



# Muskets & Broadsword

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution  
November 2006

Editor Jim Blauer

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## MEETING INFORMATION

WHEN: November 11, 2006

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

Time: Set up and Social begins at 11:00AM

Meeting: Called to order at 11:30AM

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November brings us three important dates: November 7th is Election Day, when we will exercise our right to vote to elect those who will lead and represent us, a right earned for us by the sacrifices of our ancestors who fought so valiantly in the American Revolution. November 11th is Veterans Day, a time when we honor those brave men who have fought to retain for us those rights earned for us by their predecessors. November 23rd is Thanksgiving, a time when we reflect on and give thanks for the bounties bestowed upon us by Almighty God.

Our year is drawing to a close, with only our November and December meetings remaining. Our meeting on Saturday, November 11th, will once again be at the Sizzler restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Boulevard, in Fullerton. Our social period will begin at 11:00 a. m., and the meeting will be called to order at 11:30. I hope that you will be able to attend and support your Chapter and enjoy our program.

Our speaker this month will be Caroline Braxton Rober, a professional genealogist from the Latter Day Saints Family History Center in Orange, who previously spoke to us in May 2005 on "Analyzation – A Key to Further Research." This month, she will speak on "Census Researching-Making Sense of the Census." This will be a good opportunity for you to learn, take notes, and ask questions. Her talk will certainly be informative and useful. We will also be hearing the nominating committee's report on candidates for our 2007 officers.

If you haven't already done so, please pay your annual dues. Our Corresponding Secretary Jim Wallace mailed out the notices a few weeks

ago (with stamped return envelopes). Jim informs me that he has had a good response so far, and I'd like to thank all of you who have already paid. If you have misplaced the return envelope, Jim's address is 435 S. Shields Drive, Anaheim, CA 92804-2021. As an alternative, you can bring your payment to the November meeting. We are facing a deadline to send the dues to the State Society, so we would appreciate your response no later than November 20th. This will ensure that your membership status will remain active and that you will continue to receive the SAR Magazine, the California Compatriot, and Muskets and Broadsword without missing any issues. Also, if your address has changed, please notify Jim. He can be reached at (714) 995-7490.

As previously announced, the theme for the NSSAR Americanism Poster Contest in 2007 will be "Yorktown", and Orange County Chapter plans to participate again this year. The contest information is available on the NSSAR website at <http://www.sar.org/youth/americanism.html>. If possible, please contact your local schools, first the principals and then, with the principals' permission, the fourth and fifth grade teachers. In order to defuse some teachers' reluctance to participate, they should understand that the contest does not need to be worked into the curriculum, but that the students can create the posters on their own at home. The teachers simply need to announce the contest and collect the completed entries from the students, so it's no additional work for them. You can contact me if you have any questions.

Compatriots Dan Henry, John Dodd, and Lou Carlson, Jim Shadwick, Jim Blauer and

Larry Magerkurth will be representing Orange County Chapter at the CASSAR Fall Managers' Meeting in Fresno on November 3rd and 4th. They will provide a report on the activities at our meeting this month.

The chapter Executive Board meeting will take place immediately following the Chapter meeting, and you are welcome to attend. Please let me know no later than November 9th of any items you have for the Membership or Board meeting agendas.

In December, our program will consist of our election of officers and our annual Christmas gift exchange.

We will have our usual Ben Franklin Opportunity Drawing at the meeting. If you won a prize at the last meeting you attended, please bring something for this month's drawing. We also welcome anything that you just wish to contribute to the Ben Franklin, as it is an important fund raiser for the chapter.

Keep up to date on our Chapter's goings-on, as well as other important and interesting information by checking our Chapter website located at <http://www.orangecountysar.org>. Webmaster Arthur Koehler continues to post information as soon as it becomes available to him.

Caroline Rober can be counted on to provide an interesting and informative program at our meeting, and I hope that you will attend to help make her feel welcome and show our appreciation. I, our officers, and our other Compatriots will look forward to seeing you.

Yours in Patriotism,

*Hugh Richards*, President  
CAROLINE ROBER

Caroline Braxton Rober is a professional genealogical lecturer, teacher and researcher. She has been doing genealogical research for

over 37 years. She is President of the Southern California chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and Technical Services Coordinator for the Regional Family History Center in Orange, CA. She is a member of the National Genealogical Society, the New England Historical and Genealogical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society.

#### A CORDIAL INVITATION

You and your guests are cordially invited to the Orange High School's Marine Corps JROTC Marine Corps Birthday Ball on Friday November 10th. This 231st Birthday Celebration will be at the Anaheim Plaza Hotel, 1700 South Harbor Blvd., Anaheim. The 1830(6:30pm) ceremony will be followed by a three course meal at 1930(7:30pm) and dance at 2030(8:30pm). Attire is formal wear: evening dress for ladies, coat and tie for gentlemen. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. Make checks out to JROTC by November 3rd.

