

The Marshal

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

Issue No. 27 Summer 2021



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Chip Van Alstyn

Compatriots, as we wrap up the 3rd quarter, I am excited for the future and reflecting on the summer. As you know by now, we are in the midst of our nomination process for our slate of officers to take over in 2022. If you are interested in a position next year, please reach out to Chris Russo or any current officer and we will be happy to have your help to keep our chapter strong and vibrant. Serving you these past two years has been an honor and I look forward to a busy final few months with many upcoming grave markings and other ceremonies. *(continued on page 2)*

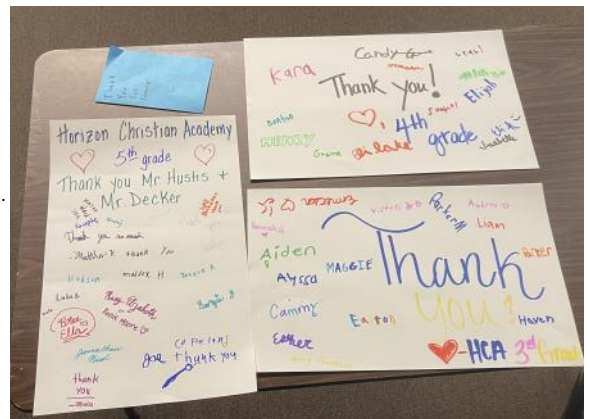
ROBERT FORSYTH'S TRAVELING TRUNK IS BACK ON THE FALL CIRCUIT.



grave of Patriot Edmund Singleton, as per President David Jessel's project.

The Robert Forsyth Chapter's Traveling Trunk has begun its fall tour. Compatriots Emil Decker and J. C. Hustis presented the chapter's Traveling Trunk to Cub Pack 133 in Dawsonville, at Bethel United Methodist Church on July 19. This was the location for the grave marking held almost a year ago, and they took the opportunity to plant a flag in Dawson County at the

The fall tour kicked in strong when we visited the Horizon Christian School's 4th grade on September 16th. We were greeted by enthusiastic students who presented them thank you posters. We hope they will participate in this year's Poster Contest. We always like going to Horizon, for they are most lenient in allowing the kids to experience a musket demonstration firing in the parking lot. As always, they were well



behaved and we look forward to our return trip next year.

As of this date, the Forsyth County School System had not yet decided whether to allow outside visitors into the schools. Perhaps this will change as the year grows longer.

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The summer often seems to be a slow time, I know we had some challenges in holding meetings due to my own travel schedule and the need to find meeting space. I hope you will continue to patronize local restaurants even as we continue to find accommodations for our monthly meetings. I, for one, spent an amazing week in the mountains of West Virginia with my daughter's Scouts BSA Troop. See Photos below) We enjoyed all that the newest BSA High Adventure Camp, Summit Bechtel Reserve has to offer. Due to some openings, my son was able to accompany us and he attained his "Grand Slam of High Adventure" for visiting them all. I look forward to watching one of our officers present him his Eagle Scout recognition certificate in January as he has recently completed his Board of Review. We also continued our own Eagle Scout recognitions as I presented 2 more certificates since our last newsletter.

Our fantastic Chapter and State Orator winner was dealt a hard blow at the National Congress with a 6th place finish. Knowing how amazing her speech was, I can only imagine the level of Oratons our National Congress attendees witnessed during the finale. We are proud of her and her accomplishments and I know that she will go far in the future.

I look forward to seeing many of you as well as our State (and hopefully, National) officers at the upcoming Reuben Hill Grave Marking co-sponsored by our Chapter, I know Compatriot Decker has worked tirelessly to honor this patriot appropriately.

It was an honor to be presented with the National Robert E Burt Boy Scout Award at our September meeting by the National Eagle Scout sub-Committee Chairman, Dr Ed Rigel, Sr. Working with the boys and girls of our local Scout Troops is its own reward, but recognition from my peers is also a pleasure.

(cont. on page 3)



Above: The Crew from Troop 5109 poses on the Summit Bridge

Center: The crew poses with their guide Jared

Right: Genna Van Alstyne completes the 1/2 mile long "Big Zip"



Left: The Crew from Troop 5109 poses with the SBR sign in WV.

Right: Compatriot Van Alstyne poses with unofficial SBR mascot, Bigfoot.



In closing, I wish each of you a happy and healthy holiday season surrounded by your friends and family. I hope to see you at our regular meetings over the coming months and may God bless you, your families and the United States of America.

Chip Van Alstyne.

