



MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution
April 3, 2010

Editor-James F. Blauer

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: April 3, 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A brief comment about our recent trip to the Eastern Mediterranean; *there's no place like home.*

The 2010 Easter date of Sunday, April 4 applies not only to the western calendar (Catholic and Protestant Churches), but also to the Eastern Orthodox Church. This is an unusual event since the two branches of Christianity have different methods for calculating the correct date for Easter. Easter 2010 is likely to be seen as extra special because there are only a few years each century when the Easter dates match.

In the year 325 AD, the Roman Emperor Constantine got all the early Christian leaders together at Nicaea to fix matters of doctrine and dates of important Christian events such as Easter. They chose the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox; as opposed to Christmas day which they fixed as the 25th of December.

Not all early Christians attended the Council of Nicaea or agreed with the results. The Eastern Orthodox Church is the largest of the groups who chose different criteria for determining Easter. In years past people actually fought and died over the 'correct' date of Easter. Thankfully we have grown up a bit since then and differences such as this are not considered important.

Congratulations to our Lee's Legion Color Guard (Commander Jim Blauer and Kent Gregory) and banner carriers Karen Carlson and Lisa Gregory for bringing home the first place trophy for an adult military color guard unit in the Laguna Beach Patriots Day Parade, March 6.

On a patriotic note; happy Patriots' Day! Patriots' Day – April 19 – is the anniversary of the day the “shot heard 'round the world” was fired – the first hostilities of the Revolutionary War, the Battles of Lexington and Concord, near Boston. In Massachusetts, thousands of colonial re-enactors and spectators turn out in Lexington and Concord each year to relive April 19, 1775, the day on which (to use Thomas Paine's words) we began the world over again.

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 Saturday, April 3rd.

James C. Fosdyck

The American Revolution was a beginning, not a consummation. ~Woodrow Wilson

Robert "Bob" Spidell

Being a descendant of the Mayflower Pilgrims, Bob Spidell is an active member of both the Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Orange County Genealogical Society. Originally from Andover, Maine, he still keeps a connection with the place of his birth by operating a website about the history of his hometown Andover. Bob also teaches genealogical research at the Orange County Genealogical Society and at the Laguna Niguel Community Center. He is also a docent at the Mission San Juan Capistrano.

Bob's professional life has involved a career in the tax publishing and consulting field. His firm, Spidell Publishing, has provided tax professionals the most comprehensive information concerning California taxation since 1975. The firm publishes newsletters and other materials, hosts tax seminars for continuing education, and operates Caltax.com, considered the leading source for California tax research information. Now retired, Bob continues to serve on the firm's board of directors. Bob holds a BA degree in Economics and an Honorary PhD in Humane Letters from Cal State University, Long Beach. Please join us April 3rd as Bob Spidell speaks to us about the Mission San Juan Capistrano.

NEW MEETING DATE

Normally, we meet on the second Saturday of the month. This April, though, we will meet on the first Saturday, April 3. This is because the Spring Membership Meeting is being held on the second Saturday in Sacramento. With several of our members planning to be in attendance, it was deemed necessary to move our meeting date to the

first Saturday, so that it would be well attended for Bob Spidell's talk on the Mission San Juan Capistrano.

So, make a note on your calendar to come to the April meeting on the Saturday the 3rd.

PASSING OF MEMBERS

It has just been learned the Compatriot George W. Turner who has been a member for many years passed away last August. In the recent SAR Magazine George was listed along with Jim Shadwick as having passed away. Compatriot Jim Blauer contact Compatriot Jim Wallace and asked that our chapter Secretary check this out as we had not heard of Compatriot Turner's passing. Compatriot Wallace spoke with Mrs. Turner who confirmed that her husband had passed away last August. Our charter will be draped in his memory at our April Meeting.

For those of you who were not aware, our dear Helen Davis, Wife of Compatriot Walter Davis, passed away in late February. Her service has been held. It was well attended by Compatriots from the Orange County Chapter and Brothers from the Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Helen had been an active member of our chapter Ladies Auxiliary until health problems arose.

On March 7th the San Diego Chapter and State Society were stunned by the sudden passing of past State President Travis Spears. Travis had served his chapter, the state and western District in various positions over the years. He had made many friends



in our own Orange County Chapter as well

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Turner, Davis and Spears families at this time. God Bless.

