



Muskets & Broadsword

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

February 2009

Editor Jim Blauer

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: February 14, 2009

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

It is with great honor and gratitude that I have been nominated and elected as your chapter President for 2009. I would like to thank outgoing President John Dodd for handing us a stronger and healthier chapter.

We have a very exciting year ahead, with many activities already planned. Some of these include; the Massing of the Colors and Salute to our Armed Forces, the Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade, the Spring Meeting of the California State Society, and the Memorial Day Service at the Old Santa Ana Cemetery. The crown jewel of the year for our chapter will be the Spring CASSAR meeting we are hosting at the Wyndham Hotel in Costa Mesa, April 16-19. At all of these events our Lee's Legion of Light Dragoons Color Guard will participate. A few of our members have taken on difficult roles. Lou Carlson will be up for election as the new State President for 2009-2010 at the State Meeting in April. Richard Adams has become our new Chapter Chaplain and Jim Fosdyck is our new Vice-President and JROTC/ROTC Chairman. Jim has also become the newest member of our Color Guard and will be marching with Jim Blauer and Kent Gregory in Laguna Beach.

We have several speakers already lined up for the coming year. Our speaker in February will be Jack Sholl, President of the Coachella Valley Chapter SAR. Jack's subject will be "Haym Salomon, Patriot and Financier of the American Revolution".

All in all it is going to be a very interesting year. Again I thank you for giving me the privilege of serving the chapter in the capacity of President for 2009.

David R. Siler

President

SPEAKER JACK SHOLL

Jack Sholl comes to us from Palm Desert, where he is the incoming president of the Coachella Valley Chapter SAR. Jack brings many years of experience in very diverse activities, one being his love of historical interpretation. As our speaker in February, his topic will be "Haym Salomon Patriot and Financier of the American Revolution".

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Jack went to the University of Washington, where he earned his degree in 1953. He then went to work for IBM, working in sales and sales management for 29 years. A man who obviously loves the water, he is a crew member of the "Golden Eight", a masters rowing crew. He is also a volunteer with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, San Diego. As a native Philadelphian and a student of the American Revolution, it was natural that Jack became a volunteer at the Independence National Historic Park as a docent. Here, he has given 25,000 hours of service. He later went on to develop multiple powerpoint programs that focus on American History and have been approved by the National Park Service. They are; *"The U. S. Constitution"*, *"Haym Salomon, Patriot and Financier of the American Revolution"*, *"A Tale of Two Bells"*, and *"An Interpretive Walk Through Independence Square"*.

Please join us on February 13 when we will hear Jack Sholl tell the story of the man who financed the American Revolutionary War.

MEDALS & AWARDS UPDATE

In case you did not get the e-mail or letter from Secretary Jim Wallace, he is attempting to update the listing of members, their ancestors and awards and medals received by our chapter Compatriots.

Please show the ancestor on which your original

application was based, the date on your Membership Certificate, and the ancestors of all approved supplemental applications. Please include each patriot's name, rank, state, and unit (militia or Continental line), or as much as is known.

Please list all offices you have held in the chapter. Give title of the office and dates served.

Please list all SAR Medals and Certificates you have received, including the dates conferred and if known the reason. This includes all chapter state and national awards.

If you are not on our e-mailing list for the newsletter and other important notices, please include it when sending the above to Jim Wallace. His address is 435 South Shields Drive, Anaheim, Ca 92804-2021 Your assistance in gathering this information is greatly appreciated.

MASSING OF THE COLORS

As you may recall a flyer was sent out last month on this special event held at Forest Lawn in Los Angeles. This is the largest celebration of Washington's Birthday West of the Mississippi River. It starts at 3pm, so, you should make plans to be there by 2pm to see all the colonial uniforms from the various chapters and regiments as well as all the armed forces JROTC/ROTC units from around the Southland. There are usually in excess of 50 different Color Guard Units. A patriotic spectacle that is unparalleled in scope. This will be the 27th year and as each year passes it gets bigger and better. Here is hoping you will be able to come out and join us for this very special celebration of George Washington and our Armed Forces.

