



# The Connecticut Line

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

## The Connecticut Line



Our very active color guard held their annual meeting on February 23rd at J. Timothy's Tavern in Plainville in honor of George Washington's Birthday. Twenty-seven out of our forty-seven members attended.

Members talked about their favorite events during the past year and the busy schedule for 2008 was discussed and approved.

It was announced that the Wadsworth Branch has formed a detachment and the Hale Branch is in the process of doing so as well.

Once again Todd Gerlander was elected as our Colonel, Russ Wirtalla as Lieutenant-Colonel and Mike Juhase as Major.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member or have suggestions for events, they should contact Todd Gerlander.

## Bylaw and Constitution Proposals

It's been a number of years since either were updated, so some proposed updates will be coming up at the annual meeting.

Mainly some new positions are suggested, such as Color Guard Commander so that our active group will have a vote on the Board.

A new Assistant Registrar to work with the Registrar and learn the ropes for when it's time to change. We've had VP's, Asst Treasurers and Asst Secretaries, so why not an Assistant Registrar.

An editor to be in charge of gathering news from the branches and state officers for the quarterly newsletter.

It's also being proposed to move one of the duties of the Registrar to the Historian. Right now the Registrar is supposed to care for all the relics and artifacts of the society. It's being suggested to have the Historian do this and work directly with the Property Committee.

## Nathan Hale Schoolhouse Projects

With the help of so many, we are getting a lot accomplished to make our museums so much better.

In East Haddam, most everything has been cleaned out, the walls have been scrubbed and prepared for painting. The walls will get a fresh coat of paint on April 6th.

In New London, all the window hardware has been removed as it isn't fitting to the colonial period. Wooden stops will be used instead for security and appearance.

The incorrectly sized mantel has been removed and the plaque over the fireplace will be reinstalled higher on the chimney to fit with a



new mantel which is being built.

The walls and ceiling have all been scraped, scrubbed and given a primer coat of paint. More painting will be done on April 5th, 13th and 20th.

JD Robertson one of our members who lives in New Mexico has made a donation to cover all the

## **The Connecticut Line March 2008**

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

### **Editor**

Stephen Shaw  
stephen@whoistheoldguy.com

### **Contributors**

Jerry Carroon  
Todd Gerlander  
Stephen Shaw  
Russ Wirtalla

### **Submissions**

Please send any material to:  
Stephen Shaw  
PO Box 411  
East Haddam, CT 06423  
860-916-1804

### **Deadlines**

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

## **New Compatriots**

Thomas Joseph Bishop  
Matthew James Davis  
John Arthur Davis  
David Charles Davis  
David Allan Lawson  
Livingston Van Rensselaer Crowell

## **In Memoriam**

Miles Britton Davis  
Donald William Slater

## **From The President's Saddle Bag**

Compatriots:

This is my final communication to you as president of the CTSSAR. It has been a great privilege to serve this past year as the executive officer of this magnificent organization. I have learned so much, made so many new friends, and gotten to know much about our fine state society. The dedication of so many Compatriots to all aspects of our life together is truly outstanding. The work of the branches is breathtaking in its scope and the willingness of so many to serve in all capacities is truly awe-inspiring. My congratulations to every member of the CTSSAR.

There have been many highlights in the history of the CTSSAR this year. Not the least of which is the winning of the National Eagle Scout Award for the first time by a Connecticut nominee. The ongoing work of membership recruitment and retention is an example to all Societies and the hard work of the branch and state registrars with their ongoing educational program is truly outstanding. The living history presentations and the participation in public parades and commemorations by our large and well officered color guard is a tribute to the dedication of our "uniformed" contingent. The color guard is the public "face" of the SAR in Connecticut and deserves our support and the participation of every Compatriot who is able to carry a musket or a flag. Huzzah!

I wish to thank all the state and branch officers who have served so faithfully the past year in their various capacities. Their service is a particular inspiration and makes the task of the state president a real pleasure and a joy. Thank you all.

As I said at the beginning of my term of office, the theme of this administration is Nathan Hale. Now and always, Nathan Hale. We still have a good way to go in raising the funds to complete the work on the school houses and property and though we have received some very fine gifts and recently a \$12,000 state grant that will enable us to complete our exhibits in New London and East Haddam this summer we still need funds to build the visitors center. Won't you please help your society and our state hero and make a gift to the Nathan Hale Campaign?

