The Marshal

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

SAR SONS OF AMERICAN PEVOLUTION

Issue No. 28 Fall 2021

PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Chip Van Alstyne Greetings Compatriots, as I wrap up my second term as President, I thought I might reflect on what went well and what didn't (other than COVID, of course).

Successes - As a chapter I think we've expanded our focus on education and youth involvement. We've always had an awesome Traveling Trunk program thanks to Emil and JC (and others). But this past year especially we had a great Speech contest season with multiple entrants, a State winner and the 6th best presenter in the country (#StoptheSteal).

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ROBERT FORSYTH'S GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY IN DAWSON COUNTY HONORS PATRIOT REUBIN HILL

The Robert Forsyth Chapter, in cooperation with the Lyman Hall and Little River Chapters, Sons of the American Revolution, drew attention to the service of Patriot Reubin Hill on Saturday, October 16, 2021.

Participants included direct descendant, Bill Colbert of the Little River Chapter, and a descendant from Reubin's brother, Charles Hill. Ron Hill, Charles' descendant, is from the Joseph Habersham Chapter. Bill shared Reubin's Biography.



Reubin Hill was a Revolutionary War patriot with service out of North Carolina. His pension file is # S.31742. His cemetery stone is still standing in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery in Dawson County, as well as a Revolutionary War marker.

According to his pension record, Reubin Hill was born in the York District of South Carolina in 1764. When he was quite small his father's family moved to Tryon County, NC. This area later became Rutherford County, NC.

While a resident of Rutherford County, in the latter part of 1779, he volunteered to serve with the North Carolina Troops in the Revolutionary War and served on

two short tours until the spring of 1782. These two years he held the rank of private and was an Indian spy. In his pension application he states that he was only 16 years old when he joined up. It was their job to guard the mountains from the head of the Catawba to the head of the Saluda, a range of more than one hundred miles in length. They had many conflicts with both Indians and Tories, constantly moving from place to place. The service was described by him as very hard because they had to find all their own food, many times suffering from cold, fatigue and hunger. During this time he served under Captains Butler and Kirkendal and Colonels William Graham and John Earle.

After the war he returned to Rutherford County and married Margaret Brien on February 9, 1891. Together they had 14 children. His pension application was approved on October 23, 1832 while he was still a resident of Rutherford County, NC. His wife died in Rutherford County in 1839.

By 1840 he had moved to Lumpkin County, GA, as did many residents of Rutherford County, and most of his children. He took up farming, and had land and 10 slaves when he was 69 years old.

He died 25 July 1858 in Dawson County, GA and is buried in the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church Cemetery. (cont. page 2)

President's Dispatch

We had multiple Essay contestants with a 2nd place State winner and Compatriot Rigel has continued our involvement with local JROTC cadets with multiple presentations at their Change of Command Ceremony. In addition, we've presented Eagle certificates to almost a dozen new Eagle Scouts over the course of the year. I hope we can continue this momentum into 2022. I know we've had a number of Eagle Scouts reach out to inquire about our Eagle Scout Award which should be exciting. Our committee should be on the lookout for a familiar name on one of those (#Nepotism) as my son completed his Eagle Board of Review in September and we will be presenting him his Eagle Recognition in early 2022.

Our new Events Committee has been an enormous success with great engagement at our annual Flag Retirement ceremonies as well as our second Chapter-sponsored Grave Marking ceremony (with more to come). Much thanks to Compatriot Emil Decker for his tireless efforts as Committee Chair.

Things to work on - at the beginning of my term I had hoped to be able to really focus on our work with veterans. Unfortunately, due to COVID shutdowns, a lot of direct actions have been limited and our lack of in person meetings have limited our normal donation collections (despite Emil's efforts at raffles). One other issue has been meetings. Of course, again COVID caused some understandable logistic issues with people concerned for their health but it has been a struggle to find good locations for in-person meetings and keeping up with speakers has proven a challenge in our "new normal." On the positive side here, the remote meetings allowed for some awesome remote speakers. Even leading to a new branch of the Descendants of Valley Forge here in Georgia.

