



# MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution  
June 2011

Editor-James F. Blauer

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## MEETING INFORMATION

When: June 11, 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

As a teacher for many years, I always eagerly anticipate the month of June. It is a time of joyful graduation ceremonies and the beginning of summer vacations. Our Orange County SAR chapter doesn't hold meetings during July and August due to the vacation trips of our members. But watch our web-site, we will have a summer barbecue at some point.

The end of May included several activities for our *Lee's Legion Color Guard*. They presented the Colors at the Field of Honor event at Castaways Park in Newport Beach. For the first time, they presented the Colors at the Orange County Government Leaders' Prayer Breakfast in Irvine. In Garden Grove, they marched in the Strawberry Festival Parade; and participated in the Tri-City (Santa Ana, Orange, & Tustin) Memorial Day Observance in the Santa Ana Cemetery. Through its many activities, *Lee's Legion Color Guard* brings awareness to the public of our organization and its goals. More members are needed to join the color guard—give it some thought.

The National Congress for the Sons of the American Revolution will be held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in July. It has significance for our chapter, since it will be the first time an Orange County Chapter member has been inaugurated as President-General of the national society. Larry Magerkurth, a past-President of our chapter, and past-President of the California Society, will become the NSSAR President-General. We are proud of his achievement and wish him well.

The June 11 meeting will feature Steve Hurst, speaking on the topic "*George Washington and Dale Carnegie*." Steve is the Vice-President South for the California Society of SAR. Please try to attend for our last meeting until September. Enjoy your summer!

*M. Kent Gregory*

## SPEAKER J. STEPHEN HURST

Introducing your Vice President, South: J. Stephen Hurst. A member since 2002, He has three supplemental lines he has proven.. He is a Life Member. The State

Awards he has received includes the Meritorious Service Award for service as CASSAR Registrar. His Chapter awards includes the Meritorious Service Award for service of two years as vice president and two years as president of the George Patton Chapter, the Outstanding Citizenship Award, the Bronze Color Guard Award, and the Past President pin. He received his BA in Chemistry from San Diego State University (SDSU) and his MBA from the University of Missouri. He is a Certified Financial Planner and retired after more than thirty years financial advisor at a major investment firm.

He has been a Resident of California since 1962. His Military Service saw his rise to the rank of Captain in the U S Air Force. Here he served as a Munitions officer, Missile launch officer, and an Equal opportunity officer. He served in Okinawa, two tours in Thailand, North Dakota, Missouri, and Vandenberg AFB.

He has three children. A step daughter Stephanie, foster son Thuan Huynh, deceased son Eric, recipient of Carnegie Hero Award and a Grandson, Nathan Huynh. Nathan is a youth registrant of the SAR.

Steve is a Member of the NRA. He is an American Sailing Associate bareboat charter diplomate, member the Roseleaf Ragtime Club, Life member, Society of Sedimentary Geology Pacific section, subscriber New West Symphony, member St. George's Anglican Church,

He belongs to several Lineage Societies. He has served as Past Secretary, California Society of War of 1812, Governor General, Order of the First Family of Maryland, a Member of the California Society of Colonial Wars, and a Member of the Society of Indiana Pioneers.

“Call me Steve. From my efforts as Registrar, I know how congenial our society can be. It is a pleasure to associate with men interested in our



Happy 90th Birthday  
Walter Ehlers

country's patriotic heritage. I want to help us to continue to grow by welcoming new, younger members.”

Steve had been scheduled to be our speaker in April, but due to a conflict of dates we had to reschedule him for our June meeting.

#### WALTER EHLERS CELEBRATED 90TH BIRTHDAY

On May 5, Jim & Un Hui Fosdyck and Jim Blauer attended the celebration at Knott's Berry Farm for Walter Ehlers 90th Birthday. A Medal of Honor Recipient and our first Wounded Warrior recipient, Walter was honored by those in attendance and thanked everyone for coming.

#### FIELD OF HONOR

Four CASSAR color guardsmen participated in the opening ceremonies as honorary Color Guard at the Field of Honor on May 20th (Chuck Lampman, Karl Jacobs, Larry Wood and Jim Fosdyck). Also in attendance; Lou Carlson and Un Hui Yi. A nice size group of our DAR sisters attended the event.

A USMC color guard from Camp Pendleton presented the colors today. The program was much improved from last year. There was a school band and a bagpiper from the Los Angeles Police Department. Also in attendance was a large group of law enforcement, fire personnel with a sprinkling of active military. We were the subject of many photos.

Saturday we presented the Colors with a color guard of compatriots from Orange County, South Coast and Riverside chapters. Members of the South Coast Chapter fired their muskets.

