

The Marshal

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



Issue No. 40 Fall 2024

ROBERT FORSYTH GRAVE MARKINGS



Multiple grave markings were a major part of the Robert Forsyth Chapter's year in 2024. We started with Co-sponsoring the annual five Midway Patriot Graves held after the

Midway Church Service on April 28. Markers included Nathaniel Bacon, Benjamin Baker, Martin Martin, James Powell Maxwell, and John Winn.

While several Patriot Grave Markings occurred where members attended, it was not until November 2 when we again cosponsored two more Patriot graves, those of Enoch Benson and Isaac Brissell Horton in the Sugar Hill City Cemetery.

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This grave marking laid claim to the most members participating in an event other than our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony in June. We had two members in the Color Guard, Ed Rigel Jr. and J.C. Hustis, one to present the wreath, President Christopher Russo, and four in the Militia Musketeer Salute, Emil Decker, John Flikeid, Donald Loudermilk, and Byron Tindall. Additionally, Compatriots Carl Jackson, David Johnson, and Thomas Slaughter attended the gathering.



In rapid fire, another marking we cosponsored occurred on November 17, when we were in Jackson County for the Patriot Nathan Valentine Bowles event. Robert Forsyth members participated in both the Color Guard , Musket firing line., and Marker Dedication.



As December drew near, we were informed of a DAR intent to place a memorial marker in Tate, Georgia for the Patriot John Iredell Tate. They had previously marked the grave, but the Sons of the American Revolution had not. We hastily petitioned and received permission to combine the DAR 250 marker ceremony with an SAR Grave Marking Ceremony. Even the Georgia Society, C.A.R. got involved and dedicated a C.A.R. marker, also approved in record time. While the weather was rainy for this event, it was moved inside the Tate Methodist Church, where a packed congregation participated in the event. The stones were Marble instead of



Granite, because, for some reason, the Marble Hill and Tate Cemetery, home to Georgia's Marble mining, thought it would be more appropriate that way. We agree.

President Chris Russo presented the wreath, while VP Emil Decker dedicated the SAR and C.A.R. stones. Compatriot J.C. Hustis was a part of the Color Guard, while Chaplain Byron Tindall and Compatriot Carl Watkins joined Compatriot Decker on the Militia Firing Line for the Musket Salute and Mourn Muskets routine.



The chapter has already confirmed participation in the 2025 Midway marking ceremony for an additional five patriots. This is a great way to honor our patriots and participate in SAR events. Come out and join us.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The quarter started off with the Fall Leadership meeting in KY. GASSAR President, our own Ed Rigel Jr. was there to preside over the traditional state dinner, with all the Georgia delegates. One can also see our Compatriot Allen Greeny at the table as well.



It was a cold, foggy, and I do mean cut with a knife pea soup foggy day up on Oglethorpe Mountain with the Sequoyah DAR ladies as they dedicated a bench to the Indigenous Peoples, moved out of the area facilitated by the Gold Rush and westward movement of the American settlers.



Below Left: Compatriot Emil Decker presented his medical practices in the 18th Century to the Patriots of Liberty DAR at their Sept. meeting. C.A.R. members were in attendance, and got some "hands-on" opportunities. Emil is the Sr. Librarian for the GA Society, Children of the American Revolution, and is working with their Librarian, Jansen, in promoting reading literature surrounding the Revolution.



You can count on J.C. to be available to carry Colors at multiple locations on Veterans Day. Here he is at the Snellville Ceremony

COMMUNITY NEWS



Emil Decker travelled to south Georgia to deliver the 4 Grave Marking stones for the Ceremony honoring the Patriots buried at Contentment Plantation Cemetery in Townsend, GA. The next day he and GASSAR President Ed Rigel Jr. were at Fort Morris, Sunbury, GA for the "Come and Take It" national event.



Robert Forsyth had the pleasure of joining the "Wreaths Across America" wreath laying ceremony at the Sugar Hill City Cemetery, where the sponsoring group, the Sawnee Creek Chapter, NSDAR requested our help in presenting, and raising the flag on the pole in front of City Hall and the cemetery, at the start of the program. We were assisted by the Scouts from Compatriot Van Alstyne's daughter's troop.

