

Muskets & Broadsword

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution
December 2007

Editor Jim Blauer

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: December 8, 2007

Where: The Sizzler Restaurant
1401 North Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, CA

Time: Set up and Social begins at 11:00 am.

Meeting: Called to Order at 11:30 am.

Website: www.orange-countysar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A full year has passed since I was nominated as your chapter president. Now the time has come to pass the responsibility & baton on to someone else. As my employment duties have changed it will have some affect on my commitment to our chapter & attendance. Most of our chapter officer positions will be retained by those who have held them for the last couple & in some cases many years. Let me say to them & our past officers a huge Thank you for your service! Our chapter has enjoyed a very good reputation in our state society as well as our chapter has furnished a number of state officers all due to some very committed people. Most of these positions are not difficult to perform but it does take a little time & effort. Some are more tedious than others but all together make our chapter run very well. So be prepared to vote & keep our chapter in good hands.

Don't forget our yearly Christmas gift exchange in lew of a speaker for our December luncheon meeting. The wrapped gift should be no more than \$10.00 and everyone who brings a gift can partake in the exchange. The rules will be reviewed before we start I hope all will participate. I'm pleased that we have been able to obtain some pretty interesting speakers this last year despite the fact that a couple left us high & dry at the last minute. I do not have a firm commitment on our January speaker but have a backup just in case. I will be able to announce our January speaker at the December meeting.

Here are a few dates you may be interested in for the month of December: Dec 31st 1775 when Richard Montgomery & Benedict Arnold lead an unsuccessful American assault on Quebec in which Montgomery is killed & Arnold wounded. The American victory at Trenton, N.J. on Dec 26 1776. Washington & the Continental Army set up winter quarters at Valley Forge, Pa. on Dec 19, 1777. On Dec 29th 1778 the British captured Savannah, Georgia. On Dec 4, 1783 General Washington bids farewell to his officers during an address at Fraunces Tavern in New York City & then later resigns as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army & retires to his home at Mount Vernon on Dec 23 1783 or so he thought.

I am pleased to announce that our chapter board unanimously voted at our November board meeting to endorse Bishop Lou Carlson for nomination as Executive Vice President for the California State Society in the coming year & also John Dodd as Vice President South. We wish them both all the best & know if elected they will make our chapter & state proud indeed.

Finally lets especially remember our service men & women who are all over the world serving our country & us. They are especially missed & homesick themselves at this time of year. Remember the families who have lost their loved ones in battle & nonbattle deaths during their service. Also remember those who have returned with terrible wounds some of which are visible & some unseen. It is a very difficult time for many & our well wishes & prayers are with them. See you at the meeting with gift in hand and again everyone who wishes to partake must bring a wrapped gift.

Merry Christmas &
happy new year,

Dan Henry

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Robin Bowers and Darrel Miller to our chapter and the SAR. Robin Bowers' application was approved on September 29th. He is descended from George McCreary of the New Jersey Militia. Darrel Miller's application was approved on October 31. His ancestor is John Van Wyck Field who served in the Dutchess County, New York Militia.

DUES DUE

The December 1st deadline is fast approaching, so if you have not yet sent your annual dues in, you might want to take a moment and send your check for \$58.00 to

Secretary Jim Wallace. The \$58.00 covers the \$25.00 to National, the \$18.00 for State and the \$15.00 for the chapter For those of you who may be thinking long term, Life Memberships are available and can be paid off in four annual installments. Those of age 18-54 pay \$1000 or \$250 in four annual installments. Those age 55-74 pay \$750 or \$250 in three annual installments. Those age 75 and over pay \$500 or \$250 in two annual installments. With a Life Membership, once completely paid, you do not have to worry about annual dues. The State Society invests these funds in order to pay for all three levels of membership(National, State & Chapter). Please get your dues in by December first as we have a deadline to get these monies to the State and they inturn have a deadline to get the monies to National.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS IN 2008

At our November meeting the Nominating Committee presented its slate of officers for elections next month. The proposed slate consists of the following;

President-John Dodd, Vice-President-David Siler, Corresponding Secretary-Jim Wallace, Recording Secretary-Jim Blauer, Treasurer-Arthur Koehler, Registrar-Jim Quinnelly, Chaplain- Lou Carlson.

