

The Marshal

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

Issue No. 43 Summer 2025



PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

By Christopher Russo



The summer began with America's 249th birthday with the chapter participating in 2 parades and a musket salute at Truist Park. The summer concluded with a musket salute at Milton Historical Society's 5th Annual Autumn Shindig.

I'll keep this brief.

There are three things I'd like to ask of you all:

★ If you haven't done so already, pay your annual dues.

★ Consider being an officer next year.

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Independence Day

July saw the chapter in its usual location and position in Cumming. The weather was hot and dry, no relief in sight. The annual Mashburn Tractor parade, held every 4th of July, had slowed to a halt mere steps into the street, as the entire body awaited the final steam tractor to pull out into the parade route, and lead the rest of us down to the fairgrounds, about a mile away. Whether standing, sitting on a float, or waiting in an air conditioned car, the few members of the chapter who participated were aware of the crowded street ahead of them.



Said crowd was filled with children, awaiting the candy to come their way, along with colorfully decorated floats and people dressed up mostly in red, white, blue, many in costumes, and

of course the smartly dressed uniformed representatives of the Sons of the American Revolution, Georgia Society, Robert Forsyth Chapter.

As we waited, I wondered about those in the crowd. Was this a gathering for the tractors, the candy, support for their group's entry into the parade, the string of Jeep owners who have in recent years



joined the parade in growing numbers, simple tradition invoked in the annual parade, or patriotic individuals and families aware of the true importance of the Independence heritage formed so long ago?

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PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

★ Continue to get involved in the chapter and the community.

And three hopes I hold for everyone:

- ★ Happy Thanksgiving
- ★ Merry Christmas + Happy Hanukkah
- ★ Happy New Year

2026 will be the grandest year in this great nation in 50 years. I look forward to enjoying it with you.

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



INDEPENDENCE DAY (CONT.)

I wondered how many understood the significance of this next year's parade? 250 years. Longer than any other government formed by the people, for the people, to borrow the phrasing. 250 years of strife, conflict, peace, prosperity and less enjoyable times, yet together we have stood. One nation, under God.... Will the crowd be more excited next year, or will it be a simple repeat of this, and all the past years? The answer to that question rides heavily on the Robert Forsyth Chapter's efforts to make the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence a more meaningful event. We, as a chapter, must do everything possible, to remind the populace of their great inheritance. Get them excited for the coming years. After all, if they are not pumped up for 2026, our next opportunity for a significantly dated anniversary will be when? **2076?**



COMMUNITY NEWS



The Georgia Society's Elijah Clarke Militia, with Robert Forsyth member Emil Decker, conducted the pre-game festivities featuring musket salute, National Anthem, and military flyover. We were cheered by the fans, but the Braves lost the game.



The Hustis family featured prominently in the August Picnic, (held indoors at the Taco Mac, Cumming). J.C. picked up another oak leaf cluster for his continued participation in Society Grave Markings.

Beth Ann received her Bronze 250th Anniversary Medal and certificate.





August Meeting saw us back at the Golden Corral, where Georgia's C.A.R. President, and SAR member, Noah Tindall was a guest. HUZDAH!! Noah was joined by Chris's nephew Brayden Sule, who was also in attendance.



Brayden has been helping Chris collect flags from our Cumming Home Depot bin. At the meeting, Brayden displayed a wooden wall art rendition of a Betsy Ross flag he created. It is going to be a part of an upcoming raffle for the chapter. Stay tuned.



Flag boxes can contain some interesting items, from trash to cash. The Dawsonville bin collected this old Whitman Sampler metal box, rusted and abused. Who knows how long the box lay around with the old tattered flag held within? What story might that flag tell?



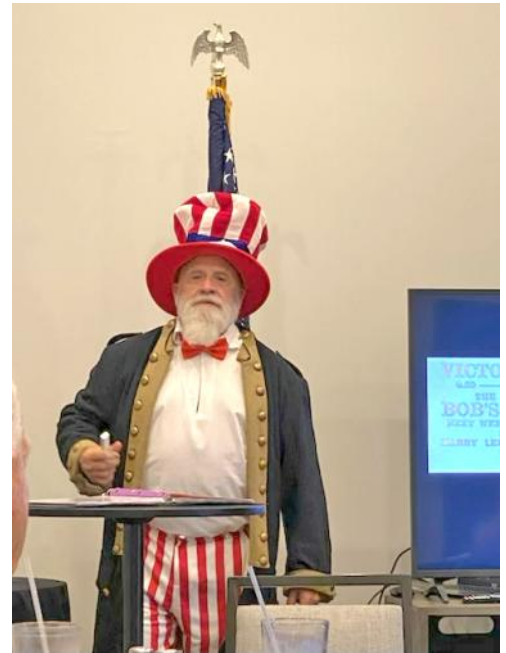
The Scheduled August presentation was to be on The Purple Heart decoration, which is awarded to members of the military wounded in action.