After the wreaths were laid, the chapter took possession of four wreaths, which were taken to the Cumming City Center Veterans Park, and three graves of patriots in our area, including the only known patriot buried in Forsyth Co., and two graves we previously marked in Dawson Co.



COMMUNITY NEWS



In support of the Patriots of Liberty Society, C.A.R., President Russo was accompanying his daughter at the Wreaths Across America program held at Maxwell Cemetery in Roswell.



J.C. Hustis was also at a different site. He was at Shadowlawn in Lawrenceville with the State Color Guard.

Last day of the year, the Weaver Law Group in Cumming, up Highway 400 received our Flag Respect Certificate. They were the first Compatriot Decker saw that lowered their flag for President Jimmy Carter. They also have lit the pole and maintain the flag appropriately.



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

Glorious Lessons: John Trumbull, A Painter of the American Revolution

Richard Brookhiser is an Author and Historian. I highly recommend tracking this down. This is a "David Ludley" style presentation on four Revolutionary War paintings located in the rotunda of the U.S. Capital and is very informative. It is also good story about Trumbull.

Four Tricorns



Hardcover : 276 pages ISBN-10 : 0300259700
ISBN-13 : 978-0300259704

Savannah Under Siege By H. Ronald Freeman

H. Ronald Freeman closes his book "Savannah Under Siege" with the following statement:

"The struggle for independence in Georgia has been largely forgotten by all but the most avid Revolutionary War historians. And yet it was here, in Georgia and in Savannah that such a pivotal point in the American Revolution was enacted."

That is preceded by a narrative beginning with a description of Georgia and Savannah in 1775 and carries through to the close of the siege of Savannah on October 9, 1779.

Georgia's involvement in the Revolutionary War starts with the East Florida expedition that closes with the Gwinnett -McIntosh duel. Savannah fell to the British at the close of 1778. General Benjamin Lincoln replaced General Howe in the southern campaign. General Lincoln moves down the Savannah River to meet with Count D'Estaing to take Savannah from the British. The patriots under Lincoln engage in several skirmishes along the way including Kettle Creek.

Through out the narrative, the temperament of and personality of Lincoln, D'Estaing, Prevost and many of the others that were involved in the siege are described. The preparation made by D'Estaing for the siege are detailed and most importantly the temperament of the pompous aristocratic French officers, vain glory procrastination of D'Estaing, who thought that the British would copulate to a larger force without a battle, and most importantly the actions of a spy resulted in the bloodiest one hour battle in the Revolutionary War.

Freeman provides four pages of references of his research. The 157 pages of narrative command the interest of the Revolutionary era historian. The story of Savannah, October 9, 1779 demands that the Siege of Savannah take prominence in the remembering of Revolutionary events as Kettle Creek, Cowpens and Kings Mountain currently does.

Four Tricorns



Publisher : Freeport Publishing; First Edition (January 1, 2002)
Paperback : 172 pages ISBN-10 : 0971527415
ISBN-13 : 978-0971527416



"LIBERTY TREE."

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.

We hear about patriot writings during the American Revolution, but did any loyalist publications gain traction in the 1770s or early 80s?

Loyalism was all but extinguished in New England when the British abandoned Boston.

Newspaper editors controlled what was published their publications, and those who supported unpopular positions suffered consequences that ranged from becoming broke, to broken presses or personal threats. Protestors caused some Tory papers to fold. In Boston the editor of *The Chronicle* closed his doors and fled to England. The oldest paper in the colonies, the *News-Letter*, after 72 years of publication, printed its last issue in 1776.

Some newspapers with a divided readership sought to maintain their livelihood by trying to be objective and neutral, but impartiality was not viewed as having “a patriotic spirit.” Many of the objective publications suffered as much as those blatantly pro-British. The Boston Evening Post prided itself on presenting both sides of controversial issues, but after the events at Lexington and Concord, it simply suspended publication rather than take sides one way or the other.

