



# MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution  
March 2010

Editor-James F. Blauer

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## MEETING INFORMATION

When: March 13, 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

Happy St. Patrick's Day! St. Patrick's Day – March 17 – is celebrated by the Irish and Irish at Heart in big cities and small towns alike with parades, "wearing of the green," music and songs, Irish food and drink. It's a time for fun. I have a bit of the Irish in my blood so I always wear the green on St. Patrick's Day. *Éire go Brách!* According to tradition, Patrick Henry declared "Give me liberty, or give me death!" March 23, 1775.

By the Saturday of our March business meeting Un Hui and I will be on the Mediterranean Sea somewhere between Turkey and Egypt. So I suppose we should bid you hello in Turkish "merhaba or selam" or in Arabic "Alo or Ezayko" pronounced (IZ-A-U-KO) which is a customary Egyptian greeting meaning "how is everyone"?

Please excuse my absence from our March meeting. I don't take lightly missing any of our regular business meetings; however this trip was planned in the spring of 2009. I'm confident Vice President Dave Siler is more than capable of temporarily slipping back into the role of chapter president.

After our February meeting I asked the compatriots in attendance to evaluate the performance of Sheriff Hutchens; including the topic "The Role of Women in Law Enforcement" and her demeanor. Everyone gave her very high marks. I forwarded those comments to Sheriff Hutchens.

Un Hui and I attended the Mojave Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution 85th Anniversary 1925 – 2010 on Saturday, February 20th. We were warmly welcomed and introduced as special guests. Their anniversary program was very nice. I picked up a few ideas I'd like to incorporate into our business meetings. William Zeitler played the glass armonica. Mr. Zeitler is one of the world's leading virtuoso performers on the armonica. As you probably recall from the performance by David Mauldin, the armonica is an instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin. While there I did some recruiting for the SAR. A few ladies promised to encourage their husbands and or sons contact us about joining the SAR.

Considering the meteorologists forecast of inclement weather we had a nice turnout at the **28th Annual George Washington Massing of the Colors, Sunday, February 21**. The Orange County Chapter was represented by Lee's Legion Color Guard members Jim Blauer (Color Guard Commander), Kent Gregory and Jim Fosdyck. Other Orange County Chapters members present were the Keynote Speaker, California State Society President the Reverend Louis V. Carlson, SAR Ladies

Auxiliary President Karen Carlson, OC Chapter Veterans Affairs Chairman Dan Henry and SAR Ladies Auxiliary member Un Hui Yi. Rick Boone, a prospective member of the Orange County Chapter, and an active member of the Morgan's Rangers re-enactors, was also there.

A friendly reminder; the Gold Country Chapter is hosting the California Society's Spring Meeting at the Embassy Suites – Riverfront Promenade in Old Sacramento on Friday and Saturday April 9-10, 2010. Therefore the Orange County Chapter regular business meeting will be held on the 1st Saturday of April.

Every spring we Americans move our clocks one hour ahead and "lose" an hour during the night and each fall we move our clocks back one hour and "gain" an extra hour. In 2010 we will spring our clocks forward on March 4. But Daylight Saving Time (and not Daylight Savings Time with an "s") wasn't just created to confuse our schedules.

The phrase "spring forward, fall back" helps people remember how Daylight Saving Time affects their clocks. At 2 am on the second Sunday in March, we set our clocks forward one hour ahead of standard time ("spring forward"). We "fall back" at 2 am on the first Sunday in November by setting our clock back one hour and thus returning to standard time.

Daylight Saving Time was instituted in the United States during [World War I](#) in order to save energy for war production by taking advantage of the later hours of daylight between April and October.

During World War II the federal government again required the states to observe the time change.

Between the wars and after [World War II](#), states and communities chose whether or not to observe Daylight Saving Time. Remember to spring your clocks forward one hour on March 4.

