

The Marshal

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



Issue No. 39 Summer 2024

PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

By Christopher Russo



The hot days and nights of summer are once again behind us and the autumn winds are blowing. Around this time, 246 years ago, the winds of change were blowing in favor of the Patriot cause, or as Thomas Jefferson phrased it - "The turn of the tide of success." The war for independence from the British crown was now being fought in the southern colonies. On October 7, 1780, the Battle of Kings Mountain took place. The Patriots were led by Colonel John Campbell and the Loyalists by Major Patrick Ferguson.

(unfortunately the celebration of this battle has been cancelled due to the weather we recently had.)

(continued on page 9)

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Not long after the Flag Retirement ceremony, we met once again in Cumming, but this time it was for a national holiday. OUR BIRTHDAY!! No, not Robert Forsyth's, but our nation's. July 4. Many folk call the holiday "The Fourth of July", but that's the date, not the holiday. The actual name for this holiday is "Independence Day". (This was the name of the national holiday long before the sci-fi movie, I assure you).

SAR members gathered in the Forsyth Central HS parking lot, along with DAR and C.A.R. members and waited.....and waited. Our creative genius, Compatriot Stephen Johnstone brought the C.A.R. trailer, which he had turned into a boat. As General Washington stood in the bow, his soldiers (C.A.R. members) loosed oars and off they went, headed towards Trenton.... Or the Cumming fairgrounds at least.

Many SAR members walked the route, after an extended wait for the steam tractors to do their thing.



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The day started cooler with clouds, but turned into a typical very hot and humid Georgia day. As we walked, we visited with many Veterans along the



parade route. It was lots of fun and very nice to see the patriotism of the Cumming community as we walked, poised for photos ops with kids and families, dodging candy hurled by folks on all the floats.

After the parade, Compatriot Emil beat feet to Atlanta with his wife to watch the Braves lose another game but not until after he joined the Elijah Clarke Militia to fire a couple of volleys in the "Pre-game Salute to America" before an attendance of 40,672.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Emil even made the front page of the Metter Advertiser in middle Georgia. And everyone knows it's better in Metter!

Can't comment about Guido's Prayer Chapel however.

Other towns across the United States held parades as well, and Compatriot J.C. Hustis was carrying the Georgia flag in the Braselton City parade on the 4th.



Right: Robert Forsyth accompanied the Chestatee River Chapter, NSDAR at new teacher orientation for the Forsyth Co. school system.

Below: While there, Compatriot Decker had the opportunity to meet John Adams. No, not someone playing the part of John Adams, but the real John Adams.....well, at least one John Adams.



Right and Below Right: Compatriot David Wellons of Mount Vernon Chapter provided our September meeting presentation, where his program on "The Intolerable Acts" was well received.



Left and Below: Compatriot J.C. Hustis is called into action to help make smoke and noise at the DAR Patriot Marker Dedication in Tyrone, GA.





Left: Eva Russo accompanies her father, Compatriot Chris to regularly empty the flag receptacle at the Cumming Home Depot.

Below: The father - daughter team represented the chapter at a recent 911 Stair Climb fundraiser at the North Forsyth High School stadium, honoring the heroes who climbed to save lives, often losing their own in the process on that fateful 9-11 day.



Left: You can count on J.C. Hustis to represent the Chapter at far distant National events. He was recently in KY, TN, and SC. Here are GA Society members (L-R) Ray Kyle (Button Gwinnett), Sid Hughes (Lyman Hall), and our own J.C. at the Battle of Blue Licks, KY.

Last year, Compatriot J. C. Hustis enjoyed the privilege of attending and becoming a member of the elite “Washington’s Tomb Guard.” This year Compatriot Emil Decker was honored to have that privilege.



Above 1: Tomb guards await 15 minute shifts just below the tomb.



Above 2: A squad of 2 or 4 guards are marched up the hill to the tomb.

Below 3: Upon arriving at the tomb, a script is read to the public describing who we are and what our vigil is all about.

Below 4: The previous guards are formed up to leave as the new guards take their place.



Guards are posted for 15 minute intervals. The public may view the tomb, take pictures, and speak to the Vigil guards, but the guards may not speak while on duty. When not on Vigil, we conversed with the public about SAR, our uniforms, General Washington, etc. as we awaited our next shift.





