Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

CELEBRATES

240th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF NEW HAVEN, CT

Fort Wooster Park – Beacon Hill

at 1 Beacon Avenue, New Haven, CT.

Rededication of SAR Tablet placed in 1895

By the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Saturday July 13, 2019

10:00 a.m till Noon
Introductions

President of the Connecticut Society of the SAR
  Damien Cregeau

Commander of the Connecticut Line
  David Perkins

Commander 2\textsuperscript{nd} Company Governor’s Foot Guard
  Richard Greenwalch

Past Grand Marshall of the Connecticut Masons
  Marshall Robinson

Honorable Mayor of New Haven
  Toni Harp

Co-Chairman of the Friends of Wooster Park
  Susan Marchese

State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution
  Christly Hendrie

The Connecticut 6\textsuperscript{th} Regiment
  Rick Shreiner

Yale Veterans Liaison
  Jack Beecher

Executive Director of the New Haven Museum
  Margaret Tockarshewsky

Past State Troubadour
  Thomas Callinan

2\textsuperscript{nd} Company Governors Horse Guard
  Steven Chapman
## CASUALTIES AT NEW HAVEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KILLED IN ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Beers</td>
<td>Atwater (a slave)</td>
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<td>Aaron Bradley</td>
<td>David Austin</td>
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<td>John Baldwin</td>
<td>Jeremiah Austin</td>
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<td>Joseph Dorman</td>
<td>John Austin</td>
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<td>Benjamin English</td>
<td>John Bassett</td>
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<td>Capt. John Gilbert</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. Daggett</td>
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<td>Michael Gilbert</td>
<td>Nathaniel Dummer</td>
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<td>Gideon Goodrich</td>
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<td>Caleb Hotchkiss</td>
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<td>Capt. Caleb Mix</td>
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<td>John Hotchkiss</td>
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<td>John Kennedy</td>
<td>Chandler Pardee</td>
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<td>Timothy Luddington</td>
<td>Abraham Pinto</td>
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<td>Isaac Pardee</td>
<td>Edmund Smith</td>
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<td>Eldad Parker</td>
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<td>Pomp, a Negro</td>
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<td>Aaron Russel</td>
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<td>Jeduthan Thompson</td>
<td>Thomas Burrell</td>
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<td>Adam Thorpe</td>
<td>Capt. Elijah Forbes</td>
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<td>Asa Todd</td>
<td>Capt. John Mix</td>
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<td>Elisha Tuttle (insane)</td>
<td>Lt. Hezekiah Sabin</td>
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<td>Adonijah Sherman</td>
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<td>Isaac Townsend</td>
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<td>Samuel Tuttle</td>
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<td>Mr. Whitney</td>
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## TAKEN PRISONER

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<td>Thomas Burrell</td>
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<td>Mr. Whitney</td>
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Program

Posting of the colors

*The Connecticut Line, 2nd Company Foot Guard, 6th Connecticut Regiment*

Invocation

Heavenly Father, we are here today to cherish the memories of the patriots, a little militia company with muskets and a small cannon who fought a valiant resistance against British soldiers and mercenaries.

We are standing on the battlefield that was once filled with smoke and carnage. This conflict gave new life and vigor to the very spirit that it aimed to quelch.

This battle and similar battles against overwhelming forces help to forge the liberty and freedom we enjoy today in the United States of America.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*William Lane, CTSSAR State Chaplain*

Pledge of Allegiance

*SAR State Vice President Timothy Wilkins*

Pledge to the SAR

We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

*SAR State President Damien Cregeau*

Welcome

*Ethan Stewart, Past State President for the CTSSAR*

Patriot Ancestors and the Invasion of New Haven

*SAR State President, Damien Cregeau*

2nd Company Governor’s Foot Guard in the invasion

*Commander Richard Greenwalch*
The Masons and General David Wooster  
Marshall Robinson, Past State President for the CTSSAR

Honorable Mayor  
Toni Harp

State Regent of the DAR  
Christly Hendrie

Friends of Wooster Park  
Susan Marchese

Colonel David Humphreys  
Dave Loda

Unveiling of the Marker  
General David Humphreys Branch No.1 - President William Fenn

Bloody Monday & Thank A Vet  
Past State Troubadour Tom Callinan

Benediction
Almighty God, in whose name the founders of our country won our liberties and lit the torch of freedom, we beseech thee that we and all Americans may have the grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace. Let us go fore into the world, and be of good courage, hold fast that which is good, and love and serve the lord. And, the blessing of God the Father, God the son, and God the Holy Ghost, be with you always. Amen.

