

# The Marshal

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

Issue No. 16 Fall 2018



## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By John Flikeid

### The Boston Tea Party, and the Mustard Seed: Courage

In seeking inspiration for this quarter's President's Dispatch, I struggled. The words were simply not coming. Then today, December the 16th, before church, I read today's Jack Manning daily "SAR-American-Revolution-History" email: "Boston Tea Party takes place". It gave me pause to think about that one action, as large or small as you deem it, and as part of a series of other actions, that ultimately lead to a people taking charge of their own fate. Courage.

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## RAFFLING PISTOLS:

By Emil Decker, Editor



*Winner of the Robert Forsyth Raffle received a pair of 1738 pistols in an engraved case*

Robert Forsyth, after a successful raffle of a Brown Bess musket last year, decided to continue the tradition with another raffle to help support the many programs of the chapter. We decided to double down on our offerings this year, and presented a pair, or brace of flintlock pistols for the winner. The pair were placed in a wooden presentation case with an engraved glass front. The pistol chosen was the 1738 Land Service Heavy Dragoon model, a pistol that many cavalry and officers from both sides of the conflict would have been familiar with.

Inspired by Prussian designs of the time, this model of Dragoon pistol was common among mounted troops throughout the 18th Century. When a Light Dragoon pistol was developed in 1760, this pistol was consigned to the Heavy Dragoons. It was likely in store at the opening of the American Revolution and saw use on both sides during the conflict.

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## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

We all know the stories, or many of them, of the Revolution. A relatively small group of ragtag pioneers, exhausted of the abuse of a tyrannical government, slowly, through a long series of actions, eventually, though passion, dedication, courage, and God's will, overcame the largest, best equipped and most organized army on the earth.

Against all odds, these unorganized, disparate colonies, through their differences, infighting, and even widespread poverty, came together by way of a series of tremendous leaders, unheard of dedication, and courage.

Was the Boston Tea Party the catalyst for events that followed causing the eventual "W" for the patriots? Surely not. There were many, many events the ultimately set our American fate of liberty. However, strung together, these events did set that fate. This group of unknown men set about sending a message that night, not to vandalize these ships, but to purely send a message to the king. Courage. Courage to act out on behalf of others being marginalized.

Later, I was trying to equate this movement to another lesson. Hang with me here.....

"What is the Kingdom of God like? To what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and put in his own garden. It grew, and became a large tree, and the birds of the sky lodged in its branches."

— Luke 13:18-19

The proverbial parable of the small seed of the mustard plant, and its ultimate path of growth to something exponentially larger than itself. In the bible, this parable speaks to the growth of His kingdom. It also refers to a sanctuary for a bird, seeking shelter from predator and the elements.

In considering both of these stories, there are lessons for our own organization, The SAR. Courage is spoken of often, but how often do we practice is? For me, rarely. I, perhaps like you, prefer to stay in my safe places. Probably due in large part to our human nature. When did you last try something new, different, or uncomfortable?

Now, back to the mustard seed. Something so small, growing into something so large. When we think about growth...from a "Tea Party" to a mighty, God-loving nation. Shelter for our values as a nation. Shelter for our proud history. SAR. Time. Passion. Actions. Courage.

What can you do to grow SAR from the mustard seed, into something even greater than it is today?

In my inaugural speech this past January, I spoke of taking a "musket" to the 80/20 rule. I talked about our members offering their Time, Talent and Treasure. Have we made measurable progress in those areas? Yes, we have. The way in which we measure chapter activities shows growth. Good growth. This growth is due to the efforts of our officers, and other members. For their dedication to our chapter, I thank you.

So, in concluding this year for the Robert Forsyth Chapter, GASSAR, I thank you for your interest and dedication to an organization I believe is greatly worth of our time (even talent and treasure). I ask your prayers that we continue in our growth, and spread the "good word" of those patriots who fought and died, through actions small and large, and grew our small set of colonies into a mighty nation through their courage.

Yours in Freedom, John

## RAFFLING PISTOLS

However the true claim to fame of this elegant pistol came prior to the revolution. During King George's War, British Dragoon regiments such as the Royal Dragoons, King's Dragoons, and Royal Scots Greys saw service in at the Battles of Dettingen and Fontenoy. At the victory at Dettingen, the Dragoons are noted as firing a volley from their pistols to check a charge by French cavalry. The defeat at Roucoux in 1746 and at Lauffeld in 1747 could have turned into disasters if it were not for the heroic actions of the British cavalry which held off the French while the army retreated.

During the Jacobite Rebellions, Dragoons played a significant role at the Battle of Culloden by charging both flanks of the Highland army.

