

OCTOBER 2010

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

Trumbull Celebrations - State Birthday - Joint SAR/DAR Ball Proposed

On October 2nd & 3rd, 2010, the residents of Lebanon were treated to a grand encampment of many reenactment groups, including our own Color Guard. The festivities occurred on the Lebanon green, and from my perspective, there seemed to be visitors in the range of a 1,000 or more at any given time throughout the day. There were vendors of period ware and groups from all around the region. We've been talking about Governor Trumbull's birthday these past



few issues because he is arguably the greatest patriot in Connecticut history. Compatriot Shaw and others have worked steadily and fastidiously to get the War Office in ship-shape for these festivities and I hope those who live here in Connecticut will make some effort to see all the work that has been done to make that important building something that you can be proud of. Additionally, we are celebrating the 375th anniversary of Connecticut. This is

a great time to get the word out about our Color Guard and our properties. These are what make our state unique among all others. As we have been working more closely with the CTDAR in recent months, expect greater things to come. One item to note: It has been proposed that we conduct a joint SAR/DAR ball sometime next year. Although these discussions are still preliminary, it has been agreed to, in principal, by our State President and the State Regent. As we hammer out the details, this is something you should be aware of and prepare for.



C.A.R. Activities

Great things continue to happen with the C.A.R. and the DAR Liaison programs here in Connecticut. Recently, the Connecticut Society of the C.A.R. arranged a trip to Philadelphia with participation from the NH and PA Societies. The children visited many of the great sites and a highlight of the trip was a dinner at City Tavern and an "after-hours" tour/play at Independence Hall. Additionally, over the summer, the New England Regional meeting was conducted in Providence, Rhode Island. Turnout was great and

SAR Greetings were brought by Carlen Booth. A summer packet meeting was held in Westport, where the children performed interesting and lively skits relative to their responsibilities. Last year, while browsing the SAR website, I noticed that there was a C.A.R. Activity Award Application. Reviewing that application, I could see that the CTSSAR clearly qualified for that award and I brought it to the attention of, then, President



Roach. He promptly submitted the form and our state society was recognized at national congress with a streamer for our flag. We are making progress! What we need is continued SAR participation. You can make an impact by enrolling your qualified children, grandchildren and nieces and nephews. THEY are our future - please don't forget that. There is a C.S.C.A.R. Calendar in production featuring the children, DAR and SAR members. Please contact me if you would be interested in supporting the state society by purchasing one or several of these calendars.





The Connecticut SAR is keeping up with the quickly changing internet. We have created pages on Facebook so anyone who is interested in the SAR or our three museums can keep up with the latest news. You can follow any of these links to follow us on the web:

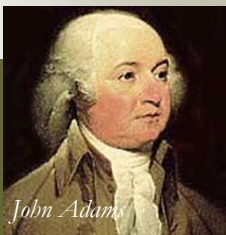
Connecticut SAR
<http://www.facebook.com/connecticutsar>

War Office
<http://www.facebook.com/waroffice>

Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, EH
<http://www.facebook.com/haleschooleh>

Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, NL
<http://www.facebook.com/haleschoolnl>

So take a look and stay connected with what your society is doing.



"Objects of the most stupendous magnitude, and

measure in which the lives and liberties of millions yet unborn are intimately interested, are now before us. We are in the very midst of a revolution the most complete, unexpected and remarkable of any in the history of nations." - Letter to William Cushing, June 9, 1776

A Great Season for our Museums

Now that the open season is coming to a close on Oct 31st for the two Nathan Hale Schoolhouses and the War Office, we are turning to fall and winter projects. With help from our great volunteers and others we can get a lot done and keep our expenses down.

The East Haddam Schoolhouse has had a good year with many sunny days which are best for visitors. Gene our tour guide has done a great job and on his second season has really gotten into the history. Right now repairs are being done on the exterior of the building to replace some rotting boards and we prepare to repaint in a couple of weeks. We need volunteers to help the Coast Guard Cadets on Oct 31st to do prep work, so if you can lend a hand, let me know. We will be starting to clear the underbrush on the property to keep it under control this fall and winter.

The New London Schoolhouse was back to normal with all the parade construction almost complete. They still have minor issues to finish including the roof leak in the brand new elevator shaft and putting up the flags. Phil and Bud our tour guides have

done great work as well with the regular schedule and have also covered for the two cruise ships that returned this fall. During the next couple of months heat will be installed downstairs with a gas fireplace insert. It will be good to have heat as needed only for extra winter days such as when Santa greets all the children in December. We will continue with the restoration on the second floor. The students from Ella Grasso Tech are lined up to



do the drafting and carpentry under the supervision of Stephen Marshall of the replacement windows, dormers and belfry.

