



# The Connecticut Line

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

## Three Huzzahs!!!

I would like to thank all of the Color Guardsmen in both the **Connecticut Line CTSSAR** and the **New England Contingent SAR** for a terrific 2005 Campaign. The Color Guards participated in 36 events this year which included Revolutionary War school programs, parades, reenactments, ceremonies, grave markings, encampments, etc. This has also been a great year for bringing attention to the **Sons of the American Revolution** through the numerous television, magazine and newspaper articles on both Color Guard and Society activities.



CTSSAR Color Guard membership has been increasing year by year, primarily because of the New England Contingent. The Connecticut Line CTSSAR can now muster over 30 compatriots in uniform, when we combine the three existing Branch Color Guards of Putnam, Wolcott and Huntington.

This past season the CTSSAR Color Guards have been very active

Continued on page 3

## Nathan Hale's Departure Site

After the CTSSAR meeting on September 17th, the spot that our state



hero Nathan Hale departed from for his ill-fated spying mission for General Washington was formally marked in Norwalk. This happened due to the tremendous efforts of Ed and Madeleine Eckert combined with help from the City of Norwalk.

## Membership Renewal

The renewal notices have been sent out and are coming due for the 2006 season. Please renew and continue to support the many activities that the state society and our active branches participate in.

The dues for CT have been raised for the first time in over 13 years. This small increase of \$2 will help the society to keep our current level of excellence.

You can pay by check as always or pay online via our secure web site. While you are online you can purchase some of the colonial toys and other products we now offer. All the proceeds from these sales go towards the state society and our historic properties.

## CTSSAR Ranks High

According to the numbers released by headquarters for the Congress, CT is towards the top.

We are the largest state society in New England with 608 members which puts us over Massachusetts by 200+.

We have a long way to go to surpass the largest which is Texas with 2,458 members. CT ranks as the 16th largest SAR society out of a total of 57 societies.

With a little bit of a recruiting effort, we could easily surpass a few more state societies.

## President's Corner

Our next State Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 12th, at the Bulkeley House in New London. I have learned that the Bulkeley House is an old 1790 tavern/sea captain's house. Rumor has it that Benedict Arnold once spent the night there. I also understand that the food is delicious and that they serve "huge portions". This meeting is being held in honor of the 227th Anniversary of a Continental Army winter encampment in Connecticut.

During the winter of 1778-1779, three brigades of the Continental Army, commanded by Gen. Israel Putnam, set up winter quarters in what is now Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding, Connecticut. This location was chosen so that this portion of the Continental Army could help to observe and contain the British in New York City while protecting us from possible invasion via Long Island Sound. The Continental Army also settled two other camps that winter, one in the "Highlands" of New York and the other in Middlebrook, New Jersey. In this way we had New York City surrounded.

The encampment at Redding is considered by some to be "Connecticut's Valley Forge". The men built huts to sleep in but they suffered from the winter weather, and a lack of food, clothing, blankets, and pay. Joseph Plumb Martin, a private in the 8th Connecticut Regt., recorded in his journal: "*We settled in our winter quarters at the commencement of the new year and went on in our old Continental Line of starving and freezing. We now and then got a little bad bread and salt beef (I believe chiefly horse-beef for it was generally thought to be such at the time). The month of January was very stormy, a good deal of snow fell, and in such weather it was mere chance if we got anything at all to eat*". One report shows that 162 men in Hazen's Regt. were "unfit for duty for want of shoes".

On December 30th, the men of Huntington's Brigade armed themselves and threatened to march to Hartford to demand help from the Legislature. Gen. Putnam addressed the men stating: "*My brave lads, whither are you going? Do you intend to desert your officers, and to invite the enemy to follow you into the country? Whose cause have you been fighting and suffering so long in - is it not your own? Have you no property, no parents, wives, or children? You have behaved like men so far - all the world is full of your praises - and posterity will stand astonished at your deeds, but not if you spoil all at last. Don't you consider how much the country is distressed by the war, and that your officers have not been any better paid than yourselves? But we all expect better times, and that the country will do us ample justice. Let us all stand by one another, then, and fight it out like brave soldiers. Think what a shame it would be for Connecticut men to run away from their officers.*" With this Putnam successfully brought the mutinous men to order. However, one soldier who was being held for his actions in the affair attempted to escape that night and was shot dead by the sentinel.

Spying and desertion were other problems that had to be dealt with. In February 1779, two men were executed in the camp on what is still known as Gallows Hill. John Smith, a soldier in the 1st Connecticut Regt., was found guilty of desertion and he was sentenced to be shot to death. Edmond Jones, formerly a Ridgefield resident, was found guilty of being a spy and he was sentenced to death by hanging. Gen. Putnam ordered that both death sentences be carried out on the same day. After Smith and Jones were

## The Connecticut Line October 2005

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

### Editor

Stephen Shaw  
[stephen@whoistheoldguy.com](mailto:stephen@whoistheoldguy.com)

### Contributors

Ken Buckbee  
Todd Gerlander  
Tim Jacobs  
Stephen Shaw

### Submissions

Please send any material to:  
Stephen Shaw  
PO Box 411  
East Haddam, CT 06423  
860-916-1804  
[stephen@whoistheoldguy.com](mailto:stephen@whoistheoldguy.com)

### Deadlines

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

---

executed, Gen. Putnam made sure every soldier in the camp marched by and looked at the two dead men so that they might think twice before committing these offenses.

This past October 5th, eight members of the CTSSAR Color Guard participated in the dedication ceremonies opening the new Pavilion/Visitor Center at Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding. They fired a three-volley musket salute in honor of the event. Governor Rell was also present at the ceremony.

Mark your calendar now and try to join us at the Bulkeley House on Saturday, November 12th!



