



## Campaign For The Nathan Hale Schoolhouses

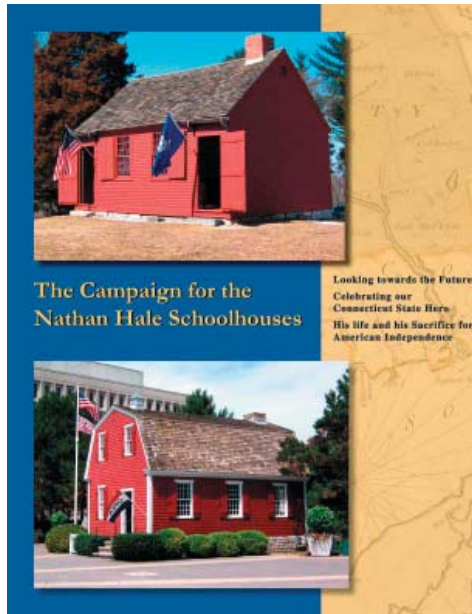
By Robert G. Carroon

In what may well be one of the largest efforts since their acquisition in 1900-1901, a campaign to preserve the Nathan Hale Schoolhouses is being launched in January 2007. This effort comes at the conclusion of the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of Nathan Hale's birth and is a fitting tribute to Connecticut's State Hero. The campaign target is \$170,000. While the schoolhouses are owned by the Sons of the American Revolution the campaign itself is a cooperative effort by members of the Society of the Cincinnati and the Daughters of the American Revolution as well as the SAR.

Recognizing that Nathan Hale belongs not only to the Revolutionary Patriotic Organizations but to all of Connecticut and the entire United States many civic leaders, officials and concerned citizens have also come on board to aid in the raising of the needed funds. The funds will be used to create a permanent exhibit on Nathan Hale at both school house museums, to build a post and beam barn at the East Haddam site which will serve as a visitors center as well as a museum, and to restore the interior woodwork and plaster at the New London schoolhouse.

The funds are being solicited from several sources and include potential grants from numerous foundations. If we are successful in these grant applications we will need to provide matching funds. This means that if we receive any or all of these grants the gifts which we give will be matching in nature and so will double, or even in some cases, quadruple in value as contributions to the Nathan Hale schoolhouses.

Nathan Hale is known to all of us as one of the great heroes of the War for American Independence. He was born in Coventry, Connecticut and graduated from Yale College. Following graduation he became a schoolmaster, teaching first at the schoolhouse in East Haddam and then at the one in New London. He was an ardent young patriot making speeches at gatherings in New London. With the outbreak of the Revolution in 1775 he



## Formal Dinner Dance

The Connecticut Society held its first formal dinner dance to celebrate the Christmas season on Tuesday night, December 5th, at the grand and brand new Downtown Marriott in Hartford, at least it is the first one that I know of and I have been around for awhile. The ladies were lovely in their gowns and the gentlemen surprised everyone in their tuxedos, while some went all out in white tie and tails. We even managed to get our president, Todd Gerlander, out of his color guard uniform and into a tux with patent leather shoes. Two gentlemen, Ken Roach and Bruce Lyon were the envy of all the other men because they still fit very nicely into their military dress, Ken from the army and Bruce from the marines. The food was delicious and the band, the Times Square Trio, was just great. They played all requests without hesitation and there were a lot of requests.

The hotel was very busy and it was a thrill to see so much activity



Robert "Jerry" Carroon and Todd Gerlander

## The Connecticut Line January 2007

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

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### Deadlines

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

## SAR Registrar

I've been the Registrar since April of 1997. I now have other responsibilities, so it is time for another compatriot to step in and take the reigns.

The job mainly consists of reviewing and approving the membership applications as they are submitted by the branch registrars or directly from prospective members.

Much of the time the genealogy work has been done well and other times, it may need a little help.

It is not a hard task, but it must be done as new members are vital to our society just as they are for other groups.

I'd like to have someone step forward soon, so that we can work together during the next year for a smooth transition.

If you are interested, please feel free to contact me at  
860-916-1804 or  
[stephen@whoistheoldguy.com](mailto:stephen@whoistheoldguy.com).

## President's Report

Dear Compatriots,

My year as President is rapidly coming to a close. I made the decision last October that I would not be running for a second term in April. I will discuss that a little more in the March issue of the CTSSAR newsletter.

In July the CTSSAR Planning Committee decided to run its first (and I would say its last) Christmas Formal on December 5th at the Marriott Hotel in Downtown Hartford. Compatriots Stephen Shaw and Russell Wirtalla organized the event. 24 people attended, 14 CTSSAR Compatriots out of a 600+ membership. The members who attended thought it was a great event, and it was, but with the lack of member participation and the financial loss of putting on an event like that, it is NOT practical to run again.

A lot was attempted in 2006, the Society put on the 230th Anniversary of Connecticut Independence Day on June 18th in Lebanon. I was Chairman of the event. We received a proclamation from the Governor, we put on a Revolutionary War Encampment and Display at the Wadsworth Stable, held a wreath laying ceremony and musket salute for Governor Trumbull, printed up special commemorative ribbons and programs, and had a reasonable amount of publicity. We had 2 CTSSAR members beside the Color Guard show up out of a 600+ membership.

In 2005 the CTSSAR sponsored and put together the largest tribute to Captain Nathan Hale's 250th Birthday in the State. The Society ran a three day Revolutionary War Event at both of the Nathan Hale Schoolhouses, held a school program, had 8 great speakers, held ceremonies and placed five wreaths at Nathan Hale sites throughout the State. Beside the Color Guard, we had maybe 12 CTSSAR members help out and participate out of a 600+ membership.

