

# The Marshal

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

Issue No. 10 Spring / Summer 2017



## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



### Growth & Involvement

By Allen Greenly

It is hard to believe that we are now half way through June. It seems like yesterday that we started a new year in the Robert Forsyth Chapter.

As I look back at what we have accomplished during the past five months, I am reminded of the goals I set for this year; growth and involvement. I can see changes in what we are doing and what we are focusing on.

I have seen more involvement by you the members not only in our chapter activities, but also in State activities. I am so proud every time I go to an event and I see one or more of our members also in attendance. When you attend one of these events, remember to tell other chapter members about your experience and encourage them to also attend an event.

*(continued on page 3)*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Guilford Courthouse ..... 1
- Pres. Dispatch ..... 1
- What Does It Cost .. .3
- Chapter & Community News.....7
- Midway Grave
- Markings .....10
- Calendar.....13

## 235<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

By Emil Decker, Editor.

On March 15, 1781, the Battle of Guilford Court House was fought at a site which is now in Greensboro, the county seat of Guilford County, North Carolina, during the American Revolutionary War. A British force numbering 2100 under the command of Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis defeated Major General Nathanael Greene's 4,500 Americans. Even with the victory, the British Army lost a considerable number of men during the battle. Some estimates are as high as 27%. Such heavy British casualties resulted in a strategic victory for the Americans, because Cornwallis had to change his strategies with regard to the Southern Campaign.



SAR members from across the Nation gather outside the National Park Museum at Guilford Courthouse, NC. Because of the weather, the wreath Ceremony was conducted inside the small auditorium.

*(continued on page 2)*

## BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE (CONT.)

Over 300 Revolutionary War reenactors from across the country mustered in Greensboro on March 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to commemorate the 235<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. At Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, The Colonial Heritage Center, and Greensboro Country Park, these reenactors, along with SAR representatives, paid honor to the patriots of the day. Enjoy some of the photos from this event, as well as make your plans to attend in the future.



*Members of the local historical society perform period dances in a conference room.*



*DAR members were also present at the event.*



*Smiling faces were everywhere.*



*SAR members line up in facing rows outside the museum. Limited space in the auditorium prevented all of us from entering the room as there were so many of us.*

*A Fife and Drum Corps Entertained with Martial music and esprit de corps.*



*Photos cont.  
on page 4*

We as a chapter have many opportunities to become engaged with our community. One of the best ways is using our education programs. We have talked about our education programs at a very high level for a couple of years.

Yes, there were a couple of years that we had entries into our Middle School Brochure contest – and our entries came in second place at the State level both years. Unfortunately last year our contest didn't line up with the Middle School curriculum and one of our sponsoring teachers has moved to Tennessee, but hopefully this year we can get back on track. Don't think those kids that enter the contest don't tell their parents what they are doing and why they are doing it.

This year, I would like for us to have one or two grade schools participate in our poster contest. I believe that our Traveling Trunk program will help us accomplish this goal. I attended a Color Guard function this past weekend and two of our members from different chapters were telling our dinner table that they speak to approximately 2,000 kids a year doing their Traveling Trunk programs. I would like for us to set that as a goal.

I know that some of the high schools in this area have debate clubs. I would like for some of our members that have contact in education to help us make contact with the teachers that run these clubs. My hope is that we can get them interested in our oration program and we will be able to send a contestant to the state finals next April. I know we can accomplish this if we push hard enough.

If we can accomplish these education goals this year, we will have accomplished a lot. This will not only help us with our education goals, but this will also help get our name to the public, and we won't just be the people that dress up in funny uniforms!

*Alan Greenly*

### **WE HAVE NEW MEMBERS !**

Since our last publication, we have the opportunity to welcome three new members to the Robert Forsyth Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Compatriot Jackson Clark Lewis, along with his father, Compatriot Jason Clark Lewis, and Jackson's Grandfather, Compatriot Gary Alan Lewis.

Their Patriot, Thomas Gay, furnished supplies for the American Cause.

WELCOME to all three of you. We hope you will share your Patriot's Bio with us in a future edition of *The Marshal*.