*James C. Fosdyck*

*We dare not forget that we are the heirs of that first revolution. ~John F. Kennedy*

Speaker Craig McDonald

The Pulitzer Prize nominee is a historian, author and speaker. He also is a longtime historical writer for beautiful Sierra Heritage Magazine. Several of his books have been selected by the California State Library and recorded on cassettes for use by the

visually impaired and others. The Army veteran's article on the first woman sheriff in Nevada was chosen by Nevada Magazine as one of the top stories of the 20th Century and published in the book, The Historical Nevada Magazine. A member of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, MacDonald is a Phi Kappa Phi graduate of San Jose State University. He has worked with such prominent historians as Jim Holliday, best-selling author of *The World Rushed In* and founding director of the Oakland Museum of California, Irene Simpson Neasham, former Wells Fargo Historian and the first woman president of the California Historical Society, and Clyde Arbuckle, former president of the Conference of California Historical Societies.

#### VETERAN'S CORNER(Part 1)

Alexander Haig remembered as soldier and statesman. Alexander Meigs Haig, Jr. (December 2, 1924 – February 20, 2010) was a [United States Army general](#) who served as the [United States Secretary of State](#) under [President Ronald Reagan](#) and [White House Chief of Staff](#) under Presidents [Richard Nixon](#) and [Gerald Ford](#). In 1973 Haig served as [Vice Chief of Staff of the Army](#), the number-two ranking [officer](#) in the Army. Haig served as the [Supreme Allied Commander Europe](#), commanding all [U.S.](#) and [NATO](#) forces in [Europe](#).

A veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam War, Haig was a Wounded Warrior; a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Purple Heart medal.

#### PATRIOT'S DAY PARADE

The Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade is approaching. It will be held on March 6th and will start at 11am.. We will have our 1931 Model A Deluxe Coupe driven by Dave Manning once again. So, if you would rather ride than walk, we have room. We meet in the parking lot across from Laguna Beach High School and are in spot #43 this year. The route is all down hill as we follow Park Avenue all the way down to Glenneyre. We go a short distance over to Forest then on to Third Street, passing City Hall and go around to Ocean Street where we disband. The walk is either down hill or flat. No climbing hills to worry about.

The last couple years we have taken second place in the Color Guard division. With only two Color Guard members this year we will have to see if that can be repeated.

You do not have to be in uniform to participate. Dress up in something that looks patriotic and that will be fine.

This years theme is "Freedom's Legacy", which could not be more appropriate for our society. After all it is the legacy left by our ancestors that we celebrate our liberty and freedoms each and every day as we go about our daily lives.

We hope to see you out there helping us to celebrate that which our ancestors fought so hard and long for to give all Americans.

### OCCGS BOOK FAIRE

The Orange County California Genealogical Society will be holding their annual Book Faire. This is held every year on the first Saturday in March. That means March 6th. The object is a way to raise money for the society to spend on more books for researching. Over the year members may donate books and periodicals. First the society checks to see if we have it in our collection. If not and it is felt to be an asset to the collection it is then added to the genealogical library. If it is one in the collection it is compared to the one on the shelf to see which is the better copy. The better one is kept by the society and the duplicate is then saved for the book faire. Members also donate periodicals and magazines like the Genealogist Helper or Family Tree Magazine. There may also be other family or area periodicals that members no longer need and are donated for this event.

The book Faire will begin at 10am and go to 12 noon. It will be at the Central Huntington Beach Library on Talbert between Gothard and Goldenwest streets. It will be held in Rooms C & D in the lower level of the library(The regular meeting rooms for the society).

If you get there early(9am) you may take in one of two presentations. In Room B Hal Horrocks will discuss "Why Do Genealogy"? In the Maddy Room Carol Tackett will tackle the question, "Is Your Ancestor Scotch-Irish?"

Following the Book Faire there will be tables set up for discussion groups on various topics which includes; Civil War, **American Revolution**, British

Isles, New England States, German & French Heritage, Scots-Irish, Southern States, Ohio Valley, and Genealogy Computer Programs. Those from our chapter who decide to go to the American Revolution table might want to mention their association with the SAR in a effort to get prospective members. We have a group of ladies from the DAR who will be there to help those researching this period on their ancestors.