PATRIOT'S DAY PARADE

On Saturday March 7 we will once again participate

in the Patriot's Day Parade in Laguna Beach. It is one of the easiest walking parades as it is all down hill. Wear something patriotic and we would love to have you join us. We will have our 1931 Model A once again and we are planning on having our fife and drum corps as well.

If you are interested in joining in the fun contact Parade Chairman Jim Blauer at 949-5486871 or jblauer@pacbell.net, so he can send you a map and all the pertinent information on where and when we have to be there as well as the starting time of the parade.

134th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Your Orange County Chapter will be the host this Spring of the 134th Annual Membership Meeting. It will take place from April 16-19 at the Wyndham Hotel in Costa Mesa. It is located across from the Performing Arts Center, which is located across from South Coast Plaza.

To make your reservations call (866)747-2635. Room rates are \$99 plus tax per night, single or double. It is \$115 for an Executive Suite, or \$159 for a deluxe suite. Self parking is complimentary.

Registration is \$120 per person. That cover Friday and Saturday Luncheons and the Saturday Banquet. After March 31, registration will be \$130.

For those who just want to attend a luncheon or banquet, the luncheons are \$37 and the banquet is \$46. The banquet choices are Beef Sirloin, Grilled Salmon or Vegetarian. The luncheons will be the Youth Awards Luncheon and the Public Service Awards Luncheon.

I have enclosed at the end of this newsletter a copy of the Registration form. It will also be appearing in the California Compatriot.

Mail your registration to Rex B. Shannon, meeting Chairman, P.O. Box 19158, Irvine, CA

92623-9158. Make checks payable to Rex B. Shannon, Orange County Chapter SAR.

If you have any questions you can contact Rex at RexBShannon@gmail.com or (714) 669-3016.

It should be a fun meeting. The South Coast Plaza Mall with 280 shops, stores and restaurants is a place where the ladies can have fun spending their husbands money. We are in the process of selecting a women's event. The ladies will be able to sign up for this when they arrive.

ACTIVITY CONTEST

Each year monthly reports on our chapter's activities and our sent to State Chairman Phil Hinshaw. At the Fall Board of Managers Meeting Compatriot Hinshaw spoke on the reports he has been receiving during the year.

Our chapter had just 67 members as of January 1st in 2008. This placed our chapter in the medium size category. When Compatriot Hinshaw made his report he noted that Orange County and one other chapter were each leading in 7 of the 14 categories. We will find out at the April Meeting whether the last two months activities was enough for our chapter to win the Medium size Best chapter Award or not.

EAGLE SCOUT REPORT

In 2007 and 2008 we were using a different system than in the past for getting the names and distributing the Eagle Certificates of Recognition.

In the past we use to get up to two lists per month of 20-30 names of new Eagles. Now we either hear from the Eagles directly, requesting a certificate or we receive a quarterly listing of all Eagle for the current year.

Because of this system we did not have our November and December list for 2007 until March

of 2008. We had no certificates in January. In February we did 8 Certificates. In March we had received a list and did 188 Certificates. We did 5 in April and 6 in May. Our next list came in June when we did 341 certificates. From July to September we did only three certificates. We did 5 in October and 6 in November. With the last list for the year we did 193 in December. This does not count from Mid September to the end of the year. There are still more to come for 2008 Eagles.

In the past we had never done more than 520 Eagle Certificates in one year. With those figures above we did 755 Eagle Certificates in 2008!!!

By the end of 2008 Eagle Scout Chairman Jim Blauer has, since 1989(that is 20 years!!), calligraphied the names of the Eagles and dates they received this honor on 7,933 Certificates. When he receives the names for September through December of 2008 we should with out any problem exceed the 8000 Certificate mark!!!

Many thanks go to Jim Shadwick, Paul Weddell and Kent Gregory for making this happen. We were stalled in 2006 when Jim was speaking with Paul about our problem in recognizing this achievement of these young men. Paul was able to take it to the Scout Board and get things going again. Paul makes sure that Chairman Jim Blauer gets the lists as they are provided to him, so the certificates can be processed. Kent has helped in getting members of the various districts to distribute the Certificates to the troops, teams and crews that these Eagles belong to so they can have their certificates. The Scout Office stopped trying to put them in the Eagle packets and individual mailing would have been exorbitant for our small treasury. So, being able to mail them in packets to 10 or 11 individuals who see to it they get to the Eagles is a lot more cost effective. Your Eagle Scout Chairman thanks these

gentlemen who have so effectively aided this chapter program.