Thanks again for your support—it is humbling to serve the CTSSAR and I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Patriotically,

Robert G. Carroon  
President CTSSAR

## Upcoming Events

### **Liberty Pole Capping & Parade**

April 12th  
Bedford, MA

### **Meriam's Corner Exercises & Parade**

April 12th  
Concord, MA

### **Paul Revere Capture Site**

April 12th  
Lincoln, MA

### **Patriots Day Parades**

April 21st  
Concord & Lexington, MA

### **Connecticut SAR Meeting**

April 26th 10am  
Germania Schwaben Club  
Bridgeport, CT

### **NRA Black Powder/ Muzzleloader Certification Course**

May 4th  
Montville, CT

### **School Day at the School House**

June 6th  
East Haddam, CT

### **Connecticut Open House Day**

June 14th  
Nathan Hale Schools & War Office

### **Bunker Hill Day**

June 17th  
Charlestown, MA

### **Nathan Hale Exhibit - Opening**

June 21st  
New London, CT

### **Nathan Hale Exhibit - Opening**

June 28th  
East Haddam, CT

### **4th of July Cookout**

July 4th  
East Haddam, CT

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

## Help Wanted

After the great success of hiring staff at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in New London, we are going to do the same at the War Office and the East Haddam Schoolhouse. New London saw a 90% increase in visitation within two years and that was before the cruise ships started coming in.

Both museums will also have expanded seasons from May 1st to October 31st. The War Office will be opened Thursdays to Sunday Noon to 4pm and East Haddam will be opened Wednesday to Sunday Noon to 4pm.

Grants are being pursued to help cover the initial cost of both. We have found that increased sales and donations greatly help to offset the cost of a paid docent.

We will be much better able to handle school groups and general visitors during the season. Volunteers will still be needed to cover Sundays.

Duties will include greeting visitors and giving tours. Handling merchandise sales and donations and some light cleaning as needed.

If you are interested or you know someone willing to work afternoons for a few days a week at one of the museums, please contact Stephen Shaw at 860-916-1804 or [stephen@whoistheoldguy.com](mailto:stephen@whoistheoldguy.com)

## Grand Opening of Nathan Hale Exhibits

Through a grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council, we are finalizing the new exhibits for the two Nathan Hale Schoolhouses. The project total is almost \$31,000, which includes repainting the interior and the new exhibit panels. CHC is granting us over \$12,000 and the rest is covered by our volunteers and contributions to the Nathan Hale Campaign.

Many years and effort have gone into making this happen. Historians, museum professionals, teachers and volunteers have all come together to get us to our goal.

The grand opening will be on June 21st in New London and June 28th in East Haddam. Invitations will be sent out to all.

## Oliver Ellsworth House

We are having to replace the entire heating and cooling system at the Ellsworth House owned by CTDAR. Right now the house is shut down and all piping is drained. It was time for it to go, we just wish that it had lasted through the winter. The system is so old and inefficient, that fixing it is not an option.

We are getting several bids, but are seriously considering installing a geothermal system for both environmental reasons and for a long term cost benefit (we had one oil bill for one month that was over \$1,300 in December). The geothermal system was installed at the Florence Griswold museum during their recent restoration, and they are very pleased with it. We are looking for funding from any source we can get. For the Geothermal system we can get a rebate from CL&P for up to \$5,000 and without hard numbers at this time, the system could easily run over \$40,000 for just the house, and we also want to install one on Matthies Hall, which will be less because duct work is currently in place, its just that the furnaces over there



are probably at least 25 years old.

We received one bid for a conventional system which runs on gas instead of oil, and the estimate is \$49,500 - some of which is additional duct work that is needed for part of the house and this number does not include Matthies Hall. We love our house and Matthies Hall and the need to control the climate is crucial in maintaining the integrity of our precious historical artifacts. Our endowment funds are limited although temporarily, we will probably have to borrow from them and get the installation completed as soon as possible. But we must also, replace those funds as quickly as possible. I am also filling out the form for Tourism Cares Grant Funding, but probably won't hear from them for at least 9 months and I am checking on other potential funding sources from Connecticut Clean Energy Fund and DPUC.

Thanks for reading all of this.  
Please feel free to contact me  
Mary Anne Stanley Magnuson  
Treasurer, Ellsworth Memorial Association, Inc.  
860-667-2879  
MaryAM144@hotmail.com

painting supplies for both schools.

Stephen Marshall aka Historic House Guy, has replaced floor joists under the first floor as needed since some of them had been damaged when old stair cases were cut through. The floor is so solid now compared to how it was. Now very few columns are needed in the basement unlike before.

New wide plank flooring will be put down in the coming weeks. They are sixteen feet long and in 16, 18 and 20 inch widths. We found that old the flooring was only from the 1830's, but should be covered to keep it as safe as possible. The Society of the Cincinnati has made a generous donation to pay for the new flooring.

The Nathan Hale Schoolhouses in East Haddam and New London will be ready for when the museums open on May 1st, thanks to the efforts of many.



