

# The Marshal

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

Issue No. 14 Spring / Summer 2018



## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH

“31”

By John Flikeid

It seems an interesting way to title an article. “31”. Not a particularly memorable number. And why title an article “a number” at all?

31 has some significance. It happens to be in the business name of one of my first jobs: Baskin Robins 31 flavors. Apparently there are 31 NHL teams out there, hockey fans (seems an odd number of teams for a league?). OK, John, get to the point.

Today (March 16, 2018), I traveled to a town I had yet to encounter in our eight years in Georgia: Rome.

*(continued on page 2)*



*Pres. John Flikeid welcomed Chip Van Alstyne at the Mar. chapter meeting, Chip was accompanied by his son, [a future member..... Ed.] Photo by Chris Russo.*

## 2018 NEW MEMBER INDUCTED

By Emil Decker, Editor

The 2018 year started well, with several new member applications researched, approved, and members either inducted or awaiting the next meeting to become members of the National Sons of the American Revolution, the Georgia Society, and the Robert Forsyth Chapter. Our president, John Flikeid, has challenged us to find and process new memberships to raise our numbers to a level above our current status. We are off to a good start.

## ATTEND MEETINGS, MEET PEOPLE, LEARN AMAZING STUFF !

By Emil Decker, Editor

The 2018 year is proving to be a time when you simply don't want to miss out on a monthly meeting of the Robert Forsyth Chapter. We have had Forsyth County Sheriff Ron Freeman as a guest speaker; I presented the contents of our traveling trunk to the members; and we have hosted a Lieutenant from the 74th Foot [Scot Highland Infantry]. Likeable sort, even if he is on the wrong side of history.....

You have a great opportunity to eat, fellowship, and learn each 2nd Thursday at the Golden Corral. Dinner at 6:00 followed by our meeting at 7:00.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- New Member .....1
- Ask the Expert.....2
- Veteran Support.....3
- Community News ...3
- Patriots' Day.....6
- Event Calendar .....8

## PRESIDENT'S DISPATCH (CONT.)

I went to Rome on the invitation from Compatriot Curtis McWaters to attend a naturalization ceremony hosted by the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia.

My mother, former regent for her DAR chapter in Northern Va., attended these regularly in Washington, DC, and spoke of these ceremonies with incredible warmth and emotion.

When I arrived about an hour early, I thought I would have plenty of seating options in the courtroom. Not true. All visitor seats were taken. I then spoke to the Deputy in Charge, whom I had informed that I would be attending, and he said, "Oh, SAR, yes, right this way to the jury box, with the other SAR and DAR members". I was honored.

Today, in my first naturalization ceremony, I witnessed, 50 incredibly brave people, from 31 nations, take the oath of citizenship to the United States of America. (there's the 31). An incredible diversity of people descending on this town.

The judge, after the swearing in, made one particularly interesting comment in his remarks. All of you new citizens have severed ties with your home country. He said some of you left your countries willingly, with excitement. Others have left their home countries with difficulty, reluctantly, due to circumstances. Either way, you likely have mixed feelings, but you are welcome here.

Like many of us, I have worked with people here that came from other countries. I recall, in my previous career in the hotel industry, I had a housekeeper from Iran. I asked him his story one time. He had escaped from a jail (political persecution) in the middle of the night, was able to cross the desert, part on foot, part on camel, worked jobs to afford travel to Germany, and eventually made it to America. The journeys and backgrounds of these new citizens must be amazing stories.

I am proud to live in a country that embraces those looking for freedom, for opportunity, for the ability to pray (or not to) to any higher presence, and to reach the heights of our potential. And lest we forget, most of us (except Native Americans) are immigrants. It may have been a long time ago, but I think it's important to imagine the struggle our ancestors endured in those early times, when Publix wasn't right up the street, and when emergency health care wasn't three digits away. Keep in mind, in much of the world, people live today, as our ancestors did more than 200 years ago, still.

And, another interesting fact about "31": It's a PRIME number, meaning, it cannot be divided evenly, only by itself. Think about that.

