

The Marshal

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OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

By Emil Decker



So here we are, in the sultry days of summer. Not much stirring, with very little opportunity to "sweat-up-a-storm" in a woolen suit. Still, we are planning and moving towards some activities later this summer, so I recommend everyone examine those opportunities closely. See where you can participate. Being in the SAR is more than just paying a membership fee and showing up at monthly meetings.

Our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony was held on June 10. We had a pretty good crowd of people at the event. Maybe our best attended. Glad I saw you there.... I didn't I? We celebrated collecting over 3,000 flags this year (we could collect a lot more). Flag Day. One of the things we could / should do is promote the proper display of the American Flag. There are lots of businesses out there who deserve to be recognized, and that is another way the SAR can be promoted in the community.

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FLAG RETIREMENT 2023

Back in business! Well, we never really were out of business, but clouds surrounding Covid caused perhaps a drop in attendance. Not this year! A record number of attendees were at the Joint Robert Forsyth / Piedmont Flag Retirement Ceremony held at Ingram Funeral Home Chapel this year. Over 3,000 flags were collected and reported, along with a few more brought in by participants.

Flags are collected by John Flikeid, Emil Decker, and Chris Russo from our two drop boxes located in Home Depot stores in Cumming and Dawsonville. Piedmont also services Home Depot stores in their area. DAR and C.A.R. members attended and participated. This is our premier event, the first we ever hosted, and I am proud to say that Ingram has been our partner throughout.

As we vary the program, this year, while the C.A.R. and DAR helped inspect the flags for serviceability, we folded and explained one flag, describing the process and how each fold has a special meaning. We retire so many flags, we cannot fold all of them, but we do retire them all with the respect and honor they are due.

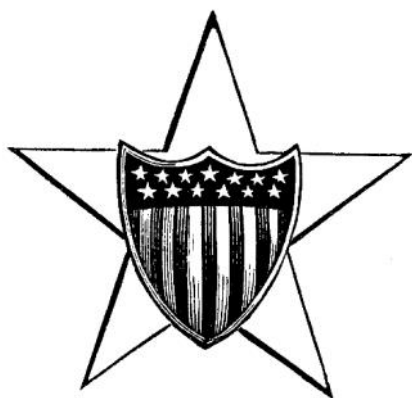


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FLAG RETIREMENT 2023





President's Dispatch

Let's break our record and give out some Flag Recognition Certificates Seriously, one certificate would break our current record of Zero. We've done well with Flag Retirement Certificates, but who among us has gone out and honored a business with a Flag Recognition Certificate? You don't even have to wear a uniform.

Showing up for the July 4th (Independence Day) Parade down Cumming's Tribble Gap Road to the fairground? The crowd loves seeing us in uniform, and whether on a float, the back of a truck, or walking along the route, we give honor to those who came before, honor to those who served as we see them passing by, and celebrate our country's birthday in grand fashion. We should be able to fill up several trucks, trailers, and make a big scene.... Should, I say, but will we?

The SAR is also dedicated to marking and recording patriots into the records. This gives us an opportunity to honor their service, meet their descendants, (increase membership ???) and put points on the board in yet another way. Service..... Did I mention service? How are you going to support our upcoming grave marking service? On August 26, we will be gathering at Pine Log UMC Cemetery and Church Campground for two patriots memorialized there. How are you helping?

We are supposed to work diligently on expanding educational opportunities, and not just in schools. Therefore, September 16, the Saturday before Constitution Day, we will be presenting the Colors for a picnic in the Roswell area. We will set out our traveling trunk and will be mingling with the Historical Society folks there. It should be a good recruiting opportunity. Maybe a fundraising option for those looking into such things. Surely you want to participate in that event?

We have discussed civic obligations and opportunities to help with a workday at the Sherrill house. Sitting quietly off Old Federal Road, a white house made of old wood and history greets those who escape to Eagle's Beak Park. We have been invited to join the Local DAR and pitch in to help better this experience for everyone by working to get their garden back into shape. Maybe we could convince them that the place would look better, invite more attention if we placed a 250th anniversary bench and Liberty Tree there? Probably be easier to persuade them if we donate some time with our labor. The next scheduled workday will be October 28th. Maybe we could put that into the schedule?

