



# MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution  
December 2011

Editor-James F. Blauer

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## MEETING INFORMATION

When: December 10, 2011  
Where: Sizzler Restaurant  
1401 North Harbor Blvd.  
Fullerton, CA  
Time: Social Begins at 11:00am  
Website: [www.orangecountysar.org](http://www.orangecountysar.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The end of the year is a whirlwind of holidays. Halloween is quickly followed by Veterans Day, then Thanksgiving, and a shoppers rush until Christmas. Before Veterans Day I was frustrated trying to find American flag lapel pins, going to store after store already decorated for Christmas, with no items for recognition of our Veterans.

On Thanksgiving, I visited our favorite Chapter Secretary, Jim Wallace, in the hospital. For a man with a broken hip he inspired me with his optimism and witty comments. No wonder his wife has put up with him all these years! I hope you can join us for our Orange County Chapter meeting on December 10th. Our business meeting will include our annual election of officers. To the envy of many other chapters, we have a full slate of highly qualified men willing to fill all of our leadership positions!

But the fun part of our December meeting is always our Christmas gift exchange! Please bring your spouse and a \$10 gift (or two) wrapped for the game. There will be no guest speaker, since the game provides our entertainment. Merry Christmas.

*Kent Gregory*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 21--Robert Ryan Buckel  
December 21--Chad Daniel Blauer  
December 22-Wesley James Daniel, II  
December 22-Mark Robert Patridge  
December 27--Donald Loomis Webb, III

I found it interesting we have 2 on both the 21st & 22nd. Here is our wish for our Compatriots who are celebrating this month a very Happy Birthday and Many Happy Returns!!!

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

In order to avoid the confusion arising in the previous years regarding the conduct of the Annual Christmas Gift Exchange, and to inform the newer members of how it is done, 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 Zsotywachtz, a small, but charming village in 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.

#### NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF 2012 OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee chaired by Compatriot Jim Fosdyck and assisted by David Siler and John Dodd, have come up with the following slate for 2012. They are President-Larry Wood, Vice-President-Dan McKelvie, Corresponding Secretary-Jim Wallace, Recording Secretary Jim Blauer, Treasurer-Arthur Koehler, Registrar-Kent Gregory, Chancellor/Parliamentarian--John Dodd, Chaplain Richard Adams and Sergeant at Arms--Danny Cox.

If you are interested in one of these positions you may be nominated from the floor at the December meeting when the elections will take place. Installation will take place at our January Meeting.

#### PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

If you are wanting to get involved, but do not want to be an officer, there are several positions that are appointed by the President at the January Meeting. If you see one you are interested in contact Chairman Fosdyck and let him know as the Nominating Committee makes recommendations to the President on filling these appointed positions.

These positions include; Historian/Archivist, Chancellor, Parliamentarian. Sergeant-at-Arms, Newsletter Editor, Medals & Awards Chairman, Eagle Scout Chairman, Information Technology Chairman, Activity Contest Chairman, Valley Forge Project Chairman, Parade Chairman, JROTC/ROTC Chairman, Publicity Chairman, and Veterans Chairman/Liaison.

The President reserves the right to appoint a chairman to any other committee or position that may become available at any time during his tenure of office.

So, for those of you who would like to become a bit more involved in the activities of your chapter, here is your opportunity to get involved and make a contribution to your chapter and the society.

#### DUES DUE

Yes it is that time when we need to send in our annual dues to Secretary Jim Wallace. Many of you have already done so and we thank you for your promptness. Because National raised the fee at Congress in 2009 it is now \$63.00 to cover, National(\$30), State(\$18) and chapter(\$15) dues. Those who have a Life Membership do not need to send any dues in, but that does not preclude one from making a donation to the chapter. Should you wish to make a donation you may even designate it for a specific purpose. This could include, Medals & Certificates, Eagle Scout Certificates and Medals, Newsletter costs, financial awards to one of our Youth Contest Winners or to the general fund to name a few.

If you feel you might want to convert from an annual member to a Life Member the fee is based solely on age. At present the Orange County chapter has one of the largest numbers of Life Members. About 36. That is almost half of our membership. It is something to think about for your future with the SAR.

We do need to have all dues money in by December 31st. After the first of the year checks are sent out to the State and National Society to cover the dues for the year. If you are late it may be necessary to fill out reinstatement papers and have

to file them to get you back on our chapter, State and National rolls.

Again for those of you who have sent your dues in we thank you and for those who have yet to do so, we ask that you take a moment to take care of it at this time.

#### 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(via their website) that he uses to pay for the cost of printing the newsletter for those who do not have email. We have about twelve 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 almost \$84.00 on printing of the newsletter.

Your editor wished to thank Compatriot Terry Goodridge who a couple times a year will send a mailer box filled with used cartridges. Thank you Compatriot Goodridge.

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 we have not spent a cent as the minutes have been emailed to members rather than making copies for those in attendance. Only two members who are on the newsletter mailing list have ever been to a meeting and it has been some time since

we have seen either of them, so we have saved money on paper and printing in this area.