PARADES

For those of you who did not see the picture of our first place color guard group in the Orange County Register, you will find the photo below.

Jim Blauer carried the American Flag, Lisa Gregory and Karen Carlson carried the banner and Kent Gregory carried the SAR Flag.

We have received several second place trophies in the last couple years and this is our first First Place trophy from the Patriot's Day Parade in Laguna Beach.

On March 27th your Lee's Legion Color Guard will be on the move. This time at the Los Alamitos 50th Anniversary Parade. Jim & Un Hui Fosdyck will be back to participate as well as Compatriot David Siler. We will have more on this parade for the next issue.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE

At the end of the recent SAR(Winter 2010) magazine, there is an article on Ben Franklin and his bifocals. In the first paragraph author T. Rex Legler states, "As you read this article and if you are past your 40th birthday, like me, you are using some type of reading glasses or bifocals."

Not true for your editor here. I am 57 and do not use reading glasses as I do not need them.

Compatriot Legler may be an eye doctor, but his comment in the article should have been qualified after "birthday" by saying, "in most cases".

I for one do not like being told I should be wearing reading glasses when I do not need them. Ed.

MASSING OF THE COLORS

On February 21 your Lee's Legion Color Guard was in attendance along with several other members of the Orange County Chapter to once again participate in this amazing display of patriotism and pageantry. Jim Blauer, Kent Gregory

and Jim Fosdyck paraded the colors for our chapter. Lou Carlson filled in for Larry Magerkurth and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Jim Blauer led in the singing of the National Anthem.

Thanks go out to Dan Henry and Un Hui Fosdyck for taking photos of the event.

Following the Massing Jim Blauer and Jim & Un Hui Fosdyck joined several members and wives who are in the California Society of the War of 1812 at the Smoke House Restaurant near the cemetery.

STATE MEETING

Just a reminder that the 135th Annual State Spring meeting is fast approaching. Check your Fall 2009 issue of the California Compatriot or go to www.californiasar.org and you will find the registration form and information on the rooms at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Many of you may have received my email a week or so ago when I made my reservation at the hotel there was only one room left after mine. If you have a problem in getting a room check with Wayne Griswold at wagris@att.net or call (916)985-3756.

National officers who are planning to attend are Secretary General David Sympton, Treasurer General Larry Magerkurth, V.P. General Western District Karl Jacobs and Historian General Candidate, CDR Charles R. Lampman, USN Retired.

POSTER CONTEST

At our March 13th meeting there were several posters laid out for members to vote on as their favorite in an effort to select the chapter winner. The top three places went to; 1st-Li Mei Su Vera, 2nd place to Susmita Bhat and third place to John Anugarerat. Each will receive a certificate noting their placement in the contest.

There will also be certificates of participation for the following students; Christian Hernandez, Nari Park, Brian Ain, Sriran Kotta, Kennedy Riley, Lorenzo Tyson, Daniel Choi, Andy Song, Shreya Sheth, Peter Uyanne, Kenneth Johnson, Justin K.

Jackson, Jamie Song, Aaryan Shah, Vincent Nguyen, Jazzarie Lo, Nathan Lam, Sarah Oh, Hannah Park, Anish Masson, Nathan Albayade, Tim Ho, Jason Ha Ca, Elijah Alleyne and Kimayne M. Robertson.

All of these Students are from Whittmann Elementary School and will receive their certificates at an all students award ceremony on March 26th.

Our Congratulations go out to all the winners and we thank all the participants for their participation in this contest.

VETERAN'S CORNER "TAPS"

It's a song burned into the American consciousness, a tune that wafts over both sleep and death. And it's a piece that some believe hasn't been given the recognition it deserves. What has come to be known as 'Taps' --- 24 notes that floated from a Civil War encampment at nightfall to become the tune that sends to their final rests fallen troops, policemen and firefighters, departed veterans and even presidents of the United States --- may soon be given a more official place in the roster of national melodies. "My idea is to have [Taps] recognized as our National Song of Remembrance," said Jari Villanueva, a retired trumpet and bugle player for the U.S. Air Force Band who may very well be the country's leading authority on Taps. A veteran of more than 5,000 ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, Villanueva was an adviser on bugle calls for the movie 'Gods and Generals.' He has researched Taps, written about it, debunked myths about it (it was not found by a Union officer on the body of his son, a Confederate soldier) and offers what is probably the best history yet of the tune on a West Point Web site.

