

The Marshal

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



Issue No. 37 Spring 2024

PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

By Christopher Russo



The 250th Anniversary of signing the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America is quickly approaching. We are reminded of the sacrifices our Patriots made in service to colonies that led to the formation of this great Republic. As members of the SAR, there will be plenty of opportunities to participate in events commemorating the milestones leading to breaking with the Crown and establishing an independent nation. Many chapter members joined the Boston Tea Party by sending packets of tea, which were thrown overboard into the harbor on the 250th anniversary. I encourage all Compatriots to explore how they can join in the celebrations. Here are some suggestions:

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2024 - ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting looked a little different this year. We met at Provino's in Cumming where our meals were obviously Italian in look and taste. Everyone present was looking sharp and seemed happy with the event. Our officers were inducted by one of our own, Senior Vice President of the Georgia Society, Ed Rigel Jr. Not long after our event, the State Conference was held and Ed became Georgia Society President.

Our current officer slate did not change that much, except for the momentous occasion of Compatriot Decker being replaced by Compatriot Chris Russo at the helm. Past President Decker became Vice President, as President Russo took control of the Chapter.

It was a very special event, as this marked the 10th anniversary of our founding. Our own Ed Rigel Jr. was our guest speaker. The GASSAR Senior Vice President, and soon to be State Society President gave a presentation on the counties of Georgia which were named for Revolutionary soldiers, members of Congress, and even members of England's Parliament that supported the concept of a free nation of The United States in principle.



Chris was joined by his wife and daughter, and Ed by his wife. In fact, many of the members were accompanied by their spouses. It was a large crowd once everyone arrived.

The meal was member choice from a varied menu, and every one of us seemed pleased with the setting. I believe we may have found our next year's banquet site as well.

(continued on page 2)



President: Christopher
Michael Russo
Vice President: Emil
Decker
Secretary: John Flikeid
Treasurer: David
Johnson
Historian: John Flikeid
Genealogist: Chris
Russo



Chaplain: Byron Tindall
SGT-At-Arms: Thomas
Slaughter [Acting Corporal-At-
Arms: Carl Jackson]



Registrar: Charles Meagher
Editor: Emil Decker

Byron Tindall received the
Chapter Distinguished Service
Medal; Tom Slaughter received
the Chapter Meritorious Service
Medal; J.C. Hustis (not present)
also received Chapter
Meritorious Service Medal; Anne
Tindall was awarded the Lydia
Darragh Medal; and Carl
Watkins received his Military
Service Medal.



Chip Van Alstyne, Chris Russo,
Tom Slaughter, Emil Decker,
David Johnson, John Flikeid,
Byron Tindall, Charles Meagher,
and Ed Rigel all received an Oak
Leaf Cluster for their continued
service in behalf of the Chapter.

First VP Rigel swore at,..... er, I
mean swore in the new and
returning officers, then officially
swore in our new president,
Christopher Russo.





President's Dispatch

- ☞ Attend chapter meetings. We meet 2nd Thursday of each month at the Golden Corral in Cumming.
- ☞ Inquire about being a chapter officer. We grow as an organization with more involvement from our members.
- ☞ Join a committee. Ask an officer for more information.
- ☞ Become part of the Color Guard or Militia. Everyone loves a man in uniform.
- ☞ Participate in chapter, state, and national events. Our annual Flag Retirement ceremony will take place at Ingram's Funeral Home in June.
- ☞ Take part in our Traveling Trunk presentations at a school. Compatriots Decker and Hustis both educate and entertain the audience every time and welcome more to be part of the education outreach program.
- ☞ Who doesn't love a parade?! We march in the Independence Day Parade in downtown Cumming alongside Patriots of Liberty Chapter, Children of The American Revolution and our sister DAR chapters.
- ☞ Become part of the speakers' bureau and make a presentation at a SAR, DAR, CAR meeting, or a local community organization.
- ☞ Honor another Patriot and submit a supplemental application. Our chapter Registrar, Charles Meager, will be more than happy to answer questions and help you get started.
- ☞ Tell the story of your Patriots. Write a biography for your ancestor, so that it can be included in the Patriot Research System and featured in an edition of The Marshal.
- ☞ Bring friends and family to our meetings and events. The more the merrier. Maybe they will join our chapter.
- ☞ Order a copy of our 10th Anniversary Chapter Book. Compatriot Flikied has done a fantastic job of documenting our first decade.
- ☞ Recommend an award or medal for a Compatriot who has made a meaningful contribution to the chapter, Society, or the community. Compatriot Decker will show you how.