The 1738 Land Service (Heavy Dragoon) Pistol is as beautiful as it is legendary. It features the distinctive "long-ear'd" buttcap, elliptical aprons, and stock swell, and was produced, with minor variations, from the 1740's to the 1790's. The handgun's lock maintained the unique "banana shape" and incorporated a double bridle. The 1738 pistol saw action in the French & Indian War through the War of 1812.

The pistols were encased within a wooden box with an etched glass front. Tickets were sold by chapter members for \$20, or three for \$50. The winning ticket was purchased by Atlanta Chapter member Floyd Adams, who was delighted with his new possessions. May your powder remain dry, and your aim true, Floyd.



Right: Winner of the Robert Forsyth Raffle, Floyd Adams showing off the case of matched set 1738 Dragoons.



## MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

In our continuing look at new members this edition, we cast our view towards Texas. John Mark Davis was born and raised in Houston. He is the oldest of three sons of John and Elynor Davis, also natives of Houston, TX.

After completing high school, John went on to attend Texas A&M University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. While in college, his parents relocated to Georgia when his mother accepted a position as a professor at Georgia Southern University. After Texas A&M, John went on to attend Georgia Southern University himself where he received a Master of Business Administration degree.

John has had careers in both business and the military. He owns his own business providing quality and efficiency consulting to area businesses. He is a proud veteran having retired from the U.S. Army two years ago with the rank of Colonel after 30 years of service. He served in combat as a battalion commander in Iraq during the Global War on Terrorism and his military awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.

John traces his lineage for admittance into the SAR through his father's mother who was surnamed Rand. His oldest known American relative was Francis Rand who immigrated to the New Hampshire colony circa 1630. His revolutionary war patriot is Ephraim Rand who served as a private under Captain Richard Shortridge in Colonel Enoch Poor's New Hampshire Regiment.

John lives here in Cumming. He is married to Jill Rivet Davis, originally from New Orleans, LA. They have three grown sons.



### 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.

How can someone outside of the US claim to be an SAR member? I understand there are International chapters, such as in Germany. What is the deal?

If you consider the fact that by extending an American conflict across the Atlantic Ocean to become a Continental European one as well, then the American Revolution could

be considered the truly first great "world war". Both France, and her treaty partner Spain entered the war against the British, which forced Britain to contend on the continent and the seas, as well as in the colonies.

In the Spanish territory of what we now call the state of Louisiana, there lived certain displaced persons of French background. (in case you didn't know, a little history lesson here). The French and Indian War brought about a situation where the British rounded up many French Canadians living in the Acadia regions and shipped them all over the world looking to resettle them elsewhere. Some ended up in Louisiana.

Spain and France would, as convenience dictated at the time, trade ownership of New Orleans and the territory back and forth as a political chess piece. One day the flag pole held the French flag aloft, and the next the Spanish flag was run up, and a new governor moved in. The local citizens saw little difference and were content to live their lives. When the British dumped these French citizens onto New Orleans, however, they were ..... different.

Not the same social class. Slightly different accents. They were not really accepted by the townfolk, and they moved further west into the Louisiana swampland to farm and create their new homes, living off the land. Today these Acadians are called Cajuns, and their culture is a bit different from the Creole culture of the upper class from New Orleans. But I digress.

When the King of Spain declared war against the British in 1779, these French settlers took up arms. The Louisiana militia, from various settlements were called to duty under General Bernardo de Gálvez, attacked the British outpost at Baton Rouge, forcing it's surrender. Other engagements happened in Spanish Florida, and Louisiana. Hundred of Acadian descendants in Louisiana are SAR members, since their ancestors fought on our side, even though they were not colonist from the 13 soon to be states. Their statehood and eligibility for citizenship followed as the U.S. expanded with the Louisiana Purchase, when Napoleon overturned tradition and sold the land to the U.S.

(Cont. page 10)

# Chapter and Community News

Many significant things happened over the last few months, and our chapter participated in a fair number of them. Not only did we participate, but as you can see from the photos, we had not only the usual suspects, but a goodly number of



*Photos by Rick Reese, III*

*Below: Gary Page, VP, (left) helps carry the banner proclaiming Robert Forsyth Chapter's participation.*

*Left: Alpharetta's Old Soldier's Day Parade in August was hot, but folks lined the streets by the hundreds as we paid tribute to our servicemen. Here J.C. Hustis wears milita clothing with musket, while Allen Greenly in Colonial Line uniform carries the Georgia flag.*



*Above: Emil Decker moved from crowd to crowd identifying veterans, and presenting "Veteran Recognition Stars" to any he found.*





## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



Robert Forsyth Chapter sponsored a genealogy workshop on August 12. Assembled are the multiple members who made it possible. Left—Right: Eugene Bryant, James Henderson, Robert Bryant, Chip Van Alstyne, Christopher Russo, Emil Decker, Peter Stoddard, John Flikeid, J.C. Hustis, Ed Rigel, Jr. (Workshop Presenter— Bob Sapp) Allen Greenly, & Charles Meagher.