The Eagle Scout Scholarship continues and this year we have a chapter winner. Kevin Griffith was declared our chapter winner in December and his application was forwarded to State Eagle Scout Chairman Shawn Price for consideration on the State Level. State Judging occurs in late January or early February. Hopefully we will know by February 14th so that we can announce the state results at the chapter meeting. Chairman Blauer has ordered the SAR Eagle Scout Medal for the chapter winner and is awaiting its arrival. Once he has it in hand Chairman Blauer will contact Eagle Scout Griffith to attend our meeting so he can be presented with this medal.

HAYM SALOMON

Financier of the American Revolution

Haym Salomon was born in 1740 to Portuguese parents who had moved to Lissa(Leszno)Poland to escape the persecution from their homeland. In the Early 1700s the Spanish Monarchy had enacted laws that were antisemitic, So the Salomons moved to Poland. But even there they still had to deal with the pogroms that decimated many of the Jewish villages of the area. His father Salmon was a rabbi in Poland. His mother Rebecca was born in 1720.

It was during one of the Pogroms that hit his village if Lissa that Haym fled to Holland. From here he traveled throughout Europe in the 1760s becoming fluent in many languages. He returned to Poland around 1770 and possibly got caught up in the National Movement which once again forced him to flee the country in 1772. This was the year of the first of several partitions of his homeland between Russia, Prussia and Austria.

He went to England and then late in 1772 he sailed



Haym Salomon
1730-1785

to New York City which had been under British Control since 1660. Because he had acquired knowledge of finance and accounting while traveling through Europe he was able to get a job as a broker and commission agent for ships sailing the Atlantic.

He quickly became involved in politics and joined the "Boys of Liberty" and the "Sons of Liberty" that consisted of merchants and businessmen who were opposed to British rule. A considerable amount of then profits generated by the merchants and businessmen went to the British Treasury and not to the merchants and colonial businessmen.

Haym arranged for Arms to be shipped from St. Eustatius in the Caribbean to the colonies. This may have led to his arrest in September 1776 by the British who held him at the "Old Sugar House, a warehouse. It was while imprisoned here that he contracted Tuberculosis.

Because of his fluency in languages he was posted with General Heister, one of the Hessians, to help translate with the British. As a result he received a high degree of freedom and worked to persuade many of the German Hessians to switch sides. He also helped many American prisoners to escape from the British.

Following his release, Haym married Rachel Franks, the daughter of a prominent merchant, in

January 2, 1777. She was the daughter of Moses Benjamin Franks, a respected and successful merchants with dealings in New York City and Philadelphia. Rachel was 15 and Haym was 36. On July 20, 1778 their first son Ezekiel was born. Ezekiel would be followed by Sallie Salomon born October 17, 1779, Deborah Salomon born Jan 12, 1783 and Haym Moses Salomon born April 23, 1785.

With the assistance of Rachel's father, Haym began to specialize in providing services of furnishing goods and provisions to the armed forces. Known as a "sutler". When the British called upon him to help supply their troops, Haym saw this as an opportunity to spy on the British. He advertized in the New York Gazette and the Weekly Advertiser, noting he was capable of providing food and equipment for sailing vessels. He began to prosper and expanded to the buying and selling of merchandise.

HAYM SALOMON,

Broker to the Office of Finance,

HAVING procured a license for exercising the employment of Auctioneer, has now opened, for the reception of every species of merchandise, his house, No. 22, Wall-Street, lately occupied by Mr. Anthony L. Bleeker, (one of the best Hands in this city) and every branch of business, which in the smallest degree appertains to the professions of FACTOR AUCTIONIER and BROKER, will be transacted in it with that fidelity, dispatch and punctuality, which has hitherto characterized his dealings.

The house, in point of convenience and Situation, is exceedingly well calculated for the different kinds of business above mentioned: and he thinks it almost unnecessary to assure those who may favour it with their orders, that the strictest attention will be paid to them, and the utmost care and sollicitude employed, to promote their interest.

The nature of his business enables him to make remittances, to any part of the world with peculiar facility, and this he hopes will operate considerably in his favour, with those who live at a distance.

