



Muskets & Broadsword

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

November 2007

Editor Jim Blauer

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: November 10, 2007

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

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

Meeting: Called to Order at 11:30am

Website: www.orangecountysar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the year draws to a close we often look back at the year behind us and evaluate our accomplishments. We have had a good year for new members coming into our chapter but sadly we have also had a few leave us most recently being Paul Siler who passed away just a couple of weeks ago. He joined our chapter just a few months ago and is the father of fellow compatriots David Siler & grandfather of James Siler. Lets keep the Siler family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Despite our departed compatriots we continue to move forward but for those that knew them they will surely be missed. Chapter elections are coming up fast & if you are out there thinking of taking a more active role please stand up & be counted and advise either John Dodd, Hugh Richards & myself so we may add you to the nomination list. This chapter is not all that difficult to run but it does not do so without a little work. Lets keep our ancestors memory & service alive by being involved in our local chapter in some capacity.

Here are some dates from our past to remember for the month of November such as:

Nov 10, 1775 when the Continental Congress adopted a resolution to raise two battalions of marines an organization personally near & dear to me & also the Dodd family. On Nov 13th 1775 the Americans captured & occupied Montreal. On Nov 28 of the same year Congress established the U. S. Navy. How about this news on Nov 29th 1776 when a newspaper in Waterbury, Ct carried an account of a militia company made up of local volunteers who marched to New York. "It consists of 24 men, their ages added together are a

thousand years. They are all married men and when they came from home, left behind their wives with 149 children & grandchildren. A worthy example of patriotism. Lets others go and do likewise.” On Nov 15 1777 Congress adopts the Articles of Confederation & two days later submitted them for ratification to the states.

Due to a lack of competence in American leadership an event known as the Cherry Valley Massacre occurs in New York on Nov 11, 1778. Then on Nov 3rd 1783 the American Army disbanded. Three weeks later on Nov 25th the British Army evacuated New York City this being their last military position in America during the war.

I just returned from my final vacation for the year from Virginia. West Virginia, Maryland & Pennsylvania. The most interesting place I visited was in West Virginia near Fairmont at a place called “Prickett’s Fort State Park.” Prickett’s Fort is a rebuilt 1774 fort built by Jacob Prickett one of the earliest pioneers & settlers of the area. He happens to be my 7th great grandfather. He led an interesting life being born in New Jersey in 1722 & exploring the area in greater Virginia around today’s Marion County, W.V. long before it was inhabited by other than native Americans. He was one of 5 men who scouted & surveyed land in the region for Lawrence Washington (brother of George W.) in 1752. He later served in the French & Indian war and was at Fort Necessity when Washington surrendered there. He later served in the militia in Lord Dunmore’s War. He received a land grant later for his services during these conflicts. In between he fought marauding Indians but at a great cost as his son Isaiah & daughter in law were killed & scalped outside their home as well as several of

his neighbors & friends. He later served as a Captain of militia at Fort Prickett during the American Revolution. This area is still populated by his descendants & the property of the fort & other nearby property are now owned by the state of West Virginia and is now a state park. Google Prickett's Fort & see the info on line about it. After visiting the site & a log cabin he built in 1778 nearby I stopped by the graveyard close by & saw his grave along with his wife Dorothy. The thick forest in full fall colors were just beautiful. No wonder he settled there. But life was hard and he along with his friends Col. Zaquiel Morgan & his son Morgan Morgan who are relations to Capt Daniel Morgan of Morgan's Rifles fame they fought the Indians to make claim on the areas lands. They paid for it in blood & sweat but so did the Native Americans who fought desperately to hold their claim to it as well.

This months we will have as our guest the Los Ninos Society of the Children of the American Revolution meeting along with us. They are led by Sr Society President Carol Byrd who is also the 1st Vice Regent of the newly organized Irvine Ranch Chapter of the DAR. Lets make them feel welcome. By the time you receive this a few of our members will have returned from the November Board of Managers meeting in Santa Barbara. We will have a report on that meeting. One last piece of news is that Jim Shadwick continues to recover from his recent illness. He is moving along but wishes it was a little faster. We continue to wish him well & for a complete recovery of his strength & health. He has a lot of responsibility on his shoulders and is quite a knowledgeable member & officer in the SAR along with running a business along with Sue. Our hats off to them both.

Sincerely,

Dan Henry

DALE REYNOLDS AS THOMAS JEFFERSON

For thirty one years, actor/historian Dale Reynolds has brought American history and its constant struggle for a viable democracy - with all its drama, intrigue, tortured introspection and debate - to schools, colleges, corporations and community groups across the country, through his brilliant and absorbing performance as the third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson.

"To me, Thomas Jefferson represented the highest ideal of intellectual thought," says Reynolds. "He was a powerful leader who laid the foundation of Democracy as we know it today for America; an adventurous, bold, revolutionary thinker. I love this man. . . . in spite of the fact that, for us, his human frailties can outweigh his myriad accomplishments." Jefferson, the Man, was so much more than just the drafter of the Declaration of Independence, one of The Founding Brothers and an early President. As an archeologist, architect, botanist, philosopher, politician, plantation owner, musician, inventor, husband, father, prolific letter writer and slave owner, he backed his strongly held beliefs with reason, using a scientist's mind and a leader's courage. His views on war, justice, world politics, race relations, ethics and personal integrity are as timely today as they were back then.

