

The Marshal

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

Issue No. 25 Winter2021



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

By Chip Van Alstyne

Compatriots, it is an honor to once again be your President. We were excited to hear from Georgia State Society President, William Dobbs as he renewed the charge on the BOM for 2021. He also delivered a thought-provoking talk on George Washington the Farmer and his importance in bringing Mules to America. Not to mention his fine distillery.

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ROBERT FORSYTH SUPPORTS LOCAL SCOUT TROOP

On Sunday, Feb 28, the Robert Forsyth Chapter was invited to present Eagle Scout Recognition Certificates to 4 members of nationally recognized Troop 5109. Troop 5109 was formed at midnight on Feb 1, 2019 and is one of the oldest girl-only Troops in the country. Troop 5109 has already attended 2 high adventure camps, including the first all-female Scout Crew at Northern Tier Okpik winter camping experience where 3 of the girls received their "Zero Hero award" for sleeping outside in below freezing temperatures. Robert Forsyth President Chip Van Alstyne has been an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 5109 since his daughter joined in Oct 2019 and is credited as a Founding member of the Troop. Troop 5109 had 4 girls become members of the BSA's inaugural class of Female Eagle Scouts with official induction dates of Feb 8, 2021.

In addition to President Van Alstyne, Compatriot Carter Wood was present in his role as a member of the Military Order of World Wars to present Eagle Certificates for that society. Compatriot Wood performed the role of Scouting founder Lord Baden-Powell at the founding of Troop 5109 and has been a fervent supporter of the Troop as a Commissioner with the Northeast Georgia Council.



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Those scouts are:

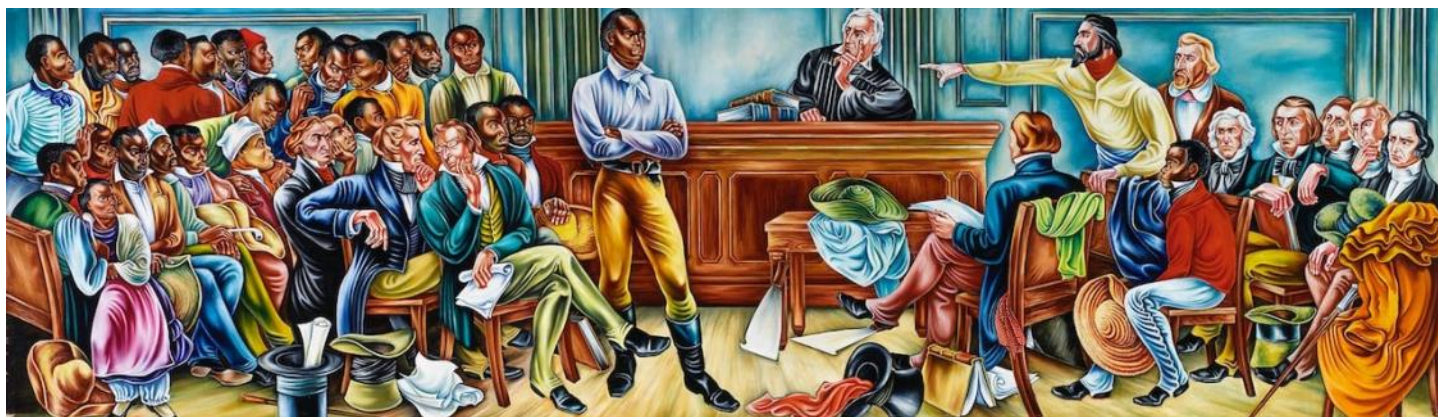
Madison Burrell, an 8th grader at North Gwinnett MS. Her Eagle project was 20 bee houses to be installed in Gwinnett County parks. She has also received the Girl Scout Bronze award, is a member of the Order of the Arrow and is an Acolyte at St Columba's Episcopal Church in Suwanee. Madison is the daughter of Christine and Brandon Burrell. Her brother, Connor, is also an Eagle Scout.

