

The Marshal

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

Issue No. 26 Spring 2021



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Chip Van Alstyne

Compatriots, we appear to be nearing the end of the tunnel on our nationwide shutdown due to the Coronavirus. Our June meeting was the first in-person chapter meeting since March of 2020 and I, for one, consider it a great success! Many Compatriots who have been unable to attend our online sessions were in attendance and enjoyed some delicious BBQ at Smokey Q (highly recommended if you are in the Bald Ridge Marina area). *(continued on page 2)*

ROBERT FORSYTH GETTING BACK TO NORMAL ??



On May 7, 2021, the Robert Forsyth Chapter presented the JROTC Medal to Cadet 2LT Gavin Wilson. Cerraio Villarouel, Senior Military Instructor for the North Forsyth Marine Corps Junior ROTC Program, described Cadet Wilson as "a focused cadet, a role model for others and a competitive, forward-thinking leader."

He consistently represents the highest standards of today's youth. Highly intelligent, organized, demure and composed, he sets a standard that his peers often try to imitate. Cadet Wilson demonstrates an uncanny ability to manage his time and prioritize activities, his grades are indicative of his uncompromising

character. He presents a quiet, yet business-like demeanor, exemplary military bearing, and while he refrains from actively seeking attention, he is not shy when it comes to addressing deficiencies. His ability to motivate others to share in his enthusiasm for JROTC and service to his country is exactly why he was a prime candidate for the award this year."

The Chapter also presented the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Gunnery Sergeant Jack Snook. "Gunny" Snook served 20 years active duty in the Marine Corps. He spent most as an infantryman where he deployed to Beirut Lebanon and Kuwait during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He also served as Commander of Marine Embassy Guards in Vienna, Austria and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He served at the Pentagon with the Military Security Force for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Snook retired from the Marine Corps and chartered a brand new Junior ROTC program in North Georgia. In 2021 he will retire after more than 20 years as a JROTC Instructor, having played a significant role in the development of thousands of young men and women.

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President's Dispatch (Cont.)

GETTING BACK TO NORMAL (CONT.)

We enjoyed an exceptional period of fellowship and reconnecting and then did our best to see the entrants from our chapter's Oration contest despite some audio issues. As you may have heard, our Chapter winner, Samiksha Geherwer, was not only announced as the Georgia Oration Champion, she was also appointed to the short list of State Champions who were invited to our National Congress (Jul 7-12, in Washington) to compete for the title of National Champion. I am sure that anyone who sees the passion and pride our Champion imbues her speech with will be left with no other choice than to crown her on the spot!

June was also a month in which we continued our Annual Flag Retirement ceremony in partnership with Ingram Funeral Home and our brothers in the Piedmont Chapter. In addition to GASSAR President Jessel and his First Lady, we had representatives from the GASSAR Color Guard, DAR, C.A.R., and the local VFW Post while we retired over 2000 flags. In addition, one flag was deemed useful by the inspection committee and presented to Ingram Funeral Home for their own flagpole so it could once again serve with honor.

I had the privilege to present Eagle Certificates to four more deserving Eagle Scouts from a local Troop and it is always a pleasure and an honor to see the works these young men (and women) do in the name of their sponsor and their Troops. If you have ever had the joy of working with a group of Scouts, you know exactly what I mean.

As we head into the summer, we are planning our July picnic and have picked The Ridge for our August Meeting spot (Aug 12). I look forward to seeing all of you there. As I write this the coming weekend is the 4th of July, a time near and dear to the hearts of all Americans, but especially to "we descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution." I hope that all of you have plans to honor our ancestors and showcase to the youth of today the many freedoms and privileges we enjoy thanks to those whose sacrifices we honor with our membership and works. Whatever you do, enjoy your time in safety and fellowship with your friends and loved ones. May God bless you, our organization, and the United States of America. Yours in Patriotism.

Chip Van Alstyne,

President, Robert Forsyth Chapter



& THE NEW NORMAL ?? ROBERT FORSYTH STUDENT GOES TO NATIONAL

On May 12, the Chapter presented several awards to students at Lambert High School for their participation in the SAR Youth Awards Contests. Nikhil Dunna received Second Place in the Chapter Knight Essay Contest, and Samiksha Geherwer received First Place. Samiksha placed Second (tied) in the State Essay Contest.