After standing guard at the tomb, a tour of the home and grounds was in order. Everyone really should go. Above, the dining room (yes, the wall color is accurate), the bed in which the General died. Emil has his hand on the stair rail, a spot where George must have laid his hand, and one of the very few pieces of original house one might physically touch. Below is the key to the Bastille, a gift from the Marquis de Lafayette and the people of France.





Left: J.C. at the 9-11 Remembrance at the Suwanee Town Center.
Below: The Piedmont and Robert Forsyth Chapters Presented Colors for the Milton Historical Society's Fall Shindig, with a 3 volley musket fire from the Robert Forsyth Militia called up for the exercise. Robert Forsyth Compatriots John Flikeid, J.C. Hustis, Emil Decker, Tom Slaughter, David Johnson, and Carl Jackson all attended and participated in the rather warm day's event.



President's Dispatch

The rebel forces were largely composed of Overmountain Men, a fierce militia based in the Appalachian mountains and well versed in guerilla tactics. Ferguson decided to position at the base of the mountain, which turned out to be a catastrophic decision. The Patriots secured the high ground and over a couple of hours routed the Loyalists and killed Ferguson in the process. The Loyalist toll was high with 157 killed and almost 700 missing or captured. For the Patriots, 28 were killed. Among them was Charles Word Jr, my 6th great-grandfather and Patriot ancestor under whom I joined the SAR. Charles succumbed to his injuries on October 8. As he lay dying on the battlefield, he dictated his last will and testament.

Some of Charles' notable direct descendants include Asa Griggs Candler, the founder of Coca-Cola and later mayor of Atlanta, William Faulkner, author and Nobel Prize laureate, Lewis Grizzard, writer, humorist and devout Georgia Bulldogs fan and Taylor Swift, Grammy-award winner singer & songwriter.

Back to summer for a moment. Even though its general off-season around SAR, the chapter was busy. A number of us marched in the Independence Day Parade, formally known as *The Thomas-Mashburn Steam Engine Parade*, through downtown Cumming. Once again, we partnered up with the Patriots of Liberty C.A.R. Society and walked alongside their float. The weather was fine and we were well-received by the crowds along the route. Compatriots Decker & Rigel shot muskets at Truist Park before the game. Compatriot Hustis marched in the Braselton Independence Day parade.

In August, Compatriots Hustis and Rigel spent a weekend in Kentucky, attending the commemoration of the Battle of Blue Licks & 5 Patriot grave markings at Bethel Baptist Church in Lexington. Compatriot Rigel attended 3 more Patriot grave markings in September, while Compatriot Russo & his daughter participated in the *9/11 Stair Climb* at West Forsyth HS and Compatriot Tindall did some education outreach at Jasper County Middle School. The chapter was well represented at the Milton Historical Society's Annual Autumn Shindig: presenting the colors, exhibiting our traveling trunk, and the crowd favorite, firing the muskets.

Sounds like fun, right!? We have more in store in the coming weeks. See pages 12-14. Our chapter is co-sponsoring two Patriot Grave Marking in Sugar Hill on Nov. 2 at 11:00 am. At the Historic City Cemetery; Another one in Commerce, GA on Nov. 17; and four patriot grave markings down Townsend, GA, between Savannah and Saint Simon's on Nov. 22. And maybe another in Pickens County. If you like parades, we might be joining the C.A.R. again for Christmas in Cumming Lots to do, so Stay tuned.

Patriotically,

Christopher Russo

President, Robert Forsyth Chapter

Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

The First American Army

Author Bruce Chadwick indicates that this is the untold story of George Washington and the men behind America's first fight for freedom. This is a close glimpse at the men on the front lines as told from research conducted from the records that they kept.

First up was a 15 year old, Private John Greenwood, who served as a fifer. He volunteered to serve at Bunker Hill despite the pleas by his mother. Another Private, Jeremiah Greenman, fought under Benedict Arnold and wound up as a prisoner of war. It was during this time that Smallpox decimated the troops serving in upstate New York.

Private Greenwood reappears and participates in the Battle of Trenton. Several other individuals left good track records and their stories are most enjoyable to read.

