



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

New Haven, Connecticut Founded
May 22, 1891

Presents a Grave Marking Ceremony

Honoring Nero Hawley & 4 other Revolutionary War Patriots

Old Mill Road off Daniels Farm Rd
Trumbull, CT

Saturday June 19, 2021
10:00 A.M.



Program

Posting of the Colors	The Connecticut Line / Living History Unit
Invocation	Humphreys Branch - Chaplain Richard Kendall
Pledge of Allegiance	Humphreys Branch - Gregory Thompson
SAR Pledge	Humphreys Branch - Bill Lane
Opening Remarks	Christopher Bandecchi , Branch President
Greetings from the CTSAR	President, Stephen Taylor of the Connecticut Society Sons of the American
Greetings from the CTDAR	Connecticut State Regent Christy Hendrie
Proclamation	First Selectman of Trumbull Vicki A. Tesoro
History of Nero Hawley	Steve Chapman, Vice President
Capt. David Nichols, Bio	Adliem Ekman of the CAR
Nathan Nichols Jr., Bio	Evangeline Ekman of the CAR
James Nichols, Bio	Maia Schwing of the CAR
Sgt. Lewis J. Burton, Bio	Joshua Dokla, SAR Junior Member
Song for Nero Hawley	Tom Callinan – Past CT State Troubadour
Musket Salute	The Connecticut Line / Living History Unit
Benediction	Humphreys Branch Chaplain, Richard Kendall
SAR Recessional	Humphreys Branch – Bill Lane

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.

Welcome & Greetings by General David Humphreys Branch President - Christopher Bandecchi

Good morning and welcome to today's ceremony. We are gathered here this morning to carry out a Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony to recognize and honor five Revolutionary War Patriots who are buried at Riverside Cemetery. One of the patriots, Nero Hawley, helped to establish this burial ground in 1807, and the historic cemetery is now part of The Freedom Trail. Nero, an African American slave, served during the war, including at Valley Forge. We are also honoring three brothers who served: Captain David Nichols, Nathan Nichols, Jr., and James Nichols. The brothers were sons of Lieutenant Nathan Nichols, Sr., a Revolutionary War Patriot who is also buried in Trumbull at Unity Cemetery. Lastly, we will be honoring Sargent Lewis J. Burton. All of these men honorable served our country and helped America gain her independence. As we honor them today, let us be mindful of their service to America, and let us rededicate ourselves to the principles for which they held sacred.

Biography of Five Patriots being honored Today

1. Hawley, Nero born in Stratford 1742 and died in Trumbull 30 Jan 1817, Slave, Patriot, Freeman and Businessman. Complete biography to be given by Steve Chapman during the ceremony.
2. Captain David Nichols was born on September 21, 1741 in Stratford. His parents were Nathan & Patience Hubbell. David married Hannah Beach on January 14, 1761 and they had 5 children; David, Stiles, Hannah, Philip, and Elizabeth. David son Stiles was also in the Revolutionary War in his father's company and received a pension for his service. Captain David was also in the French & Indian War in the 9th Company second Regiment under Captain Whiting. During the Revolutionary War he was under Lieutenant Colonel Dimon 4th Brigade and also in a Stratford Militia Regiment 1781. David was on a Committee of inspectors of Provisions 1780 and a school committee at Booth Hill in 1778. He also

was a Surveyor of Highways in North Stratford. At one time he lived in Newfield which is North Bridgeport. David died on February 25, 1823 in Trumbull which was then North Stratford.

