



The Connecticut Line

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

WELCOME NEW CTSSAR COMPATRIOTS

- David Jonathan Franklin
- Jared Shalling Franklin
- Erich LeDonne Reichert
- George John Reichert
- Alan Harold Booth
- Leland Mondell Moore, Jr.
- Edward Norris Sailer
- Adam Joseph Woodruff
- Duncan Robert Woodruff

WAR OFFICE CAMPAIGN!

The War Office Campaign is about to start to raise funds for restoration, new exhibits, and to add capital to our endowment to permanently support the museum. The War Office is the second oldest house museum in the state of Connecticut. The SAR opened the doors to the

museum in 1891 to share the history of the Pentagon of Connecticut. Well over 500 meetings of the Council of Safety were held in this small building by Gov Jonathan Trumbull and many other council members between 1775 and 1783. Major figures of the American Revolution stepped foot within its walls; such as Washington,

Knox, Putnam, Lauzun, Huntington and so many more. The happenings at



these meetings eventually earned us the title of Provision State for the role they played in supplying the troops.

All funds raised will go towards replacing the narrow plank flooring, removing the paint from the original flooring, repairing plaster, repainting, repairing the stone walls and so on. We

are about to submit a grant to the Connecticut Humanities Council to help fund a new exhibit, so **funds need to be raised** to match that grant. We will also need volunteers to help with some of the work. Lastly, we hope to raise enough funds to add to our endowment, which could help permanently support a part time tour guide, so the doors can stay opened for more school children and visitors during a longer season.

More information will be forthcoming, so check your mail and please help support to we can teach the history of the American Revolution. You can make an immediate donation via our CTSSAR website by following these steps below:

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1st step: A red arrow points to the 'Online Store' link in the top navigation bar.

2nd step: A red arrow points to the 'War Office' category in the left-hand menu.

3rd step: A red arrow points to the 'War Office' product listing, which shows 'War Office Plaque' for \$5.00.

SO, YOU'RE NEW TO HEREDITARY AND PATRIOTIC SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP?

Editors Note: This article was published in another society publication and due to the favorable responses, I have decided to include it in this issue of "The Connecticut Line" for the benefit of CTSSAR compatriots



Have you recently joined any of the many

fine hereditary and patriotic societies that exist in this country,



"Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves, therefore, are its only safe depositories."

like our own Sons of the American Revolution? Have you wondered, like I had, where you can go for more information about those organizations? In the many hours I've spent doing my genealogical research online, I have come across many excellent websites devoted to its pursuit. Of course, one of the best advertised and well-known is **ancestry.com**. Our own CTSSAR Compatriot, Stephen Shaw, is a webmaster for many excellent "h & p" websites, including **connecticutsar.org**. Did you know, for example, that you could pay your annual dues via this website? One of the more informational websites dedicated to the hereditary society community as a whole is **hereditary.us**. This website is run by Barry Howard and contains pages and pages of useful information. For example, it lists every known American hereditary society, its insignia and the order of founding. This is



extremely useful information when you need to get your society med-



als mounted or if you would like to see what a particular societies insignia looks like. Many prominent members of the hereditary society community are featured on this website, including our own Reverend Canon Jerry Carroon. At a recent function, two members asked me where I had my miniature insignia mounted. Trish Gist of **militaryimagemaker.com** did that work. Because we do not offer free advertising for "for-profit" organizations, I have arranged a special discount with Trish to offer CTSSAR members. Compatriots will receive an additional 10% discount. Just mention this publication and this offer will be good until the end of the year (12/31/2009). If you have any information like this that would be useful to compatriots, please email the editor.

QUOTES FROM THOMAS JEFFERSON - RUSS WIRTALLA

I was in the Somers Town Hall today and I saw these hanging in the Tax Collectors Office. When I commented on them, the Tax Collector gave me a copy. Here are a few of my favorites. They make you think that Tom is still with us:

"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

"It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world."

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

"My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government."

"The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

"When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall be-

come as corrupt as Europe."

"To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

And from Mark Twain, we have this:

"If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed. If you do read the newspaper you are misinformed."

THE CONNECTICUT LINE CTSSAR

Since new members are always coming into the Society, I thought I would introduce myself, my officers, and explain who and what this "Connecticut Line" CTSSAR Living History/Color Guard Unit is that everyone is hearing about.

My name is Todd Gerlander, a past Branch President (Gen. Israel Putnam) and CTSSAR State Society President. I have commanded Branch, State and District SAR Color Guards for the past 15 years, and am currently the Colonel/Commander of the Connecticut Line. Our unit's Lieutenant-Colonel is Russell Wirtalla, a past Branch President (Gen. Israel Putnam), CTSSAR State Society President, and New England District Vice-President General. Russ was also a charter member of the original CTSSAR Color Guard. Our Major is Michael Juhase, also a member of the General Israel Putnam Branch. Serving as the unit's Aide-de-Camp is Captain Bruce Cunard, a member of the Capt. Nathan Hale Branch. The above

mentioned members are termed, "Field Commanders". Serving under these Field Commanders are the Captains who in turn command the "Branch Detachments" that were raised in many of our branches throughout the State Society including; Hale, Mead, Putnam, Sherman, Wadsworth and Wolcott. Together we all form the Connecticut Line, and help to fulfill the objectives of our society.

The Connecticut Line is always looking for more compatriots to step for-



Commander Gerlander

ward and answer the call, and to take the knowledge that you have on the American Revolution, and to pass it onto the public. We pass that knowledge on through "Living-History", a means that we believe works best to bring history to life. Currently we have 60 compatriots in uniform, but, we are always looking for new members. If you have an interest in joining the Connecticut Line, please contact me.