There is so much more in store for us over the coming years. Stay tuned for announcements and get involved.

I look forward to celebrating America through and with our Society and with all of you.

Patriotically,

Christopher Russo

President, Robert Forsyth Chapter

Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution in the Carolinas & Georgia By Benson Loosing

In conducting my genealogy, I learned that the best source is one closest to the actual event. In *Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution in the Carolinas & Georgia*, author Benson Loosing traveled, in 1848, thousands of miles through the original thirteen states and Canada. The results of his travels were published in 1850 at the conclusion of his travels. This book deals with the portion of the American Revolution in the Carolinas and Georgia.

Author Loosing wrote as he traveled, so the stories are not chronological, but geographical. He was a good artist and sketched many scenes as he traveled. There were still some alive who fought in the revolution and he was able to interview them for inclusion in his publication.

Loosing's mission was to collect and preserve and with this publication, he indeed accomplished his mission. You will find the details of most all engagements in the Carolinas and Georgia great reading.

Three Tricorns 

ISBN 0-9723240-4-6, Dram Tree Books, Benson J. Loosing, Edited by Jack E. Fryar, Jr., \$19.95
Original publication 1850 This edition 2004

The First American Army By Bruce Chadwick

Author Bruce Chadwick indicates that this is the untold story of George Washington and the men behind America's first fight for freedom. This is a close glimpse at the men on the front lines as told from research conducted from the records that they kept.

First up was a 15 year old, Private John Greenwood, who served as a fifer. He volunteered to serve at Bunker Hill despite pleas by his mother. Another Private, Jeremiah Greenman fought under Benedict Arnold and wound up as a prisoner of war. It was during this time that Smallpox decimated the troops serving in upstate New York.

Private Greenwood reappears and participates in the Battle of Trenton. Several other individuals left good track records and their stories are most enjoyable to read.

This is the first publication I have read that goes into details about the Black Rhode Island Regiment that fought with distinction.

The miserable conditions underlying Valley Forge and Morristown are described in detail as are the stories of several other enlisted men and a few officers. All of the stories have one thing in common – all truly admired and respected George Washington.

I highly recommend this publication.

Four Tricorns 

ISBN 010: 1-4022-0506-6, Sourcebooks, Inc, 2005 by Bruce Chadwick, \$24.95

George Thurmond

COMMUNITY NEWS



Terry Manning presented the February program for the chapter. His topic was "Tea Party Tidbits". A background history of what led to the party, and some interesting facts about the tea, the ships, the Sons of Liberty, and more were presented, with some surprising details revealed. (Yes, that is a tea bag attached to Terry's Certificate of Appreciation.)

Chip Van Alstyne received his Grave Marking Medal from the State. Chip has attended/participated in 15 Patriot grave markings to earn this medal.



J.C. Hustis received several back awarded items, including supplementals, OLC's, and a Chapter Meritorious Service Medal.

Several Compatriots finally got their 10 year pins. (L-R) John Flikeid, Charles Meagher, Chris Russo.



J.C., Emil, and the Traveling Trunk helped the Scouts of Troop 26 in Gainesville, GA learn about life in the 18th Century.



Gentlemen. For those who do not know, for the past few years I have researched and compiled a listing of uniform parts and pieces to help those wanting to assemble uniforms for militia or continental uniforms. Makes your shopping easier. Not a complete listing, nor, with prices changing daily, totally accurate, but I hope my research helps you in your search for the perfect suit. If you know of other sutlers, let me know, as I am always ready to add new sources.

I have updated "The Well-Dressed Guardsman" for 2024. Most items are the same. Some have been dropped by the Sutler, some added. Some price changes.....up a little, but most are still within reason. If you have anyone interested in searching the internet for uniforms, there are several vendors to choose from, and this booklet will help narrow their selection..... Well, at least maybe the time spent browsing. Enjoy.

<https://www.robertforsythsar.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/The-Well-Dressed-Guardsman-2024.pdf>

The Well-Dressed Guardsman



Right: Byron Tindall as Color Guardsman at the Heroes of Hornets Nest.



A Quartermaster's purchasing guide to outfitting yourself as a Member of the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard

By Emil Decker,

RE - Published 2024



Above: J.C. Hustis helping present the Skunk Brigade's Traveling Trunk to the Lincoln County students attending the morning session at Heroes of the Hornets Nest.

