



The Connecticut Line

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Membership is Soaring

We are having the best membership year in a long time. Currently we have 583 members, with more on the way. We have a net gain of 62, which is over a 10% increase.

Here's some of the breakdown:

46	New Members
31	Reinstatements
1	Transfer In
5	New Dual Members

We have a lot of primary applications and reinstatements waiting for processing at headquarters, so our numbers will go even higher.

We've also had quite a few supplemental applications and not all of them have been from Tim Jacobs. Tim has had another 15 approved for a total of 47 patriot ancestors. 6 other members bring the total approved to 22.

There is still time to pay your dues, if you haven't already. The deadline is Jan. 31st, but this only applies to a handful of members. Even if we do lose some members to non-payment, our numbers will still be ahead.

It's Not Just About The Numbers

We always hear the membership mantra from the National level over and over. During the last decade

A New Look and Outlook For Our Newsletter

I'd like to thank Walt Tucker for dealing with this job for the last few years. It can be a difficult task and he did a great job regardless of the challenges.

There are a great number of activities happening in Connecticut that we as members should be concerned about. The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Road (W3R) project is moving ahead at full steam. Our historic properties are going through more changes. And our Branches are always doing more. I'll have updates on these items and more as space permits.

I don't intend to simply repeat items from the branch newsletters or the web site. There are many items that affect the members across the entire state that will be covered. Sometimes it will be news from our more active branches, but other times I'll have updates from individual members or items from our headquarters.

I'd like to thank Compatriot Peter Amis of the Baldwin Branch for creating the drawing at the top of the page. This is only a first draft, since time was limited. Peter is a freelance illustrator and graphic designer in the Danbury area. He can be reached at 203-778-2767 or petercamis@mindspring.com. He is also working on this wonderful seal for the Huntington Branch.



I encourage all members to feel free to submit items for the newsletter. This is your newsletter, so if you have something that is of interest to you then it may be of interest to the rest of us.

Effects of 9/11

We have all been affected and saddened by the events of that day in September. Some more than others and our thoughts go out to them.

It will endure as one of those defining moments of our lifetime.

Not being or knowing what it is to be an American, the terrorists had no idea how badly their actions would backfire.

The results of their actions has once again made our country stronger. We are now more unified toward a common enemy.

I have never seen so many flags

The Connecticut Line January 2002

Editor

Stephen P. Shaw
stephen@paysonllc.com

Contributors

Peter C. Amis
Tim L. Jacobs
James E. Newton
Stephen P. Shaw
Russell W. Wirtalla

Submissions

Please send any material to:
Stephen P. Shaw
PO Box 411
East Haddam, CT 06423
860-873-3399
stephen@paysonllc.com

Deadlines

Jan. 1st
Mar. 1st
Aug. 1st
Oct. 1st

Continued from page 1

the Connecticut Society and it's Branches have been working hard to make membership more meaningful.

The biggest impact has been seen due to the increase in color guard activity. The Gerlanders from the Putnam Branch have been at the forefront of this effort.

They realized early on that having an active color guard was one of the best ways to teach the public about the American Revolution. At the same time more of their members became involved.

Today, the Putnam, Wolcott, Huntington and Mead Branches have active color guards with other Branches working towards the same goal.

More Branches have been visiting historic sites for their meeting events, which has interested more members than usual.

The final reason I have seen for

President's Corner

After the horrific events of September 11th, it's been hard to get back to the usual and sometimes seemingly mundane efforts that we undertake to keep the CTSSAR moving ahead, but that is just what must be done.

During meetings in September, October and November, I have been privileged to swear in 10 new SAR members and I witnessed 3 more being welcomed in December. I hope this pattern continues in the coming months. It bodes well for our Connecticut group.

Russ Wirtalla and I represented the SAR at the Massing of the Colors in Simsbury, hosted by the Mayflower Descendants on Nov. 4 and I attended Veteran's Day ceremonies in Litchfield sponsored by the DAR Chapter there.

Joyce and I were guests of the Gen. David Humphrey's Branch 1 at their Christmas meeting and all present enjoyed the talents of a banjo band which kept the group singing and even dancing to their wonderful music. One of their members added to the night's fun by joining the band with his own specialty-that of playing the spoons which is an almost forgotten art form. We also joined the Gov. Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch 10 at their Christmas party at the Conley Inn in Torrington.

Now that the holidays are behind us, it is time to get on with the business at hand. The February 16th meeting will be held at the Goodwin Hotel in Hartford and will be on the same day as the George Washington Birthday Celebration at the Old State House so that members can attend both as we did last year. The annual meeting will be held on April 27th. I remind all officers, committee chairmen and branch presidents that the annual reports are due by April 1st so that they are ready for distribution at this meeting.

Joyce and I wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2002 and, to quote part of the message sent out by President and Mrs. Bush on their Christmas Cards this year, "May the new year bring peace on earth".

James E. Newton
President, CTSSAR

Have Email??

We would like to know your email address. Over 200 of our members have told us their address, which is more than a third of our membership. In return they get to hear about important events and topics of concern.

They will also receive this newsletter before it even gets printed. So send your name and email address to me at info@ctssar.org.

the increases in membership is that Nationals has finally given us a tool to attract more members. They cut the application fee in half for all additional family members who join at the same time.

The National app fee is usually \$35, but for each subsequent family

member it reduces to \$17.50, which brings the total cost down from \$73 to \$55.50 per member.