Left: Many people came to learn the basics of genealogical research from our State Registrar, Bob Sapp.

Below: Guests were treated to authentic period pastries baked and provided by Mrs. Stephanie Flikeid.

Photos by: John Flikeid





## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



*Left: Two of our younger members are also scouts. Lukas and Noah Bettich are seen here with family during Lukas' Eagle Scout Court of Honor. The ceremony was attended by John Flikeid, Emil Decker, and J.C. Hustis.*

*Photo by: Marcia Bettich*



*Right: Sep. was a busy month with the Traveling Trunk on the move. Here, Compatriot J.C. Hustis explains life in the 1700's to a group of 8th graders at South Forsyth Middle School.*

*Photo by Emil Decker.*



*Below: Forsyth County Board of Commissioners read a proclamation for the Treaty of Paris During their September assembly. Attending the reading were Gary Page, J.C. Hustis, John Flikeid, and Michael Shore.*

*Photo by Gary Page*

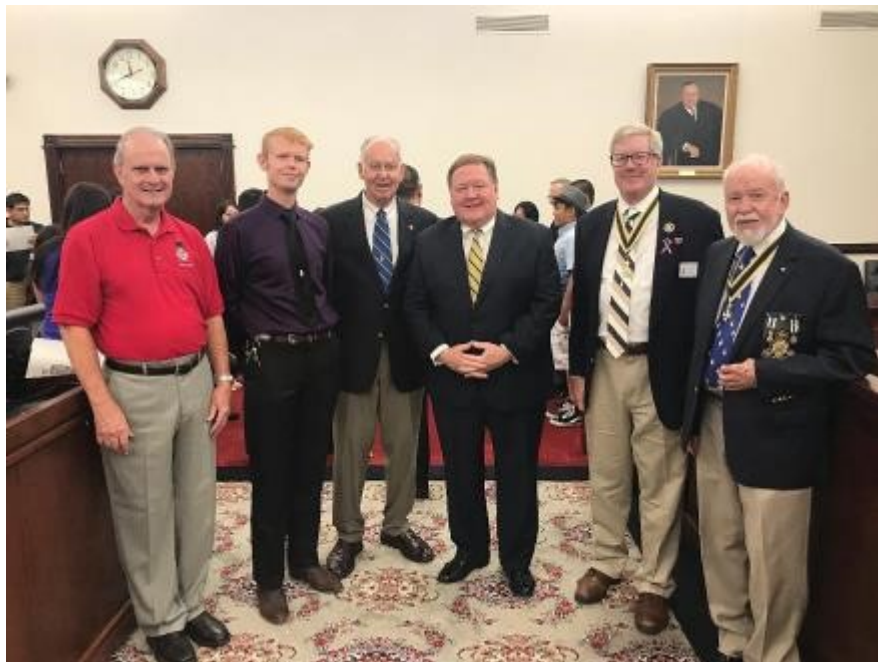




## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)

Right: John Flikeid attended another Naturalization Ceremony in the Rome courthouse with various member from other SAR chapters.

Photo by: Earl Cagle



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Left: Sept. saw a pair of Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremonies. Here Emil Decker and J.C. Hustis stand at the end of the line honoring Mike Ruff. Later that day both will also honor Billy Holcombe. Both honored compatriots are buried in the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton.

Photo by: Rick Reese III

Right: It is always a pleasure to welcome new members into the Chapter. Charles Bryant is joined by family as John Flikeid welcomes him into the fold.

Photo by Gary Page





## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)

*Right: Yet another proclamation, this one for Constitution Week, was read by the Forsyth County Commissioners. This reading was attended by Gary Page, Emil Decker, J.C. Hustis, John Flikeid, and David Johnson.*

*Photo by: Gary Page*



*Left: Emil Decker presented a first person account of the Battle of Kings Mountain to the Chestatee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Kaytie Mashburn, Regent presents a certificate of appreciation.*

*Photo by Lynn Briggs*

*Right: J.C. Hustis attended the Oconee County Veterans observance on November 11.*