Following the ceremonies we set up our table of brochures and revolutionary accoutrements for the public to see. Larry Wood showed the youngsters his rifle and gave a lesson on it to them. That morning as we prepared for the ceremonies we found a picture of Larry demonstrating his rifle to students from Harbor View Elementary School on the front page of the Daily Pilot a local Newport Beach and Costa Mesa newspaper. Sunday an Explorer Scout color guard from the Costa Mesa Police Department presented the colors. Chuck, Karl and Jim Fosdyck stood by as an honor guard. They positioned themselves on the top of the knoll facing out over the bay and presented arms as the colors were presented. They (along with Anne Lampman and Un Hui) manned our information table. They had inquiries about membership and were able to have a few teaching moments about the American Revolution with children and adults alike. Though it was open on Monday there was no one there from the SAR. Flags were picked up on Tuesday.

#### **OC GOVERNMENT PRAYER BREAKFAST**

On the morning of May 27th the Lee's Legion Color Guard of Jim Blauer, Jim Fosdyck, Karl Jacobs, Kent Gregory and Larry Wood presented the colors for the 25th annual OC Government Prayer Breakfast. It was also attended by Compatriot Bill Campbell from the Board of Supervisors.

#### **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Following the Breakfast Jim & Un Hui Fosdyck, Larry Wood and Jim Blauer went over to Newport Harbor High School for their Memorial Service to their alumni who have died in the defense of our

country. Jim Blauer did the National Anthem as he has done for the last 8-10 years. We were also able to obtain contact information from a couple of Wounded Warriors for possible presentations at future meetings.

#### **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PARADE**

On May 28, your Lee's Legion was out in force at the Strawberry Festival Parade in Garden Grove.. We were #202 in the parade. There were 5 announcements along the route. The entry was led by Un Hui Fosdyck and Lisa Gregory who carried the banner. They were followed by Kent Gregory carrying the SAR Flag and Jim Blauer carrying the U. S. Flag. Behind them was the 1931 Model A Deluxe Coupe driven by owner Dave Manning and where you found Compatriots Larry Wood and Jim Fosdyck riding. Here, for the first time, we used the new magnetic signs on the car. These signs were purchased with the money received from the DAR earlier this year and helps to identify our entry to those on the sidelines watching the parade.

We received a very nice participation plaque for our being in the parade.

#### **MEMORIAL DAY**

On May 30th your Lee's Legion Color Guard and other members of the chapter attended the ceremonies at the Old Santa Ana Cemetery at the Civil War plot. Jim Blauer, Jim Fosdyck, Kent Gregory, Karl Jacobs and Larry Wood were in uniform. Also in attendance were Charles Beal Walter Davis, Un Hui Fosdyck and John Dodd. Your Lee's Legion Color Guard were a part of the ceremony that presented the chapter colors and wreath laying parts of the program. Several members also attended the Fairhaven Memorial Park ceremonies which was emceed by our own Lou Carlson. If any of our members and their families attended Memorial Day Services at any of the local cemeteries please contact your editor so

that we can add these to our activity report for May.

#### LEE'S LEGION RECEIVES STATE AWARD

Your Lee's Legion Color Guard was honored at our last Meeting when State Commander Jim Fosdyck presented Lee's Legion Commander Jim Blauer with the State's Best Color Guard Award for the Mid-size chapter in the state for 2010.

Sacramento took best chapter for the Large chapter category and Kern took it for the small chapter category. We are now in the Large chapter category so we will be going up against Sacramento for the 2011 award.

This award would not have been possible were it not for the compatriots who have stepped forward to get uniforms and participate in our many activities. Commander Blauer wishes to thank Kent Gregory, Jim Fosdyck, David Siler, Karl Jacobs and Larry Wood for their support and participation as members of the Lee's Legion Color Guard. It has been exciting to see our Color Guard grow over the last couple years and to create a major presence in the county as well as at State and National meetings.

We invite any of our members to join our Lee's Legion Color Guard and we welcome the women to come along and join us in colonial dress. Un Hui Fosyck, Lisa Gregory and Sharon Wood can probably help assist any interested ladies with their outfits.

#### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

During the Summer our chapter does not have meetings in July and August. On July 4th we will make our 24th appearance in the Huntington Beach July 4th Parade. The theme this year is "Celebrating Freedom". If you are interested in joining our group and walking in this parade contact Parade Chairman Jim Blauer(contact info on front page) and he will get the location and entry number to you as well as a parking pass as a participant. Red, White and Blue

or an appropriate colonial dress works well for the entry.

Following the 4th of July celebration will be the National Congress the next weekend through Wednesday. Our own Larry Magerkurth is expected to be elected and installed as the new President General of the National Society. Come to Winston-Salem North Carolina for the fun.

