

# The Marshal

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

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## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Emil Decker

### MORE!

As I assume more duties by taking on the Office of Chapter President, I would like to say thanks to all who have preceded me in this endeavor. I count on having more of your wisdom, more of your support, and more of your wise counsel as I take our chapter into the next year.

My goals for the chapter are simple. More of everything. Everything good that is. More members. More attendance at meetings. More involvement at events. More sponsoring of events. **"MORE!"** Through investing more, we receive more.

I can't do **"More!"** alone.

(continued on page 5)

## A NEW YEAR, A NEW OPPORTUNITY

With the advent of a new year, we induct a new president at the helm, to guide our chapter forward into the new year. The Annual meeting was held at TAM's BACKSTAGE again, and as usual, the food was tasty, the fellowship sweet, and the opportunities for the coming year bright and plentiful.

Georgia Society President David Ludley attended, presented the program, and swore the new officers into their positions. His presentation on art from the colonial period was quite interesting, and offered new perspectives on how we view our past, as well as how they viewed themselves.

The following officers, previously nominated, and elected were sworn in:

### 2023 Chapter Officers

President: Emil Decker

Vice President: Chip Van Alstyne

Secretary: Ed Rigel, Jr

Treasurer: David Johnson

Historian: John Flikeid

Genealogist: Chris Russo

Chaplain: Byron Tindall

SGT-at-Arms: Thomas Slaughter

Registrar: Charles Meagher

Editor: Emil Decker



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As in the past, the festive occasion began with comingling and refreshment, general good fellowship, and grand discussions. After opening ceremonies, chapter members and their family and friends all settled down to a wonderful meal. Those friends included members from Piedmont, Cherokee, and of course the Georgia Society President, as well as DAR representatives from several chapters including the Sequoyah and Chattahoochee Chapters.









After Dinner, President Page awarded several members appropriate awards, and the new officers were sworn in. Awards included:

JC Hustis	Bronze Roger Sherman
Chip Van Alstyne	Bronze Roger Sherman OLC
Emil Decker	Bronze Roger Sherman OLC
Chip Van Alstyne	5 Year Service Pin
Peter Stoddard	25 Year Service Pin
Linda Meagher	Lydia Darragh
Charles Meagher	Chapter Distinguished Service



Newly inducted President Emil Decker received new epaulettes as a sign of promotion, and passed out some of the new Robert Forsyth Challenge Coins to members and guest. His first speech was mercifully short. He promised to send his Presidential Dispatches to the Editor within acceptable time, and then informed the assembled that he would, unfortunately, miss the next regular meeting. What a start to the new regime...





## President's Dispatch

Look inward at your Society commitment. Is there a way you can experience more joy, inclusion, and personal satisfaction by being a more active member of the Robert Forsyth Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution? I think so. I think by putting a little more of yourself into the effort, you will gain a lot more fulfillment than you expect.

I want the chapter to, in the words of the old army slogan, "Be all that you can be". Yes, for the chapter to be all that it can be, you must be all that you can be. I understand we all have other commitments that take precedence at times, but see if you can invest (not spend, burden, nor drain), but invest more of yourself in the chapter's activities. It truly will be an investment that you personally will see and gain benefits from.

Officers & Committee Chairs. Find a person who would be interested in what you do. Have them help you. Let them learn that your position is not that frightening. You just might be grooming your future replacement. Even if not, you get help, and they get an appreciation of what you are doing.

Let's do "More" together.

*Emil Decker,*

*President,*

*Robert Forsyth Chapter*

## Community News



To start the year off right, Pres. Gary Page and future Pres. Emil Decker present a rousing "Huzzah" and Eagle Scout Certificates to three scouts from the Cumming area troop.



Not long afterwards, J.C. and Emil accompanied members of the Button Gwinnett and Lyman Hall chapters in a traveling trunk presentation that was more focused on military aspects of the 18th century. The Apalachee High School JROTC classes enjoyed the joint presentation from the group. The presentation included a firing of the muskets, though the class had to march out to the back practice field for that portion of the event.



At the Georgia State Annual Conference, members Gary Page, Emil Decker, and J.C. Hustis earned awards, as well as participated in various ceremonies, along with Ed Rigel Jr.

Ed becomes Sr. Vice President for the State Society, while Gary and Emil continue their work in their respective offices as Chair of Americanism and Hornet's Nest Editor.

