



# The Connecticut Line

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

## 4th of July

**Columbia:** The Color Guard marched in the morning parade which was well attended.

**East Haddam:** Members enjoyed the annual cookout and listened as Compatriot Bud Hall rang the bell 13 times at 2pm.

**Litchfield:** The Wolcott Branch held their annual ceremonies at the grave of Gov. Oliver Wolcott.

**New Haven:** The annual ceremonies at the Grove Street Cemetery were once again lead by Past President Marshall Robinson.

**Norwalk:** 4th of July event at Mill Hill Historic Park in Norwalk. The picture is of Roger Smith reading The Declaration of Independence and Harding Dies with flag. Ed and Madeleine Eckert did an amazing job putting this together.

## CTSSAR Commemorates Independence Day

Sunday, June 18, 2006 marked the 230th Anniversary of Connecticut Independence Day. It was on this day in 1776 that Governor Jonathan Trumbull's broadside declared Connecticut's independence from Great Britain.



The main event was held at the War Office, and we also set up a Revolutionary War encampment and exhibit at the Wadsworth Stable. The CTSSAR obtained an official proclamation from the Governor proclaiming June 18, 2006 as "Connecticut Independence Day" in the State of Connecticut. We also had special commemorative ribbons printed to commemorate this important event in Connecticut history. Compatriot Russell Wirtalla again excellently portrayed Governor Trumbull.

I would like to thank the members of the Connecticut Line CTSSAR, the Societies Color Guard. Three Huzzahs!

I would also like to thank the two CTSSAR compatriots visiting from Florida; Charles W. Riegle and Timothy M. Jacobs who were present during the ceremonies. Compatriot Jacobs is the editor of the Common Patriot, a Revolutionary War magazine. Event photos and an article on Governor Jonathan Trumbull should be appearing in the next issue.

I would also like to thank the members of the DAR, Mary Brown in particular, for their help during the event, and for the use of the Wadsworth Stable.

Todd Gerlander  
CTSSAR Historic Sites/Celebrations



## The Connecticut Line August 2006

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

### Editor

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

### Contributors

Ken Buckbee  
Todd Gerlander  
Ed Isaacs  
Dave Perkins  
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

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## SNET is Ending

Since 2001 the Connecticut SAR has been signed up with the SNET/SBC Community Connections Program. Over 40 of our members participated and we thank you all.

The program gave the society a percentage of the phone charges for each that was signed up.

Over the years, we were sent checks totaling just under \$900. Not a lot of money, but it all helps to support the society and our programs.

Now with the latest merger to AT&T, the program is being discontinued at the end of the year.

They have offered an affiliate program which would mean placing ads on our web site. This will be discussed at the Sept meeting to see if it is the right thing for the society.

## President's Corner

This will be my first column as President of the CTSSAR. I thought long and hard about what I was and was not going to write. I have seen many of these columns from various society newsletters over the years, where the President will go on about his job, family, education, awards, and number of organizations he belongs to. But after reading the column, I am always left with the questions, what are you going to do for this Society? How are you going to make this Society better? What do you stand for? It is my belief that a leader "leads", and every office that I have held over the past dozen years, I believe shows that. Compatriots who are active members of our Society know who I am, and what I stand for. I have many ideas that I would like to see happen during my term of office, some will succeed, some will fail. In the end a President should be able to look back at his term of office and say I did make a difference, I did leave the Society better off than when I started.

I will focus on our Societies objective of promoting the history and ideals of the American Revolution. In 2005 the CTSSAR sponsored the largest tribute to Captain Nathan Hale's 250th Birthday in the State, at both of our schoolhouses. In 2006 we sponsored the 230th Anniversary of Connecticut Independence Day, commemorating Connecticut's own, "Declaration of Independence", at our War Office. In September 2007 we plan to commemorate the Marquis de Lafayette's 250th Birthday, and it is not too early to start planning the 300th Birthday of Governor Jonathan Trumbull in 2010. Both commemorations will take place at our War Office in Lebanon. There is a lot of work to do, and I hope to see more compatriots join in the cause. We as a Society are in a very unique position. We own and maintain three historic properties, each with its own unique story to tell. We are also volunteers, we do not get paid. Our reward is that we are keeping the history alive for future generations.