The SAR is so much more than a few bucks and a certificate of membership. You get out of it, what you put into it. Let's see if we can put a little more effort into bringing the face of the SAR into the public's view a little more than we have been. What do you say?

*Emil Decker, President,
Robert Forsyth Chapter*



Community News



Left: Robert C. Jones, a long time professor from Kennesaw University, who has written 50+ books on various historical topics, including the Civil War, Revolutionary War, World War I & II, the War of 1812 and ghost towns, presented "Daniel Boone in the Revolution" to our April meeting.

Below: April 30, the Patriots of Liberty C.A.R. Society was very happy to receive a gift of two flag sets, a U.S. and Georgia State flag from our chapter.



Below Left: Compatriot Emil Decker and Compatriot Ed Rigel Jr. attended multiple Honor's Nights to present awards to students. Here Emil returns to South Forsyth High School, where he taught for many years.

Right: Students from West Forsyth High School received their awards and certificates as well.



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

The Army of the American Revolution and its Organizer: Rudolf Cronau's Biography of Baron Von Steuben

This is a story than needs telling and retelling. It was Baron Von Steuben who molded our troops into an army, capable of fighting and defeating the best army in Europe. Time after time, the American army met defeat. Washington, himself, only won one third of the battles where he served as the Commander-in-Chief. Not only that but Baron Von Steuben volunteered to serve without pay until his services were evaluated after the war when he would receive pay based on his performance.

The author begins the story with the arrival of Baron Von Steuben in America and his assignment to Washington's staff at Valley Forge. Here he was asked to organize the American Army based on his credentials as having served on the staff of Frederick the Great. One of his first activities was to publish a manual for the American army – no small feat as the Baron did not speak, read or write English. His instructions were taken down, translated into poor French, then correct French and finally translated into English. He personally took charge of drilling the troops, unheard of at the time. He quickly became a favorite of those under his care, whipping them into battle shape in short order.

The Baron also made a significant contribution to the American cause by developing a system to control the equipment and weapons issued to the troops. Until his arrival, when a soldier's enlistment was up, he went home with his government issued musket, thereby depleting the weapons of those still fighting. He put a stop to this practice and under his management, the control and availability of muskets reached a high-water mark.

It fell to Baron Von Steuben to supervise the disbandment of the army once the war was concluded. Von Steuben also suggested the creation of the Society of the Cincinnati. New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia thought so well of Von Steuben that they awarded the Baron a total of 23,000 acres of land. A statue of Steuben stands in Lafayette Square across from the White House and a monument at his tomb in Oneida County, New York.

Four tricorns.



ISBN0 7884-1066-0, Heritage Books, 2004 Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann, \$17.50

George Thurmond

Community News (CONT.)



Above: Vickery Creek MS Brochure Winner. She won at State as well.

Below: Chestnut Mt. Elementary Poster winners.



Below: Will Tims accepted a Flag Retirement Certificate for the Martha Stewart Bulloch Society, C.A.R. for their continued



participation in the flag retirement program.

Below Left and Right: Robert Forsyth honors Cumming Home Depot with a Flag Retirement Certificate for hosting the flag receptacle box in their store. Manager Dave Groppi accepted for the HD crew. Dawsonville managers Stephanie Smith and Monica Cherry accepted on behalf of their store.



Left: Member Michael Shore is inducted into the Chapter, the Rosette being pinned on by his wife.

Below: The Barfields, Bruce, Harold and Michael, two brothers and their father, were officially recognized as members of the SAR. Their rosettes were pinned on by wife and mother, two of each You figure it out. Another brother and two grandchildren, not present, were also recognized as members.



Left: Emil Decker presented his Medical Practices of the 18th Century to the Lyman Hall and Little River Chapters in May. Both he and his partner in Traveling Trunk and Grave Marking Events, J.C. Hustis, have earned their Gold 250th Anniversary Medals for their continued efforts in promoting the SAR and the upcoming 250th Anniversary of our nation.

Stoddard's Stockade

Every family has its rogue. We Stoddard's have an occasional "normal person" amidst the rogues. Not me. I am descended from Rev Anthony Stoddard of Woodbury, but I ain't descended from this Rev Stoddard.

John Stoddard – Revolutionary War veteran, Congregational minister and descendent of a long - established Connecticut family - pushed his life onto the rocks at the age of 30 when he decided to sell his wife.