A desire of being more extensively useful and of giving universal satisfaction to the public, are among his principal motives for opening this house, and shall be the great leading principle of all its transactions.

By being Broker to the Office of Finance, and honored with its confidence, all those favors have passed through his hands which the generosity of the French Monarch, and the affection of the Merchants of the United Provinces, prompted them to furnish us with to enable us to support the expence of the war, and which have so much contributed to its success and happy termination. This is a circumstance which has established his credit and reputation, and procured him the confidence of the public, a confidence which shall be his study and ambition to merit and increase, by faithfully performing all his engagements.

The business will be conducted upon the most liberal and extensive plan, under the firm of HAYM SALOMON, and JACOB MORDECAI!

A B. Part Cash will be advanced, if required.

One of Haym Salomon's ads he placed in New York City.

In 1778 he was once again imprisoned by the British for his pro-rebel activities, tortured and sentenced to death by hanging on August 11, 1778. The charge was that he was one of a group that was planning a fire that would destroy the British Royal fleet in New York harbor. The plan also included the burning of several British warehouses. He was sent to the Provost, an infamous British prison, where he was to await his fate. Unknown to the British, Haym had hidden on himself several gold guineas. With his knowledge of German he was able to convince his Hessian Jailer to take a bribe and Haym was able to escape the British prison, fleeing to Philadelphia via New Jersey.

After arriving in Philadelphia, he went and spoke to the Second Continental Congress, offering his services and requesting a position, but was turned down.

With some borrowed funds he established himself as a broker, selling currency, bank notes and bills of exchange. He made a great deal of money as a merchant auctioneer and broker. He set up shop at the London Coffee House on Front Street where they Colonial Army and members of the Second Continental Congress would gather and socialize.

Unlike the British Empire the colonies were in financial straits as the Continental Congress had to go to other countries as well as its own colonists to get funds to pay for the war. Money was obtained from Holland and France, but still a war is costly and the money for food and provisions would only go so far. In 1779 Haym brokered a loan that gave General George Washington \$400,000 to pay the soldiers in his army. Some believe Haym gave some of his own money in this loan. He also made interest free loans to many members of Congress, including James Madison and James Monroe.

Salomon became an associate of Robert Morris, a

prominent Philadelphian who was a member of Congress and had close ties to Benjamin Franklin. In 1780-81 Morris was appointed Superintendent of Finances as the colonial government was broke. Between 1781-1784 Morris and Salomon entered into more than 75 financial transactions. These to provide funds for the war effort as well as salaries to top government officials.

He helped broker the deal that got money from Holland and France and threw in his commission to help the war effort. He was made agent for all merchandise that was seized by privateers loyal to the colonists, which he was able to sell to help finance the war further.

It has been shown that he advanced over \$211,000 to Morris when Morris was Superintendent of Finance. Other transactions with the government was to the tune of \$353,000 and had promissory notes valued at \$92,000. Salomon advanced over \$658,000 to the War effort. This was validated by Congress years later.

Through the years of war he maintained his brokerage office in Philadelphia. By 1783 he began to experience losses in the recession of that year and was making plans to move to New York City in 1785. He had been sent a sheaf of documents to sign so that he might be reimbursed for the monies he loaned during the war. He received it on a Saturday and refused to sign anything as it was the Jewish Sabbath and no work was to be conducted on the Sabbath!!

He fell gravely ill on Monday, before he could tabulate his figures on the loans he made and present them officially to the government for reimbursement. He died on January 6, 1785 in Philadelphia at the age of 45. His death was attributed to tuberculosis (consumption).

At the time of his death he was bankrupt with a

wife and three children under seven years of age and a fourth on the way. Though his estate was valued at \$44,000, he had debts of \$45,000. Shortly after his death, his clerk who would have been instrumental in getting his financial matters in order, committed suicide

Though attempts were made for reimbursement by his heirs a strange set of events prevented these efforts from being successful. One allegation was the papers needed to prove the claims were destroyed when Washington was burned during the War of 1812. His fourth child Haym, Jr. met with President John Tyler in the early 1840s and left a sheaf of documents with him to look over. They disappeared. Now in his late 70s in 1864 Haym, Jr. petitioned the Senate Committee on Revolutionary War Claims. He offered to settle for just \$100,000. A considerable amount less than what would have been owed with interest. It was approved by the committee, but was shot down in the Senate.