I recently met with members of the Planning and Program Committee, and there is a lot of enthusiasm and interesting new ideas we are going to try, BUT, their success is going to rely on each and every member of this organization. Whether our upcoming member activities and events are a success or a failure depends on YOU.

I have been in contact with most of the Branches, and I plan to visit them all, hopefully by April 2007. The State Secretary and 2nd Vice President have also shown interest in accompanying me on these visits. I think this would be a great opportunity to hear from members about what they would like to see happen, and how the CTSSAR can help them. I am also interested to see the type of activities being run at the Branch level.

On a closing note, the CTSSAR State Meetings are NOT just Board of Managers Meetings, THEY ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS. There seems to be a lot of confusion about this. I have heard many members say that they do not attend, because they are not members of the Board of Managers, wrong answer. As a Society we hold Meetings/Luncheons four times per year. It is at these meetings that we discuss both the present and the future of the Society. If you do not like something, or if you want a voice in the Society, become a regular at upcoming meetings.

You will find the CTSSAR September Meeting/Luncheon invitation within this newsletter. I expect to see record attendance.

Patriotically,

Todd Lee Gerlander, (860)872-0438, [eleventh.ct.reg.t.sar@snet.net](mailto:eleventh.ct.reg.t.sar@snet.net)

## 250th of Cogswell Tavern in New Preston

On Sunday, May 28, 2006, Walt Beeman, Russ Cashman, Charles Reimer, and Ken Buckbee of The Gov. Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch's color guard, participated in a celebration commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Cogswell Tavern in New Preston, CT. Cathie Love, a ninth generation descendent of William Cogswell provided much of the following information.

Cogswell Tavern was built in 1756 by William Cogswell when he was about 22 years old. William Cogswell married Anna Whittlesey in 1762, and eventually they had ten children.

In Colonial times, travelers needed taverns to get rest and nourishment for themselves and their horses. Taverns were also the place where much of the community's business was discussed and conducted. Tavern licenses were awarded only to a "man of outstanding character and importance in his community". William Cogswell was a First Selectman, a member of the Committee of Correspondence, and a Justice of the Peace.

In 1779, William was Captain of a company in Lieut.-Col. Samuel Canfield's Regiment of Militia. Captain Cogswell's Co. was one of those that answered the New Haven Alarm in response to the attack by the British there on July 5, 1779. In May of 1781, Cogswell was promoted to Major in Col. Increase Moseley, Jr.'s 13th Regiment of Militia.

While William was away during the war, his wife was left to manage things in his absence. Family lore has it that local Tories would sometimes gather around the premises and try to intimidate the children and Mrs. Cogswell, perhaps by saying "Major Cogswell is dead and now is a good time for the Tories". More than once, tired of their impertinence, she armed herself with a chair and cleared the house in quick time. In later life she was quoted as saying "I never feared a Tory". Another interesting story tells that the public decided that a certain Mr. Patterson, a noted Tory was to be tarred and feathered. He was seized and brought to Cogswell Tavern. Mrs. Cogswell warned them not to touch the tar down in the cellar nor the feathers upstairs. This obviously told the crowd where the articles could be found. Mr. Patterson was taken to a nearby oak tree and the coat of tar and feathers were applied with great thoroughness and satisfaction.

It is believed that General Washington stopped at Cogswell Tavern three times. Family tradition holds that it was while en route to New Preston that General Washington was told of Benedict Arnold's treason (Sept. 25, 1780). It is said that he was so upset that "he couldn't set and paced the room holding a bowl of warm milk". While the family is not certain where Washington paced with his milk, they like to imagine that it was in the Tap Room of the house. We know for a fact that he did stop at the Cogswell Tavern on May 25, 1781, because Washington noted in his diary, "Breakfasted at Squire Cogswell's".

