Historical Society. This planning grant also from CHC with the Lebanon year we have been working on a Planning affected Lebanon. Then during the last of the American Revolution and how they our visitors and the topics and storylines (CHC), so we could explore the needs of from the Connecticut Humanities Council First the SAR received a Discovery grant year and half of planning.

Now that we are beginning the year 2010 it is hard to image that the War Office has been opened as a museum for 119 years. Opened in 1891 it became the second oldest museum in Connecticut and the first one run by the Connecticut SAR. Now as we gear up for Governor Jonathan Trumbull’s 300th birthday this October, we are coming to the end of a year and half of planning.

First the SAR received a Discovery grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC), so we could explore the needs of our visitors and the topics and storylines of the American Revolution and how they affected Lebanon. Then during the last year we have been working on a Planning grant also from CHC with the Lebanon Historical Society. This planning grant brought in Barnett Schecter the author of the Battle for New York. He has been writing a master narrative of the Revolution in Lebanon keeping a close eye on how the activities of the Council of Safety’s meetings in the War Office helped us to win the war. This narrative has brought out some great stories of dealings with loyalist prisoners, ship building, troop movements, building fortifications, the French troops and so much more which will be used by our museum and others to develop better exhibits and programs.

We have just received the great news that CHC has approved our Implementation grant for all new exhibits in the War Office. We will have reproduction furnishings and panels to tell the story of provisioning and other activities of the Council of Safety all in time for the new season at the end of April. There will be a lot of work to do. We need your support of time and donations.

This grant needs to be matched with some cash, so you will soon be receiving a mailing for the War Office Campaign as we need to raise $45,000 for all the work that needs to be done. We have plaster to fix, lots of painting, replacing narrow floor boards, stripping paint from the wide planks, rebuilding one of the stone walls and of course the exhibits too.

We will need your help with volunteer time for the rest of the match. Stephen Marshall one of our members and a professional in the restoration field will be guiding our activities as we do the work inside the museum. We have already uncovered some 18th century wainscoting on two walls of the meeting room. Why they put plaster over the original interior is hard to imagine.

Stay tuned for emails with news about work days this winter and for the grand opening of the new exhibits.

Half of the CTSSAR branches have made their $500 donations. Please make sure your branch contributes!

Compatriots recognized for outstanding service

At the Board of Managers meeting on September 26th, in Somers, Compatriots Stephen Shaw, Timothy Jacobs and Kenneth Buckbee received their Liberty Medals and/or Oak Leaf Clusters for their work in recruiting new members for the SAR. Compatriot Russell Wirtalla received the Distinguished Service Medal. The State Medal of Distinguished Service, authorized in 1998, is the highest Medal that can be awarded by a State Society President during each year of his term of office. It is presented to a Compatriot for distinguished service rendered to the State Society on the state level during a State Society’s President’s term of office. The Medal should be presented at the State Society annual meeting at the conclusion of the President’s term of office.

The State Medal of Distinguished Service is presented by the incumbent State Society President and does not require other approval. A State President may present only one Medal of Distinguished Service during each year of his tenure as State Society President. If a Compatriot while serving as President, steps down, and is later on elected to another term, that is considered two separate terms, and the President is allowed to award a State Medal of Distinguished Service medal during his second term.

A Compatriot may receive this medal only once from a State Society. Dual and transferred members may not receive this medal from more than one Society. The Medal is diamond in shape, struck in sterling silver. It has a blue SAR insignia surmounted on a white enameled background. The State Medal of Distinguished Service is trimmed in silver leaf. The ribbon is solid maroon. The medal is available in miniature and comes with a certificate.

Military members who served on active duty any time from 1940 to 2001 qualify for a higher social security payment; up to $1200 per year of earnings credited at time of application. If you served between 1957 and 1967, this benefit is only provided if you ask to receive it. A valid DD-214 must be submitted to the Social Security Office to apply. For more information go to: www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm
CTSSAR Participates in Wreaths Across America Ceremonies

Wreaths Across America, a non profit 501-c3 organization, was formed as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Arlington Wreath program was started by Morrill Worcester (Worcester Wreath) in 1992 with the donation and laying of 5000 Christmas wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. This became an annual journey for Mr. Worcester.

By 2007 the requests for more wreaths grew. The Worcester family established the non-profit group Wreaths Across America to further promote Veterans remembrance. The mission Remember, Honor and Teach characterized the projects goals perfectly.

By 2007 the requests for more wreaths grew. The Worcester family established the non-profit group Wreaths Across America to further promote Veterans remembrance. The mission Remember, Honor and Teach characterized the projects goals perfectly.

By 2008 over 300 locations held wreath laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 over seas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated.