President, Robert Forsyth Chapter

Community News

On Sunday, July 18th at Gwinnett Church, President Chip Van Alstyne presented an Eagle Scout recognition certificate to Perry Luzier of Troop 513 and Crew 9236. Perry is a member of the North Gwinnett JROTC and Marching Band and was the founding commander of the NGHS JROTC Music Squad. He is the current Chapter Chief of the Canantutlaga Chapter of the Order of the Arrow. Perry has earned 56 Merit Badges, 2 Bronze Palms, 2 gold Palms and a Silver Palm to go with his Eagle rank.

President Van Alstyne presented the award alongside Gayle Bircher - Stockinger of the DAR, Compatriot Carter Wood who represented the Military Order of World Wars, the Masonic Scouter Association and the National Sojourners in honoring Perry for his achievements. Joe Swirble of the American Legion also presented Perry with the Good Citizen Award.

Perry's own remarks thanked the contributions of his parents, his mentors and most especially his grandmother who he said was instrumental in his success. He also presented a special Eagle necklace to his sister who is currently a Star Scout in Troop 5109 and encouraged her in her goal of becoming the family's second Eagle. Perry is finishing his Senior year at NGHS and hopes to eventually join the Air Force as a commissioned officer.



Compatriot Decker offers to cut off a leg, arm, or whatever needs surgery during a display of 18th century medicine at the Siege of Augusta Commemoration.



Community News



J.C. Hustis leaped at the opportunity to participate in the July 4th Braves Pre-Game Show. Since he normally carries a flag, the change in programming calling only for militia to fire muskets did not deter him. Borrowing a rifle from his traveling trunk partner, he was able to step upon the field to salute the nation's birthday before a packed stadium.



Sunday, July 25, 2021. President Chip Van Alstyne, Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 143, was asked to preside over the Achievements section of their Eagle Ceremony held at Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church. President Van Alstyne who is also an was asked by to preside over a portion of their combined Eagle Ceremony. President Van Alstyne conducted the section covering the achievements of the three Eagle Scouts, Aaron Redmon, Miles Gilbreth, and Luke Cho.

During the ceremony, President Van Alstyne shared stories from a 2019 trip to Philmont Scout Ranch, where a flag retirement ceremony was conducted (*Left*). Aaron, whose project was an outdoor gathering spot for Christ the Shepherd, was escorted by his Eagle brothers, Robert Redmon and Dean Nordheim. Miles, whose project was an equipment cabinet for the Northview HS Fencing team, was escorted by his Eagle brother Chance Gilbreth. Luke's project was refurbishing a shed at the Forsyth County

Animal Shelter, he was escorted by his Eagle brother, Isaac Cho. President Van Alstyne presented each Eagle Scout with a Certificate from the SAR as well as a leadership book based on the life of Stephen Bechtel. (*Right*)

No Photo: President Van Alstyne attended the Eagle Ceremony for Addison Alsobrook at Lanier UMC on Tuesday, August 10th and presented him with a Certificate in recognition of his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Addison is a member of Troop 1099 chartered by Lanier UMC and built two arbors and repaired the gardens at Sugar Hill Christian Academy for his Eagle project. Addison is a member of the Order of the Arrow and the Episcopal Youth Community at St Columba's in Suwanee where President Van Alstyne is also a member. Addison plans to attend college and study sports broadcasting or engineering after graduation from Greater Atlanta Christian School.



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

The Road to Valley Forge

“The fact is that their army is broken all to pieces, and the spirits of their leaders and their abettors are also broken...one may venture to pronounce that is well nigh over with them” – Lord Rawdon. Author John Buchanan set out to explain how the rag-tag army that Washington assumed command of in Cambridge, Massachusetts could stand up to the strongest professional army in the world – and win their independence.

As we say today, there is a “learning curve” in a new assignment and Washington was no exception once he assumed command of the Continental Army. His defeats in New York and Pennsylvania proved that. He did, however, take care to fight a defensive war until the very end. Washington would surprise his critics by his brilliant decision, planning and execution in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. His decisions were not always the best, but he took care not to expose his army to complete destruction.

Author Buchanan, provides considerable insight into Washington’s role in developing his army to be capable to fight on its own, aided by the capable Baron Von Steuben during the winter of 1777-1778. Buchanan also evaluates the Commander-in-Chief in his military skills as a combat leader.

Three tricorns.