However, Samiksha placed First Place in the Chapter Rumbaugh Oration Contest, and then went on to place First in the State Oration Contest.

She will represent the Georgia Society at the National Oration Contest held in conjunction with the SAR National Congress in Renton, WA. in July.

The Chapter also recognized Dr. Charles Hyatt with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his promotion of the SAR Youth Awards Contests. Let's see if we can get greater participation in all our Youth Award Contests this coming school year.



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

The Summer of 1787

After extensive research, author Stewart writes about the men who invented the Constitution. Merchants, lawyers, businessmen, planters and one inventor met for four months in the sweltering summer of 1787 to produce a solution to the ill fated Articles of Confederation.

George Washington served as President with James Madison keeping confidential notes of the proceedings. Author Stewart frequently uses words provided by the delegates to explore the numerous discussions during the formation of this historic document.

The length and depth of issues were soundly tested among those who represented a variety of interests.

It was clear that once the document had been produced and ratified, citizens rejoiced as evidenced by the extensive celebration in Philadelphia on July 4, 1788.

Those who contributed to our Constitution included two who would become President, two Vice President, five Supreme Court Justices, 16 Senators, 13 member of the House of Representatives and four cabinet secretaries.

This publication makes excellent reading and makes a good basis for understanding how our Constitution came to be.

Three tricorns.



ISBN 13: 978-0-8692-3, Simon & Schuster, 2007
by David O. Stewart, \$27.00

The Valiant Died : The Battle of Eutaw Springs

September 8, 1781

Georgia Society friend and author, Christine Swager has published again. Her previous books, Black Crows and White Cockades and If Every Your Country Needs You have entertained serious readers of the American Revolution in South Carolina. This was followed up with Come to the Cowpens with partial funding by the Georgia Society. Now, Chris has provided the reader with the events leading up to and the Battle of Eutaw Springs, the bloodiest battle of the Revolutionary War, fought some 20 days prior to Yorktown.

With the major action focused on Cornwallis in Yorktown, Major General Nathanael Greene followed a strategy to retake South Carolina from the British. This led directly to the battle of Eutaw Springs.

The battle included a host of outstanding leaders that included, Light Horse Harry Lee, William Washington, John Eager Howard, Otho Williams, Robert Kirkwood, Francis Marion and Andrew Pickens. Both Washington and Pickens were wounded in the bloody battle with Washington being captured by the British.

Christine concludes with the aftermath of these heroic leaders. Most interesting is that while captured and kept in Charleston, William Washington was able to court a young Jane Elliott, one of the wealthiest women in the state and marry her while the British still held the city.

Recommended reading. Two tricorns.



ISBN 0-7884-4102-7, Heritage Books, 2006 by Christine Swager,
\$24

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.

Would it violate the second amendment to put a ban on bullets? After all, the Bill of Rights does not specify bearing a loaded gun?

I guess it wouldn't violate the first amendment to ban ink. It mentions freedom of the press. It doesn't say the press needs ink. Printers can set the type and run the paper through without ink and still be free. Of course, you could price the ink out of availability by taxing it to death. With the advent of digital documents, ink is old school anyway. Of course, we could just ban someone from posting online. But that would never happen..... *Would it?*

It seems some people are obsessed with finding ways to infringe on the rights of "the people". Not all rights, just a few; the ones *they* don't like. Everyone can still be free without a "least favored right here or there, can't they?"

Maybe our nation's founders foresaw this kind of behavior. You know, there might even be a reason they revolted against the king's sovereign government and set up a new one. Let's see what the underrated but very important 9th amendment says: It basically says, All the Rights not listed in the Constitution belong to the people, not the government. The Ninth Amendment, part of the Bill of Rights, was added to the Constitution on December 15, 1791.

In other words, the rights of the people are not limited to just the rights listed in the Constitution. One must remember that the rights do not come from the Constitution or the Government, but from above. Why do people think the Second Amendment gives individuals the right to bear arms?

The Bill of Rights does not grant us even a single right. It itemizes pre-existing birth rights that our founders felt there was a need to specifically mention for the purpose of protecting those rights from government intrusion as we had just fled tyrants and had no intentions of setting ourselves up to be subjugated yet again. L.H.