If you have any questions, call the JROTC Room at (714) 639-6849 or e-mail at [jrl06@cox.net](mailto:jrl06@cox.net).

This invitation has been issued by Senior Marine Instructor Joe Ruthenberg, Lt. Col. USMC(Ret.) and Commanding Officer Lindsee Pace Cadet Captain JROTC Battalion.

#### POSTER CONTEST

Last month just prior to our meeting, Hugh and Karen attended the assembly at Whittmann Elementary where they honored John Shelton our chapter and State winner with his second place Certificate and ribbon from National. See our photo page for a picture from the assembly.

In the last two years we have taken first at State and one first and one second at National. We are on a roll. Use this information when talking to your schools about this contest. Let's

go out and get another winner. We're on a roll!

#### COMPATRIOTS OUT AND ABOUT

Several of our members have been getting out in the last month or so. Jim Shadwick attended the DAR Southern Council where he demonstrated his electronic bugle that can be used to play taps. His acquisition of the bugle is in response to the need for personnel to play taps at funerals and memorial services of our fallen veterans. It is reported that those who fought in WWII are dying off at 1500 per day which has placed a strain on the military to provide a bugler for services. Congress passed a law in January 2000, amending the federal requirements for veteran's funeral regulations allowing the use of a recorded version of "Taps" using audio equipment when a "live" bugler is not available.

Articles on Jim and his bugle have most recently appeared in the California Compatriot and the SAR Guardsman.

If you know of a Veteran who has passed away and they need a bugler, contact Jim for a possible solution in having "Taps" played for their service. Thank You Jim for helping out our veteran's in this manner.

Meanwhile Lou Carlson has been out visiting. First the Riverside Chapter meeting and then the Mojave Chapter DAR.

Jim Blauer made it up to Los Angeles to attend a meeting of the Sons of Liberty Chapter.

Some of our members announced at our last meeting they would be going to the Marching Through History Exhibition out at Prado Dam Park on the weekend of the 21 & 22 of October.

#### NOMINATIONS

For those of you who are interested in taking a more active part in your chapter, here is your

chance to step forward.

Those who are interested in taking on one of the offices of the chapter should contact John Dodd, the Nominating Committee Chairman and let him know what you are interested in.

Contact John at [johnldodd@earthlink.net](mailto:johnldodd@earthlink.net) for any questions on volunteering.

### MOUNT VERNON CENTER

On October 27 a new Orientation Center and Museum and Education Center will open at Mount Vernon.

The Ford Orientation Center, which was made possible by the Ford Motor Company's generous support will be the starting point for visitors to the estate of George Washington. A comprehensive movie and exhibitions will give visitors an overview of the "Mount Vernon experience" and at the same time will dispell the icon while introducing the real George Washington as a dynamic and fascinating hero. All this before taking the tour of the estate.

The 18 minute movie, a mini epic, will show visitors the charismatic American hero and the events that shaped him and his life. Prior to entering the movie theater, people will gravitate to a nearby wall that has stained glass panels that depict several of the events in Washington's life.

They will also have a Mount Vernon in Miniature. This authentic one-twelfth scale replica has been touring the United States since its debut in 1996. It is a working model of the first president's mansion with doorknobs that turn, doors and windows that open and close, drawers that open, a fireplace that works, latches that latch and candles that turn on and off.

There will be life-sized sculptures of George, Martha and her two grandchildren, Nelly and



*Mount Vernon in Miniature is an exact replica of the Mansion.*

Washy to greet those who visit the center.

The Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center will feature 23 gallery and theater experiences, many with interactive technology. The building will also serve as Washington's Presidential Library with computers and classroom space that will provide access to over 20,000 letters written by Washington.

The Museum will feature over 500 objects in six permanent galleries and a changing exhibition space. The six galleries are; The Houdon Bust Gallery, Introducing Washington's World Gallery, From Soldier to Statesman Gallery, At Home with the Washington's Gallery, Book & Manuscript Gallery, and the Changing Exhibition Gallery: Washington and Lafayette.

The Education Center features the following galleries. The Reconstructing George Washington Gallery shows the scientific process in creating the various figures on display. The Young Virginian Gallery offers glimpses into Washington's childhood and his family.

The Upstart Colonial Officer Gallery focuses on the Washington in the French and Indian War. From Fort Necessity to the war that spread across two continents are the focus of this gallery. A display case has the sword

Washington used during this war.

The Gentleman Planter/ Revolutionary Gallery focuses on Washington's domestic life, which includes his marriage to Martha Custis, the role of religion in his life and his term in the House of Burgesses.

The Melody Sawyer Richardson Theater appears to be a sitting room or parlor, but is a theater that shows a History Channel film that highlights the Washingtons' courtship and the events during their 40 year romance.

The Elizabeth and David Bruce Smith Theater presents a fast-paced depiction of three military engagements; Boston, Trenton and Yorktown. Real conditions are created by the rumble of seats as the canon go off, the smoke that drifts through the theater or the snow that appears to come down as they watch troops crossing the Delaware River.

