



MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

April 2012

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: April 20, 2012
Where: Sizzler Restaurant
1401 N. Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, CA
Time: Social Begins at 11:00am
Meeting: Called to Order at 11:30am
Website: www.orangecountysar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2013 CASSAR Best Chapter Contest

Our Chapter has won the Best Chapter contest five times: April 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. The 2012 Contest Winner will be announced at the State meeting later this month. Our Chapter has had good success due to the active participation of its members. We moved up to the Large Chapter category in 2011 and face stiff competition from other large Chapters for this award. To continue our success requires maintaining and improving our efforts.

The rules for the 2013 Contest are changed from 2012. Please review the eight scoring categories stated below:

1. Meetings (chapter meetings, joint meetings, guests attending meetings, percentage of members attending meetings).
2. Publicity (newspaper articles, photographs, TV and radio spots, interviews, internet postings).
3. Membership (new members, supplementals, junior members, life members).
4. Medals & Certificates (awarded to SAR non-members and members of other chapters).
5. Activities (Color Guard appearances, school presentations, plaque dedications, memorial or funeral services, grave markings, other events, participating in activities of other chapters, attendance at CASSAR and NSSAR meetings, CASSAR meeting host chapter).

Based on this, please give some consideration during the year to how you might assist in improving our scores – some thoughts include:

- Invite a guest or guests to each meeting. Consider bringing a relative or friend who might enjoy the program.
- Contact a compatriot that you know who has not attended in a while and encourage him to attend. Maybe give them a ride.
- Look for and suggest opportunities for our Chapter to award medals to deserving individuals in the community.

6. Community Service (participation in non-SAR events with patriotic theme).

7. CASSAR Programs (Knight Essay Contest, Middle School Brochure Contest, Eagle Scout Scholarship, Valley Forge Teacher, Enhanced JROTC Program, Elementary School Poster Contest, Rumbaugh Orations Contest).

8. Publication (distribution of patriotic or historical pamphlets (booklets) .

The information is gathered by our Activity Contest Chairman, Jim Blauer, so if you have something to report he can be reached at jblauer@pacbell.net or (949) 548-6871. His reports are due before the 15th of the succeeding month. Information for March activities would then be due before April 15th. Even if late he can report it on the next months report.

It is your chapter, so let us continue to work at keeping us one of the best chapters in the State.

From our activities last year Contest Chairman Blauer was able to, for the first time, enter our chapter into the National President General's Contest. We will find out this Summer (July 5-11) when many of us attend Congress in Kansas City, Missouri how we did when stacked up against other chapters across the nation.

SPEAKER

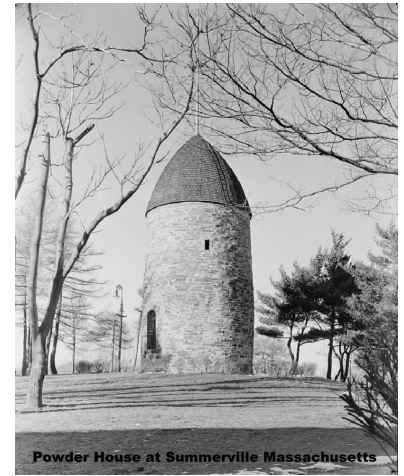
British Revolutionary War Surgeon Doc Mark, Historical interpreter and medical historian Mark Rutledge, will be our guest speaker April 20th. Mark's presentation is outstanding and made even more impressive by his vast knowledge and extensive collection of period medical tools. He makes his home in the mountains of Southern California with his wife, Lady Cynthia.

MEETING CHANGE

Please make a note on your calendars. The April Meeting is scheduled for April 20th. This is due to the fact that the State is holding its Annual Spring Membership Meeting in Ventura on the second Saturday, so your chapter voted to move our monthly meeting to the third Saturday or April 20th!! Be advised that there is registration information for the State Meeting at www.californiasar.org. You do not have to be a delegate to attend these meetings and can see how the State Society conducts business.

STATE SPRING MEETING

The 138th Spring Meeting of the Membership of the California Society will be held April 11-13, 2013 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Ventura Harbor. This years meeting is being hosted by the



General Patton Chapter. Registration is \$125 which includes, Friday Luncheon, Saturday Luncheon and Banquet. Our Special Room Rate is \$119 (single or double occupancy) and includes Free daily full breakfast. Room rates are good two days before and two days after the meeting. Hotel Parking is \$5.00 per night.