Gary and Emil both received Silver Color Guard Medals; also Silver Rodger Sherman Medals. J.C. was honored by receiving the Commander's Award by the State Color Guard Commander, an honor denoting his exemplary support.





## Community News (CONT.)

The weekend of February 10 - 12 brought the first Commemoration events of the year in Georgia, Heroes of the Hornet's Nest and Kettle Creek. Members attending included Byron Tindall, Emil Decker, J.C. Hustis, and Ed Rigel Jr. Due to the threat of poor weather conditions, (which mostly did NOT occur, or at least held off till the very end), the events were taken to backup locations, which, for the majority, were tightly crowded. Still, attendees were rewarded with some fun participation.



Friday, J.C. took the opportunity to work Steve Burke's traveling trunk at Elijah Clark State Park during the Heroes of the Hornet's Nest Event. *[No, that's not an error.... When the Georgia State Park was named, they somehow left off the "e" from Clarke.]*



Leslie Watkins, DAR extraordinaire, was dressed as usual in 18th century garb. The chili, cooked up by Compatriot Don Thomas was fully enjoyed before the event commenced.

Emil, far left in burgundy waistcoat, fires with the militia, as J.C. was among the Color Guard carrying flags.

Later in the evening, Emil was joined by Byron and Anne Tindall, and members of the Cherokee SAR Chapter and the Sequoyah DAR at the Kettle Creek Battlefield Preservation Banquet.



Next Day, with the weather still holding back, we all arrived in Washington, GA to start the day's festivities for Kettle Creek.





Yes, behind all that smoke is Byron and Emil, firing multiple volleys of musket salutes.

J.C. carries the American Flag for the Washington Downtown parade and recognition to the black patriots at their monument.



Ed Rigel joins in the parade with one of many revolutionary era flags.



In the War Hill reenactment, somebody has to be the Loyalists. Emil and Byron fire several volleys as the enemy, before Col. Boyd dies. . . Then they run away!





## Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

### Washington's Spies

Historian Alexander Rose researched and published this informative book about spy rings that were developed by the Patriots during the American Revolution. The setting is primarily around New York as the war settled down in the north to this area.

As any commander knows, he is in desperate need to know of the enemy he is facing, his strength and intentions. In 1778 George Washington himself established a spy ring to bring him this information about the British occupying New York.

The most famous spy ring was called the Culper Ring, so named by Washington, himself from Culpeper County, Virginia where he had worked as a surveyor. In intelligence circles, ciphers do not repeat letters, thus, the shortening of Culpeper to Culper.

Rose covers the Arnold – André episode, a doomed Nathan Hale and Hale's friend who ran the Culper Ring. The use of disappearing ink, ciphers and codes were tried but seldom brought satisfactory results for one reason or another. Getting valuable and reliable information in a timely fashion to the Commander was an ongoing problem.

Interestingly, there is an alternative story about Nathan Hale not previously discussed.

Two tricorns.



ISBN 0-553-80421-9 Washington's Spies by Alexander Rose,  
A Bantam Book 2006, \$26.00

*George Thurmond*

## Community News (CONT.)

David Loudon attended the Washington Birthday Celebration at the Washington Monument in Gainesville GA as a Color Guardsman. He was also joined by President Emil Decker, Ed Rigel Jr., and J.C. Hustis.



Spring Leadership was kind to Robert Forsyth Chapter. Our own Allen

Greenly was not only the recipient of the **National Color Guardsman of the Year**, but was also selected as a **Minuteman**, the highest award offered by the NSSAR. Way to go Allen !!



Last day of the first quarter saw J.C. Hustis and Emil Decker once again working with Lyman Hall Chapter displaying artifacts for home schoolers, parents, and a couple of bus loads of students at the Fort Yargo 18<sup>th</sup> Century Market Faire.



## Stoddard's Stockade

In my previous columns, you read about Emanuel Downing, my 9th great-grandfather. ([Edition 20, Stoddard Ancestral Ties to the Salem Witchcraft Hysteria](#)). My immigrant ancestor Anthony Stoddard married Emanuel's daughter Mary Downing, who had a dastardly brother, George, ([Edition 22, #10 Downing Street](#)). Not to mention Mary's own letter to her dear Papa, ([Edition 26, Papers of the Winthrop Family, Volume 3](#)). Here's a little more info on Emanuel.

King Charles kicked out Parliament on March 2, 1629. Charles ruled with no Parliament for 11 years.

