



Issue No. 47 Summer 2026

The Marshal

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



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH



By Emil Decker

Well its been a hot plate summer. Things have been sizzlin' and I don't mean just the weather either.

The chapter has been increasing its numbers and our members have invested time in attending events all over Georgia and the Southeast.

We've supported the SAR, DAR, C.A.R., local veteran support groups, parades, the Atlanta Braves, coffee houses, Liberty Trees in local parks, and even found time to do a few proclamations along the way.

There's still lots of this year left, with events and planning, and of course its time for everyone to pay those dues early. Let's not have a lot of delays and end up with some reinstatements.

(Continued on page 2)

Celebrating the 2nd of July as John Adams expected.....Sort of.

On July 3, 1776, John Adams wrote a famous letter to his wife, Abigail, one day after Congress voted to declare independence. His prediction was the date, July 2, 1776, would be marked by future generations as the great anniversary day and should be commemorated with solemn acts of devotion, pomp, parades, shows, sports, guns, bonfires, and illuminations. He was mostly right, with the date becoming the 4th, based on the printing of the document, instead of the vote. Robert Forsyth Chapter was ready to roll, regardless of the date.



To start things off properly, we inducted new member Andrew McGinty into the chapter - at the staging point for the Thomas Mashburn Annual 4th of July - Independence Day Parade through downtown Cumming.



The spiffily dressed individual, no, not Uncle Sam, but rather the Continental Marine, is our prospective member, Mac McPherson. Ready to participate in activities, in uniform, even before his membership is activated! We look forward to Mac's membership induction, and even more of his participation.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Dispatch.....	1
Celebrating the 2nd of July..	1
Community News.....	3
Monthly Meetings.....	9
Book Review.....	10
Ambassador to the Colonies.....	11
Ask the Expert.....	12
Calendar of Events.....	13

The President's Dispatch

Our annual meeting is not until March; we look forward to being halfway through our 2 year term at that time. Know someone who deserves special recognition? Let me know, we might have a way to accomplish that.

Keep your fellow compatriots and their families in your thoughts and prayers as we move into the flu season. If you know of someone who needs a prayer, card, some cheering up, or if they are beset with medical or other family issues, don't hesitate to give our Chaplain a call. Truth is, you can do your part to support our membership yourself. Don't wait for someone else to step up and give encouragement.

As always, if you need me, I am just a call / text / email away. Same holds for all our officers. Also, think about how you can make the Chapter a better group and how we all can support and encourage each other.

Don't forget about your personal fundraising efforts, be they donations to raffles, hosting a silent auction, or a simple cash donation. We are into the new school year, so expect to have some contest entries heading our way. We will need judges to determine who deserves the prize and a chance to represent us in State and National competitions.

Emil Decker
President, Robert Forsyth Chapter

Celebrating the 2nd of July as John Adams expected.....Sort of. (Cont.)



Case in point. At the Independence Day Parade, several times along the route, Mac read the Declaration to the assembled masses.

Other chapter members pulled a wagon with copies of the Declaration inviting the crowd to come sign the document themselves, reaffirming their own support for the nation.



Community News



While RF member, Past President Ed Rigel Jr. led the 'On Field' Color Guard and Militia, including cannon at the Atlanta Braves Independence Day Pre-Game show, current President Emil Decker was outside the stadium at the Braves' Block Party with his cannon. Almost a thousand GASSAR pamphlets on the Revolutionary War in Georgia were handed out.



Not much later, the Georgia delegates arrived in Greensboro, NC for the Annual SAR Congress. President Emil Decker and Past President Chris Russo enjoyed relaxing between sessions with members of the Skunk Brigade in an area quickly dubbed, "The Skunk Den".



A large number of Grave Markings were held during this Congress. Many SAR Compatriots and GASSAR representatives achieved their Grave Marking Medal by attending each ceremony for patriots during the



week. There were many interesting uniforms and individuals at the Congress. Compatriot Paul Vance was a very interesting member of the Color Guard.



When Compatriot Daniel Shippey presented such a fine portrayal of General George Washington, it became apparent we needed to get him into a skunk cap. Lee agreed with me and we approached him. Thought he might slip out of the room before we accomplished the task, but true to his word, before he left we made the night. General "Skunker" Washington, just as commanding under a furby. Lee needs a slightly larger chapeau.



Founding member Allen Greenly was sworn in as President General of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Way to go Allen!



Between sessions, Chris took the opportunity to travel the area looking for some ancestors. We found them after a dilligent search in a church cemetery. The original gravestone / Rock was inscribed with two of them, only one carried an additional stone. We are guessing that the other is buried above or below the site.



