



# MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

December 2010

Editor-James F. Blauer

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## MEETING INFORMATION

When: December 11, 2010

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

Time: Social Begins at 11:00am

Meeting: Called to Order at 11:30am

Website: [www.orangecountysar.org](http://www.orangecountysar.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Christmas is one of the most important and most enthusiastically celebrated holidays in the United States. In the multi-cultural society of the US, Christmas is celebrated in several interesting ways. However, in spite of many customs and rituals being followed there is a uniform Christmas tradition which is popularly followed in almost all states of the United States. This includes, among other things, a Christmas tree, a Yule log, sending and receiving Christmas cards, Santa Claus with his reindeer and mistletoe.

The History of Christmas celebration in the United States dates back to the 19th century. During the 1830s, Christmas started gaining popularity in America. The concept of decorating a Christmas tree came in 1840s. 1860 saw the appearance of Santa Claus – the mythical character with traditional white beard, red suit and round belly. Santa Claus is the Dutch word for St. Nicholas.

There are different Christmas traditions followed in United States. The tradition common for most of us is decorating a Christmas tree. It is often topped by a star which symbolizes the star of Bethlehem. American homes are decorated with holly, mistletoe, Christmas wreaths, colorful lights, images of Santa and his reindeer, snowmen and the Nativity of Christ. There is sometimes a manger scene that represents the stable wherein the Christ child was born.

At some places, Christmas Eve is celebrated by observing Midnight Mass and participating in other church activities like Nativity scenes and concerts. Colorful Christmas Day parades also takes place with bands and dancers.

The majority of Americans celebrate Christmas with the exchange of gifts, greeting cards and visiting family. Carols and songs are famous everywhere. One of the most popular songs during Christmas is "The Twelve days of Christmas".

In United States, the traditional Christmas dinner is roast turkey with all the fixings. Pumpkin pie remains one of the favorite desserts at Christmas.

It's the wish of Un Hui and I that Christmas celebrations end on a happy note in every American house this year. We hope that before going to bed, people thank god for his grace and the wonders that surround them. We wish that all of you enjoy a prosperous new year.

*James C. Fosdyck*

He is a poor patriot whose patriotism does not enable him to understand how all men everywhere feel about their altars and their hearthstones, their flag and their fatherland. ~Harry Emerson Fosdyck (2nd cousin, 4 times removed).

## WOUNDED WARRIOR

Sgt. Frank N. Orzio

"Charlie Co." 1/7

Marines

Viet-Nam 01/68-09/68..

I was a 106 "Recoilless" 'Anti Tank-Anti Personnel Man in the Rocket Belt in the "I" Corp's Area in "Happy Valley"..The 'Tuy Loan' Provence 26 mi. S/W of Da-Nang.. I was 'Wounded' in Two Separate incidents in Sept. of 1968,..the Second being Ambushed by a Command Detonated Mine... Spent 27 mo. in Recovery,..Heart Stopping "3" times.. My Cousin who saved my Life, Was nearly 'Courtmarshalled for holding the "Chopper" at Gunpoint to Medivac me out!,.. I was so far gone they were going to "General Medivac me!"... I Recouped,.. did 'Real Estate' for a year,..then got into the "Post Office",,.. Did a Thirty Year Career,..25 of them as a Manager.. Was married several times,.. My Fourth time to My Present Wife Sherrie, who is the "Director" of the 'Wounded Warrior Ministry' which I Founded in 2005.

Staff Sgt Robert Dugan

Staff Sergeant Robert Dugan served in the Marine Corps Unit 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment, 1st Division. He was trained as a Machine Gunner, using the light .30 caliber weapons. He served from October 18, 1948 to August 29, 1952. He served during the Korean Conflict as a part of the Marine Detachment on the USS Juneau in North Korea and Chosin.

His decorations and awards included; The bronze Star Medal with V for Valor, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, China Service Medal, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, U.N. Service Medal with 2 stars and the Korean Theater Medal.

Both these Gentlemen received our Wounded Warrior Certificate and Coin at our November meeting. We thank them for their service!!!

## REMINDERS

### Going Green

For those of you who have received certificates from the chapter, please remember that if you are not going to need the display folder in which the certificate was presented that it can be recycled by

giving the folder back to the chapter for reuse. This saves the chapter money and a tree at the same time.