We have many sources for uniforms, accoutrements, etc. More information and hundreds of photos of what we do are posted on-line at:

www.ConnecticutLine.org

Todd Gerlander, Commander
The Connecticut Line CTSSAR



C.A.R. NEWS

Communication is the focus for Connecticut C.A.R. with our theme "Communicating Revolutionary Style with C.S.C.A.R." Our state project is to learn how the fife and drum were the "cell phones" for the soldiers in the Revolutionary War. With the money we raise from selling the drum lapel pins and sweatshirts, C.S.C.A.R. will buy cell phone cards for our soldiers fighting for liberty and freedom today.

We also want to have more communication with DAR and to have C.A.R. representation at all of your events to support you. The ultimate goal is to "drum up" more members for both organizations and to grow our future. Our membership is currently around 320, and we need to increase that number.

C.A.R. is a unique organization for both boys and girls with a wide range of ages. Most of our members are involved in other

activities, such as sports, instruments, scouts, church, etc. If any branch would like more information about C.A.R. or have a program about C.A.R. presented at one of your upcoming meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me at (203) 244-5290 or fourfishfamily@comcast.net.

- Teri Fischer, Senior Society President Connecticut Society of the Children of the American Revolution

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW ENGLAND
DISTRICT
MEETING-31
OCT 09

ANNUAL MASS-
ING OF THE
COLORS-01
NOV 09

CTSSAR FALL
MEETING-14
NOV 09

236TH BOSTON
TEA PARTY-13
DEC



It has been a busy fall season starting, of course, with our State Society Meeting in September.

Compatriot Shaw explained the issue of mailing the newsletter to those Compatriots without email to the satisfaction of the Board of Managers. I trust we will have better delivery with upcoming editions of The Connecticut Line, starting with this edition.

At the September meeting, Compatriot Paul C. Shupe volunteered to chair both the Knight Essay Award and Flag Committees. I encourage all Branch officers to assist Paul in the work of those committees. Please call me if you have questions about those committees and/or are interested in helping Paul.

Of course, the meeting highlight for me was presenting the Distinguished Service Medal to Compatriot Russ Wirtalla. It is a well-deserved medal recognizing his many years of service to our society. And just as exciting for me, I presented Liberty Medals to Compatriots Buckbee, Shaw and Jacobs.

On October 16, 2009, I brought greetings of our Society to the Connecticut Society, Daughters of the American Revolution at their Fall Conference Debutante Presentation and Banquet.

Several Compatriots were also in attendance. I had the honor of presenting the SAR Medal of Appreciation to DAR member Karen Keeler Brown. Karen has referred five new members to the CTSSAR whose applications have been approved. A sincere thank you to Karen and our Liaison, Compatriot Christopher Nichols. Please note that if you know of someone we can refer to the CT DAR, contact Compatriot Nichols. I hope to make many more Medal of Appreciation presentations in the months to come.

On October 18, 2009, I attended the Fall Board Meeting of the Connecticut Society, Children of the Revolution (C.A.R.) in Milford, CT. Again, I ask Compatriots who are able to volunteer as a Senior Officer in one of the many C.A.R. Chapters throughout Connecticut.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming November State Meeting.

As always, I remain your Obedient Servant,

Kenneth Duane Roach, CTSSAR President

www.ConnecticutSAR.org



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The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
~ Connecticut's Valley Forge Luncheon ~

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009

In Honor of the 226th Anniversary of the Winter Encampment of the Continental Army at Camp Reading 1778 - 1779 "Connecticut's Valley Forge", Putnam Memorial State Park, Redding, CT.

Captain Daniel Packer Inne
32 Water St
Mystic, CT 06355
860-536-3555

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)

2:00 PM - Speaker: "Update on Fort Griswold, The Alamo of Connecticut"
Debra E. Dickey, Immediate Past-President "Friends of Fort Griswold."

Menu

Choice of 3 appetizers: Grilled Portobello Mushroom
New England Clam Chowder (bowl)
Captain Packer Salad

Choice of 3 entrees: Blackjack Sirloin
Nantucket Baked Scallops
Pesto and Angel Hair Pasta

Dessert: Key Lime Pie
Coffee or tea

\$35.00 Per Person

Luncheon reservations must be received by November 6th

Name: _____ Appetizer _____ Entrée _____
_____ Appetizer _____ Entree _____

Number in your party _____

Amount Enclosed _____

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CTSSAR

DIRECTIONS TO CAPT PACKER INNE

DRIVING SOUTH ON ROUTE 95:

Take exit 89 (Allyn street) and turn **left** at the end of the ramp.

DRIVING NORTH ON ROUTE 95:

Take exit 89 (Allyn Street) and turn **right** at the end of the ramp.

* Follow Allyn Street to the traffic light (Route 1). Turn left onto Route 1 North. Just before you enter downtown, turn right onto Water Street (Route 215).

** Continue for two blocks (approx. 2/10 of a mile). Bear left when you see an island in the road. The inne is on the right side of the street across from the marina. Parking is in the back of the building.

FROM THE MYSTIC SEAPORT:

From Route 27, turn right onto Holmes Street. Follow this road to the flag pole (at the flashing light and stop sign). Turn right onto West Main Street to go over the drawbridge and through downtown Mystic. Take the first left onto Water Street (Route 215).

** Continue following directions as above.

