



# The Connecticut Line

*The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*

## Youth Membership?

Youth Memberships have been available for almost one year now, but there are still some questions surrounding this level of SAR.

Some members have welcomed the idea of being able to include their sons or grandsons within our ranks without having to wait until they turn 18. But others have questioned whether if this would hurt the CAR. The Children of the American Revolution was created to fill the gap for sons and daughters under the age of 18. So if you gain youth membership status for your son in the SAR, would you also have them join the CAR?

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## SNET's Free Money

The CTSSAR is participating in the SNET Community Connections program. Now, when you sign up with SNET for all your long-distance calling - or confirm that you're already using SNET All Distance The Connecticut SAR will get 5% of your monthly long distance bill.

It has already started to pay off. With only a handful of members signed up so far, we have already started to get our quarterly checks from SNET.

Signing up is easy. Just call SNET at 1-800-635-7638, or sign up on the web at [www.snet.com/community](http://www.snet.com/community). Our organization code is # 3585.

## W3R Update

I chaired the first meeting of the SAR W3R Committee on March 1st in Louisville. In attendance, besides committee members, were President General Larry McClanahan, former President General Stewart Boone McCarty, Martin Boyer of Paris, France, the French Society Trustee, and Compatriot Robert Reyes, who works for the government in Washington.

Reyes informed us that even though the House and Senate and President Clinton approved the study of the 600 mile route from Newport Rhode Island to Yorktown Virginia by the National Park Service, their work will only collect dust if President Bush does not appoint an NPS Advisory Committee to put their seal of approval on it. I asked everyone attending the Trustee Meeting on Saturday, March 2nd, to write President Bush. I also asked all those on SARTalk to do the same.

On the local scene a public hearing of the State Historical Commission was held this month at the South Congregational Church in Hartford. They approved four properties along the route to be placed on the National Registry. The properties consist of a stretch of the route in Andover which remains pretty much unchanged since 1781 because Route 6 missed it, the White Tavern in Bolton which housed and fed French soldiers, Redwood in Lebanon, a home that hosted Duc de Lauzun for a winter, and a campsite in Newton. Other properties in Connecticut will be submitted with each meeting so as not to swamp the Commission all at once.

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## SAR Census Project

What's Going On? The Census of Qualified Prospects has begun with the mailing of census forms to all active compatriots whose surnames begin with the letters A thru G. By March 2004, all members will have received a census form. Compatriots will list the names and contact information of their relatives who are eligible for SAR membership. The prospect data will be entered into a national database so that data can be distributed by E-mail to state coordinators. The names of these genealogically qualified prospects will then be given to local branches near the prospects homes for recruiting. Since their relative is already a member of the SAR all that these prospects will need to file a successful application is one or two recent birth certificates. No extensive genealogical assistance is needed, just a friendly visit.

Why are We Doing This? The new members will be happy to belong to a major lineage organization that honors

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## The Connecticut Line March 2002

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### Submissions

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### Deadlines

Jan. 1st            Mar. 1st  
Aug. 1st            Oct. 1st

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Continued from page 1 the contribution their ancestor made to achieve liberty and independence by strengthening our institutions and citizenry. We will be happy to have new friends, new funds, opportunities for many new people to earn the Liberty medal without doing extensive genealogical research, fresh enthusiasm, volunteers for SAR programs and offices, new branches, influence and recognition in the community, and consideration from funding agencies for state and national projects.

If you have received the forms already, please fill them out and send them in. Include all of your family members. They may be interested after all.

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## Proposed Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Now that all of our local groups are Branches again, some updates are needed. References to Chapter need to be removed or replaced with Branch where applicable. Here are the parts in need of changing:

Constitution - Article VI, Section 1 and Article VIII, Section 1 - 8. Bylaws - Section 4, 9F, 10, and 15.

## President's Corner



The mild winter and lack of snow have made travel easy so I've visited a few more branches in my effort to be more involved with every active group. I enjoyed an informative program at the Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch and attended a meeting of the Chaplain Ebenezer Baldwin Branch at which I found out just how involved that group is with the surrounding community. While in Woodbury, I was honored to present Cathy and Paul Palmer with the Martha Washington Medal and the Meritorious Medal respectively for their tireless work over the years on behalf of the Knight Essay Contest.

Many of those who attended the George Washington Day meeting at the Goodwin Hotel in Hartford also attended the American Revolutionary War Exhibit & Muster Day at the Old State House. It was my distinct pleasure to present the Patriot Medal to Todd L. Gerlander, president of the General Israel Putnam Branch. It was made even more memorable by the presence of two other Patriot Medal recipients, Richard G. Swartwout, Jr. and Stephen P. Shaw. Todd certainly lives up to the SAR objectives of Patriotism, History and Education.