This is the first publication I have read that goes into details about the Black Rhode Island Regiment that fought with distinction.

The miserable conditions underlying Valley Forge and Morristown are described in detail, as are the stories of several other enlisted men and a few officers. All of the stories have one thing in common – all truly admired and respected George Washington.

Four Tricorns



ISBN 010: 1-4022-0506-6, Sourcebooks, Inc, 2005 by Bruce Chadwick, \$24.95

George Thurmond





Ask the Expert:

With Lionel Hildebrand

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

Did the American Colonial Army really inflict 1,200 casualties at the Battle of Pelham in 1776?

As with most reports, there are three answers. The British tally, the American tally, and the legend behind the battle.

The Battle for the Bronx, of which the battle of Pell's Point was a part, consisted of casualties for sure, but the total number was undoubtedly modified to suit the purposes of the army reporting those numbers. The American numbers, probably exaggerated, based on information from British deserters, was high. The British numbers, where they did NOT count the Hessian losses as theirs, were decidedly low.

Washington's troops marched north to escape through New York's Westchester County to White Plains. Colonel John Glover was sent to the area of Pelham Bay in the Bronx in order to guard the American right wing from any wide sweeping British flank attack. Glover commanded a brigade consisting of his own regiment and three small Massachusetts regiments, totaling approximately 750 men.

Glover prepared an ambush by placing the main body in staggered positions behind the stone walls that lined either side of the laneway leading from the beachhead to the interior. Behind these stone walls, each unit was instructed to hold the enemy in check as long as possible before falling back to the next protected position in their rear.

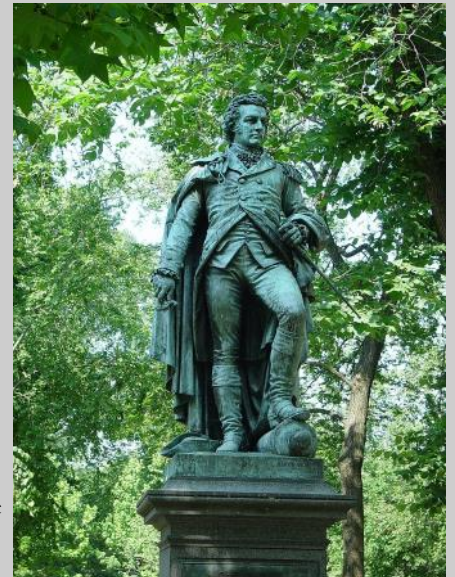
As the advance guard and the British began to engage each other, both sides took casualties. Soon the British were reinforced, and Glover ordered a retreat, which was done in an orderly manner. As British troops advanced, following the retreating Americans, the 200 troops of the 13th Continentals that Glover stationed behind the stone walls stood up and fired at the British when they were only 30 yards away. The ambush worked, and the column of British troops took heavy losses and fell back to the main body of the invading army. The encounter lasted from late morning until dusk, and Glover reported that the American withdrawal was made "with the greatest reluctance" and with "as much good order and regularity as ever they marched off a public parade."

Officially, the tally stands at patriots, 750 present: 8 killed and 13 wounded. The British report: a strength of 4000 present, with 3 killed, and 20 wounded. There were supposedly 200 - 1000 Hessian casualties, but they were Hessians, so that's disputed, and, well, they are Hessians, so who was counting?

The battle delayed British movements long enough for Washington to move the main army to White Plains and avoid being surrounded on Manhattan. After losing to the British in a battle at White Plains, and losing Fort Washington, Washington retreated across New Jersey to Pennsylvania.

Howe's official dispatch listed British casualties as 3 killed and 20 wounded, although the report did not include Hessian casualties. Since Hessians made up the majority of the landing force, it is reasonable to expect they made up the majority of the casualties. Over the next few days, using information collected from British deserters, the Americans estimated that the British lost between 800 and 1,000 killed or wounded. This was very likely exaggerated. Colonel Loammi Baldwin, who was present at the battle, estimated that the Americans had killed 200 British and Hessians, but even historian David McCullough believes this was "undoubtedly an exaggeration."

