

# The Marshal

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

Issue No. 17 Winter 2019



## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Gary Page

Welcome to 2019

...my fellow compatriots.

First, I want to thank the membership for electing me as President for 2019 and I look forward to serving the Robert Forsyth Chapter in 2019. Secondly, I want to thank the outgoing and incoming officers for their service and dedication to the Sons of the American Revolution and our Patriot Ancestors who fought and died for our Independence, Constitution and the freedoms and rights we enjoy today.

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# ANNUAL BANQUET



*COL (Ret.) John Davis receives his War Service Medal.*

*Photo by Linda Decker*

Robert Forsyth Chapter held its annual banquet on January 12, 2019 at Tam's Backstage in Cumming, Georgia. The Call to Order was made at 6:01 p.m. by Past President Allen Greenly, with a Welcome address by President John Flikeid. Chaplain Byron Tindall offered the invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Past President Tom Davis, followed by the SAR Pledge by Past President Ed Rigel, Jr.

GASSAR President Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Don Burdick & Nancy, Past VPG and GASSAR President George Thurmond, Past GASSAR President Allen Greenly, North Central Region Vice-President Ed Rigel, Jr., and Chapter First Lady Stephanie Flikeid were introduced and seated at the head table. After the blessing of meal by Chaplain Tindall, Dinner and Fellowship was enjoyed by all.

As our Guest Speaker, GASSAR President Don Burdick, talked about "A Real New England Patriot" with a focus on the Revolutionary heroes from Connecticut, the land he hails from originally.

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# Robert Forsyth Annual Banquet

A review of the quarter's past events included the Patriot Lewis Lanier Grave Marking; a Traveling Trunk presentation at Vickery Creek Middle School; the Veterans Day Proclamation article published on the web and local paper; Vann's Creek; Compatriot Thomas Parks Oliver III and Thomas Robert Oliver grave markings; with a Traveling Trunk presentation to Johns Creek Elementary School to round out the quarter and end the year.

Upcoming events for the current quarter encompassed: January 19 – Cowpens; January 25-6 - GASSAR State Meeting; February -8-10 - Battle of Kettle Creek; February 22 - George Washington's Birthday celebration in Gainesville; February 28 - March 3 – Spring Leadership, Louisville, KY; March 2 – Battle of Brier Creek; March 16 – Battle of Guilford Courthouse; March 30 – Battle of Thomas Creek.

There was very little chapter business, with the main resolution being the changing of those members capable of signing checks from the chapter account. The motion to approve the Resolution was moved and seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

With the business finished, the only things left to cover were the swearing in of the 2019 officers. These included: President: Gary Lynn Page, Vice-President: Kenneth (Chip) Van Alstyne, Secretary: Edward P. Rigel, Jr., Treasurer: David Johnson, Historian: John Flikeid, Genealogist: Christopher Michael Russo, Chaplain: Byron Tindall, Sergeant-at-Arms: Edward Reid Hooper, Chancellor: William Allen Greenly, Registrar: Charles Meagher, Editor: Emil Decker

President Page gave his remarks on the future of the chapter and his dedication to the office. The Benediction was given by Chaplain Tindall, followed by the SAR Recessional led by Past President Allen Greenly.

*[You probably noticed I left out the various awards and commendations that were presented a different times throughout the banquet. Those are summarized in the Annual Report below. Ed]*

## Chapter Annual Report

*By Ed Rigel Jr. (Secretary)*

- We added 8 new members
- Americanism Score: 5,606 points, a 40.4% increase
- President General's Cup: 3,170 points, a 21% increase
- USS Stark Award: 2,894 points, a 12% increase
- We presented 15 Eagle Scout Certificates and had one entry into the State Eagle Scout contest
- We recognized one JROTC Outstanding Cadet
- The Chapter's Education Outreach program made ten presentations to 1,900 students, teachers, and parents, a 33% increase
- We collected more approximately 625 flags for retirement and presented four Flag Certificates
- We participated in two parades, a first for our Chapter
- The Chapter hosted a very successful genealogy workshop, which included a presentation by State Registrar Bob Sapp
- We attended four US Naturalization ceremonies and welcomed more than 400 new US Citizens



## Chapter Awards

- Bronze Roger Sherman Medal presented to Gary Page.
- Oak Leaf Clusters for Bronze Roger Sherman Medals were presented to Emil Decker, Ed Hooper, and John Flikeid.
- War Service Medal presented to John Mark Davis.
- Lydia Darragh Medal presented to Stephanie Flikeid.
- Officer Certificates of Appreciation presented to Gary Page, Ed Rigel, Jr, David Johnson, Allen Greenly, Charles Meagher, Chris Russo, Emil Decker, Byron Tindall, and Ed Hooper.