Many of you use printers. These printers use ink cartridges. When the ink cartridge runs out of ink what do you do with it? You recycle it by bringing it to a chapter meeting and giving it to your editor, so that he can redeem it at Staples. We get \$2.00 per cartridge and are allowed 20 cartridges per month. They then send your editor a check that he uses to pay for the cost of printing the newsletter for those who do not have email. We have about thirteen members at present who receive a hard copy through the mail.

Since beginning this program we have done very well. We use to pay over \$400 per year on the cost of printing the newsletter. The budget for it this year was \$417.00. This was based on past expenses. So far this year we have spent just over \$17.00 on printing of the newsletter.

The job of Recording Secretary is centered around the minutes for both the General and Board Meetings. This job was budgeted for \$36.00 this year. So far just a little over \$13.00 has been spent of the chapter money for this.

So, you can see this program is working. You can either bring your old cartridges to the meeting and give them to your editor/recording secretary or you can mail them to Jim Blauer, whose address you will find on the front page of this newsletter.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

In order to avoid the confusion arising in the previous years regarding the conduct of the Annual Christmas Gift Exchange, your President has decreed that this year, we will follow the ancient rules first established by the Order of the Little Sisters of Saint Zsa Zsa, the Patron saint of cheap, but delightful gifts. These unworldly, but wise nuns first set down these rules in the year 1327 AD at their secluded convent near Zslotywachtz, a small, but charming village inn rural Hungary, noted for its production of inexpensive but potent varietal red table wines and overly pungent cheeses. For centuries, the rules were passed down by word of mouth, for the nuns had taken a vow of illiteracy. However, in the 16th century, a new abbess decreed that the pen was mightier than the tongue, and a vow of silence was instituted in lieu of the earlier

restriction. At that time it became necessary to commit the rules to parchment.

Around 1653, an unauthorized copy was smuggled out of the convent in a wheel of cheese by a disgruntled defrocked nun and eventually reached Western Europe and then the New World. Over the centuries, the archaic rules have changed little except for the recognition that males (previously forbidden to enter the convent) may now be participants in the gift exchange, and for currency conversions. The rules are as follows:

1. Each person wishing to participate will bring one gender-neutral \$10 gift (wrapped) to be placed on the Gift Table. A drawing ticket will be issued to each gift bringer. A couple may elect to bring one or two gifts, receiving one ticket for each gift.

2. The drawing will proceed as follows;

a. The first ticket will be drawn from the Ben Franklin box. The holder of the matching ticket stub will select and unwrap a gift from the gift table.

b. A second ticket will be drawn. The holder of the matching ticket stub may elect either to "steal" the gift unwrapped by the first person, or to select and unwrap a new gift.

c. If the second person "steals" the gift from the first person, the first person will then select and unwrap a new gift.

d. A third ticket will then be drawn. The holder of the matching ticket stub may elect either to "steal" either of the gifts already unwrapped or to select and unwrap another gift.

e. The drawing and gift selections and "thefts" will continue in this manner until everyone has a gift.

f. For each person from whom a gift is "stolen" they will immediately elect either to "steal" any one of the other gifts already opened (subject to rules "g" & "h") or to select and open a new gift.

g. If the holder of the matching stub of the last ticket to be drawn "steals" a gift rather than take the last remaining gift, the person from whom the gift was "stolen" shall receive the last remaining wrapped gift, and the drawing will be complete.

h. No person may "steal" back a gift which was previously "stolen" from him/her.

i. No individual gift may be "stolen" more than three times.

j. Ostentatious vocal displays of wonderment and delight are encouraged at the time of the opening of a gift. Complainers will be ostracized by their fellow Compatriots and their guests.

k. The President shall act as referee, and any issues arising will be resolved by his wisdom, with no

further appeal.

#### FALL BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

The 135th Fall Board of Managers meeting was held at the Embassy Suites in Santa Clara November 4-6. Your chapter was well represented by Larry & Barbara Magerkurth, John & Karen Dodd, Lou & Karen Carlson, Kent & Lisa Gregory, Jim & Un Hui Fosdyck and Jim Blauer. Kent, Jim F. and Jim B. all performed as members of the Color Guard.

During the meeting Larry Magerkurth presented two streamers he had received for his participation representing the Orange County Chapter, which included; October 2-3 at the 236th Point Pleasant, West Virginia Battle Days Parade and October 7 at the 230th ceremonies of the Battle of Kings Mountain. At the chapter meeting on November 13, Jim Blauer, your Chapter Color Guard Commander placed the streamers on the Lee's Legion flag.