Looking Forward - I know we will all do our best to support Gary as he plans his next turn as President. I hope that as we progress through 2022, our members will feel comfortable to put forth their effort and take part in leading our Chapter into the future. I am excited to see our local Congress next July in beautiful Savannah and hope to be able to attend and see many of you there. I want to thank you for your support and encouragement these past two years as we have navigated the rapids of COVID together. I hope that we have turned the corner and can begin to live our lives again in fellowship and in honor to those who we celebrate by our membership. As we begin our celebrations for the 250th anniversary of the battle for our freedom, may we all take pride in our ancestors and take heart from their sacrifice to ensure that the light they so bravely lit will not be extinguished.

Yours in Patriotism and fellowship,

Chip Van Alstyne,

President, Robert Forsyth Chapter

PATRIOT REUBIN HILL'S GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY (CONT.)



Compatriot Bill Colbert gives the Biography of his ancestor, Reubin Hill. Bill is from Little River Chapter in Thomson, Georgia, and is very active with their traveling trunk. His wife Pat accompanies him and they do a fine job presenting their collection.



Chip Van Alstyne, President of Robert Forsyth Chapter, presents the Chapter Wreath at the ceremony held at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Dawsonville.

(cont. page 3)

PATRIOT REUBIN HILL'S GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY (CONT.)



Reubin's brother is the patriot ancestor for Ron Hill from Joseph Habersham Chapter. Before researching the grave and planning the event, they did not know of their close connection with each other.

The wind picked up during the ceremony as the Color Guard retrieve the flags near the end of the program.



(cont. page 4)

PATRIOT REUBIN HILL'S GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY (CONT.)



Robert Forsyth Chaplain Byron Tindall prays over the beginning of the ceremony, as fellow chapter compatriot Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Slaughter waits to perform the Pledge of Allegiance.



Robert Forsyth Compatriot Gary Page confers with Color Guard Commander Bill Palmer during setup preparations at the event. RF Compatriot Emil Decker is walking by in the background, and RF Compatriot David Johnson is in the foreground. Further back to the far right is RF Compatriot Ed Rigel Jr. All Robert Forsyth attendees were busy making last minute preparations for the imminent event.

The Color Guard and Militia line up behind the Hill grave marker and wreaths.



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PATRIOT REUBIN HILL'S GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY (CONT.)



J.C. Hustis carries the Gadsden flags during the presentation ceremony.

The Militia perform the "Mourn Muskets" routine. This salute involves coming to attention, presenting arms, then slowly rotating the musket until it is pointing towards the ground. To prevent dirt from getting into the barrel, the militiaman generally put the tip on his shoe. (Obviously an empty musket is used in this performance). Hands are generally placed on the stock in a folded grip similar to praying hands. The head is bowed, and they remain in that position for a period of time, mourning their resting comrade. Then the musket is slowly retrieved.



Community News



Color Guard and Militia members
Byron Tindall
(above), and Ed
Rigel Jr. (right)
attended the
multiple grave
marking ceremony
held at Smyrna
United Methodist
Church in
Washington, GA.



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

The Southern Strategy

Most people think of the American Revolution as a northern conflict inspired by Patriots who lived in Boston and the New England area. After all, the war started with the "shot heard around the world" at Lexington, followed by the Battle of Bunker Hill. It was not until the British lost one third of their army at Saratoga that the scene shifted to the south under the so-called Southern Strategy.

The new strategy was simple – occupy the southern sea ports of Charleston and Savannah, move inland and recruit all loyalists in the area to replace those lost at Saratoga. Unfortunately, the British miscalculated as it is estimated that only one-third of the population were solid loyalists, one-third patriots and one-third who did not care to become involved. Once the British showed their true colors, those on the fence quickly joined the fight against the oppressors, stacking the deck solidly against the invaders.

Author Wilson goes into great detail about neglected battles, such as Great Bridge and Stono Ferry that have largely been ignored in the past. Moore's Creek Bridge gets an in-depth analysis as does the siege of Charleston. The Order of Battle (list of units engaged) is provided for each engagement along with the resulting casualties. Very helpful in understanding the battles is the inclusion of maps and illustrations.

