



The Connecticut Line

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Dear Connecticut SAR Color Guardsmen

I just wanted to make sure that everyone is aware of our upcoming events.

First, Color Guardsmen are needed for the Commemoration Ceremonies of the Battle of Groton Heights at Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park in Groton on Sunday, September 5. We have been participating at this event for many years, and we will once again dedicate a wreath on behalf of the SAR.

Second, we need Color Guardsmen for the CTSSAR Meeting on Saturday, September 11 in Wethersfield. If you plan to attend, please wear your uniform. The SAR President General will be attending, so the Color Guard will be posting the colors. We will have a grand presentation of colors if we get enough members.

Third, Historic Norwichtown Days in Norwich. This is a weekend event on September 18 and 19. The SAR, along with the DAR and CAR will conduct annual ceremonies in the old Burying Grounds on Saturday morning. Color Guardsmen are needed.

Fourth, On Saturday October 2, we will be

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Us Versus Us Versus Us

No I don't stutter. There seems to be a three way battle going on at times within the SAR. Let me explain.

We are all members of the Sons of the American Revolution at different levels. When we originally joined, we did so with the National Society, a State Society, and a local Branch. So you are a member of all three levels not just one or another.

We all know that most of the activities and events happen at the branch level and most likely you joined because of members you met at the branch level. Sometimes the higher levels of national and state seem to lose sight of that. Not in CT. Our state society for many years has focused our efforts to help and improve the branches, so that the branches can spend more time on events instead of the dreary administrative tasks. When we see good things in action at one branch or another we help to spread the word, so all can learn. Our state committees are there to help and improve the entire state society and all branches.

In the beginning of the SAR there were no branches, only state and national. It took two years before the first branch was created

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Is the W in W3R Fading Away?

Some are beginning to wonder if Washington is being removed from the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R). Over time the focus of W3R has shifted to one side and many wonder where it will lead.

The CTSSAR and branches raised the funds to pay for one of the route markers due to be placed in Bolton. But many have started to question whether if we will even be invited to the dedication. We hope so.

Some of our compatriots have become disenchanted with how things are being run. Too many of us have sat through lectures that make our patriots sound like a bunch of back woods morons who couldn't pull up their own britches without the help of others.

It's an honorable project which should succeed, but not at the price of one group over the other. The Rev War was a group effort and this should be to.

The Connecticut Line August 2004

www.ConnecticutSAR.org

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Submissions

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Deadlines

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

What're You Missing?

If we don't know your e-mail address you are missing a lot. This newsletter only comes out four times a year, but e-mails are sent out whenever it may interest you.

You won't get flooded with unwanted e-mail from us. Some months very few e-mails are sent out. And other months when we hear interesting news related to the Revolutionary War and the SAR they will be sent.

We don't share your address with anyone other than our own members. And you have the option to only get highly important e-mails. You can also decide whether you want this newsletter in printed form or via e-mail.

Just send an e-mail to Stephen Shaw at stephen@whoistheoldguy.com and he'll get you set up.

President's Corner

During the past couple months I have spent considerable time working with some of our committees in an effort to increase efficiency and productivity. Please remember that these committees not only serve the State Society as a whole but are also intended to benefit each Branch. In the new membership directory, which you should have received recently, you will find who the members are on the various committees. As you can see, this is a very small percentage of our 644 members. Those of you who are not listed on a committee but would like to help should know that we would absolutely welcome you! For your convenience we have included contact information. It would be helpful if you add these contacts to your e-mail address book. I encourage you to communicate regularly with the other members of your committee, sharing ideas and keeping track of each other's progress. E-mail communication should also make it easier for each committee to keep a running list of its accomplishments, thereby simplifying the task of producing the progress reports that I would like submitted to me before each meeting of the CTSSAR Board of Managers (Sep., Nov., Feb., Apr.). These progress reports are necessary for us to all be aware of what is being done and what needs to be done. Also, these reports may help us to secure grant money that we might be applying for.