The Citizen Soldier Gallery depicts Washington as the private citizen who stepped back from the World Stage after the Revolutionary War was over and went back to doing what he liked best—working his estate.

The Dilemma of Slavery Gallery has stories on three slaves who worked at Mount Vernon. There is a History Channel Video that focuses on Washington and Slavery.

The Leader's Smile Gallery shows off Washington's dentures with a history time line of his dental history. From the loss of his first two teeth during the French and Indian War to his last set of dentures in 1798. Again the History Channel has supplied a video that describes the process in making Washington's dentures.

The Indispensable American Gallery takes one from the Articles of Confederation which are failing and the creation of the Constitution. Members of the Constitutional Convention can



*George Washington's Dentures*

be activated by touch to learn more about the individual who helped frame the Constitution.

The People's President Gallery brings visitors to the first inauguration and they see the third and final forensically correct figure of Washington in 1798 at age 57. There he stands on a replica of Federal Hall in New York City where he took the Oath of Office. There are two history Channel videos in this gallery. One gives the highlights and precedents set by Washington as President and the other is that of a group of senators reading his farewell address. As visitors enter the cabinet room, they will learn more on the four men who made up his cabinet, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Henry Knox and Alexander Hamilton.

The Private Citizens Gallery details Washington's final hours. Showing various medical devices used on him, a reproduction of his bier and coffin as well as the showing of Martha destroying their letters by burning them.

The Gay Hart Gaines Theater presents a film montage featuring quotes from prominent Americans about Washington. It is meant to inspire the visitor and have them reflect on the legacy and contribution Washington made to our history and culture. Here you have the Saving Mount Vernon Gallery. It highlights the history of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and how they rescued the estate and have been operating it since 1858.

The Distance Learning Center is a series of virtual programs and teacher workshops

focusing on Washington's inspiring example of leadership and character. They have partnered with the Fairfax County Public Schools, whose students are scheduled to participate in the grand opening on October 27th.

The Phoebe Apperson Hearst Learning Center will serve as the virtual Presidential Library devoted to Washington's life and times. Those who come here will have access to Washington's voluminous correspondence and other materials about the man. Lesson plans and learning materials will also be available.

The Hands on History Center is being geared toward those youngsters in age from 3 to 8, allowing children to learn from themes and ideas presented in the galleries by dressing in 18th century clothing, putting on plays, reading books, exploring activity boxes and learning about Washington's farm animals.

This \$110 million campaign will come to light when they open on October 27. Should you be back there have a day to spend, you may want to consider Mount Vernon and all it has to offer with the new Orientation Center and Museum and Education Center.

#### FACTS ABOUT GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington was a very good dancer, having paid for his own lessons as a teenager. He was often out on the floor dancing while Martha was greeting their guests.

Because he was afraid of being buried alive he gave instructions that his body not be buried until three days after his death.

Washington was the owner of the the largest Whiskey distillery in America, producing over 11,000 gallons of grain alcohol per year.

His dental problems were the result of cracking walnuts with his teeth.

His dentures were not wood, but were made

from animal and human teeth. He was unable to eat and could hardly talk while wearing them.

Washington was not born on February 22, 1732, but was actually born on February 11 in that year. The British were still on the Julian Calendar while the rest of Europe had converted to the Gregorian Calendar. It wasn't until 1752 that the British decided to convert to the Gregorian Calendar. In doing so they had to eliminate 11 days. So, the day after September 3rd became September 14 in 1752. With the change in the calendar Washington reflected on his birthday and decided that had the British been on the Gregorian Calendar when he was born he would have been born on February 22. He then resolved that beginning in 1753 he would celebrate his birthday on February 22.

He had only 7-8 years of formal education, yet he was very good at math which made it possible for him to become the surveyor for Fairfax County in Virginia.

Washington's death was caused by asphyxiation. The cold he contracted while out checking the estate caused his throat to swell so much that it made it difficult for him to breathe. His physician as well as some other doctors who came by to try and help all recommended blood letting. It is believed that this bloodletting (they did several over a short period of time) probably did more harm than good, but they did not have 20th century antibiotics, so there was not a lot they could do.

Washington's last letter was to Alexander Hamilton. In this letter he discussed the need for a national military academy. It would be three years after Washington's death, the West Point Military Academy would open in 1802. Thus fulfilling his last written wish. \*\*\*

# Photo Album

November



At left John Shelton receives his 2nd place certificate and ribbon from Hugh & Karen Richards. His National Prize in the Poster Contest.



Columnist Gordon Dillow was our speaker on what is going on in Iraq. At left he receives a Certificate of Appreciation from President Hugh Richards. At right he receives a book on the American Revolution and a pin made from the US Postage stamp honoring America's Veterans.



We had a good turnout for our meeting with 21 members and guests showing up to hear Gordon Dillow speak about the War in Iraq.

