

# The Marshal

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

Issue No. 12 Fall / Winter 2017



## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

By Allen Greenly



Compatriots,

Has another year really gone by? I guess the old adage "time flies when you're having fun" is true, either that or I'm getting old, because the year has certainly flown by.

At this time of the year, it seems that we all look back to see what we have accomplished, and I think that is appropriate. But I also think it is even more appropriate to look forward. So let's start by looking back at 2017.

We started the year late. If you remember, we had to postpone our Annual Meeting from January until February due to weather. Once we got started, we had a really good year.

First, let me thank each and every one of you for your support of the Robert Forsyth Chapter over the past year. Without all of you, we would not have a chapter. I also want to thank you for your support of our activities. Without your involvement and support, we would not have been able to do as many things as we did. And finally, I want to thank you for supporting myself and all the other officers.

(continued on page 3)

## MUSKET RAFFLE DRAWS GREAT RESPONSE



By Emil Decker, Editor.

When the Robert Forsyth Chapter decided to raffle off a musket, we knew it would be a big deal. After all, the musket was no cheap toy.

No, we were giving away a Davide Pedersoli Brown Bess Model 2. We needed to sell lots of tickets just to pay for the thing. Everyone in the chapter committed to selling at least six tickets. That would just about cover the cost of the gun, but we would need to sell a lot more, if the raffle was to be a success. The musket was displayed at the River Bend Gun Club for a time, and was taken to SAR events around Georgia and South Carolina, where tickets were sold to many compatriots and members of the Color guard.

(Cont. page 2)

DONATION:  
\$20 OR 3/\$50

Revolutionary War  
Replica Musket

THE PRIZE:  
Davide Pedersoli  
Brown Bess  
2nd Model Short  
Land Musket

PROCEEDS ARE  
USED FOR YOUTH  
EDUCATION AND  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAMS



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Dispatch...1
- Musket Raffle .....1
- Kings Mountain.....2
- Grave Marking.....3
- Patriot Biography..... 7
- Calendar.....7



## MUSKET RAFFLE (CONTINUED)

Members travelled to other chapters around the state and the funds rose higher. Soon the break-even point was reached and we began to realize a net plus. Then the collections grew to a point where we knew we would be well on our way to funding our education mission.

The purpose of the raffle, providing scholarship money to students who participate in our various educational programs such as the elementary poster, the middle school brochure, and the high school essay contests was within reach. (Offering a prize of \$25 for a first-place entry is not very motivating these days.) With money raised from the raffle, we could compensate with additional funds to the students for their work.

I have to say that when the day of the drawing, December 14th arrived, the atmosphere was charged with excitement. Everyone in the Golden Corral meeting room was waiting for the moment of the drawing. Who would win? I knew everyone from the chapter would have at least one ticket with their own name on it. Surely the winner would be someone we knew. If not from our chapter, a compatriot from another group which had purchased most of the other tickets to increase our scholarship fund. So many SAR members around the state and color guards had pitched in to pick up a ticket or three.

The stubs were placed in a raffle drum and spun around and around by the President of the chapter, Allen Greenly. The manager of Golden Corral, Jennifer Hough, was present as the designated impartial witness and hostess of the selection process. The



drum was spun a final time, and the door was opened. She reached in and out came the winning stub....

*Continued on page 6.*

*Above: Pres. Allen Greenly gives the raffle drum a couple of turns to mix the tickets thoroughly. The night manager for the Golden Corral looks on. As the impartial witness and ticket selector. Photo by Emil Decker*

## KINGS MOUNTAIN 237<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



*Compatriot John Slaughter, NPS Superintendent  
Photo by Linda Decker*

*[Several members of the Robert Forsyth Chapter attended the October Event marking the 237th anniversary of Kings Mountain. The speech given by the Superintendent of the park, John Slaughter, was very compelling, and I asked for permission to reprint parts of it. The Editor]*

KIMO Anniversary 10/7/17 John Slaughter

October 7 is a special date in military history. 200 years before the victory we celebrate today the combined Christian Fleets under Don John of Austria handed the Turks their first great defeat at sea in the Straights of Lepanto destroying the Turkish fleet. Since then, this date, has been known as the Feast of Our Lady of Victory. Makes you wonder if those Overmountain Men had more than just "Fire and Sword" as their motivation to fight on this day.

