

GENERAL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN BRANCH #3 Connecticut Society Sons of the American Revolution

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Notice of July 4th Event

TO ALL PATRIOTS AND YOUR FAMILIES

The **General Gold Selleck Silliman Branch** will participate in a joint meeting with The David Humphries Branch's 53rd Annual Ceremonies to honor the Signers of the Declaration of Independence on **Saturday, 9 A.M., July 4, 2004 at Grove St. Cemetery (corner of Grove & Prospect) New Haven,**

The Governors' Foot Guard will be there along with representatives of the Mayflower Society, local historical societies and the CTSSAR. Members will read the signers of the Declaration, and place a wreath on the grave of Roger Sherman. Our president, Dean Gaugler, will give an address on Roger Sherman and his accomplishments. The Grove Street Cemetery contains the graves of an incredible number of famous Americans.

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CALLING ALL COMPATRIOTS!

The Roger Sherman Branch is looking for volunteers to help with the "membership tent" that will be opened during Norwalk's "Patriot Weekend," July 10th and 11th, 2004.

We will have available a laptop computer with:

- The SAR Patriot Index CD
- The SAR Graves Register CD
- The Military Records: Connecticut Officers and Soldiers, 1700's-1800's CD

The list of hundreds of names taken from pension records, alarm lists, military returns, etc. from the book "**PATRIOT SOLDIERS DURING THE BATTLE OF NORWALK, JULY 11, 1779:** A preliminary and ongoing guide" compiled by Ed Eckert, Roger Sherman Branch president and his wife and it has been converted into an html (searchable) format. This list includes some genealogy and anecdotal information for many names.



Painting of the Burning of Norwalk by Barbara Falk

The tent is being co-sponsored with the Norwalk Village Green Chapter DAR, who will have their DAR Patriot Index volumes available as well. The lure will be, but will not be limited to, "Was your CT ancestor at the Battle of Norwalk?" We will also have SAR brochures and information about the organization at the tent.

This is an excellent opportunity for the SAR to advertise itself, as well as to draw in new potential members. We are expecting thousands of spectators from around CT and from other states to come to this, the largest reenactment in CT this year. We are looking for people with some knowledge of computers (you will be trained), and a desire to advance the organization. The tent will be open from

10 am until 1:30 pm on Saturday, and 10 am to 1 pm on Sunday, so that all will be free to watch the reenactments in the afternoon. We are asking for one or two hour shifts, depending on how many volunteers we receive.

If you would like to be a participant in this exciting enterprise, please contact Ed Eckert by telephone at (203) 847-3193, or by email, ESEaspie@aol.com.

CONNECTICUT PROVIDES CANNON

From and article by Albert E. Van Dusen

When the American Revolution broke out, the Americans desperately needed cannon. Armies required cannon to win battles and forts needed them to hold out against an enemy equipped with them. In the intercolonial wars against the French and Indians, England had provided the needed cannon.

Probably Connecticut's most important war industry was the Salisbury iron and cannon foundry, which had been developed in northwestern Connecticut well before the Revolution and which became the leading cannon-making center of New England during the war. In 1731 Daniel Bissell (1694-1770) discovered the first large, high-grade iron ore deposits in Salisbury, CT, later known as Ore Hill. Early in 1776, the Council of Safety sent Jedediah Elderkin to survey the potential for cannon making there. His report was so optimistic that the council assumed control of the property from its owner, Richard Smith, a suspected Loyalist who had gone to England. Two highly experienced men were chosen to supervise the operation. Colonel Joshua Porter

was named as overseer and Samuel Forbes as iron-master. They moved effectively to obtain a steady flow of iron ore, limestone, lead and charcoal.

Governor Trumbull, realizing the critical need for cannon, kept a special express rider almost constantly engaged on the Lebanon-Salisbury route.

In 1776, Salisbury cannon were used in Connecticut's coastal forts, were loaned to New York and mounted on a few ships. Late in 1776, Congress requested Salisbury cannon for Continental vessels and forts in northern New York. In January 1777, the Council of Safety voted to supply General Schuyler's army with thirty-nine cannon of assorted sizes and necessary shot. To speed production the assembly exempted fifty workers from military service. Requests poured in for cannon from Congress and the state in such large numbers that the governor and council had a difficult task allocating the available supply.

Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. of New London, as a state agent, outfitted many vessels, both state and privately owned, as well as privateers. One of his own privateers, the sloop *Revenge*, mounting ten Salisbury cannon, captured nineteen prizes. The Salisbury furnaces made cannon of many sizes, ranging from small swivels to the eighteen-pounders. They had the reputation for being expensive but very good. During the war Salisbury furnaces cast over 800 cannon, as well as producing shot, grapeshot, hand grenades, and pots and pans. Salisbury's contribution to winning the war was highly significant. Without its cannon, Connecticut's coastal towns would have been almost defenseless and its militia and navy would have had far fewer cannon.