Community News

Right: On May 16th, at Harvest Farm Park in Suwanee, Chapter President, Chip Van Alstyne, on behalf of the Robert Forsyth chapter presented Eagle Certificates to 4 new Eagle Scouts from Troop 827. The Scouts were: Owen Mazanetz, a senior at Lanier HS. Owen was pinned with his great -grandfather's Eagle award just as his Father and brother have been.

Edwin Martasin graduates from North Gwinnett HS this month.

Benjamin Stewart graduating from North Gwinnett HS will study Civil Engineering.

Connor Burrell is a senior at Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology. Connor's sister, Madison was presented with her own Eagle certificate by President Van Alstyne as a member of the inaugural class of female Eagles earlier this year. These four young men entered Cub Scouts together as Tigers, crossed over to Troop 827 as Webelos and all received their Eagle rank within a few months of each other. The Robert Forsyth Chapter was proud to be asked to attend the ceremony and took great pleasure in recognizing these fine young men for their achievements and wishes them great success in the future.



Above Left and Right: Travelling Trunk Presentations by J.C. Hustis and Emil Decker are the norm for Robert Forsyth. But occasionally, they have the joy of teaming up with Compatriots like Carter Wood from Lyman Hall Chapter. It's always a pleasure to do a round robin show and tell with Carter. The programs just seem to flow seamlessly. Together, they entertained and educated the Trail Life Troop 2717 from Northlake Baptist Church.

Right: After the presentation, Robert Forsyth presented a Flag Retirement Certificate to the Trail Life Team. The Troup has performed retirement ceremonies for collected American flags, and, after properly burning them, they fish out the grommets and bury them under their archway bearing their Troop designation. Each time they pass through, they are reminded of the service by the flags, and for the men and women who served under those flags.





Above: (L-R) Scouts: Sophia Watson, Genna Van Alstyne, Isabella Starbuck , Meredith Carsley, and Scoutmaster Jessica Starbuck render salutes as they participated in the May 15 Samuel McMillan Grave Marking Service. Scouts BSA Troop 5109, Sugar Hill, honored Patriot McMillian and his descendants. The Pyrognomiacs Patrol joined representatives of the C.A.R. in rendering a salute as descendants of Patriot McMillan received a flag that had flown over our Nation's Capital. In addition, the Scouts were proud to present a wreath in honor of Patriot McMillan at the ceremony. The girls enjoyed the solemn musket ceremony afterwards and were excited to get their pictures with the GASSAR Color Guard members in attendance.

Flag Retirement Service

The annual Piedmont and Robert Forsyth Chapter Flag Retirement Ceremony was held at Ingram Funeral home in Cumming, GA. Flags to be properly and respectfully retired were taken to the Ingram Funeral Home from two flag retirement boxes placed by the Piedmont Chapter in Home Depot locations in Roswell and Alpharetta. The Robert Forsyth Chapter brought flags from their two Home Depot locations in Cumming and Dawsonville.



Left: Flags were collected and displayed for final determination in an antique coffin provided by Ingram Funeral Home.



Right: President Chip Van Alstyne and Past Pres. Tom Davis with Paul Prescott. Paul is the chairman for all Flag Certificates presented in the Georgia Society.



Left: Color Guard Deliver the Colors to begin the program.



Right: Flag Detail, including DAR Representatives, inspect serviceability of the collected flags.

The following article appeared in the Patch: Alpharetta - Milton Edition, written by Compatriot Ron Redner, Piedmont Chapter

US Flag Retirement Ceremony by SAR Piedmont & Forsyth Chapter

On June 19, 2021 in Cumming, Georgia there was a US Flag Retirement Ceremony by two SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) Chapters, the Piedmont Chapter of Roswell and the Robert Forsyth Chapter of Cumming along with the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and the CAR (Children of the American Revolution). Over two thousand US Flags were collected and given to Ingram Funeral Home for proper retirement and for use at US Military Veterans Funerals.