Nominations will be taken from the floor and the nominee must have agreed to serve in advance. Once the nominations are closed the election will be held.

Installation of officers for 2008 will take place during our January meeting. At this time the new president will make his appointments to the various committees and chairmanships that keep our chapter moving. If you are interested in getting involved and would like one to be involved with one or more of the following contact Hugh Richards or John Dodd.

The appointed positions include; Chancellor, Historian/Archivist, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Editor, Medals& Awards, Eagle Scout, Technology/Website, Activity Contest, Essay Contest, Valley Forge Project, Parades,

ROTC/JROTC, and Public Relations.

FALL BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

On November 1st members of the State Society arrived in Santa Barbara for the Fall Board of Managers meeting. Members and their wives congregated in the Hospitality Room from 5pm to 7pm. At 7pm many of the members and wives carpooled to Chad's Restaurant where Compatriot Larry Magerkurth had made a reservation for our group. There were about 20 who gathered at the restaurant. This included our own Lou & Karen Carlson, John & Karen Dodd, Larry Magerkurth and Jim Blauer.

Jim had gotten a ride with Lou and Karen Carlson and while enroute inquired as to the name of the Restaurant. Having heard it was called Chad's he thought that it would be interesting if his nephew Rob happened to work there as Rob's brother's name is Chad.

Having ordered the meals and while waiting attendees were served their drinks. The out came the muffins and a young man with a trigger lighter was placing butter on the table and lighting it. As Jim Looked up at this young man, he recognized his nephew, Rob!!!

Jim Stared at him as he lit the butter, but Rob was focused on his job and did not see him. So Jim asked one of the waitresses if Rob was working there, just to make sure he wasn't mistaken. She replied that he was and Jim told her he was his uncle and could he come out for a minute to say hi. So, Rob came out and he and Jim got to talk for a couple minutes until the

meal arrived and Rob had to get back inside as he was training to be a bartender that night.

The question is what are the odds that with all the restaurants Larry could choose to attend that this would be the one where a relative of one of our members works???

Jim had tried to get Rob to come to either the breakfast or banquet on Friday, but Rob had just started 2 new jobs, one daytime and one night time and did not feel he could ask his boss for time off so soon after being hired. Jim, though, did not know where Rob was working, only that he has a place in Goleta, just outside of Santa Barbara. Very interesting.

The next day, Friday November 2, members gathered and conducted the business at hand. Following the first session, we were on our own for lunch and then we congregated at the Santa Barbara Presidio.

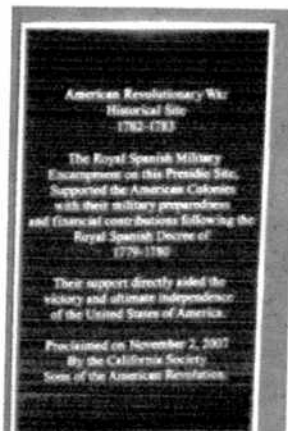
Here Lou Carlson welcomed those in attendance to the third Presidio plaque presentation by our Society. The Color Guard made their entrance into the church Following the Invocation by Rev. Phillip Dodson, The Pledge to the Flag was led by Steve Renouf and the National Anthem was led by Jim Blauer. State President Karl Jacobs introduced the guests in attendance and gave some background on the California Presidio Project. Lou Carlson then read the Proclamation, which had been signed by SARs and the Ladies Auxiliary members earlier and asked that all in attendance were welcome to sign the proclamation as well and was placed on a table at the back of the church for them to do so.

