

The Marshal

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



Issue No. 4
Winter 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a Great Year!

By William A. Greenly

WHAT A GREAT YEAR for our chapter and all of you should be proud of what you have accomplished.

We celebrated our first chapter birthday on Oct. 5, 2014. When I stopped and thought about it, I could not believe a whole year has passed since our charter banquet.

We have accomplished a lot in the last three months. As you all know, we installed the first flag retirement receptacle at The Home Depot in Cumming in June. We have since taken the program to other chapters,

Looking forward, I see our chapter coming together, doing great things in our communities.

to the state, and we also presented the topic at the Fall Leadership Conference/Trustees Meeting in September. We've had such a positive response to our receptacle and to our program. In fact, we are getting emails and phone calls from as far away as the State of Washington.

In August, we held our first annual picnic, though we didn't have as large a turnout as I would have liked. This was a "lessons learned," and we learned a lot. Next year, the cost per person will be a lot less and hopefully we'll have a much larger turnout.

In September, I attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Louisville. Friday was filled with several national committee meetings including Newsletter/Magazine, Boy Scouts, Color Guard, and National Sites and Celebrations. These committee meetings were very informative.

The National Society held the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new museum being built in the National Headquarters and the event was well attended by the Georgia contingent.

If you get a chance, you should visit

See "YEAR RECAP" on p. 3...

SORTING OUT A GENEALOGICAL CONFUSION: *Patriot John Belk, Sr., Esquire*

By Timothy F. Bassett, Chapter Genealogist

John Belk, Sr., was one of the first recorded Belks in America; he was

born 1710 in Hartlepool, Middlesboro, England, and died after 20 Jul 1804 in Mecklenburg Co., NC. John immigrated to North Carolina about 1745 and settled in what was then Mecklenburg County, which today is the Buford Township of Union County. In addition to his public service during the war, three of his sons served as soldiers in the Waxhaw

region of North Carolina during the revolution. These sons were John Belk, Jr., Darling Belk and Brittain Belk. Of special note, it was Brittain Belk who made the ultimate sacrifice. He was mortally wounded by a British cavalryman under the command of Col. Tarleton at a battle in the Waxhaw's. This battle was later known as "Buford's Massacre" due to the massacre of Col. Buford's regiment after their surrender to Col. Tarleton, thus giving rise to the American Battle cry "Remember Tarleton's Quarter."

After many hours of family research, I discovered my lineage to John Belk, Sr., through his son Darling and set about preparing the documentation for the submittal of my application. One of the tools I used was the Daughters of the American Revolution Patriot Database. It was during the research of the DAR database I learned there were issues identifying the correct John Belk. Listed in the DAR database were two John Belk's, a John Belk, Sr. (NSDAR A008652) and a John Belk "Bealk" (NSDAR A203009), both from the same region of North

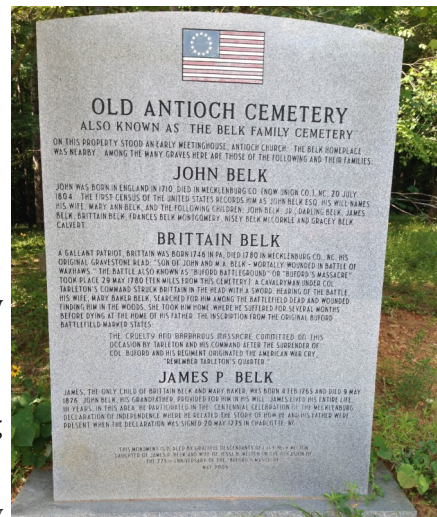
Carolina both listing the same reference of Patriotic service in Mecklenburg County but with different descendants. I

knew from my prior research and acquired documents that my ancestor, John Belk, Sr. Esquire was a Tax Assessor and a Court Justice in Mecklenburg Co., NC during the Revolutionary War. There was an obvious mix-up between these two.

Further complicating the issue, there were actually three John Belks living in the same region of North Carolina during the

Revolutionary War. These individuals were: John Belk, Sr. Esq., John Belk, Jr. (Sr.'s son) and another John Belk (Bealk) from a neighboring county. As I reviewed the Belk record from NSDAR 447480, it listed the lineage from John Sr. through his son John, Jr., which was correct. However there was an issue with the confusion of the patriotic service between the father and son. What a quandary and a mess. Now not only would I have to prove my ancestors service, but also needed to document the errors in the DAR records so my application would not be challenged.