William Lane, CTSSAR State Chaplain

SAR Recessional
Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men.

SAR State President Damien Cregeau

Closing Remarks  
Ethan Stewart
240 years ago, some 110 small sailing vessels of the British Royal Navy set sail from Manhattan and was the largest fleet that had ever entered Long Island Sound. They were destined for New Haven, a patriot port city, and the strategy for attacking the Elm City, followed by my hometown of Fairfield and native city of Norwalk days later, was conceived by British General Sir Henry Clinton. He gave command of this expedition to a man he despised, General William Tryon, Colonial Governor of New York. The combined number of sea and land forces was estimated at 5,000 men. Most people on both sides of the Sound assumed the British were headed for Newport, a city they already occupied. No one outside the British military knew the real destination, especially the residents of New Haven.

On the evening of July 4th, a signal gun was fired at about 10 o’clock to arouse the people of New Haven, and by midnight the 110 small ships were at anchor off the shore. Imagine the fear rising in the hearts and minds of the patriot residents. Many residents hastily packed what they could carry and walked or rode away to a safer location. Others frantically buried their valuables or hid them in chimneys or wells. A few grabbed their muskets and hurried towards what is now West Haven.

Around 5 o’clock on the morning of July 5th, which was about high tide, the first division of 1,500 men and four artillery pieces landed at Savin Rock under the command of Brigadier General George Garth. Even from five miles away, the Reverend Ezra Stiles, armed with his spyglass in the Yale Chapel tower, could see dozens of boats rowing towards what is the Old Field shore. By now, Beacon Hill would have come to life, as a signal fire was lit atop it along with signal fires atop East Rock and West Rock to alert the residents.

On the village green of what is now West Haven, the steeple bell of the church rang constantly. Only a few dozen men answered the call. While some fled, others were unwilling to leave their homes unprotected. One of the leaders of the local militia was Lieutenant Azel Kimberly, who happens to be my ancestral uncle.
Azel’s father, Israel, served as an officer in several campaigns of the French and Indian War including the regiment commanded by David Wooster. Following the Stamp Act crisis of 1765, Israel became a patriot, as he and his wife in 1767 named their newborn son Liberty. While Liberty would go on to serve as a doctor in Derby, tragically, Israel died in 1768 at the age of only 44. He would likely have been a patriot officer, but now it was up to his sons, especially Azel, to carry the responsibility of patriot defense.

Azel realized that, given the lack of militia turnout, it was foolish to make a stand against the 1,500 coming up the streets in several columns, so he directed his men along the hillsides of what is now Savin Avenue to take advantage of the woods and elevated position in hopes of harassing the British vanguard. As the light infantry from the British Guards approached the hills, the patriot defenders had already fallen back towards West Haven Green.

British troops plundered the patriot homes of West Haven, including the Kimberly home, where it is said an officer sliced the family with his saber. A notable exception to these terrible actions was the kind act of Adjutant William Campbell, who seasoned veteran of many battles, including Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth. His act of mercy towards the patriot Reverend Noah Williston may have earned him a unique place in American history. Campbell is said to have declared, “We make war on soldiers, not civilians.” He prevented Williston from being bayoneted by soldiers after he broke his leg trying to escape his captors. Campbell then ordered the soldiers to help the minister back to his parsonage and the regimental surgeon set his leg. Campbell was killed several hours later atop Allington Hill. In sparing the life and home of Williston, the residents of West Haven named Campbell Avenue after this British officer and erected a monument in 1891 in the vicinity of where Campbell fell. The inscription on the stone tablet reads from Matthew 5: “Blessed are the Merciful.”