Now, along with fellow bugler Les Hampton, a Navy vet, Villanueva is working with a New York lawmaker to get Congress to officially recognize "Taps" as a song of remembrance. They hope to

have this done in time for the 150th anniversary of "Taps" in 2012. As far as who would be officially eligible to have Taps played at their funeral if it does become the National Song of Remembrance, Villanueva takes a broad view. Besides troops and veterans, he said, police officers, firefighters, first responders, public health service workers --- even the Boy Scouts. "My feeling is if you rate a flag on your coffin you rate Taps." According to Villanueva, the music of Taps had its origins in "Extinguish Lights," an end-of-day bugle call adapted from a French tune. But in 1862, while encamped at Harrison's Landing, Va., Union Army Gen. Daniel Butterfield revised the tune - holding certain notes longer, etc. Taps was quickly picked up by other buglers in other units, and after the Civil War and became an official Army bugle call. Villanueva and Hampton met several years ago through playing memorial services and began thinking of ways to bring attention to the need for Taps players. The rising numbers of World War II and Korea vets passing away, as well as troop losses in Iraq and Afghanistan, has resulted in greater demand for buglers.

Several years ago the military began making a bugle insert that played Taps available to veterans groups. The discrete device plays the notes while the "bugler" --- standing away from the grave site --- holds the instrument to his lips and pretends to play. "It's something that's used a lot now. It is disappointing, but sometimes no one bothers to look for a live bugler. It's a matter of convenience." Villanueva said. While brainstorming the fake bugler problem they hit on the idea of elevating Taps to an official national song. Hampton said Rep. John Hall (D-NY), has been working with them to frame legislation. According to Villanueva, the earliest official reference to Taps for a military funeral is found in Army regulations from 1891. But he says it was doubtlessly used unofficially long before then, though still called 'Extinguish Lights'. Later still officials from other countries came up with their own versions of Taps, some sounding

very much like the Army's. A French general wrote 'Aux Morts' ('To the Dead') --- after hearing Taps, Villanueva said; it sounds much like Taps and has the same number of notes. The Germans came up with a solo trumpet call later, as did the Italians. The British wrote and adopted "The Last Post" ; after "Taps" became known, and that song is now played by all Commonwealth countries for its fallen troops and veterans, Villanueva said. As part of their efforts to raise awareness of "Taps," the two have set up an online petition and hope to get as many names in support as possible. They're also producing a CD that will include 'Extinguish Lights,' Taps, and other tunes that were inspired by Taps. [Source: Military.com article 23 Feb 2010]

WORDS TO TAPS

Day is done,
gone the sun,
from the lakes
from the hills
from the sky,
all is well, safely, rest,
God is nigh.

Fading light,
Dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky
Gleaming bright,
From afar, Drawing, near,
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise,
For our days,
Neath the sun
Neath the stars
Neath the sky,
As we go, This, we, know,
God is nigh.

ROBERT MORRIS

Financier of the Revolution

Born In Liverpool, England on January 20,



Painted by Charles Willson Peale in 1782, this portrait of Robert Morris is owned by the Independence National Historic Park.

1734, Robert Morris left England to join his father at age 13 to settle in Maryland. His father, a merchant, had concerns with trade with America and this move brought him closer to his work.

Robert was sent to Philadelphia to be schooled, but was slow in progress due to the limited knowledge of his teacher. He told his father. "I have learned all that he can teach me".

While pursuing his education in Philadelphia, he lost his father in an accident where his father was wounded from a gun wad. This left Robert an orphan at 15 years of age. He worked in the business at the mercantile house of Charles Willing. In 1754 he entered into a partnership with Willing's son, Thomas. This partnership would last for 39 years!!

When the massacre at Lexington occurred, Robert Morris decided that that was the last straw and that the break with England could not be stopped. On November 3, 1775 he was elected to the Pennsylvania legislature and subsequently sent as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia.

Within weeks he was placed on a secret committee to obtain ammunition, arms, saltpetre and sulphur, while ex[porting produce to pay for the same. He was also appointed to a committee to for fitting out naval armament and in particular was commissioned to negotiate bills of exchange for Congress, which included borrowing money for the Marine Committee and managing the fiscal concerns of

Congress.