*Continued on page 3.*



## 237<sup>TH</sup> KINGS MOUNTAIN ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS (CONT.)

Fellow Compatriots. I am honored to welcome you on this beautiful morning to the 237th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain where a remarkable spirit was firmly established by incredible, yet ordinary men who set a course of change never before seen on this planet. That change was built upon a notion that is needed as much today as it was 237 years ago. Patriotism!

I have to admit I find it strange that today many in our society would say we should reconsider what patriotism looks like. Some will argue that taking a knee during our National Anthem is one example of changes in the perception of patriotism. Some try to say that desecrating our American flag is an expression of some strange form of patriotism. The sad truth is many are simply attempting to make patriotism cheap.

You certainly don't have to look around too far in the media and you might see a movement to lessen the value associated with sacrifices of our ancestors or even deem that sacrificial patriotism today is irrelevant. I imagine these neighbors and their families from the Upstate of SC have no doubt of just how relevant Patriotism is today.

Marine Lance Cpl. Christopher S. Fowlkes, 20, Gaffney died Sept. 3, 2009, from wounds suffered from land mine in Helmand province.

SC Army National Guard Sgt. Shawn F. Hill, 37, of Wellford; Jan. 2, 2008, when his vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Khowst Province.

Army Pfc. Adam Ross, 19, of Lyman was shot and killed in an ambush while on foot patrol July 24 in Afghanistan.

SC National Guard Sgt. Stephen High, 45, of Spartanburg was killed on April 6, 2005 in a helicopter crash during bad weather near Ghanzi.

Sgt. Channing B. Hicks, 24, of Greer, was killed Nov. 16 with another soldier in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained during an attack from enemy forces using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Army Pfc. Geoffrey A. Whitsitt, 21, of Taylors; Jan. 13, 2010, roadside bomb, Logar province.

Marine Lance Cpl. William H. Crouse IV, 22, of Woodruff; Dec. 21, 2010, in Helmand Province, while conducting combat operations.

Spc. John David Meador II, 36, of Columbia, 1st Lt. Ryan Davis Rawl, 30, of Lexington. Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Bradford Thomas, 30, of Easley all died June 20, 2013 when a suicide bomber attacked their patrol at a checkpoint in Khost. These three patriots were all were assigned to the SC National Guard's 133rd Military Police Company, Timmonsville and died June 20 when a suicide bomber attacked his patrol at a checkpoint in Khost.

*Continued on page 4*

### PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

Our chapter was very active again this year. We participated in a lot of events. Not only did our Color Guard members attend a large number of events, but many of our chapter members also attended events. It is always great to see our members coming out and enjoying events around the state.

Speaking of the Color Guard, we now have two sources for uniforms. We currently have three of our members in uniform and I would like to see a lot more join. If you are interested, please see one of our Color Guard members.

Our membership has stayed about the same year over year. Each year we have lost a few members that have chosen not to continue for one reason or another. I believe that we need to reach out to these members and find out why they have chosen not to renew. Maybe it is something we are not doing that we could be. I would like to challenge all of us to reach out to past members and talk to them.

This past year we tried a couple of new things. We made the decision to increase the amount of money that we are giving to winners of our Youth Education Programs. In order to do this, we tried a couple of fund raising ideas. The first idea was to sell flags. We tried this leading up to July 4th. This program was a break even for us. The next idea was to raffle off a musket. We purchased a Pedersoli Brown Bess Model II flintlock musket for approximately \$1,150. We have done very well with this raffle. As of this writing, we have deposited over \$2,000 in proceeds and I know that there are a lot more tickets that have been sold. This raffle has proven to be a great success and will allow us to increase the amount of proceeds for our Youth Awards. Congratulations to all of you.

I am looking forward to next year. I see a lot of new faces stepping forward to take on new responsibilities as officers. This is a great step forward for our chapter. Our leadership new year will be a mixture of new and experienced members. I know that they will do a fantastic job.

It has been a pleasure to be your President again this year. It has been an honor and a privilege to have been chosen to lead you this past year. I am looking forward to working with the new officers next year.

Allen Greenly

## KINGS MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL (CONT.)

38 others from SC have made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I can't help but wonder if some of these patriots might have had an ancestor who also shouldered sacrificial patriotism and maybe have even understood their own connection to a patriot heritage.

