



# The Connecticut Line

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

## Volunteers Set Out To Restore the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse

By T. M. Jacobs

Earlier in the year, during the chilly January and February weather, volunteers gathered at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in New London, Connecticut to begin the demolition phase of the restoration project for the famed schoolhouse. Braving the seasonal temperatures to remove two hundred years of debris were: Tim Curtis, Tyler Smith, Kathleen Smith, Ted Nelson, Stephen Shaw, Stephen Marshall, Greg Peck and Fred Rivard.



The restoration process began with removing the plaster from the second floor which Steve Marshall, known as the “Historic House Guy,” said “has sustained some damage due to five moves, and the effects of mother nature.”

A second day at removing plaster from between the lath and debris from the attic space revealed a large squirrel’s nest. It also appeared that the wide planks are likely original to the building and has two main carrying beams with wind braces for added sturdiness.

Built in 1773 on the corner of State and Union Streets, the “Union School” as it was originally known, has become a staple in Connecticut and Revolutionary War history as the schoolhouse where Nathan Hale taught 32 youngsters in 1774 and 1775.

The building functioned as a schoolhouse until the 1830s at which time it was moved to Golden Street and shortly afterward became the Bethel Worship Hall, then a private residence. In 1899, after 8 years of negotiations with the city, it was purchased by the

## Operation Support Our Troops - OSOT

Operation Support Our Troops is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting our troops serving in harms’ way. Specifically, OSOT is an organization existing to support our deployed service members in a positive manner, to send goods and letters to boost their morale and supplement their basic needs with a “touch, taste and smell” from home, pure and simple. We are NOT an organization that questions military policy, we are here to SUPPORT our troops of every branch of service in any way we can.

OSOT was founded by parents of West Point graduates. Since it’s inception in Feb 2002, it has grown exponentially ~ but so too has the need. While the vast majority of our members remain the parents of West Point cadets and recent grads, our ranks also include older USMA grads and the parents of some non-West Point affiliated soldiers who are deployed in harms’ way. OSOT’s target audience:

any and all troops, be they Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, active duty, National Guard, Activated Reservists, officer and enlisted alike. Many of the names on our support list are the names of young West Point

graduates, who in turn write, asking that their soldiers be added to the list. The Chaplain’s Corp has also been instrumental in helping us, not only by supplying names of those soldiers with whom they come in contact, but also by accepting our donations and acting as a clearing house so that ALL soldiers can benefit.

Compatriot Dave Perkins and his wife, Pat, have been members of OSOT since Oct 2002. Their oldest



## The Connecticut Line March 2007

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

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### Deadlines

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

## Nathan Hale Campaign Update

The Campaign is going very well. We have now raised over \$45,000 and with pledges we are over \$50,000. The Humphreys Branch just donated \$1,000.

We still have quite a ways to go and there are many SAR members who we hope will help at any level they are able.

With the help of many members of the SAR, DAR, Society of Cincinnati and the public, we now have the funds needed to match the grant for the new barn in East Haddam.

We are still waiting for a final decision about that grant as well as two others.

There are still more grants which will be submitted in the coming months.

Please help with these worthy projects to protect our past. Our goal of \$170,000 is minor in today's world of fund raising.

## President's Report

Dear Compatriots,

This will be my last President's Report for the Newsletter. My year as State President went by really fast. At our upcoming annual luncheon, I will turn over the reigns of the CTSSAR to our President elect, the Rev. Robert G. Carroon. I first met Jerry when I joined the SUV in 1993, and then the SAR in 1995. I know Jerry will continue to keep the CTSSAR at the forefront of Revolutionary War activities throughout the State.

I would like to thank Compatriot Michael Chuckta, Past President of the Silliman Branch, for putting together a **GREAT** George Washington's Birthday Luncheon in Bridgeport.

I would also like to Thank the Society's Committee Chairmen; Timothy Wilkins (Eagle Scout), David Perkins (JROTC), Norman Gilman (Knight Essay), Stephen Shaw (Property) (Nathan Hale Fundraising) for doing a **GREAT** job this year. I would also like to thank my fellow State Officers for their support, and the CTSSAR Color Guardsmen, a group of compatriots I can always count on.

I am happy to report that the CTSSAR Color Guard, **The Connecticut Line**, is the strongest it has ever been, with nearly 40 members dressed in Revolutionary War uniforms. I would like to congratulate the Putnam, Wolcott, and Huntington Branches for making that possible. At our last State Meeting I pointed out that we had Branch Color Guard representation in every corner of the State except the Southwest. I stressed the urgent need for the creation of a Branch or combined Branch Color Guard in Southwestern Connecticut, and I am happy to report that members of the Mead and Sherman Branches have stepped forward to accomplish this. This year The Connecticut Line should have Detachments in all four corners of the State.

