

# The Marshal

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



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## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Gary Page

Welcome to 2022 my fellow compatriots. First, I want to thank the membership for electing me as President for 2022. I look forward to serving the Robert Forsyth Chapter in 2022.

Secondly, I want to thank the outgoing and incoming officers for their service and dedication to the Sons of the American Revolution and our Patriot Ancestors who fought and died for our Independence, Constitution and the freedoms and rights we enjoy today.

*(continued on page 2)*

## ROBERT FORSYTH BEGINS THE YEAR WITH AN EXCELLENT SHOWING !

From the Annual Conference, to our own Annual Banquet, (a do it yourself-er with a dish of ZOOM on the side), on into the rest of the first quarter, the Robert Forsyth Chapter members have been showing their eagerness to participate in State and National events. There have been multiple opportunities to attend events, with many more coming. Perhaps you are getting cabin fever and are looking forward to joining us. Maybe you will find yourself in upcoming photos.



At the State Conference, Emil Decker was awarded the Patriot's Medal. This is the highest award given at the state level.

Now that we have returned to in-person meetings, Charles Meagher and Emil Decker were awarded their Chapter Meritorious Service Medals.

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**President's Dispatch**

**ROBERT FORSYTH BEGINS ...(CONT.).**

I especially want to thank and recognize Chip Van Alstyne for his service over the past two years. Chip has been and is an exemplary servant to the SAR and our Chapter. Chip will continue to serve the chapter as Vice President and has taken the additional role as Medals and Awards Committee Chairman. This new committee will insure we are recognizing both members and non-members for their service and achievements.

Moving on to 2022, membership is always at the forefront of our Chapter. Every member of the Chapter needs to outreach to potential new members so that we can grow our Chapter membership. This is certainly a difficult task as we all have busy daily lives, but we must make the extra effort to look for and invite potential candidates to our Chapter meetings and evangelize the values and benefits of membership in the SAR. So, I encourage each and every one of you to seek out and recruit new members. Additionally, our 2022 GASSAR President, Joe Vancura, is encouraging our members to join the Color Guard and Militia. He would like to see membership doubled. There is a \$200 stipend available from the Georgia Fellows Fund to offset the purchase of a uniform.

Please keep in mind that the NSSAR Annual Conference will be held in Savannah this year from July 9 – 14. This will be an excellent opportunity to attend a national event that is being held in our backyard. Registration for this event will be available on the NSSAR website in May. If you want to attend, you should make hotel arrangements very soon.

Finally, I want to encourage members to consider taking on a leadership role in the chapter for 2023. New leaders with new ideas are always helpful for the growth of the chapter. Please consider taking on a leadership role and if you have any questions, contact me or any of the 2022 officers.

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

*Gary Page,  
President,  
Robert Forsyth Chapter*



Pres. Gary Page presented Alex Van Alstyne the SAR Eagle Scout Award. The Eagle Council of Honor was held at St Columba's Episcopal church on Feb. 6. Alex's dad, Chip, attended, as well as members of the SUVCW & DAR. Alex also received recognition from the MOWW, Masonic Scouters and the Grand Lodge of Georgia. Alex's application to the SAR is heading to State as we speak. Alex is a member of Troop 143, OA Lodge Egwa Tawa Dee and has been awarded the Grand Slam of High Adventure.



At the recent Heroes of the Hornet's Nest,



J. C. Hustis got cozy with the folks from S.C. and down south. You know..... The guys with the cannons.

After firing one, he was hooked. Too bad they weigh so much. Hard to carry and march in a line with one.

Compatriot J.C. was not through with his tour of duty at the Heroes Celebration. As he and I were talking, a young lady with a cane asked if we could help her cross the ditch to the area where the ceremony would take place. We immediately rushed over to help her across the muddy ditch, but J.C. didn't stop there. He accompanied her to her seat, and later assisted her as she presented her wreath. This is the very image, the epitome of Chivalry, one of the ideals of the nation we established and honor in the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Way to go J.C.!



As Emil and J.C. were having a great time the next day at the Battle of Kettle Creek festivities in Washington, and later at War Hill, Ed Rigel Jr. was busy ensuring everyone was registering their wreath and receiving their ribbon for participating.



