



The Connecticut Line

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

The 230th Anniversary of Connecticut's Declaration of Independence.

The Revolutionary Spirit was evident in Connecticut, when on June 16, 1776 the General Assembly directed our delegates to the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, to vote for Independence. This was followed two days later (June 18, 1776) with a Proclamation by Jonathan Trumbull, the Patriot Governor, which has become known as Connecticut's Declaration of Independence.

On Sunday June 18, 2006 the Connecticut Society will celebrate the 230th Anniversary of this historic event at our War Office in Lebanon with a full day of activities. The day will begin with a 10:00 AM Colonial Church Service at Lebanon's First Congregational Church. Museums on the Green will be open from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. At the War Office activities will include, Compatriot Russell Wirtalla dressed as Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., and at 2:00 PM the reading of the historic broadside. The Societies Color Guard, the Connecticut Line will be present to answer questions, demonstrate, and to portray members of the Council of Safety. The CTSSAR will also have an exhibit on the American Revolution at the Wadsworth Stables. At 3:00 PM a wreath laying ceremony and musket salute is scheduled at the grave site of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. in the Trumbull Cemetery. CTSSAR Ribbons commemorating the anniversary of this event will be available to members who attend. Members who would like to help out at this event, please contact me at (860)872-0438. Thanks!

Todd L. Gerlander, Event Chairman

Walk the Walk

Every once in a while I attend a meeting for the SAR at one level or another and a member will approach me with one great idea or another. I get an earful about how wonderful of a project it will be and what needs to be done and that's it. By the time they are done, I'm ready to slap them upside the head.

It's not that the idea or project isn't good, it's just that they want to dump the project on someone else and not have to lift a finger or make any other contribution to make it happen.

The SAR has literally hundreds if not thousands of projects that could be undertaken. It all comes down to money, time and manpower. Since we

President Buckbee

I know even before I write this that Ken will get me back. He tends to prefer being the hard worker in the background instead of going for the spot light.

He had his start with the SAR in Jan 1995 and within two months of being a member he was the Registrar/Treasurer of the Wolcott Branch which would lead to being the President within a few years.

By 1998 he became the CTSSAR Historian and continued up the ladder to be the President. Ken is our longest serving President since Compatriot Shields from 1940 to 1943. Ken is only the 5th President to serve this long or longer since we started in 1889.

All of this while working full time and raising his son. Besides the 60 new members he has brought into the SAR and being in the Color Guard.

I have to say that I'm proud to have worked with him all of this time. The society has grown very well under his leadership and is much better off because of his involvement.

I wish him a well deserved break and hope that he stays active.

Remember as a Past President you are a member of the Board of Managers for life.

The Connecticut Line January 2006

www.ConnecticutSAR.org

Editor

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Contributors

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Submissions

Please send any material to:
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Deadlines

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

Do You Want to Help?

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

The CTSSAR is participating in the SBC Community Connections program. Now, when you sign up with SBC for all your long-distance calling - or confirm that you're already using 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 \$800. The more members that participate the better for us and our programs.

Signing up is easy. Just call SBC at 1-800-635-7638, or sign up on the web at <http://att.sbc.com/gen/general?pid=3409>. Our organization code is # 3585.

President's Corner

I am a huge fan of Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*. On March 13th, Jon Stewart's guest was Eric Burns. Mr. Burns was discussing his new book *Infamous Scribblers: The Founding Fathers and the Rowdy Beginnings of American Journalism*.

I went on-line and found sites that summarized the book as follows: This lively, fascinating account of the surprisingly raucous journalism of the Revolutionary era – and how it helped to build a nation that has endured – offers new perspective on today's media wars.

Infamous Scribblers is a perceptive and witty exploration of the most volatile period in the history of the American press. News correspondent and renowned media historian Eric Burns tells of Ben Franklin, Alexander Hamilton and Sam Adams – the leading journalists among the Founding Fathers; of George Washington and John Adams, the leading disdainers of journalists; and Thomas Jefferson, the leading manipulator of journalists. These men and the writers who abused and praised them in print (there was, at the time, no job description of “journalist”) included the incendiary James Franklin, Ben's brother and one of the first muckrakers; the high minded Thomas Paine; the hatchet man James Callender, and a rebellious crowd of propagandists, pamphleteers, and publishers. It was Washington who gave this book its title. He once wrote of his dismay at being “buffeted in the public prints by a set of infamous scribblers.” The journalism of the era was often partisan, fabricated, overheated, scandalous, sensationalistic and sometimes stirring, brilliant, and indispensable. Despite its flaws – even because of some of them – the participants hashed out publicly the issues that would lead America to declare its independence and, after the war, to determine what sort of nation it would be.

