

GENERAL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN BRANCH #3

Connecticut Society Sons of the American Revolution

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NOTICE OF APRIL 3rd, 2004 MEETING

PATRIOTS AND YOUR FAMILIES

The General Gold Selleck Silliman Branch will participate in a joint meeting with The Roger Sherman Branch and the Capt. Matthew Mead Branch

Saturday, April 3rd from 2 - 4 pm.

At the Town House Museum at Mill Hill Historic Park in Norwalk.

2 East Wall St., Norwalk, Phone: 203-846-0525

- Outline of the Eagle Scout Awards Program
- Reading of essays by Eagle Scouts
- Presentation of three Eagle Scout Awards
- Induction of new members of Gen. Gold Selleck Silliman Branch
- Light refreshments will be served

Directions to the meeting place

I-95

Northbound: Exit 16. Turn left onto East Ave. Stay on East Ave. for 1/4 mi., and turn left onto Wall St. at the major intersection.

Southbound: Exit 16. Turn right onto East Ave. Stay on East Ave. for 1/4 mi., and turn left onto Wall St. at the major intersection.

Merritt Parkway

Southbound: Exit 40B Turn left onto Main Ave. Go all the way to end. Turn left onto E. Wall St.

Northbound: Exit 39A on to Route 7 extension. Take exit for I-95 North. Follow directions from I-95 above

Welcome

Dean Gaugler is the New President of the Gold Selleck Silliman Branch #3

Dean joined the SAR several years ago as a member of the Silliman Branch and acted as its Eagle Scout Chairman. He later joined the Roger Sherman Branch. He has served in several branch and state offices.

General Gold Selleck Silliman

General Gold Selleck Silliman was a militia general born in Fairfield, Connecticut, in 1732. Silliman graduated from Yale, practiced law and served as a crown attorney, before the Revolution.

Silliman was the commander of a local body of militia cavalry and militia brigadier general after 1776. He was concerned with patrolling the southwestern border of Connecticut, where the loyalists of Westchester County, NY caused constant irritation and concern for patriot towns and farms.

Silliman also fought with the main army during the New York campaigns of 1776 and opposed the British raid on Danbury in 1777. At the beginning of Tyron's raid on Danbury, the general was at his home in Fairfield. As soon as he heard word of the British landing, he sent out expresses to alarm the nearby towns and to collect the militia. By noon the next day, he arrived in Redding with five hundred men and was joined by Generals Arnold and Wooster.

On a dark night in May 1779, nine Tories crossed the sound in a whaleboat from Lloyd's Neck. Eight men forced their way into the Silliman house at midnight and took the general and his son to Oyster Bay to be exchanged a year later.

The Americans didn't have a prisoner of equal rank to exchange, so they captured the Honorable Thomas Jones, a highly reputed New York loyalist. Jones was captured in November 1779 and brought back to Connecticut. Silliman and Jones were exchanged in May 1780, along with the general's son.

Sources:

Lossing, Pictorial Field-Book of The Revolution, New York, 1860

Who Was Who in the American Revolution, 1993

NEW MEMBERS

This month the Silliman Branch received two new members who will be honored at the meeting on April 3rd with their certificates and rosettes.

- Peter Gus Laskos of Shelton and
- Nicholas Peter Laskos of Shelton

Both father and son are descendants of James Benedict (1743-1838) a Private in Capt. Watson's Company, 7th Regiment, Connecticut Line (1777).

Welcome and Congratulations to you both.

FLAG AWARD

In Recognition of Exemplary Patriotism
In the Display of the Flag of the United
States of America

The General Gold Sellick Silliman
Branch #3 has awarded a Certificate of
Commendation to Cyril F. Mullins of
Trumbull, CT.

Connecticut - The First State
to have a banner of it's own!



Connecticut was the first state to have a banner of its own. It was about the same as the present day flag except for the colors. It had a shield and three flourishing grapevines representing Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield. The flag was flown at sea by the Oliver Cromwell, adding 13 red and white

stripes. The size of the Oliver Cromwell was about 90 feet on deck with a beam of about 25 feet and carried 20 carriage guns.



The Oliver Cromwell Noland Van Powell

In Memoriam

Harold Sidney (Sid) Folsom, 75, former President of The General Gold Selleck Silliman Branch #3, died on Sunday, February 8, 2004, at his home after a long illness. Sid resided in Maine and graduated from the University of Maine in 1951. During his career, he was employed by The New Haven Register, The Bridgeport Post Telegram, The Milford Citizen, and was a freelance writer. During his retirement, he was an active member of several patriotic organizations including the Sons of the American Revolution, The Mayflower Society and Founders and Patriots of America. Sid resided in Milford with his wife, Joy Arlene Bott Folsom. His son, Stephen G. Folsom of Birmingham England is a long time member of the Silliman Branch.