**Don't forget our Flag Retirement Ceremony on Jun 11, 10:00 a.m. at Ingram Funeral Home, Cumming, GA**

## Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

### The First Salute

This is a story about the first recognition of the United States, called The First Salute by a foreign power. This occurred on the diminutive Dutch West Indies island of St Eustatius on November 16, 1776. The ship that received the “salute” was the Andrew Doria. In order to tell this story, author Tuchman covers the affairs of the Dutch Republic, naval warfare of the period focusing on Admiral Rodney, American land battles in the South, and finally the long march leading to the siege of Yorktown.

I found this book enlightening to expose the weakness of the British navy leadership and the exciting march by Washington and Rochambeau to Yorktown. Both areas contained new information to appreciate the fragile state of affairs during this period. I highly recommend this reading.

Three tricorns.



ISBN-13 : 978-0345336675, Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition (September 6, 1989)

### The Return of George Washington 1783-1789

So what happened to George Washington after he surrendered his commission to Congress at the conclusion of the War for Independence? Historian Edward J. Larson's The Return of George Washington provides a well researched study of Washington's activities, starting with a newly developed protocol for his resignation to Congress and ending with his installation as our first president. The development of our Constitution occurs during this period along with the election process and what we today call, the Electoral College.

Washington's behind the scene role in the passage of the Constitution is fascinating along with his friendship with the founding fathers that played key roles in our first government.

Historian Larson has provided great insight in the little published life of Washington after leading the Continental Army to victory. This is a “must” read for those interested in how our country's government got its first start.

Two tricorns.



ISBN 978-0-06-224867  
William Morrow

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### Ask the Expert:

With Lionel Hildebrand

If you have a question you would like to ask, please forward to the editor, [eldecker@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net). He will see that it gets to me.

Which President's were Bi -Lingual? Was any President's 1st language NOT English?



8th President, Martin Van Buren. He was the first natural born citizen to be elected President. He was born December 5, 1782, after the founding of the nation, and therefore not technically a founding father.

Martin was born in Kinderhook, New York, a town of Dutch settlers. Dutch was his first language, and he learned English later in school. Out of all the bilingual presidents, Van Buren is the only one who didn't have English as his native tongue.

As to the other bilingual leaders of state, consider the following. John Adams, before he became our second president, was sent to Paris twice for extended periods to negotiate with France. While he was serving there, he learned to speak French fluently.

Thomas Jefferson was fluent in Spanish and could speak some French. John Quincy Adams wrote in his diary that Jefferson told him he had learned Spanish in 19 days while crossing the Atlantic, with the help of a copy of Don Quixote. But Quincy Adams also notes that Jefferson had a tendency to tell “large stories”.

James Madison was said to be quite proficient in written Greek and Latin at a young age. Madison also studied Hebrew while attending Princeton University. Most colleges started as theological seminaries and focused largely on Greek and Latin.

James Monroe, prior to becoming the fifth president of the United States, was a minister to France and facilitated the Louisiana Purchase. Monroe and his family spoke French fluently.

John Quincy Adams, while his father was serving in Paris, accompanied him and attended schools in Europe. He quickly became fluent in French, Dutch and German.

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## Women of the Revolution

Light reading of the contribution of women who served or may have served in the Southern Battlefields during the American Revolution, supplemented with photos of modern day re-enactors.

Two tricorns



ISBN 978-1-59629-389-2, The History Press, 2007 by Robert M. Dunkerly, \$19.99

## Morningstars of Liberty Volume One

Georgia Society SAR member Gordon Smith has distinguished himself by publishing a most complete analysis of Georgia's role in the Revolutionary War. Included is a thorough discussion of the Continental Line in Georgia including type of units, their training and equipment, the various disciplines within the army and their opposing forces (Loyalists).

If you want to know what the troop ate or how they lived during this conflict, read this book.

Not much has been written about Georgia's Navy, but author Smith covers this topic too.

This is an excellent book that can answer a lot of questions and will serve as an authoritative resource about the Revolutionary War in Georgia.

Three tricorns.