In some cases one committee may be working together with other committees and they will do so more efficiently when everyone knows who is doing what. Anyone should feel free to contact me if they need an outline of the goals or purpose of the committee they are serving on. You will also note that each committee has a designated chairman as indicated by bold type. The idea is that the chairman will serve to coordinate the efforts of his committee, however it is also hoped that each chairman does not find himself doing the majority of the work that his committee should be doing. In my mind it is vitally important that we coordinate not only the efforts of each member of the committee, but that each committees' efforts are coordinated with those of other committees as well. Communication is key here. Let's keep each other well informed. We can't afford to waste time and energy duplicating each other's efforts.

We have an excellent opportunity to promote the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Nathan Hale. After all, we do own two properties that he actually taught at. The fact that Hale is our State Hero should spark the interest of most of our citizens and hopefully many businesses in Connecticut too. But, this anniversary is fast approaching and we will have to be productive between BOM meetings. We can't pack our notes away in our briefcases at the end of a BOM meeting and not look at them until the following BOM meeting. It is hoped that each one of us will go the extra mile necessary to make it possible for the committees we serve on to be most productive. Thank you.

Kenneth A. Buckbee, President - CTSSAR



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(860) 496-1562 or buckb@snet.net

Real Property

With the season well underway, this is an exciting time for all of the CTSSAR properties! We're more than halfway through our season, and visitors to all three buildings are coming out in great numbers. Thank you to everyone who has signed up and volunteered a weekend afternoon (or several) to help keep these important buildings open to the public. We kicked off the season with a training day, as compatriots Stephen Shaw and Heath Herel spent the day going to each property to train docents on the buildings and how to effectively present information in each.

Ongoing program improvements continue at the War Office. We continue to work as part of the Lebanon Consortium to make our presentations better and improve our visibility. The combined marketing force of the Consortium is already paying off, and the increases in traffic will only get better! We've made a couple of improvements to the building, as well: The well in back has been repaired, and the long standing issue of the front door's unwillingness to open is no longer a problem. How many people realized that there was a trap door in the attic opening down to the meeting room below? Probably very few, but that door has been opened, and the plaster on the ceiling below cut away to reveal the original hatchway to the storage space in the attic. Visitors to the War Office can now get a great appreciation for the original structure without venturing upstairs. A special thank you to Mike Nigro for the wonderful historic flag display he setup at the War Office on July 4th. His presentation was well attended, and the comments from visitors were overwhelmingly positive! Thanks, Mike!

Work continues on the grant writing process for both Nathan Hale Schoolhouses. We are finishing up a large Planning & Implementation grant to get the ball rolling on designing new programs and displays for these two buildings. Additional work on the grounds in East Haddam has been done this year, with more clearing of trees and hydro seeding more of the grounds to create additional park space. We've added two more picnic tables, which came in very handy at the July 4th picnic. The Real Property Committee also extends an enormous "THANK YOU" to compatriot Mike Juhase for his efforts this spring in East Haddam. Thanks to Mike, the exterior of the schoolhouse was completely cleaned up and repainted, and Mike also painted all of the picnic tables. Mike, we could not have done it without you!

As you spend time visiting or working in any of the buildings, remember that efforts are underway by the Real Property Committee to make improvements. Many of the changes this year have been small ones, but we are working with a team of professionals to work toward museum-quality displays in the near future. We welcome suggestions from all members and volunteers on how to make improvements, but ask that no changes are made to the buildings or the displays currently in place.

If anyone is interested in helping out with any of the properties, there's still time in the season and days that we need to fill. We have been very successful in keeping the buildings open this summer. You can check the schedule and sign up online at www.connecticutsar.org/docents.php, and we look forward to seeing all of the volunteers at the Docent Appreciation Dinner this fall, so we can formally thank everyone for their assistance.

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in any state society in the country and it was the General David Humphreys Branch Number 1 in 1891 in New Haven, CT.

