Are you doing all you can for CTSSAR?

Compatriots! I thought it would be appropriate to make a personal appeal to all of you who enjoy the many benefits of belonging to our wonderful Society. I see so many of you out doing “what you do” all of the time. These are troubling times in our country and in the world. We have seen a shift in social attitudes in recent decades that may seem irreversible. Although respect for those who serve in the military has changed for the better since the Vietnam War, almost everything else has changed for the worse. When is the last time you saw a picture of George Washington in any public school system? Do you find that alarming or had you not noticed? There are 550 Connecticut compatriots in the SAR, most living right here in the Constitution state. However, I see the same people at all of the various meetings, over and over again. I’m thankful to see those people (and you know who you are). These are the men who are keeping our state society both relevant and robust. What about the rest of you? Have you been to a branch meeting this year? Have you ever attended a state meeting? Have you offered to be a docent at one of your properties? No one is compelled to serve and we are all very busy people. My job has me working 45-50 hours a week, and I have a wife and 5 and 7 year old daughters. I’ve made a decision this our work is important enough to make time for. Now the time has come, however, for me to pass on some of my responsibilities to take on new ones.

I am often inspired by the service of our great Governor, Jonathan Trumbull. I hope you are too. When you think that you’ve given all you should give, think of his service and you might be inspired to dig a little deeper to muster up the necessary inspiration.

My last issue as your editor will be the August issue. After that, I would like to turn it over to a willing and enthusiastic compatriot. Please let me, or Steve know if you are interested. My email is on the last page of this newsletter.

The Passing of an Era: A Tribute to Frank Buckles

By now, most compatriots are surely aware of the passing of the last American Dough Boy of World War I. He celebrated his 110th birthday in February before he passed earlier this month. He was an SAR compatriot and exemplified all that was heroic about those who served in “The Great War”. This war produced more carnage and destruction than had ever been seen in recorded history to that point and was truly global in its reach. I won’t re-hash all of the information that you can get from the winter issue of the SAR magazine that you all should have received by now. I would only like to ask all of you to consider the sacrifices of this nearly extinct generation and remember to thank a soldier, sailor or airman who is in service now. Frank was a passionate advocate of veterans organizations and he was proud of the work SAR did to recognize our service men and women.
Governor Samuel Huntington Branch #12

On January 22, 2011, the Governor Samuel Huntington Branch held its annual meeting at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum. At the meeting, President Robert Rivard presented a Flag Award to the Town of Lebanon. First Selectman Joyce Okonuk accepted the award on behalf of John Lyon. He is the town employee who is responsible for maintaining the town’s flags. Rivard announced that the branch would be running the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Lebanon’s Trumbull Cemetery in December 2011.

As part of the business meeting, the branch elected new officers and CTSSAR President Dave Perkins installed them. Alicia Wayland, Lebanon town historian, gave a presentation on Lauzun’s Legion encampment in Lebanon in 1780-1781. These hussars were part of the mounted unit of the French army, they spoke eight different languages, and they camped in fields west of the green for 7 months.

Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch #7

Wadsworth members met at the Hartford Club on the evening of November 5th, where they inducted a new member to CTSSAR, Douglas Slater. Doug is a descendant of John Gammons. Also, the branch recognized Tony DiMeco, the neighbor of branch compatriot Chris Nichols, for his conspicuous display of the American flag with the SAR Flag Certificate. Most recently branch members attended a meeting at the Grist Mill in Farmington where an Eagle Scout was awarded a Savings bond of $200, thanks to the generosity of three individual branch contributors. Tim Wilkins and Don Rowland came up to recognize the recipient.

Roger Sherman Branch #5

Members of the Branch participated in Wreaths Across America in cooperation with the Village Green Chapter of the DAR, our third year. We also awarded the Martha Washington Medal to Mary Beth Isaacs for all her support work for the Branch, plus her activity with the Norwalk Historical Society. Luncheons were held and we again hosted the an Eagle Scout Essay Award winner at our April luncheon with Tim Wilkins.

Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch #10

October 16, 2010


General David Humphreys Branch #1

On March 14, 2011, the General David Humphreys Branch #1 recognized Eagle Scout Robert Brown, Branch President and CTSSAR Eagle Scout Recognition and Scholarship Program Chairman Timothy Charles Razee Wilkins presided over the ceremony with the assistance of Vice Chairman Donald G. Rowland. Eagle Scout Brown was accompanied by both his parents and his brother, Tim, who is also a life scout and pursuing his eagle rank and project.