Yours in Freedom,  
John



## Ask the Expert:

With Lionel Hildebrand

First, let's say that the term "Expert" must be determined. In true Linguistic fashion, let's break down the word. "Ex" A "has been". Past tense. No longer present. No longer relevant. Former pain in the neck. And then there is "(s)pert" A drip of water under pressure. Therefore, I hope that I have made it clear from the start that I am NOT an expert. I am a student of history. I enjoy facts and opinions on many things, and am very interested in the various wars and movements in the U.S. When I was invited by your editor, to participate in the Robert Forsyth Newsletter, *The Marshal*, I was honored. I am not eligible to become a Compatriot in the SAR, but wish that I could. I will be bringing some oft-asked questions to the newsletter and hope that my answers are true and compelling. If you have a question you would like to ask, please forward to the editor, [eldecker@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net). He will see that it gets to me. For my first question, let's start with:

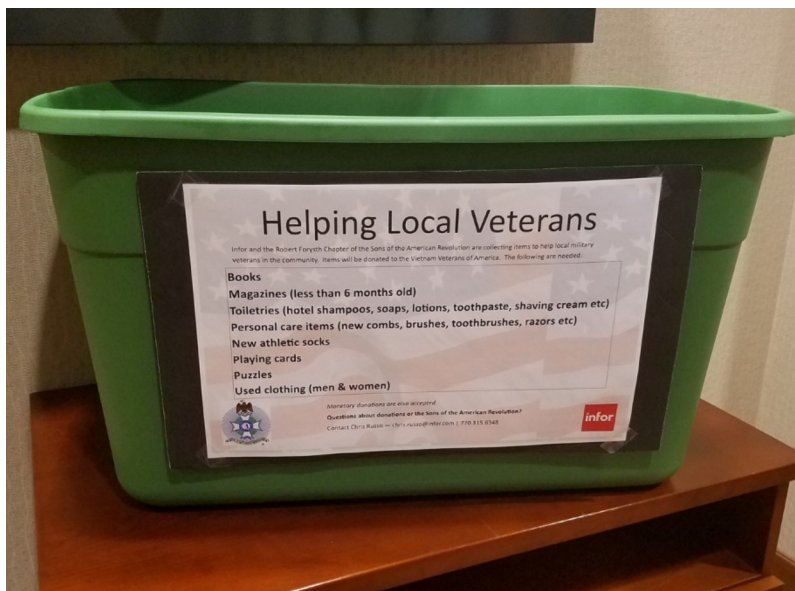
My school's textbooks, which are only a classroom set and are rarely used, are worthless for any "real Information". What is the best way to learn about the American Revolution?

I would suggest several options: 1) Join and participate in the SAR and/or reenactment. {I learned more by doing and being involved than by reading or watching movies.} 2) Yes, reading is good. There are many good books that cover the general history, Other books follow a particular leader or historic figure's involvement in the war and can give you greater insight into that person's motivations and goals. Choose an author who has done recent research using original documents and not simply restating someone else's book. Don't like to read? 3) Try an audio book version. I have found some are great to listen to while traveling. 4) There are some good YouTube videos that cover specific aspects of life in the 1700's, like loading and shooting a musket or cannon. 5) Movies and Mini-Series on historic characters are often fun, and semi informative, but one must be careful to understand that Hollywood takes liberties on what they deliver. Many times multiple individuals are merged into one, or the stories are told rather one-sided. If they encourage you to dig deeper and find the truth about a topic, then perhaps the movie has done its purpose. 6) Finally, researching on the Internet is a great way to garner information. Again, since anyone can post anything on the Internet, one must take care to doubt and double check against other information. Bet you already knew this, but the point is "information is all around us, in many forms". You simply have to provide the motivation and determination to reach out and try something. It will never just drop into your lap. Start with a topic and go after it! Caveat: It might become addictive!

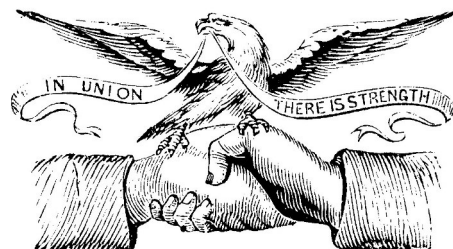
LH.

