



Muskets & Broadsword

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution
March 2008

Editor Jim Blauer

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MEETING INFORMATION

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When: March 8, 2008

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

Our speaker this month will be Beth McCarty, Director of the Orange Regional Family History Center. She will speak to us concerning "Effective Use of LDS Family History Centers". I have used the Orange facility on many occasions and the resources are great. For those of you working on applications, either the original one or a "supplemental", this will be a valuable talk. Even if you have no current plans for a supplemental right now, you can beef up your genealogical acumen. So, bring a notepad and your questions and plan to attend this informative talk.

In the meantime, please try and join us for the Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade on Saturday March 1. We will assemble at 10am with the parade starting at 11am. No "uniform" or colonial dress required, but wear it if you have it. Otherwise, just wear red, white and blue,(as I will be doing) for this short, downhill parade. Please e-mail me or Parade Chairman Jim Blauer for more information.

Thanks to those of you who came out to the Massing of the Colors. Compatriots Jim Blauer and Kent Gregory marched as Lee's Legion. Jim sang the National Anthem, and our own Vice-President South, the Rev. Lou Carlson, gave a stirring prayer honoring our Nation's fallen. With muskets firing, an artillery salute and a flyer by four F-16 fighters; this was one of the best ceremonies yet. If you haven't made it up for one of these events, I highly recommend you attend next year.

Finally, we have our second "bio-sketch" in this newsletter. Thanks to Jon Vreeland for his contribution. Who's next? Please e-mail me your submission,

or bring it to the meeting.

MARINE PROJECT UPDATE

We received one shipment of the special gloves which had been backordered and sent those off with a large batch of socks, barbecue sauce, magazines and a few other items. The rest of the gloves are still on backorder and will be sent as soon as we get them. So, please continue to bring more socks, snacks, spices and sundries to the meeting, and we will include them in the next batch of boxes. Also, our fund-raising was so successful that we sent an additional \$250.00 to operation Archangel for postage and supplies. Thank you all again for participating in this important effort on the homefront.

John Dodd

JON GORDON VREELAND

It seems now that I am retired, I have actually had time to find out about my family and ancestors. As we all agree, it seems backwards that we find out about ourselves later in life, rather than in our earlier time on this earth. I was introduced to genealogy and the SAR by my neighbor and family friend Dolores Miller. "Dodie" is a DAR and her enthusiasm convinced me to do a little research. I realized shortly after going into the DAR books and some investigation, that I had several ancestors in the Revolutionary War. The Revolutionary family is predominately Dutch and first arrived in 1638. Their patriotic service was mainly in Essex, Bergen, and Passaic counties of New Jersey. They were generally state militia or "Minutemen". The original family members were instrumental in settling New Jersey. Michael Jansen Vreeland, whom also is a patriarch of Lou Carlson, was one of the nine men of Peter Stuyvesant. He was also known as "First Justice".

I was born in Montreal, Quebec Province, Canada

in 1949. My father was from New Orleans. He taught me to appreciate Cajun and Creole cooking and that Louis Armstrong is "The Man". He immigrated to Canada during WWII and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. I was named after my father and a tail gunner who was killed in a Halifax over England during WWII. My father married a first generation Canadian. My mother's parents were from England and Wales. I spent my first eight years in Canada with a British upbringing, when my father decided that he missed his country and moved his family to California in 1958. I claim all beaches from Long Beach to Huntington Beach as mine, being as that is where I spent the majority of my youth. I attended schools in Seal Beach, Long Beach and Huntington Beach. I went to Long Beach City College and Chapman University. I married my wife in 1971 and have two children. We have four grandchildren as well.

I spent most of my adult career as a fireman for Orange County. I was stationed in several firehouses throughout the county. Some of the cities include; Seal Beach, Westminster, Mission Viejo, Laguna Hills, San Juan Capistrano, and Irvine. I was assigned to fire suppression the entire time as well as technical rescue specialist. The diversity of the job included; High Rise, wildland, cliff and confined space rescue, vehicle extrication, structural protection, fire prevention, radiation monitoring(San Onofre), and the dominating medical assistance calls. I was injury retired in 1999.

Retirement proved to be more challenging than working. In 2002 I was seriously injured in North Dakota while touring the USA and Canada on my Harley Davidson. Since then I have been perfectly content doing what I call "Old man projects" and spending time with my family.

I've never belonged to any clubs or organizations before and I am enjoying and still learning about our group. I've learned a great deal about our country since joining and hope to get to know all of you better as time goes on.

Jon Gordon Urceland

REAGAN LIBRARY REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT

On Saturday April 12 from 10am to 4 pm, the American Revolutionary War era will come to life as the Reagan Library hosts an 18th Century encampment.

This Colonial American Experience is one of the most authentic living history events on the West Coast. The Reagan Library invites you to join them for their Seventh Annual Revolutionary War Event.

Visitors can experience 18th Century Life by strolling through a town square where period vendors and craftsmen will display their wares and demonstrate their skills. Discover daily life in the military while wandering through and interacting with soldiers in an authentic military encampment.