To straighten out the confusion, I first concentrated on separating what I knew to be correct for my ancestor John Belk, Sr. from his son John Belk, Jr., who also served in the war as a soldier and a Tax Collector. The service reference in the NSDAR application proved partially correct in the fact that John Belk, Jr. served as Private in the war and a Tax Collector in 1783 but was inaccurate that he was a Tax Assessor in 1781. The Tax Assessor service reference was actually his father,



See "BELK" on p. 2...

BELK

Continued from page 1...

John Belk, Sr. Esquire. As I started trying to set the records straight, I decided the simplest way to do this was to develop a timeline of events to track the individuals during the war. An abridged version of the submitted timeline is included below.

From this timeline and documentation from the “Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions” of Mecklenburg Co., NC it was verified that John Belk, Sr. Esquire served as a Tax Assessor and Justice and John Belk, Jr. served as a Tax Collector. I documented my lineage from his son Darling, but this NSDAR record copy listed the lineage through his son John Belk, Jr., so I couldn’t just use the record copy and correct the service reference. I needed to submit a new application using my lineage.

Now that I had accomplished separating these two, it was time to refute the record copy for the other John Belk “Bealk” using the same service record of Tax Collector and

Assessor from Mecklenburg County. I knew that the John Belk “Bealk” from NSDAR A203009 was not the same person as John Belk, Sr. Esquire, now to prove it. I found that the proof would lie in the Wills and Estate Papers of the two individuals. John Belk, Sr. Esquire’s Will was written on 20 July 1804 and probated April 1807 in Mecklenburg Co., NC. In his Will and Estate

Papers, he names his wife as Mary Ann and lists his children as

John Belk, Darling Belk, Frances Montgomery, Britain Belk, Nisey McCorkle and Gracey Calvert. The Estate Files of John Belk Sr. Esquire were recorded in Mecklenburg County and prove his residence through the division of land among his heirs within Mecklenburg County and list his Title as “Esquire.”

The Will of John Belk “Bealk” in NSDAR A203009 was probated in April 1804 in Lincoln Co., NC, and estimated his date of death as 1803-1804. In the Estate Files, his estate was listed as being in Lincoln County, NC,

and dated April 1804. It names his wife Suzanne and son Chamberlain as the administrators of his estate. These documented dates show that this John Belk “Bealk” died before my ancestor (1804 *versus* 1807).

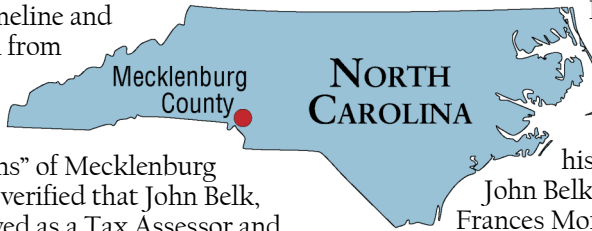
One final piece to the puzzle was that in the 1790 U.S. Census, John Belk “Bealk” (NSDAR A203009) lived in the Morgan District of Lincoln County, NC, where as John Belk Sr. Esquire lived in Mecklenburg, NC.

From all of these discrepancies, I was able to prove these two John Belks were from different family lines, lived and died in different counties and therefore the use of the same patriotic service reference was not accurate.

Perhaps the most glaring piece of additional evidence was that in the NSDAR A203009 record copy the applicant stated the original name of “Bealk” was changed to Belk in later generations due to census errors.

In June, I visited the “Belk” Family Cemetery near Monroe in Union Co., NC, and located the graves of John Belk, Sr., and his son Darling Belk, Sr., my connection to the progenitor. ■

To submit a patriot ancestor biography, email matthewtpatton@yahoo.com.