Glover's efforts gave Washington's troops precious time to reach White Plains without being destroyed. With almost 4000 men engaged, the battle at Pelham Bay ranks up there with many better-known engagements such as Trenton, King's Mountain, or Cowpens. Glover's men killed more members of the Crown forces there than were acknowledged, but the number is truly unknown.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Pell%27s_Point#/media/File:Glover-statue.jpg

Stoddard's Stockade



You will be as surprised as I, when you read here that Peter Stoddard, writer of great renown, a legend in his own mind, a family man with a family filled with important historic characters paralleled by few, ... will no longer be featured in *The Marshal*. The reason is one that disturbed me greatly, for I was shocked to learn that Peter had passed away May 10, 2024.

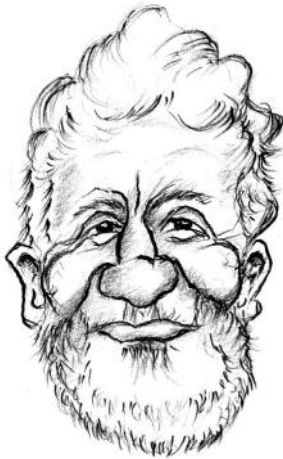
His end-of-June article for the second quarter "Stoddard Stockade" was something I compiled from notes he sent me, (too much for a previous edition, so I made it a second installment), and usually he comments, giving me some snarky feedback, after receiving a proof copy of my editing, and we adjust accordingly and go to print. As all was quiet, I assumed all was well and posted *The Marshal* as usual. I did not know Peter was gone from among us by almost two months by that time. It was not until we started a chapter member inquiry having heard nothing for a while, that we

found a Facebook posting by his son Benjamin that he had moved on to higher ground.

It is sad when we don't keep a closer contact with those we associate with, and one feels badly when one discovers the loss way too late to show due respect and contact family. I can only say I am sorry to have lost a fellow compatriot that I knew for too short a period of time.

I have a few items that Peter shared and will have to decide if I keep the Stockade open for a few more "moving out" episodes, as I suspect Peter would want, or ending it now. Many of the documents I had access to are now gone, as his online accounts have been closed. I am limited to only a few notes still on my computer.

Suffice it to say that we will all miss Peter. I am sure he is currently swapping yarns with Lewis Grizzard, and others, and catching up on all the shenanigans of his ancestors that he has shared with us in the past. God Bless, and rest in peace Peter.



Below is a small tidbit, an example of the kind of stuff Peter would email me. I would have to pump him for more info, or to retell a story, including enough details to make an article. Sometimes I might use my editorial pen to strike some unpublishable comments. If you knew Peter, you will understand.

Mon 9/14/2020 4:29 PM

"Most esteemed editor. I will elaborate further before the next publication date." *Editor Note: [He never did]*

When elders from the Northampton church interviewed Solomon Stoddard to be their minister, his possessions were aboard a ship to sail for England the next day. In other words, had those elders arrived one day later, Solomon would have been gone, and those of us descended from him would not be here.

I became friends with Ryan Reeves (creator of the YouTube link below) only this week, but I have enjoyed his YouTube videos for a long time.

In this one he describes Solomon's grandson, Jonathan Edwards as many do, the greatest theological mind ever born on American soil. Solomon profoundly influenced Jonathan, who succeeded him in the Northampton pulpit. Had Solomon departed for England, there would have been no Jonathan Edwards.

One of many reasons I like to call Stoddards, "the greatest American dynasty no one has ever heard of". (I use lower case only so we do not get too full of ourselves.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhmzD9fnBSE&list=PLRgREWf4NFWY1ZaP-falnLFIr9texgvjR&index=25&t=0s>

Regards, Peter Stoddard



**BUTTON GWINNETT CHAPTER SAR,
BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS CHAPTER SAR,
ROBERT FORSYTH CHAPTER SAR
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT
A GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY FOR**

**Patriot Enoch Benson
Patriot Isaac Horton**

November 2, 2024, Saturday at 11:00 A.M.

**City of Sugar Hill Historic Cemetery
5039 West Broad Street, Sugar Hill, GA 30518**

Cemetery GPS 34.10715, -84.03799

Attendees Are Suggested to Bring Chairs

Wreath Presenters

By October 19, 2024, please contact Don McCarty (404) 218-6624 or email donald_mccarty@bellsouth.net, if your Chapter/Organization would like to present a wreath. Provide your presenter's name, organization, and position title.



