CTSSAR Re-enactors

Your CTSSAR Re-enactors and Color Guard work very long and hard to give publicity to your Society and to inspire patriotism with the public. Those members who are not in the color guard but who regularly attend state meetings know what I am talking about, as Hillary would say. I will tell the rest of you about one event this year that especially inspired me, a rookie to the re-enactor part of our organization.

The event was the 225th anniversary of the burning of New London and the fall of Fort Griswold by Benedict Arnold. Each of us wondered if the event was going to really happen because tropical storm Ernesto was scheduled to arrive in New London at the same time that we were. We went anyway on a Friday to set up our tents. The American camp was in a park very near Fort Griswold in Groton. I was astounded to see a sea of canvas, as the SAR was just one of many units in this American camp of militia. The British camp was very near us. That night we camped in our tents expecting Ernesto to arrive soon.

Reveille was at five AM. The commanders, including our commander Todd Gerlander, met in the dark at headquarters. When the officers returned we were told that the British re-enactors were too few

Massing of the Colors

The Massing of the Colors is an annual event that has been held for decades each fall. It brings many of the hereditary and patriotic societies in Connecticut together for a wonderful procession of flags, a short service and then a social time for everyone to mingle.

This year the Connecticut SAR was the host and we had a great turnout of compatriots and other societies. It was held at St. James’ Episcopal Church in Glastonbury.

Our committee of Jerry Carroon, Ken Roach and Stephen Shaw put it all together. Thanks to all the compatriots who helped with this great event.

Nathan Hale Schoolhouse Project

Tremendous progress has been made over the last few months. There are two main pieces of this project. The main part is for new modern exhibits in both the East Haddam and New London Schoolhouses. The Planning Grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council has helped greatly to create these exhibits, which are now scripted and designed. We have a grant writer working with us to complete this project and who will be writing the implementation grant to finish the project in 2007. A draft of one of the panels is on the last page of the newsletter. The exhibits aren’t going to cost as much as expected, so those funds can be used for the second piece.

The second main piece of the project is additional museum space at the schoolhouse in East Haddam. This great need was pointed out even further during the planning grant. We had been donated a small cottage
The Connecticut Line
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www.ConnecticutSAR.org

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

President’s Report

Dear Compatriots,

Since my last report that I wrote in August, the CTSSAR has been very busy promoting and participating in Revolutionary War events throughout the State. I attended the Roger Sherman Branch meeting in Westport, and found a very active Branch with many programs to further our society’s objectives. This month I plan on attending the Joint Luncheon of the Gen. Israel Putnam Branch and Gov. Samuel Huntington Branch. I hope to visit all the Branches this year, so please send me invitations and meeting announcements.

The Society’s Color Guard/Living History Unit, “The Connecticut Line” has also been very active in September. The unit participated in the last of the 225th Anniversary Battle commemorations of the American Revolution in the North East, The Battle of Groton Heights and the Burning of New London, September 6, 1781. Events included a Revolutionary War Encampment in Washington Park, a street battle in Downtown New London, and a recreation of the Battle at Fort Griswold. In the evening, a dinner was provided as well as a colonial dance. On Sunday, the CTSSAR posted the colors during the Annual Commemoration ceremonies and provided the wreath, and as President, I spoke on behalf of the Society (see speech below).

The Connecticut Line also participated in the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the Town of Burlington, and marched in the “Connecticut Day Parade” at the BIG E, carrying the CTSSAR banner before thousands of people.

The CTSSAR has some great activities coming up, on Sunday, October 29, 2006 the Society is hosting the Annual Massing of the Colors in Glastonbury, on Saturday, November 18, 2006 we will be holding a State Meeting/Luncheon in Torrington, and on Tuesday, December 5, 2006 we will be holding our First Formal Christmas Party in Hartford. I hope to see everyone at an upcoming event.

225th Anniversary of Groton Heights Speech

Greetings . . . my name is Todd Gerlander, I am the Commander of the New England Contingent – Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard/ Living History Unit. I am also the current President of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The SAR is an organization of men who are direct descendants of the Patriots who fought in the American Revolution, those men who secured our Nation’s Independence. As one of our Nation’s oldest Hereditary and Patriotic organizations, we continue to promote the history and ideals fought for and secured in the Revolutionary War.

Today, we remember the brave American Patriots who 225 years ago, on September 6, 1781, within this Fort defended their Liberty against the greatest Military power on earth, the British Empire.

Today we remember your Patriotic Service and Sacrifice to your Country. This Nation stands forever in your debt. Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park today stands without rival, Connecticut’s foremost Revolutionary War Historic Site and Battlefield. For in Liberties annals, this is sacred ground, consecrated with Patriot blood, a monument of Liberty. The State and it’s Citizens should spare no expense in preserving and in restoring this

Christmas Formal

Can any of you remember the last time the Connecticut SAR had a formal function? Well none of the planning committee could either, so we decided it was time!

The formal will be held on December 5th at 5:30pm at the new Hartford Marriott Downtown, which is next to the new convention center.

The menu we have selected is sure to please. We have a band as well, so be ready to dance. It’s time to dust off your tux and gowns.

Invitations are on the way. Please RSVP as soon as possible as seating will be limited.