I will assert, regardless of what society might state, that Patriotism is more relevant today than at any other time in our Nation's history! These places, Kings Mtn, Cowpens, Ramsours Mill, Guilford Courthouse, Camden, Brattonsville, Musgrove Mill, Blackstocks, Kettle Creek, Eutaw Springs... And the list goes on.

These places serve not only as sites where our history was created but even more so as "TOUCH STONES" for all patriots who have since served our nation and its citizens. You see these places connect our current, past and future generations of warriors to a heritage of sacrificial patriotism. When our society in general falters in honoring linkage to this heritage, it is our responsibility to not only recognize this connection but ensure that these places of hallowed ground serve as places of healing and connection to a long lineage of patriotic heritage.

Too many of our returning servicemen and women are returning to a society that has lost much of its meaning to them. Many are coming home as different people than when they left to serve. Some are coming home to others who are themselves different. It should be our goal, rather it is our duty to honor their place as living members of a national heritage of patriots, because, you see, that didn't change. Each of these patriots left as just that, keepers of our patriot spirit!

To connect our current patriots with this patriot heritage, we often rely on organizations like WLS, SAR, DAR, CAR, VFW, American Legion and others to take the lead. I want to thank the incredible staff of the Southern Campaign Parks Group and all of you for coming out today to ensure the "Next Generation" not only continues, but exceeds our efforts to connect Americans and those across the globe to the ideals, values, heritage, and spirit of who we were, are, and must continue to be as a nation of...

**patriots!**

*John Slaughter*



Monument to the Patriots who met at Kings Mountain. The day was cloudy, and rain fell erratically, but not very hard. It was much like the weather when the battle was actually fought.

Photos by Linda Decker



Above: Preparations for the event was scaled back due to the weather and the pavilion that was erected on the top of the mountain in front of the monument. Representatives from various chapters were selected to participate. Allen Greenly and Emil Decker from Robert Forsythe are seen awaiting the start of the event.

Left: Presenting the colors to the audience seated beneath the pavilion. Wreath presentations and speeches were presented on the green in between the monument and the dry audience.



## KINGS MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL (CONT.)



*Above: Sons of Liberty, a trio of fiddle playing youth with a drummer to round out the group, entertained with period music and accompanied the assembled with the National Anthem. (These kids were awesome!).*

*Above Right: This years event is believed to be the largest ever held for the Battle of Kings Mountain Memorial services. A total of 150 wreaths were placed, and several hundred members and guests were present. Overmountain Victory Trail Marchers. This group re-enacts the march over a series of days leading up to the anniversary. Note the women and even the kids with wooden muskets joined in. Most often, musket firing is not permitted by the NPS.*

*Right: The NPS bookstore even offers starter wooden muskets for young enthusiast desiring to become militia members.*

*Below: The Sons of Liberty. (did I mention how great their playing was?)*





## MUSKET RAFFLE (CONT.)

**Ruth Garza.....** I didn't know Ruth Garza. Not a compatriot. Perhaps a spouse? Girlfriend? No one in the room seemed to know Ruth. Who sold her the ticket? Nobody knew. Did anyone recognize the area code on the telephone number? It was decidedly not local. Later we found that our registrar, Chris Russo (absent the night of the drawing due to prior commitments) had been the one to sell the winning ticket. Ms. Garza was visiting the area from way out in Texas, and may have bought among one of the first tickets sold. Upon hearing the news, she was elated. (Blown away was the wording I received.) The musket would have to be shipped, and not given into the hands of the winner quickly.

*[I had hoped to have a picture of her receiving the musket for this article. We have been promised one soon after it arrives in her hands. Ed.]*

As stated above, the reason for the fundraiser was to endow our educational mission, and even after paying over a grand for the musket and misc. expenses, we made approximately \$3000. Not a bad bit of work.

An interesting side story to this episode is that, as you know so well, we are a society that has a great need for tracing ancestors and mapping our lineage. Ancestry.com is one tool that many have used, and their DNA tests have been something many have looked into with interest. How well do the tests match up? Is it worth the money for a test?

Chris told me later that Ruth was a relative he did not know about until after just such a DNA test. His grandfather, a second-generation Texan, moved back to Texas after a divorce. He found a new mate, but unfortunately died just before the birth of a new baby girl, Ruth. His family had no knowledge of this new child. Chris' mother, Cindi, and Ruth found each other through a DNA testing, three years ago, and Chris found a new aunt and four new cousins.