The *New York Mercury*, owned by John Gainé initially moved to Newark New Jersey when the British occupied New York, in order to avoid persecution by the regulars. When he returned to the British occupied city, he renamed his publication the *Gazette and Weekly Mercury* and gave it a decidedly Tory slant.

James Rivington was the figure at the center of the loyalist press. He was a prominent member of a London bookselling family who lived in New York. In the early 1770s, Rivington moved into politics. Rivington’s *New-York Gazetteer* quickly achieved two goals ; 1) producing one of the most widely read newspapers in British North America and 2) becoming one of the most Loyalist publications in the colonies.

Rivington’s version of the news traveled not only throughout the colonies but also back to London. When the Revolution started in 1775. Rivington kept up his strong Loyalist position in the *Gazetteer*, and local revolutionary leaders were, to say the least, very angry. They attacked Rivington’s office, destroyed his sets of type, and his press. Rivington, armed with an appointment as “King’s Printer” and the use of the Royal Postal Service, resumed the *Gazetteer* as one of two Loyalist newspapers in the city and explicitly adopted the British position in his newspaper. “*Look forward, Americans! Compare the secure, prosperous, and truly free and independent state which is now most certainly and immediately in your offer, to the hazards, intermediate distresses, and probably consequences of the projects into which the Congress wish to plunge you.*”

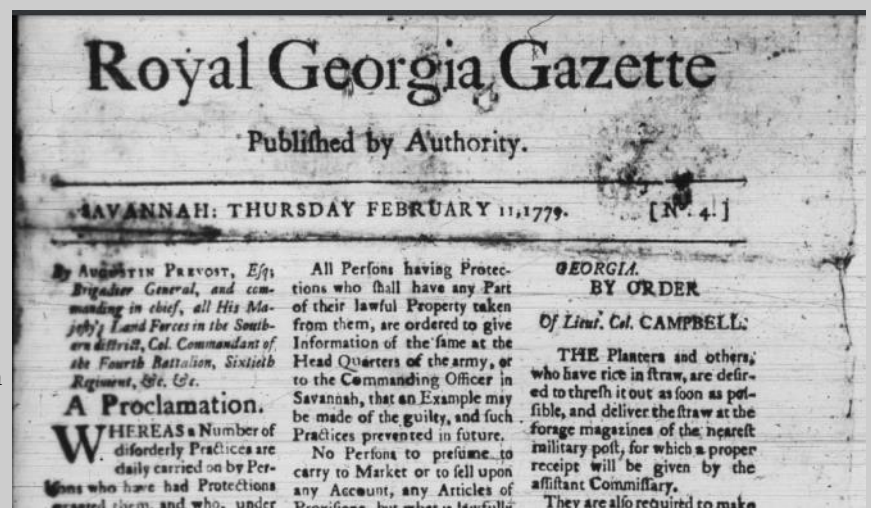
Jonathan Sewall published five series of anonymous essays between 1763 and 1775, refuting the American criticism heaped on the Massachusetts royal governor. In an attempt to refute the work of Thomas Paine, Charles Inglis produced a loyalist pamphlet (*The Christian Soldiers Duty briefly Delineated*)

Fifteen Loyalist newspapers appeared at various times but not a single one published continuously from 1776 to the end of the war. The largest number in any one year was eight in 1778 while the smallest was five in 1779. New York City had the most-popular Loyalist papers, including Hugh Gainé’s *New-York Gazette*, and the *Weekly Mercury*, Alexander Robertson’s *The Royal American Gazette*, James Rivington’s *Royal Gazette*, and William Lewis’s *New York Mercury*.

Philadelphia had three Tory newspapers during the British occupation: The *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, *Pennsylvania Ledger*, and *Royal Pennsylvania Gazette*.

Charleston, SC had three pro-British newspapers: the *South-Carolina*, and *American General Gazette*, *The Royal Gazette*, and *Royal South-Carolina Gazette*.