In Edition 9 of *The Marshal*, I introduced the possibility of creating a militia uniform, or purchasing a Continental one. Before I continue giving you some options on creating a militia uniform, I would like to share the new option of a Continental uniform hinted at in that previous edition. G Gedney Godwin, [http://gggodwin-com.3dcartstores.com/Mens-Clothing\\_c\\_14.html](http://gggodwin-com.3dcartstores.com/Mens-Clothing_c_14.html), "The Sutler of Mt. Misery", has agreed to provide a wool blend complete uniform that matches the current polyester version owned by many of the Georgia Color Guard. Natural fabrics are more authentic, and allow one to fire a musket, a restriction that comes with the synthetic materials. The listing below is current, and you should let the vendor know that it is for the Georgia Society SAR when ordering:

Blue/buff wool blend coat with turnback's, gold buttons -MC9- \$415.00  
buff wool waistcoat gold buttons -MW3- \$120  
buff wool breeches with gold buttons -GMB3- \$150  
Officers shirt with ruffles -OS1- \$40  
Gold Bullion epaulets -177-G- \$50 for the pair

Anyone over 48" chest there will be a 15% Surcharge. Shipping between \$10-\$15.

This vendor also has hats, stockings, shoes, etc.

Ordering instructions:

On top left of their webpage click on "Contact Us"  
In the email state your name,  
Georgia SAR Color Guard  
Then list the items and prices you want to order.  
Also fill out the sizing chart on their website, and send with email.  
Lead time is 4 to 6 weeks.

Now, as to creating your own militia uniform. You can spend lots of money if you have it, but to start few chosen items. Let's look at a typical militia uniform. (see images). Pants, shirt, coat, socks, shoes or boots. Accessories include belt, haversack, & hat. Extended accessories might also include neck stock or neckerchief, garters, suspenders, sash, & the big expense, a weapon. Mind you, much of this is personal preference and not required. You can be a member of the militia and participate in many functions without a musket, for example. Members are needed to be flag bearers, and wreath presenters.

## BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE (CONT.)



*What are the authentic period cell phones pointed at????*



*Members of the C.A.R. of course.*



*American Unit Reenactors muster to their positions prior to their Battle reenactment.*



*Photos cont. on page 5*

## BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE (CONT.)



*British troop reenactors also marched into position. Some of these reenactor groups have both American and British uniforms to help balance the needs of any given battle, so the crowds of spectators are not disappointed.*



*The reenactment of the battle was quite impressive, as is their encampment, where they share space when not mock fighting. Merchants also set up camp based stores.*

## What Does It Cost (cont.)

Look at the following photos and see what some of the very basic needs include:



Note the pants in the photo. Period pants included both trousers and knee length breeches. The use of splatter-dashers or gaiters, and garters/sashes at the knee draw attention away from the shoes, which may or may not also be completely period. (comfort and authenticity often compromise). Socks are seen only when the knee breeches and buckle shoes are worn.

As to 18th century buckle shoes, you can get a fake buckle that fits over a modern slip-on loafer that can almost look like it is attached. Some are very cheesy, but a couple,

if you can find them, look very nice. Check with costume sites. You might find that a non-functioning buckle can be added to your loafers by a shoe shop at a reasonable price. Note the first pair of shoes in the photo above. Looks ok and nothing is done to the shoes. Simple shoes/boots often escape notice without any effort. This is true for many items of your costume.

Moccasins, as in the second pair of feet gear, is another option. Half boots, trekkers, were lace up boots similar to the first in the picture above. I got mine from Fugawee. They are solid leather bottom soles, and are very slippery on smooth surfaces. Otherwise, I like them. Authentic buckle shoes are rather expensive (\$120 a pair range), and usually the buckles are a separate cost (\$25+) but Crazy Crow offers an economy set of shoes with buckles for \$89. I bought a set of these, and they look good, wear well, and buckle down authentically.

Let's move on to pants. Simple trousers, made with cotton, canvas, or other natural materials work fine. Pockets were authentic, and as long as they don't look like dress slacks or blue jeans, they will probably pass. The belt-waist area is normally covered with the weskit (Waist coat / vest) or overcoat. Obviously, if you go the route of knee breeches, they will need to be purchased from a sutler online. There are many available, but the absolute cheapest is from Military Clothing. They skip the pockets, but the canvas pants are the least expensive I have found, and fit well.

Many of us find that since belt loops are not standard, either in most authentic pants, or in costume versions, a pair of suspenders are very useful (just avoid the garish ones. They occasionally will show).

Inner shirts may be plain or fancy, solid colored or plaid, as seen in the following photo (page 8). I have both a red and a green shirt, and have seen many blues as well. Plaid patterns should be medium to small in size. Long sleeves and thigh length, the pullover is a universal option, with white being most common. The shirt can be tucked into pants when worn with a coat, or hanging out during summer events when too many layers call for shucking off outer or heavier coats. Crazy Crow, Military Clothing have the least expensive, and often have sale prices too.