By 10:00 A.M. the sounds of distend cannon fire signaled the beginning of General Tryon’s assault on Black Rock Fort. The two armies planned to rendezvous in New Haven by noon. General Garth gathered his troops on West Haven green to resume their march towards New Haven. As they marched towards the city, Azel Kimberly’s militia, now supported by a
contingent of about seventy-five Yale students and a detachment of the 2nd Company of the Governor’s Foot Guard, fired on the British troops. One of the students was Simeon Baldwin, who would later serve as a judge in the Connecticut Supreme Court as well as mayor of New Haven. Other patriot defenders included Colonel Aaron Burr, who happened to be in town visiting relatives, along with Colonel Hezekiah Sabin and Captain James Hillhouse. Burr had already served in several campaigns, including as aide de camp to General Richard Montgomery, and he would later serve as our third Vice President under Thomas Jefferson.

Another militia company under Captain Phineas Bradley fired on the British from the east bank of the West River, including firing several cannons. This work by Bradley’s company is immortalized in the life-sized monument in that western section of New Haven where several avenues merge. Under the brave leadership of Colonel Burr, the patriot defenders were successful in temporarily stalling a British force ten times their size.

In the meantime, the fighting in East Haven proved more damaging. Tryon’s troops dispersed the hapless defenders at Black Rock Fort once they had run out of what little black powder they had. The British looted houses and burned eight of them, including the home of Amos Morris. Amos recorded a list of the damage inflicted by the British, including the eight houses, along with eight barns, three stores and several other small buildings. The Pardee House that still stands today as a museum suffered some fire damage as well.

While the Crown forces included 9 British and Hessian soldiers killed, 40 wounded and 25 missing, the greatest loss for the residents of New Haven was 27 patriots killed, including one free African American and one enslaved African American, along with 19 wounded and 22 prisoners of war. Perhaps the most tragic casualty on the patriot side was Reverend Naphtali Daggett, who had served as president of Yale from 1766 to 1777. He had helped muster the defense of New Haven, pony to be taken prison and forces to serve as a guide for the British. He was then bayoneted by his captors and died a year later from the terrible wounds he had sustained.
Beacon Hill was renamed in 1814 during the War of 1812 as Fort Wooster in honor of the famous patriot son of New Haven, General David Wooster, who was mortally wounded by the British in his valiant defense of Danbury during the Battle of Ridgefield in April of 1777.

2019 is a year of anniversaries for Connecticut. During the attack in July of 1779, a 20-year-old militia soldier named Thomas Painter helped serve in the heroic defense. His house in what is now West Haven was carefully yet unfortunately dismantled in the 1970s and brought all the way up to Litchfield to be re-erected where it still stands. As the town of Litchfield is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year, may this ceremony here at Beacon Hill as well as the home of Thomas Painter serve as important link between New Haven in 1779 and Litchfield’s 300th anniversary, and as visual reminder of the patriot service and sacrifice of the residents of New Haven.

The design of the fort as of 1820

As of 1820, Fort Wooster was an oval earthen redoubt on a height commanding 168 ft, at 2000 yards distance, over Fort Hale. Its circuit measured on the interior crest of the breastworks was 122 yards, its longer axis was 44 and its smaller 22 yards, measured on the inside. The breastwork is 15 feet thick and the entry was covered by a redan. The interior contained a powder magazine covered with a bombproof shed of beams.
July 5th, 1779
The Second Company was formed in 1775 and first commanded by Captain Benedict Arnold. After the news of the Battles of Lexington and Concord reached New Haven, Captain Arnold and the Foot Guard demanded from the Town of New Haven’s Selectmen the keys to the Powder House in April 1775. Successfully convincing Colonel David Wooster and the Town Selectmen to surrender the Powder, the Foot Guard marched to Cambridge Massachusetts to join the Patriot Army gathering there. This event is commemorated as Powder House Day in New Haven every year on the historic New Haven Green. After twenty-eight days of service, approximately half of the Company having joined newly forming Continental units (many as officers) the Second Company returned home to defend New Haven.