The Color Guard then proceeded out the side door to the Statue of King Carlos III of Spain who had declared War on England and gave the order for the collection of a donation from both soldier and citizen at the Presidios in California to raise money for the War effort and aid the patriot cause of the American Revolution.

With the Color Guard in place on either side of the



The Statue of Carlos III of Spain and the plaque that was unveiled on the pedestal.



statue and the congregation watching in front, the plaque was unveiled. Lou Carlson then moved in next to the statue and the color guard and read the inscription on the plaque.

American Revolutionary War

Historical Site

1782-1783

The Royal Spanish Military

Encampment on this Presidio Site,

Supported the American Colonies

with their military preparedness

and financial contributions following the

Royal Spanish Decree of

1779-1780

Their support directly aided the victory and ultimate independence of the United States of America.

Proclaimed on November 2, 2007

By the California Society

Sons of the American Revolution

A musket salute was fired following the reading of the Plaque. A canon was also fired.

After the Presidio Plaque Presentation, we returned to the hotel and had our second session of the meeting. Once we adjourned we prepared for the evening banquet

The meal was very good. We had a speaker from the local preservation Society, who told of their efforts to make it an educational experience for children to learn of the history of the area.

There were a few awards presented which included; The Patriot Medal-Michael Boyd, The Martha Washington medal-Anne Lampman and the baron Von Steuben Gold Medal- Will Tisch.

The Ladies Auxiliary conducted their drawing. There were eleven prizes won by those who purchased tickets.

The Festivities were then ended for this meeting.

VETERAN'S DAY

For Veteran's Day, Compatriot Bill Campbell attended ceremonies in Tustin where he read "Old Glory". He also attended the ceremonies held in Orange where Commander John of Legion Post 132 read a patriotic poem he had written while serving overseas in 1952.

PARADES

We have received our application for entry into the 2008 Patriot's Day Parade in Laguna Beach. The Theme this year is "Stars and Stripes Forever" and will be on March 1, 2008(first Saturday) and begin at 11am. So, mark your calendars and if you plan to participate please contact Jim Blauer the Parade Chairman, so he can get you all the pertinent information.

MILITARY RECORDS

Should this newsletter get out in time, some of you might find the following classes of interest on Military research.

On November 28, the National Archives in Laguna Niguel will conduct a couple classes on Military Research.

The first class is an Introduction to Military Records and has a \$10.00 Registration fee. They will show you how to locate service records for men and women who have served in America's military from the American revolution to the present day. It will be held from 9-11:30am.

The seconds class is an Introduction to eVetRecs and is free. You will learn how to use the national Archives on line military personnel records request system, eVetRecs, to order service records for those veterans who served in the military from the early 1900s to present. It will be held from 1-3pm.

You can RSVP by calling (949) 360-2641 ext 0 or email to laguna.archives@nara.gov by November 27, 2007.

A CHRISTMAS SUGGESTION

This year as you are making out your Christmas

Cards you might like to include the following address;

A Recovering American Soldier
C/O Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Let these American Heroes know we are thinking of them and thanking them for being there for all of us Americans. God Bless Them!!!

If you belong to other groups, you may suggest to them that they might want to do this as well.

CELTIC CHRISTMAS FAIRE

On December 2 the Celtic Christmas faire will be held at the Soka University in Aliso Viejo. This fun event can be of special interest to those who have Scottish and/or Irish in their genealogy. Irish and Scottish culture will be on display. There will be dance exhibitions, Highland games, ethnic foods, a Celtic marketplace, and a whole lot more. A nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon with your family. For more information go to <http://www.occelticfestival.com/>. The Scottish-Irish Special Interest group from the Orange County California Genealogical Society will have a booth and will be willing to answer any questions you may have concerning Irish or Scottish Research.

CHRISTMAS IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES

Christmas in the colonies took on a variety of forms that were as diverse as the places from which the people came.