3. Nathan Nichols Jr. was born in 1742 in Stratford. His parents were Nathan & Patience Hubbell. Nathan married Phoebe Shelton while living on Nichol's Farm in 1768 in Stratford. They had five children, John, Eunice, Daniel, and Hepsy. Nathan fought under Captain Starr's Company with the troops from Stratford. Nathan was on a committee for schools at Booth Hill and was appointed to supplying Soldiers Families. He took the Oath of Fidelity on January 21, 1778. On December 28, 1779 he was chosen as Grand Jurymen and a Surveyor of Highways in 1780. Nathan Jr. had 3 acres of land in North Stratford in 1763. In 1782 he had land on Daniels Farm Road and finally on Porters Hill. Nathan died on February 25, 1823 in Trumbull.
4. James Nichols was born on August 3, 1743 in Stratford. His parents were Nathan & Patience Hubbell. James married Phoebe Plumb on March 17, 1762 at the Nichols Farm in Stratford. They had 8 children; Huldah, Philo, Anna, James, Noah, Phoebe, Abijah. James fought in the Revolution War under Captain Gamaliel Northrup, Colonel Gold Silliman 1st Battalion Wadsworth Brigade. He was also on a committee for schools at Booth Hill. James was chosen a Grand Juror in 1778 and took the Freemans Oath in 1777. James had land on Booth Hill in 1794. James died November 23, 1824 in Trumbull.
5. Sergeant Lewis Juston Burton, Esquire was born on April 14, 1762 in Derby. His parents were Juston & Comfort Keeney. When Lewis was 13 years old they moved to Stratford. Lewis married Anna Booth on November 1788 in Stratford. They had no children. During the Revolutionary War he was under Colonel Heman Swifts, 7th CT Regiment and received pension. Lewis married his second wife Eliza Edwards on November 19, 1840 in Trumbull. In the 1840 Federal Census of Trumbull they listed him as a Veteran. In the Samuel Orcutt book the history of Stratford & Bridgeport on page 1,171 he is listed as a prominent man in Trumbull with no children. Lewis died in Trumbull on July 29, 1842. In his will it stated everything was left to his second wife.

Nero Hawley's Amazing Life

By Tom Callinan • © 2021 – Cannu Yusic, Ltd.

Nero, a slave with an emperor's name, born in seventeen-forty-two,
In Tashua or North Stratford, now Trumbull to me and you.
When his master's daughter, Phebe, wed Dan Hawley in '58,
The bride's father presented the newlyweds with Nero, his slave.

REFRAIN: Just part of one amazing life.

Nero took his new master's last name when he was just seventeen,
And he learned a number of skills by the Pequonnock's flowing stream.
Dan Hawley and his brother owned mills, a clay pit for making bricks,
And a sawmill, where Nero added more and more to his growing bag of tricks. –

REFRAIN

Each Sunday the Hawleys would worship, giving thanks for the blessings of life,
Then they'd break bread at "Sabba Day House", where Nero met Peg, his wife.
Peg was the slave of the Reverend Beebee, of the old North Stratford church,
And the pastor held great sway in shaping young Nero's Christian rebirth. –

REFRAIN

Although still Dan Hawley's property, Nero moved into the Beebee home,
Where he and Peg were blessed with six children of their own.
In his thirties, Nero and two other black men, enlisted to fight the Crown.
Sign-up bonuses and promises of FREEDOM, were too good to turn down. –

REFRAIN

Nero, Toney Turney, and Cesar Edwards joined the Continental Line,
Seeing action at famous battles and sites, during their soldiering time.
After the war, Nero gladly went back, joining Peg in their own home.
Working for Dan for wages, or venturing off on his own. – ***REFRAIN***

With his veteran's pension and earnings from his lifelong bag of tricks,
Nero purchased acres of woodlands and a clay-pit and kiln for making bricks.
He shared in projects with other investors, and went from slave to a man of
renown,
In that place once called Tashua, now known as Trumbull town. – ***REFRAIN***

In 1817 Nero passed in his seventy-fifth year of life,
But before his death, he emancipated four children and his wife.
He rests under bricks, fired in his kiln, near where he lived, worked, and died,
With Peg interred beside him, in the graveyard called Riverside. – ***REFRAIN***

Musket Volley Salute

The Connecticut Line

Taps

Tom Callinan - Honorary Branch Member

Benediction

Humphreys Branch Chaplain Richard Kendall

SAR Recessional

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."

Acknowledgments

CTSSAR General David Humphreys Branch No. 1

David Perkins of the Connecticut Line / Living History Unit

CTSAR State President; Stephen Taylor

DAR State Regent; Christy Hendrie

CAR State Organizing Secretary & Charles Merriman CAR Society President;
Adlien Ekman

CAR State Registrar & Charles Merriman CAR Chaplain; Evangeline Ekman

CAR Charles Pond President – Maia Schwing

General David Humphreys, Junior Member, Joshua Dokla

First Selectman; Vicki A. Tesoro

Tom Callinan; Past CT State Troubadour

Tom.C@Crackerbarrel-Ents.com

