

Roger Sherman, Branch # 5

Connecticut Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Reply to: Harold A. Osgood, Jr., 16 Riverview Drive, Norwalk, CT 06850, Tel # 203-847-4786

SAR Branch # 5 Returns To It's Birthplace

The Roger Sherman Inn, New Canaan, CT

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006

FOR

- 1. Luncheon and timely Chapter matters of import,**
- 2. The presentation of an historic revolutionary period New Canaan map to the Inn**
- 3. A Talk on the French Involvement in the American Revolution by Professor Joel Blatt, University Of Connecticut**

Compatriots

1. In our luncheon meeting room eight years ago, April 4, 1988, Branch # 5 was formed. Twenty-two compatriots, with the common bond of being descendents of Revolutionary War ancestors and a keen interest in preserving the importance of that period to Americans in these tumultuous times, were sworn into the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. To commemorate that occasion, the Roger Sherman Inn permanently placed a copy of our Charter on the wall of this meeting room for all Inn guests to view.

2. Bill and Gail Beyea will present to the Branch, with appropriate background comments, an original 1860 Map of the town of New Canaan. The Branch, in turn, will present the map to the manager of the Roger Sherman Inn to be placed next to a copy of our SAR Charter.

3. Few Americans today are aware of the major importance of France's involvement in the Revolution and especially its activities in Connecticut. As a lieutenant general, comte de Rochambeau was sent to help the American Revolution during 1780 to 1782, reporting to General Washington. General Washington noted in his dispatches that, while it was not known at the time, the Morristown, NJ winter encampment led him to fear that the war definitely might be lost and that the timely arrival of Rochambeau was the turning point to eventual victory. Though Rochambeau reported to Washington their "relationship was one of profound mutual respect for the other's military and personal abilities."

This year we are celebrating this alliance by commemorating the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R). This program refers to the series of campsites, the pathways traveled, the activities and events along the way, and the social, military, political, and economic consequences of the French troops under French General (and Count) Jean-Baptiste de Rochambeau. They had landed in Newport RI, wintered over, marched to join Washington's Continental Army units outside New York City, explored options for an attack there, then marched together to Yorktown, VA. There they trapped (with critical support from a French fleet under Admiral de Grasse), besieged, and accepted the surrender of a British army under Cornwallis.

During Rochambeau's *March across Connecticut* his troops passed through many Connecticut towns including: East Hartford, Lebanon, Middlebury, Newtown, and Wethersfield and, of special interest to us locally, Ridgefield, Southington, and Norwalk. Commemorations will be held this year in many towns, e.g. Southbury on June 17 & 18, and Ridgefield on July 1 & 2.

Of particular importance to Branch #5, to heighten interest in this campaign and its importance to the eventual American victory, starting this spring and through the first 6 months of 2007, the State of Connecticut will be placing "Large Panels on major roads marking the locations, and relevant points of battles in each local vicinity and working with local schools, organizations to spearhead educational presentations in schools, Town Halls, etc.," to heighten awareness and interest in this state area. This is an important and logical event for the participation of Branch # 5 and all other local Connecticut Branches of the SAR.

The Roger Sherman Inn is located at 195 Oenoke Ridge (route 124) in New Canaan. Social time will start 11:30 AM. Please review the enclosed event information on which you may note your luncheon selection and number planning to attend. Please send the tear-off to the Treasurer as we need to make appropriate arrangements with the Inn.

This meeting should be of interest to your family, friends, and prospective SAR members as it heighten their interest in this immediate area.
