The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13



CTSSAR Governor Jonathan Trumbull 316th Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony

The CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee organized this year's Governor Jonathan Trumbull 316th birthday wreath laying ceremony at the War Office on Saturday October 10, 2026, at 11:00 AM. The event was advertised in the local *Eyes on Lebanon* newspaper and the CTSSAR Facebook page, and it was well attended. It was a busy Saturday in town with the Lebanon Farmer's Market and Renaissance Festival happening that day too. Portions of the CTSSAR ceremony and tour of the War Office, which also included other sites in Lebanon, appear in *That History Chick*'s YouTube video titled, *The most patriotic family in America! The Trumbull's of Lebanon, CT. Full town tour, event & history.*

Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Chairman of the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee and Branch Historian emceed the ceremony and spoke about the importance of Governor Jonathan Trumbull to the patriot cause. Compatriot Richard Kendall, Branch and CTSSAR State Chaplain gave the invocation and benediction, Compatriot Mark Sheldon, Sr., CTSSAR State President and President of the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR brought greetings from the society, Blyse Soby, Chapter Regent of the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter CTDAR brought greetings from the chapter. The Connecticut Line, living history/color guard unit of the CTSSAR commanded by Colonel David Perkins fired a three-volley musket salute and gave three huzzahs in honor of Governor Jonathan Trumbull's 316th birthday.



2026 Annual Meeting of the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR

At 12:00 PM (noon) following the CTSSAR Governor Jonathan Trumbull 316th birthday ceremonies at the War Office, the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution held their first joint meeting together at the Lebanon Historical Society Visitor's Center & Museum. This year we thought we would try something a little different to increase branch membership and to raise interest in the War Office's upcoming 300th anniversary in 2027. We also wanted to take this opportunity to let everyone know about several 250th anniversary events CTSSAR will be organizing in Lebanon next year.

Twenty-eight people attended the meeting, fifteen of those being CTSSAR compatriots with primary memberships in six CTSSAR branches (Baldwin, Hale, Mead, Putnam, Sherman, Wadsworth). The branch was officially chartered on October 12, 2019, to raise interest and funds for the operation, maintenance, and preservation of Governor Jonathan Trumbull's War Office, which the Connecticut Society has owned and maintained since 1891. This branch is open to all members of the CTSSAR as a member's secondary branch, you cannot hold primary branch membership in this branch. Annual branch dues are set at $13.00 and 100% of branch dues go directly to War Office operation, maintenance, and preservation. The branch meets annually in October.

It was good to see that ALL officers of branch #13 were present.

2026-2027 Branch Officers

President: Mark Sheldon Sr.
Vice President: David Packard
Secretary: David Perkins
Treasurer: Frederick Lorthioir
Registrar: David Perkins
Chaplain: Richard Kendall
Historian: Todd Gerlander

Compatriots attending (15): Forrest Anderson, Michael Brothers, Tim Burke, Robert Carrara, John Cooke, Todd Gerlander, David Jones, Richard Kendall, Marcus Larkin, Fred Lorthioir, David Packard, David Perkins, Robert Rivard, Mark Sheldon Sr., David Wold.

This year Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Branch Historian, sent out the event flyer and meeting notice via e-mail in September to every active branch member (42 members) on the current roster of the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR. He also sent the event flyer and meeting notice via e-mail to every CTSSAR branch president to forward to their branch membership. Compatriot David Perkins, Branch Secretary and CTSSAR Color Guard Commander also sent out notice to CTSSAR color guard members.

This year's branch events at the War Office and the Lebanon Historical Society Visitor's Center & Museum were the largest since our branch chartering ceremony at the War Office on October 5, 2019, when we also commemorated the 250th anniversary of Governor Jonathan Trumbull taking the oath of office as Governor of the Colony of Connecticut in 1769. Governor Jonathan Trumbull was the last Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, and the first Governor of the State of Connecticut, serving from 1769 to 1784. He was the only patriot governor to serve prior to, during, and after the American Revolution.

Branch President and CTSSAR State President Mark Sheldon Sr. conducted the meeting and brought greetings on behalf of the branch and CTSSAR. Chapter Regent Blyse Soby brought greetings on behalf of the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution.

Branch and CTSSAR State Chaplain Richard Kendall gave the invocation and benediction.

Junice Golden Feather (Land Acknowledgment) discussed the important roll that Native Americans played in our nation's founding and in the American Revolution.

Compatriot David Packard, Branch Vice President and CTSSAR Real Property Steward gave his annual War Office report to the branch and discussed upcoming plans for War Office preservation, etc.

Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Branch Historian and Chairman of the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee set up two tables to display a copy of the branch charter, and all the newspaper and newsletter coverage CTSSAR received for all the Lebanon based America 250 events CTSSAR organized and/or participated in (see list of events below), which was a lot. He also brought a 3D model he built showing how he thought the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House and War Office looked during the American Revolution, and he

read two letters from Mr. Wally Turnbull, Honorary Chief of the worldwide Turnbull Clan Association (The Trumbull family is a Sept of the Scottish Turnbull Clan) which thanked both the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution for their work honoring Governor Jonathan Trumbull and preserving the War Office and Governor Jonathan Trumbull House.