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.

#### FALL BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

The 136th Fall Board of Managers meeting was held at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego November 4-6. Your chapter was well represented by President General Larry & Barbara Magerkurth, State President John & Karen Dodd, Vice-President Western Region Lou & Karen Carlson, Chapter President 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 PG Larry Magerkurth presented three streamers he had received for his participation representing the Orange County Chapter, which included; October 1-2 at the 237th Point Pleasant, West Virginia Battle Days Parade, October 9 at the 231th ceremonies of the Battle of Kings Mountain. and one for the parade at Sycamore Scholls. These will be placed 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 and Jim Fosdyck received the NSSAR Silver Color Guard Medal for their continuing participation in our National Color Guard activities. Jim Fosdyck and Kent Gregory were awarded the Patriot Medal for their efforts at both the chapter and State levels of our society. Jim Fosdyck also received the Silver Von Steuben Color Guard medal for his Color Guard participation in both chapter and state events.

Congratulations gentlemen on jobs well done!!!

#### COMING EVENTS

In December we will once again participate in the Wreaths across America Program. On December 10th at 9am the Orange County Color

Guard, Lee's Legion, 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 State 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 third 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.

At our December Meeting we will have the election for officers. Then in January we will have the installation of these officers. We will finish up with the Gift Exchange. (see the rules previously noted in this newsletter.

#### CHRISTMAS IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES

Christmas in the colonies took a variety of forms that were as diverse as the places from which the people came.

On Christmas day in 1492, when the Santa Maria went aground off of Hispanola, Columbus took it as a sign from God that a settlement should be made at this place. Using timber from the Santa Maria a camp was built that Columbus christened, "Villa de La Navidad" or Town of the Nativity". Though this colony failed, others would follow.

A Jamestown in December 1607, only 38 of the 100 who settled there in May were left. Yet, they took time to hold a simple Christmas service and pray for relief, which was at that moment enroute.

The Pilgrims during the first winter of 1620 treated it as any other day. In 1621, though, a few tried to take Christmas off. Governor Bradford

responded, "It was against his conscience that they should play and others work. If they made ye keeping of it a matter of devotion, let them keep their houses, but there should be no gaming or reveling in the streets."

The Puritans who arrived with the Winthrop Fleet in 1630, felt Christmas was immoral as well as illegal. Even minced pie was outlawed. In 1659 a decree was issued which formally banned Christmas observance. A penalty of 5 shillings was levied against law breakers. It was repealed in 1681, but the puritan clergy kept their fiery attacks in their sermons.

In 1712 Cotton Mather, in fiery form, remarked to his congregation, "can you in your conscience think that our Holy Savior is honored by Mad Mirth, by long Eating, by hard Drinking, by lewd Gaming, by rude Reveling?...If you will yet go on and will do such things I forewarn you that the burning Wrath of God will break forth among you."

In colonial Virginia Christmas was not a one day celebration, but seasonal. Having gotten in the Fall Harvest, it became a time to celebrate. Great homes were opened up and people came and went as they pleased, leaving the hostess guessing how many to expect for dinner or stay the night. In a London Magazine, the colony of Virginia was declared a place where "Universal Hospitality Reigns".

Thomas Jefferson on the other hand declared these activities "deplorable barbarianism".

By day the men hunted and rode the hounds. By night they partied with music, dancing and games. Unlike their Puritan neighbors up North, who were also English, the Virginians preferred to celebrate Christmas in the customs of Medieval England. The Yule Log was hauled in from the forest and placed on the hearth and set on fire. It was believed to bring good luck for the coming year. The doors, halls and ballrooms were decorated with mistletoe and holly fir.

Servants and slaves of the large plantation owners received presents and unless they were needed for big parties, were given the season off.

On the morning of the 25th every man fired his

musket to begin the day of celebration. A tradition of noise making took over the South with fire-crackers, canon salutes and the clanging of pots and pans. Because Virginians read the Bible daily and knew what it said, any services that were held were brief.

Dinner was an event in itself. It could run as many as eight courses. Turtle soup, oysters, crab, codfish, roast beef, Yorkshire Pudding, venison, boiled mutton, suckling pig, hickory smoked ham, and stuffed roast turkey could be found on the likes of George Washington's table. It would also include at least five vegetables, hot biscuits, cornbread and a variety of relishes. Desserts were also a feast to choose from. These offerings would include pies, tarts, puddings, cakes, ice cream and fruit to name a few. Dishes of nuts, raisins and candy were made available. At some point during the festivities a Traditional wassel bowl, a punch of spiced wine or ale with apples along with Port or Madeira, was offered. Washington enjoyed making his own potent eggnog, his own recipe that was a favorite among his iron-stomached guests.

Gift giving was not done until well into the 19th century. Gifts to servants and tenants was considered obligatory, but a kiss and a small toy was the usual limit of parental affection.