Audrey Kenney, a freshman at North Gwinnett HS whose Eagle project was a hammock stand at Epiphany Lutheran church. Audrey is also a holder of the Girl Scout Bronze Award. She was awarded bronze and gold Eagle Palms at the Court of Honor. Audrey is the daughter of Steve and Jennifer Kenny.

Lena Towne, a sophomore at North Gwinnett HS whose Eagle project was to renovate the Sunday School room at Epiphany Lutheran church. Lena has been awarded the Bronze and Silver Girl Scout Awards and is working on her Gold Award. She received a bronze Eagle palm at the court of honor. Lena is the daughter of Chris and Kim Towne.

Sara Whittier, a senior at North Gwinnett HS whose Eagle project was building 15 dog beds and collecting supplies for Planned Pethood. Sara is heading to Philmont this summer and received her Bronze Eagle Palm at the ceremony. She is the daughter of Bob and Teresa Whittier. Her brother Jake is also an Eagle Scout.

What do You Know of Our Local History ?



The painting, “The Trial of the Amistad Captives”, is part of the set of murals painted by Hale Woodruff, commissioned by Talladega College in 1938. *by Chris Russo*

Robert Forsyth was a Revolutionary War veteran and was the first United States Marshal killed in the line of duty, while attempting to serve civil papers in 1794. He was 40 years old. He is the namesake of our chapter.

Forsyth County, Georgia, however, is named for his son, John Forsyth. John was a member of both the US Senate and House of Representatives. John was the governor of Georgia and Secretary of State under Presidents Andrew Jackson & Martin Van Buren. As Secretary of State, he represented the United States in the La Amistad trial.

La Amistad was a Spanish slave ship that was mutinied by the enslaved African men and eventually captured off the coast of eastern Long Island, NY on August 26, 1839, at Culloden Point. The African captives, Mende people who had been kidnapped in the area of Sierra Leone in West Africa, escaped their chains and took over the ship. They killed the captain and the cook, while two other crew members escaped in a lifeboat. The Mende directed the two Spanish navigators to return them to Africa but were tricked into sailing north at night. The slaves were charged with murder, but the charges were dropped. Their legal team included George Tappan, a New York abolitionist. Tappan argued and won the Africans freedom with a ruling that they should be returned to Africa.

The United States government appealed the decision to the Supreme Court. The Africans were then represented by former President John Quincy Adams. In March of 1841, the Supreme Court upheld the lower court's decision. Abolitionist supporters took the Mende – 36 men and boys and three girls – to Farmington, a village considered "Grand Central Station" on the Underground Railroad. In 1842 the surviving 35 Africans returned to Sierra Leon.

A Steven Spielberg movie, *Amistad* (1997), was based on the events of the revolt, the court cases, and Howard Jones' 1987 book *Mutiny on the Amistad*.

President's Dispatch (Cont.)

I know that each of us in the BOM is hopeful to see our Chapter out of the events of 2020 and into a new, in-person, meeting plan that allows all of us to rekindle the fellowship we've all missed over the past year. I hope that the changes we have made to our online meetings to streamline and keep them interesting will cause you to attend one in the future. You can find us at: <http://kva.fyi/SARMeeting>.

As you can see in this issue, our Chapter was one of the first to recognize the achievements of our country's first Female Eagle Scouts. I'm proud to have worked with the four young women over the past few years and I know that each of them is proud to have been recognized by our organization for their hard work. I have also read with interest the reports from Gary Green, our Chair for the Patriot Records Project. Many of our more recent lineages have been completed in the system which will allow prospective and existing Compatriots to more easily find their ancestors for new and supplemental applications. I urge you to check out the updated PRS system and consider supporting their work. A few minutes when you have some free time can really add up to an amazing result.

(cont. page 9)

Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

The Hornet's Nest

Author President Jimmy Carter, writing in the James Michener style, weaves the story of the Revolutionary War in Georgia and South Carolina. Events unfurl under fictional character, Ethan Pratt with Pratt eventually taking up arms to defend his land.