Debbie Shaw, Charles Lucas, Stephen Shaw and Dana Gowen at a formal function for another society.
precious Connecticut Revolutionary War site. It is the least we can do for so many who sacrificed everything so that their children and grandchildren could live free.

On this day, and every day, let us not forget what happened here. And let us not forget to tell future generations what happened here. Let us not forget the Patriots who died in Battle, or the Patriots who were massacred, wounded, or taken prisoner, and sent to the British prison ships in New York Harbor. Many would die there, and today their bones rest in the Martyr’s monument at Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn, New York.

We should also remember the words spoken here on this battlefield 225 years ago. Words that were spoken by Lieutenant-Colonel William Ledyard of the Eighth Regiment of Connecticut Militia who was in command of the Fort, “I will not surrender this fort, let the consequences be what they may”, Words that truly define the spirit and determination of American Independence. I would like to close with our own state motto which dates back to the seventeenth century at our state’s puritan foundation. “Qui Transtulit Sustinet”, or as translated by a Connecticut militia man marching off to war in April 1775, “God who transplanted us hither will support us”.

We, the members of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Descendants of the Patriots who fought for, and secured our Nation’s Independence, remember your service and sacrifice.

Thank You

Todd L. Gerlander
President - CTSSAR

Upcoming Events

Docent Appreciation Dinner
Nov 15th, 6pm
Bulkeley House
New London, CT

Connecticut SAR Meeting
Nov 18th, 10:30am
Marino’s Restaurant
Torington, CT

CTSSAR Christmas Formal
Dec 5th, 5:30pm
Marriott Downtown
Hartford, CT

Conn Line Color Guard Meeting
Jan ??
J. Timothy’s
Plainfield, CT

Connecticut SAR Meeting
Feb 17th
Germania-Schwaben Club
Bridgeport, CT

Spring Leadership Meeting
Feb 24th & 25th
SAR Headquarters
Louisville, KY

Application Genealogy Workshop
Mar 17th, 10am
Connecticut Historical Society
Hartford, CT

The complete schedule is at: www.ConnecticutSAR.org

We count on our members to let us know about events in your area.
a few years ago, which was pretty small. The cottage would have only provided 550 square feet of space and would have needed a lot of work to be usable. We have since sold the cottage to a local resident of East Haddam.

Because of the cost and condition of the cottage, the property committee has been pursuing a traditional post and beam barn which will be placed on the south end of the property and will provide over 1400 square feet of space between the first and second floor. The second floor can be used for storage since the SAR has our historic items spread around the state as we have never had a heated building where our relics would be safe.

The cost of the new barn, which will also include a bathroom is estimated at only $90,000. This is a very achievable goal, considering we have already raised roughly $12,000 over the last few years with little effort. The goal became even easier to reach, since a new grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCCT) became available this year for the first time. The Capital Grant from CCCT is a matching grant up to $75,000. CCCT was expecting many submissions for the grant, but only had about 40 when the deadline came around last week. The paperwork requirements where very demanding, but with a lot of work, we met the deadline and submitted our application for a $45,000 match. We won’t hear an answer from CCCT until late winter.

Now the heavy fund raising begins. We see this as a project not just for the SAR, but one that will help revolutionary education for all.

The fund raising committee is as follows:

**Honorary Cochairs**
Jay Jackson - SAR & Cincinnati
Charles Riegle - SAR
George Greiger - East Haddam
More cochairs may be added.

**Core Committee**
Stephen Shaw - Chair - SAR
Tom Gorin - SAR
Tim Curtis - SAR & East Haddam
Jerry Carroon - SAR & Cincinnati
Jennie Rehnberg - DAR
Nancy Pexa - DAR

Expect to see more information as it is mailed out. Committee members will be meeting with the branches, individuals and businesses to help make this project a success.

www.ConnecticutSAR.org
The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

November Meeting/Luncheon

Saturday, November 18, 2006

In Remembrance of the Birth of Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Knowlton, who was born on November 22, 1740. Connecticut Hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill and Commander of Knowlton’s Rangers, Killed while leading his Rangers at the Battle of Harlem Heights, New York, September 16, 1776.

Marino’s Restaurant
12 Pinewoods Road
Torrington, Connecticut 06790
(860) 482-6864

10:30 AM – Arrival
11:00 AM – Meeting (All Members Welcome)
12:00 PM – Social (Cash Bar available)
12:15 PM – Luncheon (Members and their wives are encouraged to attend)

Speaker: Rev. Paul F. Everett, President of the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch CTSSAR will present the program, “New Year Victory: Princeton, 1777”.

Menu:

_____ Roast Sirloin of Beef with Mushroom & Cabernet Demi Glace.
_____ Roasted Chicken with Lemon, Garlic & Thyme.
_____ Crumbed Topped Scrod with Lemon Butter.

Chef’s Choice of Fresh Vegetable and Potato
Dinner Rolls and Butter
Carrot Cake with Walnuts
Coffee or Tea

$25.00 per person – Luncheon Reservations MUST be received by November 12th.

Name: _______________________  Entree______________________
_______________________  Entree______________________
Number in your party ___________  Amount Enclosed ____________

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Connecticut SAR
Directions

Route 8 North: Exit 46.

At end of the ramp, take a left onto Pinewoods Road.