On Christmas Day in 1492 when the Santa Maria went aground off of Hispaniola, Columbus took it as a sign from God that a settlement should be made at this place. Using timber from the Santa Maria a camp was built that Columbus christened, "Villa de La

Navidad" or Town of the Nativity. Though this colony failed, others would follow.

At Jamestown in December 1607, only 38 of the 100 who settled there in May were left. Yet, they took time to hold a simple Christmas service and pray for relief which was at that moment enroute.

The Pilgrims during the first Christmas in 1620 treated it as another work day. In 1621, though, a few tried to take Christmas Day off. Governor Bradford responded, "it was against his conscience that they should play and others work. If they made ye keeping of it a matter of devotion, let them keep their houses, but there should be no gaming or reveling in the streets."

The Puritans who arrived with the Winthrop Fleet in 1630, felt Christmas was immoral as well as illegal. Even minced pie was outlawed. In 1659 a decree was issued which formally banned Christmas observance. A penalty of 5 shillings was levied against law breakers. It was repealed in 1681, but the Puritan Clergy kept up their fiery attacks in their sermons.

In 1712 Cotton Mather, in fiery form, remarked to his congregation, "can you in your conscience think that our Holy Saviour is honored by Mad Mirth, by long Eating, by hard Drinking, by lewd Gaming, by rude Reveling?...If you will yet go on and will do such things I forewarn you that the burning Wrath of God will break forth among you."

In colonial Virginia Christmas was not a one day celebration, but seasonal. Having gotten in the Fall Harvest, it became a time to celebrate. Great homes were opened up and people came and went as they pleased, leaving the hostess guessing how many to expect for dinner or stay the night. In a London Magazine, the colony of Virginia was declared a place where "Universal Hospitality Reigns". Thomas Jefferson on the other hand declared these activities "deplorable barbarism".

By day the men hunted and rode the hounds. By night they partied with music, dancing and games.

Unlike their Puritan neighbors up North, who were also English, the Virginians preferred to celebrate Christmas in the customs of Medieval England. The Yule Log was hauled in from the forest and placed on the hearth and set on fire. It was believed to bring good luck for the coming year. The doors, halls and ballrooms were decorated with mistletoe and holly fir.

Servants and slaves of the large plantation owners received presents and unless they were needed for big parties, were given the season off.

On the morning of the 25th every man fired his musket to begin the day of celebration. A tradition of noise making took over the South with Firecrackers, cannon salutes and the clanging of pots and pans. Because Virginians read the bible daily and knew what it said, any services that were held were brief.

Dinner was an event in itself. It could run as many as eight courses. Turtle Soup, oysters, crab, codfish, roast beef, Yorkshire Pudding, venison, boiled mutton, suckling pig, hickory smoked ham and stuffed roast turkey could be found on the likes of George and Martha Washington's table. It would also include at least five vegetables, hot biscuits, cornbread, and a variety of relishes. Desserts were also a feast to choose from. These offerings would include pies, tarts, puddings, cakes, ice cream and fruit to name a few. Dishes of nuts, raisins and candy were also made available. At some point during the festivities a Traditional wassel bowl, a punch of spiced wine or ale with apples along with port or Madeira was offered. Washington enjoyed making his own potent egg nog, his own recipe that was a favorite among his iron-stomached guests.

Gift giving was not done until well into the 19th century. Gifts to servants and tenants was considered obligatory, but a kiss and a small toy was the usual limit of parental affection.

In Massachusetts people continued to treat Christmas as "rather a Day of Mourning than

Rejoicing". This practice too went well into the 19th century. As the Puritan influence began to ebb, the feeling began to prevail that a slice of minced pie and some sprigs of holly to decorate their homes was not sinful.

In 1759 the first Christmas Hymns were heard in the Old North Church in Boston. The Irish tradition of lighted candles in the window took hold. The Dutch who settled in what was new Amsterdam, but later New York City, had parties and open houses like their Virginia neighbors. Business was suspended for one month, beginning with St. Nicholas Eve(Dec.5) and lasting until the Twelfth Night(Jan. 6). Children would place empty wooden shoes by the fireplace and they would be filled by Sinterklaas as he rode by on his white horse, leaving small presents, cakes and candies. The Dutch Sinterklaas would become known as Santa Claus.