By the time William Cogswell died in 1784 he had acquired over 2000 acres and owned a country store, an iron foundry, a saw and grist mill, a potashery, a distillery, malt-house and the tavern. From his orchards a thousand barrels of cider were made each year.

Kenneth A. Buckbee,  
Past President (2003-2006) – CTSSAR  
Past President (2000-2002) – Gov. Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch #10

## Upcoming Events

### 225th of Groton Heights

Sept 1st to 3rd  
Groton, CT

### 225th of Burning of New London

Sept 6  
New London, CT

### Burlington Bicentennial

Sept 10th  
Burlington, CT

### Application Genealogy Workshop

Sept 16th  
Bridgeport, CT

### Connecticut SAR Meeting

Sept 23rd  
Mystic, CT

### W3R Marker Unveiling

Sept 30th  
Hartford, CT

### Color Guard Training Weekend

Oct 7th and 8th  
Charlestown, NH

### Yorktown Day

Oct 19th  
Yorktown, VA

### Massing of the Colors

Oct 29th  
Glastonbury, CT

### Connecticut SAR Meeting

Nov 18th  
Torrington, CT

### Connecticut SAR Formal

Dec 6th  
Hartford, CT

### Connecticut SAR Meeting

Feb 17th  
Bridgeport, CT

The complete schedule is at:  
[www.ConnecticutSAR.org](http://www.ConnecticutSAR.org)

We count on our members to let us know about events in your area.

# West Point Graduates

This Memorial Day Weekend I had the pleasure to attend the graduation of my youngest son Jim, a newly minted 2LT of the class of 2006 from West Point. The graduation speaker was President George W. Bush. Following the graduation exercises and the traditional hat-toss, we joined our son along with five of his classmates for their bar pinning ceremony up at Redoubt #4, built in 1778 and overlooking all of West Point and the Hudson River.

What a day of events. Jim now joins his older brother Dave, as one of the newest members of the long gray line. After graduation, Jim will spend 4 weeks in Russia as a youth camp counselor so he can work on his Russian. Jim was a dual major graduate of French/Russian and Economics. As part of his French language major at West Point, Jim spent one semester studying at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont. and part of one summer at St. Cyr in



France. Upon completing his Officer Basic Course this fall at Ft. Leonard Wood, he will be assigned to the 1st Armor Division in Germany as a Combat Engineering Officer. Jim is a past recipient of the CTSSAR Eagle Scout Award. He graduated from Bethel High in 2002 and received his appointment to West Point from Sen. Lieberman.

David Perkins  
President, Baldwin Branch

	<p><b>PATRIOTS AND PILGRIMS</b></p> <p><i><b>FIND YOUR CONNECTION</b></i></p> <p><b>Society of Mayflower Descendants State of Connecticut</b></p> <p><i>Membership Information:</i> Midge Hurtuk 39 Buttemut Lane Vernon, CT 06066</p> <p><a href="http://www.ctmayflower.org">www.ctmayflower.org</a> ~ <a href="mailto:mhurtuk@aol.com">mhurtuk@aol.com</a></p>
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TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



## DIRECTIONS TO CAPT PACKER INNE

### **DRIVING SOUTH ON ROUTE 95:**

Take exit 89 (Allyn street) and turn **left** at the end of the ramp.

### **DRIVING NORTH ON ROUTE 95:**

Take exit 89 (Allyn Street) and turn **right** at the end of the ramp.

\* Follow Allyn Street to the traffic light (Route 1). Turn left onto Route 1 North. Just before you enter downtown, turn right onto Water Street (Route 215).

\*\* Continue for two blocks (approx. 2/10 of a mile). Bear left when you see an island in the road. The inne is on the right side of the street across from the marina. Parking is in the back of the building.

### **FROM THE MYSTIC SEAPORT:**

From Route 27, turn right onto Holmes Street. Follow this road to the flag pole (at the flashing light and stop sign). Turn right onto West Main Street to go over the drawbridge and through downtown Mystic. Take the first left onto Water Street (Route 215).

\*\* Continue following directions as above.

