



Honoring Our Patriots

Our CTSSAR Compatriots continue to mark and visit the graves of our patriot ancestors, showing that they have not be forgotten. Every year the Branches, Branch Color Guards, and individual members honor their ancestors by properly marking their grave sites. Here are just a few examples.

Brock Jones, who, as a junior member, researched and obtained a granite marker for Revolutionary War veteran Silas Hull. Hull was a Ridgefield town quartermaster, and a member of Captain Jared Hines company of Colonel Whiting's 4th regiment of General Silliman's



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Should it all be about the Benjamins?

Some of us are getting the impression that our national level of the SAR is only concerned about the money. "All about the Benjamins" is a slang term indicating a concern only for money, since Benjamin Franklin is on the one hundred dollar bill.

It seems at times that there are more awards and focus given at the national level for giving money then for programs that further the objectives of our society. Yes it is important to have pins and awards as incentives to raise money for our library expansion, but do we have to water down the things that should be highlighted. We only had one of our CT compatriots attend the national congress this year in Chicago.

Thankfully, here in CT, we focus our time and energy towards furthering education about our ancestor's sacrifices. We march in parades, hold school programs, open our historic properties for the public, participate in the eagle scout and essay contests, and much more. Most of our members will never attend a national congress to be recognized for their dedication.

Back to the money. Our lack of attendance at the national stage has once again backfired on us. It's ironic that one year ago, I wrote about the political play of the day. Before the 2002 congress an application fee increase was due to be voted on, but was pulled at the last minute due to strong opposition. Instead they passed a dues increase that effected all members.

Well this year we had no warning about any change in fees. At the very end of the congress, it was approved to increase all the application fees. The increase will go into effect November 1st.

Send applications to me by early October to beat the fee increase. I expect to be flooded with applications, so I will need time to approve them, get a check back from our state treasurer, and send them to headquarters.

Membership Fees	Now	Nov 1st
National App Fee	\$35.00	\$60.00
National 1st year dues	\$25.00	\$25.00
CT 1st year dues	\$18.00	\$18.00
TOTAL	\$78.00	\$103.00

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The Connecticut Line August 2003

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Submissions

Please send any material to:
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Deadlines

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

SNET's Free Money

The CTSSAR is participating in the SNET Community Connections program. Now, when you sign up with SNET for all your long-distance calling - or confirm that you're already using SNET All Distance, the Connecticut SAR will get 5% of your monthly long distance bill.

So far with just over 40 members participating, we've been handed almost \$500. The more members that participate the better for us and our programs.

Signing up is easy. Just call SBC/SNET at 1-800-635-7638, or sign up on the web at <http://www04.sbc.com/content/0,,163,00.html>. Our organization code is # 3585.

If you know of other phone companies that have similar programs, contact Stephen Shaw at stephen@whoistheoldguy.com or 860-916-1804.

President's Corner

Exciting new projects have begun as a result of more and more members taking an interest in developing some of the ideas presented in CTSSAR's Strategic Plan. Copies of the Strategic Plan are available to those of you who are interested. The plan was designed to point out our organization's strengths and weaknesses and to outline short and long term goals. On June 19th, a meeting of the Planning Committee was held and several new committees were formed to help us reach these goals. These new committees are: Communication; Education & History; Flag Award; Fund-Raising; Historic Sites & Celebrations; JROTC; Ladies Auxiliary; Merchandise; and Public Relations. Each of these new committees has a set of outlined objectives. I have asked that the members of these committees begin by working together to decide how they can best meet these objectives and to present a report of their progress at our next State Meeting. There is much to be done and it won't all get done overnight. It is my hope, though, that by asking for a report of each committee to be presented at each State Meeting, steady progress will be made and CTSSAR will benefit from our efforts sooner. If you would like to learn more about these committees please let me know and I will send you more specific details. You don't have to be a member of these or our other committees to be involved. There are a wide variety of ways that our 600+ members can help. Each of you has your own special interests and talents. Please take a moment to consider how you might be able to help. I thank all of the members of CTSSAR for their continued support of the objectives of this Society.