You can make your reservations by calling 1-805-658-1212 between 9am and 4pm PST. Request "Group Reservations" and mention "Sons of the American Revolution". Registration is due on or before March 11, 2013 and will be \$140 after that date.

Checks should be made out to General Patton Chapter, SAR and mailed to Robert Taylor, 5277 Shiloh Way, Ventura, Calif. 93003-7351. For questions you can reach Bob Taylor at tartar-Taylor@att.net or 805-289-9259 or 805-216-7992.

Located next to the Ventura Marina it is at 1050 Schooner drive in Ventura.

On Friday April 12 the Ladies will be having a tour of the Reagan Library from 9:30am to 3pm. It is \$50 per person which includes; transportation, admission to the Library, Walt Disney Exhibit, Air Force One, Berlin Wall, a Presidential catered box lunch and the gift shop. Your lunch choices include either Sliced Turkey Breast or Black Forest Ham. Also included are a French baked baquette, served with Munster cheese, sliced tomato, lettuce and fresh pesto mayo on the side. Also included are a fresh old-fashioned potato salad, Fresh fruit salad, fresh baked chocolate chip cookie, fresh brewed coffee(or guest choice of soda or bottled spring water).

Reservations are due by March 22, 2013. Please send your reservations and check payable to the General Patton Chapter, SAR to Rosemarie Risley at 29 Dana Point Avenue, Ventura, CA 93004-



1656. If you have any questions about this tour you can contact Rosemarie at (805) 647-0751 or email her at ronris@sbcglobal.net.

All registration forms can be printed out from the state website, www.californiasar.org.

Hope to see you there.

The Powder Alarms - Prelude to War

This April as we remember the Alarms at Lexington and Concord it is fitting that we consider not only the events of that fateful day in 1775, but also that we remember the events that led up to the war. If you were to ask the average American - what was the trigger - what was the single most explosive issue that started the American Revolution - you might expect to hear textbook answers like, the Stamp Act, the Boston Massacre, or the Boston Tea Party. But the trigger - the single most explosive issue that ignited the war - was the issue of Gun Control. Just seven months prior to the "shot heard around the world" General Thomas Gage, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Province and Commander of all British forces in America, lit the fuse that would explode into all out war when he began a series of planned raids aimed at disarming the American Colonies. That series of raids have come to be known as the "Powder Alarms."

Lighting the Fuse:

The Massachusetts Bay Alarm: On September 1st 1774, Lieutenant-Colonel George Maddison, Commander of the 4th Regiment, King's Foot, led a force of 260 British soldiers from their barracks in Boston to confiscate stores of gun powder and arms held at the Provincial Powder House at Summerville. At 4:30 in the morning, as the citizens of Boston slept quietly in their beds, Lieutenant-Colonel Maddison, act-

ing under the direct orders of General Thomas Gage, led his company quietly through the streets of Boston's North End down to Long Wharf where 13 longboats awaited to ferry them across Boston Harbor and up the Mystic River.

Colonel Maddison's company landed north of Cambridge, near Medford Road, at a place called Temple's Farm. From there the main force marched about a mile away to Quarry Hill where the Massachusetts Bay Powder Stores were kept. Once there the soldiers waited until first light to enter the windowless stonework structure where the powder was kept as it was not safe to carry a lantern for fear of setting off the powder stores. Before the sun would completely rise the British troops have already carried away 250 barrels of powder, and a second detachment that had marched on to Cambridge had carried away 2 brass artillery pieces. By noon the confiscated military stores had been transported to the safety of Castle William in Boston Harbor. General Gage was pleased that his plan had succeeded without a shot being fired. What Gage did not expect was the reaction that was about to transpire in the aftermath of his raid on Summerville.

Shortly after sunrise, word began to spread that the Province had been robbed of its powder. There were rumors that the King's ships were bombarding Boston and that 6 people had been killed. The cry went out that war had begun and the panic gripped the colonists, who began sounding the alarm. All that day church bells rang out the alarm and drums beat to arms. The fire-beacons were set ablaze at nightfall, illuminating the countryside for miles and from as far away as the Connecticut Valley as many as 20,000 militiamen began their march to the aid of Boston. Children prepared haversacks with foodstuffs and weeping women prepared musket cartridges and kissed their husbands goodbye.