This is a great opportunity for families, a Saturday field trip, or students looking for extra credit. All events related to the reenactments are complimentary. Regular museum charges apply to enter the museum.

For more information on this fun-filled interactive event, call 1-800-410-8354.

WEB SITE PHOTOS

For those of you who do not go to our website on a regular basis, our webmaster Arthur Koehler has placed under "Chapter Activities" photos of some of our events. Currently you will be able to find pictures from the Massing, the Marine Platoon we

have adopted in Iraq, The Fall Board of Managers Meeting, the plaque presentation at the Presidio in Santa Barbara and some presentations from last Summer's Barbecue.

You can check out these photos and other items and information on your chapter by going to;

www.orangecountysar.org.

EAGLE SCOUT PROGRAM

At our February meeting we were pleased to have our chapter winner in the Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest, John Hunsaker and his mother Leslie, join us. John was presented his winner's medal after reading his essay to those in attendance. One of the items that has to be filled out when entering is a 5 generation pedigree chart. John's chart took it a step further by going back to his Revolutionary War Ancestor, Matthew Burress. Matthew was born about 1760-61 in Maryland and died 11/11/1819 in Kentucky. He served as a soldier in Virginia. He married Ruth Scott. It is our hope that when John has time away from his studies he will pursue researching this line in hopes of joining our chapter.

Our Certificate program is getting back on track. We have obtained the names of many Eagles from the last year and will be issuing certificates to them in the near future. As this goes to press your Eagle Scout Chairman is waiting to receive some signed Certificates, so that he can finalize them and mail them off.

In February we issued eight Certificates. We included a letter of Congratulations as well as information on the Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest. Our current total stands at 7187. We began 2007 with #6874 and ended with #7179 for a total of 306 Eagle Scout Certificates issued in 2007. We hope to do better this year now that we are getting back on track. If we are real fortunate we will exceed the 7200 mark

by the end March.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Spring State Membership Meeting will be held on April 18 & 19 in Concord, California. It is being hosted by the Thomas Jefferson Chapter. The meeting will be at the Hilton Concord Hotel, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord. For room reservations call 1-800-8262544. A special room rate of \$99.00 per night, single or double occupancy is available through April 3, 2008. There is free parking at the hotel.

You will find the Registration form at the back of your Fall issue of the *California Compatriot*. Your Registration fee is \$130 per person. The registration fee includes all meetings, Saturday Luncheon and Saturday Banquet. Costs include gratuity and tax. A vegetarian meal is available with prior notice.

For those who wish only to attend the luncheon and banquet a non registrant lunch is \$35.00 and banquet is \$65.00. The Saturday Luncheon has a choice of Cobb Salad or Club Sandwich. The Banquet choices are Chicken Saltimboca, Pork or Prime Rib. They do note that if you select the Prime Rib you need to add an extra \$12.00.

Send your reservations to Stephen R. Renouf, 16123 Paseo Del Campo. San Lorenzo, Ca 94580. Should you have any questions you can contact him at 1-510-276-8946 or e-mail him at Usina@aol.com.

Memorial Day services will be held at the Old Santa Ana Cemetery on May 26. We will have more information as the time gets closer. For those who attend other ceremonies in the county please advise our Activity Contest Chairman Jim Blauer, so he can note this activity on our monthly report.

July we will have the July 4th Parade. We have

appeared in this parade since 1988(this will be our 21st year) and hope that you will come out and join your fellow compatriots celebrate our Nation's Birth by marching or riding in this parade.

Those of us who are participating in the parade will not be stopping to rest on our laurels. July 5-9 will be the 118th Annual SAR National Congress in Sacramento. Saturday July 5th the California Society will host a reception at the Railroad Museum. On Sunday July 6th there will be several committee meetings. There will be a tea for the ladies in the early afternoon. In the afternoon the color guard will lead a procession to a nearby cathedral for a memorial service.

On Monday July 7, the Congress will begin. While the men are busy with their Congress the Ladies National Auxiliary will be meeting as well. The youth awards will be presented at the Luncheon. That evening dinner will be on your own, but they will have the Minuteman Ceremonies, recognizing service to the SAR.

On Tuesday July 8, the Congress sessions will continue. The Ladies will have a luncheon while the men will have lunch on their own. Balloting for new officers will take place from 3-5pm. The Banquet will be from 7-10pm.

On Wednesday July 9, the final session of Congress will take place. Certain election of officers will take place as well as any unfinished business. There is a planned tour for the afternoon and the President General's Banquet in the evening.

More information will be coming in future issues of the SAR Magazine along with registration form, fees and hotel arrangements. So, start making plans for a trip to Sacramento for the National SAR Congress July 5-9, 2008. See you there.

SILAS DEANE

Silas Deane like John Adams graduated from a prestigious college (Harvard for Adams, Yale for Deane). Like Washington, but unlike Adams he came from a slave holding family. Like Washington and Adams he was a member of the Continental Congress. Like Adams and Benjamin Franklin, he represented the American colonies in a foreign land. Like Washington and Adams he had an interest in Farming, though on a much smaller scale than Washington or Adams. Like Adams and Washington he recognized the importance of a powerful navy for the colonies. Like Washington he helped plan a victory early on in the War (Fort Tichonderoga). Unlike Washington, Adams and Franklin, Deane is virtually unknown to the American Public.