The speaker was Jeffrey Thompson who spoke about his great grandfather, Henry Thompson, who served in the 15th Infantry regiment of Connecticut during the Civil.
Message from the C.S.C.A.R. Sr. State President

Members of SAR,
Over the past two weeks, I have had the pleasure of being in your company in as many occasions. I was an invited guest at your Mory’s New Haven meeting and when six of your members attended our State Conference in Fairfield, CT. At our C.A.R. State Conference, your President, David Perkins, brought greetings to our membership and did a fantastic job! He also presented our President Lauren Bacon with the C.A.R. Bronze Metal of Appreciation and she was very honored to have received this. For those of you who have never experienced C.A.R., picture your SAR events with the flags, prayers, creeds, and reports all being done by children. It would be impossible to go to the event without enjoying the future SAR and DAR members learning the basics.

Our present is your future. If you have a child or grand-child who is not a member of C.A.R., please change this. Many times, I hear the words that you probably hear when you ask qualified people to become members, “I don’t have the time.”

As you know, SAR puts no time requirements on any member as is the case with C.A.R.; nevertheless, C.A.R. gives them the leadership opportunities and patriotism to excel in their other venues.

I look forward to seeing many C.A.R. applications from you! Our membership is at 362. This time next year, our goal is to be over 400!

You can be as involved as you want to be. Our outgoing State President Lauren Bacon is currently working on her Girl Scout Gold Award as well as does tons of philanthropic work like building homes for people in other countries and is a member of a choir that tours all over the world. This past summer, she sang with the choir for the Queen of England.

Our incoming State President is a two sport varsity athletic who has already committed to play D1 Lacrosse for Colgate. In April, we have a member running for National C.A.R. Curator who is also a National Honor Society member and does a variety of different activities. Thus, our members do many other things besides C.A.R.; however, C.A.R. gives them the leadership opportunities and patriotism to excel in their other venues.

I look forward to seeing many C.A.R. applications from you! Our membership is at 362. This time next year, our goal is to be over 400!

Thank you,
Teri Fischer
C.S.C.A.R., Senior State President

“Good citizens cannot be made suddenly. They must grow...”
-Harriett Lothrop, Founder of C.A.R.
The following article appeared in the spring CTDAR newsletter and is being reprinted with the permission of the CTDAR

When Chris Nichols first started researching his family tree ten years ago, he only had a few details about his paternal grandparents and was primarily focused on his Nichols line. But a simple posting on one of the free genealogy web forums opened the door to a Revolutionary War connection, a newfound family through 3rd cousin Carol Bauby, and an important role, in partnership with Carol, as the SAR/DAR liaison for the state of Connecticut.

Like many people, Chris began his family research using the most common tool available these days – his computer. Sites like Ancestry.com, GenForum, and others provide a wealth of information from census records, military archives, and family trees submitted by other researchers. But Chris had no way of knowing that his initial posting would lead him to Carol, one of the Connecticut DAR’s more experienced genealogists. Chris’ query about his grandfather, Ray Edward Nichols included information on his grandmother, Mildred Tuymia Stauffer, a name Carol knew well from her research on one of her patriots, Christian Stauffer, who served with General Anthony Wayne’s Sons of Liberty during the American Revolution. Carol not only took the time to respond to Chris’ post, but also offered to share details about the Stauffer line, which she had traced back to the 1500’s. As it turned out, Chris’ great-grandfather and Carol’s great-grandfather were brothers who had moved to the Naukauk area from Pennsylvania during the 1800’s.

It wasn’t until late 2005 that Chris, in a renewed interest of his family line after his father’s death three years before, decided to follow up with Carol on the Stauffer line. After trading e-mail messages back and forth, Carol and Chris decided to meet in person to go over the documentation. Chris recalls the meeting well, noting that, “Carol brought an old family group picture that I had never seen, and I was stunned to recognize my father, who was just three years old when the picture was taken.” In addition, Carol provided Chris with her DAR record copy, enabling him to begin his SAR application.

Carol’s own interest in genealogy and the Stauffer line dates back to 1984 when her uncle took her to visit her grandfather’s first cousin, Harold Stauffer. At that time, Carol wasn’t aware of any Revolutionary connections in her line, but was interested to hear Harold talk of a Stauffer patriot. Unfortunately, Harold didn’t have the proof necessary to join the SAR, but his sister later researched the line for him and they were eventually able to join the DAR and SAR, respectively. Carol, upon learning of the SAR connection following Harold’s death in 1992, turned her own attentions to her Stauffer research and joined the DAR in 1999. As Carol tells it, “I didn’t grow up with stories about the various lines of my family, so when I found out I was accepted as a DAR member, I sat down and cried for an hour. I was so happy and proud.”

Thanks to the wonderful community of family researchers, many of us have found an important clue through some random act of genealogical kindness. In Chris Nichols’ case, he was so grateful for the invaluable assistance Carol had provided, he decided to search for a special way to thank her for not only giving him a verified link to join the SAR, but for the ongoing genealogy tips and tricks she shared over the years. After seeing a national SAR contest for the highest number of referrals from a state DAR society, Chris approached his state leaders about establishing a SAR/DAR liaison program in Connecticut. Following their endorsement, and with the enthusiastic support of then CTDAR state regent, Jennie Rehnberg, Chris launched the program with Carol as his DAR partner.