Right: J.C. and Emil Decker joined forces with Lyman Hall members Pres. Carter Wood, Michael Watkins, and DAR member Leslie Watkins to present the Winder-Barrow JROTC classes a lively exhibition of Traveling Trunk items, as well as discussion on military weapons of the period, including flintlock firing.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Left: J.C. Hustis and Emil Decker wanted to give a local Cub Scout Pack 133 an opportunity to participate in the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. A brown tarp was thrown over the counter in the church meeting room in the basement at Bethel United Methodist Church in Dawson County, and a blue tarp was placed on the floor to represent the bay. While the date of our visit was in January, we thought it was still appropriate, since the news that traveled to Charleston and other ports south of Chesapeake took time, and therefore it was an authentic delay.

The Scouts were informed of the circumstances surrounding the Revolt against the East India Company, their tea, and the actions taken by the Sons of Liberty in Boston. They created their Native American personas with face paint and by making feathered headbands. They were then invited to “Toss the Tea” into the harbor.

I know, I know..... The original tea was not in tea bags. Neither was the tea in small crates that a person could pick up single handed, but let’s not let the facts get in the way of the concept. [Can you imagine the mess we would have made on the basement floor if we had attempted loose tea leaves?]



TEA PARTY FACTS:

- ☞ The tea tax was only 3 pence to a pound of tea
- ☞ There were 342 chests of tea, each weighing 400 lbs.
- ☞ The chests held more than 45 tons of tea
- ☞ 1 - 2 million \$\$ worth of tea in today's money was dumped
- ☞ No one was hurt, and aside from the destruction of the tea and a padlock, no property was damaged or looted
- ☞ The Sons of Liberty swept the ships’ decks clean before they left.
- ☞ After Boston, there were at least 10 “tea parties” up and down the Eastern seaboard.

As each member of the Pack stepped forward to dump a crate of tea, members of the Local Boy Scouts Troop 109 helped re-package the tea bags tossed into the bay by raking them up into another crate and passed back onboard to help keep the simulation going.

A photographer was there to capture the moment, (just like the engravers and painters were there at the dock in Boston for the original setting).

After all the members helped in the civil disobedience, they were rewarded with a Certificate of Participation in the Tea Toss.







Mrs. Teeny Gillespie's 100th birthday offered us an opportunity to both honor a WWII veteran, (SPAR - Women's Coast Guard Active Reserve) and also present a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to someone who has been a good citizen longer than most of us have been around.



Stoddard's Stockade

Editor: Sometimes Stoddard can be rather endearing... OK, maybe that's not quite the word, but this flashback on his life and tragic houseboat sinking are a part of what makes him such an interesting character.... And his ancestors too!

I have privately confided to many about the abundance of God things that have happened since my houseboat sank on October 3, 2017 – and even before, but that's another story.

Many believe the Titanic went down on October 3, 2017, but no. It was the **USS Dawg.House.Boat** that succumbed that day. And not to an iceberg, but to a leaky water heater valve.

I piggybacked with my Lake Lanier Bald Ridge Marina neighbor for Wi-Fi, which was out that day. The repairman had knocked on her door earlier, but she did not hear the knock, thus, I was at Bald Ridge's Smokey Q BBQ borrowing their WiFi. That same neighbor phoned to ask what was going on. I asked her what was going on. She said, "Your boat is sinking!"

I sped in my car only minutes away to discover the boat was not sinking. It had sunk. Not to the bottom of the lake, submerged about 3 feet and still tethered securely to the dock.

After closing the electric breaker I boarded the vessel and removed a few family heirlooms.

There are so many examples of so many people coming to the rescue in just the nick of time. Folks answering prayers I did not even pray. Astonishing, inexplicable things.

This is one example.