In Massachusetts people continued to treat Christmas as "rather a Day of Mourning than rejoicing". This practice too went well into the 19th century. As the Puritan influence began to ebb, the feeling began to prevail that a slice of minced pie and some sprigs of holly to decorate their homes was not sinful.

In 1759 the first Christmas Hymns were heard in the Old North Church in Boston. The Irish tradition of lighted candles in the window took hold. The Dutch who settled in what was New Amsterdam, but later became New York City, had parties and open houses like their Virginia neighbors. Business was suspended for one month, beginning with St. Nicholas Eve(Dec.5) and lasting until the Twelfth Night(Jan.6). Children would place empty wooden shoes by the fireplace and they would be filled by

Sinterklaas as he rode by on his white horse,  
leaving small presents, cakes and candies. The  
Dutch Sinterklaas would become known as Santa  
Claus.

The Germans brought their customs as well.  
Best known is the Christmas Tree. It is first thought  
to have appeared while the Hessians were at  
Trenton on that fateful Christmas in 1776. The  
decorating of trees would not become popular until  
the late 1800s. Their tradition of Kriskindlein or  
Christ Child brought presents for children on  
Christmas Eve. Kriskindlein would become known  
as Kris Kringle.

The Moravians brought their traditions from  
Germany. A feast with Scriptures, music, lighting  
candles, and food were a part of their celebration.  
Buns and coffee would be served at their Feast of  
Love along with the traditional favorite Lebkuchen,  
a Christmas Cookie made with honey, almonds,  
and orange peel. The Moravians also brought the  
Putz, an extensive manger scene, to America. It  
was not unusual for it to include a village and or  
farms with snow covered hills in the background.  
All this lit by tiny waxed candles.

Though celebrated, observed or noted in various  
ways, by the many diverse people who came from  
Europe, Christmas was not an official holiday in  
Colonial America.

#### A CHRISTMAS POEM

Heap on more wood! — the wind is chill;  
But let it whistle as it will,  
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.  
Each age has deemed the new born year  
The fittest time for festal cheer.  
And well our Christian sires of old,  
Loved when the year its course had rolled,  
And brought blithe Christmas back again,  
With all his hospitable train.  
Domestic and religious rite  
Gave honour to the holy night:  
On Christmas eve the bells were rung;  
On Christmas eve the mass was sung;  
That only night, in all the year,  
Saw the stoled priest the chalice rear.  
The damsel donned her kirtle sheen;

Forth to the wood did merry men go,  
To gather in the mistletoe,  
Then opened wide the baron's hail  
To vassal, tenant, serf, and all;  
Power laid his rod of rule aside,  
And ceremony doff'd his pride.  
The heir, with roses in his shoes,  
That night might village partner choose.  
The lord, underogating, share  
The vulgar game of "post and pair!"  
All hailed with uncontroll'd delight  
And general voice, the happy night  
That to the cottage, as the crown,  
Brought tidings of salvation down.  
The fire with well dried logs supplied,  
Went roaring up the chimney wide;  
The huge hail table's oaken face,  
Scrubb'd till it shone, the day to grace,  
Bore then upon: its massive board  
No mark to part the squire and lord.  
Then was brought in the lusty brawn,  
By old, blue-coated serving-man;  
Then the grim boar's head frowned on high,  
Crested with bays and rosemary.  
Well can the green-garbed ranger tell,  
How, when, and where, the monster fell;  
What dogs before his death he tore,  
And all the baiting of the boar.  
The wassail round in good brown bowls,  
Garnished with ribbon, blithely trowls.  
There the huge sirloin reeked: hard by  
Plum-porridge stood, and Christmas pie;  
Nor failed old Scotland to produce  
At such high tide her savoury goose.  
Then came the merry masquers in,  
And carols roar'd with blithesome din;  
If unmelodious was the song,  
It was a hearty note, and strong.  
Who lists may in their mumming see  
Traces of ancient mystery;  
White shirts supplied the masquerade,  
And smutted cheeks the visor made  
But oh! what masquers, richly dight,  
Can boast of bosoms half so light!  
England was merry England when  
Old Christmas brought his sports again.  
'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale,  
'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;  
A Christmas gambol oft would cheer  
A poor man's heart through half the year.

*from Scott's epic poem [Marmion](#) (1808),  
available online at [Project Gutenberg](#).*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

# Photo Album

December 2011



Veteran's Affairs Chairman Dan Henry reads the service record of Col. Lenon at left and presents him(right) with our Wounded Warrior Coin & Certificate. The Col. was in WWII.



At left David Aranda-Richards portrayed Charles Haddon Spurgeon an English religious orator of the 1800s. President Gregory presented him with our Certificate of Appreciation.

At right President Gregory presents Compatriot Dan McKelvie with his two new supplemental certificates.



Dan Henry is presented the Partners in Patriotism Certificate for his work with our Veterans.



In celebration of Veteran's Day we asked all Veterans to come forward. After noting their branch of the service President Gregory presented each with a Flag pin. Thank you gentlemen!!!