Author Carter provides both sides with ample information about events, essentially true. Most of the main characters of both the Patriots and British are woven into the events from the time of the British landing in the South until their departure at the end of the conflict.

Central character Pratt eventually finds his way to join Colonel Elijah Clarke and is engaged in a number of conflicts while serving in the Militia. Pratt serves as one of the 30 Georgians to fight at Kings Mountain and evens manages to fire one of the shots that kill Patrick Ferguson at Kings Mountain!

This is an adventuresome story that moves along and, perhaps, is reflective of the hardships our ancestors endured in fighting for our freedom. Enjoyable.

Three tricorns.



ISBN 0-7432-5544-5 The Hornet's Nest by Jimmy Carter, Simon & Schuster, \$15.00

The Life and Times of General Andrew Pickens

Rod Andrew, Jr.

Author Andrew offers a comprehensive biography of the man, the General, the planter and diplomat. Born in Pennsylvania, Andrew Pickens traveled down the Great Wagon Road to South Carolina near the Georgia line along with the Calhoun clan and settled in the Ninety-Six district. It was difficult living near Indians who were not always friendly. Early on, Andrew became a valued militia leader against the Indians who respected him by naming him the "Wizard Owl".

Pickens is involved in the Surrender at Charleston May 12, 1780 and took a parole. When his parole was violated, he again took up arms against the Tories. He was a highly respected military leader and was offered a role in the British army but declined the offer.

Author Andrew goes into depth about Pickens valued role in dealing with the Indian situation where he once was summoned to Washington to provide advice to President Georg Washington.

This is a must read for those who would like to know the man behind the image.

Three tricorns.



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.

What do most people misunderstand about the Statue of Liberty?

Originally the statue was going to hold broken chains in her hands as a reference to the removal of slavery.



They saw that as being too aggressive politically, as tensions were still high from the Civil War. So they instead put the chains at her feet, which most people don't notice. (I wonder if some think about toppling her?)



After the Revolutionary War, what happened to the 30,000 German Hessian mercenaries the British had sent to the Colonies?

About 30,000 Hessians served in the Americas, and, after the war ended in 1783, some 17,313 Hessian soldiers returned to their German homelands.

Of the 12,526 who did not return, about 7,700 had died. Some 1,200 were killed in action, and 6,354 died from illness or accidents.

Approximately 5,000 Hessians settled in North America, both in the United States and Canada.

Community News



Left and Below: Several Robert Forsyth members participated in the State Annual Conference in January. Allen Greenly presented the SAR Pledge. Allen also recently received endorsement for election to the National Registrar Office. Congratulations to Allen.

Below Left: GASSAR secretary John Flikeid conducted a portion of the annual meeting where he accounted for the status of membership at the State level.



Above: Compatriot Don Loudermilk presents a wreath during the online Kettle Creek Commemoration.

Right: Parts of the ceremony were pre-recorded at War Hill, with Robert Forsyth members participating. 2nd from left in the musket line, Emil Decker.





Colonel Boyd Issued SAR Death Certificate

Everyone who knows Scott Collins knows he literally will give his all to the advancement of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. For many years, Scott has portrayed Col. James Boyd in our re-enactments of the Battle of Kettle Creek. To commend his award winning “death scenes” over the years, I determined him worthy to receive his official SAR Death Certificate for Colonel Boyd, in spite of his lack of laying down in the mud this year. His certificate reads as follows:

Whereas: Scott Collins has actively portrayed Colonel James Boyd multiple times.....

And whereas: Scott Collins has worn his red coat, making him a most obvious target.....

And whereas: Scott “Boyd” Collins has repeated been shot and killed by American Patriots.....

And whereas: Scott “Boyd” Collins has, to give the audience the ultimate pleasure of a Loyalist Dispatching, fallen to the ground in an authentic “death-gripping Tory” pose.....

And whereas: Scott Collins has given the ultimate sacrifice of “dying for George III”.....

We do award Scott Collins this Death Certificate, verifying Scott is indeed the “Deadeast of the Dead”

All are welcomed to observe this solemn Ceremonial Presentation.