Kenneth A. Buckbee  
President - CTSSAR  
(860) 496-1562  
[buckb@snet.net](mailto:buckb@snet.net)

both in the State, and helping our Compatriot brothers in the New England Contingent with events throughout the New England District such as Patriot's Day and the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Color Guard was also key in the success of our Societies' Captain Nathan Hale 250th Birthday Events both at our Schoolhouses and at our Ceremonies throughout the State. The New England Contingent set a new participation record of 30 members at the Hale event. In September the Connecticut Line CTSSAR served as Color Guard for the Ceremonies at Fort Griswold, and in October at the dedication ceremonies for the new visitor's center at Putnam Memorial State Park (the Putnam Branch Color Guard was named the official militia regiment of the Park in 2000).

In 2006 the CTSSAR Color Guard and the Historic Sites & Celebrations Committee will be focusing on the 230th Anniversary of Connecticut's "Declaration of Independence", June 18, 1776. Connecticut Independence Day is being planned for Sunday, June 18, 2006 at the War Office. Highlights of this event will include a reading of the proclamation by Gov. Trumbull (Compatriot Russell Wirtalla) and a wreath laying ceremony at Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.'s tomb.

Compatriots who are interested in learning more about SAR Color Guard membership, and in fulfilling the objectives of our Society through **LIVING HISTORY**, please contact me for more information (860) 872-0438.

Todd L. Gerlander  
Commander

## New Publication

Scheduled for release in April/May 2006, is a new publication to honor the men and women of the American Revolutionary War. **Common Patriot: The American Revolutionary War Magazine** strives to entertain, educate and pay homage to these brave veterans as well as bring together descendants of Common Patriots.

To learn more about the Common Patriot visit the site at [www.CommonPatriot.com](http://www.CommonPatriot.com). The publication is currently seeking articles on men and women who served in the war, how life was during the war, how you discovered your ancestor, why did you join SAR or DAR, and the American Revolutionary War today.

Patriotically,  
T.M. Jacobs, Editor & Publisher

---

## Do You Want to Help?

Then simply sign up with SNET/SBC. If you are already a SNET/SBC customer then it doesn't cost you any more.

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

So far with just over 40 members participating, we've been handed over \$600. The more members that participate the better for us and our programs.

Signing up is easy. Just call SBC/SNET at 1-800-635-7638, or sign up on the web at <http://www04.sbc.com/content/0,,163,00.html>. Our organization code is # 3585.

## Upcoming Events

### CTSSAR Meeting

November 12th  
Bulkeley House  
New London, CT

### Docent Appreciation Dinner

November 16th  
Radisson Hotel  
New London, CT

### CTSSAR Meeting

February 18th

### CTSSAR Annual Meeting

April 22nd

The complete schedule is at: [www.ConnecticutSAR.org](http://www.ConnecticutSAR.org)  
If your event isn't listed, you can submit it on our web site.

---

## Schoolhouse Project

The plan for the museum project for both Nathan Hale Schoolhouses which we own and operate is being wrapped up now. After a lot of hard work by many the last step is to get estimates from various contractors so we can have a solid budget. We need a complete package for when we start to approach foundations for more funding.

To date Connecticut SAR compatriots and others have donated over \$12,000 towards the project. This is a good start but we have a long way to go. We are a non-profit so your donations are deductible.

Please send your donations to Connecticut SAR, PO Box 411, East Haddam, CT 06423. Any amount will be helpful and noted at both schoolhouses.

If you would like a copy of the plan when it is completed or would like to volunteer some time for the project, please send an email to [stephen@whoistheoldguy.com](mailto:stephen@whoistheoldguy.com) or call 860-916-1804.

# Sergeant Daniel Bissell

Recently the Wadsworth Branch held their meeting in the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead in Windsor. It was a wonderful luncheon in the home of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The DAR docents gave a great tour as they have been since 1903.



Afterwards we held a small rededication ceremony for the Daniel Bissell Monument just up the road. The monument marks the place of Daniel's birthplace. Ted Macierowski who lives in a new home behind the original house site contacted us a few months ago to let us know that a truck had backed into the monument and caused some damage. Thankfully the damage was minor on the marker, but the cement foundation needed some help. Some branch members repaired the foundation to the marker the SAR had originally placed years ago.

Daniel Bissell was a spy for General Washington in New York City during the war and was one of only three patriots who was honored with the Badge of Military Merit which is now today's Purple Heart.

# Historic Properties

We had a great season at our three museums this year as you can see by our numbers.

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
East Haddam	496	907
New London	1614	2471
Lebanon	399	439

Longer hours in New London and some great Nathan Hale PR helped both schoolhouses considerably. Thank you to all of our docents.



**PATRIOTS AND PILGRIMS**

***FIND YOUR CONNECTION***

**Society of Mayflower Descendants  
State of Connecticut**

*Membership Information:*  
Midge Hurtuk  
39 Buttemut Lane  
Vernon, CT 06066

www.ctmayflower.org ~ mhurtuk@aol.com

**www.ConnecticutSAR.org**



TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



## DIRECTIONS TO BULKELEY HOUSE

### **From New Haven**

Take 95 north to exit 83

At the end of the ramp proceed straight onto Huntington Street.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> traffic light take a left onto State Street

Follow State Street to the 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light and take a right on O'Neil Dr.

There will be a parking on your left for public parking.

Walk to Bank Street and the Bulkeley House

### **From Providence**

Take 95 south to exit 84S

Follow Eugene O'Neill Dr into downtown New London

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light take a left onto State Street

Follow State Street to the 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light and take a right on O'Neil Dr.

There will be a parking on your left for public parking.

Walk to Bank Street and the Bulkeley House

