General Israel Putnam Branch #4
The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

The Independent Newsletter - November 2023

Dear Compatriots of the Gen. Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR,

Four members of the General Israel Putnam Branch attended the CTSSAR All-Member Meeting Saturday (11/18/2023) at Casa Mia at the Hawthorne in Berlin, Connecticut.

Branch Compatriots attending; Michael Brothers, George Crede, Gary Pitcock, and Todd Gerlander.

A good showing for the Gen. Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR. Just a reminder that **ALL Connecticut SAR** members are welcome and encouraged to attend these State Society meetings.

Highlights:

* Compatriot Michael Brothers will be added to the Gen. Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR 2024-2025 Officer Slate as 2nd Vice-President. Elections will be held at our branch annual meeting next March/April 2024.

President - Mark Sheldon
1st Vice-President - Dan Dudley
2nd Vice-President - Michael Brothers
Secretary - Bruce Lyon
Treasurer - Michael Juhase
Chaplain - Todd Gerlander
Historian - Todd Gerlander

* The Connecticut SAR is hosting the 135th National SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun, July 13-18, 2025. The topic came up regarding each branch taking a day to volunteer under a branch day Captain. Compatriot Gary Pitcock liked the idea, and I agreed. I think it is something we should do as a branch activity. The branch does not have the ability to contribute financially, but we can contribute our time, and volunteer to help CTSSAR make this a successful National SAR Congress. Something that will be talked about years later. I have requested more information on requirements for volunteering, the main issue being whether you need to register and pay the congress registration fees in order to volunteer at the congress. We should have more details soon.

* CTSSAR Compatriot Dayne Rugh presented an interesting talk on Col. John Durkee. He is in the process of writing a book on Col. Durkee. For those of you who remember, the Gen. Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR held annual commemoration ceremonies for Col. John Durkee at the Old Burying Grounds, part of the Historic Norwichtown Days event from 1997 to 2004, and again in 2009. We also set up the SAR Liberty Pole on the Norwichtown Green during that event, and others throughout the State. The local CAR Gen. Ebenezer Huntington Society developed a skit, titled, "The Bold Man of Bean Hill," which they would perform around the SAR Liberty Pole. If you're unfamiliar with the name, Col. John Durkee, check out our branch's, **"Scarlet Standard,"** #6, September 1998, titled, "Col. John Durkee, Norwichtown's Forgotten Hero; Durkee and his "Irregulars" - The Story of the Connecticut Sons of Liberty." It is posted under Articles on the Connecticut SAR website. We would hand out free copies of this publication during the event.

* I also included (see attachment) my CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations outline for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution (2025 and 2026) which I briefly spoke about at the CTSSAR meeting on Saturday. Branch members who would like to be on this committee, and help put these events together, let me know. **We're looking for members!** We'll have our first meeting at the War Office after the Holidays on a Saturday in January. Our second meeting will be at Waterford Beach Park in February to visit the general location of the shipwreck of the Connecticut State Navy Ship *Defence*. I also briefly mentioned that NSSAR has created the Sestercentennial Recognition Medal for individuals who participate in and organize events commemorating and promoting the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. This was not done for the 225th. These are awarded by a point system. This will all be discussed more at future CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations Committee meetings and CTSSAR meetings.

And lastly, if you're on YouTube, check out the NEW official **National Society SAR** YouTube page.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Patriotically,

Todd Gerlander
Branch e-mail Newsletter Editor