A significant amount of society money and a tremendous amount of personal time and money are used in setting up and running society events. It is hard to criticize the public for lack of interest in the American Revolution, and for not showing up at events, when the participation record and interest of our own membership is so poor.

If there is ever any hope that the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION will become an organization that people can identify with, and recognize, a tremendous amount of member participation is going to need to happen at future events.

As was recently pointed out on SARTALK, the SAR is NOT a genealogical society. Genealogy is how one gets into the organization. Once in, the objectives of the society are to promote the history and ideals of the American Revolution through Patriotism, History and Education, through its many outreach programs and activities.

Our next State Meeting will be the George Washington's Birthday Luncheon on February 17th in Bridgeport. 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. Meeting details, directions and the Luncheon reservation form are included in this newsletter. Please send in the reservation form before February 12th to Treasurer Bruce Lyon. I am hoping that we have a better turnout than the November Meeting in Torrington.

Patriotically,  
Todd L. Gerlander, CTSSAR President

was granted a commission as a Lieutenant in the 7th Connecticut Continental Line. Later he transferred to the Nineteenth Connecticut and was promoted to Captain. At the solicitation of Lt. Colonel Thomas Knowlton he became one of four captains in Knowlton's Rangers. It was while serving in the Rangers that he responded to the call of General George Washington to undertake an intelligence mission on Long Island and New York. He was captured and hung as a spy on 22 September 1776. Just before his execution he made the classic statement, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Today he is remembered all over our nation as the epitome of patriotism and self sacrifice in the cause of American freedom. He was deservedly chosen in 1985 as Connecticut's state hero. There are 26 schools in the United States named for Nathan Hale. Among these are schools in Seattle, Washington; Windermere, Florida; Crestwood, Illinois; Toledo, Ohio and Tulsa, Oklahoma where the sport teams for Nathan Hale High School are known as The Rangers.

Connecticut alone has eight statues and stone memorials to Nathan Hale. Other statues are at the CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia; the Federal Triangle at Constitution and 9th St, Washington D.C.; the Tribune Tower, Chicago, Illinois; at Summit Ave. near the Hale School in St. Paul, Minnesota; Huntington, Long Island, New York; City Hall Park, New York City; and in the Law School Library at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Besides all this, postage stamps honoring Nathan Hale were issued in 1925 and 1929, one of the Lafayette Class submarines was the U.S.S. Nathan Hale (constructed and commissioned at Electric Boat Inc. in Groton, Connecticut and in operation from 1963 to 1986) bore his name, and the Nathan Hale Scholarships are awarded regularly at Yale University.

There have been at least 54 books written about Nathan Hale--of all the personalities of the American War for Independence only George Washington has had more monographs written about him and some of these were volumes of collected works. Given the number of great figures in the era of the Revolution it is a testimony to his inspiring life that Nathan Hale came in second only to the father of our country as a inspiring figure to authors and publishers.

All members of the SAR are urged to contribute as much as they possibly can to this effort. The preservation of his memory is incumbent upon each one of us. If we do not do this then what is our reason for being. Nathan Hale gave much more than lip service to the cause of freedom—he gave his life. We are not called upon to make that sacrifice but we are called upon to insure that his memory and the principles for which he stood are made known to all generations both present and future. Please give generously that his name may be preserved and his story be told.

## **Nathan Hale Campaign Update**

There was an editorial error in the last newsletter. Ken Roach a longtime and very active member is also on the core Campaign Committee. My apologies to Ken.

The committee and many others have been a tremendous help for the campaign already. On two consecutive Saturday's volunteers helped assemble over 6,000 brochures with letters and envelopes

As of this printing the campaign has raised a total of \$18,214. We have a check for \$5,000 on the way from the Society of the Cincinnati in CT which has already approved the donation. Checks are starting to coming in daily now that over 11,000 brochures have been mailed out.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Conn Line Color Guard Meeting**

Feb 10th  
J. Timothy's  
Plainfield, CT

### **Connecticut SAR Meeting**

Feb 17th  
Germania-Schwaben Club  
Bridgeport, CT

### **Spring Leadership Meeting**

Feb 24th & 25th  
SAR Headquarters  
Louisville, KY

### **Application Genealogy Workshop**

Mar 17th, 10am  
Connecticut Historical Society  
Hartford, CT

### **Patriots Day Parade**

Apr 16th  
Concord & Lexington, CT

### **Connecticut SAR Annual Meeting**

Apr 21st  
Plainville, CT

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

Jul 4th  
Nathan Hale Schoolhouse  
East Haddam, CT

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

Jul 7th to 11th  
Williamsburg Lodge  
Williamsburg, VA

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.

# Branch Updates

**Humphreys Branch, No. 1** - Donald Hayden, Sr has been elected as the new president, with the rest of the slate of officers unchanged for their new two year term.

**Sherman Branch, No. 5** - Edwin Isaacs was elected in December as the new president and is very enthusiastic. He has some great ideas to boost the branches awards programs and wants to increase SAR awareness in the community.

**Huntington Branch, No. 12** - Frederick Rivard was just elected this month as the new president. This possibly makes him the youngest branch president in CTSSAR history. He just turned 24 in December and has commanded the branch color guard for years.



Pictured (L-R) are Fred and Bob Rivard when they were docents at the War Office for the Lebanon Tree Lighting in December.

in downtown Hartford, especially on a Tuesday night.

If we do this again next year, and I suspect that we might, we will make the arrangements early in the year so that we can get a Saturday night reservation so that more people can come.



L-R - Past Vice President General Russell Wirtalla, PVPG George Cronk, VPG Jack Manning, and Past Genealogist General Robert G. Carroon

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