If you have been to the chapter website you will know that several of the chapter's members were honored at the Fall Board of Managers meeting. Kent Gregory was presented the Silver Baron Von Steuben Color Guard Medal for his continuing participation in our Color Guard activities. Jim Fosdyck was presented with the Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Un Hui Fosdyck was presented the Daughters of Liberty Medal for all her work for the chapter and at State Meetings.

Congratulations to all our award recipients.

#### DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Several items are on the books for December. On December 4th your Lee's Legion Color Guard has been asked to do Color Guard duty at the Veterans Hospital in Long Beach.

According to an email received from Wayne McVeigh, the barbecue will begin at 11am behind building 50 Volunteer Services, on the patio for building 133 on the VA Hospital at 7th and Bellflower Blvd. in Long Beach. He requests that we "bring all we can" (meaning helping hands) "we can use the help and they (all of us) can visit with the patients, help deliver food to some wards, etc." We can accomplish a lot by helping out here. If you can possibly join us, we hope you will, to help out these soldiers who have served and sacrificed for us. Mark your calendars.

On December 11th at 9am the Orange County Color Guard will be doing a program at the Brea Memory Garden Memorial Park for the Wreaths Across America Program. Started in California a

couple years ago, the State Society took the program to National and it is now a National Color Guard event!!! At 9am the Lee's Legion Color Guard will lay a wreath at the War Memorial. We hope we can get the Rev. Carlson to give a prayer and have Executive Vice-President John Dodd read the Proclamation from National. This is located at 455 West Central Avenue in Brea. This is a new program and it is only the second year at this Memorial Park. There are no others at this time in Orange County. We hope you will plan to be there to honor the men and women who served this country so faithfully and have gone to their final reward.

Following the ceremonies we will head to the Fullerton Sizzler where we will have our Christmas Meeting.

#### A LETTER FROM AFGHANISTAN

Dearest Cousin Jim,

Apologies for the delay in writing to you, my free time is based on when I get off work and usually the time I head to bed. But first off, I would like to say a big THANK YOU! On behalf of HHD 504th MP BN here in Afghanistan. Those packages really did help out some of our PSD squad (personal security detachment) when they headed out on mission for a week or two. I remember when I first received your package of famous brownies!!! My commander and 1sgt and some of the MP's ended up gulping them all down! But I was excited when you sent 2 more boxes! So I kept a container for myself, then shared the rest with my unit. I would like to tell you that my unit is going to send SAR a picture of us with a "thank you" sign on it! You should be receiving it very soon. Did I ever tell you what my MOS was? I'm a 92y, which is supply... it's a little more complicated than just handing out bleach lol. I'm basically the commanders right hand (woman) dealing with all the property. There are times I have to go on convoys and pick up property and roll out in (full battle rattle) weapon and all. So you could imagine that I stay very busy! I'm not sure if my Nana (Donna Cole) told you, but a couple of weeks ago I was awarded a coin from the "secretary of defense" for all of my hard work, I got to meet him as well and even take a photo with him. I also received a BN coin from my 1sgt! So, not even months into my deployment and I'm already getting awards, but I was told I should be getting a promotion at the

end of Nov, latest Dec. It's not all peaches and cream over here though, there are days where I'm home sick, and just want to be done with it all. Then, I remember that if my papa (Compatriot Earl Cole), dad and older brother can do it, so can I! I can't stop thinking about my R7R dates it's driving me a little crazy, I should be home for leave 28th of Oct. if you're having any meetings I would love to attend and personally say thank you to everyone :) until next time!

Love

lil cousin Jordan

Cousin Jordan was only home for a week or so and then back to Afghanistan. It was her early Christmas leave since she is not married and has no children. I want to thank those from our chapter who donated money and to Dan Henry for making the purchases and sending the care package to my cousin in Afghanistan. As soon as I receive the picture of her unit, I will pass it along. Jim B.

#### COMING ATTRACTION

Beginning on December 18 and going until March 13, 2011, the Bowers Museum of Santa Ana will have an exhibit on Benjamin Franklin. The Exhibit will open at 10am on Saturday December 18 with a program called "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World". At 1:30 that same day they will have a "Family Performance: The Inventive Benjamin Franklin." Sunday December 19 at 1:30pm will repeat the "Inventive Benjamin Franklin".