Back in Georgia, on July 26 President Decker and Jr. members Kohlson and Jantzan Bull attended an event sponsored by Chestatee River Chapter DAR. An Authors Round Table discussion of 250 related books by various authors was held by the Milton based POE Bookstore. With limited space for the large crowd, the Colors were Pre-Posted across the front and only the National Colors were presented by Compatriot Decker.

On August 8, a Traveling Trunk display and reading of the Declaration was performed at an event sponsored by the Chestatee River Chapter, DAR and the IGY6 Coffee House in Dawsonville.



What do you do when you're not yet a member of the SAR, but have an application in the works?.....

Get a uniform and march in the 4th of July Independence Day Parade, stopping every so often to read the Declaration to the crowd.

.....Then find that the latest chapter being organized in Georgia is named for the patriot you are linked to?

You put on your dashing Marine uniform again, and charm all the young ladies when you attend the Charter Banquet for the Stonecypher Chapter in Toccoa. reading of the Declaration was performed at an event sponsored by the Chestatee River Chapter, DAR and the IGY6 Coffee House in Dawsonville.





About Face USA is a local Veteran Support program in the Cumming area which works with various groups to coordinate support for their programs. Robert Forsyth

member David Johnson (Front Row Blue shirt) is our representative. If your chapter does not have a veteran support program/mission, find a group of like minded folks who have their own missions that you can help support. It is an option instead of hosting your own event.



August 29th saw our Color Guard, supplemented with GASSAR Color Guard members, at the John's Creek Liberty Tree Dedication. David Johnson, Carl Watkins, and Emil Decker attended.

September ushered in a period of 9-11 activities, Constitution Week Proclamations, and Traveling Trunk with the Scouts in quick succession.



Chris and Eva participated in the Stair Climb....in spite of the rain, while Emil participated in Care Package packing for Service members, held by IGY6 Coffee House and Chestatee River Chapter.





David, Chris and Emil joined the Chestatee River DAR and the Cumming City Council to accept a Proclamation honoring Constitution Week. Note the spiffy new uniforms worn by David and Chris.

While Pres. Decker was off at Scout Camp Rainey working the Traveling Trunk circuit with Carter Wood and Mike Watkins, Compatriots David Johnson, Kholson Bull, and Chris Russo were attending a Grave Marking in Shady Dale.



Ed Rigel Jr., along with GASSAR Compatriot Ray Kyle, participated in the annual Mt. Vernon Washington Tomb Guard Ceremony. This National Event is one every Color Guard member should want to participate in. A pin is awarded to Compatriots who do so. Robert Forsyth members include Emil Decker, Don Loudermilk, and now Ed. Do you have the pin?

Monthly Meetings

July being a month of lots of activity and movement withing the Society, it was determined to be a perfect time for a Social Gathering to substitute for a regular monthly meeting. Those members not on the road, hoisted a drink in salute to the nation and enjoyed each other's company. Unfortunately, there were no photos provided to prove this happened....trust me. I was away and I missed the party too!



While President Decker was off presenting to Button Gwinnett, Chris Russo took charge of the August meeting, and introduced longtime member Barry Herron, who gave a presentation on "The Wesleys and Early Methodists in Georgia." Two new members were sworn in: Jerome Hunter and Bill Watterson.



Our September meeting allowed us to invite our good friend and fellow conspirator, Perrie Tucker to present a program about her latest historical novel, *"Sparks of Freedom: Tale from a Tea Party"*. As Past Regent of the Chestatee River Chapter, don't let the "past" part fool you, she's more active than a kicked nest of yellow jackets on a fall day! She's everywhere, promoting 250 events, Grave Markings, Care Package packing, Pomeroy Historic Markers..... just supporting Perrie is a full time job! (and we jump to join every chance we get!)



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

The Army of the American Revolution and its Organizer: Biography of Baron Von Steuben

By **Rudolf Cronau**

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 which was 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 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.

This is great and informative reading.

Four Tricorns:



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

George Thurmond



Ambassador to the Colonies

It is with heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of our Ambassador's father, W. Bruce Hustis. J.C.'s dad was a Compatriot and provided our traveling trunk with multiple items. Doing Travling Trunk presentations is something that runs in the Hustis family.



J.C.'s father was interred in Fishkill, NY in the family plot. A photo was taken at the cemetery earlier last year, in which J.C. visited his Patriot Ancestors there. The house seen in the photo was where his father grew up. The painting shows a lighted window, where Bruce's room was.





Ask the Expert:

With Lionel Hildebrand

If you have questions, please forward to the editor, eldecker@weegrr.com. He will see that it gets to me.

During the American Revolution did the British or Patriots do anything that would be considered terrorism today?