## Chapter and Community News



(L to R ) Allen Greenly, Ed. Rigel Jr., & Chris Russo present Citizenship Awards to South Forsyth Middle School Students.

Right: Chris Russo with a class from Shiloh Point Elementary School Students, gathered around the flagpole for a Flag Certificate presentation.



Allen Greenly carries the American Flag during the Patriots Day Parade at St. Simon's Island on April 15.



Col. George Thurmond, 2nd from left, participates in the annual Memorial Weekend celebration at Marietta National Cemetery. Boy, Girl, Cub and Brownie Scouts joined together to place American flags on graves across the cemetery.

## What Does It Cost (cont.)

Ruffles are offered on some shirts, usually white, but plain shirts can be embellished with a cravat or scarf for a similar effect, if desired.

The over coat is variable in length, shape and color. Everything from a hunting frock, civilian long coat, or the shorter sleeveless vest / weskit, worn over an inner shirt are seen in this photo.

Hats vary as well, from flat brim to tricorns, with cockades, fur and feathers. There are various blanks

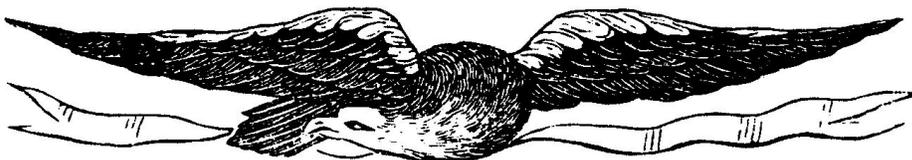
for sale which can be folded into a single, bi, or tricorn; whatever you desire. Many options can be seen in the photo above. Another option, pictured below, is the Monmouth, which is a simple stocking cap. The French toque or Liberty cap has a longer tassel that hangs down and is authentic as well.



Accessories can also vary. Leather pouches and haversacks, powder horns, canteens or gourds, cartridge boxes, knapsacks, and bayonets can all be seen throughout many of the pictures in this and previous issues.

Let's assume you have a pair of brown jeans or work pants that will get you by and a pair of leather brown or black shoes. Splatter—dashers/gaiters are \$20. A simple period slipover long sleeve under shirt is \$50. Cheapest (read as rather thin) hunting "OverShirt" is also \$50, though heavier, better quality will cost a little more. A simple wide leather belt or sash will work to hold the shirt/coat in place. Let's price that at about \$20. A canvas haversack is optional, but will hold your phone, keys, and other items and it looks good. It's the original "Man Purse" and I love mine. Price it around \$25. Monmouth cap (simple wool stocking cap) can be found for \$15. You have now purchased just under \$200 worth of clothing and would be as well dressed as many other militiamen attending SAR events. It's a start that, as time and income permit, you can upgrade, add on, and continue to have fun as a uniformed member of our fine association. Buy one piece at a time if necessary, and before you know it, you will be ready to show up in uniform.

*(Cont. on page 9)*



## What Does It Cost (cont.)

As previously mentioned, there are many suppliers for clothing and accessories. The list below is a small representation, but will give you a good idea of what you may need and where you might find it.

- <http://jas-townsend.com/>
- <http://smilingfoxforge.com/>
- <http://www.bethlehemtradingpost.com/>
- <https://www.thequartermastergeneral.com/store/>
- <http://www.fortdowning.com/>
- <http://www.crazycrow.com/site/>
- <http://www.colonialuniforms.com/>
- <http://www.just2tailors.com/index.php>
- <http://www.revwarssupplier.com/index.html>
- <http://www.fugawee.com/>
- <http://www.militaryclothing.com/Revolutionary-War.aspx>



and of course, check out <http://www.ebay.com/> for what you might find. I have found everything from quality “right priced” items to some that are dubious and over-priced. Just like everything else you shop for online.

On a personal note, I have had good experiences with Smiling Fox Forge, Jas-Townsend, Fort Downing, Crazy Crow, and Military Clothing. Crazy Crow has occasional sales and is among the lower priced providers. Fort Downing is not a mass producer of clothing and has excellent service in custom alterations as needed from my orders with them. (NOTE: Any “Made-to-Order” clothing request needs to be accompanied by very careful measurements sent to the tailors.....Ask me how I know).