Upon reading my Winter Edition of the SAR magazine, I noticed that the activities of the Gen. Israel Putnam Branch, the Capt. Matthew Mead Branch and the Gov. Samuel Huntington Branch are all mentioned in the "Events" pages. Congratulations on keeping the CTSSAR in the National "eye". Also the 18 new members for the Conn. Society stands in good stead. Great job!

As a correction to my last message, the April 27th Annual Meeting place has been changed to the Pepper Mill Restaurant in Westport, CT so that we may take part in the festivities being planned for that area commemorating the 225th anniversary of the British raid on Danbury. Our Vice President and Chairman of the Program Committee, Dean Gaugler, is coordinating this with the Westport Historical Society and other participating groups. It promises to be an exciting day with a few surprises thrown in for good measure. I hope to see a large turnout for this "once in a lifetime" celebration.

As I come to the end of my second and final term as president of the CTSSAR, I want to thank all who have made Joyce and I feel welcome at your meetings. For the most part it's been a good two years with only a few minor "bumps in the road". I was lucky to have officers and committees who took their positions seriously and did a great job. Men like this make any organization run smoother. I especially want to thank Dean Gaugler, Carl Stone, Jeff Hessler, Dick Anderson, Russ Wirtalla, Bill Lane, George Cronk, Ben Thomas, Don Rowland and Stephen Shaw for their ongoing help and encouragement. I appreciate the opportunity I have had to meet so many more compatriots around the state and to learn so much more about what the CT branches are accomplishing, many times without fanfare outside of their own area. We can all be proud of the CTSSAR. I know I certainly am!

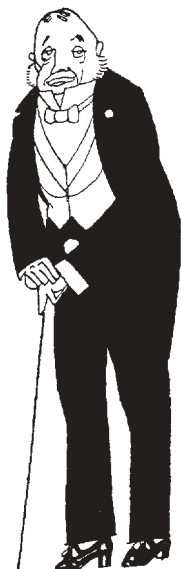
James E. Newton - President, CTSSAR

## Just a few reflections from an old guy.

The Sons of the American Revolution is many things to many people. It describes it's aims as history, patriotism AND education, not history, patriotism OR education. I have and still do participate on every level of the SAR, national, district, state and branch. In my opinion the most important of the four is the branch, where the rubber meets the road. Most members do not participate in SAR functions on any level which is very unfortunate. If that is to ever change it must happen first at the branch level.

You remember when you joined the organization. You worked hard on your application. Hopefully your registrar helped you. You finally got your letter of welcome from Louisville with your membership number. You went to your first meeting. How many compatriots and their wives made you feel special? Hopefully many, but probably not.

Well, what do we do in the SAR besides sip martinis and eat our choice of chicken or scrod? If we joined the perfect ideal branch we participate in many things, such as memorialize events and people of the American Revolution through commemorative functions and grave markings. We may, if we choose, join a Color Guard to take a more visual part in these events, plus



march in parades, or for those qualified, teach history to the children in our community if the socialists will let us. We might put our best foot forward on Independence Day, Veterans Day, Patriots Day, Bunker Hill Day, and others. This ideal branch also participates in youth programs by sponsoring a CAR chapter and SAR programs such as orations, eagle scout, essay, and JROTC.

As an individual there are many opportunities to participate in the areas of your interest, genealogy, history and the ongoing fight against revisionism, education or lack thereof, protection of our beloved constitution against its enemies in and out of government, programs to register all patriot ancestors, W3R and so much more.

Some of our members participate in living history and that is great. It helps to educate our youth and their parents alike. It also promotes, like the Color Guard, camaraderie. I have enjoyed my martini while dressed in white tie and tails at National Congress, and I have enjoyed an apple pie baked in an open pit while dressed as my ancestors were dressed when they

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Another consideration is to drop the age requirement completely. But the same issues arise in regard to the CAR. Discussions have been going on with our Trustees at the National level to figure out the best solution.

In the last year, I haven't received a single youth member application.

Let our state trustees know your opinions. Dick Anderson can be reached at 203-469-1544 or rea1812@yahoo.com. Charles Riegle can be reached at 203-637-3973 or criegle@aol.com.

marched on the Lexington Alarm.

My point is that the SAR should be versatile. We all have different talents. The SAR has many different needs. If all we do is living history it won't work. If all we do is meet and eat it won't work.

These are my opinions only and do not reflect the organization, a privilege of not holding office.