# ANNUAL BANQUET

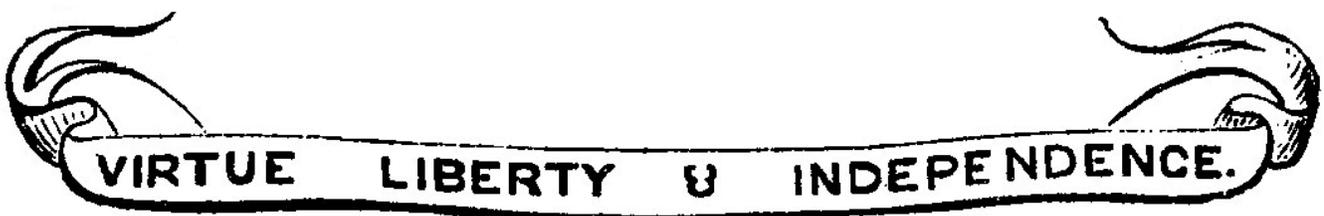


Above: Left to Right. The head table was set, with Georgia Society President Donald Burdick, Wife Nancy Burdick, Robert Forsyth Chapter President John Flikeid, and his wife Stephanie Flikeid.

Below Left: Gary Page is sworn in as our new President. Center: Gary Page receives his Bronze Roger Sherman Medal from President John Flikeid, prior to assuming the office of President himself. Right: Stephanie Flikeid is awarded the Lydia Darrow medal for her support of John and the Chapter in 2018.  
Photos by Emil Decker



Below Left to Right: 2019 Officers of Robert Forsyth Chapter are sworn in: Emil Decker, John Flikeid, Charles Meagher, Allen Greenly, Byron Tindall, David Johnson, Ed Rigel, Jr., Chip Van Alstyne, with Gary Page and GASSAR President Don Burdick to the right.



## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

I especially want to thank and recognize John Flikeid for his service this past year. John is an exemplary servant to the SAR and our Chapter. John has accepted a role at the State level and I am sure he will leave a lasting impact in his new role as he has left a legacy in his Role as Chapter President.

Moving on to 2019, membership is always at the forefront of our Chapter. Every member of the Chapter needs to outreach to potential new members so that we can grow our Chapter membership. This is certainly a difficult task as we all have busy daily lives, but we must take the extra effort to look for and invite potential candidates to our Chapter meetings and evangelize the values and benefits of membership in the SAR. So, I encourage each and every one of you to seek out and recruit new members.

I also want to encourage our current members to participate in Chapter activities. When I first became a member of the SAR, I thought to myself that there is no way I would dress in a Revolutionary uniform. It is always a bit difficult to take the time to participate in the various Chapter activities such as grave markings and Flag retirement ceremonies. Especially, when these activities require a significant time commitment as well as cost.

I went to the first few activities wearing a suit. I thought to myself would I rather be in a suit or in uniform as many of the other participants were in. It was at that point, along with the help of Emil's Quartermaster directory, that I made the commitment to go all in. And yes, there was a hefty cost in acquiring a uniform, but once I received it and wore it for the first time, I felt like I achieved a new level of commitment to the SAR. It also helped that as VP, I was responsible for updating the Americanism Report and saw that participation in activities in uniform earned the Chapter additional points. So, acquiring and wearing a Revolutionary uniform is more than just playing dress up, you are making a tangible contribution to the Chapter.

Participating in Chapter activities was also a learning experience. For example, I participated in the Lewis Lanier Grave Marking ceremony in Screven County. During the ceremony speeches, one of the speakers said all the Laniers in America were descendants of a common ancestor. I also have Laniers in my lineage so I must be related. Turns out I am, not through a direct line, but through another branch. I also learned that there are several famous Laniers in the history of America and there is an annual Lanier reunion.

I also learned there is a First Families of Georgia Society for which there were members at the ceremony that could potentially sponsor me into the Society. I am currently pursuing membership in this Society. I had no prior knowledge of these opportunities and had I not gone to the Lewis Lanier ceremony, I might not have known about it nor met a sponsor. So, the moral of this story is you never know what you might learn or who you might meet at one these events. So, I encourage you to attend these events and view these events as learning and growing experiences.

I look forward to an exciting and productive year for the Robert Forsyth Chapter.

Pres. Gary Page



### 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 would the American Revolution have turned out if Washington had been killed in battle?

Washington getting killed in battle (probably at Princeton or Brandywine) would have been an unmitigated disaster.

Not from a military standpoint mind you. If you had asked the British generals, they would have agreed there was never any hope of a British purely military victory, and after the colonies declared independence there was no hope of winning back the "hearts and minds" of the colonies. Consider this. Almost all revolutions fail. Ultimately the only way for a revolution to succeed is for a military leader to seize the government. (Even Napoleon mockingly stated, "They expected me to be a Washington.")