There will be some 75 rare artifacts that show his life and various pursuits; Printer, humorist, diplomat, inventor, scientist, etc.

There is an admission fee of \$12.00 for adults.

#### NOMINATIONS & ELECTION

At our November Meeting, Nominating Committee member John Dodd reported the slate for officers in 2011. The slate from the Nominating Committee is as follows; President Kent Gregory, Vice-President Larry Wood, Corresponding Secretary Jim Wallace, Recording Secretary Jim Blauer, Treasurer Arthur Koehler, Registrar Kent Gregory, Chancellor John Dodd, Chaplain Richard Adams and Sergeant-at-Arms Danny Cox.

Elections will be held at the December meeting. Those wishing to run for an office may do so by

being nominated from the floor.

If you do not want to hold one of the above offices but want to contribute, you may want to be involved in one of the chairmanships that are available in our chapter. These are appointed positions, so you will need to speak with the new president as he makes the appointments after he is installed in January.

These appointments include, but are not limited to; Historian/archivist, Parliamentarian, Newsletter Editor, Medals & Awards Chairman, Information Technology Chairman, Activity Contest Chairman, Essay Contest Chairman, Poster Contest Chairman, Valley Forge Project Chairman, Parade Chairman, JROTC/ROTC Chairman, Publicity Chairman, Color Guard Commander, Nominating Committee Chairman, Veteran's Affairs Chairman, and Flag Certificate Chairman.

## CHRISTMAS STORIES

By Craig & Franklin MacDonald

### Worth More Than Gold

Woods Creek, which cuts through canyons and ravines near the western edge of Yosemite, was one of the richest gold streams in the Sierra. But gold wasn't the richest discovery made by three miners during the Christmas Season of 1849.

Sixty years later Joseph J. McCloskey recounted an incredible personal experience, during an interview with a reporter from the *San Francisco Call*: "Having found gold, we were prosperous when we went to sleep on December 21st. But about midnight, I awoke to find myself swimming under the tent cover. A dam had burst."

McCloskey frantically scrambled to higher ground, where he found the rest of the camp gathered. In the darkness, they could hear the rushing water below, sweeping over everything--washing away their gold and hopes.

A dejected McCloskey and two other young miners (known only as Steve and Mat) decided to take their dampened spirits and seek riches elsewhere. As they walked two miles up from Woods Creek, they began enjoying each other's company.

Their fourth morning together started off with a chill and Mat suddenly blurted out, "Good Lord boys! Do you know this is Christmas?"

I felt as if someone had pulled a prop away from "under me with a jerk," McCloskey said. "We stared at each other a minute, then looked away. It was Christmas. The land was green and pleasant, but it had lost its charm for us. It was the first time I'd been away from my mother on Christmas. I stepped away from my companions, went behind some bushes and cried. But, right when I was feeling sorriest for myself, I began to see how selfish and shortsighted I was."

McCloskey returned to his friends and said, "Merry Christmas, Mat and Steve," handing them two little nuggets from his belt that he was saving for his parents. They both smiled. Steve produced a broken-bladed pocketknife for McCloskey and a silk handkerchief for Mat. Mat then gave Steve a jasper watch charm and a little silver pencil to his other pal.

Now, feeling much more cheerful, the trio started up the creek again, hungry and feeling like they were 100 miles from anyone else, when all of a sudden, they heard people singing.

"Sweet and true, the melody filtered down to us through the Sierra trees...Adeste Fideles." But where was it coming from? They looked around, but couldn't see anyone, yet they could still hear voices rising and falling in song.

Finally Steve dashed up a hill and spotted their "Angels," who turned out to be four young men from a Boston church choir. They were prospectors making the most of their Christmas, and the Easterners were well supplied with flour, sugar and bacon. The Massachusetts natives joyfully invited their new found friends to eat with them. They built a fire and cooked flapjacks, bacon, coffee, and even cake, baked on a shovel.

"It was a rare feast digested with the aid of talk and laughter," McCloskey fondly remembered. "Everyone had a tale of Christmas to add. We sang old holiday songs again and again--the eyes of each man seeking and finding in the campfire flames, familiar scenes from home far away."

When the blaze had fallen to embers, they shook hands, wished each other one last "Merry Christmas" and fell fast asleep. For Joseph McCloskey and his friends, this had been a Sierra Christmas worth more than gold.