Russ Wirtalla

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## Tribute to Winchester Rev War Patriots

The Wolcott Branch has been busy planning an encampment/re-enactment that will take place at Winchester Center, CT on Saturday, August 24th. To date, the following people and organizations have committed themselves to participate in this event:

- Gen. Wolcott's 6th Brigade
- Col. Huntington's Regt.
- Russ Wirtalla will discuss the W3R
- Bob Berthelson will present "The Enigma of Benedict Arnold, Connecticut's Traitorous Hero."
- Capt. Sal Tarantino will represent Sheldon's Horse, The Second Continental Light Dragoons.
- His Majesty's Regulars, a British Unit.
- Mr. Robert Grigg will talk about "Lewis Hurd – A Litchfield County Patriot"

We are looking for period artisans, craftsmen, and musicians who also dress in clothing that would have been worn in the 1700's.

If you would like to take part in any way please contact Compatriot John Crusius at 860-283-8467 or jdcrusius@worldnet.att.net

## Vital Records of Norwich, CT on CD

Major James D. Robertson, Life and Charter member of the Samuel Huntington Branch, has produced a searchable compact disk of the Vital Records of Norwich, CT. for the years 1659 to 1848. This disk is taken from a work done by the Society of Colonial Wars in 1913 and contains virtually all written vital records for the city of Norwich for that period. In it may be found records of the Founders of Norwich, slaves who were recorded by their owners, and thousands of names of the early settlers. Samuel Huntington, Benedict Arnold, Major John Mason, Dr. Philip Turner, Joseph Trumbull to mention a few.

A review of the CD may be found in the NEHGS Register, Volume 155 October 2001, pg. 425.

This disk is offered for sale for \$20.00 S/H included. Write: Robertson Family Genealogical Research Project: 335 Vineyard Rd. NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM 87107-5805. email: [jjdrobertson@cs.com](mailto:jjdrobertson@cs.com). Or it may be purchased at the Norwich Travel Bureau on Main St. in Norwich.

It is also available for use in the Otis Library in Norwich, The Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, The New England Historical and Genealogical Society, Boston, et al.

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Continued from page 1 Also in Hartford was the first of three public meetings with the National Park Service which received the many endorsements. I asked them to verify what Robert Reyes had explained to us in Louisville. It is true, so again, write President Bush with

your support. Their second meeting was in Yorktown on March 6th and the third will be in Trenton, NJ on April 6th. Rhode Island W3R placed a large plaque at the point that the French arrived in Newport with thousands of soldiers and their families, servants and sutlers. I don't believe that the SAR was a part of that ceremony.

Delaware has hired Bob Selig, the same historian who studied the route in Connecticut. The DESSAR is paying 25% of the cost while the state is paying the rest. New York is very active with the strong support of Gov. Petacki. Maryland is actively working on their portion as well. Connecticut is still far ahead of the pack, but I pray that the other states catch up quickly. Although the route goes through nine states, 25% of it is in Connecticut. We have lost thirty percent of the historic properties along the route in the last thirty years, so it is important that we act quickly.

[www.ctsarr.org](http://www.ctsarr.org)



TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Connecticut Society of the  
Sons of the American Revolution  
PO Box 411  
East Haddam CT 06423-0411

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

THE PEPPERMILL  
1700 Post Road East  
Westport, CT  
203-259-5017

The town of Westport is commemorating the 225th anniversary of the British invasion of Danbury - the so-called Tryon's Raid -, which began at Compo Beach. We have been asked to participate in this event by placing wreaths at the cannon located at Compo Beach and at the Minuteman Statue, which we gave to the town many years ago. Todd Gerlander's unit has also been invited to participate. These festivities will begin at the site of the cannon (on the beach) at 10:00 and will run approximately one hour.

Our annual meeting will start at 12:00 giving us more than sufficient time to drive from the beach to the Peppermill. Our meeting will be held in the restaurant's private dining room. Take Exit 18 of Interstate 95 from either the North or South. At the end of the connector, turn right onto Post Road East heading toward Fairfield. The Peppermill will be on your right. If you are also going to the 10:00 ceremony, you would turn left at the end of the connector and proceed toward downtown Westport. You will pass a fire station on your right after which you should move to the left lane and turn left on Comp Road at the next intersection controlled by a light. A Peoples Bank will be on the right corner of this intersection. Stay on this road (passing under I-95) all the way to the beach.

Our meal will feature the Peppermill's lunch buffet, which includes chicken marsala, lemon caper chicken, cheese ravioli marinara, seasonal vegetable blend, rice pilaf as well as the salad bar. The price for the meal is \$20.00 per person including gratuity. Cash bar. Please RSVP to Jeffrey Hessler, 25 Mallard Lane, Clinton, CT by April 19. The agenda will consist of our normal complement of annual meeting items but will feature awards that will be presented to surprise recipients for their heroic efforts at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan. We hope to see you there!