History of the US Flag Retirement Ceremony: In 2013, Allen Greenly (President of the Robert Forsyth Chapter in GA) and John Flikeid developed a project for construction of a Flag Receptacle to be placed in partnering Home Depot store locations. Home Depot customers would be able to deposit worn and unserviceable flags in the Flag Receptacle. Those flags would be collected by members of sponsoring SAR chapters, and properly disposed of in an annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at a local funeral home and crematory to be held on a weekend close to Flag Day. The sponsorship of these Flag Receptacles was also shared by local DAR, C.A.R. societies, and local Boy Scout Troops. The initial Flag Receptacle was sponsored by the Robert Forsyth Chapter, SAR, the Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter, DAR and Boy Scout Troop 1099. This flag receptacle was placed in the Cumming Home Depot on Flag Day 2013. The first year, the Robert Forsyth Chapter collected approximately 500 flags from this receptacle. Based on the success of this first receptacle, the Robert Forsyth Chapter installed a second Flag Receptacle in the Dawsonville Home Depot. This receptacle was also sponsored by the Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter, DAR and the local Dawsonville Boy Scouts.

An additional Flag Receptacle was purchased by the Atlanta Chapter and placed in a Home Depot in the Atlanta area. Based on the success of the project by the Robert Forsyth Chapter, the Piedmont Chapter decided to participate in the project beginning in August of 2015. The Piedmont Chapter was able to partner with two Home Depot store locations, one in Roswell, GA and one in Alpharetta, GA to place a Flag Receptacle in each of the two stores. The Piedmont Chapter partnered with the Martha Stewart Bulloch DAR and the Martha Stewart Bulloch Society C.A.R. to place these receptacles. The first combined Flag Retirement Ceremony by the Robert Forsyth and Piedmont chapters occurred in June of 2016, in which approximately 1,200 worn flags were properly disposed of. The Robert Forsyth and Piedmont Chapters held a joint Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 10, 2017 where approximately 2000 worn flags were given a proper and respectful disposition. The program was an overwhelming success and both chapters are planning on adding additional Flag Receptacles.



The Flag Receptacles are made out of steel, then covered with the vinyl artwork. The left shows a Minute Man with the backdrop of the American flag. The front artwork shows the American Bald Eagle coming out of an American flag. The right side shows the tail of the bald eagle and the American flag. Faded in is the photo of the soldiers raising the American flag on Iwo Jima. The receptacles have dual locks on the front door. It also has four caster wheels for easy mobility. The cost of these receptacles is approximately \$1,000 and will last for years either inside or out in the weather.

The receptacles are designed to be placed in public places with lots of foot traffic. The artwork is designed to catch the eye of the public as they go about their normal routines. Home Depot stores were chosen due to their size and foot traffic. However, they can be placed in any large retail environment making them easily accessible to the public.

This program has become a huge success based on the limited receptacles in place today. What we have found is that there is a great need by the public to properly dispose of their used and worn flags. The problem is that most do not know where to take their flags for proper disposal. These receptacles provide a place for them to deposit their used and worn flags in a place that is open seven days a week.

Stoddard's Stockade

Language changes. Take a look at the letter Peter's 8th Great grandmother wrote to her daddy back in England. Mary Downing, daughter of Emmanuel and Lucy Downing, and her sister Susan came to Boston in 1633, five years in advance of their parents. Slog through the typical 17th century verbiage and spelling Afterward, read Peter's pithy translation.

Papers of the Winthrop Family, Volume 3

Worthy Sir, Deare Father,

The continual experience that I enioy of your tender love and care to a child, though I confesse an vnderseruinge one (yet) your love emboldens mee to present my humble duty and respect I owe and shall render with my might and power to your selfe soe longe as it pleaseth the Lord to continue my life. I haue found soe much your love and see that neither time nor distance of place doth diminish or blast the same, which I confesse and desire to acknowledge as a great mercy and the cheife comfort for a temporall, that I have to solace my selfe withall; Father I

