

The Marshal

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



Issue No. 42 Spring 2025

PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

By Christopher Russo



Yes, it's been awhile. I'll try not stay away so long again. 2025 has been an action packed year so far. We've done so much, with so much more ahead.

Here's some highlights of what the chapter has done or participated in so far: Liberty Tree dedication in honor of past President Joe Vacura, Battle of Cowpens & Cowan's Ford commemorations, GA State Conference, Winter Board of Managers (BOM) Meeting, Heros of the Hornets Nest and Battle of Kettle Creek Commemorations, Children of the American Revolution Georgia State Annual Conference, Chapter Annual Banquet, Battle of Brier Creek commemoration, Liberty Tree dedication in Mars Hill,

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SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD BUT WHO WAS THE FIRST TO DIE?

April saw the 250th National Celebration of the Lexington / Concord battle, which many feel was the actual start of the Revolution. Celebrations have occurred across the nation, big and small. If you search the Internet, or take up the GASSAR Newsletter, you will see a smattering of the coverage. It starts a whole set of years where we enjoy, celebrate, and acknowledge the suffering, hardships, and victories associated with the winning of the War for Independence. But truth be known, who was the first to give his life for the budding new nation?

Who was the first to die in a given war? Do you date it from before war is declared, or from the first engagement? Or when? As we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, who was the first to die? Some would say those massacred in Boston, but most believe those were unfortunate victims leading up to the revolution, but that it was at Concord and Lexington where the true war began.



According to many experts, the first soldier to die in the War of Independence on the Patriot side was Isaac Davis, the captain of a Minuteman company from Acton, Massachusetts. Davis commanded his company beginning in November 1774, and was known to train his men with an overwhelming enthusiasm in hopes of making them equal to the British Regulars. He placed great emphasis on each man having the proper equipment: In fact, his was one of the few companies where almost everyone had a bayonet, and had the men's powder horns replaced with cartridge boxes, which sped up reloading over the horns, which were better suited for hunting.

On the morning of April 19, 1775, as the Battle of Concord was unfolding, the Acton Minutemen gathered at Davis's home, making paper cartridges in preparation. Some were joking about getting shot at by the British and Davis, in a somber mood, admonished them and told them to consider that some of them may soon be killed. They moved out at 7 a.m., with Davis telling his wife to "take good care of the children."

The company reached Old North Bridge at 9 a.m., joining several other militia companies. Colonel James Barrett gathered 500 Patriots on a hill, looking at the 100 English soldiers guarding the bridge to Concord. When the militiamen saw smoke from the town's direction, they thought the English were burning it down. (The English, it was later found, were only burning some gun carriages they found.) Barrett decided to assault the bridge, and placed Davis's company in the front, mainly because they had bayonets and a higher rate of fire thanks to their paper cartridges.

(cont. page 2)

PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

Spring Board of Managers, 5 Patriot graves markings at Midway Church, Memorial Day Services in Canton & Cumming, America250 marker dedication, and a little flag retirement ceremony. Did I miss anything? Probably.

Our annual chapter banquet was postponed to March due to some winter weather (which never really arrived). Compatriot Jackson did a fine job with the arrangements and the event was well attended. President Bill Floyd and Past President Ed Rigel joined us, along with their lovely brides. It was an honor to have President Rigel install me again this year. Next year, I expect we'll need another table or 2 to accommodate everyone. We thank Provino's for hosting us again this year.

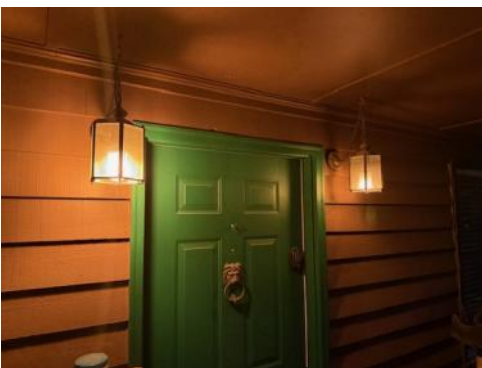
In March, I attended my first state BOM meeting in Barnesville where I made both old and new acquaintances, seeing many familiar faces and a few fresh ones who I had never met in person.