That presentation unfortunately didn't take place, however Donna Loudermilk, spouse of Compatriot Don Loudermilk came prepared to supplement that presentation with her own contribution, and shared an image of her father and one of two Purple Hearts he was presented during WWII.

September's meeting brought a special guest, Uncle Sam ! We learned about his shady start and how he has helped America pull together through the ages. I am sure he would love to come speak to your chapter.

David Johnson, Chris Russo, and Carl Watkins, Compatriots of the Robert Forsyth Chapter participated in a Forsyth Historical Society Work Day, helping to restore the Sherril House.

The house dates to early 1900's, and is on a site where one of the Vann Taverns was formerly located. This site is also where the Trail of Tears started on the Old Federal Road. The house will transition into a museum once fully restored.



Few volunteer to travel all the way to Mount Vernon once a year, to stand vigil at the tomb of General George Washington, and his wife Martha. This year, Robert Forsyth chapter was honored to have Donald Loudermilk participating in the vigil.





While performing the Washington's Tomb Vigil, an interesting event occurred, and the recently installed National Color Guard Commander, Robert Meyer from New Jersey, wrote about it on Facebook.



Sons of the American Revolution

Robert Meyer · September 14 at 12:51PM · 🌐



Yesterday, during our color guard duties at the Tomb of George Washington, we were asked by the Secret Service to vacate the area due to an unannounced visit by the Secretary of Defense—now titled the Secretary of War—Mr. Pete Hegseth.

Rather than stepping aside, I approached the Secret Service detail and introduced us as members of the Sons of the American Revolution. I asked if we could form an honor guard for the Secretary. They agreed, and the Secretary was very pleased with our presence. He spent time talking with us, shook everyone's hand, and even took several photos. He even asked his family to join us for a photo.

He also thanked every one of us individually and shook our hands.

This experience reminded us that sometimes, instead of stepping back, we should step forward and offer our part in honoring our nation's leaders and heritage.

Robert Meyer.



In New York it was mandatory for the re-establishment of a Militia every few years, in keeping with tradition. In a June 1773 survey conducted of the Militia, Dutchess County consisted of four Regiments and forty-six infantry companies. After several years of disputes between Governor William Tryon and the General Assembly over Militia reform, The Militia Act expired in 1774 and the Regiments were thus disbanded.

J.C. Hustis' Ancestors

Dutchess County Militia, 2nd Regiment

Private Micah Rogers
Born 3-19-1773
Died 2-16-1815
10th Generation Grandfather

Sergeant George Van Nostrand
Born 4-21-1746
Died 1-24-1795
9th Generation Grandfather

Soldier George Jewell
Born 11-9-1740
Died 1810
8th Generation Grandfather



As one has come to expect, J.C. Hustis had a busy quarter. He went north to Fishkill, NY to participate in presenting a traveling trunk during East Fishkill Colonial Days. While there, he visited several of his ancestor's graves, and placed a patriot marker at one. We are processing paperwork to make the marker dedication an official Robert Forsyth / GA sponsored grave marking.





While J.C. labored in New York, several members gathered at the Milton Historical Society's "Shindig", a picnic affair, where we presented the Colors and fired muskets, all while sharing the Traveling Trunk and its treasures. Participating here at home were President Chris Russo, Emil Decker, Carl Watkins, David Johnson, and Carl Jackson. (Chris was decked out in full uniform.....[finally] for this one. HUZAZH!! Carl made quite a show of his personal kit collected and created by himself. He's going to present it to the Chapter during the December meeting.



Book Reviews by Col. George Thurmond

The Fighting Quaker: Nathanael Greene

This is a very descriptive book of the life of Nathanael Greene who was raised as a Quaker in Rhode Island yet rose to become the second highest leader in the American Revolution. Only George Washington would achieve greater success in the Revolution.

On the eve of the war, Greene joined up as a private in his hometown Kentish Guards, only to be ostracized by his fellow soldiers for his unmilitary marching that was due to a stiff leg from an unknown injury in his youth. He even managed to smuggle a musket out of occupied Boston.