I hope perhaps this article has sparked an interest in joining us at the next event, dressed out in a military uniform. Join us in the Georgia Color Guard. I can assure you, it is much more fun than watching from the sidelines.

| Item                    | Options                                    | Cost         |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Pants                   | Breeches / Trousers                        | \$50 - \$100 |
| Socks                   | Multiple colors                            | \$6 - \$20   |
| Shirt                   | Cotton / linen                             | \$20 - \$80  |
| Coat                    | Hunting Coat / Cloak                       | \$70 - \$350 |
| Suit (Coat & Waistcoat) | Matching / Complementary                   | \$90 - \$175 |
| Footwear                | Buckle Shoes / Boots / Moccasins / gaiters | \$30 - \$140 |
| Accessories             | Hat / Scarf / bags                         | \$25 - \$100 |



## GRAVE MARKING CEREMONIES AT MIDWAY

At the end of April 2017, a multi-patriot grave marking ceremony was held in Midway, Georgia, located in Liberty County. Five graves were marked in the ancient cemetery across from Midway Church. The area is truly a wonderful place filled with history, and you should make every attempt to attend next year, when more patriot graves will be marked in the historic cemetery.

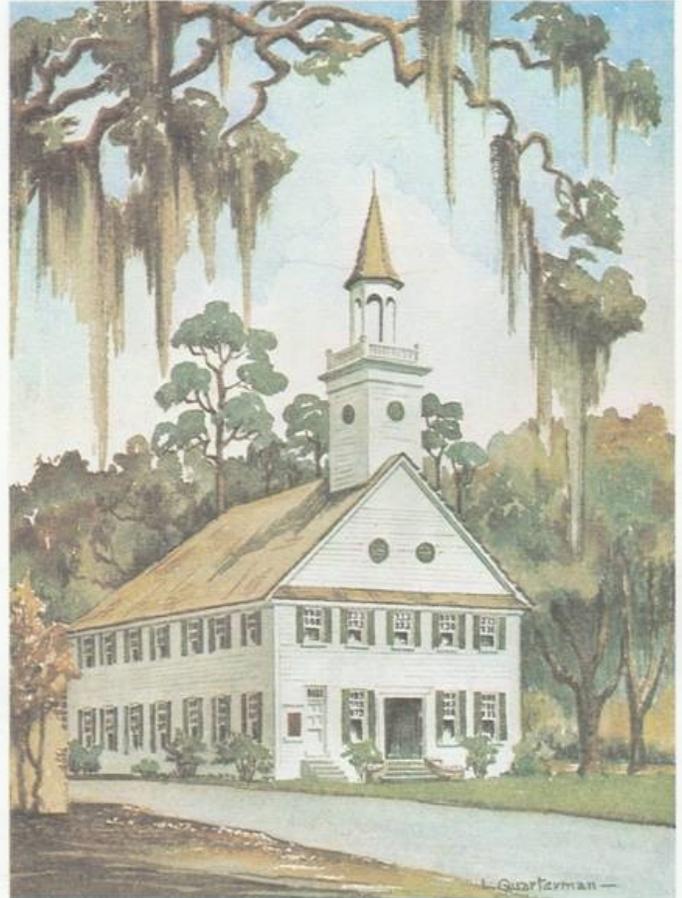
Midway community's history dates back to the 18th century. Puritans (yes, Puritans lived in Georgia too) migrated to St. John's Parish, Georgia, from Dorchester, South Carolina, in 1752 and established several settlements including Midway. The Council of Georgia granted them 31,950 acres as colony officials desired large numbers of settlers in the area. Not only would more settlers develop a strong agricultural economy, but they would also help protect the Savannah area from possible Creek Indian incursions. The original Midway settlers were primarily rice planters and developed a strong community, aided by the 1,500 slaves they brought with them from South Carolina.



Stewart—Screven monument in the historic cemetery across from the Midway Church.

Midway was an early proponent for independence from Great Britain. In May 1775, Lyman Hall (a Midway Church member) was sent to the Continental Congress as a delegate from the Parish of St. John. A year later Hall and Button Gwinnett, a St. John's Parish resident, signed the Declaration of Independence, along with George Walton of Augusta. According to records, another Midway resident, Nathan Brownson, served in the Continental Congress from 1776 to 1778 but was not among the signers. Liberty County was formed in 1777 from territory belonging to the parishes of St. John, St. Andrew, and St. James.

The Midway Congregational Church was established in 1752, but the original building was destroyed during the American Revolutionary War by the British. The two-story building was rebuilt in 1792.