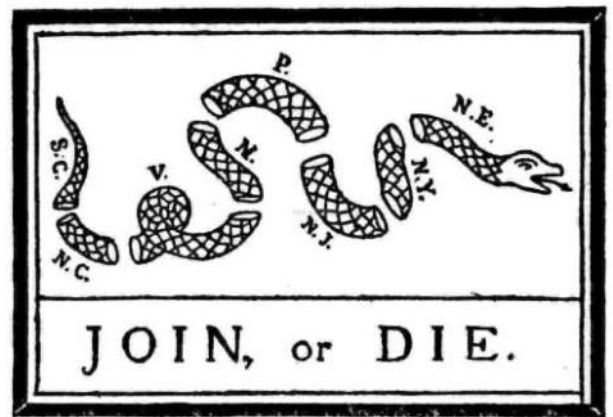
Click on the link below:

<https://youtu.be/MIWkueAHD-A>





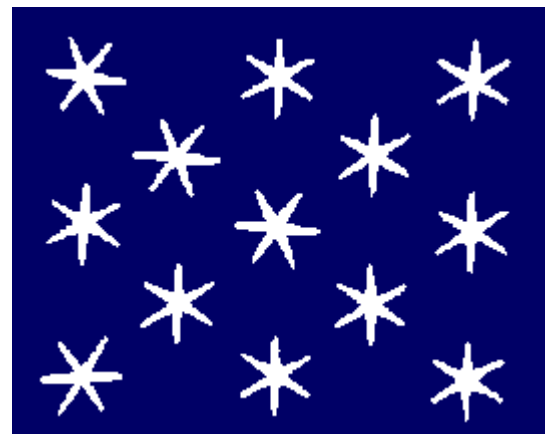
Compatriot Decker traveled south to Wiregrass country to give a presentation “in-person” to that fine chapter. It was his first chance to give his new presentation on medicine, surgery, and health practices of the 18th Century. Copious amounts of blood were not drawn; clysters were not administered; nor were any patients given one of Dr. Benjamin Rush’s “Thunder Clappers”. Intrigued? Maybe you will get to attend one of our fine Presentations.



Did you know the above was not a flag, but a political poster? Who created it, and why isn't Georgia on the snake?

Do you know what flag is represented below?

You would have if you had attended Mark Anthony's excellent presentation on “The Revolution as told by it's Flags”. during the March meeting. You really do need to attend, whether its in-person [*hopefully happening again real soon*] or online. You can bet you will be informed, entertained, and it is well worth your time.



Compatriot Mark Anthony is a member of the Piedmont Chapter. Mark is a native of Spartanburg, SC and a graduate of Georgia Tech. He has identified 28 patriot ancestors and 2 loyalist ancestors. One of his ancestors fought on each side at the Battle of Kettle Creek. Mark is a Past President of the Rome (GA) Chapter, Past SC State Secretary, past National Committee Chairman of multiple committees, past South Atlantic Vice President General, and past Commander of the National Color Guard. Mark is a 2015 recipient of the Minuteman Medal, SAR's most prestigious award.

Stoddard's Stockade

After a pause last edition from Stoddard's ancestry accounts, we are back on the trail. Peter, in his usual, right to the point connections to his past, delights us with an escapade (fancy word for outing) with his son Kevin and an old haunted home in Connecticut that yes, one of his ancestors built.

Peter, Kevin, The Curtis House and a Celebrity Foot Rub

More about celebrity ghosts and my prewar Puritan ancestry, but still ...

These comments were for the benefit of a Lewis Grizzard group, who we have discovered would have been eligible for the SAR.

Sometimes I am compelled to honor my patriot ancestry and one or both of my sons.

Yes, I have Yankee kin. If it was not for Anthony Stoddard's grandson, Capt. Nathan Stoddard, who lost his head to a British cannonball at Fort Mifflin, the Fort that Saved



America, we might all be saying y'all with a Limey accent.