While Washington was at Trenton, he wrote Morris explaining his need for \$10,000. Not sure where he could obtain this sum of money he left his counting house to return home when he came upon a Quaker gentleman of acquaintance. He knew this man could afford it and noted that he would have his note and honor for security on this sum. The man agreed, General Washington received the needed money and the Victory at Trenton over the Hessians followed.

Another instance occurred in 1779 or 1780 when the need for lead was great, but so was its scarcity. It got to be so bad they were melting down the weights in clocks, and the spouts of houses to assist in the war effort. Washington had written to several gentlemen on this subject. One letter went to Judge Peters who was secretary to the board of war. He showed the letter to Mr. Morris. At that moment Morris had a [privateer] at the wharf with 90 tons of lead. Half was given by Mr. Morris to the Army for use and the other half was purchased by Judge Peters from the other owners.

In another case he supplied the army with 4-5,000 barrels of flour on his own personal credit.

In an effort to obtain supplies Morris proposed the establishment of a Bank. The object would be to supply the army with provisions. Ninety-six subscribers gave their bonds. Morris himself took a subscription of 10,000/, others up to 300,000. The directors were authorized to borrow money on the credit of the bank and to grant special notes.

Mr. Morris was also in correspondence with gentlemen in England, who often wrote him about information of importance to this country. This information was diffused to the citizenry helping to keep the spirit of the opposition alive.

In 1781 he was appointed superintendent of finance by Congress. This gave him control over all aspects of finance and the economy. The raising of funds to pay debts owed both foreign and domestic.

Besides being indebted to Mr. Morris for his financial acumen, we are also indebted to him for

the establishment of the Bank of North America, and for all the public benefits of this institution. It brought stability to the colonial economy, facilitated continued financing of the war effort and would ultimately establish the credit of the United States with the nations of Europe.

When Washington learned that the French fleet was not coming to New York, but would be going to the Chesapeake Bay area, it was Robert Morris who suggested that this would be the place to attack Cornwallis and his troops..

Robert Morris' service to our country was extensive. He signed the Non-Importation Agreement of 1765, was a member of the Pennsylvania Safety Council in 1775, Member of the Continental Congress 1775-1778, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, member of the State Assembly 1778-1781, National; Superintendent of Finance 1781-1784, established the Bank of North America, member of the State Assembly 1785-1787, delegate to the Constitutional Convention 1787, elected to the United States Senate and served from 1789-1795, declined a renomination for the Senate, declined the position of Secretary of the Treasury in the cabinet of George Washington, known as the Financier of the American Revolution and one of the richest men in America.

Morris got involved in land speculation in the western part of New York State from which he became overextended and when creditors came to get their money he was sent to debtors prison from 1798-1801.

He died at the age of 73 on May 8, 1806 and was interred in the family vault of William White in the churchyard of Christ Church.



Robert Morris
Financier of the American
Revolution
January 20, 1734--
May 8, 1806

Photo Album

Massing of the Colors



Your Lee's Legion Color Guard was on hand. Jim Blauer, Kent Gregory and Jim Fosdyck marched along with the other Color Guards from the Hall of Liberty down to the George Washington Statue.



Center At left State President Lou Carlson gives a prayer for our fallen soldiers. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance, filling in for Larry Magerkurth.



Center At right Jim Blauer leads in the singing of the National Anthem.



Below the Color Guard marches up to the George Washington Statue to present colors to the military brass on hand for the ceremonies. Below right-Dan Henry, Jim & Un Hui Fosdyck, Karen Carlson, Jim Blauer, Lou Carlson, Judy Swan, and Kent Gregory following the Massing. All are chapter members except Judy who is the Governor General of the Mayflower Society.



Photo Album

April 2010-2
Patriot's Day Parade
March 13 Meeting



At left, Jim Blauer, Karen Carlson, Lisa & Kent Gregory at the Patriot's Day Parade. They took First Place in the Color Guard over 21 Category.

At right, Dan Henry presents Walter Ehlers with the Wounded Warrior coin and Certificate.



At center left, Craig MacDonald received a Certificate of Appreciation from David Siler for being our speaker.

Right Center, 1st place poster by Li Mei Su Vera.

Second Place lower left was by Susmita Bhat.

Third Place lower right was by John Anugarerat.

They are all students at Whittmann Elementary School.

