



The Connecticut Line

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Veteran's Day

In honor of Veteran's Day, The Mary Bush Society, the local society of the Children of the American Revolution, honored Greenwich's patriots recently by placing small flags on the grave sites of soldiers with the help of Matthew Mead Sons of the American Revolution of Greenwich CT.

The Tomac Burying Ground in Old Greenwich contains 27 known Revolutionary War patriots there and the Christ Church Cemetery is a resting place of six more patriots.

Many of the soldiers buried at Tomac Burying Ground were men that fought at the Battle of White Plains in October 1776 under Captain George Peck, Ninth Regiment of the Connecticut Militia. The Tomac Burying Ground is believed to be the resting place of Greenwich's oldest settlers, dating back to 1660's.



Matthew Mead Sons of the American Revolution with the Mary Bush CAR had placed flags at Greenwich's Revolutionary grave sites at Tomac Burying Ground in honor of Veteran's Day. Kneeling is Lauren Bacon, and behind her left, are Paul Hansel, Helen Hansel, Mr. Tom Gorin, President of the Matthew Mead SAR, Jason Bacon, and Chelsea Bacon, President, CAR Society.

Hale Campaign - Finish Line

We have gone so far in this last year of our fund raising for the Nathan Hale Campaign. Now it's time to help us finish the campaign so we can complete the projects it supports.

As of today, we have raised over \$86,000 in cash, \$10,000 in grants received, \$49,000 in grants approved, but not received, and more in grants that are being submitted now.

In December, we were given an incredible donation of \$20,000 through the efforts of Tom Gorin of the Mead Branch.

The restoration is continuing in New London with the new flooring on the 1st floor to be ready for the new season. Repainting will be done inside of both schoolhouses this Spring. The new East Haddam Barn is still waiting for state bonding commission approval to move forward. The new exhibits will be ready for this summer.

In the next month, a new mailing will be sent out to encourage all to help with funds to complete our goal of \$170,000. We can do it!!

Our Museums are Doing Great

With the help of so many docents at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouses and the War Office, we continue to get more and more visitors. This year we had 69 different docents compared to only 20 five years ago. The cruise ships in New London made a huge impact, which also boosted donations and merchandise sales.

	2006	2007
East Haddam	502	989
Lebanon	685	1,068
New London	3,121	7,693

The Connecticut Line January 2008

www.ConnecticutSAR.org

Editor

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Submissions

Please send any material to:
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Deadlines

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

New Compatriots

John Amos Logan
Paul Martin Tymniak
Timothy Grant Carstens Tymniak
Christopher Wilkinson Tymniak
Daniel Patrick Davis
Herbert Everard Eldridge
Roger Allen Pike
Jason Wade Pike
Chase Ryan Pike
Max Taylor Pike
Matthew Joseph Hinebaugh
Richard Christopher Hinebaugh
Gregory David Lavoie
Daniel Ryan Lavoie
Ian Archer Winick
Matthew Stiles McDonald
Frederick Pierce Schmidt
Andrew Alexander Schmidt
David Lander Schmidt
Glenn Hawkins Cooper
Damien Mott Cregeau

In Memoriam

Luke Eberly Fichthorn
William Haggin Perry
Russell Litchfield Priestley
David Franklin Robinson

From The President's Saddle Bag

Compatriots:

A very happy new year to you all and I trust that everyone had a merry and most enjoyable Christmas. As I write, a copy of the famous painting of General George Washington reviewing the troops at Valley Forge hangs over my desk. They did not have a very pleasant Christmas in 1777. Dr. Albigeance Waldo, Surgeon of the 1st Connecticut Continental Line wrote in his diary, "Why are we sent here to starve and freeze? Poor food - hard lodging - Cold weather -fatigue - Nasty Cloths - nasty cookery-...a pox on my bad luck - here comes a bowl of beef soup - full of burnt leaves and dirt...There comes a Soldier -his bare feet are seen thro' his worn out Shoes - his legs nearly naked fom the tatter'd remains of an only pair of stockings- his breeches not sufficient to cover his Nakedness-his Shirt hanging in Strings - his hair disheveled - his face meager."

What a picture is painted by this Connecticut soldier and yet it is not so different from one American soldiers suffered in the winter of 1944 in that incredible action in Europe, the Battle of the Bulge. There troops lived and died in conditions just as bad, and perhaps even worse, than those endured at Valley Forge.

We must always, keep in mind the sacrifices made by our fighting troops who endure such sacrifices on our behalf - be it at Valley Forge, the Bulge, or today in Iraq and Afghanistan. We need to keep them always in our thoughts and prayers. As we pray in The Airborne Prayer of the 82nd Airborne Division, "Strengthen and protect the Armed Forces of our nation that they may be a safeguard against those who would overthrow our way of life. Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and make no peace with oppression."