The *Royal Georgia Gazette* appeared in Savannah. The Loyalist press ultimately failed in its mission to undermine the Patriot cause, and therefore receives little notice in the chronicles of history..... Unless you do diligent research.





Stoddard's Stockade

As I feared, this will be the last Stoddard's Stockade. Peter's vast supply of resources which I had links to - those links no longer work. I have nothing left to offer but this one last piece. Peter asked me to look at a gun he had acquired, and after researching it, I sent him a summation of what I had found. While this is my writing, it was for and about Peter, and I hope it leave you with a lesson in artifacts, and aspirations. A lesson to learn from and grow on. Thank you Peter for the short time we had together.

One of the many times Peter moved from domicile to domicile, under the generous hands of friends who helped put him up after his houseboat sank, he contacted me about possibly helping him move once again. This time he was leaving a hotel room in Bufford, or Duluth, or wherever, and was headed towards Athens, his final destination. He needed help moving a room full of stuff he had stored at his church in Cumming down to Athens, and I agreed to help take him and the stuff there.

As we loaded my pickup, he of course kept a running dialog about how he ended up with the church holding his possessions for a time, and that he had a gun that they were concerned about. They wanted to make sure he safely got it off their property, after hesitantly agreeing to store it in a locked room. He proceeded to give me the full story of how he acquired the piece, but he knew little about it. It was sold to him at a gun show, or pawn shop, or something in-between. It was original. Original something, but he did not know what, and ultimately he had me hang on to it for him, as he was between places, and thought maybe I could found out something about it for him. He had it hanging over a doorway on the Dawg-House and was salvaged with the rest of his belongings on the houseboat before it was determined to be unsalvageable. His hope was that it was worth something, and if he could find a buyer, perhaps a fellow SAR member who would be interested, well

This is the research I found for him, [*recently edited to be more current with respect to my improved research knowledge*] and a teaching moment for us all.

“Hey Peter; I’ve been looking at your gun.”

I have been looking at your gun, and doing some research online, as well as a gun book or two I have at home. I believe that the federal government produced flintlock firearms into the 1840's. By that time it must have become obvious that percussion lock systems were the wave of the future. The federal government sent word to their armories to review their stockpiles of firearms and divide them into groups. One group was for guns to be converted to percussion lock. Another for those that just weren't worth trying to upgrade. Those were to be sold/auctioned off.

There were a number of ways to convert to percussion but the most popular way was the Belgian method and seems to have been the method of choice by the U.S. armories. The hole in the side of the barrel to allow the flame from the powder in the flintlock pan to pass into the barrel would be plugged and a new hole drilled in the barrel at the top. The new hole was threaded allowing a cone that would hold the nipple to be screwed into the barrel. A percussion hammer that was curved so that it would hit the nipple was also installed.

Those who bought the not so good ones sold at auction tried to resell these guns to anyone who would buy. That included foreign nations that were looking for cheap sources of arms as well as civilians who wanted a gun for around the farm. Those sold to civilians often underwent conversion to shotguns by having their barrel shortened and the front portion of the stock removed. This made them lighter and more handy on horseback. Pioneers traveling west and Native Americans who hunted buffalo on horseback preferred them shortened. Native Americans preferred flintlock guns late into the 19th century because it was easier to make new gun flints than to obtain percussion caps in the wilderness. Farmers who had access to a source of caps may well have had theirs converted privately if they were purchased as flintlocks. With the advent and proliferation of cartridge weapons, both flintlock and percussion cap faded away.

I believe what you have is possibly a model 1816 Springfield, or a similar private arms manufacture (missing the Springfield lock stamping). It was originally a flintlock, and was used post Revolution through the Mexican War. .69 caliber smooth bore.

The stock's butt plate is dated 1837, too early to be an 1840 model. Production at the Springfield Arsenal ran from 1840 to 1844, and amounted to 30,421 muskets. Many of these too were altered to percussion. However I do not believe that this is the original stock for this barrel and lock.



Jeb Wolf is my 19th Century expert with regard to Civil War Weaponry.