ISBN 0-471-44156-2, John Wiley & Sons, 2004 by John Buchanan, \$30.00

Washington & Cornwallis

Author Patterson provides interesting details about the two major opposing commanders in the American Revolution. Cornwallis comes across as the most aggressive of the British commanders which led to both his many triumphs and his ultimate defeat at Yorktown.

Washington, on the other hand would have liked nothing better than to defeat the British in a major engagement on the battlefield, but realized that this was not possible until he seized the opportunity at Yorktown.

Author Patterson follows the war careers of both individuals, providing good insight from quotations for their various writings.

The author almost appears to have been a war correspondent as he covers most of the critical events of the war; the siege of Boston; the Battle of Long Island; the fall of New York; the raid on Trenton’ the American victories at Princeton and Saratoga; the Battle of Monmouth; the British capture of Philadelphia; the ordeal at Valley Forge; the plot to dispose Washington; the treason of Benedict Arnold; the fall of Charleston; the disgrace at Camden’ Cornwallis’s rampage through he Carolinas; the atrocities of a Cornwallis favorite, the brutal Banastre Tarleton; the battles of King’s Mountain, Cowpens and Guilford Courthouse, and finally Yorktown.

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.

What would George Washington's casket look like if it was opened today?

If you visit Mt Vernon, at the end of the tour you will walk past his crypt. If there are very few visitors, it might allow for some conversation with the staff members who monitor his grave site. You can learn so many fascinating tid-bits of info. For example, Washington’s first burial site (which was a few hundred feet away) was not deemed adequate for what would ultimately become a tourist destination. So approximately 30 years after his death, his casket was exhumed, and placed in a more permanent and accommodating site inside a small brick building, where he is laid in a concrete crypt above ground next to Martha.

Washington’s coffin was made of lead, and was sealed, air tight. During the transfer, his lead coffin was opened, and surprisingly they observed almost no decomposition. This was before embalming was popular. Most likely considering that his casket was air tight, and not exposed to the elements, this would account for the lack of decomposition. It was resealed, and placed in the concrete crypt, and has not been touched since 1831. While no one knows for sure what it would look like today, the transfer of his coffin in 1831 can at least offer a few hints.

Similar results were found after Lincoln’s tomb was almost robbed in 1876, allowed to deteriorate, then his body was exhumed in 1901, viewed, and re-interred during the renovation. There was some decay, but his features were still recognizable, right down to the chin whiskers that were still the same as when he died.

L.H.

Stoddard's Stockade

Peter finds his ancestry does indeed include the Mayflower. Though a puritan, the Genes prove his 9th great grandfather is every bit the scoundrel his other ancestors proved to be.

Question of the day: Am I the jailkeeper and /or inmate occupant of Stoddard's Stockade? Whichever, I was for decades pretty certain I had no kin on the Mayflower. Peter Stoddard is fond of saying his Puritan ancestors had resources and a plan. The Pilgrims had no clue.

Well, Ancestry (dot) com recently revealed that Stoddard's 9th great grandfather was Edward Doty, a 1620 Mayflower passenger and one of the 41 signers of the Mayflower Compact. Doty was a bit of a hothead who likely spent time in one or more Plymouth stockades himself, though he became wealthy while angering fellow Pilgrims.

Doty came to Massachusetts as a servant to Stephen Hopkins. He was likely the indentured kind of servant. Either they were desperate for Compact signatures or thought him worthy enough to sign something. Or both.

He was involved in Plymouth Colony's first duel. It was Doty's second offense per police court records. No word of what the first offense was, but being a hothead probably had something to do with it. (Below is some copy and paste from Find-a-Grave and Wikipedia. Do we worry about plagiarism?) [\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Doty..._Editor/\]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Doty..._Editor/)

"On 18 Jun 1621 the challenge of single combat with sword and dagger between Edward Doty and Edward Leister, another Steven Hopkins servant. Both men were wounded. One in the hand the other in the thigh, and were adjudged by the whole to have their head and feet tied together with no food or drink for 24 hours. Within an hour, because of their great pain plus their own and their master's humble request with the promise of better carriage, they were released by the Governor."



Doty was one of the Mayflower passengers that have left an extensive record of his personality. He had a quick temper that often was out of control and had many business dealings that in some cases bordered on the fraudulent. Other troublemakers were often removed from Plymouth, but Doty lived there his entire life.

With apologies to: Jean.....Signing the Mayflower Compact 1620, a painting by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris 1899 "edited".