Authentically costumed and be-wigged, always in character, Reynolds relies on his vast knowledge of American and World history, plus Jefferson's writings and historical and biographical material on the period to bring Thomas Jefferson to life. A completely interactive, audience participation show, Reynolds' Jefferson delivers in a vibrant question-and-answer style that allows "Jefferson" to tackle tough issues, draw correlations to today's difficult times, and illuminate the dark corners that

have always challenged our country's greatness. "What seems to work (taken from my three decades of experience playing Jefferson) is that, if not condescended to, people are quite willing to ask pertinent questions and learn from the answers," says Reynolds. "I came to that conclusion as I've never had an audience NOT ask questions. People are fascinated when history is brought to life. Humans are curious creatures and having the opportunity to ask a "real-live-president" some pertinent questions of how he might deal with problems of today, knowing what he wrote and said about similar issues in the past, is both exciting and quite fun."

DUES DUE

Compatriots, it is that time of the year when we renew our annual membership with the SAR. The amount has not changed. It is still \$58.00. That covers \$25 for National. \$18.00 for State and \$15.00 for the chapter. If you should be thinking about obtaining a Life Membership, the State has a three-tiered scale for this membership. Those age 18--54 would pay \$1000 or \$250 in 4 annual installments. Those age 55-74 would pay \$750 or \$250 in 3 annual installments. Those age 75 and up would pay \$500 or \$250 in 2 annual installments. With a Life Membership, once completely paid, you do not have to worry about annual dues. The State Society invests the funds to pay for all three levels of membership(National, State and Chapter). The deadline is December 1st, so please get your dues in as soon as possible.

PASSING OF A FELLOW COMPATRIOT

Paul Arnold Siler, National #168484, State # 8191 passed away at 2am at his home in Corona on October 23, 2007. Our prayers and sympathies go out to his son, Compatriot David Siler and grandson James who attend our meetings regularly. As is our

practice, whenever there is a fallen Compatriot, our charter will be draped in black at our November meeting in memory of Compatriot Paul.

JAMES WILSON

Though one of the least known of our Founding Fathers, James Wilson was probably one of our most important. He is only one of about six who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

James Wilson was born on September 14, 1742 in Carskerdo, near Ceres, Scotland. One of 26 children, he was born into a Presbyterian farming family in East Scotland. He was educated at the university of St. Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow where he was studying to be a Presbyterian minister. Though he had hoped to graduate, he was unable to with his father's death during his final year. He rejected the seminary to study bookkeeping. Seeing little future for himself in Scotland, he came to America in 1765. He was in New York City for a some time and in early 1766 he got work as a Latin tutor at the College of Philadelphia, later called the University of Pennsylvania.

With letters of introductions he was able to obtain a job as the legal assistant in the offices of John Dickinson, where he learned much of the trade. After a little over a year in this position he was able to pass the Bar in Philadelphia(1767) and opened up his own practice in Reading. He later moved his practice to Carlisle a small Scotch-Irish hamlet outside of Harrisburg. One of the most prominent lawyers of his time, he has been credited as the most learned of the Framers of the Constitution.

In 1771 he married Rachel Bird. He built an impressive law practice with a wide range of clients



A reproduction of James Wilson's handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

and built an impressive estate.

His entry into the political fray of the day(1774) occurred when he was made chairman of the Carlisle Committee of Correspondence and attended his first provincial assembly. In 1774 he published "Considerations on the Nature and Extent of the Legislative Authority of the British Parliament". This pamphlet denied all authority of Parliament over the colonies. He was placed upon an equal par with Jefferson and Adams writings that year, but in fact Wilson had written this piece in 1768.

In 1775 he took up arms as a colonel in the 4th Battalion of Associators and would rise to the rank of Brigadier General in the Pennsylvania State Militia.

In 1774 as a member of the First Continental Congress, Wilson outlined his theories on judicial review. They would be adopted following the establishment of our independence.

In 1776 as a member of the Second Continental Congress, Wilson was not at first a firm advocate for independence. Pennsylvania, though was divided on the subject of Independence, and not wanting to go against the wishes of his constituents, he refused to vote. It was only after he had received more feed-

back and after considering Richard Henry Lee's resolution of June 7, 1776, that Wilson's vote broke the deadlock of the Pennsylvania delegation in favor of independence.

In Charles Smith Page's *James Wilson: Founding Father*, he notes that Wilson was among the leaders in forming Native American policy. He wrote; "If the positions he held and the frequency with which he appeared on committees concerned with Indian affairs are an index, he was until his departure from Congress in 1777 the most active and influential single delegate in laying down the general outline that governed the relations of Congress with the border tribes."