### NEW GENEALOGY SHOW ON TV

On March 5(8-9pm ET) a new show called "Who do you think you are?" will premiere on channel 4. this show will look in the family trees of various celebrities who include; Matthew Broderick, Lisa Kudrow, Spike Lee, Sara Jessica Parker, Susan Sarandon, Brooke Shields and Emmett Smith. NBC and Ancestry.com have partnered in this project that is being produced by Lisa Kudrow and her production company, Is or Isn't Entertainment and the UK's Wall to Wall productions.

This show has been adapted from the British television documentary series that was created and produced by Alex Graham.

The show is now online at <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>. Here you will find bios of the celebrities to be featured on the show, photos, video clips and articles on how to get started on family genealogy.

My thanks to OCCGS newsletter editor Sylvia Van Houten who placed this information in the recent OCCGS Newsletter.

### LOS ALAMITOS PARADE

On March 27th Your Color Guard will be a part of the Los Alamitos Parade. The City of Los Alamitos, founded in 1960, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. The Lee's Legion Color Guard from the Orange County Chapter of SAR will be marching in the Los Alamitos 50th Anniversary Parade on March 27. The parade begins at 9:00 a.m. at Los Alamitos High School (Cerritos Ave. and Los Alamitos Blvd) and concludes at Laurel Park (Bloomfield and Katella) where there will be a community carnival continuing all weekend.

### VETERAN'S CORNER(Part 2)

by Dan Henry

As your newly volunteered chapter Veterans

Affairs Chairman I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a new program we are starting.

The National Society of the SAR recently released the Wounded Warrior Coin & Certificate to honor and remember our nations wounded veterans. It is our privilege to participate in this and recognized a few of them from our area. This program will also give us points toward the National Society's USS Stark Award. The criteria for this award is posted on the National website at

[http://www.sar.org/sites/default/files/docs/nssar-forms/Stark\\_Award\\_Entry-2005-03-11.pdf](http://www.sar.org/sites/default/files/docs/nssar-forms/Stark_Award_Entry-2005-03-11.pdf)

A number of our chapter members are veterans themselves and if you happen to have earned the Purple Heart Medal during your service we'd like to know as we would also like to present you with this special coin & certificate. We will jump start this program at our March 13th meeting by presenting the award to Mr. Walter Ehlers a rare breed having earned our nations highest recognition by being awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions just days after landing in the first wave at Omaha Beach on D-day. He will be at the meeting early by 11:00 a.m. so you can meet him & maybe get a quick photo op with him. He is not our main speaker for that meeting but the chance to meet a MOH recipient is rare indeed so be there. We will be working with a few veterans organizations such as the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars to locate those wounded veterans in our area from all branches of the Armed Forces in conflicts from WWII through the most recent conflicts in Iraq & Afghanistan. This is a worthy program & I hope we can do this on a regular basis to remember & to thank these men & women for their sacrifice & service.

#### WALTER EHLERS CITATION READS

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty on 9-10 June 1944, near Goville, France, S/Sgt. Ehlers, always acting as the spearhead of the attack, repeatedly led his men against heavily defended enemy strong points exposing himself to deadly hostile fire whenever the situation required heroic and courageous leadership. Without waiting for an order, S/Sgt. Ehlers, far ahead of his men, led

Walter Ehlers receives his  
Congressional Medal of  
Honor



his squad against a strongly defended enemy strong point, personally killing 4 of an enemy patrol who attacked him en route. Then crawling forward under withering machinegun fire, he pounced upon the gun crew and put it out of action. Turning his attention to 2 mortars protected by the crossfire of 2 machine-guns, S/Sgt. Ehlers led his men through this hail of bullets to kill or put to flight the enemy of the mortar section, killing three men himself. After mopping up the mortar positions, he again advanced on a machinegun, his progress effectively covered by his squad. When he was almost on top of the gun he leaped to his feet and, although greatly outnumbered, he knocked out the position single handed. The next day, having advanced deep into enemy territory, the platoon of which S/Sgt. Ehlers was a member, finding it self in an untenable position as the enemy brought increased mortar, machinegun and small arms fire to bear on it, was ordered to withdraw. S/Sgt. Ehlers, after his squad had covered the withdrawal of the remainder of the platoon, stood up and by continuous fire at the semicircle of enemy placements, diverted the bulk of the heavy hostile fire on himself, thus permitting the members of his own squad to withdraw. At this point, though wounded himself, he carried his wounded automatic rifleman to safety and then returned fearlessly over the shell swept field to retrieve the automatic rifle which he was unable to carry previously. After having his wound treated, he refused to be evacuated, and returned to lead his squad. The intrepid leadership, indomitable courage, and fearless aggressiveness displayed by S/Sgt. Ehlers in the face of overwhelming enemy forces serve as an inspiration to others.