The Second Company, under the leadership of its third Commandant, Captain James Hillhouse, was instrumental in the defense of the western approaches to New Haven. While the British were attacking New Haven on the east side of the harbor on July 5, 1779, British General George Garth landed with 1500 men on the west side of the harbor near Savin Rock. The Second Company, a small body of militia under the command of the Guard's own Hezekiah Sabin, a group Yale student, and a group collected by Aaron Burr, who was visiting New Haven at the time, joined together to try to stop the invaders. Captain Hillhouse led the Second Company across the bridge over West River, and, encountering the invaders, attempted to slow the British advance. Greatly outnumbered, the defenders fought with a professionalism and determination noted by both friend and foe. Major Greenalch will talk about the battle on the western approaches to New Haven and its importance in New Haven avoiding the fate of Fairfield and other Connecticut towns which were burned by the British that same summer of 1779.
Good Morning ladies, gentlemen, and compatriots. I am very pleased to be here with you today to join with you in honoring one of the great patriots of our great country and one who was pivotal in securing our freedom England during our War of Revolution. Parks, streets, and towns have been named in his honor but what do we know of him?

Today, I am sure, you will hear of General Wooster’s life as both a British soldier and an American General who died valiantly defending his country.

Speaking on behalf of Connecticut Freemasons, I am here to tell you a little about his Masonic involvement. We know very little about General Wooster’s Masonic career. He was made a Mason in London at St. James Lodge in 1745. In 1750, at the formation of the first lodge in Connecticut, General Wooster was elected to be the first Worshipful Master. The lodge is Hiram Lodge No. 1 of New Haven and is still in existence and very much alive. His efforts to organize the first Connecticut lodge, Hiram #1 in New Haven, which was chartered in 1750, earned him the recognition, Father of Freemasonry in Connecticut.

In fact, he is so highly thought of that we struck a medal in his honor in 1973. The David Wooster Medal was struck to recognize "service other than to Freemasonry in the fields of art, science, business, government, entertainment, religion, or other service to humanity." He is buried in Wooster Cemetery, Danbury where an impressive monument marks his grave.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you and I bring you warm Fraternal greetings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free, and Accepted Masons in Connecticut.
Welcome to Beacon Hill and the sacred grounds of the Quinnipiac Indians and one of the earliest reservations in the New World. Here they lived in wigwams covered with grass, skins or bark—they fished, clammed and hunted, they traveled by foot or dugouts—they buried their dead on the eastern slope of this hill.

From this hill the Quinnipiacs, using smoke or fire, signaled to Dutch traders and their allies, trading their furs for blankets, tools and trinkets.

From this hill, in 1638, they watched the colonists land on their shores and greeted them in peace. Little did they know their lives would change forever. They traded with the colonists, worked together and kept their mutual enemy, the Pequots, off the land. The tribe was gone by the early 1700s, split by death, disease, and the sale of their land to the colonists making room for the many expanding families to grow—the Morris, Pardee, Townsend's, Woodward and Tuttle families.

From this same hill, in 1779, colonists watched as British soldiers invaded West Haven, then turned and started to launch an attack on their own Black Rock/Fort Hale. They saw that overrun and its defenders running up this hill to reinforce this ground, then stood with the men already here to fight together when they came to take this hill.

Would you have stood with them!! Would you have stood to defend your home, your family and your way of life. Would you have fought against tyranny!!

Jacob Thorpe of North Haven did, he was killed on Townsend Avenue, leaving a wife and 5 children, Eldad Parker of Wallingford left a wife and 8 children, Isaac Pardee lost his head to a cannon ball not far from here when a cannon ball fired from the harbor bounced all the way up here.

Just as the Patriots of 1779 stood here and make that final decision to fight for their own land and way of life, they had no
idea how their lives would change forever, because freedom isn't free, it costs lives—but they made that supreme sacrifice so we can enjoy today's freedoms and liberties— and that's why we must

Continue To Honor The Deeds of Our Fathers.

Acknowledgments

Event Coordinator - Ethan Stewart
Past CTSSAR President & General Humphreys Secretary

Susan Marchese
Co-Chairman Friends of Fort Wooster Park

General David Humphreys Branch No. 1
Donation & Beautification around Tablet

East Haven Historical Society

Goodies Hardware of East Haven

Wallingford Historical Society

Program Booklet – David J. Perkins
CTSSAR Corresponding Secretary
On "Bloody Monday", July the 5th, seventeen seventy-nine,

The Redcoats entered the Morris house, and drank up all the wine.

They torched the house and burned it down, and marched on down the line,

Their ranks filled Townsend Avenue, as the sun began to shine.