In 1776 along with John Adam, Thomas Jefferson, John Rutledge and Robert Livingston, he served on the Committee on Spies and helped to define treason.

On October 4, 1779, in response to inflation, poverty and food shortages that had for three years been on the increase, the Fort Mifflin Riot began. A militia of those supporting price regulations and opposed to the conservative leadership in Philadelphia, marched on James Wilson's home on Third and Walnut streets. Wilson barricaded himself and thirty-five of his colleagues in his home that became known as Fort Mifflin. Joseph Reed led the city's Light Horse Brigade and Baylor's 3rd Continental Light Dragoons in rescuing Wilson and his colleagues. The short battle left 5 soldiers dead and 17-19 people wounded.

From 1779-1783 he served in the role of Advocate General for France in America.

As a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, James Wilson served on the Committee of Detail, that produced the first draft of the new Constitution. He was in favor of popularly elected senators and presidents and proposed the Three-

Fifths Compromise, where each slave would count as 3/5 of a person for representation in the House of Representatives and for the Electoral College. He spoke to the convention 168 times. Dr. Benjamin Rush who was at the convention called Wilson's mind, "One Blaze of Light".

Like many of his colleagues at the Constitutional Convention, Wilson was not in agreement with the entire final draft, but felt it the best they could produce and stumped throughout his state of Pennsylvania to get it ratified. He gave a major speech at the State House Yard on October 6, 1787. He made clear the terms for ratification and focused on the fact that this would be the first popularly elected National Government.

Having gained experience from this convention, Wilson would help to redraft the 1776 Pennsylvania Constitution, working with William Findley of the Constitutionalist Party, which helped to alleviate the feeling of partisan politics in Pennsylvania.

In 1789 President Washington appointed James Wilson as one of the first Associate Justices of the new Supreme Court.

In 1789 he was appointed the first Law Professor at the College of Philadelphia and in 1790 he began a series of lectures on law there. This ended in April 1791 when he had to attend to his duties on his circuit as Supreme Court Justice. Though he started the lectures up again in late 1791 or early 1792, they stopped at some point and were never resumed. It would not be until after his death that these lectures were published by his son Bird Wilson in 1804.

In his final years, Wilson had invested in land, resulting in heavy debts. In 1797 he was briefly imprisoned for a debt in Burlington New Jersey, but it was paid by his son. In 1798 he then went to North Carolina in an effort to escape creditors. Though

imprisoned for a short time there, he became a circuit judge there. While visiting fellow Supreme Court Justice James Iredell in Edenton, North Carolina, he was stricken with malaria and died from a stroke on August 28, 1798. He was buried in the Johnson burial ground on a plantation near Edenton, but was reinterred at Christ Church in Philadelphia in 1906.

COMPARISON OF TWO FAMOUS DOCUMENTS

At a recent meeting of the chapter(September), the program that was handed out had a page that compared the Constitution with the Mayflower Compact. I am reproducing each document and the comparison of the words

MAYFLOWER COMPACT

1620

In Ye name of God Amen.

We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the faith, etc.

Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and advance of the Christian Faith and honor of our king and country, voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents, solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most mete and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all duesubmission and obedience.

In witness whereof, we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11 of November in the year of the reign of our Soivereign Lord King James of England, FRance, and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno. Dom. 1620.

Thus, these men became the first Americans who believed that God created all men equal.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

1787

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our prosperity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

OUTLINE OF COMPARISON

MAYFLOWER COMPACT	PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION
1 - IN YE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.	NOT IN PREAMBLE, BUT NO DOUBT OF THE FAITH PRESCRIBED BY THE WRITERS OF THE CONSTITUTION IN THAT THROUGH THE YEARS FOLLOWING THEY APPROVED/ ADOPTED: 'IN GOD WE TRUST' AND RECENTLY 'ONE NATION UNDER GOD'. (OTHER SUGGESTIONS OF FAITH IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.)
2 - WE, WHOSE NAMES ARE UNDERWRITTEN	WE, THE PEOPLE OF THESE UNITED STATES
3 - SOLEMNLY AND MUTUALLY COVENANT	DO ORDAIN
4 - COMBINE TOGETHER IN A CIVIL BODY POLITIC	IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION
5 - FOR BETTER ORDERING AND PRESERVATION AND FURTHERANCE OF THE ENDS FORESAID AND BY VIRTUE TO ENACT, CONSTITUTE, AND FRAME SUCH JUST AND EQUAL LAWS . . . FOR THE GENERAL GOOD OF THE COLONY	ESTABLISH JUSTICE, ENSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE AND PROMOTE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY FOR OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY
6 - TO ENACT . . . ORDINANCES, ACTS, CONSTITUTIONS AND OFFICES AS SHALL BE THOUGHT MOST MEET AND CONVENIENT	DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION
7 GOVERNOR AND BOARD OF ASSISTANCE WAS APPOINTED TO CARRY OUT CRITERIA OF COMPACT	CONSTITUTION DETAILED PROCEDURE TO CARRY OUT CRITERIA IN PREAMBLE