The Germans brought their customs as well. Best known is the Christmas Tree. It is first thought to have appeared while the Hessians were at Trenton on that fateful Christmas in 1776. The decorating of trees would not become popular until the late 1800s. Their tradition of Kristkindlein or Christ Child brought presents for children on Christmas Eve. Kristkindlein would become known as Kris Kringle.

The Moravians brought their traditions from Germany. A feast with Scriptures, music, lighting candles and food were a part of their celebration. Buns and coffee would be served at their Feast of Love along with the traditional favorite Lebkuchen, a Christmas Cookie made with honey, almonds and Orange peel. The Moravians also brought the Putz, an extensive manger scene, to America. It was not unusual for it to include a Village, and or farms with snow covered hills in the background. All this lit by tiny waxed candles.

Though celebrated, observed or noted in various ways, by the many diverse people who came from Europe, Christmas was not an official holiday in Colonial America. ***

Photo Album

December 2007



At our October meeting we had Medal of Honor recipient Walter Ehlers as our speaker. He told us of the events that led up to his receiving the Medal of Honor. He only found out about it when he saw it in the Stars and Stripes. He was still in the field at the time in France. He was a part of the D-Day invasion.



Above Walter Ehlers receives a Certificate of Appreciation from President Dan Henry for speaking to our chapter.



At left Jim Blauer has the honor of thanking Mr. Ehlers for his service to our country.



David Siler, Left and James Siler, right take the opportunity to thank Mr. Ehlers for his service to our country.

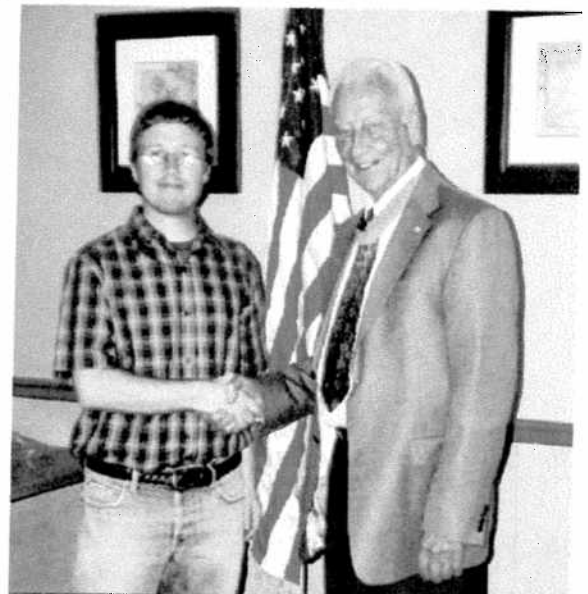


Photo Album

December 2007-2



Above President Dan Henry presents our speaker, Dale Reynolds, with the book 1776 and a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Reynolds portrayed Thomas Jefferson.

At right, President Henry presents Richard Adams with the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal & Certificate upon his recent retirement from the Orange County Sheriff's department.



Below, President Henry with the President of the Los Ninos Society, Children of the American Revolution and with all the young patriots from the Los Ninos Society who joined us for a joint meeting this month.



Photo Album

December 2007-3



Above left, Lou Carlson at Chad's Restaurant on Thursday night of the State meeting in Santa Barbara.

Above right, Karen Carlson signs the Proclamation for the Plaque being placed at the Presidio, as an American Revolutionary War site.

At left, Lou Carlson reads the Proclamation in the Church at the Presidio.

Outside after the service, Jim Blauer, far lower left, joins the color guard that flanks the statue of Carlos III where the plaque has been placed and was unveiled.

Below right, the Dodds, John & Karen at the banquet with Mike Jones of Arizona who is running for Genealogist General.