(cont. page 5)

In the 1623 Division of Land, he received one acre and was later granted an additional twenty acres. Records of the 1630s and 1640s show numerous land transactions by him apparently making him quite prosperous. Per the record of December 4, 1637, one such land transaction involved land being granted to him and Tristram Clarke, "his father-in-law." It is known that he did own land in central Plymouth where the Mayflower Society House now stands.

In 1626 Edward Doty was one of twenty-seven purchasers involved with the colony joint-stock company which afterwards was turned over to the control of senior colony members. That group were called the "Undertakers", and was made up initially of John Bradford, Myles Standish and Isaac Allerton, who were later joined by Edward Winslow, William Brewster, John Howland, John Alden, Thomas Prence, and four former Merchant Adventurers back in London.

In the 1627 Division of the Cattle, in which Doty shared, (he probably had completed his term of service to Stephen Hopkins, as he is not listed with that family), His name as "Edward Dolton", is listed with the family of John Howland and wife Elizabeth.

The post-1632 records of the Plymouth Court, which has no existing records prior to that year, has twenty-three cases over the 20 years between January 1632 and October 1651 that involve Edward Doty. The records include suits/countersuits, and charges such as fraud, slander, fighting, assault, debt, trespass, theft, etc. Although Doty appeared before the court numerous times, he was never punished for criminal activities beyond small fines. Even though he was charged with fighting and was sued by many persons for fraudulent trading and goods sales, almost all were civil cases and were not of a criminal nature.

Other than his 1621 duel, he never received any physical punishment that was commonly given for crimes such as theft, serious assault and adultery. He was quite fortunate, as typical punishments at that time included whipping, branding, banishment and the stocks. Even with his periodic court cases, in which he accepted the outcome of all rulings, Doty lived a normal life as a freeman, paying his taxes and all his debts. He periodically received land grants from court as with other residents and received other property rights and benefits from being classed as a "first comer."

Okay, maybe hothead Edward Doty spent no time in any stockade. But maybe he should have. That is his 9th great-grandson's story, and he, both Doty and Stoddard, is sticking to it.

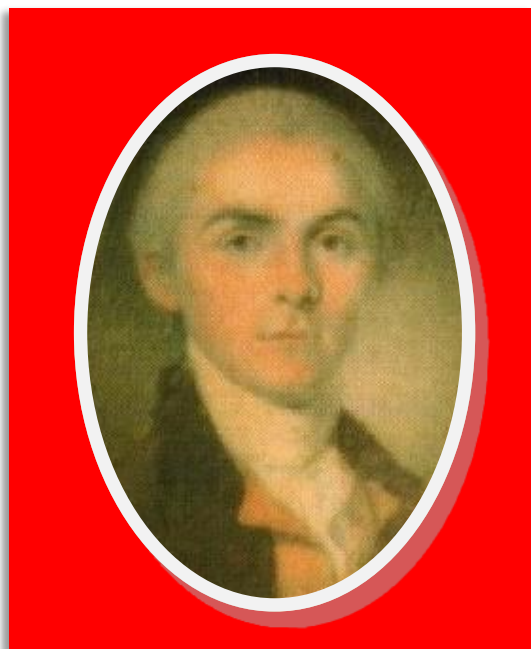


Edward "Mayflower" Doty (1598-1655)



Peter Stoddard

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 Dec 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@weegr.com

Event	Location	Date	Status
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	Garden Patch Restaurant Barnesville, GA.	Oct 23, 2021	State
4 Patriot Graves Marking	Smyrna UMC, Washington, GA	Oct 30, 2021 10:30 a.m.	State
Snellville Veterans Day	Snellville, GA	Nov 6, 2021	National or State
Watkinsville Veterans Day	Watkinsville, GA	Nov 11, 2021	National or State
Patriot Grave Marking	Dallas, Georgia	Nov 13, 2021 2:00 p.m.	State
Fort Morris	Sunbury, GA	Nov 20, 2021	National
Vann's Creek	Richard B. Russell St. Pk, GA	Dec 4, 2021	State
Wreaths Across America	Various	Dec18 2021	National
State Conference	Sonata Hotel, Lawrenceville, GA	Jan 28 - 29, 2022	State
Brier Creek	Screven Co.	Mar 4 - 5, 2022	State
Andrew Jackson Bench	Hermitage, TN	Mar 13, 2022	National
Frederica Patriots Day	St. Simons Island, GA	Apr 16 - 17, 2022	National
National Congress 2022	Savannah, GA	Jul 8 - 15 2022	National

**Don't forget our Grave Marking Ceremony
on October 16, 10:00 a.m. at Mt. Vernon
Baptist Church, Dawsonville GA**