(Cont. page 8)

## VETERAN SUPPORT



Robert Forsyth Chapter is proactive in supporting our local veterans. At each meeting, we collect Magazines, Toiletries & personal care items (toothbrushes, combs, razors, deodorant, soap, etc.), clothing (particularly athletic socks), clothing, and other items that are distributed through the Shadow Warriors organization. You can help by bringing your items to our monthly meeting. Remember, we also have female veterans in need too.



## Chapter and Community News



Above: John Flikeid, President of the Robert Forsyth Chapter (center), presented a flag certificate to Explorer Post 740's Honor Guard to recognize the honor, dignity, and respect this Explorer Post exhibits with the flag of the United States of America. With John are SSgt. Robert Massa and Corporal Justin Weinmann, School Resource Officer and Lead Advisor, along with members of Explorer Post 740, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office.

Photo by John Flikeid.



Right: Compatriots George Thurmond, Allen Greenly, & Ed Rigel Jr. participated, along with other members of the Georgia Society Color Guard, in a Triple Patriot Grave marking service in Newnan Co.

Photo by John Flikeid.



Below: Vice President Gary Page with Sheriff Ron Freeman, Recent Guest Speaker at our February monthly meeting.

Photo by Chris Russo



Below: John Flikeid, President of the Robert Forsyth Chapter attended a Naturalization Swearing In of New American Citizens in Rome, Ga. on Mar. 16, 2018. He saw 50 people from 31 different nations become new citizens of the U.S. [See President's dispatch] Future Naturalization Ceremonies for 2018 include: May 11, Jun 8, & Aug 10 – Gainesville; Sep 7, Sep 21, & Oct 12—Rome; Nov 16 & Dec 14—Newnan. Our chapter receives points for attendance at these events, but the real reason to attend is because it's a fulfilling and patriotic activity. Watching people who want to become Americans fulfill their dream is an honor and privilege. Plan to attend one this year.

Photo by John Flikeid.



## Chapter and Community News (Cont.)



*Left: Although snow remained in patches on the ground in shaded areas, the weather was wonderful for the National Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, NC. Attendees included multiple members of the Georgia Society Color Guard and Militia, two of which were Robert Forsyth members Allen Greenly and Emil Decker.*

*Photo by Emil Decker*



*Center: One of the poor decisions by General Cornwallis, leading to criticism by some members of Parliament, was his order to abandon his supply train in an effort to catch the fast moving Nathaniel Green. The Food trucks of the "Re-enactment supply train" provided nourishment at the Battle site to all observers so that a similar problem was avoided.*

*Photo by Emil Decker*



*Below: Mike McAlpin presents at the April Chapter meeting. "The diary of a Junior officer of the 74th Foot", under General Cornwallis, with appropriate dressed mannequin. The mannequin pose is one that closely matches an original portrait made of the young officer.*

*Photo by Chris Russo*



*Above: Visiting the encampments of the various re-enactment groups is always a joy. Seeing not just the uniforms and weapons, but the living conditions recreated; the camp followers; downtime activities; and the opportunity to shop at various Sutlers (merchants) selling period items is worth the time to experience.*

*Photo by Emil Decker*



# Patriots' Day

In 1894 the Lexington Historical Society petitioned the Massachusetts State Legislature to proclaim April 19 as "Lexington Day." Concord countered with "Concord Day." Governor Frederic T. Greenhalge opted for a compromise: Patriots' Day. Patriots' day, which celebrates the battles which started the American Revolution, is still celebrated in some states. The Boston Marathon has been run on this day since it's inception. Saint Simon's Island, Georgia celebrates each year with a commemoration ceremony featuring DAR, SAR, Veteran, and other groups. Highlights include 4th graders representing American Heroes (*or Heroines [Nancy Hart below]*), a parade, and a Colonial church service. The date, incidentally, also coincides with an American naval victory here in 1778. The Frederica Naval Engagement involved Samuel Elbert, 3 patriot gunboats, and the capture of a British Sloop, a Brig, and a Brigantine.