This would have been true for the US as well, save for two things. (1) George Washington was, ...well, George Washington. And (2) since the states refused to give Congress the power to tax, they basically were trying to finance the war with nothing. Having nothing to support your war efforts lead to troublesome issues.

On several occasions the Continental Army mutinied, demanding that Washington lead them to Philadelphia to take over the government as king. ( substitute dictator, or some other suitable title; the details were never clearly worked out.) Each time Washington personally defused the situation.

# Chapter and Community News



Left: The year started early with the chapter awarding a Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Forsyth County Sheriff Deputy John Crane. In attendance, L-R: Tom Slaughter, Chip Van Alstyne, J.C. Hustis, John Flikeid, Deputy Crane, Gary Page, and Ed Rigel Jr., along with the Forsyth County Council members behind.

Below: Deputy Crane

Photos by Angie Page

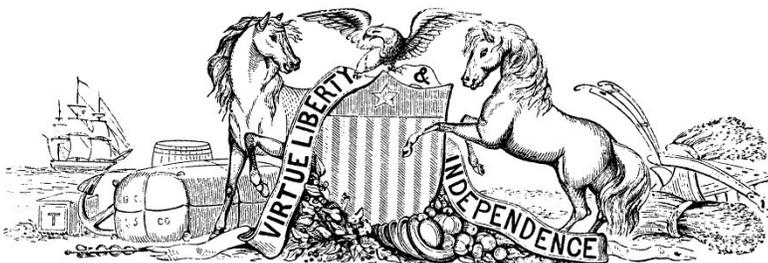


Multiple awards came to the Robert Forsyth Chapter during the Annual Georgia Conference on January 26 & 27.

Left: Allen Greenly was recognized as the Senior Color Guardsman of the Year by State Color Guard Commander Bill Palmer.

Middle: John Flikeid is awarded his Patriot Grave Marking Medal by Georgia Society President Donald Burdick.

Photos by Rick Reese III



## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)

*Below: John Flikeid (secretary) and Emil Decker (Editor) are sworn in as Georgia Society Officers for 2019. [Sorry John, but every photo I have of the event has a hand covering your face. Ed]*



*Above: Every chapter, every year has the opportunity to be recognized with certificates and streamers for various levels of program participation. 2018 was no exception.*

*Photos by Rick Reese III*

### *Robert Forsyth Chapter Awards Received at the 2019 Georgia State Conference*

Americanism Chapters of Excellence (5,000 points+)  
Americanism Chapters of Distinction  
President General Chapter of Distinction  
Education Outreach Streamer and Certificate  
Distinguished Chapter Award  
Revolutionary War Patriot Graves 1 Gold Star  
BG Robert L. Scott, Jr. Veterans Award (For Chapters 25-49 Members)



*Left: Gary Page gets his first opportunity to join the Militia and fire his new Brown Bess at the Heroes of the Hornet's Nest and Kettle Creek Ceremonies on a beautiful set of February days.*

*Right: Emil Decker and Lyman Hall's Carter Page toast a successful Traveling Trunk demonstration during the War Hill presentation on Friday, while the Heroes of the Hornet's Nest ceremony was occurring at the Elijah Clark State Park.*

*Photos by Emil Decker*



## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



Left: Secretary Ed Rigel Jr. gives Wampum Certificate to the Chief (Compatriot Terry Manning) for his February meeting presentation on *Indian Wars of the Revolution*.



Right: V.P. Chip Van Alstyne presents a Certificate to our own Pres. Gary Page for his March presentation on *The Newburgh Conspiracy*.

Right: Past Pres. John Flikeid presents Sergeant-At-Arms Ed Hooper with his Oak Leaf Cluster for his Bronze Roger Sherman Medal for service to the Chapter.

Below: While attending the 238th Guilford Courthouse Re-enactment, I went to the encampment area where the troops gathered with camp followers, Sutlers selling their wares, and lots of curious spectators. I found the sutler's sign on the 6 pounder's ammo box amusing.

Below Right. Members of the Georgia Society attending Guilford Courthouse Ceremony in front of the Nathaniel Greene Statue include Robert Forsyth's Emil Decker.

*Photos by Emil Decker*



[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.]

## Caty: A Biography of Catherine Littlefield Greene

By John F. Stegeman & Janet A. Stegeman

Catherine Littlefield Greene was the vivacious young wife of General Nathanael Greene. Married at 19, on July 20, 1774 – the eve of the revolution, Caty was 12 years her husband’s junior. Nathanael, going from the rank of Private to Brigadier General in just a few days, left home immediately after the news of “The Shot Heard Round the World”. Greene would command the Rhode Island Brigade in Boston and would be one of two Generals to serve with George Washington during the entire eight years of the revolution.