So when we hear from time to time, "We'll wait and see what the state society does." or "What is the state society going to do about it?" or "What is nationals doing now?", many of us get a little taken aback. Hello, you are a member of the state society and the national society.

We're all on the same team, but we don't always act like it. Some of us just focus our play at different levels. Our objective as a society is the same, so we are all fighting the same battle, which is to remember the history and efforts of our patriot ancestors. We shouldn't waste our precious resources on battles between ourselves at the different levels, whether if it's branch vs branch, branch vs state, or state vs national.

Our state Board of Managers and state committees are made up of members from all branches. It's a level playing field as it should be. Made up of compatriots who want to see us improve.

If you see something that you would like to be changed or improved, don't sit in the bleachers. Get involved. A perfect example is one of the student contests we have every year. Not everyone agreed with the results last spring, so the entire committee has changed.

Please get involved if you can afford the time. We can get so much more accomplished if we work together towards our common goals by helping each other and learning.

We are the National Society, State Society and the Branch, not one or another.

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attending Heritage Day in Bolton, CT. We have been invited by Hans Depold to set up a Revolutionary War camp on the Bolton Green. We are all aware that the CTSSAR paid for the W3R marker which will hopefully be placed and dedicated in Bolton in 2005. We all expect the CTSSAR and the Color Guard to be at the forefront of those ceremonies.

And last, the Annual SAR Color Guard Training Weekend/Annual Meeting at the Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, NH, is scheduled for the weekend of Oct 9 and 10.

If you can attend any of the above events, please let me know. Thanks,

Todd L. Gerlander, Major
Commanding
New England Contingent SAR

Upcoming Events

CTSSAR Meeting

Sep. 11, 10am
Village Tavern, Wethersfield, CT

SAR App/Genealogy Workshop

Sep. 18, 10am
Bridgeport Public Library

Norwichtown Days

Sep. 18 & 19, All Day
Norwichtown Green, Norwich, CT

Heritage Day

Oct 2, All Day
Bolton Green, Bolton, CT


Docent Appreciation Dinner

Oct. 6, 6pm
Gelston House, East Haddam, CT

Color Guard Training Weekend

Oct. 9 & 10, All Day
Fort at No. 4, Charlestown, NH

The complete schedule is at:
<http://www.connecticutsar.org>



PATRIOTS AND PILGRIMS

FIND YOUR CONNECTION

**Society of Mayflower Descendants
State of Connecticut**

Membership Information:
Midge Hurtuk
39 Butternut Lane
Vernon, CT 06066

www.ctmayflower.org ~ mhurtuk@aol.com

www.ConnecticutSAR.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 11, 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.

**Village Tavern
222 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT
860-563-5277**

The NSSAR President General and his First Lady will be in attendance.

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

Noon – SOCIAL (Cash Bar available)

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

2:00 PM – Tour of three historic sites.

Menu

Lobster Bisque

**Choice of 4 entrees: Veal Marsala, Chicken Francaise, Scallop Scampi or NY Steak
Potatoes & Fresh Vegetable**

Dessert: Cheese Cake

Coffee or tea

\$22.00 Per Person for the Meal + \$8.00 Per Person for the Tour

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 4th

Name: _____ Entree _____

_____ Entree _____

Number in your party for the Meal _____

Number in your party for the Tour _____

Amount Enclosed _____

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

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CTSSAR

DIRECTIONS TO VILLAGE TAVERN

From Points North

1. Take Route 91 South
2. Take the Great Meadow Rd exit towards Old Wethersfield
3. Turn Right on Great Meadow Rd
4. Turn Left on Marsh ST
5. Turn Left on Main ST

From Points South

1. Take the CT-99 exit towards Rocky Hill/Wethersfield, Exit #24
2. Bear Right towards CT-99 North/Wethersfield
3. Continue on CT-99
4. Turn Right on Wells Rd
5. Wells Rd becomes Main St