By the next day fear had turned to rage as a mob of 4,000 angry men - armed with cudgels (short heavy clubs) - marched to Cambridge Commons and gathered at Tory Row. Breaking windows and threatening to pull down the buildings, they posted handbills on the doors of Tory homes threatening death to anyone found collaborating with the British. Many Tories fled their homes - never to return.

Worcester: General Gage's second raid was aimed at capturing the military stores at Worcester, about 40 miles inland from Boston. But upon learning of the uprising that resulted from his raid at Summerville, Gage postponed his plans to capture the stores at Worcester and instead turned his attention to the fortification of Boston. Fearing that the colonist might storm Boston, he placed the town under marshal law and deployed artillery at Roxbury Neck. Gage then ordered his men to forcibly purchase any and all supplies of powder and arms at all local merchant shops, and ordered the surrender of all privately held arms within the city of Boston. On September 21st 1774, the Whig leaders of New England called for a Convention to be held at Worcester in order to organize a system of alarms, express riders, and companies of minute-men to be ready to march at a moments notice. The people of New England vowed to never again be taken by surprise.

The Portsmouth Alarm: In December of 1774, a secret meeting was held upstairs at the regular meeting place of the Sons of Liberty. The Green Dragon Tavern was so named because of a green copper dragon that hung outside of the tavern door. The meeting was called to discuss intelligence that Paul Revere, leader of the Boston Mechanics, had learned regarding a ban on the importation of all firearms to America. Revere's mechanics had also learned of another planned gun raid - this time the target was the stores at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

On the 12th of December, Revere had received a report that a convoy of British Warships, including the HMS Somerset, was under weigh - sailing north along the coast of New England. He suspected the fleet was after the Portsmouth munitions. What he did not know was that the severe winter storm had descended upon the coast - had prevented the Somerset further passage. With large swells breaking over her bow, and her lines and tackle encrusted with ice, the crew of the HMS Somerset manned hand pumps and struggled to keep the ship from sinking.

Early the next morning Paul Revere saddled his horse and began a 60 mile ride north of Boston through snow, slush, mud, and freezing cold, to warn the citizens of Portsmouth that the Powder

Stores at Fort William & Mary were to be taken. The men of Portsmouth, upon receiving word of the planned raid, mustered a militia of 400 men and commandeered a fleet of small boats to secure the stores at Fort William & Mary. By the next morning another 1,000 militiamen had joined the fight, and before the sun had set, the men of New Hampshire had carried away 100 barrels of Powder, a supply of Muskets, and 16 Canons from the fort magazine. The British raid on Portsmouth had failed. Delayed by an incident of "divine interposition" the British war ships did not arrive until a week later. The Portsmouth Committee of Correspondence sent letters to the surrounding towns notifying them of the intended raid on Portsmouth. Throughout New England the colonists began moving their military stores to secure locations.

The Salem Alarm: In February of 1775, General Thomas Gage had received a report that ships' cannons were being converted into field artillery pieces at the foundry in the town of Salem. Immediately General Gage ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Leslie to make plans to march on Salem and take the guns. Colonel Leslie was assigned a troop from the 64th Regiment Foot, garrisoned on Castle Island, to carry out the raid under strict secrecy. When Paul Revere learned of the planned raid, he and several other mechanics rowed out to Castle Island to spy on the troop movements. But the mechanics were soon discovered, arrested, and detained on the island. With Paul Revere in chains Colonel Leslie and a troop of 240 Regulars set sail undetected under the cover of night. Colonel Leslie's company landed near Marblehead Neck. It was a quiet Sunday Morning and the people of Salem were making their way to church. As Colonel Leslie's men marched toward Salem his Drum and Fife Corp played Yankee Doodle drawing the attention of several men from Marblehead including Whig Leader Major John Pedrick. Major Pedrick mounted his horse to warn the people of Salem. When Pedrick reached Salem he informed Colonel David Mason of the advancing British column. Colonel Mason ran to the meeting house yelling "*The Regulars are coming after our guns.*" Bells rang out the alarm and some men of the town ran to the bridge between Marblehead and Salem and ripped up the planks on the bridge



to impede the advance of the British column. As Colonel Leslie's men were busy repairing the bridge, the men of Salem were busy carrying away the guns across North River.