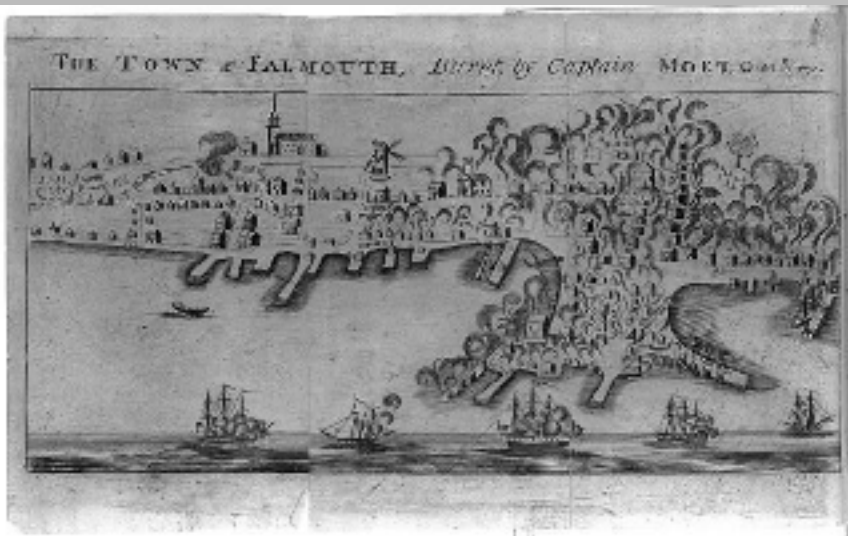
Terrorism is defined as "The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims."

Americans who remained loyal to the King, famously received brutal treatment at the hands of the colonists. And vice versa. Tories were seized by mobs, stripped naked, and had hot tar poured on their bare skin. Their whole body was covered with feathers, and they would be paraded around. Victims often suffered severe burns. This was meant to terrorize the Tories and dissuade them from being disloyal to the Revolutionary movement.

This practice obviously continued long after the American Revolution as a method of vigilante justice. John Meintz, an American farmer was tarred and feathered by a mob for his German heritage and allegedly not supporting war bond drives in 1918.

Loyalist Rangers and their Iroquois allies spent two years raiding settlements across Pennsylvania and New York, burning farms, raping, killing or enslaving children and women, and driving thousands of colonists from their homes.

In 1778-1779, various American campaigns against Iroquois tribes who were allied with the British were waged. The order of the day was cruel and vicious, with villages being burned, individuals being killed, livestock slaughtered, and crops trampled. The devastation of Native American communities resulted in thousands of Iroquois starving in the cold winters. The Iroquois power and spirit was totally shattered.



In retaliation for many New England port towns lending heavy support to the Revolution, the British targeted Falmouth, Massachusetts (present-day Portsmouth) for destruction. They bombarded the town with incendiary cannonballs and then landed troops to set fire to surviving buildings. The entire city was in ruins by the following morning. The attack was meant purely to discourage other towns from supporting the Revolution. The British retreated the following morning without achieving any military objective.



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: 6:00pm / Meeting 7:00pm. 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 our 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 10, 2026. 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

Terrorism is not a word used during this time period. Certainly the people involved in these events would not think of it the same way as we think of modern terrorism. One might perceive the entire American Revolution was a terrorist movement, with the Patriots silencing the voices of the Loyalists under threat of torture and humiliation.

The Tories were also well known for infamous treatment of their counterparts in the southern backcountry especially. Violence was driven heavily by revenge, plunder, and local political control rather than part of a military strategy. Marauders targeted isolated Patriot households while men were away in military service. Pension applications have documented pillaging, home burning, and physical terrorization of women and children in their accounts.

Loyalist units operating alongside British forces, such as Banastre Tarleton's British Legion and Patrick Ferguson's Loyalist militia, participated in aggressive desolation tactics, including the alleged slaughter of surrendering forces.

I believe under today's standards, many a patriot or loyalist would be charged with "Crimes Against Humanity" were their actions taken today.

Calendar of Events

Event	Location	Date / Time	Status
Fall Leadership	Louisville, KY	Oct 1 - 3	National
Kings Mountain	Kings Mt. NC/SC	Oct 7, 2026	National
Siege of Savannah	Savannah, GA	Oct 9, 2026	State
Patriot Grave Marking	Rabun Co., GA	Oct 17, 2026 1 pm	State
GASSAR BOM	Barnesville, GA	Oct 24, 2026	State
Patriot Grave Marking/ Liberty Tree	Sugar Hill, GA	Nov 7, 2026	National
DAR Pomeroy Foundation 250 Sign Dedication	Friendship Bapt. Cumming, GA	Nov 7, 2026	Chapter/State
Veterans Day	Various	Nov 11, 2026	National
Patriot Grave Marking	Warrenton, GA	Nov 14, 2026 2 pm	State
Wreaths Across America	Various	Dec 19, 2026	National