There had been a cache of Salomon papers in the Congressional Archives, but sometime after the 1860s they were found to be missing. With many of these documents containing the signatures of such men as Washington and Jefferson they were probably taken strictly for the autographs. These papers contained information on the financial dealings that Haym Salomon worked on.

In 1893 the family requested that Congress strike a medal in honor of their famous ancestor, but this request was also rejected by Congress. In 1911 future President Woodrow Wilson sat on a committee to found a University in Haym Salomon's honor, but this project was derailed by WWI.

Besides his dealings with the government in raising money for the War effort and donating a lot of his own money, he also served his religion. He served as a trustee and contributor to the construction of a



Commemorative Marker at the Mikveh Israel Cemetery

building in 1783 for the new Mikveh Israel congregation in Philadelphia. He himself contributed one-third the cost of the construction!!

It was in the Mikveh Israel Cemetery that Haym Salomon was laid to rest. His obituary printed in the *Independent Gazetteer* stated: "Thursday, last, expired, after a lingering illness, Mr. Haym Salomon, an eminent broker of this city, was a native of Poland, and of the Hebrew nation. He was remarkable for his skill and integrity in his profession, and for his generous and humane deportment. His remains were yesterday deposited in the burial ground of the synagogue of this city".

When he returned to Philadelphia after the war



Marker at Mikveh Israel Cemetery in Philadelphia.

was over (he had been in New York), he was advised of a law on the Pennsylvania books that forbade any Jews from holding office in the state legislature. The law required that all legislators must swear that they "acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine Inspiration". The New Testament is a part of the Christian Bible and contains religious teachings that the Jews can not accept. As such this meant Jews were barred from serving the State government.

Salomon signed a petition with others of the Jewish community and presented it to the Board of Censors, requesting the removal of this provision in the law. It was noted the many loyal Jews to the independence movement and that the State may lose vital businesses should they decide to leave the state. The petition was successful!!

Haym Salomon has not been a forgotten hero of the American Revolution. Though his family may not have gotten their due from his estate in the 1770s & 1800s, the Twentieth Century has seen him



honored for his work.

In 1941, Lorado Taft's sculpture of George Washington, Robert Morris and Haym Salomon was completed by Leonard Crunelle. The "*Great Triumvirate of Patriots*" is located in Heald Square at the corner of Wacker Drive and Wabash Avenue. This sculpture is to honor the civilian's role in the American Revolution.

In MacArthur Park in Los Angeles, California, you will find a statue of Haym Salomon. The inscription on the back states: "*Let all Americans acclaim Haym Salomon a patriot, A benefactor of his country, an inciter to patriotism, to members of his race, to his countrymen, and to later generations.*"

It looks as though his credit was better than that of the whole thirteen United States of America."

1975 was a big year for Haym Salomon. On March 25th, he and his accomplishments were read into the Congressional Record. This was part of the official record of the 94th Congress. He was featured in an article in Ford Times magazine in August hi-lighting his accomplishments in the American Revolution.

In 1975 the United States Postal Service honored Haym Salomon with a postage stamp.

In WWII the U.S. Liberty Ship, U.S.S. Haym Solomon was named in his honor.

In 1939 Claude Rains played Salomon in the movie Sons of Liberty, a short film by Warner Brothers. A film is currently being produced on his life and times, called "On The Money". ***



Haym Salomon  Financial Hero

Photo Album

February 2009



George Mack was our speaker in January. He is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from President John Dodd.

Below Vice-President South John Dodd installs the officers for 2009. Pres. David Siler, V.P. Jim Fosdyck, Rec. Sec. Jim Blauer, Corresp. Sec Jim Wallace, Registrar Kent Gregory and Chaplain Richard Adams.



John Dodd swears in new President David Siler and presents him with the gavel.



At left newly installed President David R. Siler.

At right the Orange County Chapter officers for 2009. Back row: Jim Blauer, Richard Adams, Kent Gregory. Front row: Jim Fosdyck, David Siler and Jim Wallace.