<https://pabook.libraries.psu.edu/literary-cultural-heritage-map-pa/feature-articles/mifflin-fort-saved-america>

Thomas Paine wrote of Fort Mifflin, "The garrison, with scarce anything to cover them but their bravery, survived in the midst of the mud, shot & shells, and were obliged to give up more to the powers of time & gunpowder than to military superiority."

And William Tecumseh Sherman is that Anthony Stoddard's 3rd great-grandson. I hope and believe Lewis approves from on high or from UGA's Sanford Stadium 50 yard line where 50% of his ashes came to rest. Lewis might not approve of the WT Sherman connection but if he complains I will let you know. Or if Lewis complains to you, please let me know.



Lewis would have zero complaints about the surprise female mystery guest in this story. In 2012 I took 11 year old son Kevin to the most haunted place in Connecticut, built by my 6th great-grandfather before 1736.

<https://patch.com/connecticut/woodbury-middlebury/heres-most-haunted-place-ct>

Even Gordon Ramsey got creeped out when he filmed a 2014 episode of Hotel Hell there. It scored an episode because of a supposedly filthy kitchen & bedrooms, not because Satan lived there.

We even had ghost hunters do an investigation while we were there - at their recommendation - thinking kin on premises might stir the ancient spirits. Kevin thought it was hysterical.

When one of the ghost hunter crew was setting up and called out for another who did not answer, Kevin hollered for all to hear, "Maybe he's the ghost!"

We were about the only guests in the place. We loved the food and dated furniture, but we ain't Gordon Ramsey. The investigation turned up squat, so we and the crew ventured to the cemetery down the road where Grampa Anthony was planted in 1760 after serving for 60 years as Woodbury's Puritan pastor, doctor, lawyer and all around grand poobah.

Peter, Kevin, The Curtis House and a Celebrity Foot Rub Cont.



By this time it was 2 AM. Kevin continued to laugh and joke while the ghost folks captured nothing but orbs with their state of the art high tech goblin catching paraphernalia.

TJ Hardisty, the innkeeper and daughter of patriarch Chet who bought the place in the early 1950s, said she had seen evidence of ghosts but never a ghost. Stuff moved from the night before when she was the last to retire and first to rise. Long time staff had seen ghosts, including a deceased dishwasher from the 1970s who ate mashed potatoes and smoked a cigarette at the foot of the basement steps. Other spirits were colonial era women who occupied certain rooms and a Vietnam era vet who kinda showed up to watch over things in a protective way.

TJ put Kevin and me in Room number 1 at the top of the stairs, advising it was not known for a lot of spook activity. But a certain celebrity had stayed in that room in the 50s while visiting another celebrity who lived one town over. The nearby celebrity was soon to divorce and marry the celeb who occupied Room 1.

So, the night before departure I asked Kevin if he experienced anything at all unusual during our stay aside from everything he and I laughed about. He pondered for a minute and said, "Nothing except for you giving me foot rubs to wake me up those two mornings." I said, "Excuse me, what the Hotel Hell are you talking about?" I did not really say that because Gordon and crew did not show up for another two years. Kevin and I were in two separate queen beds perpendicular to each other in a large room with eccentric layout. I never touched his cute but oversized 11 year old feet. Kevin has always been as honest as the day is long. Yet he swears he got foot rubs two consecutive days until he was fully awake but never opened his eyes assuming it was me. This is my story, and I am sticking to it. Marilyn Monroe rubbed Kevin's feet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iStGKDgHu2E>

She stayed in that room in 1955 while ditching Joe DiMaggio and wrecking Arthur Miller's first marriage so she could jump Arthur's old playwright bones and become Mrs. Miller number two.

Let's face it. DiMaggio and Miller were celebs but not much to look at. JFK and RFK were handsome but did not exactly treat Marilyn with respect. Kevin was and is the perfect blend of good looks and manners Norma Jeane could never find in real life. The Blonde Bombshell coulda had me, but I was carrying 50 extra pounds and burping up Curtis House garlicky escargot all night every night. Plus, I could never hit a curveball worth a dang and had not yet written a book way funnier than Death of a Salesman or The Crucible about a guy married one more time than either Arthur or Marilyn.