Our flag retirement event fell on Flag Day AND the 250th birthday of the United States Army.

Compatriot Decker's program was even better than the last, highlighting each branch of the US military and its flags, with C.A.R. society member participating in the program. Members of at least 6 different DAR chapters were in attendance and assisted Sergeant-at-Arms Jackson with the flag inspection detail. Special thanks to Ingram Funeral Home for hosting the event in their chapel.

We are officially in the 250th celebration years of the United States of America. There is a lot more celebrating to do. Join me in the festivities, events, commemorations, and fun.

***Patriotically,
Christopher Russo
President,
Robert Forsyth Chapter***



FIRST TO DIE (CONT.)

The company got within 75 yards of the bridge when they received some warning shots, one of which wounded their fifer. A disorganized English volley followed. As disorganized as that volley was, Davis was shot through the heart and died instantly, along with Private Abner Hosmer. The colonist returned fire with their own volley, and the English were forced to immediately flee. Isaac Davis died only moments before he could witness his company's first victory.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Our April Presentation was a look at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Lynn Jacques, the SAR Ladies Auxiliary President took the floor and gave a good accounting of the battle, and her ancestor who was there.

Our meeting place was changed due to an emergency. We're back now, but..... it caused us to have to make some changes in our plans.



Forsyth County Fire Department
19m · 🌐

Units responded to a fire at Golden Corral on Market Place Blvd. earlier today that started while workers were doing roof repairs. The fire in the roof area was contained by the automatic sprinkler system and firefighters using hose lines. Although the fire damage was minimal, the building did suffer significant smoke and water damage, and the business will be closed for some time. No injuries to firefighters, roof workers, or business employees were reported.

#forsythfire #fireresponse

👍👍👍 29 10 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share



The British are Coming! Or something like that. Regulars? Yes, that sounds better! Paul Revere rode with some friends, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott, 250 years ago. Several members hung two lanterns on the anniversary of the night.



Due to the fire at the Golden Corral, our May meeting shifted to a social event at Taco Mac. President Russo presented JC Hustis with the Patriot Grave marking oak leaf cluster. It was great turnout, including wives and DAR members, with some overlap between both groups.



JROTC Command Sgt. Major J.C. Ainsworth Received this year's medal. Interestingly, last year, a Sgt. Major Ainsworth received the same medal. Caden Ainsworth, J.C.'s older brother. Both cadets definitely were most deserving of their medals, and maybe the first set of back-to-back medals awarded to brothers.



Before Robert Forsyth Chapter was created, Piedmont placed an staked bronze marker on the only patriot buried in Forsyth County, John N. LeGrand. Unfortunately, the death date was wrong on the bronze headstone, and a lawnmower hit the bronze post of the SAR marker. Mr. Watson, who grew up with the grave in his backyard, really wanted both fixed. A request to the VA for a new grave plate was approved, and was installed by the Chapter, and the SAR bronze marker was set in stone level with the headstone, to the great relief of Mr. Watson.



Multiple contest winners received their certificates and prize money at the end of the school year.





The Memorial Day “Hero Hill Climb”, organized by Compatriot Johnstone, raises funds for veteran programs. Starting in front of Camp Merrill Army Ranger Base, you are given a half-sheet card with the name of a fallen service member (Hero). The mission is to carry your Hero up the gravel road to the top of the hill to honor their sacrifice. When you get to the top, there will be a large Hero board, an American flag, and a cast iron freedom bell. You will pin your Hero Card onto the Hero Board, ring the bell in their honor, and return back down the gravel road.

President Russo and his daughter Eva climbed up and down the mountain. 6 miles in all. Patriots of Liberty DAR and C.A.R. also participated.

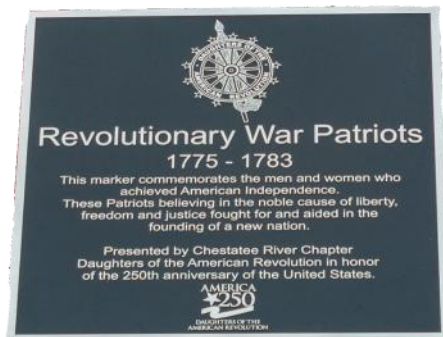
Chris carried the name of his Patriot, Charles Word and added his name to the board.



