

The Marshal

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

Issue No. 35 Fall 2023



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

By Emil Decker



As the old frog once said, "Time's fun when you're having flies". Time has indeed seemed to fly lately. I have hopped like an old toad from one event to another. I have given presentations across several chapters in the Georgia Society and attended grave markings for patriots and compatriots alike.

Our traveling trunk has been presented a couple of times recently, and as we head into fall (and much cooler weather, I hope), we still see many opportunities to show our nation how the Sons of the American Revolution honor and hold dear the principles of liberty that our nation was founded on.

If you have not had an opportunity to attend a chapter meeting lately, or a commemoration event, or have not even communicated with your fellow compatriots via email, phone, or text, I ask you to think about why you joined, and encourage you to get back into the cycle of participation. We miss you each time we meet and you are not around, and we certainly need the extra pair of hands you can provide as we continue our mission. Or should I say missions!

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GRAVE MARKING 2023

Pine Log United Methodist Church, Cemetery, and Campground was the site of our August Dual Grave Marking Ceremony. Pine Log is located in Rydal, Ga., Bartow County. The grave marking was for two patriots not buried there. "?" There is a memorial marker for the pair, but their bodies lie in an unmarked mass grave in North Carolina.

James **P-152144** was born in 1727 New Londonderry, Ireland, and immigrated to the Colonies. While living in Chester County, Pennsylvania, son John **P-152148** was born Dec. 25, 1749; William **P-152149**, in 1751. Mary Elizabeth and James Y. S. Dysart followed.

It is through the Pension paperwork for John that we discover the fate of his father and brother.

General Nathanael Greene, in his "Race to the Dan", as it was called, gave orders to General William Lee Davidson to slow the British Army's crossing of the Catawba River. Early in the morning of February 1, 1781, the British moved to "force a passage" at Cowan's Ford, a private ford, guarded only by Lieut. Thomas Davidson with twenty-five men. Gen. Davidson rallied several hundred patriots to battle the British there, and for a few minutes the action was lively; the militiamen were able to pick off many British soldiers struggling in the water. Once the British established themselves across the river, their return fire became heavy. Hardly had Gen. Davidson arrived when he was struck from his horse. In a few minutes, 3 other Americans were killed, and the patriots retreated. Unfortunately, both James and William were among the dead.

The battle took place only 12 miles from James and Margaret's home, where she and her daughter Mary Elizabeth and son James Y. S. Dysart could hear the battle begin with small arms fire echoing in the distance.

At the conclusion of the battle of Cowans Ford, searchers found Gen. Davidson's dead body stripped naked by the British. His friends and wife buried him, James, William, and the other patriot hastily by torchlight five miles away at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. The British lost over 100 soldiers. The Americans lost 4. The Dysart family accounted for half of the losses.



GRAVE MARKING 2023



Above Left: Descendants of James Dysart unveil the marker during the dedication.



Above Right: The Color Guard was split with the National Colors to the left, and other colors to the right of the table.

Right: The dual marker for both father and son. The stone was placed at the base of the memorial stone up the hill in the cemetery.



Right: 1st Vice President of the Georgia Society, Ed Rigel Jr. gives honors.

Below: Robert Forsyth President Emil Decker was the Master of Ceremony for the Grave marking Program.



The Marshal

GRAVE MARKING 2023

Jul - Sep 2023



Left: Even though it was a hot August morning, there was a sizable crowd at the event.

Members of the Georgia Society, Tennessee Society, DAR and C.A.R. were in attendance.

The Grave Marking was Co-Sponsored by the Robert Forsyth Chapter, Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, Button Gwinnett Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Etowah, Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter.

Right: The Militia fired a traditional 3 round volley.



Below Left: The Militia then performed the "Mourn Musket Salute" for the patriots.

Below Right: Members of the Robert Forsyth Chapter (missing several who attended, but didn't get to the photo session).





Left: Carl (left) and Benjamin Watkins, newest members of the Chapter, wasted no time in preparing to join the Robert Forsyth militia.



Left: Carl was joined in the firing line by both Byron Tindall (2nd from left), & Gary Page, (right).

Below: Gary Page renders honors as a member of the Descendants of Valley Forge and Sons of the Revolution.



Left: Chaplain Byron Tindall stepped out of the firing line to offer the Invocation and Benediction.



President's Dispatch

While the calendar year may be moving toward a rapid end, the school year is just beginning to find its stride. We need to redouble our efforts if we are to match the banner time we had last year regarding youth contests and recognitions.