Timeline: Events in the Lives of John Belk, Sr., Esquire, and John Belk, Jr., of North Carolina

Date	Location	Event	Person
Early Rev. War Years 1775-1780	Waxhaw Region	John Belk, Jr. is listed in the North Carolina Booklet on page 12 as Revolutionary Soldier along with brothers Darling and Britain	John Belk, Jr.
6 Nov. 1778	Mecklenburg Co., NC	John Belk, Sr. purchases Land - Recorded in the Oct Session 1782 of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions	John Belk, Sr., Esquire
July 1781	Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Mecklenburg Co., NC	John Belk, Sr. paid as a Tax Assessor for the years 1780 and 1781 in Mecklenburg County. Record states: “Ordered that the County Trustees pay the [tax?] Assessors the following Sums Viz: To each and every assessor for the year 1779, the sum of \$30 per day, and the following Assessors for the year 1780 & 1781 both years added at 100 Dollar per day Viz: John Belk 6 Days \$600	John Belk, Sr., Esquire
Oct. 1781	Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Mecklenburg Co., NC	John Belk, Sr. is recommended to be a Justice in the County of Mecklenburg. Transcription: “Ordered that the Clerk transmit to the Gen. Assembly [the names of] all the acting Justices in this County. Viz: Robert Harris, Martin Phifer, Abraham Alexander, Adam Alexander, David Reese, Hez. Alexander, Robt. Irwin, Jno. Foard, John McCorkle, Jno. McKinnitt Alexander, Daniel Jarrett, Saml. Blythe, Abram Barnett & William Scott, and to Recommend John Belk & John Nutt to said assembly to be entered on the next Dedimus.	John Belk, Sr., Esquire
July 1783	Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Mecklenburg Co, NC	John Belk, Sr. is listed as a Tax Assessor for the year 1783 and John Belk, Jr. as a Tax Collector in Mecklenburg County. Transcription: “Ordered that the persons following be appointed [tax] Assessors & Collectors for the year 1783, and that they have Notice Accordingly to attend on Charlotte on the 4th. Tuesday in August to enter upon the Duties of their office &c. <u>Assessors</u> <u>Collectors</u> <u>Cpts. Companies</u> John Belk John Belk, Junr. Belk	John Belk, Sr., Esquire and John Belk, Jr.
Jan. 1784	Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Mecklenburg Co., NC	John Belk, Sr. is listed as a Justice with the title Esquire. Transcription: “Jas. Doster, Constable, to Qualify before John Belk, Esqr. ” (Author’s note: Interestingly, James Doster is another of my documented Patriot ancestors)	John Belk, Sr., Esquire

Map illustration/courtesy Ian McCann

YEAR RECAP

Continued from page 1 ...

the national headquarters in Louisville.

A great chapter isn't known for how many members it has; rather it is known for the involvement in the chapter activities in the community by its members. The more involved the members are, the more active the chapter is, the more fun everyone has and the more satisfying the SAR experience is.

We are taking this to heart. As the fall season began, so are our activities. Grave markings are being held almost every Saturday, state and National battle field commemorations are held between September and February, and we'll also participate in other state and national events. Our chapter will also work with local governments, issuing proclamations and awarding police, fire, and EMS medals. The Education Committee has been tasked to work with the local schools to begin putting our programs in place. So far they have a student who will be creating a brochure for the National Brochure Contest.

Have Your 2015 Dues Been Paid?

Annual membership dues are \$68; junior membership is \$15.

Watch your email inbox for details if you have not paid.

They will also be working with the fourth grade history teachers to put our poster contest in place. They have also been asked to work with the high schools on the Rumbaugh Oration and the Knight Essay Contests.

Bill Walker, our Treasurer and Chairman of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) committee will be working with the local JROTC program to have seniors write essays for the JROTC program.

Ed Rigel, Jr., our Secretary and Chairman of the Scouting Committee has been talking to the local scout troops to implement our Boy Scout programs including Eagle recognition and the Eagle Scout Scholarship program. As these programs begin to grow, the chapter will need your help in judging contests and helping out our committee chairman, which I know you will do.

Looking forward, I see our chapter coming together, doing great things in our communities. It will take all of us to become a great chapter, and I know we can do it. ■