Born in Woodbury, Conn., in 1767, John Stoddard was the great-grandson of Anthony Stoddard, pastor for 61 years at the town's First Church. Several sources list John as a private in the "Connecticut Line," the troops that Connecticut had to provide to fight the American Revolution.

In September 1786, John married Phebe Northrup from Washington, Conn. The couple had two children while John studied the ministry. After traveling some, Stoddard arrived in Jamaica, Vt. Then in 1794, John Stoddard became pastor of the Congregational Church there.

The Congregational Church was the second church in Jamaica. The Baptists had



previously established a church. In a town vote, Stoddard was not officially called to serve as minister, but the town did give him land. It had previously given 100 acres to the Baptist Church for use of its minister. It split that grant in half and gave half to the Congregational Church for use of Stoddard.

Stoddard was part of a small increase in immigration that to Vermont. Families from southern New England had found their prospects stifled at the end of the Revolution. So, they travelled to rural Vermont to establish their fortunes.

Stoddard didn't last long as pastor, however. Because he sold his wife. Wife-selling was not unheard of in the early days of America. An "old" custom, it came from Great Britain where the upper class had difficulty breaking the marriage bond. Divorce was both rare and expensive. And generally, the courts required a cause, such as desertion or adultery. A husband could sell his wife to another man for a few shillings or other compensation. It was sort of a precursor to no-fault divorces.

Often the wife directed the sale because she already caught the eye of her future husband/buyer. But at the very least, the wife needed to support the sale. Because if matters came to court, selling a wife could get sticky.

In 1645, Bagett (Bygod) Egleston of Windsor, Conn., had to pay a fine of 20 shillings for selling his wife Sarah. Sarah, much younger than Bagett, had hounded him so much he wished to get rid of her. It resulted in the court's involvement, thus the fine.

And Alice Morse Earle in "Colonial Dames and Good Wives", reported on another wife sale gone awry. Buyer's remorse, it seems. The story appeared in the Boston Evening Post: March 15, 1736.

"Boston. The beginning of last Week a pretty odd and uncommon Adventure happened in this Town, between 2 Men about a certain woman, each one claiming her as his Wife, but so it was, that one of them had actually disposed of his Right in her to the other for Fifteen Shillings this Currency, who had only paid ten of it in part, and refus'd to pay the other Five, inclining rather to quit the Woman and lose his Earnest; but two Gentlemen happening to be present, who were Friends to Peace, charitably gave him half a Crown a piece, to enable him to fulfil his Agreement, which the Creditor readily took, and gave the Woman a modest Salute, wishing her well, and his Brother Sterling much Joy of his Bargain. The meagre sale-money, fifteen shillings, was the usual sum which changed hands in England at similar transactions, though one dame of high degree was sold for a hundred guineas."

In 1797, Rev. Stoddard sought an honorable dismissal from his post with the church. A dismissal without the word honorable attached simply would mean he had left the church — probably in bad graces. An honorable dismissal would signal to any other churches that Stoddard had been a good minister and, should he be looking for work, he should be considered. The church denied his request, and instead appointed a council to hear complaints against Rev. Stoddard, of which there were many.

Ezra Livermore charged him with deceit in relation of the manner of his coming to Jamaica, but the council thought that while there was a show of it, there was no intention of deceiving.

(cont. page 8)

"We recommend to pastor and people, solemnly and faithfully to examine themselves at this day when the frowns of Providence are so evidently upon them. Be entreated, beloved, to inquire impartially what you have done amiss, and humble yourselves before God under his rebukes.

Imitate the meek and if any man have a quarrel against any as you hope to obtain forgiveness of your Father in Heaven. Let all wrath and malice and bitterness be put away from you with all strife. Be guarded, brethren, against a spirit of division, seek the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace. Be careful and tender of each other's character, with charity, disposed to cover rather than to magnify each other's faults."

With that, Stoddard was dismissed. Funny thing is, the wife was happy with the sale. The congregation was not.

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. He will see that it gets to me.

When the Revolutionary War began, the most experienced soldier in North America was Charles Lee. Was Charles Lee a traitor along the lines of Benedict Arnold?

There was a theory (popular at the time) that Charles Lee conspired his own capture by the British.

Charles Lee was a half-pay British officer who had risen to Major General in the Polish army before moving to Virginia.

