Commemoration of the April 1777 Battle of Ridgefield - Saturday April 29th

The events will take place on Saturday, April 29th and Sunday, April 30th Main Street in Ridgefield.

Complete information for the schedule of events for the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgefield can be found here: https://www.battleofridgefield.org/pages/schedule

Various events include a full-scale reenactment of the battle (including infantry, cavalry and artillery), British and Patriot encampments, a presentation on Friday, April 28th on “separating fact from fiction” regarding the battle by Keith Jones, former director of the Ridgefield Historical Society and author of Farmers Against the Crown: A Comprehensive Account of the Battle of Ridgefield, 2003, plus a black-tie gala with dinner and live jazz at the Lounsbury House on the night of Saturday, April 29th.

Sunday, April 30th will include a memorial service at the monumental grave of Maj. Gen. David Wooster in Danbury with members of the CTSSAR, CT-OFPA, CTDAR. Fifth Connecticut Regiment and other patriot reenactment units in attendance, all coordinated by the hosts and organizers, Jerusalem Lodge #49 of the Masons.

The Danbury Museum & Historical Society will “Remember the Raid” with a Revolutionary Weekend of free and special events happening Thursday, April 20 through Sunday, April 23, 2017. For more information: https://danburymuseum.org/exhibits-events

The Connecticut Line Living History Color Guard will be encamped at the historic Keeler Tavern on Main St, where a cannon ball from that fateful day is still embedded in the wall of tavern. Come join us for a great day of battles, ceremonies, parades, historical tours and celebrations.

For more information on the Battle of Ridgefield: http://ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org/

Framed picture of original Sons of the Revolution is returned to Connecticut!

On March 4th this frame picture of seven original sons of the society was presented to National Trustee Ken Roach for its return to the Connecticut Society. The picture will be on display at the Annual Meeting on April 22nd. Following that, it will be put on permanent display in the War Office in Lebanon. This frame picture had been with the National SAR museum collection in Louisville.

VPG Wayne Mallar, Trustee Ken Roach, Museum Chairmen Herman Brown, and Alt. Trustee Dave Perkins
Reverend Ebenezer Baldwin — Branch #9

The branch meeting was held at the Hiram Lodge in Sandy Hook on Saturday November 12th.

Admiral Furlong Flag Award

The Flag Certificate award was presented to Ken Darrah of Bethel, CT. Ken has flown the US flag from his 30 foot flag pole for several years now and it is illuminated at night as required. Ken and his wife Kathy have 3 sons and have lived in Bethel for over 20 years. Ken works in Newtown. He is the past Scoutmaster for Troop 54 in Bethel.

Election of 2016-2017 Officers

President David Perkins, Vice President Richard Hubert, Secretary Barry Frandsen, Treasurer Fred Burke (Mar 2017), Registrar David Perkins and Chaplain Richard Hubert.

General David Humphreys — Branch #1

At the December meeting new Branch Officers were elected. Eagle Scout Chair Tim Wilkins, Necrologist Doug LeMay, Treasurer Bruce Bathrick, Secretary Ethan Stewart Sr, President William Fenn, Past President John Towle, Chaplain Bill Lane, Historian Michael Chuckta.

Entertainment was provided by the Bennett family a musical group.

Invited DAR guests included Christy Hendrie State Vice Regent & Alice Ridgeway State Regent.

At our January meeting, special guest was Dave Loda, who spoke about the life of David Humphreys.

New member Bruce Johnson was sworn in by President William Fenn and Secretary Ethan Stewart, Sr.

For more information, send email to info@connecticutsar.org
**Patriot Grave Markings in 2017**

On Saturday August 26 the Connecticut SAR and DAR will hold a joint grave marking ceremony at the Christ Episcopal Church Burying Ground in Stratford, which is located behind the St. James Catholic Church on Broad Street at 10:00 am.

The project is being lead by State President Ethan Stewart, Sr. and CT-DAR State Regent Alice Ridgeway. At least 20 revolutionary war patriots are buried at this site along with William Samuel Johnson, who signed the U.S. Constitution, served as the first Connecticut senator and as president of Columbia College (now Columbia University).

The Rev. Ebenezer Baldwin Branch #9 is in the early stages of a joint grave marking event for this fall, along with the local Mary Wooster chapter of the DAR and the local Masonic lodge (Union 40) in Danbury to mark the grave site in Wooster Cemetery in Danbury of General David Wooster who was mortally wounded during the Battle of Ridgefield in April 1777.