All of you all should have received a "snail mail" letter from me regarding the funding of our educational programs. Please consider a contribution in place of the hard work required to sell raffle tickets. We can make this happen with style and grace, and with a small donation of your money - instead of your time being spent trying to sell your neighbors a chance at a prize. If you didn't receive my letter, please let me know. Your information in the National Database may need updating.

Speaking of the national database, you truly don't want to be dropped from it as "no-longer affiliated." It takes real effort to get your membership reinstated, so as the year ends, NOW is the time to make sure your membership is renewed. Yes, the cost has gone up a tiny bit, but if you are honest with yourself, it is an infinitesimally small amount and just a minor inconvenience to stay in the organization you joined and love. Here's to a fantastic finish to the upcoming final quarter, and the start of a new year. Oh, and don't forget to submit your name to the nominating committee for a place on the staff. We need officers, just like you, to make it all happen.

*Emil Decker, President,
Robert Forsyth Chapter*



Above: The Robert Forsyth Traveling Trunk and SAR information was shared with the attendees, along with the Piedmont and Patriots of Liberty DAR and C.A.R.



Left: Colors presented.

Community News

Below: First GASSAR V.P. Ed Rigel Jr., representing Robert Forsyth and the state society at an event in KY. We have seen Ed traveling a lot as First VP for the Georgia Society, getting ready for the Presidency that comes at the first of next year.



Below Right: The Robert Forsyth Color Guard, 3/4 in uniform, were led by Commander Rick Reese Jr. to present the colors for the Milton Historical Society Constitution Picnic. Here they lined up to march around and present the colors, in proper order once they did a "U turn" onto the field of play. Carrying the colors were President Emil Decker, Carl Watkins, David Johnson, and Chris Russo.





Above: JC Hustis and Emil Decker joined GASSAR Color Guard at New Hope UMC's Patriotic Sunday.

Below: (L-R) Chris Russo, Emil Decker, John Flikeid, and Gary Page joined the C.A.R. Patriots of Liberty at the Cumming 4th of July Parade.





Left: J.C. Hustis was joined by our all time favorite DAR representative Lesley Watkins, as well as several others not seen at the Gainesville location, the NE GA History Center for the Homeschool extravaganza. Photo taken just before the chaos broke out!

Below: September saw Bill Goodman tell us about "That Damned Presbyterian War: How the Irish and Scots won the American Revolution".



Left: Newest members Carl, and son Benjamin, Watkins were inducted in September. Carl has already joined the militia and participated in the August grave marking. We all need more members like Carl.

Below Left: Mrs. Watkins pins the rosette on Carl.

Below: Emil Decker shared animal pelts with the Homeschool gang at the History Center in Gainesville.



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

John Quincy Adams

By Fred Kaplan

I am a glutton for reading. This is a 570 page book that is a “window that covers almost 70 years of early America development”. Nothing I have previously read comes close to the numerous events included in John Quincy’s lifetime.

At age 10 young John Quincy accompanied his famous father to join Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee in Paris to further the interest of the Confederation. In France, he quickly learned to speak French while receiving a European education that included Greek, Latin and law. This was followed by a trip to St Petersburg as a private secretary to Francis Dana who was appointed as minister to Russia. He was in St Petersburg when Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in 1781. He would later return with this wife Luisa as minister.

John Quincy left the country as a boy and, in 1783, he returned as a man. All his life he maintained an interest in reading and writing poetry and desire to serve the public. Over the years he would travel across the ocean several times and visit most of the major European cities on official business for the United States. His famous father’s name would open the door many times as John Quincy met a considerable number of notable people of the day. Over time he became a much sought after speaker for special occasions.

After serving as James Monroe’s Secretary of State, he was a natural to be selected as our 6th President. Quincy remained an abolitionist his entire life and accordingly served only one term. During his first year, he was host for Lafayette as America’s guest of honor on his 1824-1825 visit. He would later serve in the House of Representatives for the rest of his life, actually dying on the floor of the house in 1848 at age 80. During his lifetime, he met most all of the notable patriots of the American Revolution and was undoubtedly the most traveled of them all.

ISBN 978-0-06-191541-3 HarperCollins Publishing

Four Tricorns



George Thurmond

Community News (CONT.)

Below: Not present at the picnic was J.C. Hustis. J.C. had the honor of attending the Washington Tomb Vigil at Mount Vernon, VA.