Basically, there were 3 versions of alterations. (Information from Flayderman's below.)

- **Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values Paperback** – December 17, 2007
- **Author** : Norm Flayderman
- **Publisher** : Gun Digest Books; Ninth edition (December 17, 2007)
- **Paperback** : 752 pages **ISBN-10** : 089689455X

(1) Officially termed the "French Style" but more commonly known to collectors as the "side lug" or "drum and nipple" conversion. All external lock parts were removed with threaded holes plugged, the flashpan cut and ground flush with lockplate, hence remnants of the pan are usually intact; a drum type bolster holding nipple merely threaded into the enlarged touch hole; the hammer resembles that of a civilian fowling piece. The earliest method used and performed through the early 1850's, and the one which lends itself the easiest for restoration in modern day to flintlock condition. This method believed all performed by private contractors.

(2) Officially termed the "Belgian alteration" and more commonly known to collectors as the "cone type" conversion. Second style; performed early 1850's. All external lock parts removed with screw holes plugged; the pan ground flush with lockplate (hence leaving remnants intact)

and the small existing cavity in pan filled with brass to give it a level or squared off profile along top. The vent hole of barrel plugged with nipple screwed into threaded receptacle at top of barrel, set off center towards lock side; distinctive arsenal, military hammer. From existing records this method is the only one performed by National Armories.

(3) The "Bolster type" conversion. Last method used c. mid-1850's through to early Civil War; all believed performed by private contractors. Lock altered as with

"cone type" above with 2 distinct methods (with variations of each) of attaching the bolster with nipple:

(a) bolster merely brazed over the vent hole of flintlock barrel.

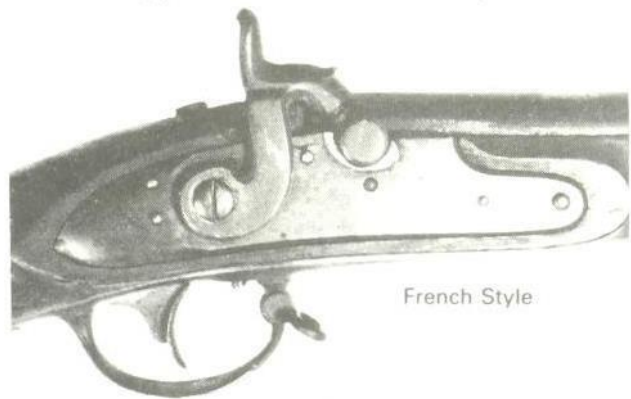
(b) breech of barrel removed by cutting-off and an entire new breech having the bolster made integral screwed into barrel.

For general collector purposes, it has been found that there is no value distinction made in any of the three above conversion types; i.e., one style is not worth more or less than the other when found on any particular U.S. musket. Some of the third or bolster type conversions are found on muskets that have also had their bores rifled and two-leaf rear sights added—and such specimens when encountered will bring a premium. These arms are of dual interest as the conversions usually denote they were performed early in the Civil War era for issuance to Union troops.

Specimens of a known contract to a private firm for conversions are often encountered and are treated as a distinct type:

Due to the very visible breech hole being filled, the brass inlay to make the lock flush, and the hole drilled on the top of your barrel, it is a Belgian conversion.

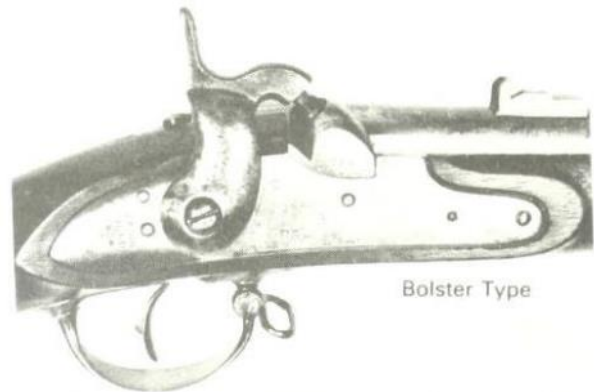
The lock mechanism and hammer operate, but the lock is not a Springfield lock due to the missing data. It probably is from a private manufacture, but no way to tell whose work as there is no makers mark.