*Photo by Rick Reese III*





## 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.]

### 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"

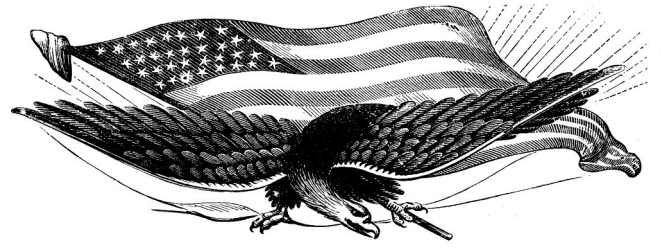
Almost a Miracle offers an illuminating portrait of America's triumph, offering vivid descriptions of all the major engagements, from the first shots fired on Lexington Green to the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown, revealing how these battles often hinged on intangibles such as leadership 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

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. I give it : **Three Tri-corns**

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



## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



Above: Newest Members and latest inducted into the chapter for this year. Proud Grandmother is pinning rosette on Joey Tucker as father, Doug Tucker looks on.

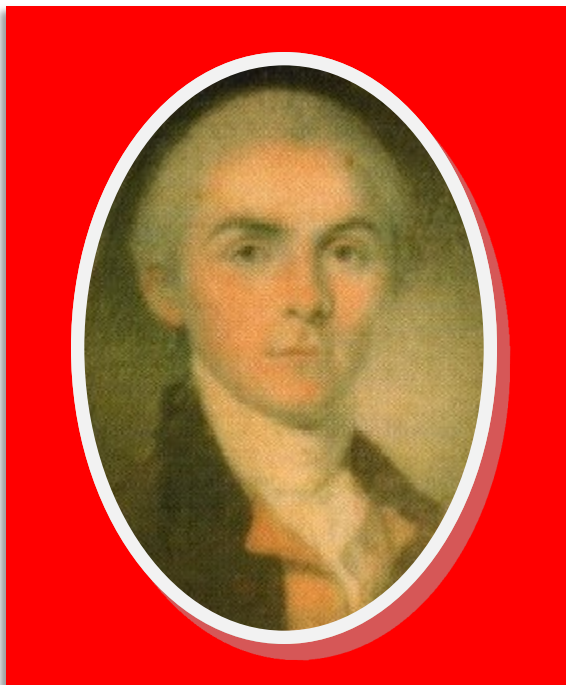
Below: Always happy to see new uniforms being worn by members. John Flikeid and Gary Page in their debut appearance with their outstanding wardrobe.

Photos by Emil Decker



## SAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Level
Robert Forsyth Annual Chapter Banquet	Jan 12, 2019	Cumming, GA	Local
Cowpens Commemoration	Jan 17-19, 2019	Spartanburg & Chesnee, SC	National
GASSAR Annual Convention	Jan 25-26, 2019	Lawrenceville, GA	State
Kettle Creek Commemoration	Feb 8-9, 2019	Washington, GA	National
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Feb 14, 2019	Cumming, GA	Local
Brier Creek Commemoration	Mar 3, 2019	Sylvania, GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Mar 14, 2019	Cumming, GA	Local
Guilford Courthouse Commemoration	Mar 16, 2019	Greensboro, NC	National
Thomas Creek Commemoration	Mar 30, 2019	Jacksonville, FL	National
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Apr 11, 2019	Cumming, GA	Local



*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](mailto:guido139@yahoo.com) or any chapter officer.

#### Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Mar 30, 2019. In addition to the material, please include hi-resolution imagery. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding *The Marshal* to the Editor:

Emil L. Decker: Txt. at 706-482-8248 or via email to: [eldecker@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net).

### Ask the Expert: (cont.)

With Lionel Hildebrand

The French Society is over 500 strong. Did you know that the Marquis de Lafayette is considered a natural born citizen of the U.S.? Fascinating reading info. Check it out. There were other French and Spaniards who fought, but were never citizens of the U.S.

Perhaps an ancestor migrated to the U.S. long after the war was over, but their ancestor still could have fought or supported the new nation. The possibilities abound.

More recently, consider the number of service men and women who have been deployed overseas since WWI to present. Many have married foreign nationals over the years. Some have chosen to return to the U.S. while other remain in the country of their spouse. Perhaps they have retired there, or are serving in government support roles with military bases, embassies, or simply conducting business abroad. While some may trace their lineage through American ancestors, it is quiet possible to trace back to an ancestor through a different, though equally qualifying line. Any of these people who can trace their lineage back to a bonified freedom fighter can become an SAR member. Yes, the SAR is an international society, with membership spanning the globe. Anyone who qualifies as a member is welcome, and certainly can enjoy the ability to participate in SAR functions around the globe. Who knows.....has a SAR member been abducted by aliens? Is there a SAR chapter on a distant planet? Only time will tell..... [I of course jest..... Or do I????]

LH.