*Historic Midway Church, Erected 1792  
Liberty County, Georgia*

Bulletin cover for the Service held at Midway.

## MIDWAY GRAVE MARKING (CONT.)

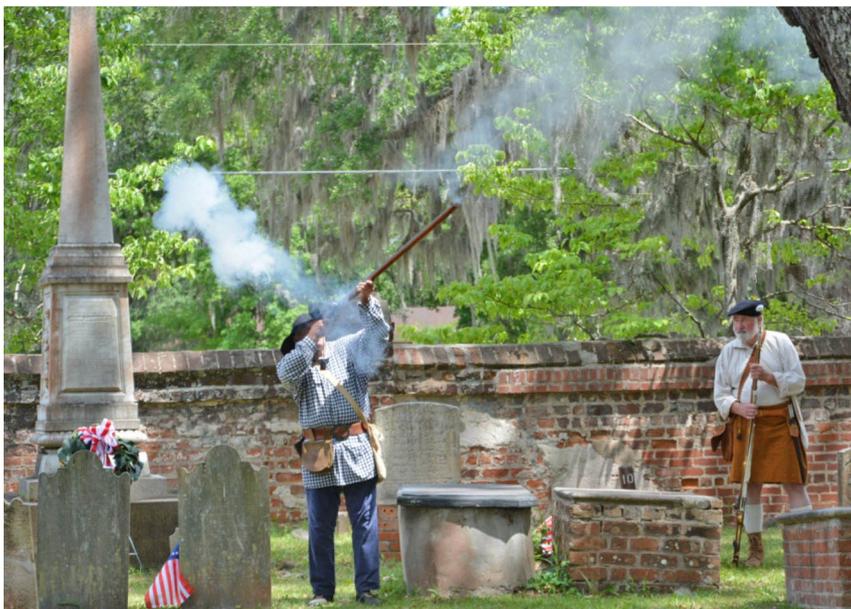
The religious welfare of slaves was given consideration by the people of Midway. During church services, "black" members were seated in the upper story gallery, with whites in the pews below. It was in this rebuilt church that we attended service.

Each April, the Midway Society conducts an annual service commemorating the town's settlement. This was the service in which the Color Guard presented the colors. After the presentation, we settled into pews for some singing, a baby dedication, and a sermon. Picnic lunch was provided on the grounds afterwards, and then we proceeded across the street to the cemetery.

The cemetery contains many old tombstones, a number of which date back to colonial times. Among those buried here are two American Generals who served in the Revolutionary War, Daniel Stewart and James Screven. In 1915 a large monument was erected in the center of the cemetery and dedicated to these men. The service for the grave marking was held in front of that monument.



*The cemetery is filled with tombstones that tell of past life and hidden mysteries.. Below, one of five individual salutes as each patriot was honored.*



A musket salute was fired at each of the five graves being marked, and a volley was fired as a group towards the end of the service. Taps was played (always an emotional moment for any veteran) while the militia performed "Mourn Muskets", where the muskets are slowly lowered muzzle first to the ground, and the head is bowed. Muskets are slowly retrieved and returned to position of attention. The service ended and then an opportunity to take photos of and with the Color Guard was the final end note.

*(Cont. on page 12)*

## MIDWAY GRAVE MARKING (CONT.)

Participation in patriot grave markings is not only a fun and appropriate way to recognize, and pay homage to our forefathers, but is a great reason and opportunity to join the Georgia State Color Guard. Members can participate with Uniform or without. You can join the militia with musket, carry a flag in processions, or present a wreath at gatherings. Any way you participate, after fifteen services you qualify for a Grave Marking Medal. Not the main reason to attend, but icing on the cake. Remember, at this one event, there were five graves being marked. Make a note, and save the date in April 2018 to join us at Midway Cemetery. You will enjoy and appreciate the experience.

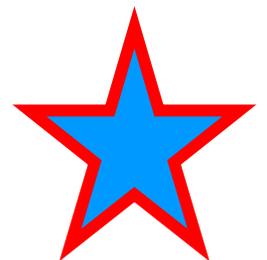


Above: Stone markers added to patriot grave sites at Midway.