*The musket in its box, awaits the name of it's new owner. Golden Corral Manager, Jennifer Hough draws the winner and reads the name from ticket # 105. Photos by: Emil Decker*



Roll forward two years, and Ruth and her two new sisters had met in GA for another sister reunion. She was also visiting her nephew Chris, for the first time, when we started our raffle sales, and picked up the winning ticket.

I can imagine all our patriot forefathers gathered in the clouds looking down that night. Every one whose descendants had purchased a ticket, anxiously awaiting the news of whose progeny would walk away with a brand-new Bess, a weapon any one of them would have been proud to own. Once Ruth was selected, I can imagine them all lined up to congratulate William Curry, Mathew Cooney, William Lumley, Christopher Slinker & John

Lemmon, (a few of Ruth & Chris' Patriot ancestors) with a hand shake and a **HUZZAH!**

Wonder if I could find a new ancestor through a DNA test? They are relatively cheap, all things considered. Maybe there will be a New Year's Sale on one.

Ancestry.com currently has a DNA special running for \$79 instead of the regular \$99.

<https://www.ancestrydna.com> *[Editor Note: According to ancestry.com, AncestryDNA is the leader in DNA testing for family history and includes more than 6 million people who have taken the AncestryDNA test as well as the ability to access Ancestry, the world's largest online family history resource, which includes millions of family trees and over 20 billion historical records. We*

*do not endorse any DNA test over any other, but include this as an example of what you might be interested in. Other DNA tests include: MyHeritageDNA, LivingDNA, GPS Origins, and Vitagene among others.]*

Charles Word was born between 1738-1740 to Charles Word Sr & Sarah Collins in New Kent County, VA. Charles married Elizabeth Adams and fathered seven children between 1772 and 1779. Elizabeth Adams, according to family history, was kin to Presidents John Adams & John Quincy Adams and Samuel Adams. Charles moved to Surry County, NC from Pittsylvania Co., VA before 1777 and settled on the middle fork of the Tarrarat River of Bledsoe's Creek.

When Charles was just 17 years old, he volunteered for military service during the French and Indian Wars and was under the command of then Colonel George Washington with the 'Virginia Blues' militia. Charles most likely accompanied Col. Washington on the fateful mission to capture Fort Duquesne, during which General Braddock was killed.

Charles' brothers - Thomas, John, Peter and Cuthbert - all served during the American Revolution.

Charles, along with some, if not all of his brothers, fought under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, for whom his grandson, Benjamin Cleveland Word was named. Charles was killed at the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7, 1780. While he lay dying on the battlefield, he began writing his will. His brother, Cuthbert was captured by the British during the war and died upon the prison ship, Jersey.

Elizabeth would later marry Charles' friend, Sergeant Richard Brooks Hooper. Elizabeth and Richard Hooper had seven children together.

Some of Charles' notable kin include his great-great-grandson Asa Griggs Candler, the founder of Coca-Cola and later mayor of Atlanta and his great-great-great-grandson William Faulkner, author and Noble Prize laureate.

[Not to mention Chris Russo, our Registrar. Ed.]

Event	Date	Location	Level
Cowpens Memorial	Jan. 12-13, 2018	Spartanburg	National
Robert Forsyth Chapter Annual Banquet	Jan. 20, 2018	Tams Backstage, Cumming, GA	Local
Georgia Annual Convention	Jan. 26 - 27, 2018	Sonesta, Gwinnett Place, GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Feb. 8, 2018	Cumming, GA	Local
Kettle Creek	Feb. 9-11, 2018	Washington, GA	National
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	Mar. 8, 2018	Cumming, GA	Local
Frederica Days	April	St. Simons Is., GA	State
Midway	April	Midway, GA	State
2022 Congress	TBD	Savannah, GA	National



***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. Meal: 6:00 / Meeting 7:00.

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 Feb 28, 2018. In addition to the material, please include high-resolution imagery. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding *The Marshal* to the Editor: Emil L. Decker at 706-482-8248 or via email to: [eldecker@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net).

*The Robert Forsyth Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution Requests the pleasure of the company of you and your guest at the Fourth Anniversary Annual Dinner Meeting and Installation of Officers.*

**20 January 2018 Tams Backstage 251 Ingram Ave. 18:00 Social Hour Cash Bar 19:00 Banquet**

**RSVP by 12 January 2018 Ed Rigel 770-757-6070 \$40.00 per person Dress: Business Kilt or Uniform**