It was an honor for me to attend the 120th Annual Congress in Cleveland, OH in June. This was my first Congress and I hope to have the opportunity as your state president to attend a few more. Compatriot and State Trustee Charles Riegle attended as well, along with both our wives. Being from New England, you make many new friends and, I never knew I had so many cousins!

Compatriots Riegle and Shaw worked together to have a Connecticut SAR Museums Table just outside of the National Merchandise Shop. Stephen sent a box of rack cards, and other items to Charles, who setup a nice display. Charles and I manned the table and had plenty of interested compatriots stop by to chat. Free stuff is always a big draw. Next year, we’re planning to have an even better display.

The Connecticut Society received the C.A.R Activity Award and Streamer, with thanks due to Compatriot Ken Roach for all his efforts over the past year. On an individual level, Compatriot Tim Jacobs was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster for his Liberty Medal, which he received just last year.

On the business side, J. David Sympson of Kentucky, was installed as our new President General in a very impressive ceremony, with the swearing in, and the George Washington ring presentation.

The CTSSAR resolution for George Washington to posthumously receive the Medal of Honor was passed unanimously and now will be forwarded to Rep. Chris Murphy. We also had a ballot runoff for Genealogist General. Incumbent Joe Dooley had to beat back a challenge from Paul Hays, over not wanting to accept DAR applications as proof, if they had only a center checkmark. See Tim or Stephen if you want to know more.

Good news, SAR applications prior to 1970 will be made available via Ancestry.com in the next year or so.

Compatriot Charles McGillicuddy of Maine was installed as our New England Vice President General. Some of you may know him. We look forward to working with him this upcoming year and inviting him to our future luncheons.

For me the highlights of the National Congress, besides just being there; were the Memorial Service, Youth Awards Luncheon, the two banquets, and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Tour.

Finally, as a Society we are authorized for more than just the two delegates at Congress. Please consider attending next year’s Congress in Winston-Salem, NC, as a delegate of the Connecticut Society.

60th Annual Ceremonies to Honor the Signers of the Declaration of Independence Hosted By Gen. David Humphreys Branch No. 1

On the morning of July 4th, at the historic Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, members of Branch #1 conducted the moving ceremony to honor the signers of the Declaration of Independence with special tributes paid to Rogers Sherman and David Humphreys. Compatriot Tim Wilkins hosted the event. Honored participants of the ceremonies were the 2nd Company Governor’s Foot Guard, 6th Conn. Regt., Company of Light Infantry and flag bearers from Boy Scout Troop 5. Speakers for the event were Damien Cregue, CTSSAR compatriot and current Wadsworth Branch President and Daniel Cruson, Newtown Town Historian.

Wreaths were presented and placed by Katie and Holly Mirabella. Members from the Humphreys Branch, our new CTSSAR State President, as well as a number of DAR and C.A.R. members were in attendance. If you have the opportunity, consider taking two hours of your July 4th morning to attend next year’s ceremonies. Those who love their country and our sacred history, owe it to show up and support these events. I’m sure you will be as moved as so many of us there were.
New Exhibits at the War Office

At long last, we have a new exhibit at the War Office museum in Lebanon. This was all to coincide with Gov. Jonathan Trumbull’s 300th birth year. This is the first major change in exhibit in since the late 1980’s when the new foundation was put in place. There was a lot of planning and work behind the scenes to put this into place. First there was the discovery grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC). This grant brought together all the museums around the green to brainstorm about the important topics and themes relating to the role Lebanon played in the American Revolution. This process reconfirmed many of our initial ideas and added more to be included. Next was the planning grant also from CHC, which allowed us to hire Barnet Schecter to research and write a master narrative of Lebanon history during the period. The master narrative is now available for all the museums to use for planning and to help tell the unique stories of Lebanon. The planning grant also covered a well thought-out exhibit plan for the War Office and a plan for an online game which is being finished now. Now for a ton of preparation inside as the interior had not been worked on since 1987. There was the usual peeling paint, cracked plaster and poor color choices. And of course many of the antiques we had inside either belonged to the DAR Museum or where from the wrong time period. We worked with the Trumbull Sr. House and returned the items they had so graciously loaned us for many years. The non-period items are slowly being auctioned off by Nadeau’s Auction Gallery and the proceeds are helping to pay for the exhibit. I’m so proud of our many SAR compatriot’s who gave up their time to help patch the plaster, scrape paint and paint even more. We even replaced the federal era doors with 1770’s doors to be as fitting as possible. The Coast Guard cadet’s also lent a big hand on multiple days to paint and they worked hard. For months, we purchased reproduction barrels, boxes, crates, clothing, paper, furniture and the list goes on. All of our planning showed that students and adults learn best in a hands-on environment, so the exhibit is now mostly sensory. You can pick things up, sit in the chairs in the meeting room and write on paper. We do, of course, have some period pieces which are visible and out-of-reach. With everyone’s efforts, the exhibit was ready in time for a visit by the DAR President General and many dignitaries from the DAR at the end of April. Most of our school groups visit in May and June, so we have already had great feedback by students and teachers. There is a little bit left to do inside which will be done off-season starting next fall. The stone walls around the “Pentagon of Connecticut” have just been rebuilt as well, since they were starting to fall apart. I can’t thank all of our financial supporters enough as without your match for the grants and all the volunteer time match, this project wouldn’t have come together. Now we can teach even more people about what our patriot ancestors did and sacrificed to win independence.
News from the Front

It has been a very busy summer for the CTSSAR Color Guard. Since my last report in April, we marched in several parades (Memorial Day, Independence Day), participated in the Schooldays at the Schoolhouse event, Parade in New London, the ceremonies at Bunker Hill, held Connecticut Independence Day again at the War Office, participated in Sail fest at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in New London, and took part in the Revolutionary War reenactment at Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

The Connecticut Line received 2 awards this year; we received a Third Place for Best Marching Unit in the Lebanon Memorial Day Parade, and we found out that we won a Third Place Ribbon for Best Marching Unit in the 2009 Columbia Independence Day Parade.