This March 6 letter from Emanuel to his brother-in-law John Winthrop breaks the news that Parliament was dissolved. Doors got locked, and grown men cried.

Their Puritan friends in Parliament were sent to the Tower of London and other prisons. That is what eventually led to Puritan Oliver Cromwell seizing power and Charles getting his head chopped off in 1649.



<http://www.masshist.org/publications/winthrop/index.php/view/PWF02d037>

### Emmanuel Downing to John Winthrop [03-06-1629]

To his louinge Frind John Winthrop esq. at Groton these dlr. Suff.  
My good brother,  
I am glad you returned home soe well, and founde them soe there; the newes yeasterday vpon thexchange was, that the Dutch haue taken the second parte of the Spaynishe plate Fleete

One Monday morning the Parliament mett, and presently soe soone as they were sett there came a messenger mr. Maxwell of the bedchamber from the king to dissolve the howse, mr. Littleton tendred a Demonstrance to the Speaker to be read, he refused, the howse comaunded him, he weepes and offers to goe out of the chayre, he was by force kept in, manie cryed out with him to the barr and choose an other in his place, they comaunded the Serieant to lock the dore, ere the Messenger entred, he durst not, vp riseth a Burgesse and offers his service, they all willed him lock the dore and bring away the key, they comaunded the Clarke to reade yt, he answered that he was to reade nothing but what was past and entred in the booke, then mr. Littleton goes into the next roome and burnes the Demonstrance, vp riseth Hollace one of the lord of Clares sonnns, and declares to the howse the somme and heades of the Demonstrance, to this effect; that all those are enemyes to this Church and Common wealth that seekes to bring in these new opynions, And that those merchantes shalbe reputed enemyes to this state that shall yeald tonnadge and poundadge before yt be graunted in Parliament. And the Conclusion was most sharpe and cruell against the Lord Treasurer and the Bishop of Wynchester;

One Tuseday mr. Seldon, mr. Littleton, and 3 more were sent to the Tower, Sir Peter Heymond and others to the gatehowse, more sent for, all are close prisoners that are comitted, mr. Seldons study is sealed vp, this morning I was told that there be 2 barges attending at Whytehall to carry some noblemen to the tower, and that the Customhowse dores are shutt vp for that the officers dare not sett to demaund Custome, I heard yeasterday at Charing Crosse that the Customers of Lynn were beaten out of the



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Winthrop#/media/File:JohnWinthropColorPortrait.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Winthrop#/media/File:JohnWinthropColorPortrait.jpg)



Customhowse, the good lord torne all to a good yssue, soe with myne and my wives dewty to my mother with our love to your selfe and my good sister etc. I rest your verie loving brother

Em: Downinge.  
London,

Winthrop, Downing and others were already planning their move to the New World. Winthrop led the fleet and departed on April 8, 1630. Downing stayed in England, helped sell Winthrop's estate, lodged, and looked after John Winthrop Jr, and shipped cattle, horses, furnaces and other essentials to Boston.

Grampa Downing did not move to Massachusetts until 1638, no doubt walking a fine line to avoid the Tower of London himself.

*Peter Stoddard*



### 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 unheard of battle was most pivotal for the eventual outcome of the American Revolution?

I guess it depends on how much you know of the lesser and greater battles in that conflict. There are several excellent answers that cover important battles such as Kings Mountain and Saratoga. IF you use the phrase, "unheard of" or perhaps "Not as well discussed", then this battle, while not quite as pivotal, was a vital point in the war that is almost never talked about.

The battle I refer to is the Battle of Assunpink Creek. It is also known as the Second Battle of Trenton, which took place in between the First Battle of Trenton and Princeton. Essentially, it saw a force lead by George Washington fight off repeated British assaults that threatened to destroy the Continental Army. Following the American victory at the Battle of Trenton, the Continental Army was by no means on top of the world. Though their morale was high, they remained underfed and were undermanned. British general William Howe was pressing Washington's Army with a enormous force.

By January 2nd, 1777, Washington found himself in an undesirable position. His 7,000 men at Trenton would meet the full force of General Howe's army with the unenviable position of being unable to retreat. There wasn't sufficient time to cross the ice-clogged Delaware River to escape into Pennsylvania before Howe reached them. Washington knew if Howe won a decisive victory here, he could erase Washington's Trenton victory of the previous week. He would then be able to march on Philadelphia, forcing the Continental Congress to sue for peace.