I hope to see all of you at our meeting on February 16 at our state meeting when we commemorate the birth of George Washington. Speaking of General Washington and also, parenthetically, of Nathan Hale, it has always been a point of sadness with me that, because of our membership regulations, i.e. that only direct descendants of Revolutionary War patriots can be members of the Sons of the American Revolution, that neither of these august figures can be represented in the SAR, whereas both of them are represented by nephews in the Society of the Cincinnati, a much older organization. I have no solution but only an observation of this fact of life in the SAR. Perhaps this question has been previously considered but I, as a past Genealogist General am not aware of any such discussion.

Patriotically,

Robert G. Carroon
President CTSSAR

Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 9th
New Haven, CT

Application/Genealogy Workshop

March 15th 10am
Connecticut Historical Society
Hartford, CT

Reenactor Tag Sale

March 29th
Wadsworth Stable
Lebanon, CT

Patriots Day Parades

April 21st
Concord & Lexington, MA

Connecticut SAR Meeting

April 26th 10am
Germania Schwaben Club
Bridgeport, CT

Connecticut Open House Day

June 14th
Nathan Hale Schools & War Office

Nathan Hale Exhibit - Opening

June 21st
New London, CT

Nathan Hale Exhibit - Opening

June 28th
East Haddam, CT

The complete schedule is at:
www.ConnecticutSAR.org

Newsletter Editor

As you could guess by this edition of the newsletter being very late, I'm very busy with work and many other projects. After doing this for many years, it is time for someone else to step in.

If you are interested in being the newsletter editor, please let me know via email or phone. We have one interested member already.

Massing of the Colors

The Massing of the Colors was held on October 21st at the First Congregational Church in West Hartford. This is the annual gathering of all the hereditary societies in Connecticut. There was a great turn out of SAR and others.

If you have never attend one then be on the lookout for this years gathering. It is traditional held in late October or early November.



Connecticut SAR Officers

The nominating committee has been working on the slate of officers for the last few months. Things are moving along well. So far we have; Trustee, Russell Wirtalla, Alt. Trustee, George Cronk, President, Kenneth Roach, 1st VP, Stephen Shaw, 2nd VP, David Perkins, Secretary, Russell Wirtalla, Asst. Secretary, Robert Rivard, Treasurer, Bruce Lyon, Asst. Treasurer, VACANT, Registrar, Timothy Jacobs, Chaplain, Paul Everett, Historian, Gary Pitcock, Chancellor, Jay Jackson, Auditor, Peter Benton, Auditor, VACANT.

As you can see, we still need an Assistant Treasurer and Auditor, so if you are interested or have questions, please let Russ Wirtalla know at 860-763-0030 or ctssar@aol.com.

IRS 990-N Procedures

All non profit organizations are now required to fill out a 990 form each year regardless of size. This means that the Connecticut Society plus and all ten branches in the state must each complete the form. If not completed we run the risk of losing our non profit status.

The IRS is now ready to process the e-postcard (form 990-N) for state societies and branches with gross receipts less than \$25,000.

Most branches and state societies need to complete this filing by May 15, 2008. The web site to reference to see the procedures is: FORM 990N <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250,00.html>

This web site also gives you other pertinent information about the 990-N.

Please let Bruce Lyon our state treasurer know when you have completed the form. He can be reached at brucelyon01@earthlink.net.

Flag Retirement Plaza

South Park in Allegheny County, PA is home to the By the Dawns Early Light Flag Retirement Plaza, a one-of-a-kind facility that provides a location for patriotic reflection and the proper retirement of our nations symbol. Designed with the help of John Kovach, Jr., a former Marine and sergeant first class in the Pennsylvania National Guard, the hexagonal plaza is surrounded by seven flag poles - one for each branch of the military and one for the American flag - with a burn pit in the center. A deposit box on the site allows visitors to leave soiled, damaged and tattered flags to be incinerated during future ceremonies. Flag being folded for the dedication of the Flag Retirement Plaza in South Park.



It is their hope that the Plaza will facilitate the retirement of our nations emblem with the respect and dignity it deserves. It also allows us to lead by example and teach our children the importance of respecting this symbol of our security and freedom.

All SAR state societies have been contacted about donating a flag which is ready to be retired for the ceremonies on June 14th as they want all 50 states to be represented. Only Connecticut and one other state society have responded. We will be sending one of the retired flags from the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in New London.

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East Haddam has increased the number of school and regular groups because we have started to work with Goodspeed Opera House on joint visits. They have been sending out our marketing material to their list and it's having a positive impact.

Lebanon continues to have the most school visits as we have been working with the Lebanon Consortium and have more history with the schools.

New London has seen the ships come in. The passengers on the half dozen ships came to see the schoolhouse in very large numbers. Even though they could visit Mystic and Essex many passengers stayed in the city. But our little schoolhouse was the primary site to be visited in the city. There are nine ships already scheduled for 2008 and more may be added.

www.ConnecticutSAR.org



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