When Colonel Leslie's company finally entered the town of Salem a local Tory whispered in Leslie's ear telling him that the men of Salem had hidden the guns across North River. Immediately Colonel Leslie gave the order to go after the guns. As Leslie's men approached the river, some men of Salem raised the drawbridge on the north side of the river. Colonel Leslie was furious and threatened to open fire if the men did not lower the drawbridge. Militia Captain, John Felt, replied ***"you had better be damned than fire! You have not right to fire without further orders! If you fire you'll all be dead men!"*** As the drums beat to arms the men of Salem began to muster at the head of Colonel Leslie's column and the men of Marblehead began to muster at his rear. With the sun beginning to set, more militiamen began to flow into Salem from across the countryside. The men across the river on the drawbridge began to taunt the Regulars - yelling "Lobster Coats!" others yelling "Cowards!" Colonel Leslie noticed several small boats nearby and ordered his men to seize them, but the men of Salem were first to reach the boats and managed to break holes in their hulls rendering them useless. With the growing militia force beginning to surround the 64th - Leslie's men began to push them back with their bayonets. Joseph Whicher, the foreman of the town distillery, tore open his shirt - presented his bare chest to their bayonets and dared the Regulars to attack.

Just as blood was about to be shed, the Town Minister, Thomas Barnard, quietly parted the crowd seeking a parlay with Colonel Leslie. With the sun sinking low in the sky, the two men

met to discuss their terms. Minister Barnard pleaded for the townsfolk and offered to lower the bridge provided he had Colonel Leslie's word that his troops would only advance to the foundry - where the guns were reportedly being converted. Minister Barnard's terms were that if Colonel Leslie's men found no canons at the foundry, Colonel Leslie was to remove his company from the town without further incident. With night fall soon upon them and a growing force of militia surrounding the 64th Colonel Leslie agreed to the terms and the drawbridge was lowered. By the time that Colonel Leslie's men reached the foundry the men of Salem had already removed the artillery pieces to safety. Colonel Leslie's Company departed Salem empty handed.

The Lexington/Concord Alarm: On April 18th 1775, General Thomas Gage sent a letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Smith, of the 10th Regiment 'Foot, notifying him of a store of arms, ammunition, military supplies, and foodstuffs that was reportedly being held at Lexington and Concord. In that letter he gives Lieutenant-Colonel Smith orders to take a company of men and march on Lexington and Concord to capture the military stores and destroy them. When Doctor Joseph Warren, a member of the Sons of Liberty, had learned of the letter from an informant close to Gage, he had dispatched Paul Revere and William Dawes to ride to Lexington and Concord by different routes to warn the people there and alarm the countryside along the way.

Paul Revere was an eye witness to the events that occurred that night and he gave his testimony before Congress. He stated that he met with Doctor Warren at about 10 o'clock on the evening of April 18th 1775, and that Doctor Warren had sent him, ***"to go to Lexington, and inform Mr. Samuel Adams, and the Hon. John Hancock Esq. that there was a number of soldiers, composed of light troops, and grenadiers, marching to the bottom of the common, where there was a number of boats to receive them; it was supposed that they were going to Lexington, by the way of Cambridge River, to take them, or go to Concord, to destroy the colony stores."***

Regarding the events that transpired on Lexington Green on the following day Revere stated, ***"...I set off with another man to go back to the***

tavern, to inquire the news; when we got there; we were told the troops were within two miles. We went into the tavern to get a trunk of papers belonging to Col. Hancock. Before we left the house, I saw the ministerial troops from the chamber window. We made haste, and had to pass through our militia, who were on a green behind the Meeting House, to the number as I supposed, about 50 or 60, I went through them; as I passed I heard the commanding officer speak to his men to this purpose; "Let the troops pass by, and don't molest them, without they begin first." I had to go across road; but had not got half gunshot off, when the ministerial troops appeared in sight, behind the Meeting House. They made a short halt, when one gun was fired. I heard the report, turned my head, and saw the smoke in front of the troops. They immediately gave a great shout, ran a few paces, and then the whole fired. I could first distinguish irregular firing, which I supposed was the advance guard, and then platoons; at this time I could not see our militia, for they were covered from me by a house at the bottom of the street."