Stoddard's Stockade

Editor: I received an email from Peter after the latest publication in which our friend and expert, Lionel Hildebrand, wrote of the infamous Charles Lee. It ultimately set off a series of emails from Mr. Stoddard.

“Hello Emil, [[link to an article: Charles Lee: Washington's Most Arrogant General](#)]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71rFFwGuIbY>

Oh great. Washington's most arrogant general is my kin. Distant yes, but still kin. **[as found online Family Search . com]** My 8th cousin, 6 times removed.

HUZZAH!!!

[Who else is Stoddard related to? Did you really want to ask that??.....the Editor]

Last week via **familysearch.org** I discovered I am kin to every ex-president or their wives except Martin Van Buren.



[How did Martin escape the infamy??.....the Editor]

Even Nobama, whose mother is a distant cousin. I will exclude mention of that so as not to taint *The Marshal*. **[I didn't exclude.....the Editor]**

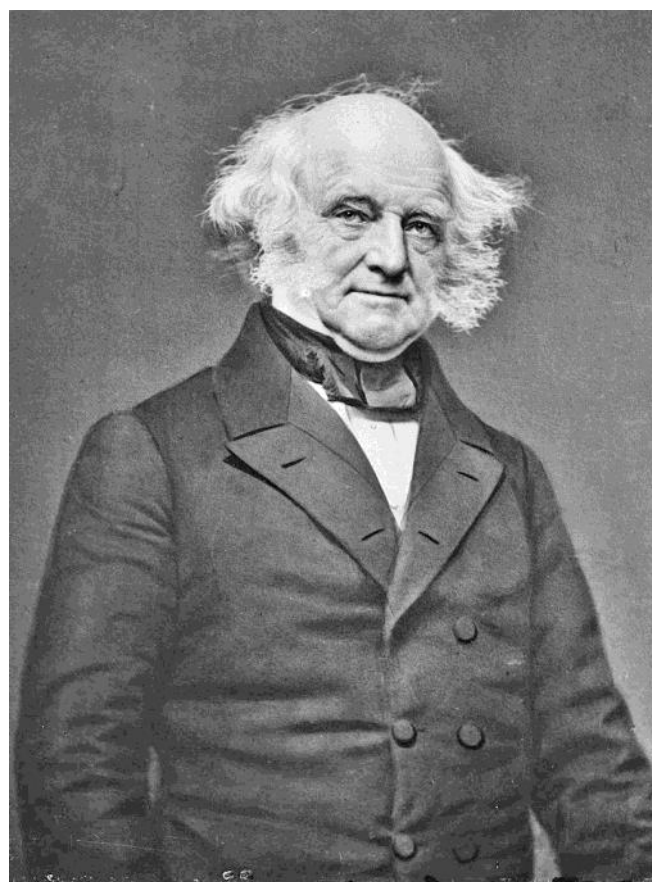
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/martin-van-buren/>

Martin Van Buren was the eighth President of the United States (1837-1841), after serving as the 8th Vice President and the 10th Secretary of State, both under President Andrew Jackson. While the country was prosperous when Martin, called the “Little Magician”, was elected, less than three months later the financial panic of 1837 punctured the prosperity.

When the panic began. Hundreds of banks and businesses failed. Thousands lost their lands. And for five years the United States was wracked by the worst depression thus far in its history.

I dare not look at the Bidens. I might take up narcotics if Hunter is anywhere on the tree.

HUZZAH!!!



By Mathew Benjamin Brady - Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=98813>

Hot dang. I just learned that Georgia's Governor George Walton is my Cousin. He served briefly as the second chief executive of Georgia in 1779.

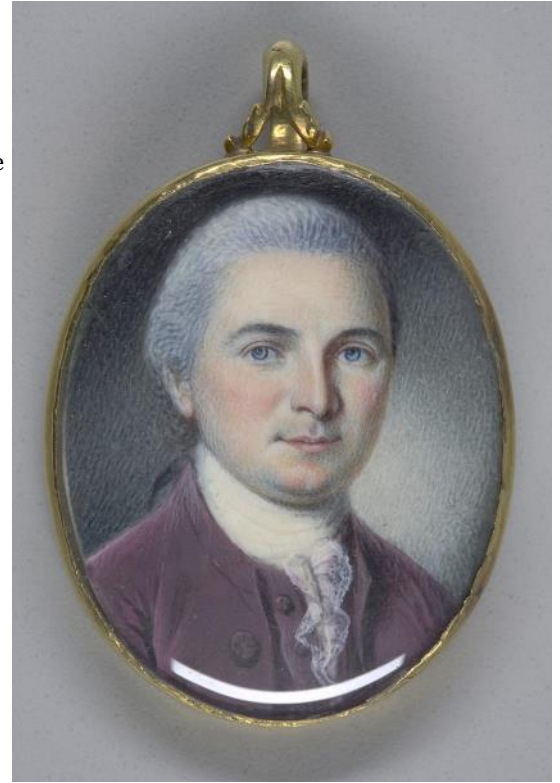
Take that Lewis Grizzard.

