching for what would indeed be the climactic battle of the entire war, and he was not on hand for the surrender.

After the British surrender, Arnold traveled to England with Peggy, who would eventually bear him seven children, five of whom would survive. She was presented at court and given a pension for herself and her children. Arnold was not well liked by the British, who prized loyalty over other traits and disrespected him for his betrayal of his original oath of loyalty, even though it was to an enemy army and revolutionary government. Arnold also had a fractious and overbearing personality that was not endearing; he was sensitive to the most casual slight, even if it was unintentional, and was confrontational when he felt he had been insulted. He eventually died in isolation from society, unliked and unfriended. Peggy, though, lived until 1804, surviving Arnold by three years. She had returned on her own to Philadelphia, but she was not well received there, as she was regarded as a traitor to the newly established United States, and she was shunned by society as, indeed, was her entire family. She returned to England where she was given better treatment.

The great irony of Benedict Arnold's story is that had he been able to sustain the losses inflicted on him by the Continental Congress and avoided making serious enemies among the military and congressional leaders of the Revolution, he might well have emerged from the whole thing as one of America's most revered and beloved heroes. He was courageous and resourceful as a military commander, was well liked by his men who were fiercely loyal to him. His personal flaws, however, overrode his personal virtues, and his personality did not lend itself to being well-liked generally. Washington did like him, however, and he mourned his betrayal, feeling it as much as a personal loss as a military one.

It's one of America's most interesting and fascinating stories, all the same. It also is dramatic, romantic, and full of intrigue. It's a shame more people don't know it.

## Community News

Ken Baldowski's sent us another caricature. Does anyone recognize this fellow from the Mount Vernon Chapter?



The Georgia Society requested funding help to reprint the American Revolution in Georgia series of brochures.

During the July 25th BOM Zoom meeting, we discussed the need for a reprinting of eight very popular trifold brochures that our Georgia Society has been distributing for a number of years. In fact, some 450,000 of these very educational Georgia Revolutionary War Trail brochures have been distributed since they were first printed.

Our chapter immediately offered \$200. When we realized other chapters were sending in a little more than that, we upped our contribution to \$500.

The funds were made available through the sale of Marshal pins, our meeting raffle proceeds, and the successful musket raffles from past years.

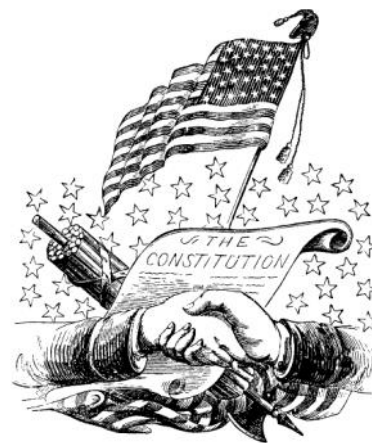


Only a short while after the Flag retirement ceremony came the 4th of July. While some festivities were curtailed, folks still showed their support for the flag and country. Evidence of that was apparent when the retirement bins were filled with old flags, and hopefully new flags are flying in their place.

Community News (Cont.)



Left: Compatriot Gary Page received a Constitution Day Proclamation from the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.



Right: Chaplain Byron Tindall participated in a Constitution Day program sponsored by the Sequoia Chapter of the DAR. It was supposed to be outside at the Veterans' Memorial Park in Jasper, but Mother Nature had other ideas. It was held in Jasper United Methodist Church. A Braille flag was presented to the park association.

Below: As many of you are aware, I have been battling the COVID Virus for a few weeks. I recently was in communications with the Chief Surgeon of the Brier Creek Artillery and Skunk Brigades. Upon hearing of my ailments, Surgeon Steve Burke prescribed a sleeping cap with aroma therapy. Within days my sinus's cleared, my breathing got better. Now I am back in fighting form. My thanks to the entire Skunk Brigade "On-Call-Ogy" Department and their charismatic physician for their support and cure.



## Stoddard's Stockade



Compatriot Peter Stoddard recently underwent the sacrament of baptism. In this issue, he takes a look back at his ancestors of the church.

My 8th great-grandfather is Rev John Warham, the first ordained minister in Massachusetts, having arrived in Boston in 1630 on the Mary & John weeks before even the Winthrop Fleet. By my account that makes him the first pastor in America. After 3 years Warham departed with his flock to settle Windsor CT.

Shown is the hourglass Warham used to time his sermons from 1630-33, still on display at his Dorchester MA church.

No idea why he did not take that to Windsor. Connecticut's oldest surviving grave is that of Ephraim Huit, Warham's "teacher" or assistant.