Lee was chosen to command the American forces. He often expressed a number of political opinions showing him less than dedicated to the cause of independence.

Like John Dickenson, Charles Lee believed that reconciliation was the best outcome for the colonies. He failed to hide his contempt for Washington, whom he considered a military amateur.

In December 1776, Lee was seized at an inn near Basking Ridge, New Jersey, by a party of British dragoons. Circumstances suggested he had arranged his own capture. Lee's capture was much celebrated by the British, yet he spent a comfortable winter literally partying with the British staff in New York. Lee was exchanged for another officer in time to take command of a unit of the Patriot army at the battle of Monmouth.

The British force comprised 11,000 British and German regulars, over 1000 Loyalists from Philadelphia, and a baggage train 12 miles long, with a British rear guard. Let's just say it was large.

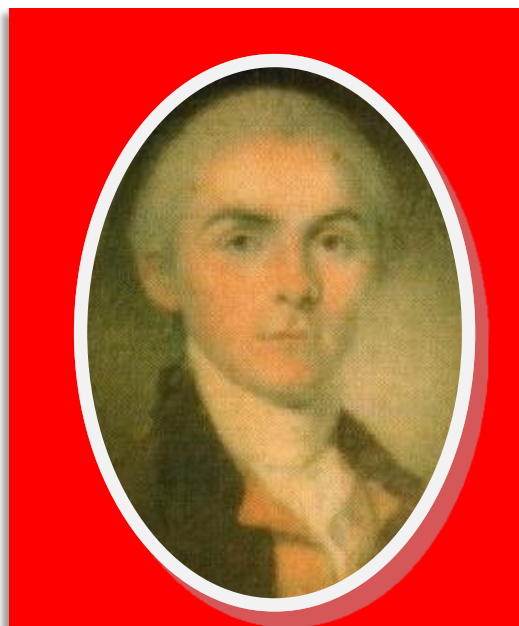
American skirmishers slowed their advance by burning bridges, muddying wells and building abatis (wooden obstacles and felled trees) across the roads. Washington sent Charles Lee and 6400 troops to attack the British column.

Lee should have coordinated an attack, halting the British and enabling the main American army under Washington to attack from the rear. Instead, Lee gave no orders to his commanders during several hours of fighting and permitted them to commit their troops as they saw fit.

When Clinton counterattacked, Lee ordered his badly deployed troops to fall back immediately. Washington brought up 7,000 men to support Lee. Charles Lee had a lack of confidence in his men and issued a string of questionable orders that caused a retreat before the advancing British regulars. Washington rode up to Lee on the battlefield, had heated words with him, and relieved him of command on the spot. General Charles Scott of Virginia, who witnessed the confrontation between Washington and Lee, wrote, "[Washington] swore on that day till the leaves shook on the trees, charming, delightful! Never have I enjoyed such swearing before, or since. Sir, on that ever-memorable day he swore like an angel from Heaven." The Marquis de Lafayette, who was nearby, replaced Lee on the field and turned the tide of the battle.

Washington later drew up court martial papers citing Lee for his conduct during and after the battle. Three days later, the board returned and found Lee guilty of disobeying orders in the face of the enemy, and disrespecting the commander-in-chief. Returning to Virginia in 1779, Charles Lee learned that Congress intended to dismiss him from the service. In response, Lee wrote a scathing letter that resulted in his formal dismissal from the Continental Army. Charles Lee immediately moved to Philadelphia and resided there until taking ill and dying on October 2, 1782.

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. 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 or any chapter officer.

Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Sep 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@weegrr.com

Event	Location	Date	Status
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
Grave Marking Compatriot	John Collins Chapter	Aug 05, 2023 11:00 am	State
Grave Marking Patriots (2)	Rydal, GA	Aug 26, 2023 10:30	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
Siege of Augusta	Augusta, GA	Sep 16, 2023 1:00 pm	State
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 23-30, 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
Grave Marking Patriots (2)	Fairview Presbyterian Lawrenceville, GA	Oct 21, 2023 2:00 pm	State
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
Come and Take It	Fort Morris Sunbury, GA	Nov 18, 2023 10:00 am	National
Battle at Vann's Creek	Elberton, GA	Dec 02, 2023 11:00 am	State
Wreaths Across America	Various	Dec 16, 2023	National