It is also my honor to report that the CTSSAR Color Guard has raised and donated $1,150.00 towards the CTSSAR War Office Fund Raising Campaign. Three Huzzahs!!! to the members who came out and supported Connecticut Line events. As CTSSAR Color Guard members, we are all volunteers, and it is great to see the fruits of our labor go to this very important cause.

As we near the end of our 2010 Calendar of Events, we still have a lot to do. On September 5th, we will once again serve as Color Guard for the Ceremonies at Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park in Groton, commemorating the Battle of Groton Heights. On September 11th we will present a military exhibit at the War Office, "From Puritan to Patriot, Connecticut’s military from it’s Puritan Foundation to the American Revolution". It should be a great display of reproduction arms and armor of the 17th and 18th centuries.

October 2010 will mark the 300th Birth anniversary. On Tuesaday, October 12th (Trumbull’s actual birth date), the CTSSAR will conduct wreath laying Ceremonies/Musket Salutes with the CTDAR at the Trumbull House, War Office, and the Trumbull Tomb. On Sunday, October 24th, the annual Massing of the Colors will also be held in Lebanon. Finally, we will once again be marching in the Hartford Veterans Day Parade on November 7. Well that’s it for now, the rest will have to wait until the next newsletter.

Put your faith in God and keep your powder dry,

Todd L. Gerlander, Colonel Commanding

October 1 - 3, 2010. I am expecting every member of the Connecticut Line to participate at this major historic anniversary. On Tuesday, October 12th (Trumbull’s actual birth date), the CTSSAR will conduct wreath laying Ceremonies/Musket Salutes with the CTDAR at the Trumbull House, War Office, and the Trumbull Tomb. On Sunday, October 24th, the annual Massing of the Colors will also be held in Lebanon. Finally, we will once again be marching in the Hartford Veterans Day Parade on November 7. Well that’s it for now, the rest will have to wait until the next newsletter.

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Connecticut DAR Liaison & C.A.R. Officer’s Report

There are so many exciting things going on with both the Connecticut C.A.R. and the DAR! Though I feel stretched thin, at times, the work I have been fortunate enough to be involved in with both of these organizations has been extremely rewarding so far. Both of my daughters are new members of the C.S.C.A.R. and they have embraced the organization fully. The children in our State Society are so welcoming and caring. I was struck by how knowledgeable the kids are too. Many can recite the American’s Creed, as well as the C.A.R. Creed from memory. They show sincere reverence for the flag and run their meetings according to Robert’s Rules of Order. Besides attending our first local society meeting, we also participated in the Derby-Shelton Memorial Day Parade. Additionally, we attended both the 2010 National Convention in Washington D.C. this past April, as well as the New England Regional Meeting in late July. At the national convention, Connecticut had the third most delegates there! At the Regional Meeting, we had the second most members attend. This is a testament to the revitalization of the state society! My wife, Pam, has accepted a role as Senior Membership Chair. I had previously agreed to be the Senior Society Registrar for the C.S.C.A.R. and I hope others will take up the mantle and offer their services to the C.A.R., as well. Chairmanships are still available. The young men, especially, would benefit from enthusiastic and positive male SR/SAR role models. As for the DAR Liaison program, 2010 is shaping up to be a banner year again. Referrals are coming in with regularity. At the time of this article, we have 34 DAR referrals in for 2010! Currently, we have 15 approved referrals and 2 are still at national awaiting approval. Of special note, are the referrals of Jackie Lane of the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter, DAR in Fairfield. She referred and paid for 8 of her sons/grandsons to join the CTSSAR. I feel especially gratified because I worked closely with Jackie, filling out each of the applications and them on water-paper and mailings forth to get the fruits of our labor. The SAR marked doing back and it done. Chauded a of me and the SAR Appreciation one weekend when I was visiting my in-laws in Stratford. Also, I worked with L.A. Drinkwater to do the same for her 3 recently approved sons. My counter-part, Carol Bauby, was also especially helpful with those applications. She is a true partner.
I want to thank everyone for their support as your new state president. Since taking office on April 17th, I’ve been busy with trips across the state and elsewhere. April 20th, saw me in Boston at the Union Club, meeting our fellow compatriots from the New England District and PG Ed Butler. JROTC presentations at Danbury, Bethel, Naugatuck, Waterbury, New Britain and Groton kept me busy until early June.

In May, I had an opportunity to have lunch with the Society of Cincinnati on the green in Lebanon and to tour the War Office. I presided over the Rev. Baldwin Branch annual luncheon on May 22. In Late June, it was the 120th Congress in Cleveland.

July 4th was a great day, I attended the Humphreys Branch Grove Street Cemetery event and later that day enjoyed a wonderful picnic at the Nathan Hale School property in East Haddam. All in all, it has been exciting first few months as your president. That being said, I would like to attend a meeting of each branch during the upcoming year and bring greetings from the state society and encourage branch members to attend at least one state meeting a year. Tom Gorin does a terrific job of finding exceptional guest speakers, which would be of interest to all compatriots.

To all the branch presidents, I ask that you periodically send me emails, letting me know what your branch is doing and reminding me of upcoming events.

Our society is doing extremely well, besides being the largest in New England, we have some of the most dedicated compatriots in all of the SAR. To you, and you know who you are, I want to thank you for your service and look forward to your continued support during this next year!

And lastly, special thanks to Ken Roach for his two years of outstanding leadership in the Connecticut Society!

Now and always, I remain your obedient servant.

David Joseph Perkins
CTSSAR President