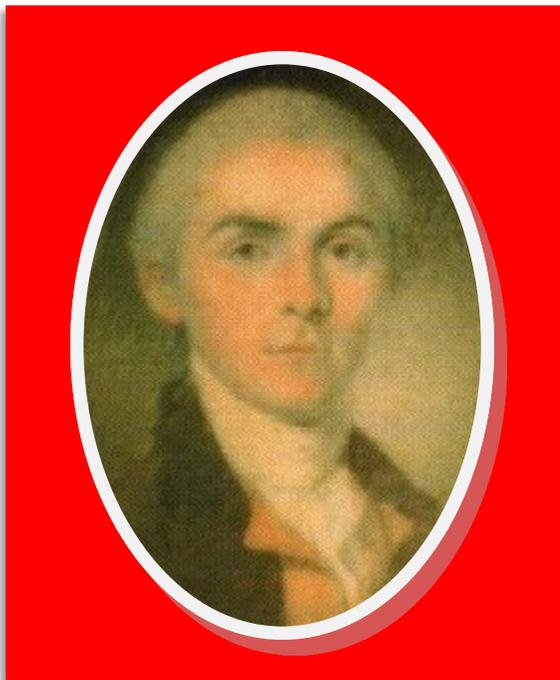
Left: Georgia Color Guardsmen attending included Robert Forsyth members, Emil Decker, (back row) Allen Greenly (middle row) and Col. George Thurmond (front row)

Below:

Mourn Muskets performed by Militia members of the Color Guard.



# SAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Robert Forsyth , First Marshal of the state of Georgia & first Marshal killed in the line of duty.



| Event   | Date             | Location                   | Level    |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Battle of Ramsour's Mill                      | Jun 17, 2017     | Lincolnton, NC             | National |
| Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg                    | Jun. 8, 2017     | Golden Corral, Cumming, GA | Local    |
| Atlanta Braves Game                           | Jul. 4, 2017     | SunTrust Park, Atlanta, GA | State    |
| 127 <sup>th</sup> Annual Congress             | Jul 7 – 12, 2017 | Knoxville, TN              | National |
| Robert Forsyth Chapter Picnic                 | Jul 13, 2017     | Cumming, GA                | Local    |
| BOM Meeting                                   | Jul 29, 2017     | Barnesville, GA            | State    |
| Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg                    | Aug. 10, 2017    | Golden Corral, Cumming, GA | Local    |
| Patriot Grave Marking                         | Sep. 2, 2017     | Elbert Co.                 | State    |
| Robert Forsyth Chapter Picnic                 | Sep. 14, 2017    | Golden Corral, Cumming, GA | Local    |
| DAR Grave Marking                             | Sep. 16, 2017    | Gainesville, GA            | State    |
| Constitution Week & William Few Commemoration | Sep. 19, 2017    | Augusta                    | State    |
| GSSDAR Luncheon                               | Sep. 23, 2017    | Atlanta                    | State    |
| Washington's Vigil                            | Sep. 23, 2017    | Mt. Vernon, VA             | National |
| NSSAR Fall Leadership                         | Sep. 28–30, 2017 | Louisville, KY             | National |
| Battle of Kings Mountain                      | Oct. 2, 2017     | Kings Mt., SC              | National |
| Siege of Savannah                             | Oct. 9, 2017     | Savannah, GA               | Local    |
| Robert Forsyth Chapter Picnic                 | Oct. 12, 2017    | Golden Corral, Cumming, GA | Local    |

## 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 held on the second Thursday of each month at "The Golden Corral", 2025 Market Place 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](mailto:guido139@yahoo.com) or any chapter officer.

### Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Aug 25, 2017. In addition to the material, please include hi-resolution imagery. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding *The Marshal* to Editor Emil L. Decker at 706-482-8248 or via email to: [eldecker@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net).

## CHECK OUT OUR

## FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

Our website, [robertforsythsar.org](http://robertforsythsar.org) and our Facebook presence, <https://www.facebook.com/robertforsythsar/> are stronger now, and looking better than ever. Visit them. Give us some feedback and perhaps a photo. Chris Russo—[guido139@yahoo.com](mailto:guido139@yahoo.com) is waiting for your input.

The screenshot shows the Robert Forsyth Chapter website with a navigation bar (Home, About, Education, The Marshal, Community, Links, Events, Officers, Contact Us) and a main content area. Key elements include a 'Join Now' button, a 'MEETINGS' section with details about the second Thursday of each month at The Golden Corral, a 'JOIN SAR' section encouraging members to find their Patriot ancestor, and 'THE MARSHAL' section describing it as an award-winning newsletter. Below these are sections for 'The Marshal Fund' (to purchase a Marshal Pin), 'Education' (Traveling Trunk), and 'Veteran Outreach' (supporting veterans through donations).