To date, Carol and Chris estimate that the DAR has gained 10 members and the SAR 40 members through referrals, with more on the way, as Chris and Carol are both extremely active in the C.A.R. and their respective state organizations, as well. The liaison program has been so successful that the SAR awarded Carol with its “SAR Medal of Appreciation” during the CTDAR Spring Conference in 2010. That award was well deserved, as Chris notes, “When I first started, I only used my computer to find information and Carol used to tell me, ‘Genealogy without documentation is mythology.’ She taught me so many research techniques over the years that it really energized me to uncover as much information as I could.” Chris has been accepted into 15 patriotic and hereditary societies, with the Society of the Cincinnati as his latest honor, and he now considers himself more than just an amateur genealogist.

As the CTDAR State Registrar, Carol knows the importance of new members to our organization, and she has some hints to help prospective members uncover new-found patriot connections, suggesting they “hand write their ancestry on those big family tree charts and follow through on each line to find out new information.” You never know what you might find – a Revolutionary patriot from the past or maybe even a new family member in the future!
Bronze Good Citizenship Award

Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Coyle of the Edson Division of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps was awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship medal with ribbon bar for his outstanding leadership and performance while a member of this New Haven based unit.

Patrick is currently 15 and a sophomore at Emmitt Obrien Technical School located in Ansonia, CT where he is the Class President and holds a GPA of 99.5.

He’s volunteered for his local emergency response unit for the past 2 years and will be completing Emergency Medical Response Technician training by March. He loves medicine and would like to pursue a degree in the field of medicine.

News from the Front

In January the Connecticut Line held its Annual Meeting/Luncheon at J. Timothy’s Tavern in Plainville, CT. 28 members attended. The following Field Officers and Staff were elected for the 2011 Campaign Season:

Colonel: Todd Gerlander
Lieutenant-Colonel: Bruce Cunard
Major: Michael Juhase
Adjutant: Russell Wirtalla
Surgeon: Robert Rivard

The Connecticut Line CTSSAR is composed of the following subordinate detachments:
The Eleventh Regiment Connecticut Militia (Putnam) – Captain Todd Gerlander
Gen. Wolcott’s 6th Connecticut Militia Brigade (Wolcott) – Captain Russell Cashman
The Ninth Regiment Connecticut Militia (Mead/Sherman) – Captain Robert Lasprogato
Col. Webb’s 7th Connecticut Regiment 1775 (Hale) – Captain Bruce Cunard
Col. Wadsworth’s Connecticut Regiment 1776 (Wadsworth) – Captain Damien Cregeau


Put your faith in God and keep your powder dry,

Todd L. Gerlander, Colonel Commanding

As parents, we can have no joy, knowing that this government is not sufficiently lasting to ensure any thing which we may bequeath to posterity: And by a plain method of argument, as we are running the next generation into debt, we ought to do the work of it, otherwise we use them meanly and pitifully. In order to discover the line of our duty rightly, we should take our children in our hand, and fix our station a few years farther into life; that eminence will present a prospect, which a few present fears and prejudices conceal from our sight.

-Thomas Paine, Common Sense
Once again, Charles Riegle and I setup a Connecticut museum display and handed out brochures and other material to our fellow compatriots from across the country.

We had an extremely well attended state meeting in February at Mory’s in New Haven. Our guest speaker was Jack Casey of the Patriot Guard Riders of Connecticut. Jack talked to us about the role of the PGR in the state as well as several other veteran related projects. Tom Gorin did a great job with getting the meeting location, and the food was good. In attendance were the C.S.C.A.R. Senior State President, Teri Fischer and her daughter, Taylor, who serves as State Chaplain. As well as Carol Bauby our SAR Liaison. Looking forward to using this location again next year.

On March 5th, I attended the Bethel NJROTC Military Ball at the Matrix conference center in Danbury along with my wife. The guest speaker was Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones, who is the first woman to be selected as the top noncommissioned officer in the Army Reserve. They were over 500 cadets and guests in attendance.

Your SAR state society was well represented at the C.S.C.A.R. State Conference in Fairfield on March 6th. With Chris Nichols, Damien Creggeau, Ken Roach, Tim Jacobs and myself being present. These are some pretty remarkable kids! What a nice time we had at the Burr homestead.

I also want to thank Damien Creggeau for stepping up to chair the Knight Essay contest and to welcome back George Cronk as our Alternate Trustee. Speaking of changes, our state annual meeting is April 16th and anyone who would be interested and helping at the state level should let me know. Nominations for state leadership positions are open to any member in good standing.

As always, I remain your obedient servant.

David J. Perkins
President, CTSSAR