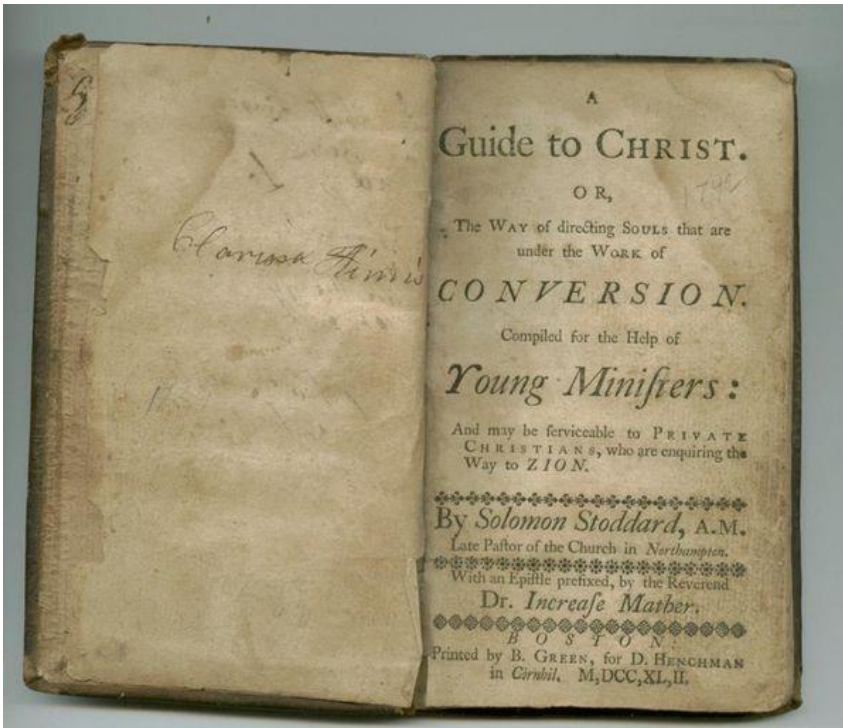
My first thought when the boat was sinking was not of TVs or other items of value.

It was of this book, a 1742 printing of *A Guide to Christ*, written by my 7th great-grandfather, Solomon Stoddard, sometime before his 1729 death. It is an instruction manual for young New England ministers, still in print today.

<https://www.heritagebooks.org/products/a-guide-to-christ-stoddard.html?>



(cont. page 6)



I knew the book was submerged and likely lost or ruined. I purchased it 15+ years ago on eBay for \$350, but to me it was priceless. In those days books were very rare in private households. This one had the same inscription by various owners, “my book”, repeated with names and dates owned as it was passed down through the 1700s.

As the boat sank I ran to the rear and retrieved the book, plastic wrapped in a bedside stand drawer, but indeed soaked. I set it aside and grabbed stuff of far less sentimental but higher dollar value.

The next day, among a bazillion calls I had to research and place was one to Smythe Books of Dunwoody GA, a local rare book dealer and restorer I found via online search.

<https://www.smythebooks.com>

I phoned and reached Jim Strawn, the owner. We agreed on a time for me to drop the book off the next day. I did so and awaited Jim’s report by phone, as neither of us had time to look at the book together that day.

Jim called and left a voice message that he regretfully could do nothing to save the book. I was stunned and disappointed, to put it mildly. When I reached Jim he explained in bookbinding terms I could not understand why the book was beyond salvation.

I simply requested that he do what I would do - but that he was likely better at than I. Go through page by page with tweezers, separate the pages and dry them to prevent the piece from becoming a solid petrified block. Jim agreed.

I advised there was no rush, to please take his time, as I had many issues with which to deal. Weeks later Jim called to report the book was a mess but saved as requested. I thanked him profusely, then asked what I owed and held my breath. I knew the effort had to have taken many painstaking hours.

I was floored when Jim replied, “Oh I can’t charge you for this. Just put a donation in the collection plate at your church.” I stammered and hemmed and hawed and asked him to explain. He again replied in bookbinding terms I did not understand that what he did was not a restoration.

I’ll add here that Jim also saved two other newer and less valuable but still antique Solomon Stoddard books – at no charge. The work must have taken several days or a week – page by meticulous page. I still don’t get it.

I picked up the books today. This was the first time I met Jim in person for more than 45 seconds and the first time I met his wife, Judy. I thanked them again. Profusely. And I must confess I teared up.

If you ever wish to buy, sell or restore a rare book please call these blessed people. Please tell them I referred you, but please do not tell them I suggested they might work for free. I still don’t get it. All I can do is give thanks.

Jim & Judy Strawn

Smythe Books LLC

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www.smythebooks.com

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 was blue the uniform color of the Americans during the Revolutionary War? Was it because it was cheap like the British red?

Each colony had its own rules for uniform colors and the militia tended to turn out in any cloths that they thought practical. Most militia turned out in civilian clothing; sturdy wool coats, or in linen hunting frocks, the clothing of the backwoodsman. These failed to approach anything looking like a military style or standard, but were well suited to the fluctuations of weather and physical exertion. Unbleached linen (grey-cloth), actually white, or dyed grey, brown, tan, blue, green, and even purple (with matching and contrasting fringes) were worn. Only red seems to have been avoided, possibly because the substitute dye ran easily in the presence of perspiration, and, of course, it was rather similar to the British uniform.