Revere tells us that when he had witnessed the "shot heard around the world" he was carrying a trunk containing the confidential papers of John Hancock that he was hiding in the woods to prevent the papers from falling into the hands of the British. He further tells us that as he was crossing the road with the trunk he "...had to pass through our militia, who were on a green behind the Meeting House..." as he crossed the road he heard the Militia Commander tell his men, "Let the troops pass by, and don't molest them, without they begin first." According to Revere's testimony he had crossed the road and had gone some distance off and was no longer able to see the militia. "I could not see our militia, for they were covered from me by a house at the bottom of the street." It is important to point out that from Revere's vantage point only the "ministerial troops" were in his view. He states "...when the ministerial troops appeared in sight, behind the Meeting House. They made a short halt, when one gun was fired. I heard the report, turned my head, and saw the smoke in front of the troops. They immediately gave a great shout, ran a few paces, and then the

whole fired..." Revere's testimony clearly tells us that the British first fired a single shot, and then followed with a volley. It is little wonder the Founding Fathers considered a "standing army" a threat to our liberties. Had the Boston Mechanics not been so successful in repeatedly discovering General Gage's plans, and had the express riders failed in alarming the countryside, the raid on Lexington and Concord may have turned out quite differently.

As Congress continues to debate over the relevancy of the Second Amendment in our "Post Modern Era" it is fitting that we should remember the Powder Alarms and the events that transpired on Lexington Green 238 years ago - when a standing army opened fire upon its own citizens. It is also fitting that we should consider the wisdom of the Founding Fathers in giving us the means to protect ourselves by giving us "*the right of the people to keep and bear Arms*" with the hope that such an event should never happen again.

Larry R. Wood, Past President

Source References: First Strokes, by David Hackett Fischer; Orders from General Thomas Gage to Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Smith; Paul Revere's Testimony before Congress; and Paul Revere's Letter to Jeremy Belknap.

THE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD

Was a phrase that appeared in the July 4, 1837 speech by Ralph Waldo Emerson in his *Concord Hymn*. Emerson had moved to Concord in 1835 and in 1837 he was approached by the Battle Monument Committee to write something for the dedication of an obelisk to commemorate the battle of April 19, 1775, that became the beginning of the American Revolution. It was here the first shots were fired between redcoats and colonists of the town.

The line will also be found at the base of the Daniel Chester French statue of the Minuteman Soldier located in the town of Concord. The poem was written up in all the local newspapers, yet the speech by Congressman Samuel Hoar is lost to history.

An interesting parallel between Emerson's Concord Hymn and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

THE CONCORD HYMN

April 2013

The Concord Hymn

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set to-day a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those spirits dare,
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

Emerson's "Concord Hymn" was written for the dedication of the memorial (obelisk) of the [Battle of Concord](#). The monument is upper right.

The first stanza of "Concord Hymn" is inscribed at the base of [Daniel Chester French's Minute Man Statue](#). At right. It was dedicated in 1875 along with the [Old North Bridge](#), below. This to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the event.



The original North Bridge was dismantled in 1793 by the town of Concord because its use as a bridge had become impractical; a new bridge was erected a few hundred yards away. The bridge was rebuilt multiple times in 1875, 1889, and 1909. The current replica was built in 1956 and was based on drawings of the bridge built in the 1760s. The bridge was restored in 2005.



Photo Album

APRIL 2013



Left, Lee's Legion Commander Jim Blauer with 1931 Model A Deluxe Coupe driver Dave Manning. Dave's car once again walked away with 2nd Place in the Antique Auto division.



At right Richard Adams conducts the memorial Service for H. Jess Senecal, Richard R. Pettit, and Larry Gentry who we lost in 2012.



Center left, Michael Burns spoke to us about the teaching of U.S. History in schools today. President McKelvie presented Michael with a Certificate of appreciation for speaking to us.



At right, Jon Vreeland was awarded the Certificate of Distinguished Service and received his supplemental on Abraham H. King.



At left, Richard Adams is awarded the Meritorious Service Award.



At Right, Larry McAndrews received our Wounded Warrior Certificate and Challenge Coin and Vietnam Service Pin from Veteran's Affairs Chairman Dan Henry.