You will find all the details for the Congress in your Winter issue of the SAR Magazine on pages 6-9.

#### DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH-TRAITOR

The son of Deacon Benjamin Church and grandson of Col. Benjamin Church, Dr. Church was born at Newport Rhode Island. In 1745 he entered the Boston Latin School and graduated from Harvard College in 1754. He studied medicine under Dr. Joseph Pynchon and later went to London where he refined his skills as a surgeon..

He was known for his writings. In 1760 with the accession of George III to the throne of England two of his poems appeared in a collection to celebrate this event. He is said to have parodied patriotic songs in favor of the British. His political essays sided with the Tories. In 1765 he published "An Elegy on the Times", in 1766 "Elegy on Dr. Mayhew", in 1770 "An Elegy on the Whitefield", and in 1773 "Oration on the Fifth of March. This last one was in reference to the Boston Massacre.

He was one of the leaders of the Boston Tea Party and in 1774 was a member of the Provincial Congress and was appointed Surgeon General and Director of Hospitals.

It was at this time that he began to come under suspicion when one of his students who kept his accounts could not account for the sudden influx of hundreds of new British guineas he had acquired. He appears to have had frequent meetings with Captain Price, a half-pay British officer and Mr.

Robinson who had been sent over from England to attempt to arrange a peace.

Following the Battle of Lexington & Concord, Dr. Church made a suspicious visit to Boston and the home of General Gage. Subsequently a ciphered letter was sent through his mistress to a friend of hers, Godfrey Wenwood, a baker from Rhode Island, to get to Royal officials in Newport. This friend who was suspicious set it aside and when Dr. Church found it had not arrived inquired it whereabouts. The letter was turned over to the Continental Army and sent to General Washington. Because it was in cipher. Col. Elisha Porter and Rev. Samuel West were asked separately to decode the cypher which you will find below. Both were able to decode the cipher quickly.

*To Major [Edward] Cane in Boston,  
On His Majesty's Service—*

*I hope this will reach you; three attempts have I made without success. In effecting the last, the man was discovered in attempting his escape, but fortunately my letter was sewed in the waistband of his breeches. He was confined a few days during which time you may guess my feelings. But a little art and a little cash settled the matter.*

*'Tis a month since my return from Philadelphia. I went by the way of Providence to visit mother. The Committee for Warlike Stores made me a formal tender of 12 pieces of cannon, 18 and 24 pounders, they having to a previous resolution to make the offer to General [Artemas] Ward. To make a merit of my services, I sent them down and when they received them they sent them to Stoughton to be out of danger, even tho' they had formed the resolution as I before hinted of fortifying Bunker's Hill, which together with the cowardice of the clumsy Col. [Samuel] Gerrish and Col. [James] Scammon, were the lucky occasion of their defeat. This affair happened before my return from Philadelphia. We lost 165 killed then and since dead of their wounds;*

*120 now lye wounded. The chief [i.e., most] will recover. They boast you have 1400 killed & wounded in that action. You say the rebels lost 1500, I suppose, with equal truth.*

*The people of Connecticut are raving in the cause of liberty. A number from this colony, from the town of Stanford [Stamford], robbed the King's stores at New York with some small assistance the New Yorkers lent them. These were growing turbulent. I counted 280 pieces of cannon from 24 to 3 pounders at Kingsbridge which the committee had secured for the use of the colonies. The Jersies are not a whit behind Connecticut in zeal. The Philadelphians exceed them both. I saw 2200 men in review there by General [Charles] Lee, consisting of Quakers & other inhabitants in uniform, with 1000 rifle men and 40 horse who together made a most warlike appearance. I mingled freely & frequently with the members of the Continental Congress. They were united, determined in opposition, and appeared assured of success. Now to come home, the opposition is become formidable. 18 thousand men brave and determined with Washington & Lee at their head are no contemptible enemy. Adjutant General [Horatio] Gates is indefatigable in arranging the army. Provisions are very plenty. Cloaths are manufacturing in almost every town for the soldiers. Twenty tons of powder lately arrived at Philadelphia, Connecticut & Providence. Upwards of 20 tons are now in camp. Salt petre is made in every colony. Powder mills are erected and constantly employed in Philadelphia & New York. Volunteers of the first fortunes are daily flocking to camp. 1000 rifle-men (in 2 or 3 days recruits) are now levying to augment the army to 22 thousand men. 10 thousand militia are appointed in this government to appear on the first summons.*

*The bills of all the colonies circulate freely and are readily exchanged for cash. Add to this that,*