#### NICHOLAS HERKIMER

Nicholas Herkimer belonged to the third generation of German Palatines who had immigrated to the New York Colony. Initially, the Palatines were offered a very raw deal, being forced into virtual servitude on patroon estates along the Hudson.

Eventually, they were freed from this bondage, and allowed to settle along the Mohawk River Valley corridor. The Colony's motives in this deal are not entirely altruistic: living on the fringe of civilized New York, the Palatines served as a buffer to French advances, and would bear the brunt of any French attack on the Valley.

Nicholas' grandfather, Johan Jost Herkimer, took advantage of this opportunity, and settled on a tract near Little Falls known as Burnet's Fields.

Herkimer set himself up as a trader, supplying goods to the then under construction Fort Oswego. Succeeding generations of Herkimers continued in the trading business, as well as land speculation and farming. The family home at Little Falls was very substantial, a sign of their prosperity. The Herkimer family home was fortified during the French and Indian War. Young Nicholas had his first military command here at Fort Herkimer in 1757. He was named first lieutenant in the Schenectady militia on January 5, 1778.

Nicholas was the eldest of thirteen children; in 1760 his father give him his own tract of land where he built his own brick home. His prestige and influence continued to grow: in 1775, he was the Colonel of the first battalion, Tryon County militia. Herkimer participated in politics as well, and served as chairman of the Canajoharie District Committee of Safety. Despite these offices, Herkimer was a "Dutchman" to his English neighbors. Like many Palatines, he spoke English with a heavy accent, and his writing was in the dialect known as Mohawk Dutch. Herkimer's writings are an interesting mix of pidgin English and German - probably fairly typical for the Palatines. Here is an example.

"Ser yu will orter your bodellyen do merchs Immiedietlih do ford edward weid for das brofiesen and amonieschen fled for on betell. Dis



General Nicholas Herkimer

yu will disben yur berrell from frind Nicolas herchheimer. To Carnell pieder bellinger, ad de plats, oehdober 18, 1776"

*[Sir: You will order your battalion to march immediately to Fort Edward, with four days' provisions and ammunition fit for one battle. This you will disobey at your peril. From your friend, Nicolas Herchheimer. To Colonel Peter Bellinger, at the Flats, October 18, 1776].*

Dutchman or not, Herkimer was commissioned Brigadier General of the Tryon County militia on September 5, 1776. Guy Johnson, the Butlers, and their retinue (including Joseph Brant) had already fled the valley. The threat of Indian attack hung in the air, a palpable threat. Herkimer took action to head off any possible trouble. He had ordered the arrest of Sir John Johnson in January of 1776. He held a meeting with his former neighbor Joseph Brant in June of 1777 at Unadilla. Both men brought their troops with them, but agreed to go unarmed to the meeting. The end result was Brant declaring himself for the king, and the neighbors parted, now enemies.

If this meeting had turned up the heat, it would not be long till the pot boiled over. Thomas Spencer, a half-breed Oneida blacksmith, brought word to Herkimer of a force under Barry St. Leger coming down from Oswego. The army of British regulars, American Loyalists, and Indians intended to lay siege to Fort Stanwix. Herkimer quickly sent out word to gather the Tryon County militia.

The militia assembled and began the march towards Stanwix. Herkimer had sent runners to the fort, alerting them that help was on the way. A plan to have the fort's garrison provide a diversion as the militia drew near was agreed upon. Herkimer would wait for a signal of two guns, signifying the garrison's sortie, before they advanced to the fort.