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in your party \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to :        Jeffrey Hessler  
                              25 Mallard Lane  
                              Clinton, CT 06413

# **INDEPENDENCE DAY BELL RINGING COMMITTEE**

**13 tolls of the bell at 2:00 p.m. on July 4, 2002**

"Let Freedom Ring" is a nationwide celebration honoring those who helped achieve our country's independence during the American Revolution. The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution began stewardship of the event in 1969.

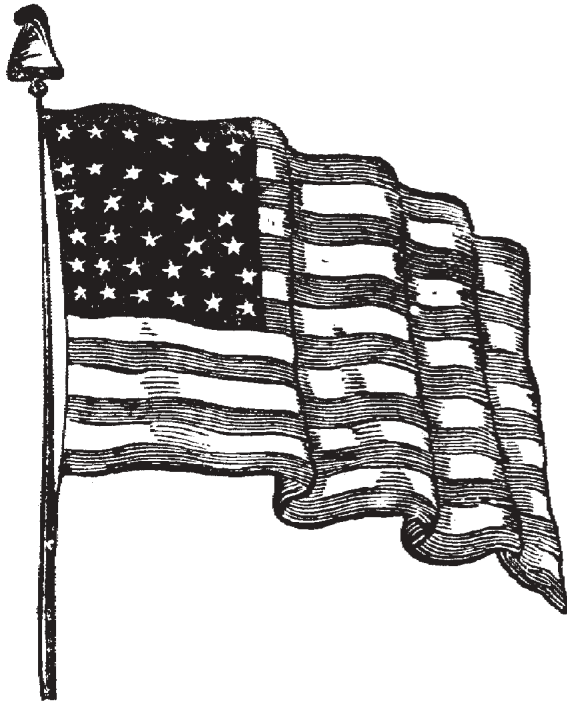
Although this celebration is initiated in Philadelphia, birthplace of our nation's freedom, it is truly a nationwide event. In accordance with the U.S. Congressional Resolution Number 25, bells across the country are rung thirteen times at exactly 2:00 p.m. (E.D.T.), in honor of the thirteen original states that the signers of the Declaration of Independence represented.

***Bell Ringing recruiters needed now!***

Joining Let Freedom Ring's "Grass Roots Recruiting Army" is another great way to help increase 2002 participation. Contact this committee and be sure to provide us with the name and address of your bell ringing institution, the person to contact and your phone number. Once we hear from you we will submit your information to the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution. They will enter your institution on the National Bell Ringing Roll of Honor and send you an official Certificate of Participation.

**Connecticut Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Independence Day Bell Ringing Committee**

**Kenneth A. Buckbee, Chairman  
(860) 496-1562  
[buckb@snet.net](mailto:buckb@snet.net)**



# 4th of July Cookout

at the

Nathan Hale  
Schoolhouse

in East Haddam, CT

1pm until whenever

Independence Day wouldn't be the same without a cookout, so come and join your fellow compatriots as we celebrate the holiday.

Bring your family and friends and a chair too. Someone must have a frisbee that needs dusting off.

It's completely potluck, so there's no charge. Please bring something because we don't want to run out of food.

The usual items will be needed, such as: a grill, paper plates, utensils, cups, soda, condiments, potato salad, pasta salad, hamburgers, hot dogs, ice, trash bags, coolers, and lots of deserts.

Be there to hear the church bell ring 13 times at 2pm and to enjoy the river views that are being opened up around the schoolhouse.

If you volunteer to bring one of the main items, please be early.

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RSVP to: Jonathan Ricketts, 88 Broad St, Norwich, CT 06360 860-859-9117

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of People: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Jonathan will call to confirm what you're bringing.

What do you want to bring? (1st and 2nd choice): \_\_\_\_\_

From Greenwich Area:

Take route 95N to route 9N

Once on route 9N take exit 7 (route 82E - this is a long exit ramp)

At the end of the ramp (at stop sign) take a left (route 82E)

At light take a right (following route 82E)

Just after crossing the Haddam/East Haddam Bridge,  
take left fork onto 149N.

At the top of the hill, take a left into the St. Stephens Church parking lot.  
The schoolhouse is directly behind the church.

From New London Area:

Take route 95S to route 9N

Once on route 9N take exit 7 (route 82E - this is a long exit ramp)

At the end of the ramp (at stop sign) take a left (route 82E)

At light take a right (following route 82E)

Just after crossing the Haddam/East Haddam Bridge,  
take left fork onto 149N.

At the top of the hill, take a left into the St. Stephens Church parking lot.  
The schoolhouse is directly behind the church.

From Hartford Area:

Take route 91S to route 9S

Once on route 9S take exit 7 (route 82E - this is a long exit ramp)

At the end of the ramp (at stop sign) take a left (route 82E)

At light take a right (following route 82E)

Just after crossing the Haddam/East Haddam Bridge,  
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At the top of the hill, take a left into the St. Stephens Church parking lot.  
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