The debacle at Brier Creek is covered in detail as is the Siege of Savannah and Buford's Massacre. Author Wilson does provide a slightly different view from previous publications about Casimir Pulaski's death.

I found this publication exciting to read and generally providing more detailed information about battles in the South than in previous publications.

David K. Wilson is an independent scholar who lives in Plano, Texas. He holds an M.A. in history from the University of Texas at Arlington and has taught History and English.

Three tricorns.



ISBN 1-57003-573-3, The University of South Carolina Press, 2005 by David K. Wilson, \$39.95

(cont. page 7)

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 was the relationship between James Madison and Alexander Hamilton like?

Hamilton and Madison didn't really know each other until after they worked

together to write *The Federalist Papers*. After that they were really close friends for 3 or 4 years. It wasn't so much their being colleagues, but actual best friends.

For years they were close and collaborated with John Jay. Hamilton and Madison wrote the Constitution together and designed the American form of government with three branches having checks and balances on each.

Hamilton was known for being rather small but making up for that by being extravagant and dressing in really colorful clothes. Madison was also really small, shy and dressed in black clothing. People would call them the Peacock and the Crow. They often wrote to each other and took strolls around Philadelphia almost daily together.

They began to disagree when Hamilton gave a speech on something trivial, and Madison didn't agree with it. They had a debate over it, but decided it was mundane and didn't really matter. Both of them were beyond having a petty falling out over something of that sort. But it was the start.

The cycle of them disagreeing continued, but their friendship wasn't getting any dimmer. Their real falling out happened when Thomas Jefferson came back to America after missing the entirety of the War being appointed Minister to France.

Like a couple of 8th graders, Madison ditched Hamilton for the cooler crowd of Jefferson and James Monroe. They basically turned Madison away from what they considered the elitist godless leanings of the Federalists.

When Hamilton became Secretary of the Treasury, the relationship deteriorated as Madison objected to Hamilton's financial policies.

This Glorious Struggle

Author Edward G. Lengel has access to George Washington's papers as a professor at the University of Virginia. This publication is a selection of over 140,000 documents, both personal and professional along with his comments relating to the circumstances being addressed.

One particular letter is extremely interesting — his letter to nephew Bushrod Washington upon Bushrod's venture to Philadelphia in 1783 to serve as a legal apprentice. The contents reflect Washington's code of conduct ethics to his nephew:'

Remember why you are there
Keep appropriate company
Be courteous to all
Be benevolent
Dress appropriately
Avoid Gambling

Good reading. Two tricorns



ISBN 978-0-06-125131-3, HarperCollins, 2007 by Edward G, Lengel, \$25.00

Young Patriots

This is the story behind the story of the development of the United States Constitution. The central figures are James Madison and Alexander Hamilton along with other primary Founding Fathers.

Recommended reading. Three Tricorns



ISBN 1-4022-0235-0, Sourcebooks, Inc., 2005 by Charles Cerami, \$24.95

It turned worse when Madison (along with Jefferson) formed the Democratic - Republican Party in direct opposition to Hamilton's Federalists.

The Democratic-Republican party, a political faction dedicated solely to things like States Rights and talking smack about Hamilton behind his back, even after he died.

In Madison's opinion, Hamilton was a would-be monarchist who sought the destruction of the republic itself. In Hamilton's view, Madison was a fool, and a dishonest one at that, too quick to follow in the footsteps of Jefferson or bow to the Political mood of Virginia, even when he knew the national interest required something else.

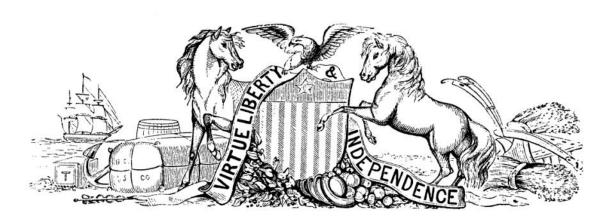
What might have changed if Hamilton had not been Killed?