Looking ahead into the future we will commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Birth of the Marquis de Lafayette on September 6, 2007, and the society will need to start making plans for October 2010 when Connecticut will celebrate the 300th Birthday of Governor Jonathan Trumbull. Having chaired the 2005 CTSSAR Nathan Hale 250 event, I can say that it is not too early to start planning. As the owners and maintainers of **The War Office**, the CTSSAR again must take the lead on this important commemoration; for in the words of George Washington, "Except for Jonathan Trumbull, the war could not have been carried to a successful conclusion".

Our next State Meeting will be our Annual Patriot's Day Luncheon on April 21st in Plainville. Again, this meeting is **OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY**. You do **NOT** have to be an officer to attend. Members are also encouraged to bring their wives to the Luncheon. We had great attendance at our George Washington's Birthday Luncheon in February, nearly 40 people attended.

I will close my last President's Report with more words from George Washington, our Commander-in-Chief and the First of Patriots. "Conquer or Die", is as relevant today for our society, as when they were first spoken during the struggle for American Independence. They are words to remember in our ever increasing daily battles to keep the American Revolution and its ideals historically correct, **NOT** politically or revisionist correct.

Patriotically, Todd L. Gerlander, CTSSAR President

son, Dave, and daughter-in-law, Ann, are 1997 grads and their youngest son, Jim, is a 2006 grad. They started sending out packages in the fall when Jim was a plebe at West Point. Their daughter-in-law, Ann was deployed to Iraq from March 2003 to 2004, South of Baghdad.

Besides sending to Ann, they have received the names of soldiers through OSOT deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. Initially, we had sent boxes for distribution through these contacts that had agreed to receive and distribute our packages. Then once a soldier or civilian wrote back to us to thank us, we started to send packages directly to him/her. We keep sending packages to a soldier as long as a soldier is deployed. We've had help from schools, scout groups and churches during last winter and spring and we've maintained contact with up to 50 soldiers. Some of those soldiers have come home. Some have come home and now returned again, and some are new "names" that we just got off the list for the first time. We feel that sending packages is the least we can do to help all of the troops who are willing to serve our country.

It is humbling to be a part of OSOT ~ the messages received from grateful troops keeps us ever mindful of their needs, and our need to support them ~ to ensure that they know that they are not forgotten. The rules of OSOT are simple, but the very continuation of OSOT depends on each member's adherence to these rules:

- 1.) Because security is a prime concern, we NEVER share names/addresses with anyone.
- 2.) We never give out information about troops to anyone.
- 3.) All rules for packing boxes will continue as stated:
  - \* No home-baked goods unless you are sending to your own son or daughter
  - \* All food items MUST be in their unopened original packages
  - \* All boxes will be packed and inspected by military family members
  - \* All postal and custom regulations will be followed.

The reputation of OSOT amongst our soldiers is excellent ... They recognize the OSOT labels adorning our members' boxes, and know that the goodies contained therein will be wonderful and are intended to be shared with all.

Over the past five+ years, OSOT members have worked off a "wish list" that has been comprised of the wishes and needs of our soldiers. We send different items during the different seasons. We focus on the geographic area to which the box is sent, the weather and the degree of "creature comforts" that the troop might have. We also have the capability to handle special requests that may come in from a particular unit, or from one of the Chaplains. We never interpose our wishes upon the troops ~ our purpose is to serve them with what they need, when they need it. We have also been working closely with the Chaplains at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, and have provided much needed civilian clothing and hygiene products for our wounded soldiers receiving medical treatment.

OSOT members remain steadfast that we must never lose sight of our mission, nor let anything detract us from that mission. We will, in short, be here, as long as they are there ....

For more information about OSOT or to donate please visit their website: <http://www.west-point.org/family/support-our-troops/>

Both the Roger Sherman Branch and the Ebenezer Baldwin Branch have been involved in this wonderful effort of support.

## Upcoming Events

### **Patriots Day Parade**

April 16th  
Concord & Lexington, CT

### **Connecticut SAR Annual Meeting**

April 21st  
J. Timothy's  
Plainville, CT

### **School Day at the Schoolhouse**

June 1st  
Nathan Hale Schoolhouse  
East Haddam, CT

### **Open House Day**

June 9th  
Hale Schoolhouse - East Haddam  
Hale Schoolhouse - New London  
& War Office - Lebanon, CT

### **Grove Street Cemetery Ceremony**

July 4th  
Grove Street Cemetery  
New Haven, CT

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

July 4th  
Nathan Hale Schoolhouse  
East Haddam, CT

### **117th Annual SAR Congress**

July 7th to 11th  
Williamsburg Lodge  
Williamsburg, VA

### **250th Birthday of Lafayette**

September 6th  
Hartford, 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.

Remember that we are the owners of our three museums; the two Nathan Hale Schoolhouses and the War Office in Lebanon. We count on our membership to volunteer to be docents during the summer season.

