



General David Humphreys Branch No. 1 Sons of the American Revolution

**New Haven, Connecticut Founded
May 22, 1891**

Meeting Summary December 14, 2020 – February 8, 2021

December 14 – We spoke about the Flag Award that was given to Cheryl & Kenneth Warrington from Stratford.

Wreaths Across America was a success even though we were only limited to 25 people by the Town of Milford. 382 Wreaths were placed at the ceremony.

Steve Chapman gave an historical moment about a Captain John Thompson that hid our provisions because the British were looking to take the provisions for their Army.

Steve also spoke about Edgewood Cemetery in Wolcott. He has been researching the Patriots that are buried there. He has found approximately 35 Patriot and would like us to think about having a grave marking ceremony this year. The town of Wolcott is the furthest point in New Haven County.

President Stewart installed the New Officers for 2021-2022;

President: Christopher Bandecchi, Vice President: Steve Chapman, Secretary: Ethan Stewart, Sr., Treasurer: Bruce Bathrick; Assistant Treasurer: Ethan Stewart, Sr., Registrar: Gregory Thompson, Chaplain: Richard Kendall, Historian: Steve Chapman, Neurologist: Douglas LeMay

The meeting was turned over to the new President Chris Bandecchi.

President Bandecchi presented Ethan Stewart with a past branch Presidents certificate and Pin.

January 11 - Ethan brought up the dues notices and how we still have about 18 members that haven't paid. Bruce has sent out notices and received a few responses. I am asking if there is anyone willing to call these people as a last resort. President Baddecchi volunteered to do so.

We spoke about the Wreaths Across America Ceremony. It was a success even though we were only limited to 25 people by the Town of Milford. 382 Wreaths were placed at the ceremony. Some of our members like seeing it on Facebook.

Steve also spoke about Edgewood Cemetery in Wolcott. He has been researching the Patriots that are buried there. He has found approximately 35 Patriot and would like us to think about having a grave marking ceremony this year. The town of Wolcott is the furthest point in New Haven County and they will be celebrating their 240 anniversary.

Steve Chapman gave a historical moment on the – British Release of 200 Prisoners with Small pox in Milford. On a Cold Night 1 Jan 1777, Capt. Isaac Miles and his family heard strange noise outside their home on the Milford Shore. As they sat by the fire, the family heard the sound of shuffling feet and many voices coming from their yard. When Capt. Miles and his family went outside to investigate, they saw a terrible sight. Dozens of ragged, forlorn-looking men were standing outside the house and were shivering from the cold. The men looked as though they had been starved for a long time, and most of them appeared to be sick. The Miles family wasted no time getting the men out of the cold. Then they quickly sent word to their neighbors of the pitiful visitors that needed help. The men were Americans who had been taken prisoner by the British and confined in the British Prison Ships that were anchored in the East River in New York City. They had been landed earlier that evening from the British Warship which had been flying a flag of truce and which had been sighted off Milford in the Afternoon. The ship had vanished in the fog after it had been sighted; evidently no one in Milford had seen the landing. There were 200 men in the group, they were all sick with small pox, Capt. Miles had learned. The Citizens of Milford found quarters in their homes for the sick men while efforts were made to convert the Town Hall into an isolation hospital. The men were moved to the town hall as soon as bedding and other equipment could be provided there. After the emergency hospital was set up, several courageous men and woman volunteered to care for the stricken men who had fought for their country and who had been cruelly imprisoned by the enemy. One of the Volunteers was Capt. Stephen Stow, a Militia Officer. He was 51 Years old and had 4 sons serving in the continental army. Capt. Stow and other Milford Volunteers worked long and hard hours to do what they could for the unfortunate former prisoners. However, within a months' time, 46 of the 200 men had died of the disease; they were all buried in a common grave. Capt. Stow came down with the disease, as did many of the volunteers; he died on 8 Feb. 1777. In 1852 the State of Connecticut erected a monument to mark the graves of the 46 former prisoners and another was put up honoring Capt. Stephen Stow for "his self-sacrificing devotion to his country and humanity"

We also spoke about purchasing zoom so that we could have longer meeting. The executive board all voted yes to purchasing

February 8 – Ethan introduced a new dual member of the CT Society & Humphreys Branch Shaun Smith from New York.

Ethan spoke about the recommendations he sent to 14 area High Schools for the Outstanding Citizenship Awards. This is for the junior class.

Steve Chapman also spoke about Edgewood Cemetery in Wolcott about doing a grave marking ceremony for about 35 Patriots. He hasn't heard back from the town yet. He would like to do this on the town's anniversary in May.

Steve Chapman gave a historical moment on the – Attempted Capture of Capt. Jehiel Bryan in Milford British ships hovered off the coast of Milford, and on several occasions

small enemy landing parties went ashore. Many enemy landings came from whaleboats and rowboats that crossed the sound from the British base on Long Island. One of these landings occurred when a British Officer on Long Island decided it would be a good idea to capture Capt. Jehiel Bryan, a commander of the Milford coast watchers. Capt. Bryan and his co-commander Capt. Orlando Beach, had done a very efficient job of patrolling the Milford Shoreline to keep out the British and Tory raiders. The British Officer, accompanied by two recruits, crossed the sound in a rowboat. They started their journey in the afternoon and two hours after dark they landed outside the village of Milford. They apparently were undetected by the American patrols. The Village streets were silent and dark as the raiders made their way to Capt. Bryan's home. When they reached the house, the officer who headed the party walked into the yard and up to the steps of the door; he had his sword in his hand, and his two soldiers followed him. He pushed the door open and brazenly walked into the house. Just as he was about to enter Capt. Bryan's room, the captain appeared in a doorway. The American Captain proved his courage by grabbing the British Officer by the collar and exclaiming "you scoundrel, what do you want here" Capt. Bryan shook the Officer so hard and filled him with fear that the Redcoat dropped his sword. The Captain pushed the officer back through the door with such force that he landed on the two soldiers behind him, causing all three to fall backwards. The two astonished soldiers did not give Capt. Bryan an opportunity to attack them with the sword he picked up from the floor. They took to their heels and fled from the house, followed by their commander. The three men ran to their boat and rowed back to Long Island. The British then tried to revenge themselves on Capt. Bryan by firing from their boat on part of his property which faced the shore, but the shots did no damage.

Tim Wilkins spoke about the Eagle Scout recipient for our branch. The Scout is from Cromwell and we will see him in the late spring for his ceremony.

13 people attended the zoom meeting

Respectively Submitted

Branch Secretary: Ethan A. Stewart, Sr.