At www.publicaffairsbooks.com I found where Eric Burns gives further insight stating: “As the host of a TV program that analyzes the performance of journalists, I know what people say: it's never been worse – more biased, irresponsible, and incendiary. I could not resist setting the record straight. As *Infamous Scribblers* demonstrates, journalism is not worse than ever. It's probably better, and is certainly better than it was in the Revolutionary era. Furthermore, the Founders reveal themselves to us in a different light when viewed through the prism of journalism. For instance: George Washington, the most venerable of all the Founders and the one most highly regarded at present, was savaged in print more than any other man in American history. Thomas Jefferson, as the de facto publisher of an anti-Washington paper while serving in Washington's cabinet, reveals an even more duplicitous side than he did as a slave-owner preaching against oppression. Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, bitter political foes, were the victims of the first sex scandals in American journalism, reacting in extremely different ways. Sam Adams was perhaps the least ethical reporter our nation has ever produced. And Benjamin Franklin, the noblest of colonial journalists, was the grandfather of one of the most ignoble, Benjamin Franklin Bache, Washington's primary tormenter. For these and other reasons, *Infamous Scribblers* is, I like to think, a book of surprises even to those who think they know their Founding Fathers and, without doubt, a lesson from an unusual history – of how a wildly overheated era can produce the best of results. This surprised me too.”

Speaking of scribblers, this will be my last President's Corner message in *The Connecticut Line*. The CTSSAR Constitution states that a

president may not serve more than three consecutive one-year terms. In April I will have served as your President for the maximum period allowed. It has been quite an honor and a privilege to do so. At this time I would like to thank all of you who have supported me. I will not list names, as the list would be too lengthy and I am afraid that I might forget someone. You know who you are, and those of us who were paying attention know who you are. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

The man in line to be CTSSAR's next President is Todd Gerlander, our current First Vice-President. I couldn't be more confident in his ability to lead us. He and his father and brother have already contributed more to promoting the SAR than could be asked of anyone. For those of you that don't know, Todd has been Commander of the New England Contingent Color Guard for the past seven years, taking part in battle reenactments, sleeping in tents, cooking meals over campfires, etc. at more than 30 events each year. He will certainly have my vote when we elect new officers at our Annual State Meeting next month. The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22nd, at The Quinnipiack Club in New Haven. Details and a reservation form are included elsewhere in this newsletter. The Quinnipiack Club is a non-profit, member-owned City Club established in 1871. Please join us! At our Annual Meetings we honor the achievements of students, scouts, cadets, citizens, and compatriots.



Handwritten signature of Kenneth A. Buckbee.

Kenneth A. Buckbee, President - CTSSAR
(860) 496-1562 or buckb@snet.net

High-Resolution Images of the Declaration, Constitution, and Bill of Rights

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration now provides access to high-resolution images of the Charters of Freedom documents. These files are in JPEG format with the maximum quality setting possible. These images will print at up to approximately 24" wide by 29" high at 150dpi (publication quality).

For graphic designers, each file also contains "clipping paths" for easy mask creation with most professional graphics software.

You can download these images at http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/charters_downloads.html

Upcoming Events

Patriot's Day Parades

April 17th
Concord & Lexington, MA

CTSSAR Annual Meeting

April 22nd
New Haven, CT

Launching Liberty

May 6th
Essex, CT

School Day at the Schoolhouse

June 2
East Haddam, CT

CT's Declaration of Independence

June 18th
Lebanon, CT

America's March to Yorktown

June 18th to July 6th
Newport, RI to Dobbs Ferry, NY

4th of July Cookout

July 4th
East Haddam, CT

The complete schedule is at:

www.ConnecticutSAR.org

If your event isn't listed, you can submit it on our web site.

CTSSAR Directory

At the February Board of Managers meeting along with the budget it was decided to not have a membership directory printed this year. The cost for printing and mailing is about \$1500 and it was felt that we could skip a year and use the money elsewhere.

If you feel it is important to have a membership directory each year, then please send a donation to: Bruce Lyon, Treasurer
200 Luchon Rd
Willington, CT 06279
If enough donations come in then it will be printed this summer.

have limited quantities of each, we have to set priorities.