From the Book Shelf

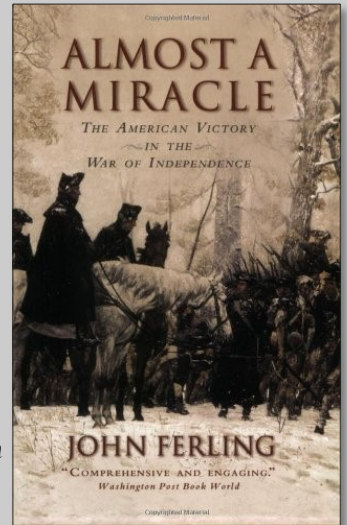
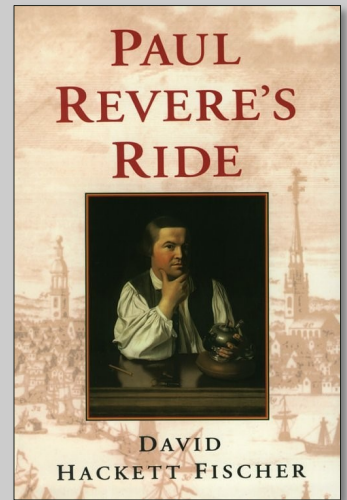
By George Thurmond

Quite often new members join our noble organization and like me, not real up-to-date on the events of the American Revolution.

There is an impressive selection of books that will aid in learning more about the events that led to gaining our freedom from Great Britain.

The following titles will provide a chronological tour through the major activities of this eight-year war:

- *Paul Revere's Ride* by David Hackett Fischer
- *Decisive Day: The Battle for Bunker Hill* by Richard M. Ketchum
- *The Winter Soldiers: The Battles for Trenton and Princeton* by Richard M. Ketchum
- *Sarasota: Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War* by Richard M. Ketchum
- *1776* by David McCullough
- *The Road to Valley Forge: How Washington Built the Army that Won the Revolution* by John Buchanan
- *The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas* by John Buchanan
- *Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence* by John Ferling



These will cover the major battles and events. Numerous books have been written about George Washington and other Founding Fathers. One I enjoy most is the biography *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow.

Other interesting titles include *Washington's Spies: The Story of America's First Spy Ring* (Alexander Rose); *The Guns of Independence: The Seize of Yorktown, 1781* (Jerome Greene); *His Excellency: George Washington* and *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (Joseph J. Ellis); and *George Washington's Indispensable Men* (Arthur S. Lefkowitz).

Of course, there are a number of heroes whose exploits make very interesting reading. Among those are Light Horse Harry Lee, Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter, Daniel Morgan, Nathanael Greene, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Lafayette and many, many more.

The story leading to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and launching of our republic has many authors. Each provides for great learning and enjoyment as you travel through this exciting time of our rich history. ■

Your Presence is Kindly Requested at the

ANNUAL BANQUET OF The Robert Forsyth Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

*Featuring Georgia Society President
Roger Coursey, presenting "Ebenezer in the Revolution" and
Installation of Our 2015 Chapter Officers*

**Jan. 10, 2015, 6 p.m. (social hour followed by banquet) at
Tam's Backstage, 215 Ingram Avenue, Cumming, GA 30040**

Cost is \$35/person. **RSVP by Dec. 26:** Ed Rigel, erigel@dogwood.net or
770-757-6070. To pay in advance, mail check to:
Bill Walker, 3190 Bunting Run, Cumming, GA 30041



Stay Tuned!

Did you know the Robert Forsyth Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was on TV recently? Tune in to the next issue to learn more! ■

Upcoming Chapter Events & Color Guard Schedule



- **Jan. 10:** Annual Chapter Banquet (Cumming, GA) (see page 3).
- **Jan. 23-24:** Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Annual Conference (Duluth, GA).
- **Feb. 12:** Robert Forsyth Chapter Meeting (Cumming, GA).

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 four times per year 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 held on the second Thursday of each month at the Golden Corral at 2025 Market Pl. Blvd., Cumming, GA 30041.

Prospective members are always welcome at monthly membership meetings. Men, eighteen years of age and older, who are interested in documenting their relationship to their American Revolutionary ancestors and in joining an active group with similar interests are urged to contact the Chapter Registrar, Christopher Russo at 770-315-6348, via email at guido139@yahoo.com or any other chapter officer.

Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is **January 25, 2015**. In addition to the material, please include hi-resolution imagery. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding *The Marshal* to Editor Matthew T. Patton at 215-285-0920 or via email at matthewtpatton@yahoo.com.