ISBN 1-890307-47-5 Morningstars of Liberty by Gordon Burns Smith, Boyd Publishing 2006, \$50

*George Thurmond*

Teddy Roosevelt could read in French, German, Italian and Latin, and kept his library stocked with books in all of those languages. He was also able to speak conversational French and German, but they didn't come easily to him. His Secretary of State John Hay once said Roosevelt's French was "lawless as to grammar," but not difficult to understand.

Herbert Hoover's wife, Lou, was his language-learning companion. Together, they translated a 16th-century document from Latin to English over the course of several years. They also learned Mandarin Chinese and would speak it when they didn't want staff members to eavesdrop on their conversations.

Franklin D. Roosevelt started learning French and German at a young age. Governesses from France and Germany taught him their respective languages, as did a Swiss governess. Additionally, Roosevelt's family traveled to Germany for five consecutive summers to get treatment for his father's ailing heart. FDR attended German schools for a while, where he continued to improve his language skills.

Jimmy Carter studied Spanish when he attended the United States Naval Academy, and continued to practice the language on Christian mission trips later in life. As president, he made speeches in Spanish on visits to various countries. Carter said Spain was his favorite vacation spot, and he practiced the language while there with his family.

Bill Clinton studied German during his college career at Georgetown University. He became proficient in the language, and spoke a little German in a speech at the Brandenburg Gate in 1994.

We would be remiss not to give honorable mentions to two of our 21st-century leaders. George W. Bush had some basic knowledge of Spanish from his many years living in Texas, and he even sprinkled it into a few of his speeches. His pronunciation, however, was widely mocked.

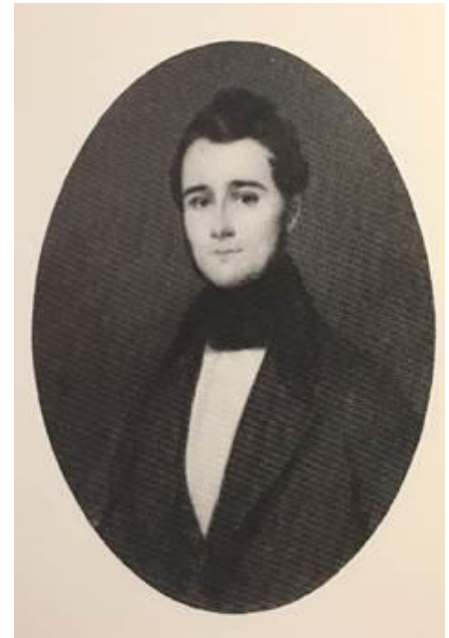
Barack Obama lived in Indonesia with his mother and stepfather from ages 6 to 10, and attended school there. He developed a basic understanding of the Indonesian language and spoke a little bit in at least one speech.

L.H.

## Stoddard's Stockade

*With the upcoming Congress in Savannah this summer, Peter Stoddard would be remiss at missing an opportunity to expound on Stoddards in the area.*

On many visits to Savannah I wished I had kin there. With my ancient New England ancestry I thought it highly unlikely. I remain astonished to have recently found out that John Stoddard is descended from my New England kin.



As a frequent visitor to Savannah from Atlanta for decades, I am thrilled to have recently learned that my cousin John Stoddard was a founder of the Evergreen Cemetery Company, later Bonaventure.

Born in Northampton Mass, John met and married a Daufuskie Island heiress in Paris France. They moved to Savannah, and John was the first Chairman of the Board of the Evergreen Cemetery Company, later Bonaventure. He was also President of the Georgia Historical Society. John had a prominent Savannah great-grandson who died in 2005, but the guy never married or fathered children. From what I can find out so far I might be John's nearest and most informed relative on his Savannah influence.

Making Bonaventure a private tourist site was far from what the *Savannah Republican* had in mind when it praised Wiltberger's public service, but it suited boosters hoping to find new ways to contribute to the city's already-booming economy. After a long period of economic stagnation, Savannah found its footing in the 1840s, when it was linked to the Georgia hinterlands by rail, eventually making the port city one of the nation's leading exporters of cotton. By the 1850s, Savannah was one of the most prosperous cities in the South, and officials of the Evergreen Cemetery Company were outspoken advocates of economic development. The company's initial investors were some of the biggest names in the city, including planter John Stoddard, future mayor Richard Arnold, physician William Duncan, merchant Robert Habersham, cotton factor Charles Green, and Jacob Waldburg, one of Georgia's largest landowners. Their efforts to market Bonaventure's natural qualities were an acknowledgement of the unique landscape of the place and a keen strategy for promoting urban economic development through tourism.<sup>12</sup>

88 year old Savannah legend Sonny Seiler and I spoke on the phone the other day, though not about the SAR. Sonny was on the Bonaventure Cemetery Board of Directors.