American General Joseph Reed, having grown up around Trenton, realized that the Continental Forces could make a stand at the Assunpink Creek behind Trenton, the only crossing of the creek being a narrow stone bridge. Washington took his advice, and positioned his army behind the bridge. The British launched repeated attacks to try to cross the bridge, however, Washington's army stood firm.

One soldier, John Howland of Rhode Island, wrote, "....The firm, composed, and majestic countenance of the general inspired confidence and assurance in a moment so important and critical. I was pressed against the shoulder of the general's horse and in contact with the general's boot. The horse stood firm as the rider, and seemed to understand that he was not to quit his post and station."

Grapeshot tore through repeated British efforts to cross the bridge. Within an hour, 365 British soldiers lay dead, while the Americans suffered only 55 casualties. If Washington's forces had not held the bridge, the war could have been lost.

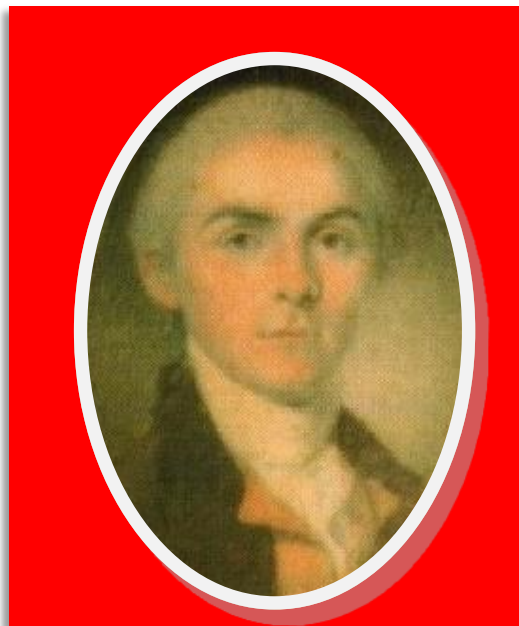
Thanks to the Battle of Assunpink, the Continent Army bought a night of respite before the British attacked the next day. Washington used this break to sneak around the British lines, escaping his perilous predicament and winning a stunning victory at Princeton the next day. After that, the revitalized Continental Army would spend a hassle-free winter at Morristown, and continue the fight against the British the coming spring.





## SAR Calendar of Events

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*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 30, 2023. 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@weeagr.com](mailto:eldecker@weeagr.com)

Event	Location	Date	Status
Frederica Naval Action	St. Simons Island	Apr 15, 2023	National
Grave Marking Compatriot Robert Wylie	White Oak Presby., Senoia, GA	Apr 16, 2023 3:00 p.m.	State
Interment of 14 Patriot Soldiers, Camden Battlefield	Camden, SC	Apr 20 - 22, 2023	National
BOM	Barnesville, GA	Apr 29, 2023 10:00 a.m.	State
Midway Church Service	Midway, GA	Apr 30, 2023 11:30 a.m.	State
Grave Marking Patriots (5)	Midway, GA	Apr 30, 2023 2:00 p.m.	State
Battle of Pensacola	Pensacola, FL	May 8, 2023	National
Memorial Day	Various Locations	May 27-29, 2023	National
Flag Retirement	Cumming, GA	Jun 10, 2023	State
Freedom Fireworks	Washington, GA	Jul 1, 2023	State
Independence Day	Various	Jul 4, 2023	National
133rd Congress	Orlando, FL	Jul 15 - 21, 2023	National
BOM	Barnesville, GA	Jul 29, 2023 10:00 a.m.	State
Battle of Eutaw Springs	Eutaw Springs, SC	Sep 1 - 2, 2023	National
Vigil at George Washington's Tomb	Mount Vernon, VA	Sep 16, 2023	National
Constitution Day	Various	Sep 17, 2023	National
SAR Fall Leadership	Louisville, KY	Sep 21 - 22, 2023	National
Georgia State NSDAR Fall Forum	Details soon	Sep 30, 2023	State
Kings Mountain	Blacksburg, SC	Oct 7, 2023	National
Siege of Savannah	Savannah, GA	Oct 9, 2023	State
Victory at Yorktown	Yorktown, VA	Oct 19, 2023	National
BOM	Barnesville, GA	Oct 28, 2023 10:00 a.m.	State
Grave Marking Patriot Capt. Jacob Higginbotham	Elberton, GA	Nov 4, 2023 11:00 a.m.	State
Veterans Day	Various	Nov 11, 2023	National