My intrepid sons' high school in Cobb County is named after him until they get woke because he picked his nose and change it to something like "Inoffensive in Any Way to Anyone High School".

HUZZAH!!!

By Charles Willson Peale - Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=92379172>

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.

Why did soldiers in the 1700s wear coats made from wool when they were fighting in brutal heat? The heat of the battle of Monmouth during the American Revolution was supposedly brutal.

Under ideal circumstances, each soldier received a uniform consisting of a wool regimental coat with linen under clothes in the spring, and a wool regimental coat with woolen small clothes in the fall. (Small clothes, as you should know, includes shirt, waistcoat, breeches or trousers).

Wool has a number of intrinsically advantageous attributes that make it the choice for year round uniforms.

One of these — possibly the most important — is that it maintains its properties even when wet (whether due to rain, snow, or sweat). Wool has a very unique and precious property over

cotton or linen, in that it keeps you warm even if it's soaking wet. It also does this without overheating your body. The secret to both of these seemingly contradictory facts are the tiny pockets of air within each wool fiber that provide both thermal insulation and breathability.

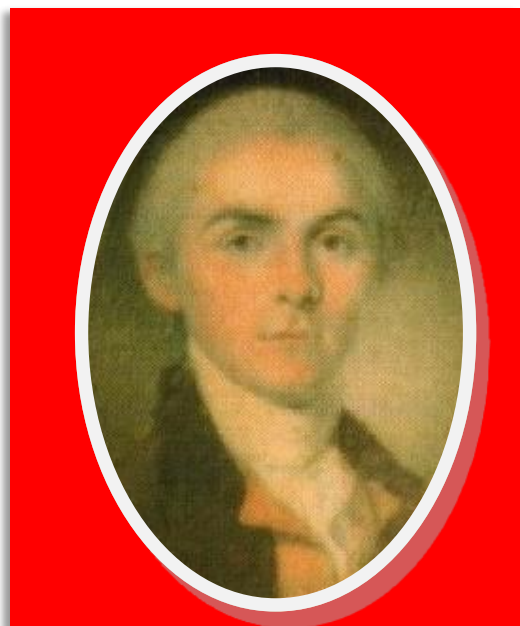
As an SAR militiaman, you should already be aware that it is also resistant to catching fire from flintlocks and black powder. It will smolder rather than break into an open flame. Synthetic materials can burn or melt and stick to your skin.

The fiber of Wool is incredibly flexible and durable. One fiber can be bent back more than 20,000 times without breaking and is said to be comparatively more resilient than steel. Wool fibers can be stretched as much as 50 percent of their original length when it's wet and about 30 percent when dry. Wool is also resistant to mold and mildew.

Armies across many centuries and around the world have turned to wool for their basic uniform needs. For the American military, heavy cotton twill was used for decades even though that material was heavy, hot to wear, and took a long time to dry. Let's stick with wool.



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 Dec 20, 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
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) John Bagby and Philip Isley	Fairview Presbyterian Lawrenceville, GA	Oct 21, 2023 2:00 pm	State
Liberty Tree	Toccoa River Park, Veteran Memorial, McCaysville, GA	Oct. 25, 2023 11:00 am	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
Grave Marking Patriot Colonel John McIntosh	Mallow Plantation Cemetery Pine Harbor, Georgia	Nov 17, 2023	State
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	Honor Guard at State Capitol for NSDAR	Dec 11, 2023 12:00 pm	State
Wreaths Across America	Various	Dec 16, 2023	National
Georgia Society Annual Meeting	Sonesta Hotel Duluth, GA	Jan 26 - 27, 2024	State
Heroes of the Hornets Nest	Elijah Clark St. Park	Feb 9, 2024	State
Kettle Creek	Washington, GA War Hill	Feb 10, 2024	National