Ever seen "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil"? He played the judge in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. As owner of every Georgia Bulldog mascot, I might ask him to attend any event and bring the current UGA mascot "Que" aka **Uga X** with him.

## Stoddard's Stockade (Cont.)



*I took this photo weeks ago after dining at Boar's Head.*

Back to John, he is listed as a "planter", but he also built Stoddard's Upper Range and Stoddard's Lower Range in the 1850s as cotton warehouses and sales offices. In the 19th century, when it got its name, "Factors Walk." In these buildings, men used to bale, factor and sell cotton. In the top level of the four - or five-story cotton warehouses, brokers worked with exporters and managed sales. Factors determined the amount of cotton that'd be sold to the merchants. Part of the building still stands and is available to rent for lodging on VRBO.

The buildings now house riverfront inns, restaurants and shops. I made a brief stop at Bonaventure weeks ago and somehow missed Stoddard Way that runs right beside the place.

<https://www.savannah.com/savannah-secrets-plain-sight...>

208 Wine Bar owner James Divine shares my interest in the buildings' history.

<https://www.208winebar.com/stoddard-building>

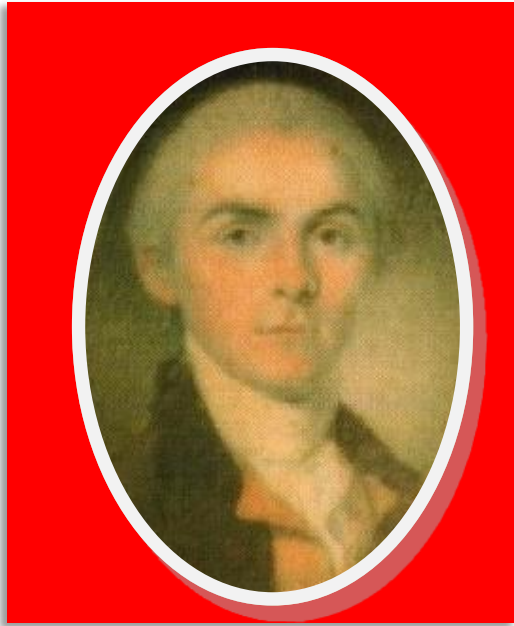
Granted, John was a Civil War and not Revolutionary War era Savannahian. I gather the topic will still interest SAR Compatriots who read with great interest my family's prodigious exploits throughout the US of A. I also wonder if the place is haunted like almost every other historic property any Stoddard built.

*Sculptures from Bonaventure Cemetery, Savannah.*

*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](mailto:chasm242@yahoo.com) or any chapter officer.

#### Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Jun 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](mailto:eldecker@weegrr.com)

Event	Location	Date	Status
Patriot Grave Marking	Jackson Co., GA	Apr 2, 2022 10 am	State
Patriot Grave Dedications	Marietta, GA	Apr 9, 2022	State
Patriot Grave Marking	St. Simons Island, GA	Apr 15, 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
Patriot Grave & Compatriot Grave Marking	LaGrange, GA	Apr 30, 2022	State
South Atlantic District Mtg	Orlando, FL	May 7, 2022	District
Patriot Grave Marking DAR/ C.A.R.	Oconee Co., GA	May 14, 2022	
Memorial Day Ceremonies	Various	May 28 - 30, 2022	National
Veterans Cemetery Ceremonies	Milledgeville, GA	May 30, 2022	National
Ramsour's Mill	Lincolnton, NC	Jun 3-5, 2022	National
Flag Retirement	Ingram Funeral Home Cumming, GA	Jun 11, 2022 10:00am	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
1 <sup>st</sup> Siege of Augusta	Augusta, GA	Sep 24, 2022	State