trust in him who hath the harts and the disposing of them in his hand, that I haue not provoked you to harbor soe ill an opinion of mee as my mothers lettres do signifie and give me to vnderstand, the ill opinion and hard perswasion which shee beares of mee, that is to say, that I should abuse your goodnes, and bee prodigall of your purse neglectfull of my brothers bands and of my slatterishnes and lasines. for my brothers bands I will not excuse my selfe, but I thinke not worthy soe sharpe a reproofe, for the rest I must needs excuse, and cleare my selfe If I may bee beleived. I doe not know my selfe guilty of any of them. for myne owne part I doe not desire to bee myne owne iudge, but am willinge to be iudged by them, with whom I live and sees my course, whether I bee addicted to such thinges or noe for my habitt, it is meane, for the most as many seruants, and if I had not had money which I had for some thinges here I might have wanted many necessaries which I could not have bin without, except I should have made you a scoare here, which I was not willinge to doe: I writt to my mother for lace not out of any prodigall or proud mind but onely for some crossecloathes, which is the most allowable and commendable dressinge here. Shee would have mee weare dressings which I did soe longe as they would suffer mee, whilst the elders with others intreated mee to leaue them of; for they gave great offence and seeinge it hath pleased the Lord to bringe mee hither amongst his people, I would not willingly doe any thinge amongst them that should be displeasinge vnto them, but for myne owne part since my sendinge for thinges gives such offence I will be more sparinge in that kind hereafter but leave it to the Lord to deale with mee accordinge to his mercy earnestly desireinge him to give mee an hart to bee content with my porcion, knowinge that nothinge can befall mee but that, that hee hath appointed I may take that verse in the 106th Psalme 17th verse, fooles because of their transgressions and their iniquities are afflicted soe I thinke that iust it is, whatsoever affliction shall come vnto mee. Deare Father I am farr distant from you, and know not how longe it will please the Lord to continue it soe, but howsoever I desire to rest satisfied with his will and doe earnestly desire to submitt my selfe in all duty and obedience as belongeth vnto a child to your selfe and my mother, as if I were with you. Father I perceive by your lettres that you would very willingly to have mee change my condition which I must confesse I might soe may with divers if the Lord pleased to move my hart to accept any of them, but I desire to wayte vpon him that can change my hart at his will. thus with my humble duty to your selfe and my mother craving pardon of you both and of her If I have given her any offence, and soe desiringe your prayers to him, who is able to give wisdom and direccion to me in all thinges I rest:

Your obedient Daughter till death
Mary Downinge
Boston, 27th of Novemb: 1635

Here is my first stab at a 2020 translation of what 8th great-grandma wrote to her Dad in 1635. - Peter

Worthy Sir, Deare Father,

Dear Dad, (You are great. you rock.)

I know you love me, but I gotta write you this. I think God is telling me to.

I love you and love you even though you are an ocean away and a bunch of stuff I can't really translate even though it's a lot of words. There are Psalms bible verses that back up what I am saying but I am not sure how.

I hope you don't think I'm bad despite what step - mom (who I love also) says about me spending a lot of money that I'm really not spending that much of. The lace I ask for is for headwear that even the poorest Puritan gals are wearing. It is not ornamental or anything like that. (Even the Elders hate my current clothes....Maybe cause I've grown a little?)

You keep arranging suitors and want me to get married to the right person before I become a 24 year old spinster. I get all that (and love you for it) because that is what is expected of 17th century parents and daughters. But I want to marry for love, which is pretty dang unheard of. You can't even find anything on Google about 17th century women in New England marrying for love.

Specifically, I desire to wait for him that can change my heart at his will. I'm not sure why but the name Anthony Stoddard keeps popping into my head. Who is Anthony Stoddard? If you Google him you will see he does not even sail from England to Boston until 1638, three years from now. That's the same year Google says you will arrive.

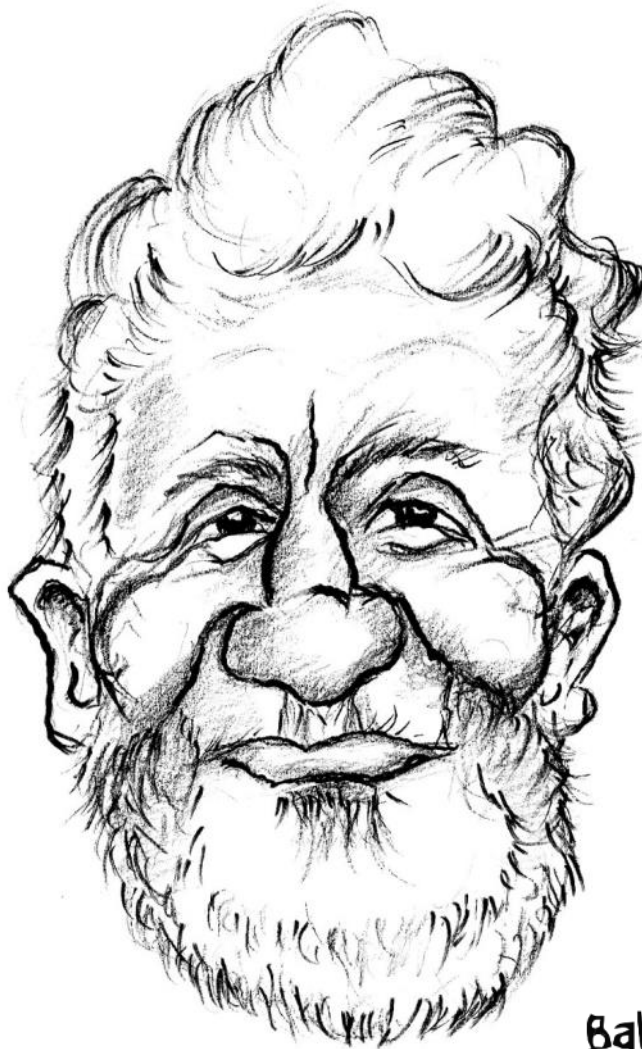
Wow, I might be a 27 year old spinster by then. But Google is not sure when I was born. (Hope I didn't tick you or step - mom off).