As was the custom in this period, wives of high ranking officers often visited their husbands during periods of inactivity, especially during winter encampments. Caty never missed this opportunity.

The authors follow the life of the woman whose spirit and determination led her far beyond the domestic concerns of most women of her day. The reader might conclude from reading this biography that Caty was the role model of Scarlet O’Hara, for her charm and preference for men endeared her to all who crossed her path. Even George and Martha Washington had a close acquaintance with Caty Greene, during her almost annual visits during winter encampments. Each time, Caty would return home pregnant, having six children born during the revolution, five lived. Her first child was named George Washington Greene.

The war would eventually ruin Greene financially, leading to their moving to Mulberry Grove Plantation, confiscated Loyalist property – a gift from the state of Georgia for his service. Cumberland Island was later purchased by Greene and plans were made for the construction of a new home, named Dungeness on the southern tip where the cotton gin would be developed later by Eli Whitney. Unfortunately Nathanael Greene died at age 44 from a sunstroke before his new home was completed, leaving Caty, just turned 30 with 5 children.

Caty would eventually marry again and become involved with other notable men, some who were married, including General Anthony Wayne.

This is a most intriguing story about a determined woman and is recommended reading.

Three tricornes.

ISBN 0-8203-0792-0, The University of Georgia Press, 1977 by John F. Stegeman & Janet A. Stegeman, \$15.95

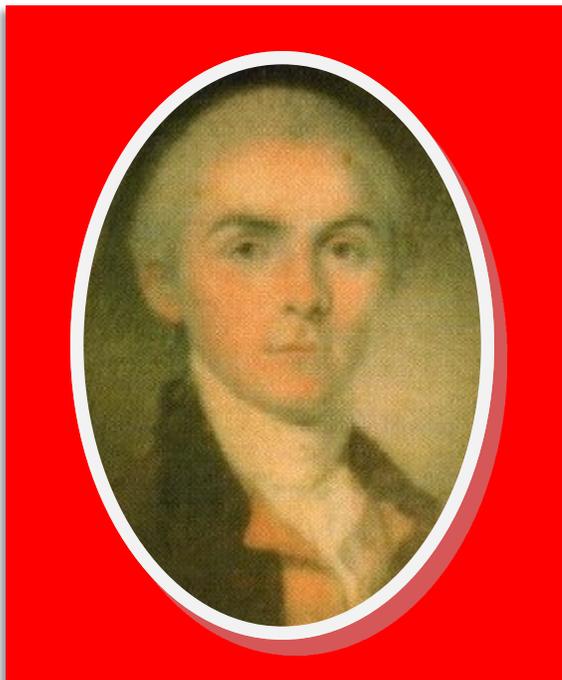


Above: J.C. Hustis attended the Washington Birthday Celebration hosted by the Lyman Hall Chapter in Gainesville.



## SAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Level
Robert Forsyth Annual Chapter Banquet	Apr 11, 2019	Cumming, GA	Local
Halifax Resolves	Apr 12, 2019	Roanoke Rapids, NC	National
State BOM	Apr 27, 2019	Barnesville, GA	State
Grave Markings	Apr 28, 2019	Midway, GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	May 9, 2019	Cumming, GA	Local
Ramsour's Mill Commemoration	Jun 9, 2019	Lincolnton, NC	National
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Jun 13, 2019	Cumming, GA	Local
Patriotic Concert	Jun 30, 2019	Gainesville, GA	Local
National Congress	Jul 10, 2019	Costa Mesa, CA	National
Robert Forsyth Chapter Picnic	Jul. TBA , 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 June 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

If Washington had died at, say, Brandywine (where historically a sniper, Patrick Ferguson or a member of his rifle squad, decided not to shoot him), there would have been much jostling for position, and the winner would probably have been the hero who emerged a few months later at Saratoga... Benedict Arnold. Arnold would have certainly aspired to, and readily claimed the title of King Benedict Arnold.

#### Was Samuel Adams a brewer?

Sam's father was a brewer. Sam attempted to follow in his father's footsteps, but was not successful. He went bankrupt. The modern brand named after him is a tribute to his patriot stance and not to his brewing abilities.

#### Was George Washington really offered the opportunity to become King (in the sense of absolute monarch)?

If one considers that one of Washington's hero's was the Roman Republic leader Cincinnatus, who twice after being brought to Rome as Dictator to lead the Republic in crisis, and both times stepped down and returned to his farm when the crisis was ended, then yes. This was the example that Washington both admired and followed himself. At the end of the war, and at the end of his second term as president, Washington insisted on retiring to his home, Mount Vernon and kept out of politics and leadership roles.

LH.