French Style



Belgian Alteration



Bolster Type



Yours being a "Belgian" alteration indicates that it is most likely a civilian alteration, although it is possible that it was altered to percussion while still in military configuration.



The hole in the top where the new nipple would be located has been plugged by a cut off screw or bolt. This was done obviously to give the appearance of a complete gun, but rendering it non-firing. This leads me to think it long ago was abandoned for firing and simply made a display item.



The stock was from a long gun, and since the fittings are well matched, I would assume it is from the 1837 on the butt plate. The un-stamped lock probably means that it has been a mix-match of various pieces to create a somewhat complete gun. While it fits nicely, the trigger guard is not a 1837 match. (Note the ribs behind the guard.)



The side of the stock is carved down, not military standard issue, but often soldiers would carve their initials, or make minor personal changes to their



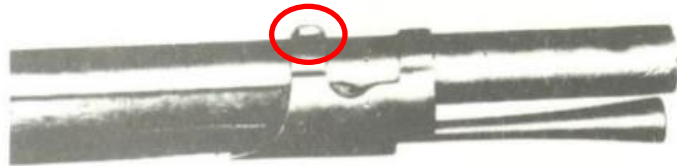
weapons. This indent is too smooth for most “in field” adaptations, and probably happened in civilian life. Then again, the mark cut into the depression is too ornate to be other than a commercial refit by my guess.



I could be wrong. It is possible that the alteration dates to the same time period as the shortening. By shortening, I mean the barrel has been cut off. That may have been done later. Note the rough whittling at the front. Just enough to fit a brass cap, now missing.



Artillery (above) and Navy (below)



The front band with the sight and ramrod loop is from another musket. Actually a Musketoon. The 1842 short version came in a couple of different configurations, but the band with the "sight tab" at the rear, like yours is probably a Navy version.



The shortening of the barrel was probably done by the next in line owner, not the factory. It is rough cut, probably with a hacksaw.

Whether someone actually used it for a critter whacker on the farm, or slapped some pieces together to sell to some city slicker who does not know the fine points of gun collecting, I cannot say.....

What you have is somewhat like the Johnny Cash song,.... "You got a 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 rusted auto-mo - - gun."

I believe it's a combo of several mismatched gun parts put together to resemble a complete weapon. Could it be made to fire? Maybe. Would I do so? Probably not. Best use? Hang it on the wall like the rusted old shotgun I have. Make up a huntin' story like Lewis would, and, well,.....let that dawg hunt.



I'll catch you someday and you and Lewis can catch me up on all the stories I missed. *Emil Decker, the Editor*

CHAPTER'S LOSS, HEAVEN'S GAIN

The year had barely started when we received the news that a Compatriot of the Robert Forsyth Chapter had passed away. Charles Cox had battled health issues and was absent for a time from meetings. He regularly hosted our Bar-B-Que at his Subdivision's guest house. He returned for several meetings suddenly, and without the usual oxygen tank he sported during his trials. We were overjoyed. It was with a sad heart that we attended his funeral in the early part of the year.



Peter Stoddard was a long time member of the SAR. He published books, made public speeches, mostly about Lewis Grizzard, the Georgia Bulldogs, and is extensive background in the Stoddard Family history. You have been entertained by his Stoddard's Stockade for many issues now. His presence on Facebook was a constant item for those who followed him.

One day he grew silent, and it was not until we did some deep research we found through his son that he has passed over a month previously. Peter was living in Athens at the time, so no one saw him face to face for some time. It was only the silence of his Facebook postings that gave us a clue.