His political career was effectively over because the Jeffersonians were solidly in control. But I think he still could have made great contributions in two areas.

He was planning a series of volumes on the history of political institutions, which he said would be to the Federalist Papers what wine was to water. Unfortunately, we will never get to read them. Also he was one of the preeminent lawyers of his day, so I believe he would have gone on to represent some significant cases and write notable briefs.

Also Burr may have taken a different course and have a different place in history.

L.H.





Stoddard's Stockade

["In Edition 20, Peter noted his family connections to the Salem Witchcraft Hysteria, basically dealing with property his ancestor Emanual Downing owned. After Downing returned to England, he rented his house and tavern to John Proctor, who was hanged for witchcraft in 1692. The entire Act 2 of The Crucible, a satiric and highly fictionalized play, takes place in the living room owned by his 9th great-grandaddy! The remainder of the Stockade story revolved around the property, housing still on the premises, and sales documents. Here is more of the "witchy" side of the story not included in the 20th edition of The Marshal." - The Editor]

Stoddard: Daniel Day Lewis played John Proctor in The Crucible and Hawkeye in The Last of the Mohicans. Daniel had two love interests in those movies, Cora Munro in "Mohicans" and Elizabeth Proctor in "Crucible". Elizabeth too closely resembles my ex-wife, said by some to be a witch in 2021. But I digress.....

"Mohicans" was another highly fictionalized book and movie about a battle at Fort William Henry, where my 5th Great Grandpappy Captain Gideon Stoddard served, was captured, and subsequently released to walk 150 miles

back home to Woodbury Connecticut. Gideon presumably was allowed to keep his musket, but the French Jesuits and Mohicans took his ammunition. If he was killed by Hawkeye and his Mohican buddies I would not be here.

In 2012 my oldest son and I visited the Manse, the Stoddard home in Northampton built atop the foundation of Solomon Stoddard's 1600s house. A stairway mural shows Solomon's friend Judge Samuel Sewall walking toward the Manse to visit his friend. The mural depicts Sewall on foot, though he was likely on horseback. The trek from Boston or Salem to Northampton is over 95 miles. Judge Sewall was the only magistrate in the Salem witchcraft mania to recant his position in condemning the witches to death.

Joining my son and I at the Manse that day was Elise Bernier-Feeley, a historian at Northampton's Forbes Library. She suspected that Solomon put the bug in Samuel's ear that witchcraft nonsense must stop. I asked her to forward any proof that she found but have yet to receive such proof. Perhaps I should ask again 9 years later.

[Stoddard ended his note with a line, "I am not sure how to conclude this Stoddard's Stockade installment." I decided to give Peter a bit of a holiday break and take up the column from here. – Editor]

John Proctor was a landowner in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was the son of John Proctor Sr. and was born in Suffolk, England. When he was three years old, his parents brought the family to America, sailing from London in April 1635 on a ship called the Susan or Ellen. They settled in the Chebacco area of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Proctor's father owned many properties and was considered one of the wealthiest residents in Ipswich, holding various offices within the colony.

Proctor was a good businessman, worked well with people from all ranks of society. Through the fortunes and misfortunes of life in the colonies, he married and lost wives three times. There sere several offspring from each union.

In 1666, Proctor moved to Salem and leased a 700-acre estate called Groton farm (also known as Downing Farm) in Salem Farms, the section of Salem Township just to the south of Salem Village. The farm was leased from Emmanuel Downing, brother-in-law to John Winthrop. In 1668, Proctor received his first license to operate a tavern there and the license was renewed annually. The Inn was located on Ipswich Road about a mile south of the Salem Village line.

On 1 April 1674, Proctor married Elizabeth Bassett. Elizabeth and some of the older children ran the tavern while Proctor and his son, Benjamin, tended to their farm properties in Salem and Ipswich. (cont. page 9)

Stoddard's Stockade - (Cont.)

If customers in the tavern had insufficient funds, Elizabeth insisted they pay with pawned goods.