Get Along Little Turkeys

Carson City residents were ecstatic to get a unique Christmas gift in 1866--turkeys for dinner. The tasty critters reportedly were nonexistent the area and the hungry folks would pay anything to get them. But how the turkeys got there in the first place is an incredible story.

It all started with Henry Clay Hooker, a New Hampshire native, who came West to strike it rich in the California Gold Rush. When he got to Hangtown(now called Placerville) in 1853, Hooker figured a business selling hardware to those rushing for the riches might turn into gold. Indeed it did!

His store flourished and he even started buying cattle and driving them to Nevada to sell at top prices. Life was good for Hooker, who married and started raising a family. Everything was roses until 1866, when a devastating fire destroyed much of the town, including his business. He was left with barely \$1,000.

Hooker quickly figured out how to rebound. He found a niche and filled it. He knew of the turkey blight in Carson City. With the holidays approaching, if he could get turkeys in the hands of hungry Nevadans, he might just hit the jackpot. He knew many folks would give anything for a change from bacon and beans.

With his remaining money, Hooker bought 500 turkeys for \$1.50 each, hired a helper and got two dogs to herd the animals on what would make history as one of the oddest holiday events in Western History--a Turkey Drive.

The distance between Hangtown and Carson City was over 70 miles of rugged mountain terrain. To complicate matters, portions of the trip would be over the snow-covered Sierra. Hooker had the turkeys walk through warm tar, then sand to give them protection while making the journey through the snow.

It must have been quite a sight to see tow men, two dogs and 500 turkeys traveling, sometimes at a snail's pace, as they headed East towards(what would become known as) Lake Tahoe. Wrote one scribe in jest, "The dogs hardly panted and Hookers horse even put on weight. Camp was made in the evening, wherever the turkeys decided to stop. They roosted on the ground.

Although difficult to control at times, the turkey herd made it up the Sierra Summit and then began

the treacherous descent. At one point, over-enthusiastic dogs caused them to stampede, taking flight over a ledge, causing a horrified Hooker to later recount, "I had the most indescribable feeling of my entire life. My only earthly possessions were lost."

Oddly enough, after the turkeys landed below, instead of scattering in different directions, they cackled to each other and miraculously reassembled. Hooker and his crew made their way down the dangerous precipice to find the birds waiting for their journey to continue.

They "drove on" to Carson City, where cheering miners and townspeople paid plenty for the rare delicacy. Hooker's hunch had proven correct. he returned to Placerville and soon moved his family to Arizona, where he was able to put money down to purchase, what would develop into one of the largest cattle ranches around. "Sierra Bonita" ended up 30 miles long and 27 miles wide and held more than 10,000 cattle during the rest of his life.

Hooker became a ranch baron, entertaining top political and military dignitaries who "flocked" to his impressive spread to partake in his gracious hospitality, made possible by turkeys, a dream and Hooker's "drive" during that log ago holiday season of 1866.

These and other stories can be found in "*Old West Christmas-Tales with a Twist*" by Craig and Franklin MacDonald, Ph.D. For more information on his writings you can go to [GoldRushGlimpses.com](http://GoldRushGlimpses.com) or contact Craig at [ccmacdo@yahoo.com](mailto:ccmacdo@yahoo.com).



Happy Holidays

# Photo Album

December 2010



The Orange High School Marine JROTC presented the Colors at our November Meeting. Their recently retired Commander Lt. Col. Joe Ruthenberg spoke to us on his work with the Presidents transport by helicopter.



Wounded Warriors Pastor Frank Orzio (left) and Bob Dugan (rt) were presented Certificates and the Wounded Warrior Coin by Veteran's Affairs Chairman Dan Henry.



Un Hui Fosdyck gets in the picture. She thanked them all, especially Bob Dugan who fought in Korea, her homeland. At right Lisa Gregory is presented the Martha Washington Certificate and Medal for her work with the chapter in our parades, auxiliary and other activities.



# Photo Album

December 2010-2



With the prizes at left, the Ben Franklin raised over \$100 at the November Meeting.

At right Lee's Legion Commander Jim Blauer attaches two new streamers to the Lee's Legion Flag.



Lt. Colonel Joe Ruthenberg, USMC(Ret.) spoke to us about his job on the helicopters that the Presidents rode in. At right a Photo with President Reagan and one of the helicopter landing at the White House.



The Color Guards for our meeting with Lt. Col. Ruthenberg and President Fosdyck