This has resulted in 9 families that have joined at the same time. Some of them in groups of 3 and 4. It's also much more meaningful to induct an entire family together.

Continued from page 1

being displayed in my lifetime. It gives me a great feeling to know that patriotism is popular again. But it doesn't mean we can rest on our laurels.

We have been here all along giving flag certificates to local citizens and businesses for properly displaying old glory. We have been here as members living the motto "Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty". We know as members that we have to always be teaching others about the sacrifices that our patriot ancestors endured for their and our freedom.

It's up to us to make sure that people are properly displaying the flag at all times.

I've had to answer many questions about flag etiquette, since September. Our web site has been providing flag etiquette for the last few years, but has never had so much activity since 9/11.

We had 14,572 page hits in August. The events drove our hits up to 36,481 for September and 36,287 for October. Over 40 percent of the traffic was for the flag etiquette page alone. Some of the major search web sites added extra listings just for our pages of information.

It was good that we were there when needed, but we have to continue to help. If you see that someone has improperly displayed the flag, let them know. There are some very common mistakes when displaying the flag. Knock on their door or leave a copy of the flag etiquette page in their mailbox. Get your local newspaper to print the correct flag etiquette for all to read.

Patriotism is popular again but it doesn't mean that our work has gotten any easier.

Trustees Go Back and Forth on App Fee Increases

At the fall trustees meeting in Louisville, KY, it was decided to raise the application processing fees. This will only effect new applications and supplemental applications. **This is not an increase of annual dues.**

It was originally decided to make the new fees effective on Jan. 1st 2002. After some lengthy discussions and heated debates on SAR-TALK, it was agreed that the fee increases must be voted on at the next Congress in Nashville. The National Bylaws aren't clearly defined to allow the trustees to change the fees. So we have 6 more months with the lower fees. The fees for new members will most likely be the following:

	Now	After Congress
National App Fee	\$35.00	\$55.00
National 1st year dues	\$20.00	\$20.00
CT 1st year dues	\$18.00	\$18.00
TOTAL	\$73.00	\$93.00
Discount for other family members	-\$17.50	-\$27.50
TOTAL	\$55.50	\$65.50

Supplemental applications will go up from \$25 to \$50 per ancestor.

The trustees feel the increase is needed to cover the actual time and cost for the headquarters staff to fully process an application. If you disagree with these changes, let our state trustees know your opinions. Dick Anderson can be reached at 203-469-1544 or rea1812@yahoo.com. Charles Riegle can be reached at 203-637-3973 or criegle@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

CTSSAR Meeting

Feb 16th - 10am
Hartford, CT
Contact: Ben Thomas

American Revolutionary War Exhibit & Muster Day

Feb 16th - 11am - 3pm
Feb 18th - 10am - 4pm
Old State House, Hartford, CT
Contact: Todd Gerlander

NSSAR Trustees Meeting

Mar 1st - 2nd
Louisville, KY
Contact: Dick Anderson

Boston Massacre Reenactment

Mar 5th
Boston, MA
Contact: Todd Gerlander

Application/Genealogy Workshop

Mar 16th - 10am - 2pm
CT Historical Society, Hartford, CT
Contact: Stephen Shaw

Paul Revere Capture Site - Parade & Ceremony

Apr 6th - 3pm
Lincoln, MA
Contact: Todd Gerlander

Comments from the Web Site

My sister in law has friends visiting from Germany and asked my wife about flag etiquette. A quick click on Google brought us to your outstanding web site. I have put it in my favorites for future use. My wife and I just purchased a 30 foot aluminum flag pole for our neighborhood. Thanks for providing this wonderful service to Americans all over this great land.

Mr. Barnhill, Yakima, Washington

Branch or Chapter?

The Connecticut Society has the distinction of forming the first local group within a state society. It was called the Gen. David Humphreys Branch No. 1 in New Haven. Before this time there were no branches or chapters.

All other new groups in CT were also called Branches, while the other state societies went with the title of chapter.

It was decided at the last state meeting that we wanted to be unified as a state society and have all local groups be called branch.

The only exceptions to the rule were the Hale and Huntington chapters. Hale was originally formed as a branch, but changed their name in the 70's to chapter. Huntington was an offshoot of the Hale Chapter, so they had followed the same naming trend.

Hale agreed to change their name back to branch in November and Huntington decided to do the same a few weeks ago.

Some members ask "who cares." It is a minor item, but it is something that unifies us as a state society and as local groups.

It sets us apart from the other state societies that followed our lead.

Pirates and Privateers

A new hereditary society is being formed right now. It is The Order of Descendants of Pirates and Privateers. It is being organized by Compatriot Tim Jacobs who has just become a certified genealogist. Tim also holds the record for the most approved patriot ancestors in CT.

Pirates and Privateers contributed significantly to the operation of the military forces of this nation.

Without their service, this nation might not have come to be, since the Privateers curtailed the flow of supplies to the British military forces.

These men and women have been overlooked for far too long. This new society will make sure that doesn't happen any more.

Membership is open to men and women who can prove lineal descent from a Pirate or Privateer who operated between the years of 1609 and 1865. Many SAR members claim privateers as their patriot ancestor.

If you're interested, please contact:
Tim Jacobs
15 North Moodus Rd.
Moodus, CT 06469
860-873-9290
membership@piratesprivateers.org

The web site will be up and running within weeks.

www.ctsars.org



TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Connecticut Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
PO Box 411
East Haddam CT 06423-0411

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 22
TORRINGTON, CT