Initial witchcraft accusations were aimed at Elizabeth, but when John began to defend her and vocally express his disbelief in the accusers, fingers were then pointed at him as well. Proctor's chief accusers stated he tried to choke one female and magistrates were told that Proctor had beaten another for putting up a prayer bill before he forced her to touch the Devil's Book, Salacious stories followed, Proctor challenged the accuracy of any spectral evidence. Thirty-two neighbors stated that Proctor had lived a "Christian life in his family and was ever ready to help such as they stood in need", but the fervor for accusing and finding witches, was burning at an unprecedented rate.

The Proctor's were tried on 5 August 1692, found guilty, and sentenced to death by hanging. While Proctor and his wife were still in jail, the sheriff seized all of their household belongings and sold their cattle at bargain rates. Beer barrels at their tavern were emptied, and the children were left destitute, with no means of support. Proctor was hanged on 19 August 1692. Elizabeth, who was then pregnant, was given a reprieve until she gave birth, which came after the trials ended.

In January 1693, while still in jail, Elizabeth Bassett Proctor gave birth to a son, John. Elizabeth and her son remained in jail until May 1693, when a general release freed all of the remaining witchcraft prisoners. Unfortunately, even though the consensus was that innocent people had been wrongly accused, Elizabeth "HAD" been convicted and was considered guilty. In the eyes of the law, she was considered a "dead woman" and could not reclaim any of her husband's estate.

Multiple petitions for redress were requested over the years, with some moneys being paid out to various individuals, but not all were justly compensated. Finally on 31 October 2001 Governor Swift signed a document that explicitly proclaimed all the prosecuted were innocent. Perhaps a bit late for those who were executed.

While I cannot claim a direct connection to any witches, I did do some research on how relations are tracked in WikiTree, Occasionally WikiTree sends out a special article, like "How close are you related to some historic person or event"?

https://www.wikitree.com/g2g/1320150/which-accused-witch-are-you-most-closelyconnected-to.

Or perhaps you are related to one of the accusers.

https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Category:Witchcraft Accusers of New England

On wiki tree, if you have an account, (free), you have an assigned code. There is a connections link where you can put in your code and the code assigned to someone in the system, and the computers will generate a "degrees of relation" between the two of you, should one exist. You may have heard of someone being "x" number of degrees from such and such a person. Now degrees are determined by generations, family relations, such as father, mother, brothers or sisters, aunts, uncles, etc. beyond the lineal descent. For example, I am 8 generations back to my 8 – great grandfather. His sister is a 9th degree, and then following her through her daughter, and her husband and back, over, and across, and you get to John Proctor by 17 degrees. I am 17 degrees from John Proctor. Just not directly related.

The article of "Which Witch" I was reading led me to the following connections between myself and many witches accused, tried, and even executed throughout history.

I am 17 degrees from John Alden through my 8-G Grandma Francis Bugg. Alden was committed to a Boston jail with no bail. He was imprisoned for 15 weeks. Friends convinced him to escape and absent himself until the situation had cooled

Also 17 degrees from Sarah Cole. Sarah was imprisoned, but, was not indicted or tried for months after Mary Browne claimed that her specter appeared to her night and day, tormenting her an causing her pain. She was ultimately acquitted.

Bridgett Playfer Bishop was the first victim to be hung on Gallows Hill in June during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. Over 400 were accused; about 72 accused and tried with 20 executed. Over 100 died awaiting trial or release. Bridget is 20 degrees through 8-G, F. Bugg.

18 degrees from Sarah Good, again through Francis Bugg. William Good, her husband saith that the night before his wife was examined, he saw a wart a little belowe her right shoulder which he never saw before... Her daughter testified, "she had three birds, one black, one yellow & that these birds hurt the Children..." Sarah was hanged on 19 Jul 1692 at Proctor's Ledge, Gallows Hill, Salem, Massachusetts Bay. 9

(cont. page 10)

Stoddard's Stockade - (Cont.)