Our next State meeting will be held on September 27th at the Yankee Pedlar Inn in Torrington. More details and a reservation form are included in this newsletter. We are trying to design these State Meetings so that they are fun and productive social events. Family members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting in Torrington will offer a side trip to the nearby Torrington Historical Society, and will also feature an entertaining, informative program entitled "Espionage during the American Revolution" presented by Nicholas Zeoli. Please make note of this date on your calendar and come along to share in the camaraderie.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth A. Buckbee".

Kenneth A. Buckbee
President – CTSSAR

Docent Appreciation Dinner

There may be no such thing as a free lunch, but there will be a free dinner for some members. We will have a dinner on September 17th for all our members and non-members who have volunteered to be docents at the War Office, or the Nathan Hale Schoolhouses. Invitations will be mailed soon.

We will have an awards presentation as well. This is the beginning of what will hopefully be an annual event to thank some of our volunteers.

Upcoming Events

Huntington Grave Markings

Sep. 6, 2pm
Norwichtown Green
Norwich, CT
Contact: Heath Herel

Fort Stamford Ceremonies

Sep. 13, 1pm
Fort Stamford
Stamford, CT
Contact: Charles Riegle

Docent Appreciation Dinner

Sep. 17, 6pm
Gelston House Restaurant
East Haddam, CT
Contact: Stephen Shaw

Application Genealogy Workshop

Sep. 20, 10am
Connecticut Historical Society
Hartford, CT
Contact: Stephen Shaw

CTSSAR Meeting

Sep. 27, 10am
Yankee Pedlar Inn
Torrington, CT
Contact: Ben Thomas

Heritage Weekend Encampment

Oct. 3-5
Smith-Harris House
East Lyme, CT
Contact: SAR Color Guard

Color Guard Training Weekend

Oct. 11-12
Fort at No. 4
Charlestown, NH
Contact: SAR Color Guard

Massing of the Colors

Nov. 2, 2:30pm
Shelton, CT
Contact: Ben Thomas

CTSSAR Meeting

Nov. 15, 10am
Redding, CT
Contact: Ben Thomas

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Discount for other family members when submitted at the same time	-\$17.50	-\$30.00
TOTAL	\$60.50	\$73.00

Supplemental applications have been raised from \$25 to \$45 each. It's a good thing that Tim Jacobs already has his 52 supplementals approved, because on Nov 1st they would cost \$2,340 versus the \$1,300 he did pay.

The big question I have is, Will the additional money make a difference at headquarters? Will they increase the headquarters staff?

Merchandise has always had the reputation for being slow, which has forced some of our members to look for other sources.

Just over two years ago, before all the dues and fees increases, applications were being approved in only 4 to 6 weeks time. Now headquarters has a backlog and it's been taking 4 months before they even look at an application.

It seems counter productive to raise dues and fees, when we are being asked to increase our membership numbers. I haven't heard any news about cost savings, better investment ideas, or fund raising.

Time will tell if this increase will have a positive effect.

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.

Proposed Constitution & Bylaw Changes

At the April Meeting, it was agreed that these documents needed some updating. These proposed changes will be discussed and voted on at the Sept. 27th meeting in Torrington, which is open to all members.

Constitution, Article IV, Section 1 (remove age reference in 1st pp) - Any male shall be eligible to membership in the CTSSAR who, is a citizen...

(remove age ref, 2nd pp) Any male within one year of his twenty-first...

Bylaws (insert new section 24, renumber section 24 and 25 to 25 and 26)

Section 24. The CTSSAR or CTSSAR Branches may form a ladies' auxiliary provided it operates within the guidelines of the NSSAR Bylaws. It's function will be to provide assistance in fulfilling the objectives of the CTSSAR.

History Has Been Spared in CT Budget Battle

The CT Historical Commission's four museums are funded and can be reopened. The Historic Preservation Council will be the successor to the present Historical Commission and keep it's current budget of \$1 million.

Thanks to all Compatriots who contacted their legislators to save history.

Continued from page 1 Fairfield County militia regiment.