Nicholas Herkimer's home

While the militia drew up and waited, trouble broke out among Herkimer's officers. Colonels Cox and Parish were the instigators, calling Herkimer a coward and a Tory sympathizer (Herkimer's brother Johan Jost had in fact joined the Loyalist forces now surrounding Fort Stanwix). Herkimer was stung by their barbs, and now hotheaded himself, ordered the troops forward. Ahead lay Oriskany Creek, and a deep, shaded valley that was swampy and made the going slow. Also ahead was an ambush; Sir John Johnson's Greens, Mohawks, and Senecas had picked this spot to lie in wait for the militia. The Indians burst from the trees just as the rear guard entered the valley. Those not already committed fled in terror. Musket fire rattled from three sides, militia men falling dead on top of each other.

Herkimer's horse was hit; he went down, a bullet passing through his leg. Tradition says that General Herkimer had his men drag him under a tree and prop him up with a saddle. There, he calmly filled his pipe, and began directing the defense. The battle raged, men fighting hand to hand as they closed in, interrupted only by a heavy rain storm. Both sides suffered heavy losses. The militia held the field, but they would travel no further. The wounded, Nicholas Herkimer among them, were gathered up for the long retreat.

Herkimer was carried back to his home at Little Falls. His wound festered, and the decision was made to amputate his leg. The bleeding would not stop; Herkimer called for his pipe and bible, and read aloud until he slipped away. It was August 16, ten days after Oriskany.

Congress, in October, 1777, ordered a monument to his memory, but it was not erected.

In 1827 Governor De Witt Clinton urged on the New York legislature the duty of building a monument to the hero of Oriskany, but the bill failed. He repeated the suggestion in his last annual message in 1828, with the same result. In 1844 Judge William Campbell, author of the "Annals of Tryon County," sought without success an appropriation from congress to redeem the pledge of the old congress. He renewed the proposition in the succeeding congress, supported by a petition from the New York historical society. After the centennial celebration of the battle of Oriskany, the Oneida historical society, presided over by Horatio



Nicholas Herkimer  
Monument

Seymour, brought the subject again to the attention of congress, and \$4,100 was voted, being the original appropriation of \$500, with simple interest. The sum was increased to \$10,000 by private subscriptions and an additional appropriation made by the New York legislature in 1882.

The foundation is of limestone, and the pedestal and obelisk of granite. The total height of the monument is 85 feet. On each side of the pedestal is a bronze tablet 6 by 4+ feet. One represents the wounded general directing the battle; another the conflict between Indians and white men; another contains the dedication; and the fourth the names of 250 out of the 800 men in the battle. These tablets were the work of the National fine art foundry of New York City.

Herkimer had no children so his home passed to his brother George, whose son John sold it out of the family in 1814. It changed hands six times after and, in considerable disrepair, it was acquired by the State of New York in 1913.

Preservation was begun in 1914, and in the 1960s a major restoration was completed, although elements of architectural alterations made in the nineteenth century remain.

Important period furnishings include a number of pieces of local Mohawk Valley or Herkimer family significance. The unspoiled landscape, including the Herkimer family burying ground, is remarkably unchanged from that of the eighteenth century. A nineteenth-century barn has been remodeled as a visitor center, which houses interpretive exhibits and audio-visual programs.

This article on Nicholas Herkimer was taken from the following websites:

[www.famousamericans.net/nicholasherkimer/](http://www.famousamericans.net/nicholasherkimer/)  
[www.littlefallny.com/HerkimerHome/Page1.htm](http://www.littlefallny.com/HerkimerHome/Page1.htm)  
and the Family Encyclopedia of American History.

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# Photo Album

March 2010



Sheriff Sandra Hutchens was our speaker at the February meeting. She told us about her experiences as a woman in the LA Sheriff's Department. At right, President Jim Fosdyck presents Sheriff Hutchens with a Certificate of Appreciation.



At left Dan Henry was presented the Distinguished Service Certificate and the Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate (shown).



At right David Siler receives the Distinguished Service Certificate and the Past President's Pin and Certificate.



Below left Uni Hui Fosdyck

joins DAR ladies Judy Swan, June Lazich and Donna Cole for a photo with the Sheriff.

At right Jim & Un Hui Fosdyck attended the 85th Anniversary meeting of the Mojave Chapter DAR. They are with California Vice-Regent Karen Jarod.