On November 12, 1750 David Wooster secured a charter for the first Masonic Lodge in the state of Connecticut.

**CT-DAR 125th State Conference in Wallingford**

On Saturday Feb 4th, State President Ethan Stewart, Sr. along with his wife Barbara attended the CT-DAR banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wallingford. Also in attendance to the event from the Connecticut SAR were State Chancellor William Fenn, Mark Sheldon from the Putnam Branch and Benn Bullock from the Hale Branch. Special guest of the event was NSDAR President General Ann Dillon.

**Bronze Good Citizenship Award to United States Naval Sea Cadet**

On February 4, Sea Cadet and Chief Petty Officer First Class, Chloe C. Caso of the Barque Eagle Division, received the Bronze Good Citizenship medal and ribbon bar for her leadership as the top cadet in the unit. The unit meets in the Navy Marine Reserve Center in Plainville, CT and is one of four units located across the state. (New London, New Haven, Stamford, and Plainville).

The award was presented at the annual Color Guard meeting in Plainville.

The units are open to both boys and girls aged 11 to 17.

The Naval Sea Cadet Corp awards are part of the SAR National JROTC program.

**Missing Email Addresses!**

To help us keep costs down, we ask that you give us your email address. Please send us an email at Info@ConnecticutSAR.org or Dave Perkins at DPerkins8@att.net

Thanks!
Roger Sherman Branch #5

The branch had its winter meeting on 4 Dec 2016 at the Norwalk Inn. The local chapter of the DAR also participated, bringing the total attendees to about 40. The attendees included Compatriot Ethan Stewart, President of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Madeline Eckert presented on the history of Christmas. Billy Michaels performed a medley of songs, covering 200 years of American history.

Capt. Nathan Hale Branch #6

The branch held a General meeting at the Main Street Grille in Niantic, CT in Nov 2016. Charles Clarke was recognized with a flag certificate having represented the ideals behind the award for many years. Benn Bullcock, was recognized for his Vietnam War service with a medal and certificate. A $200 donation was made to the Mannass Fund on 11/11/16 in memory of Howard Dodd, a long standing member of the branch. For the 13th year, the branch is running its annual essay contest open to high school juniors and seniors in the branch region. This year’s award will be $1000. The 7th CT Regiment, which draws from the Hale & Huntington Branches, was very active and participated in several events, including Wreaths Across America and the Christmas tree lighting in Lebanon. The 5/27/17 - General Meeting will recognize both the Eagle Scout and the essay winner. This event will start at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in New London and then move to the Bulkeley House in New London possibly followed by grave marking.

Gov. Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch #10

The branch participated in a 9/11 ceremony held in Canaan, Ct. Compatriot Buckbee presented a Flag Recognition Certificate to the local Knights of Columbus for their patriotism in displaying a special flag each year to remember 9/11 victims and those who lost their lives in the War on Terror. The KofC American Flag is 20' x 40' and is flown from a Canaan Vol. Fire Depart ladder truck. Paul Selmau and Derek Brockhoff represented the branch at the Massing of the Colors held in Lebanon, Ct. on 2 Oct 2016. The branch attended The Wall That Heals in New Milford in October. The branch color guard fired musket salutes and carried the American flag during the opening ceremonies. It received a Certificate of Appreciation from DAR National Office for their participation. The branch is planning a grave marking for Spring 2017. The Patriot proposed to be honored is Nathaniel Woodruff of Litchfield. The branch joined with the Mary Floyd Tallmadge DAR Chapter to host a “Meet the SAR” event on 8 Oct 2016. Two new members were signed up and Registrar John Lilley submitted the applicants paperwork and both were approved in Jan 2017. The branch participated in the Veteran’s Day ceremony at Coe Park, Torrington. Our Color Guard represented the SAR during this event under the command of Ken Buckbee. Riflemen were: Derek Brockhoff, Martin Spring, and Jon King. Compatriot John Lilley was presented with the DAR Community Service Award on 12 Nov 2016. The branch held its annual Christmas Social on 01 Dec 2016 at Marino’s Restaurant in Torrington. New member Carl Bierce was inducted at our branch meeting on 7 Nov 2016. The branch color guard joined with the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the DAR in the ceremony for “Wreaths Across America” on 17 Dec 2016 at the All Wars Memorial, in Bantam. Attendees were: Paul Selmau, Derek Brockhoff, and Jonathan King.