*unless some plan of accommodation takes place immediately, these harbours will swarm with privateers. An army will be raised in the middle provinces to take possession of Canada. For the sake of the miserable convulsed Empire, solicit peace; repeal the acts or Britain is undone. This advice is the result of warm affection to my King & to the realm. Remember, I never deceived you. Every article here sent to you is sacredly true. The papers will announce to you that I am again a member [i.e., a legislative representative] for Boston. You will there see our motley council. A general arrangement of offices will take place, except the chief [i.e., governor] which will be suspended but for a little while to see what part Britain takes in consequence on the late Continental petition. A view to independence grows more & more general. Should Britain declare war against the colonies, they are lost forever. Should Spain declare against England, the colonies will declare a neutrality which will doubtless produce an offensive & defensive league between them. For God's sake prevent it by a speedy accommodation. Writing this has employed a day. I have been to Salem to reconnoitre, but could not escape the geese of the capitol. To-morrow I set out for Newport to send you this. I write you fully, it being scarcely possible to escape discovery. I am out of place here by choice, and therefore, out of pay, and determined to be so unless something is offered in my way. I wish you could contrive to write me largely in cypher, by the way of Newport, addressed to Thomas Richards, Merchant. Inclose it in a cover to me, intimating that I am a perfect stranger to you, but being recommended to you as a gentleman of honour, you took the liberty to inclose that letter, intreating me to deliver it as directed, the person, you are informed, being at Cambridge. Sign some fictitious name. This you may send to some*

*confidential friend in Newport, to be delivered to me at Watertown. Make use of every precaution or I perish.*

General Washington began an investigation. The mistress at first balked at answering any questions until threatened with the gallows upon which she gave up Dr. Church. He lied about the message before the cipher had been decoded and then lied again after it was saying he was trying to give the British a sense of insecurity with the inflated numbers of the Patriots troops.

A trial was held and he was found guilty on October 3rd of treasonable correspondence with the enemy. When General Washington charged him with baseness, Church had no response. On October 27 he was called to the bar of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts and offered what has been called an ingenious defense. Saying that the letter for his brother had not been sent meant he had not communicated any intelligence, that there was nothing in the letter but over stated facts about the strength of the American forces designed to be patriotic to favor the cause of his country. He finished his defense with "***The warmest bosom here does not flame with a brighter zeal for the security, happiness, and liberties of America, than mine.***" At this time the death penalty was not in effect. Dr. Church was sentenced to life in prison, he was expelled from the House and debarred from the use of pen, ink and paper.

He became ill in prison and was moved from Connecticut to Massachusetts. He was exiled to the West Indies having sailed from Boston in 1778 and was to never return. He was never heard from again. His wife removed to England where she was granted a pension of 150 pounds per year.

The Articles of War were amended Nov. 7, 1775 "to suffer death" to "all persons convicted of holding a treacherous correspondence with or giving intelligence to the enemy." \*\*\*

# Photo Album

June 2011



At left Jim Fosdyck and Jim Blauer celebrate MOH recipient Walter Ehlers' 90th Birthday. At right Un Hui Fosdyck joins the fun. Walter is the last surviving D-Day MOH recipient!!



At left the Color Guard that presented the Colors on Saturday May 21st and fired their muskets. At right Compatriot Jim Blauer with the Flag he purchased for his father, a WWII Machinist Mate who passed away earlier this month.



Having been told the Daily Pilot was at the Field of Honor on Friday, Saturday Morning the Fosdyck's and Jim Blauer picked up some copies of the Daily Pilot and on the front page was our own Larry Wood. He was demonstrating and informing children from Harbor View Elementary School about the Musket and its use. Good Job Larry!!!

**TAKING AIM:** Larry Wood, with the Orange County Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, shows off a birdcock rifle to students from Harbor View Elementary School during the Field of Honor ceremony at Gastaway's Park in Friday. The Exchange Club of Newport Beach sponsored the event and flew 1776 U.S. flags at the park in conjunction with Armed Forces Day on Saturday. To view a photo gallery, visit [www.daily-pilot.com](http://www.daily-pilot.com).

# Photo Album

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On May 27th the Lee's Legion Color Guard presented the Colors for the 25th Annual OC Prayer Breakfast. Jim Blauer led carrying the American Flag, followed by Jim Fosdyck with the SAR and Karl Jacobs with the California Flag. Kent Gregory and Larry Wood followed with their rifles.

At left Supervisor Bill Campbell joins his fellow Compatriots for a photo op.



After the Breakfast, Color Guardsmen Larry Wood, Jim Fosdyck and Jim Blauer and Un Hui Fosdyck headed over to Newport Harbor High School for their annual Memorial Service for the Alumni who died in service. Jim Blauer (Class '70) sang the National Anthem.