Compatriot Decker participated with the GASSAR Militia at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton.



On Jun 9, the Chestatee River DAR Chapter dedicated a Revolutionary War Plaque at Veteran’s Park at City Center. President Chris Russo brought greetings, and J.C. Hustis was part of the GASSAR Color Guard.



Our signature event, the Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony, was held on Flag Day, and the 250th Anniversary of the creation of the U.S. Army. Service flags of the armed forces were also laid to rest by the C.A.R. DAR members participated in determining the status of the flags presented for retirement.



Over 4 thousand flags were collected this year from the Home Depot Collection bins. Chris' nephew Brayden Sule help with one collection. Good training for a possible future Compatriot.



Induction of Compatriot Nick Sule at the June meeting. His application was approved in 2017. 8 yrs later, he finally gets his rosette from his President/brother-in-law; Pinned by his wife.





June's presentation was given by Kevin Baker. Kevin's presentation was about various uniforms of the American Revolution. June saw us back at the renovated Golden Corral.



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.

What sources of protein was available during colonial America?

Most of the same sources of protein that exist today existed in the colonial era. Colonists ate a fair amount of fish and eggs. They also ate chickens, turkeys, and geese. Pork and lamb were common meats, but eaten in lesser amounts than today. Beef was much rarer, some cows were kept for milk, but killing a cow created more meat than a family could eat before it spoiled. Other wild animals, including deer, rabbit, and squirrel were commonly hunted for food.

What was a Continental Army soldier's daily food allotment like during the Revolutionary War ?

Even before a food supply system was organized, on June 10, 1775, the Massachusetts Provincial Council set the daily allowance or ration for its troops in Boston as:

One pound of bread; Half a pound of beef and half a pound of pork; and if pork cannot be had, one pound and a quarter of beef; and one day in seven they shall have one pound and one quarter of salt fish, instead of one day's allowance of meat; one pint of milk, or if milk cannot be had, one gill [half a cup] of rice; one quart of good spruce or malt beer; one gill of peas or beans, or other sauce equivalent; six ounces of good butter per week; one pound of good common soap for six men per week; half a pint of vinegar per week per man, if it can be had.

Emphasis on the "if it can be had."

According to "*The Private Soldier Under Washington*", by Charles Knowles Bolton (New York, Scribner's, 1902):

"Substantially the same ration was approved by Congress November 4, 1775, but with 'or cider' after the word 'beer.' "

In time, the ration changed due to problems with transporting the rations to the soldiers. For example, in spring of 1778, at Valley Forge, General Washington ordered that the 12,000 men encamped there, each was to receive daily: 1-1/2 pounds of flour or bread, 1 pound of beef or fish, 3/4 pound of pork, and 1 gill of whiskey or spirit; or 1-1/2 pounds of flour, 1/2 pound or pork or bacon, 1/2 pint of peas or beans, and 1 gill of whiskey or spirits, as or when they were available.

When in camp, the soldiers were housed in tents, except those in cold areas during winter; however, the basic plan was for six soldiers to share either a tent or a "hut" and, as at sea, the six created a "mess" or an eating unit which received the rations fit or available for six men and then cooked the food themselves.

Where soldiers had families on campaign with them, those women who were considered as companions for the men were also included in the rations and usually they served as cooks for their mess. A Commissary General of Purchases was appointed by the Continental Congress to arrange for the purchase of rations and their transport.

Foraging the local areas where armies encamped for the supplies, and paying for them, including printing paper money, loans, requisitioning from states, and relying on local markets and sutlers often caused problems. These methods were often inadequate, leading to shortages, inflation, and disputes with both soldiers and civilians.

Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

Morningstars of Liberty Volume One

Georgia Society SAR member Gordon Smith has distinguished himself by publishing a most complete analysis of Georgia's role in the Revolutionary War. Included is a thorough discussion of the Continental Line in Georgia including type of units, their training and equipment, the various disciplines within the army and their opposing forces (Loyalists). If you want to know what the troop ate or how they lived during this conflict, read this book.