Because Hull's last name was mis-spelled as "Hall" in local records, he never received the SAR grave marker he deserved. When Brock was helping clean-up the Old Florida Cemetery in Ridgefield, he noticed that Hull's family stone had broken and fallen down. Because his father Keith knew from research on his book that Hull was indeed a RevWar veteran, he urged Brock to contact the Veteran's Administration for an appropriate new marker. With the help of Paul Caravatt of the Roger Sherman Branch, he was successful and he installed the marker this past winter.

David Robinson one of our distant members from Orlando, FL arranged a private ceremony for his patriot ancestor, Titus Hine of Milford, CT. David, his wife Mary, daughter Kate and husband Rob, and niece CeCe, greeted a bag piper in full regalia for a short but very moving ceremony ending with "Amazing Grace".

While at the Milford cemetery, he was able to read the names of the 132 patriots who served from Milford. He also learned of Stephen Stowe of Milford, who left his family to help 46 patriots that were cast off from a British prison ship to die. Stephen gave his own life to

help the men dying of small pox.

The next evening David and his family went to a Humphreys Branch meeting, so he could be inducted as a new compatriot. He is now a very proud member.

Andre Newton one of our other distant members from Canada is currently working with the Color Guard to setup a grave marking ceremony for one of his patriot ancestors.

He has already arranged for a new marker from the Veteran's Administration which has been placed in memory of his ancestor's service to his country.

If you would like to arrange a grave marking ceremony for your patriot ancestor, please contact one of your branch officers or any of the state officers. Our state and branch color guards are very interested in helping, but keep in mind that they have busy schedules, so an adequate lead time is sometimes needed.

You can read more about grave markings and obtaining a VA marker on the national SAR web site at:
<http://www.sar.org/geneal/gravmark.htm>

www.ctsar.org



TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
~ **Nathan Hale Memorial Luncheon** ~

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

In Honor of the our state hero Nathan Hale, who was executed by the British as a spy on September 22, 1776 behind enemy lines on the Island of Manhattan.

**Yankee Pedlar Inn
93 Main Street
Torrington, Connecticut**

10:00 AM – CTSSAR Board of Managers Meeting (All members welcome)

As an alternative to the meeting, we will have a side trip up the street to the Torrington Historical Society for a presentation entitled “Espionage during the American Revolution” presented by Nicholas Zeoli.

11:45 AM – SOCIAL (Cash Bar available)

12:30 PM – CTSSAR Luncheon (Members and their wives are encouraged to attend)

Menu

Caesar salad

Choice of 3 entrees: Chicken Marsala, Scrod Florentine, or Roast Beef

Parsley Potatoes & Fresh Vegetable Medley

Dessert: Pound cake with strawberries and whipped cream

Coffee or tea

\$25.00 Per Person

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 20

Name: _____ Entree _____
_____ Entree _____

Number in your party _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please mail to:
Jeffrey Hessler
11 Bonny Lane
Clinton, CT 06413

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CTSSAR

DIRECTIONS TO YANKEE PEDLAR INN

From New Milford (40 min.), **Washington** (30 min.), **Litchfield** (10 min.) - Take 202E to Torrington, Left on Main Street, two blocks on left.

From Watertown (25 min.) - Take Rt. 63N. to Litchfield, Rt. 202E. to Torrington, Left on Main Street, two blocks on left.

From Kent (30 min.) - Take Rt. 7N to Rt. 4E to Torrington.

From Cornwall (20 min.) - Take Rt. 4E to Torrington.

(From Rt. 4E, take right onto Main Street, 1/2 mile to downtown. Yankee Pedlar on right.)

From Bradley International Airport/Hartford, CT (30 min.) - Take 20W to Route 219S. Follow Rt. 219 to 202W. Stay on 202W. 5 miles to downtown Torrington. Go right on Main Street.

From N.Y. City (2 hrs.) - Take Bridge to the Bruckner Expressway., North to Hutchinson River Parkway into the Merritt Parkway to Route 8N. to Torrington. Take exit 44 and go left on Rt. 202 to downtown. Make right on to Main Street. Yankee Pedlar is one block up on the left.

From N.Y. Airports - Go over Whitestone Bridge to I95 to Bridgeport, CT. Get on Rt. 8N. to Torrington and follow above directions from Rt. 8.