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*Sons of the American Revolution
Georgia Society*

*Marshes of Glynn Chapter, Robert Forsyth Chapter
Edward Telfair Chapter and Bullon Gwinnett Chapter*

*Invites you to a
Four Patriot Grave Marking*

Friday, November 22, 2024

3:00 pm

(Day before the Siege of Ft. Morris "Come and take it")

**Contentment Bluff Plantation Cemetery
Camp Kicklighter Rd (Shellman Buff)
Townsend, GA**

Honoring

JOHN CALDER
Hammond's Reg of Light
Dragoons, SC Militia and GA
Col Elijah Clarke
(Calder Cemetery)

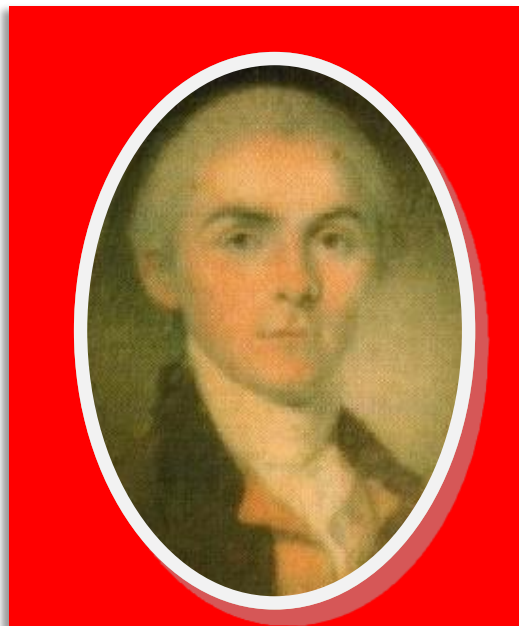
JAMES GILLIGANT, Sr.
SC Army/Militia
Commissioner of the Peace
LT.COL. JOHN COOPER
Ga Troops

CAPT JAMES NEPHEW
Served in the Col John Baker
Regiment Liberty Co., GA.
GA Militia

If you would like to present a wreath, provide your name, chapter,
organization and position.

Contact: J. Steven Hinson (GA) • stevenhinson61@gmail.com • 912-258-2033

SAR Calendar of Events



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 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. 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, Charles Meagher at (404) 822-6428, via email at chasm242@yahoo.com or any chapter officer.

Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Dec 20, 2024. 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@weegr.com

Event	Location	Date	Status
Fall Leadership	Louisville, KY	Oct 3 - 5, 2024	National
Battle of Kings Mountain	Blacksburg, SC	Oct 7, 2024 11:00 am	CANCELED
SAD Meeting	Gaffney, SC	Oct 7, 2024 2:00 pm	CANCELED
Siege of Savannah	Savannah, GA	Oct, 9, 2024	CANCELED
Battle of Yorktown	Yorktown, VA	Oct 19, 2024	National
GASSAR BOM	Barnesville, GA	Oct 26, 2024	State
Patriot Grave Marking (2)	Sugar Hill, GA	Nov 2, 2024 11:00 am	State
Veterans Day Program	Yaarab Shrine Temple Atlanta	Nov 2, 2024 1:30 pm	State
NSDAR Bench Dedication	Mt Oglethorpe, GA	Nov 3, 2024 5:00 pm	DAR
Patriot Grave Marking	Bowden, GA	Nov 9, 2024 1:00 pm	State
Oconee County Veterans Day	Watkinsville, GA	Nov 11, 2024 11:00 am	State/ National
Snellville Veterans Day	Snellville, GA	Nov 11, 2024 3:00 pm	State/ National
NSDAR Historical Marker	Colquitt County Courthouse	Nov 16, 2024 11:00 am	DAR
Patriot Grave Marking	Commerce, GA	Nov. 17, 2024 3:00 p.m.	State
Patriot Grave Marking (4)	Marshes of Glynn	Nov 22, 2024	State
Come & Take It	Fort Morris, GA	Nov 23, 2024	National
Vann's Creek	Elberton, GA	Dec 14, 2024	State
Wreaths Across America	Various	Dec 14, 2024	National