Silas Deane was born on December 24, 1737 in Groton, Connecticut. He was the son of a blacksmith, who graduated from Yale in 1758. He was admitted to the bar in 1761. Instead of putting out his shingle to practice law, Deane became a merchant in Wethersfield, Connecticut.

He took an active role in the movements in Connecticut that would lead to the War for Independence. In 1772 he was elected to the State Assembly. From 1774-1776 he served in the Continental Congress. On March 1, 1776 he was sent by Congress to France on a secret mission to obtain aid from France. Along with Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee, he became one of the regularly commissioned representatives to France from Congress.

He began his stay in Paris by opening up negotiations with Vergennes and Beaumarchais in his attempt to get aid for the colonies. He was able to secure through Beaumarchais many ship loads of arms and munitions as well as financial assistance

for the Battle of Fort Tichonderoga.

He was also able to enlist the help of some of Europe's Soldiers of Fortune. These included; Lafayette, Baron Johann de Kalb, Thomas Conway, Casimir Pulaski and Baron Von Steuben.

Due to his poor record keeping of finances and the Contracts signed, he was recalled by Congress and replaced by John Adams on November 21, 1777. It was expected that he may face charges based on Lee's complaints and that he had promised officer's commissions outranking American officers. Before leaving he signed on February 6, 1778 the treaties of amity and commerce and of alliance with France, which he and the other commissioners had successfully negotiated. It was also in Paris that Silas Deane had approved of Scotsman James Aiken's (John the Painter) plot to destroy the British Royal Navy stores in Portsmouth, England.

Upon his return, Deane was brought before Congress to answer the charges laid against him. He was defended by both John Adams and John Jay in a very long and bitter dispute over his receipts and disbursement records. He was finally permitted to return to France in 1781 to settle his affairs and attempt to find copies of the disputed records. His differences with some of the French officials and the printing of letters to his brother in *Rivington's Royal Gazette* in New York, got him barred from entry and branded a traitor at home for having repudiated the Revolution as hopeless and suggesting a reproachment with England. He eventually settled in The Netherlands. After the treaty of peace was signed he lived in England in a state of poverty. In 1784 he published his defense of his actions in *An Address to the Free and Independent Citizens of the United States of North America*.

He was preparing to return to the United States in 1789 in an attempt to recoup his fortune when while

on board ship before sailing he fell ill and died on September 23. Some historians believe he was poisoned by Edward Bancroft, an American double agent with the British. He had been employed by Deane and John Adams in gathering intelligence during the War of Independence. It is felt that Bancroft may have felt threatened by Dean's possible testimony before Congress.

Silas Deane was never found guilty of the charges brought against him by Arthur Lee. Deane's granddaughter, Philura, through her husband, pressed his case before Congress, and they were awarded and paid \$37,000 as an apology payment in 1842-- almost 53 years after his death. He had several items named in his honor. There was the USS Deane, a Revolutionary War Frigate, the Silas Deane Middle School, the Webb Dean Stevens Museum and the Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Silas moved to Wethersfield in 1762. There he met Mehitable Webb the widow of Joseph a wealthy merchant and trader. Silas became her legal advisor and business advisor. They were married in 1763 and with the marriage came her 6 children by Joseph. In 1764 they had a son Jesse. Silas, having arrived socially, began building his own mansion, conveniently located, right next door to his step family. His large mansion, which he completed in 1766, was completely different from the architecture found in Wethersfield in his day. It was closer in style from the Dutch West Indies or New York. It had an asymmetrical facade that featured a piazza or porch. As you opened the door you walked into the spacious hallway that was accented by a grand staircase. The best parlor in the house contained a carved Portland Brownstone Fireplace. Though the Piazza is gone, the fireplace and staircase remain to this day.

Though finished in 1766, Mehitable did not get to enjoy it for long as she died in 1767. Silas found a second wife in Elizabeth Saltonstall Evards of New London. She was a wealthy widow herself and the granddaughter of Connecticut Governor Gurdon Saltonstall of the Massachusetts Saltonstall family. They were married in 1769. While Silas was busy with his duties in the Continental Congress, John Adams visited Wethersfield and took tea with Mrs. Dean. In 1775 Elizabeth Dean dined with George Washington, when he stopped by enroute to take command of the troops outside Boston. It was while he was in Paris that his wife died and Silas Deane's troubles began, resulting in the decline of his fortune. The mansion was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1964. It had been restored following a fire in 1932. It is open for to the public as the Silas Deane House(see <http://mc04.equinox.net/wdsmuseum/deanehouse.html>)



SILAS DEANE

SILAS DEANE
HOUSE



Photo Album

March 2008



John Hunsaker, chapter winner of our Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest reads his essay at left and his mother pins his medal on him at right.



John Dodd presents Peter Small with a Certificate of Appreciation for his portrayal of George Washington.



Above Kent Gregory and Jim Blauer prepare for the March at the Massing. At ^{left}right are the raffle prizes for the Ben Franklin Drawing in February.