WAA reached out to thousands of children with the message of Remember, Honor and Teach. The importance of honoring each fallen serviceman as an individual is stressed.

The wreath laying is now held annually on the second Saturday of December. December 13, 2008 was unanimously voted by the US Congress as “Wreaths Across America Day”. Wreaths Across America would not be successful without the help of the volunteers, many active organizations and the generosity of the trucking industry.

CTSSAR patriots participated in many ceremonies throughout the state and often in conjunction with DAR participants.
Grants for Our Museums

The foundations we have been applying to for grants are helping us do so much more with our museums and reach more people.

The 1772 Foundation awarded us a $10,000 grant to go towards the restoration of the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in New London on the second floor. This year we need to rebuild the fireplace, chimney, dormers and belfry. The ceiling will be re-plastered and the plank wall boards put into place. The Connecticut Humanities Council has just approved our $24,000 grant for the War Office exhibits, which is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Middlesex County Community Foundation has approved our $3,900 grant to help us build our audiences and catalog our collections for the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in East Haddam. This will pay for the purchase of PastPerfect software so we can put together our first every inventory of our small collection. Funds are included to help us build up our online and offline audience with the new version of our website which is due out soon and with the help of Facebook. We are already doing very well on Facebook with hundreds of fans for our museums and the SAR in general. A bigger group to announce events and activities.

Together with the help of our dedicated compatriots and these foundations, we are doing so much more to reach about the American Revolution.

News from the Front

Happy New Year!!! As the Connecticut Line prepares to come out of winter quarters, 2010 marks a whole new year of Revolutionary War events and activities in Connecticut, and beyond, that WE the CTSSAR will be involved in. One thing that can never be said about our State Society is, "that we do not do anything", it can only be said that, "I do not do anything", and I continue to encourage every member of our organization to take an active roll, and help to keep the history and ideals of the American Revolution ALIVE today and for future generations. We need active members now more than ever, and through your time and/or financial support, your help is greatly appreciated.

This year "The Connecticut Line" will focus on the 300th Birthday of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., Connecticut's "Rebel Governor". It is important that we, the CTSSAR, take the lead as we did in 2005 for Captain Nathan Hale's 250th Birthday, hosting the largest single event, the weekend encampment at the East Haddam Schoolhouse, and also the five separate ceremonies at various Captain Nathan Hale sites throughout the State. Our Country's greatest Commander in Chief, General George Washington in 1785 said of Trumbull, "A long and well spent life in the service of his Country, justly entitled him to the first place among Patriots." To make such a statement of a man in light of all the great founders and patriots known to Washington, at a time when "giants walked the earth" is an honor to the service and sacrifice of Trumbull.

As Commander of the Color Guard, "The Connecticut Line", and as Chairman of the CTSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee, our main focus this year will be commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Birth of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. It is also personally important to me, descending from the Trumbulls of Lebanon, Gov. Trumbull being my ancestral Uncle.

As in past years we will also continue to commemorate the 200 patriots who served under the command of Captain Thomas Knowlton at the Battle of Bunker Hill on Bunker Hill Day in June, and the Battle of Groton Heights and the Burning of New London at Fort Griswold in September.

On January 30th, the Color Guard will hold it's annual meeting and we will begin to discuss our plans for 2010. CTSSAR members interested in joining the Color Guard and participating in the upcoming events this year should contact me for membership information. Currently we have 62 members in uniform, and we are always looking for new members.

Put your faith in God and keep your powder dry,

Todd L. Gerlander

Welcome New
CTSSAR Compatriots

Charles Donald Smith
Richard Gaines Bartram
William Henry Robbins
George Thomas Ferguson
Edward Norris Sailer
Jesse Eugene Bartley
Duncan Robert Woodruff
Adam Joseph Woodruff
Alan Harold Booth
Leland Mondell Moore
Joshua Thomas Lessard
Jesse Eugene Bartley

In Memoriam

Frederick Kiefer Biebel
Eugene Anthony DePaola
Arthur Nash Hutchinson
James Walter Lathrop
Lavius Arad Robinson
Richard Theodore Wells

Children of the American Revolution
Happy New Year Connecticut SAR!

Nicolle Walden, C.S.C.A.R. State President, and I hope that you had a wonderful holiday and are as enthused about 2010 as we are. Every time I go to a DAR, SAR, or C.A.R. event lately, I seem to meet another member of SAR who is interested in helping with the C.A.R. I can’t tell you how happy this makes me and I encourage you to continue spreading the good word about C.A.R. Stories of how strong Connecticut C.A.R. used to be in the 1970’s inspire me to reach out to all of you so that our membership and attendance at State, Regional, and National events can once again be high. Just as your membership thrives.set in the younger ones coming up in the ranks, ours too needs the little ones as well as the teens/teenagers who are looking to make C.A.R. a fun and wonderful experience. Our State Conference this year will be on March 7 at the Historic Keeler Tavern in Ridgefield. Please contact me if your family would like to attend. All 10 and younger are invited to serve as pages and aids...even if their C.A.R. paperwork is not yet in process. The sooner that they become involved, the better!