*The 2018 event was photographed by Compatriot Decker's wife Linda Decker.*



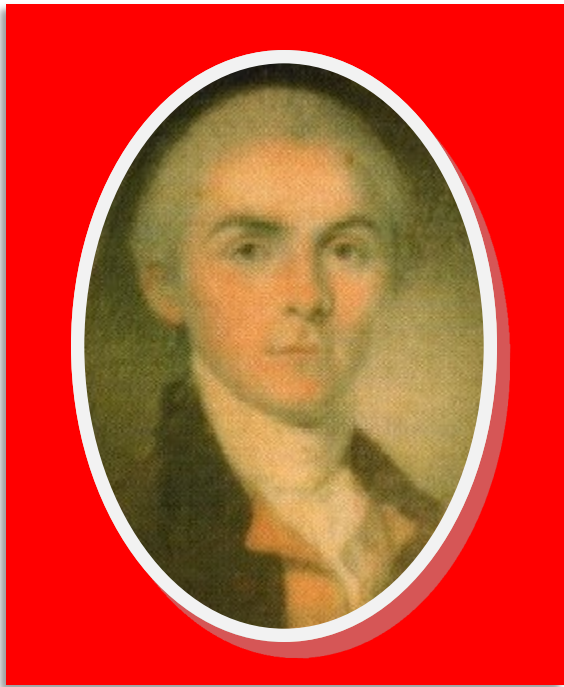
## Patriot's Day (cont.)



The Colonial church service was conducted by Reverend Whit Chapman, of Frederica Baptist church and a member of the Marshes of Glynn Chapter, GASSAR. Whit shared portions of a sermon from a Massachusetts preacher named Cumming [sp? Ed.] The words were fitting for the patriots to whom he preached on the anniversary of the Lexington-Concord battles of the still ongoing war. They were still relevant to us today. The church, where the service was held was the St. Ignatius Church, built in 1886 for the former slaves on the island. It's interior, hand carved items, stained glass, and aged natural patina was simply beautiful from any standard. The bell that was rung, was installed in the 1980's. It is from a WWII Liberty Ship, "Henry Wynkoop", built in the Brunswick shipyards.

# SAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Level
Patriot Grave Marking	May 5, 2018	Rayle, GA	State
Robert Forsyth Chapter Mtg.	May 10, 2018	Cumming, GA	Local
Patriot Grave Marking	May 12, 2018	Metter, GA	State
Patriot Grave Marking	May 19, 2018	Augusta, GA	State
SFMS Honors Night	May 24, 2018	Cumming, GA	Local
Boy Scout Day	May 26, 2018	Marietta Nat. Cemetery, GA	State
Compatriot Grave Marking	May 26, 2018	Canton	State
Memorial Day	May 28, 2018	Snellville, GA	National
Ramsour's Mill	Jun 09, 2018	Lincolnton, NC	State
National Congress	Jul 13-18, 2018	Houston, TX	National
2022 Congress	TBD	Savannah, GA	National



*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 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.

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,

Christopher Russo at 770-315-6348, via email at [guido139@yahoo.com](mailto:guido139@yahoo.com) or any chapter officer.

### Deadline for the Next Issue:

The deadline for material for the next issue is Aug 30, 2018. 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@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net).

## Ask the Expert: (cont.)

With Lionel Hildebrand

### What flags were flown in Georgia during the Revolution?

As the American Revolution approached, colonists began modifying British flags or creating new flags to symbolize their unhappiness with colonial policies. It was common to place phrases such as "Liberty" or "Don't Tread on Me." on the red field of the British Naval Ensign. Another protest flag often had a rattlesnake—sometimes coiled and sometimes not—on it. However, mention of standards in Georgia during early conflicts, record a white flag with four red borders and the words "American Liberty" in red. Used in Georgia's coastal waters, this standard is supposedly the flag flown by Samuel Elbert during the capture of the British ships at the Frederica Naval Engagement.

Tradition has also long held that the Moultrie Flag, which flew over Fort Sullivan in Charleston Harbor, also flew in Georgia at the Siege of Savannah. This flag consisted of a white crescent on a blue field, although a later version added the word "Liberty." There is no documentation of the "Betsy Ross."

LH.