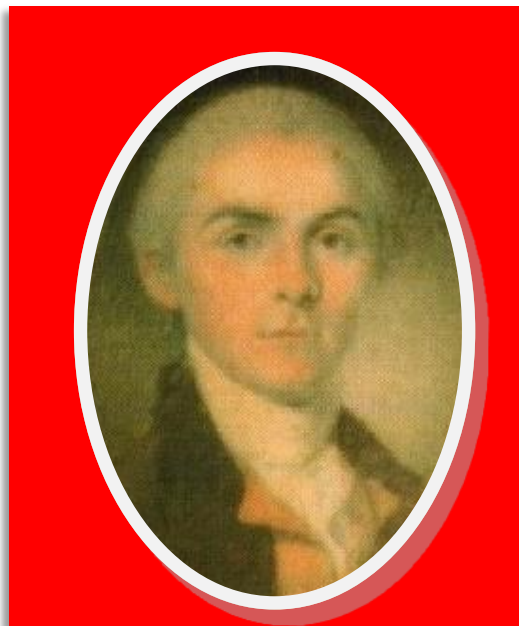


As the year was ending, we lost our third member of the chapter. Thomas Slaughter was a long time educator and coach. He was a Forsyth legend in the school system, and loved North Carolina University, his family, family history, particularly the South Carolina roots, and the Sons of the American Revolution. Having some health issues himself, he still maintained the position of Sgt-At-Arms for the chapter, only handing off the flags and other articles as needed by the chapter. He loved to travel and was vacationing in Florida when he passed.

All three will be missed, but as our SAR Recessional states, ***"Until We Meet Again"***..... Farewell my brothers until that time!



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 Mar 20, 2025. 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
Grave Marking Patriot Stephen Day	Grovetown City Hall 103 Old Wrightsboro Rd. Grovetown, GA	(POSTPONED)	State (POSTPONED)
Battle of Cowpens	Cowpens, NPS	Jan 17, 2025 8:00 am	National
Battle of Cowan's Ford	Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 10500 Beatties Ford Road, Huntersville, NC	Jan 25, 2025 7:30 am	National
Georgia Society SAR State Conference	Hilton Atlanta NE 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd Peachtree Corners, GA	Jan 31 12:00 pm - Feb 1 3:00 pm, 2025	State
Heroes of the Hornets Nest	Elijah Clark St. Park	Feb 07, 2025 12:00 pm	State
Battle of Kettle Creek	Washington, GA & War Hill	Feb 08, 2025	National
Crossing of the Dan	South Boston, VA	Feb 15, 2025 10:00am	National
George Washington Birthday	Multiple	Feb 22, 2025	National
Battle of Moore's Creek	Moore's Creek Battlefield 200 Moore's Creek Dr., Currie, NC	Feb 22, 2025 10:00 am	National
National Society SAR – Spring Leadership	Lexington, KY	Feb 27 8:00 am - Mar 1 5:00 pm, 2025	National
Brier Creek -Education & Commemoration	Brier Creek Battlefield,	Mar 7, 8:00am & Mar 8, 8:00am, 2025	State & National
Battle of Guilford Courthouse	Greensboro, NC	Mar 15, 2025 8:00 am	National
Last Naval Battle	Merritt Island, FL	Mar 15, 2025 10:00	National
Liberty Tree Planting	Mars Hill Cemetery, 2850 Mars Hill Church Road NW, Acworth, GA	Mar 15, 2025 11:00 am	National
Georgia State Society NSDAR – 127th State Conference	Augusta Marriott, Augusta, GA	Mar 19, 8:00 am - Mar 23, 5:00 pm, 2025	State
Battle of Thomas Creek	Seaton Creek Historic Preserve Park, Jacksonville, FL	Mar 29, 2025 10:00 am	National
Patriots Day - Frederica Navel Action	Saint Simons Island, GA	Apr 19, 2025 10:00am	National
Georgia Society BOM	Barnesville, GA	Apr 26	State
Midway Church Service & Grave Marking (5)	Midway Cemetery Midway, GA	Apr 27, 2025 8:00am	State
Memorial Day Wknd	Various	May 24 - 26, 2025	National
Flag Day - Flag Retirement Ceremony	Ingram Funeral Home Cumming, GA	Jun 14, 2025	National
Flag Day	Various	Jun 14, 2025	National
Independence Day	Various	Jul 4, 2025	National