Remember some of the projects that have been worked on lately and you will see a real pattern. Richard Swartwout and David Holloway working on America's March to Yorktown; Ed and Madeline Eckert putting together a new marker for Nathan Hale in Norwalk; Burt Chapman refinishing the floor and painting the first floor of the schoolhouse in New London; Todd Gerlander leading the charge for Nathan Hale's 250th Birthday; Mike Nigro working on a replacement Rev War marker in Milford; Mike Juhase repainting the entire schoolhouse in East Haddam; Frank Romig placing and replacing the flag poles in East Haddam and New London; me and others working on the schoolhouse project and the list goes on.

All of these projects happened and continue to happen, because one or a couple of compatriots have an idea and do more than just talk about it. They have all stepped up to the plate and made the effort needed to make sure that the project was started and completed.

If you have an idea, we all look forward to hearing it and will help guide the project as is needed. There are always so many things that can be done. Or if you are looking for some way to help but don't know where to start, just ask.

Please don't just dump projects on others that are already overbooked. Maybe next time I'll deal with the snipers who sit in the back of meetings and just shoot down the ideas of others.

Putnam Changes

The General Israel Putnam Branch elected a new slate of officers at their recent meeting which includes:

John Towle - President
Gary Pitcock - Secretary
Paul Shupe - Treasurer
Stephen Marshall - Registrar

I heard that Russ made some great lasagna.



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

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
~ Patriot's Day Annual Meeting ~

Saturday, April 22, 2006

In Honor of Patriot's Day, our state meeting will be held at the Quinnipiak Club in New Haven. This is our annual meeting to elect officers and present awards for the Eagle Scout, Essay, JROTC and other SAR Contests.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to tour this beautiful city club if you haven't seen it before.

The Quinnipiak Club
221 Church St
New Haven, CT 06510
203-562-3147
www.qclub.org

10:30 AM – CTSSAR Board of Managers Meeting (All members welcome)

12:00 PM – Social (cash bar)

12:30 PM – CTSSAR Luncheon (Members and their wives are encouraged to attend)

Menu

Cesar Salad

Chicken Francaise – Lightly battered breast of chicken, lemon chardonnay sauce

Cheesecake

Coffee & Tea

\$30.00 Per Person

Luncheon reservations must be received by April 15th

Name: _____

Number in your party _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please mail to: Bruce Lyon
200 Luchon Rd
Willington, CT 06279

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Connecticut SAR

DIRECTIONS to the Q Club

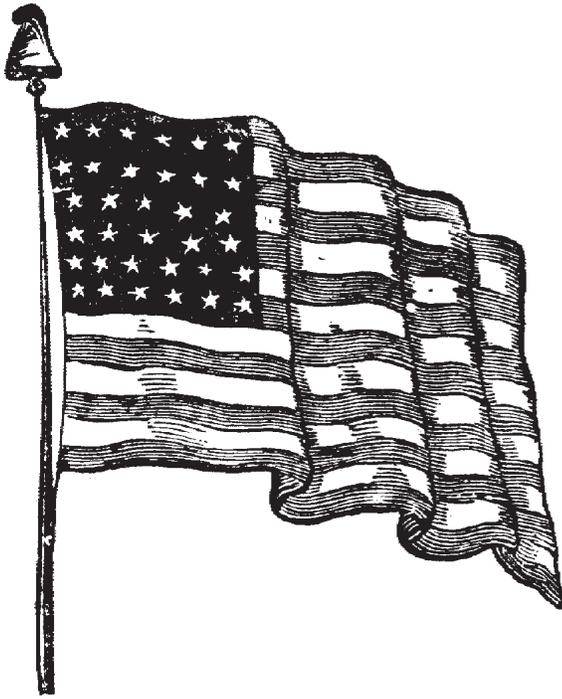
From I-95:

From I-95 North or South, take Exit #47 to Route 34, then take Exit #1 (Downtown new Haven Exit), turn right on Church Street, go 4.5 blocks (past George St., Crown St., Chapel St. and Elm St.), park on your left, LOT#4, or your right, LOT#3 (both free). We do not suggest a parking garage as they close early.

From I-91:

From I-91 get off Exit #3, go left on Orange Street, pass Audubon St., Grove St. and Wall St. After passing Wall Street, turn in the **THIRD** (3rd) driveway on the right, lot #3, which is an office building FREE-at night parking lot. To enter the Q Club walk to Church Street and turn right, 1st door. We do not suggest a parking garage as they close early





4th of July Cookout

at the
Nathan Hale
Schoolhouse
in East Haddam, CT
Noon 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 desserts.

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

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

RSVP to: Stephen Shaw, PO Box 440, East Haddam, CT 06423
860-916-1804 or stephen@whoistheoldguy.com

Name: _____ Number of People: _____

Phone #: _____ Stephen 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,
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.