Robert Forsyth Chapter Officers 2013-14

- ★ **President:** William A. Greenly, 6440 Ivey Meadow Ln., Cumming, GA 30040, 404-788-8824, wagreenly@gmail.com
- ★ **Vice President:** Thomas R. Davis, 7215 Wyngate Way, Cumming, GA 30040, 770-442-8147, davtomln@att.net
- ★ **Secretary:** Edward P. Rigel, Jr., 1608 Indian Way, Cumming, GA 30040, 770-757-6070, erigel@dogwoodpartners.net
- ★ **Treasurer:** William W. Walker, [REDACTED]
- ★ **Chaplain:** John Flikeid, 947 Lakemere Crest, Suwanee, GA 30024, 678-936-7635, jflikeid@gmail.com
- ★ **Registrar:** Christopher Russo, 2888 Cross Creek Dr., Cumming, GA 30040, 770-315-6348, guido139@yahoo.com
- ★ **Sergeant-at-Arms:** Daniel P. Miles, Sr., 5625 Wills Wood Cir., Cumming, GA 30040, 770-475-3564, miles-daniel@att.net
- ★ **Historian:** Roland Jarrell, 6278 Bentley Rd., Cumming, GA 30040, 770-887-6187, rjarrell@comcast.net
- ★ **Genealogist:** Timothy Bassett, 2430 Spring Harbor Dr., Cumming, GA 30041, 770-889-8795, bamatram@bellsouth.net
- ★ **Chancellor:** Charles Meagher, 6135 Lakeaires Dr., Cumming, GA 30040, 770-889-6562, chasm242@yahoo.com
- ★ **Editor:** Matthew T. Patton, 4798 Abberley Ln., Johns Creek, GA 30022, 215-285-0920, matthewtpatton@yahoo.com

Photo/courtesy Ed Rigel, Jr. Portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart (1775-1828)

CHAPLAIN'S REFLECTIONS

Chapter Chaplains Are Here for You

By John Flikeid

WHILE THE CONTINENTAL ARMY was engaged in winning America's freedom from England during the Revolutionary War, its army chaplains labored to win the souls of the colonial soldiers for Jesus Christ. The chaplains held services, distributed Bibles, visited the sick, and helped sustain troop morale. They were often exposed to the dangers of the battlefield and the deprivations of the army encampments. Here are the stories of just a few of these little-known Christian heroes.



A Unique Use for a Hymnal

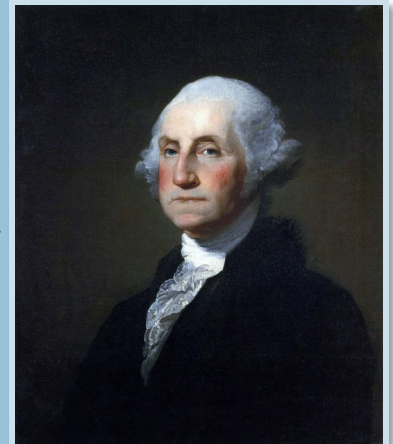
Rev. James Caldwell was a Presbyterian minister who served the Continental Army as a chaplain between the years 1776 and 1781. When his company ran out of musket wadding at the battle of Springfield, New Jersey, Caldwell ran to the nearby Presbyterian Church and carried several Isaac Watts hymnals to the troops. He is reported to have shouted, "Now put Watts into them, boys!"

Caldwell was called "The Rebel Priest" and "The High Priest of the Rebellion" by the British, who offered a reward for his capture. After his church was burned to the ground by Tories, Caldwell started preaching with his pistols lying on the pulpit, one on each side of his Bible.

Caldwell was intrepid in the face of enemy threats to his safety, but was much more concerned by the threat to his family. These concerns were well founded. While he was away on a mission, his wife was shot by a British soldier in front of their children, and his house was destroyed. James was devastated by the death of his wife, and met his own death the following year in service to his country.

To all chapter members, your Chaplaincy Corps is here for you for your prayer requests, or simply to talk, one-on-one, face to face, or on the phone.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, NRSV). Contact our Chapter Chaplain, John Flikeid, at 678-936-7635, or jflikeid@gmail.com. ■



Words from the General

"The Hon. Continental Congress having been pleased to allow a Chaplain to each Regiment, with the pay of Thirty-three Dollars and one third pr month--The Colonels or commanding officers of each regiment are directed to procure Chaplains accordingly; persons of good Characters and exemplary lives-- To see that all inferior officers and soldiers pay them a suitable respect and attend carefully upon religious exercises. The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger--The General hopes and trusts, that every officer and man, will endeavour so to live, and act, as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest Rights and Liberties of his country."

Headquarters,
New York, July 9, 1776
Gen. George Washington