Greene liked to read and frequented the establishment of Henry Knox, a Boston bookseller. They quickly became friends and would serve together as Generals in the conflict that lay ahead.

As a well known businessman, Greene was selected to command the Rhode Island "army of observation" immediately following the battle of Lexington and Concord. Having been married less than a year to Kitty Littlefield 14 years his junior, Greene immediately put his affairs in order and marched off to Boston where he would later impress Commander-in-Chief George Washington, who assumed command on July 2, 1775 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Joining him as a Brigadier General was his old friend, Henry Knox.

Author Thane goes into detail about a number of battles in which Greene was engaged: Bunker Hill, Long Island, Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown, Springfield and many more. He would become the fourth commander of the Southern Command and lead the destruction of the British army at Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse, Hobkirk's Hill, Ninety-Six and Eutaw Springs.

One interesting sidelight. Following the revolution, a grateful Georgia gave Greene a plantation south of Savannah called Mulberry Grove and 100,000 acres of land. Greene and Kitty would settle there. It would be at Mulberry Grove that a young friend of the tutor of the Greene children would invent the cotton gin – Eli Whitney.

This is a "must read" book if one is interested in understanding the significant contribution of Nathanael Greene to the success of the American Revolution.

Three Tricorns 

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

ISBN 1-890307-47-5 Boyd Publishing 2006

George Thurmond

**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.

Did some Hessian soldiers switch sides in the American War of Independence?

Truth is, desertion was surprisingly common on both sides during the Revolutionary War. The German Hessians were no exception. Life in the German states from which the soldiers came was rather miserable, especially for commoners. Little land, food, or other resources per capita in Hessa Casse was available compared to what one could find in America. Hessians were astounded at how much better civilian life was in America. A rather interesting enticement.

Some soldiers also found girlfriends in America, as most militarily deployed young boys will. Particularly among the German speaking population of Pennsylvania. This occurred during the occupation of Philadelphia, and as a result, many soldiers decided they wanted to stay.

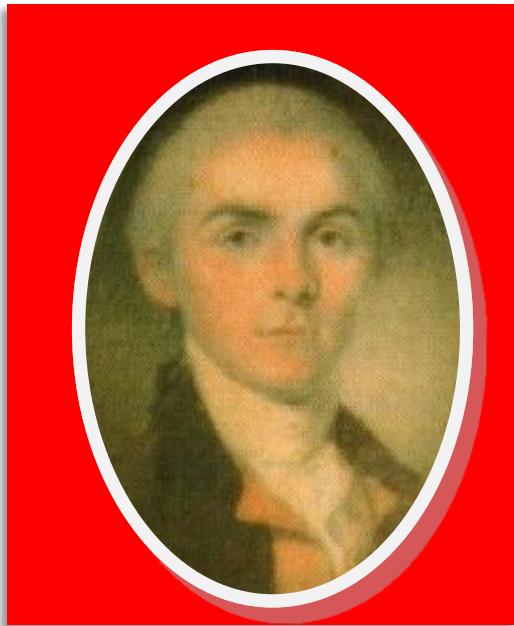
A great number of Hessians became prisoners of war, and ultimately opted to remain in America after their release. They were often "held prisoner" on inland farms in Pennsylvania,

Maryland, and Virginia. This provided an incentive as their much needed farm labor was welcomed as so many young American men were away fighting. They often lived with local families and became a part of the community.

The Americans made an extended effort to get Hessians to defect using political persuasion. Other times they used outright bribery. In one pamphlet, Congress offered enemy soldiers land, two pigs, and a cow if they defected. This also applied to the British troops as well.

In the end, I've seen estimates as high as maybe one third of the Hessians who came to America ended up remaining in America as citizens after the war.

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
Fall Leadership	Louisville, KY	Oct 2-4, 2025	National
Grave Marking	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	State
250th Anniversary Navy and Marines	Philadelphia, PA	Oct 11-13	National
Liberty Tree Memorial: 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 Marking (5) Patriots	Sugar Hill Cemetery, Sugar Hill, GA	Nov 1, 2025 11:00 am	State
Grave Marking (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
Georgia Annual Conference	Hilton Atlanta NE, 5993 Peachtree Ind. Blvd, Peachtree Corners, GA	Feb 6-7, 2026	State
Heroes of the Hornet's Nest	Elijah Clark St. Park	Feb. 13, 2026	State
Kettle Creek	Washington Square & War Hill Park	Feb 14, 2026	National
Spring Leadership	The Galt Hotel Louisville, KY	Mar 5 - 7, 2026	National

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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, 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