**REFRAIN:** On "Bloody Monday", July the 5th, seventeen seventy-nine.

At Black Rock Fort on the eastern shore, were 19 patriot men.

They knew that if they stayed around, they'd surely be done-in.

They shot the cannon once or twice, and shot it once again,

Then with iron rods, they spiked the guns, and scattered out by 10:00.

The Redcoat horde, a thousand-strong, over-ran Fort Hale.

From there they burned and pillaged homes along a fiery trail.

Their plunder on the eastern shore was a most disgraceful tale.

Would they destroy New Haven too, when they converged at Yale?

**REFRAIN**

But the Patriots came from far and wide, from every neighboring town,

And gathered near New Haven Green, all set for a great showdown.

That show of strength was an awesome sight – it scared the men of the Crown.

Those Redcoat soldiers fired no shots, and quickly skipped from town.

**REFRAIN**
THANK A VET
Words & Music By Tom Callinan • Copyright, 2004/2009 • CANNU YUSIC, LTD.

You've got a good life, a job and a home,
A husband, or a wife, and the freedom to roam.
You've got it made in the shade, it's as good as it can get;
But have you ever taken time to thank a Vet?

REFRAIN: Thank that guy or gal who gave their all,
Reach out and touch that faceless name on "The Wall".
Thank the little bits and pieces at the Tomb of the Unknown
Thank the men and women at the Veterans Home.

MacArthur said old soldiers don't die, just fade away,
We salute them with sales and fireworks displays.
Out of uniform, invisible, but as close as they can get;
Everywhere we are surrounded by our Vets. – REFRAIN

There are guys who came home, leaving parts of them behind,
And others, who saw too much, and lost their minds.
And many whose sweethearts bailed out and moved on,
Writing coldly in a letter, marked "Dear John …" – REFRAIN

The red stripes on our flag represent the blood
That was shed in the air, on sea, in sand or mud.
So when you see "Old Glory" waving, don’t forget -
She’s flying there thanks to a Vet! – REFRAIN

Bridge: No greater love has anyone than risking life and limb
For comrades, friends, and family, and those unknown to them.
So when you count your blessings for everything you have,
Remember those who helped you, giving everything they had. – REFRAIN

'Cause even in the leanest times, we should not forget,
To stand in support of our Vets.
Set back from the road, behind a small children's playground, is a sign that reads:

*On this spot a signal beacon was established in 1775 and about this hill American patriots bravely resisted a large force of invading British troops, July 5, 1779. To honor the deeds of the Fathers.*

Rising above the location of this sign stands Beacon Hill. In 1775 a large pile of brush and firewood was placed on top of Beacon Hill at the ready to be fired as a beacon to warn of an enemy approach.

On July 4, 1779, British troops were sighted in Long Island Sound heading towards New Haven. Signal guns were fired from nearby Black Rock Fort (near current Lighthouse Point) and a signal fire was set atop Beacon Hill as well as East Rock and West Rock to warn residents to prepare to fight.

On July 5, 1779, British troops landed on the east shore of New Haven Harbor. American patriots bravely resisted a large force of invading troops, including troops on and about Beacon Hill. The British invasion of New Haven resulted in 56 English soldiers killed, wounded, or MIA. The American loss was 23 killed, 15 wounded, and 12 taken prisoner. Many homes and properties were burned and destroyed.

Beacon Hill was renamed Fort Wooster in August 1814 to honor Major-General David Wooster, who had bravely served during the War for Independence and lost his life in 1777 during a battle in Ridgefield, CT.
Special Acknowledgment

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the George Washington Endowment Fund for their generous contribution to the New Tablet

1895 Tablet

ON THIS SPOT A SIGNAL BEACON WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1775 AND ABOUT THIS HILL AMERICAN PATRIOTS BRAVELY RESISTED A LARGE FORCE OF INVADING BRITISH TROOPS JULY 5, 1779 TO HONOR THE DEEDS OF THE FATHERS THE CONNECTICUT SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION PLACED THIS TABLET 1895

2019 Tablet

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Carl’s Monuments, LLC, Stratford, CT.
General Tryon's raid at Fort Wooster (Beacon Hill)