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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
EAST HADDAM CT  
PERMIT NO. 5

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Inc.

## Patriot's Day Meeting - Luncheon

Saturday, April 26, 2008

Germania-Schwaben Club  
416 Horace Street  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06610

**10:00 AM** – Meeting \* **ALL CTSSAR MEMBERS WELCOME** \*

Continental Breakfast: Fruit, Danish, Muffins, Coffee, Tea.

**11:30 AM** – Social (Cash Bar)

**12:00 PM** – Buffet Lunch

Speaker: Eagle Scout, Essay Contest and JROTC Winners

**\$25.00 per person – Reservations MUST be received by April 21, 2008**

**~ Buffet Lunch ~**

Broiled Salmon, Fresh Porketta, Chicken Francaise, Sliced Top Round of Beef Au Jus,  
Roasted Red Potatoes, Rice Pilaf, Mixed Vegetable Medley.

**~ Dessert ~**

Selection of Mixed Pastry.

**~ Beverage ~**

Coffee or Tea – Cash Bar

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

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

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:

Bruce Lyon

200 Luchon Road

Willington, CT 06279

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Connecticut SAR**

**Directions to Germania Schwaben Club  
416 Horace Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06610  
Telephone (203) 334-9672**

**I-95 North & South**

Get off Exit 27A (Trumbull/Waterbury Route 8 Connector)  
Continue on Route 8 North to Exit 5 (Boston Avenue – Route 1)  
At traffic light at end of ramp take a left onto Boston Avenue (North 1)  
Continue straight on Boston Avenue – at sixth traffic light take a left onto East Main Street  
On East Main Street take the third right onto York Street  
On York Street take the first left onto Horace Street and go straight all the way to the end  
Club is last building on the right

**Route 8 South**

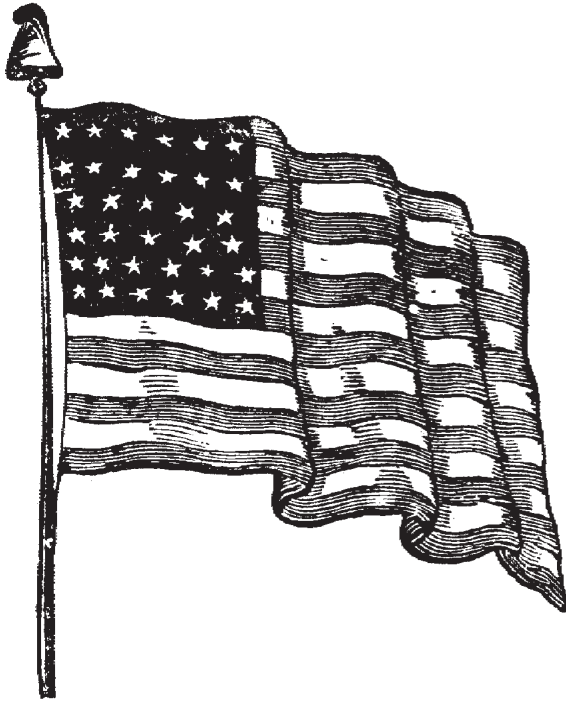
Get off Exit 5 (Boston Avenue – Route 1)  
Follow ramp off exit staying to the right hand side  
Continue straight on Boston Avenue (North 1)  
At seventh traffic light take a left onto East Main Street  
On East Main Street take the third right onto York Street  
On York Street take the first left onto Horace Street and go straight all the way to the end  
Club is last building on the right

**Merritt Parkway – North**

Get off Exit 49 South (Route 25-Bridgeport)  
Continue on Rt. 25 South and get off first exit – Exit 6 (Old Town Road)  
At the end of ramp (traffic light) take a left onto Old Town Road  
Continue straight to second traffic light and turn right onto White Plains Road (127 South)  
At second traffic light (4 way intersection with CVS on left and Cumberland Farms straight ahead) continue straight on East Main Street  
Go past the next traffic light (Dairy Queen on the right) and take the third left onto York Street  
On York Street take the first left onto Horace Street and go straight all the way to the end  
Club is last building on the right

**Merritt Parkway – South**

Get off Exit 52 and bear left for Route 8-Bridgeport  
Take Exit 7 (White Plains Road-Rt. 127)  
At the end of ramp (traffic light) take a left onto White Plains Road (127 South)  
At second traffic light (4 way intersection with CVS on left and Cumberland Farms straight ahead) continue straight on East Main Street  
Go past the next traffic light (Dairy Queen on the right) and take the third left onto York Street  
On York Street take the first left onto Horace Street and go straight all the way to the end  
Club is last building on the right



# 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.

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