Many militia officers attired themselves in a linen hunting frock and tattered overalls, adorned with a dingy ruffled shirt, gorget, sword, and sash of raw silk. The need to distinguish between officers and the rank and file was the subject of one of Washington's earliest general orders (July 1775).

Attempts were made to achieve a uniform presentation at least among the states, but no quantity of wool in single color was available. Blue was chosen as the base color for general officers of the staff, and for several states, but grey, brown, green and even red were used. Ultimately Washington devised a system by which the facings (lapels, collars, turnbacks, and cuffs) might designate the region of the colonies from which troops came.



For artillery regiments, the uniform was to be blue, faced and lined with scarlet, with yellow buttons, the coats to be edged, and the buttonholes to be bound, with narrow lace or tape. The light dragoons were to wear blue faced and lined with white, with white buttons. The blue coats of the infantry regiments were all to be lined with white, and have white buttons, and states were distinguished by different colored facings: the New England states, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, white facings; New York and New Jersey, buff facings; Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, red facings; North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, blue facings and buttonholes edged with narrow white tape.

In October 1778, the French sent a shipment of lightly used uniform coats in blue and brown with red facings. These were assign to regiments by lot. This circumstance somewhat destroyed the overall color scheme envisioned by Congress and Washington.

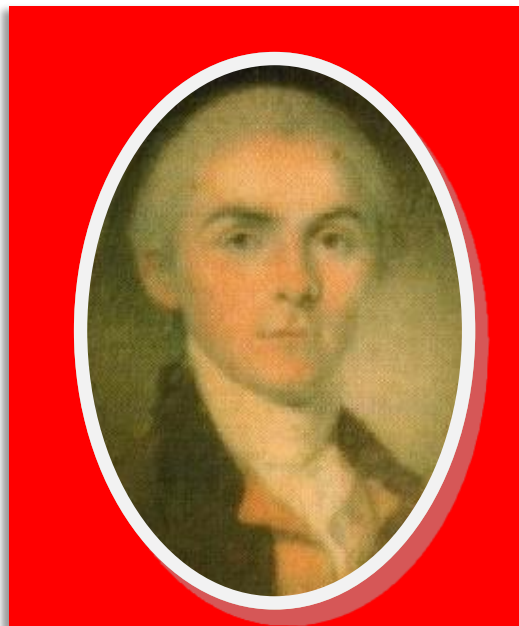
An excerpt from a letter by Richard Peters of the Board of War to Washington dated May 10, 1779 read.....

"...The Baron Steuben mentioned when he was here that he would settle with your Excellency some Plan as to the Colours. It was intended that every Regiment should have two Colours; one the Standard of the United States which should be the same throughout the Army & the other a Regimental Colour which should vary according to the facings of the Regiments. But it is not yet settled what is the Standard of the U. States. If your Excellency will therefore favor us with your Opinion on the Subject we will report to Congress & request them to establish a Standard & so soon as this is done we will endeavour to get Materials & order a Number made sufficient for the Army. Neither can we tell what should be the Regimental Colours as the Uniforms were by a late resolution of Congress to be settled by your Excellency..."

In-as-much as Steuben was involved and he WAS Prussian, and Prussian uniforms WERE blue..... That would have reinforced nicely with the blue uniforms already in use.

FYI: Prussian blue was the first Crayola crayon color to get a new name, changed to "midnight blue." Teachers prompted the change, as school children could no longer relate to Prussian history.

SAR Calendar of Events



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

Event	Location	Date	Status
Pine Tree Festival Parade	Swainsboro, GA	May 4, 2024 10:30 am	State
Silas Mercer Grave Marking	Philips Mill Baptist Church, Wilkes County, GA	May 11, 2024 1:00 pm	State
The Hero Hill Climb for Fallen Heroes	Camp Merrill, 1 Merrill Dr. Dahlonega, GA	May 25, 2024 8:00 am - 1:00 pm	Chapter
Bufford's Massacre	Bufford's Crossroad, SC	May 25, 2024 10:30 am	National
Memorial Day	Various	May 27, 2024	National
Flag Retirement Ceremony	Ingrams Funeral Home Chapel, Cumming, GA	Jun 8, 2024	State
Flag Day	Various	Jun 14, 2024	State
Ramsour's Mill	Lincolnton, NC	Jun 22, 2024 10:00 am	National
Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge	45383 Dixie Ave, Callahan, FL	Jun 29, 2024	State
Independence Day	Various	Jul 4, 2024	National
National Congress	Lancaster, PA	Jul 10, 2024	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 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 Jun 20, 2024. 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