Not much has been written about Georgia's Navy, but author Smith covers this topic too.

This is an excellent book that can answer a lot of questions and will serve as an authoritative resource about the Revolutionary War in Georgia.

Three Tricorns



Publisher : Gramercy; First Edition (December 15, 1998)

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<http://factorswalk.com/morningstar/morning1.htm>

George Thurmond

The J.C. Match Game

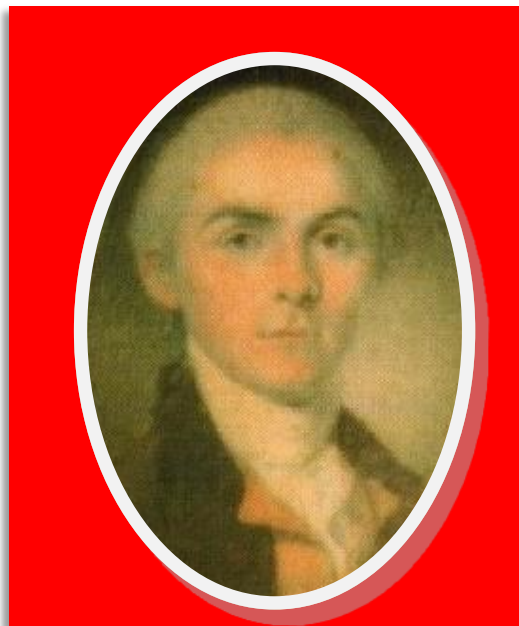
Can you match J.C. to the events he attended during the second quarter this year? He's everywhere.

Here are the events:

- ☞ Halifax Resolve, N.C.
- ☞ Girl Scouts Camp Gwinnett, GA
- ☞ Patriots Day, Saint Simons, GA
- ☞ DAR 250 Marker, Cumming, GA
- ☞ Buford's Massacre, SC
- ☞ Ramsour's Mill, NC w/ Grave Marking



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
Georgia Society BOM	Barnesville, GA	Jul 26, 2025 10:00am	State
Patriot Stephen Day Grave marking	Evans, GA	Aug 2, 2025 10:00am	State
Battle of Blue Licks	Carlisle, KY	Aug 16, 2025 10:00am	National
Battle of Camden	Camden, SC	Aug 16, 2025 10:00am	National
Battle of Eutaw Springs	Eutaw Springs, SC	Aug 30, 2025 10:00am	National
Vigil at Washington's Tomb	Mt. Vernon, VA	Sep 13, 2025 8:00-5:00	National
Constitution Day	Various	Sep 17, 2025	National
Gathering at Sycamore Shoals	Elizabethton, TN	Sep 20, 2025	National
Grave Marker Dedication (5) Patriots	Lincolnton, GA	Sep 27, 2025 1:00 pm	State
Fall Leadership	Louisville, KY	Oct 2-4, 2025	National
Grave Marker Dedication	Fort Benning, GA	Oct 6, 2025 10:00	State
Battle of Kings Mountain	Blacksburg, SC	Oct 7, 2025 9:00 am	National
Siege of Savannah	Savannah, GA	Oct 9, 2025 8:00 am	State
250th Anniversary Navy and Marines	Philadelphia, PA	Oct 11-13	National
Liberty Tree Memorial for President James Carter	Carter Center, Atlanta, GA	Oct 16, 2025 2:30 pm	National
25th Anniversary Captain John Collins Chapter	Marietta, GA Country Club	Oct 17, 2025	State
GASSAR BOM	Barnesville, GA	Oct 25, 2025 10:00 am	State
Grave Marker Dedication (5) Patriots	Sugar Hill, GA	Nov 1, 2025 11:00 am	State
Grave Marker Dedication (4) Patriots	Elberton, GA	Nov 8, 2025 10:00 am	State
Veterans Day	Various	Nov 11, 2025	National
Siege of Fort Morris – Come & Take it	Sunbury, GA	Nov 22, 2025 9:00 am	National
Wreaths Across America	Various	Dec 13, 2025	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 Sep 20, 2025. 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