So why is it that this week when all of the Cumming garlicky escargot restaurants are closed, I keep dreaming that Marilyn Monroe is waving at me from that stinkin window in her bathrobe? Except sometimes she loses the robe with no complaint from me. I just gotta get me a ladder.

Peter Stoddard

President's Dispatch (Cont.)

As the son of a veteran, I know how hard those who have served work to ensure the legacy of our forefathers lives on for us and our families. I would urge all members who can safely do so to research ways they can help a veteran. Whether its fund-raising for an organization (my recent Facebook birthday event raised \$200 for The Shadow Warrior Foundation) or delivering needed supplies to the VA or even helping a veteran by visiting or delivering items. We can all do our part for those who have already done theirs.

Finally, I want to thank our Events Chair for keeping us all on the map with the virtual events and options available to us. Emil is making sure the Robert Forsyth chapter remains at the forefront of those who honor our forefathers in Georgia and he and everyone who attended an event this past year deserves recognition for their efforts and patriotism.

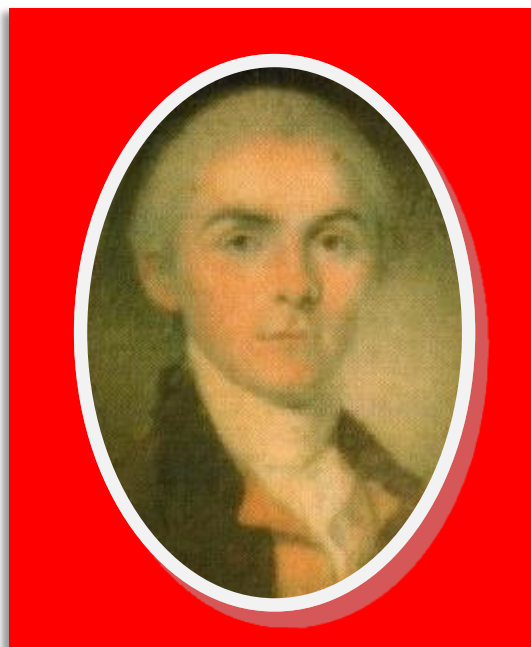
May you be safe and healthy until we can once again meet in person and may God bless you, our Organization, and the United States of America.

Chip Van Alstyne



Above Right: Compatriot Ken Baldowski drew the Past President, Bill Dobbs. Looks just like him, don't you think? You can find more caricatures from Baldy in the state newsletter, the Hornet's Nest and back issues of The Marshal. Glad to have Baldy on-board.

SAR Calendar of Events



Robert Forsyth, First Marshal of the state of Georgia & first Marshal killed in the line of duty.

| Event | Location | Date | Status |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Frederica Patriots Day | Online | April 17th @ 1:00pm | State |
| 240th Anniversary of the Second Siege of Augusta | Augusta, GA | May 22, 2021 | State |
| National Congress 2021 | Renton, WA | Jul 10 - 15 2021 | National |
| National Congress 2022 | Savannah, GA | Jul 8 - 15 2022 | National |
| Patriot Grave Marking | Dawson County, GA | Oct 2021 (in planning) | State |

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. Until the COVID situation is resolved, we are holding ONLINE meetings. Contact us for the most current information. Prospective members are always welcome at monthly membership meetings. Men, eighteen years of age and older, who are interested in documenting their relationship to their American Revolutionary ancestors and in joining an active group with similar interests are urged to contact the Chapter Registrar, Christopher Russo at 770-315-6348, via email at guido139@yahoo.com or any chapter officer.

Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Jun 20, 2021. 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@weeagr.com

Meetings are currently being held online the Second Thursday of each month. We have had some spectacular presentations online, so don't despair, log us in!

<http://kva.fyi/SARMeeting>

Ordered Your Shirt Yet ???

ROBERT FORSYTH CHAPTER