The War Office has had a special year with new exhibits in time for the celebrations of Governor Trumbull's 300th Birthday. Bill Lang with the help of Bob Rivard have taught the largest number of school groups that we have had in years besides covering the regular days. This winter the narrow plank flooring on

the first floor will be replaced with proper wide planks to give a better appearance for the colonial period.

I can't thank all of our volunteer docents enough for their great work covering special events and Sundays at all three locations. It's with their help that we educate more and more people about the times of the American Revolution. There are still a few weeks left and volunteers are needed, so please help if you can. The docent dinner for volunteers will be in mid November.

This summer we had our first ever intern. Keith is a history teacher from Vernon working on his masters at Central UConn. As part of a grant from the Middlesex County

Community Foundation he began to catalog the collections of our three museums and our growing library. If you want to help with the cataloging, we have a long way to go. We will now get on a regular schedule with interns in the winter and summer seasons.

We have many more grants that are in process for the museums, but not enough space in this issue of the newsletter, so stay tuned.

A bit of Colonial Romance - Contributed by R. Wirtalla

Reverend Francis Dane, a five greats grandfather of Russ Wirtalla, who served the North Parish of Andover, Massachusetts for 49 years, was married to Elizabeth Ingalls for thirty years and had four daughters and two sons. When Elizabeth died, Francis wrote the following verse in search for another wife:

*I sometimes ere and sometimes there have sought
To see if I the thing could bring about,
That might best suite mee in my pilgrimage
And match to one who's sober, chaste, and sage.
That 's living meeke, no tattler, not unruly,
That loveth goodness and yet hath a mind
To conjugal subjection inclined:
In such a blessing may I have a share
For other thing I need not much a whit to care.*

Jonas Prescott, son of John and Mary (Platts) Prescott, five greats grandparents of Russ, was in love with Mary Loker, daughter of John and Mary (Draper) Loker. The Lokers were quite wealthy and aristocratic, and as Mary was their only daughter, who was quite lovely, they set the stan-

dard for Mary's marriage much higher than to a blacksmith, the son of a blacksmith. They forbid Jonas from entering their house and of having any communication with their daughter. They even grated the windows of her apartment in their house and locked her in. Grates and locks were not to stop Jonas and Mary. On one cold winter night the wind howled to the point that the parents could not hear the words of love issued from either side of the grated windows. The parents did discover this intrigue however and hid Mary in a secluded spot under the guardianship of someone else. Jonas looked and looked for her without success. Finally he tried a different approach. He asked some young men if there were any pretty girls in their neighborhood. They told him there was a quilting party that very day, and that there was a dance that evening and they were going. They invited him to join them, he accepted, and who do you think was there, but his beloved Mary. They had many dances together and planned secret future meetings.

This lasted awhile until her parents found out and took her home again. She was sternly told that she would reject the blacksmith and receive addresses from a particular lawyer. She was resolute in her response. She would never marry anyone but Jonas Prescott. She did marry Jonas for which she was cut off without a penny. Jonas and Mary lived to see 175 descendents. One of their grandsons was Col. William Prescott, a hero of Bunker Hill.

Jonas became one of the largest landholders in Groton, MA. He built mills and forge for the manufacture of iron. He was a man of extensive influence, town clerk in 1691, selectman for several years, represented the town in the General Assembly in 1699 and 1705, was Captain of the militia and justice of the peace. Jonas lived to be 75 and Mary to 82.

News from the Front

I would like to start out by giving a report on the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. 300th Birthday Encampment last weekend. As everyone in this Society knows, this year marks the 300th Birthday of Revolutionary War Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. (October 12, 1710 - October 12, 2010) and there are several events that the CTSSAR will either be presenting or participating in to commemorate this important anniversary.



"The Connecticut Line" set up camp for the Time-Line Encampment and participated in the events during the weekend of October 2 - 3, 2010 on the Lebanon Green. It was a Great encampment, and we were able to talk with a lot of people about the American Revolution. There were battle scenarios on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon that we took part in, including one where the British fictitiously attempted to capture Gov. Trumbull. Compatriot Russell Wirtalla portrayed Gov. Trumbull, and the Connecticut Line portrayed the Governor's Guard. Over the years, we have developed a reputation for our cooking, and once again we roasted a pork loin on a spit over the fire for our Saturday evening dinner. We also had boiled potatoes and squash.

One of the things that is unique with our Connecticut Society, is that our Color Guard is not just a "Color Bearer" unit that posts flags at meetings, etc. We are a Living History Unit, really first and foremost, educating the public on what life was really like during the American Revolution, at least to the best of our ability, as both historians and reenactors. We dress in authentic clothing and uniforms made of 18th century materials, camp in 18th century style tents, cook using 18th century methods

and equipment, and participate in mock battles helping to keep the American Revolution Alive. It is a Great experience, and it is open to all members of the CTSSAR to participate and get a glimpse of what it might have been like to live during the time of your Revolutionary War ancestors.