"That the Windsor colony succeeded was due in no small part to

its minister, the Rev. John Warham, whose greatest gift to his congregation was his faith. Called "the principal pillar and father of the colony" by Cotton Mather, Mr. Warham must have been an extremely resourceful man, for it is recorded that he preached 24 sermons on one text alone: Psalms 94:4-6."

Warham's daughter Esther first married Eleazer Mather, 1st pastor of Northampton MA, Increase's older brother and Cotton's uncle. When Mather died Esther married Rev Solomon Stoddard, my 7th great-grandfather. I'm guessing that was a take it or leave it package deal. If you want this job and a big parsonage house the town built not too long ago you gotta marry the second hand wife.

But Esther proved to be a pretty good wife and mother, outliving Solomon after birthing at least 10 babies than lived beyond childhood. Not an easy trick in the 1600s wilderness.

Ironically, Solomon contentiously debated the surviving Boston Mathers for decades over the Half Way Covenant and other doctrine essential to church survival in the western wilderness. The Half Way Covenant was nominally endorsed by Warham and Eleazer Mather, yet the Boston Mathers considered it blasphemy.

In 1728 Solomon Stoddard's grandson Jonathan Edwards succeeded Solomon in the Northampton pulpit. Edwards, key to the Great Awakening that first united all 13 previously disparate colonies, was dismissed by the Northampton congregation for revoking the Half Way Covenant. Edwards is considered by many to be America's greatest theologian. That's a pretty high level guy to cut loose, and it speaks to Solomon's pervasive influence for almost 60 years.

It all makes my head spin.

2nd & 3rd generation Puritans did not share the same religious fervor as the 1st. Though the later generations wanted to join the church, they did not know if they could prove their salvation to church elders and clergy. The Half Way Covenant allowed children of members to join as long as they did not lead scandalous lives. It was hoped they would find salvation after joining. But the Boston Mathers and certain others in part saw this a threat to their control, authority and power base.

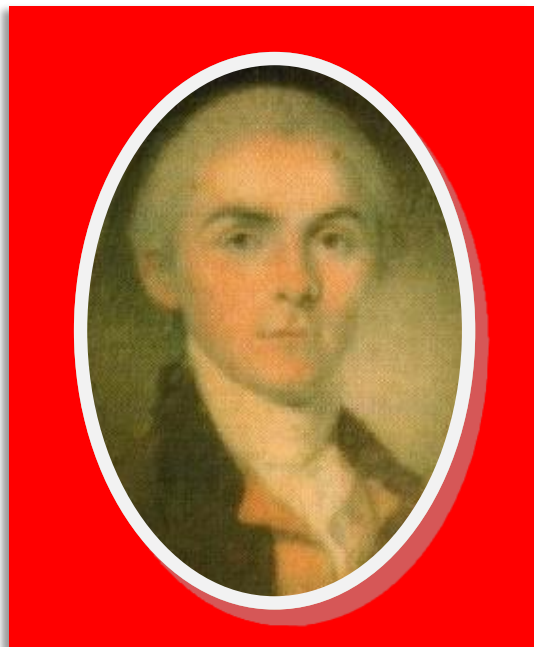


Peter Stoddard  
June 6, 2012 · 📷 · 📌  
Hourglass used by Rev John Warham, my 8th great-grandfather, to time his sermons between 1630-1633. Photo courtesy of First Parish Church Dorchester. He likely turned it over a few times, as sermons used to last 2-3 hours. He and his congregation left Mass in 1633 and founded Windsor CT.



*Peter Stoddard*

<http://www.fcwucc.org/ourhistory>



## SAR Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location	Level
Grave Marking	Oct. 3, 2020	Dawsonville, GA	State
Kings Mountain	Oct. 7, 2020	Kings Mt., SC	National
State BOM	Oct. 24, 2020	On-Line	State
Fort Morris	Nov. 21, 2020	Midway, GA	State
Vann's Creek	Dec. 5, 2020	Elberton, GA	State
Wreaths Across America	Dec. 19, 2020	East Shadow-lawn, Lawrenceville, GA & Marietta National Cemetery	National
State Conference	Jan. 29 - 30, 2021	Online	State
Hero's of the Hornets Nest	Feb. 12, 2021	Elijah Clark St. Park	State
Kettle Creek	Feb. 12 - 14, 2021	Washington, GA	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 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](mailto:guido139@yahoo.com) or any chapter officer.

**Deadline for the Next Issue:**

The deadline for material for the next issue is Dec 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](mailto:eldecker@weegrr.com).