Teri Fischer
Senior State President
C.S.C.A.R.
As I reflect on the past year’s activity, I continue to be amazed at all that everyone contributes to the Connecticut Society and its objects. The selfless service so many of you provide is a tribute to your patriotism and would of course leave your ancestors proud.

The year closed with the Massing of the Colors in Wethersfield, CT. The Connecticut Line was the most prestigious and outstanding escort of your Society colors. Their professionalism and dedication to the period still fascinates me.

Many Compatriots participated in Wreaths Across America ceremonies. State Secretary Rivard and Compatriots Messier and Stedman participated in the ceremony at Lebanon and Compatriot Dies reports that at least seven members of the Roger Sherman Branch participated in the ceremony in Norwalk. To all those that participated and those not mentioned here, my grateful appreciation for your service rendered.

2010 will be another exciting year with much work to be completed at the War Office in preparation of ceremonies in Lebanon for the Jonathan Trumbull 300. Please consider volunteering to help the Property Committee with the work on the War Office. Compatriot Stephen Shaw is working very hard for the Society and needs help in completing the work in time for the celebration.

I call on all Branches to actively participate in the George and Stella Knight Essay Contest. Compatriot Paul Shupe is our state committee chair. His email address is: pshupepsr@gmail.com. Visit the NSSAR website to refresh your memory of the details of the award. Information is found in the SAR Handbook, Volume III. The following web address will get you to Volume III: http://www.sar.org/node/211.

Our next State Society meeting will be February 20. It will be a Board of Managers meeting. Sometime ago, the Society voted to call all meetings called for in our Constitution and By-laws, State Society meetings, as a way to encourage more Compatriots to attend. I encourage all Compatriots to attend all State Society meetings whether they are Board of Managers’ meetings, our Annual meeting, or social functions. Your active participation will serve to make us stronger.

I remain your obedient Servant,

Kenneth Duane Roach
President, CTSSAR

wwwCONNECTICUTSARORG
The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution  
~ Washington’s Birthday Luncheon ~  
SATURDAY, February 20, 2010  
In Honor of George Washington’s Birthday.  

Abigail’s Grille and Wine Bar  
(formerly Pettibones Tavern built in 1780)  
4 Hartford Road  
Simsbury, CT 06089  
860 264-1580  

10:30 AM – CTSSAR Board of Managers Meeting (All members welcome)  
12:00 PM – SOCIAL (Cash Bar available)  
12:30 PM – CTSSAR Luncheon (Members and their wives are encouraged to attend)  
1:30 PM – Karin Peterson: “Old New-Gate: America’s First Prison”  
Karin Peterson is the Museum Director for the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. Her responsibilities include oversight of Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine in East Granby, the Sloane-Stanley Museum in Kent, the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury, and the Henry Whitfield State Museum in Guilford  

Menu  
Salad (2 choices)  
Entrée (Choose from 3 entrees on a special luncheon menu)  
Dessert (2 choices)  
Coffee or tea  

$30.00 per Person  

Luncheon reservations must be received by February 16th  

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 Abigail’s Grille and Wine Bar

From I-84
Take exit #39 (Farmington-Route 4), follow route 4 to the second light. Turn right on Route 10 North. Follow Rte. 10 into Avon to second light. (Approximately 10 Minutes) At the stop light, cross over Rte 44 to Nod Road. Follow Nod Road to stop light. Take left, cross over the bridge and ABIGAIL’S will be on the right at the corner of Rte 185 and Rte. 10/202.

From I-91
If heading North on I-91, follow to Rte 9 North. Follow Rte 9 to exit #32. Follow directions from I-84 above. If heading South on I-91, follow to exit #40. (Bradley International Airport) This will put you on Rte. 20 West. Continue to center of Granby. Turn left on Rte 10 South. Follow Rte.10 into Simsbury until you reach the intersection of Rte 10 and Rte 185.

From Rte 44
From Winsted/Torrington, take Rte 44 East into Avon. Take Left onto Rte. 10 North. Follow six miles into Simsbury. ABIGAIL’S is on the corner of Rte 10 and Rte 185.

From Hartford, take Rte. 44 West over Avon Mountain into Avon. At the base of the Mountain at the light, turn right on Nod Road. Follow Nod road until it ends. Take a left and cross the bridge. ABIGAIL’S will be on the right.