I would like to thank the 20 members of the Connecticut Line for taking part in the encampment, We had a GREAT Camp this year, it was a difficult encampment with setting up in the rain, etc., but it was a lot of fun.

Wayne Bickley (Putnam), Harry Clarke (Hale), Geoffrey Colby (Putnam), George Crede (Putnam), Damien Cregeau (Wadsworth), Dan Dudley (Hale), Lee Gerlander (Putnam), Todd Gerlander (Putnam), Randy Gerlander (Putnam), Stephen Marshall (Putnam), Bob Rivard (Huntington), Charles Schirmer (Wolcott), Martin Spring (Wolcott), John Towle (Putnam), Russell Wirtalla (Putnam), Richard Wright (Putnam).

(Camp-Followers) Bonnie Burke, Lisa Colby, Gina Gerhard, Pam Hall.

I would like to thank Compatriots Russell Wirtalla, Lee Gerlander, and Randal Gerlander for serving as Docents at the War Office on Sunday.

I would also like to thank Compatriot Stephen Messier and Cece Messier (CTDAR) for providing

Sandwiches/Salads for Lunch on Sunday.

And I would like to thank Cheryl MacLachlan from the CTDAR for bringing Combread, etc. for Saturday nights Dinner.

THREE HUZZAHS!!!

I would also like to welcome Compatriot Jeffry Stober of the Nathan Hale Branch CTSSAR as a new Member of the Connecticut Line, Living History/Color Guard Unit of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Compatriot Stober is the 66th Active Member of the Unit. THREE HUZZAHS!!!

As I write this report, we are getting ready for the CTSSAR Ceremonies to Commemorate the 300th Birthday of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. (October 12, 1710 - October 12, 2010). We will conduct the Ceremonies on the 12th, starting at the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. House at 2:00 PM with the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution. At 3:00 PM we will have a Ceremony at the War Office, which will be followed by a Ceremony at the Trumbull Tomb. A wreath laying and musket salute will take place at each location.

The Annual Massing of the Colors will also be held in Lebanon this year, on Sunday, October 24, 2010.

Put your faith in God and keep your powder dry,

Todd L. Gerlander
Colonel Commanding

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Deadlines:

Jan 1st Mar

1st Aug 1st

Oct 1st



From the President's Saddle Bag

The months of September and October have been busy months for the SAR in Connecticut. I was pleased to be able to attend both the 229th anniversary of the Battle of Groton Heights and The Time-Line Encampment on the Lebanon Green and see our color guard in action at both events. If you haven't seen a color guard event in a while, check the online calendar of events and come out and support the 65+ members as they bring the history of the American Revolution to life here in Connecticut! For those who didn't make it to the state meeting on September 18th at the Capt. Daniel Packer Inn in Mystic, you missed a terrific speaker. Our guest was David J. Naumec, a consultant with the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center and his talk was on Native Americans from Connecticut and Rhode Island that served in the American Revolution. For those who are interested, one of his articles on Native Americans will be made available on the Articles section of our website. The Society also recognized our Trustee, Charles Riegler for his long service to the CTSSAR with the Patriot

medal, which is the highest award that a state society can present to a compatriot. A week after the meeting, Charles and I along with our wives attended the Fall Leadership meeting in Louisville, which included the dedication of the new genealogical research library in its new location on Main street. The new library is only the first phase of the moving of the national headquarters building to its new location on Main street. While at the leadership meeting I attended several of the national committees, including joining the World War II project, which needs your help. National would like to recognize those compatriots that served during World War II. The last SAR magazine had a survey on page 28 that I would like to see each WWII veteran fill out. By the way, did you know that the last surviving American of World War I is 108 and a member of the SAR from West Virginia? Still attends meetings from time to time. So to all my compatriots across the state, if he can do it, why haven't I seen you at a state meeting lately? Our guest speaker for our meeting in November is Prof. Kevin Gutzman from



Western CT State Univ. and he has written several books on the U.S Constitution, so please check him out and sign up for the meeting. You won't be disappointed! Lastly, I would like to see my fellow compatriots get involved with *Wreaths Across America* on December 11th. WAA is a volunteer group that convoys donated wreaths from Maine down to Arlington National Cemetery each year in December. It will be making several stops along the way in Connecticut at schools and other sites, if being a part of the SAR is remembering our patriot ancestors, then what better way to honor them than to honor all our veterans, past and present.

As always, I remain your obedient servant.

David J Perkins
CTSSAR President

www.ConnecticutSAR.org



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