Annual State Color Guard Meeting in Plainville on Feb 4th, 2017

About 25 members of the Connecticut Line met for their annual Color Guard luncheon on Feb 4th at J. Timothy’s Tavern in Plainville. Compatriots Ken Buckbee, Doug Wood, and Dave Packard were awarded the Silver Guard medal; Compatriots Derek Brockhoff, George Husted, and Harry Clarke were awarded the Bronze Color Guard medal; and for the first time we awarded Molly Pitcher medals to camp followers Judy Buckbee and Pat Perkins. For Color Guardsmen of the Year, we selected past Color Guard Commander, Todd Gerlander, for his outstanding service to the Connecticut Line and to the Real Property committee during 2016.

( photo: Jim Kleanski)
School Programs at the CTSSAR Properties

The Connecticut Society, Sons of the American Revolution (CTSSAR) owns the Governor Trumbull War Office in Lebanon and the two schoolhouses where Nathan Hale taught in East Haddam and New London. In addition to the properties being open to the public during the warm weather, the CTSSAR provides historical education to over 600 students per year at all three properties. A description of the programs at each site follows.

War Office: I became involved with school programs at the War Office about 2008 when Compatriot and paid docent Bill Lang asked me to help him with the programs. When Bill passed away in May 2011, I started doing the programs on my own.

Programs are arranged by the Lebanon Historical Society through the Lebanon History Consortium. Students visit the Lebanon Green as part of their studies of the Revolutionary War. They are split into small groups along with their teachers and chaperones and each group takes turns visiting historic properties around the green. These include the War Office, the Lebanon Historical Society Museum, the Governor Trumbull House, the Meeting House, and the Trumbull, Jr. House.

At the War Office, I dress in period outfit and discuss the history of the War Office, the functions of the Council of Safety, and the merchandise on display. I take the students outside, discuss how a musket operates and do a firing demonstration. The most popular question – “Can you fire the musket again?”

In recent years, we have had about 6 groups per year (grades 4-7) with a total of 250-300 students and 60 adults. They have come from several towns, including Columbia, East Hampton, Lebanon, Norwich, Willimantic, and Windsor.

East Haddam: In 2016, the CTSSAR held the 11th annual “School Days at the Schoolhouse” at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in East Haddam. This event was started in 2005 as part of the encampment to commemorate Nathan Hale’s 250th birthday. Students from the East Haddam Elementary School 5th grade visit the site and rotate around several different stations where they learn about Nathan Hale, school in the 18th century, life of a Revolutionary War soldier, calligraphy, clothing, and 18th century surgery.

Over the years, we have had at least a dozen different Compatriots doing the training and recently have included DAR members. In the past few years, we hosted about 70 students and 15 adults annually.

New London: In 2015 and 2016 we had 300 students each year from the New London Magnet Schools. Students attended over 6 days with two sessions per day. Our paid docents, Debra Dickey and Gail Cooper, explained the life of Nathan Hale, the history of the schoolhouse, and life in colonial times. These docents, Dave Packard and I hosted first graders from Mohegan Elementary School in 2014 and 2015. There were about 50 students and 6 adults each year.

Note: Thanks to Dave Packard for supplying the information on the New London programs. Dave is pleased to announce that the CTSSAR has secured a $1,500 grant from the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati to assist with funding school programs at all three properties in 2017. The grant will be used to purchase educational materials to be distributed to students and to pay docent wages.
Nathan Hale Schoolhouse ----- New London, CT.

OPEN: June 3rd through Labor Day ----- Wednesday – Sunday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

OPEN: After Labor Day through September 30th ----- Saturday – Sunday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Gov. Jonathan Trumbull’s War Office ----- Lebanon, CT.

OPEN: June 3rd through Labor Day ----- Friday – Sunday, Noon – 4:00 pm

OPEN: After Labor Day through September 30th ----- Saturday – Sunday, Noon – 4:00 pm

Nathan Hale Schoolhouse ----- East Haddam, CT.

Open: June 3rd through Labor Day ----- Friday – Sunday, Noon – 4:00 pm

Open: After Labor Day through September 30th ----- Saturday – Sunday, Noon – 4:00 pm

How to Volunteer
We do our best to follow the above schedule, but sometimes a volunteer is not available. Please follow the directions below to see if someone has been scheduled on the day of your visit.

To become a volunteer/docent at the museums, please go to ConnecticutSAR.org. Open “How To Volunteer” on the left margin. Click on “Docent Calendar”, to view open dates.

Return to previous page, fill in required boxes, Name, Email, Phone and submit your choices in the “Comments” box.

Then click the “Send” button to finish.