Through Hendricks Decker, my 9th Grandfather, you get a 19th degree connection to Deliverance Dane. Deliverance was one of several members of the family of Reverend Francis Dane (her father-in-law) who were involved in the Salem Witch Trials. Deliverance was arrested and questioned, and she confessed and implicated Francis, though he was never arrested or tried. Unfortunately, the records of her arrest and examinations have been lost. An account of her confession was printed in 1867.

Back to 8-G Grandma Francis, I find a 17th degree relationship to Mary Bliss Parsons. Mary was accused and determined to be innocent. 18 years later, she was summoned again to appear in court. Seems there was a feud between the Bridgmans and Parsons. Again in 1674 she was sent to Boston for trial. She was acquitted, but her son Ebenezer was killed.

Witchcraft was not confined to New England. Again, through my 8-G F.B. (is this getting repetitious?) I find 20 degree Grace White, better known as "The Witch of Pungo". Grace White Sherwood is the last person known to have been convicted of witchcraft in Virginia. Beginning in 1697, Grace was accused several times of witchcraft. Grace last went to trial in 1706, accused of causing her neighbor, Elizabeth Hill, to miscarry. The court ordered that Sherwood's guilt or innocence be determined by "ducking" her in consecrated water. If Grace sank, she would be declared innocent, but if she floated her identity as a witch would be proven. A spot in the Lynnhaven River, off what is today known as Witchduck Point, was chosen. On July 10, 1706, Grace Sherwood was bound and thrown from a boat. She managed to



untie herself and rise to the surface, proving to those present that she was a witch. Grace was found guilty and sentenced to prison. She "may have been jailed until 1714, when records show she paid back taxes." Grace lived to be 80.

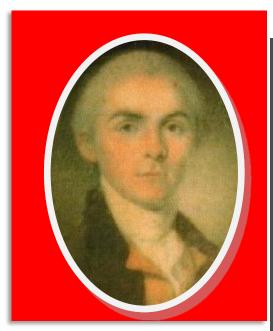
Interesting research even if it doesn't bring me any closer to additional SAR supplementals. Seems my 8 - great grandmama's family is related to almost everyone, and going back that far, I am 8+ some degree related to everyone else in the known world. Maybe even you?

Hum...... I wonder if my 8 – Great Gram was a witch of some sort? Seems to be more than a numerical coincidence, don't you think?

- Emil Decker

Here's wishin' all yall a pleasant end to the old year, and a brighter outlook to the coming year!

Ken Baldowski



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 their American to 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 March 20, 2022. 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

SAR Calendar of Events

Event	Location	Date	Status
Battle of Cowpens	JollyPark Gaffney, SC.	Jan 15, 2022	SC State
Annual State Conference	Sonata Hotel, Lawrenceville, GA	Jan 28 - 29, 2022	State
Heroes of the Hornets' Nest	Elijah Clark State Park	Feb 11, 2022	State
Washington Courthouse Square & Battlefield	Washington, GA	Feb 12, 2022	National
Kettle Creek Memorial Service	Episcopal Church of the Mediator Washington, GA	Feb 13, 2022	State
Brier Creek	Screven Co.	Mar 4 - 5, 2022	State
National Spring Leadership	Louisville, KY	March 4 - 5, 2022	National
South Atlantic District Mtg	Greensboro, NC	March 11, 2022	District
Battle of Guilford Courthouse	Greensboro, NC	March 12, 2022	National
Andrew Jackson Bench	Hermitage, TN	Mar 13, 2022 2:00 p.m.	National
Patriot Grave Marking	Athens, GA	Apr 2, 2022	State
Patriot Grave Marking	Marietta, GA	Apr 9, 2022	State
Frederica Patriots Day/Naval Action	St. Simons Island, GA	Apr 16 - 17, 2022	National
GASSAR BOM	Garden Patch Barnesville, GA	Apr 23, 2022	State
Patriot Grave Marking (Potential)	Midway, GA	Apr 24, 2022	State
Independence Day	Various	Jul 4, 2022	National
National Congress 2022	Savannah, GA	Jul 8 - 15 2022	National
GASSAR BOM	Garden Patch Barnesville, GA	Jul 23, 2022	State