It's simple and you can get details from Stephen Shaw at [stephen@whoistheoldguy.com](mailto:stephen@whoistheoldguy.com)

## On Location

On February 24th in South Glastonbury, Fred Rivard, John Towle & Bonnie, and Stephen Shaw were on location to help with the filming of a new documentary called "... and the Pursuit of Liberty", which is focused on CT's role during the Revolution. If we look like we're cold it's because we weren't acting as it was very windy and cold on the Connecticut River.



## Eagle Scout Winner

Whomever said that a small state society can't compete against the big guys can now eat crow.

Charles McBride who is now our Connecticut winner for the third year in a row has won first place against all other Eagle Scouts in the National SAR Eagle Scout Contest.

When the next SAR Congress rolls around in July, Charles will be collecting his prize winning check for \$8,000.

Mr. McBride has won before for the Sherman Branch and the Connecticut Society and has placed high each year nationally, but he kept pressing forward and his hard work has paid off.

We congratulate him and his parents who have supported his efforts through the years.

We also want to thank Timothy Wilkins and Don Rowland for working so hard for the Scouts.

SAR, moved to the Ancient Burying Ground where on June 17, 1901 it was dedicated as a museum. The last moved done in 1988 places the structure at its present location.

"The demolition phase unraveled the mystery of what the school looked like in Nathan's time," said Marshall. Discovered in the 1773 structure was evidence of dormers on the east side of the house, "perhaps" a second floor fireplace, the original wide pine flooring, the belfry and indication that there was a fire sometime after Benedict Arnold burned the city of New London.

As the restoration continues, more glimpses of what the American Revolutionary War era was like will certainly come to light.

To learn more about the restoration and the Nathan Hale New London Schoolhouse, please visit [www.connecticutsar.org](http://www.connecticutsar.org).

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



TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## Patriot's Day Annual Luncheon

**Saturday, April 21, 2007**

In Honor of Patriot's Day, our annual state meeting will be held at the historic J. Timothy's Tavern in Plainville. This is our annual meeting to elect officers and present awards for the Eagle Scout, Knight Essay, JROTC and other SAR contests.

J. Timothy's Tavern  
143 New Britain Avenue  
Plainville, Connecticut 06062  
(860)747-6813

10:30 AM – Arrival

10:45 AM – Meeting (All Members Welcome)

12:00 PM – Luncheon (Members and their wives are encouraged to attend)

Menu: (Choice of Entrée)

- English Cut of Prime Rib
- Stuffed Chicken
- Citrus Salmon

Garden Salad  
Chocolate Cake  
Coffee or Tea  
Cash Bar

**\$30.00 per person – Luncheon Reservations MUST be received by April 10<sup>th</sup>.**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make Checks Payable to: **Connecticut SAR**

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**Directions:**

From the Middletown Area:

Rt. 9 North – take exit 28 (72 West), then take exit 33 (Rt. 372).

Take the first exit, exit 2 (New Britain Avenue).

At the end of the exit take a left and J. Timothy's Tavern will be on your right on the corner.

From the Hartford Area:

84 West – take exit 33 (Rt. 372). Take the first exit, exit 2 (New Britain Avenue).

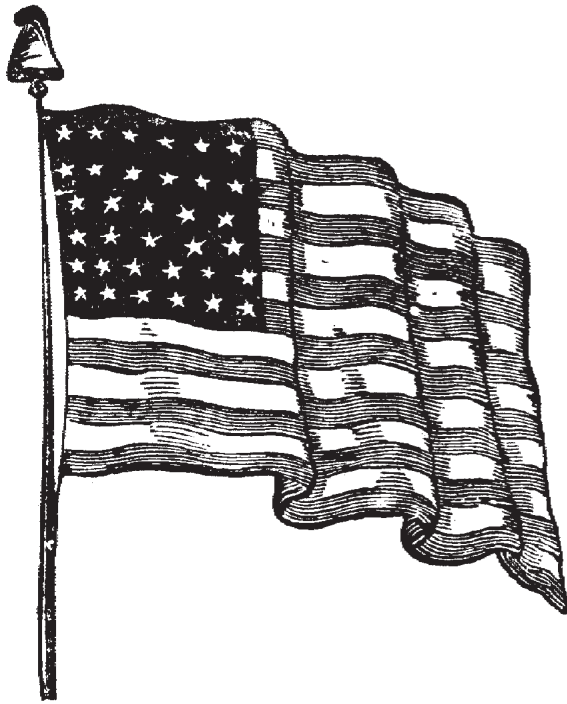
At the end of the exit take a left and J. Timothy's Tavern will be on your right on the corner.

From the Waterbury Area:

84 East – take exit 34 (Crooked Street). At the end of the ramp take a left onto Crooked Street. Go to the light, take a left onto Rt. 372.

Follow for approx. a ½ mile and J. Timothy's Tavern will be on your right.

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# 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,  
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