Your Submissive Daughter,
(even though it's killing me)

Mary Downinge

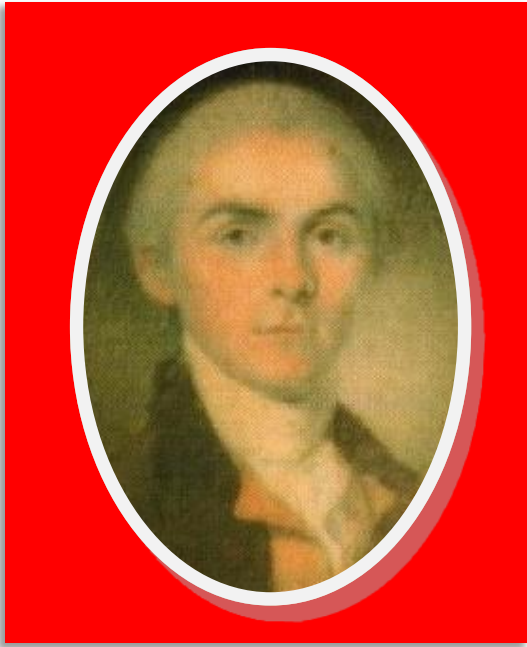
I hope my attempt to get at the gist of what my ever so snarky and literate 8th great grandmother Mary wrote to her Daddy passes you translation test.

Peter Stoddard



Baldy
2

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. We are holding meetings in various locations at the present. 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 Sep 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@weegrr.com

Event	Location	Date	Status
Independence Day	Various	Jul 4, 2021	National or State
National Congress 2021	Renton, WA	Jul 10 - 15, 2021	National
BOM	Online/in-person?	Jul 24, 2021	State
Robert Forsyth Picnic	TBD - Check website /FB page	Jul 31, 2021	Local
Constitution Day	St. Paul's Church, Augusta, GA	Sep 17, 2021	State
Siege of Augusta	Kroc Center, Augusta, GA	Sep 18, 2021	State
Patriot Grave Marking	Banks County, GA	Sep 26, 2021	State
Washington Vigil	Mt. Vernon, VA	Sep 28, 2021	National
Patriot Grave Marking	Oglethorpe County, GA	Oct 3, 2021	State
Kings Mountain	Kings Mt., SC	Oct 7, 2021	National
Siege of Savannah	Savannah, GA	Oct 9, 2021	State
Patriot Grave Marking	Dawson County, GA	Oct 16 2021	State
BOM	Online/in-person?	Oct 23, 2021	State
Snellville Veterans Day	Snellville, GA	Nov 6, 2021	National or State
Watkinsville Veterans Day	Watkinsville, GA	Nov 11, 2021	National or State
Fort Morris	Sunbury, GA	?	State
Vann's Creek	Richard B. Russell St. Pk, GA	Dec 4, 2021	State
Wreaths Across America	Various	Dec ? 2021	National
State Conference	Sonata Hotel, Lawrenceville, GA	Jan 28 - 29, 2022	State
Andrew Jackson Bench	Hermitage, TN	Mar 13, 2021	National
National Congress 2022	Savannah, GA	Jul 8 - 15 2022	National