CTSSAR organized and/or participated in the following America 250 events in Lebanon

CTSSAR 250th Anniversary of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull taking the oath of office (1769)
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, October 5, 2019

CTSSAR 250th Anniversary of the Intolerable Acts – Boston Port Act (June 1, 1774)
and the Town of Lebanon's response to it
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, June 1, 2024

CTSSAR 250th Gov. Jonathan Trumbull's Sword Project
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, October 12, 2024

CTSSAR 250th Anniversary of the First Council of Safety Meeting (June 7, 1775)
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, June 7, 2025

CTSSAR 250th Anniversary of the Birth of the Continental Army (June 14, 1775)
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, June 14, 2025

CTSSAR 250th Bench Dedication at the War Office
NSSAR 135th National Congress at Mohegan Sun – Lebanon Short Tour
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, July 17, 2025

CTSSAR 250th General George Washington Liberty Tree Dedication
Lebanon Green, Lebanon, Connecticut, October 12, 2025

CTSSAR 250th Wreath Laying for Revolutionary War Veterans of 1775
All Wars Memorial & Trumbull Cemetery, Lebanon, Connecticut, December 13, 2025

Town of Lebanon Memorial Day Parade Honoring America 250
Lebanon, Connecticut, May 23, 2026

CRIS Radio Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Connecticut Revolutionary War Audio Trail 250th
Lebanon Historical Society Visitor's Center & Museum, Lebanon, CT, June 20, 2026

CTSSAR/CTDAR 250th Gov. Jonathan Trumbull & Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth Liberty Tree
Gov. Jonathan Trumbull House/Wadsworth Stable, Lebanon, CT, June 20, 2026

CTSSAR 250th Connecticut Independence Day (June 18, 1776)
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, June 20, 2026

CTSSAR 250th Wreath Laying for Connecticut Signer, William Williams of Lebanon, Connecticut
Independence Day – America 250
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, July 4, 2026

Let Freedom Ring 250
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, July 4, 2026

Sharing the Spirit of America 250th – 1st Public Reading Declaration of Independence (July 8, 1776)
Town Hall, Lebanon, Connecticut, July 8, 2026

CTSSAR 250th Wreath Laying for Revolutionary War Veterans of 1776
All Wars Memorial & Trumbull Cemetery, Lebanon, Connecticut, December 19, 2026

Compatriot Todd Gerlander stated that this year at Wreaths Across America at Trumbull Cemetery, which is organized by Compatriot David Packard, CTSSAR will honor Revolutionary War Veteran Captain Walter Hyde, who died on September 18, 1776, in Greenwich. He led a Lebanon independent company which was raised and sent to New York, which served under Colonel Erastus Wolcott. He died while in service, and was buried in an unmarked grave in Greenwich (location unknown). He has a memorial stone in Trumbull Cemetery.

This monument is erected in Memory of Capt. Walter Hyde
who was of approved integrity, a useful member of Society, a
kind husband, an affectionate parent, a lover of his country &
a firm supporter of the rights of mankind, Exempt from
military duty by a former command, he nobly stept forth,
raised and took the command of an Independent Company &
with them proceeded to the neighbourhood of North York A.D. 1776
in defence of the invaded rights of the United American States when he
died at Greenwich on the 18th day of Sept. 1776 aged 41 years & was there
buried & his grave undistinguishable from those many other strangers. His
death was greatly lamented by all to whom he was known.

This year CTSSAR will be honoring Revolutionary War Veterans of 1776 at Wreaths Across America ceremonies in six Connecticut towns; Lebanon, Milford, Bantam, Beacon Falls, Darien, and Greenwich, Connecticut. CTSSAR started this last year for Revolutionary War Veterans of 1775, placing a wreath and streamer. This will continue to 2033, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783.

2027 will be a BIG year for the War Office, and for several 250th anniversary events in Lebanon. CTSSAR will be commemorating the War Office's 300th anniversary (1727-2027). According to tradition it was circa 1727 that Captain Joseph Trumbull Sr. (the father of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull) had the Trumbull family store (later used by his son as the War Office) built. The War Office is registered as the “War Office (Captain Joseph Trumbull Store

and Office) Lebanon," State of Connecticut, Connecticut Historical Commission, The National Register of Historic Places. The CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations - America 250 Committee will organize a 300th anniversary event at the War Office next year. Date to be determined.

Next year also marks the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the United States flag (June 14, 1777), which is why we celebrate Flag Day annually on June 14th. Jonathan F. Morris, an original member of the Connecticut SAR (CTSSAR member #5) and first state registrar, was an early originator of the idea for creating a national Flag Day Holiday in 1861; and some believe he should be recognized as the actual "Father of Flag Day." The Connecticut SAR held its first Flag Day commemoration at the War Office on Monday June 15, 1891 (since June 14, 1891, fell on a Sunday that year). This event also commemorated the CTSSAR restoration of the War Office and the transfer of its ownership from Mrs. Bethia Huntington (Mason) Wattles to CTSSAR. The CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations - America 250 Committee will organize a 250th anniversary Flag Day event at the War Office next year on the weekend closest to Flag Day, Saturday June 12th and/or Sunday June 13th, 2027.

2027 also marks the 250th anniversary of the capture of British Major General Richard Prescott, his captivity in Lebanon, Connecticut, and the Alden Tavern incident. The CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations - America 250 Committee plans to commemorate this event with skits at the War Office and Alden Tavern Park, similar to the skit we held at the War Office on June 1, 2024, commemorating the 250th anniversary (Intolerable Acts) of the Boston Port Act (June 1, 1774), reenacting the Town of Lebanon's response to it. It was a fun and well attended skit/reenactment, and this could be a lot of fun too. This 250th anniversary event will likely take place on Sunday July 18, 2027, since General Prescott was captured in Rhode Island on the evening of July 9/10, 1777. This event needs to be held on a Sunday since the Lebanon Farmer's Market takes place on Saturdays at Alden Tavern Park, a key site for this 250th anniversary commemoration.

June 6th, Colonel John Trumbull's (the Painter of the American Revolution) 271st birthday falls on a Sunday in 2027 (June 6, 2027), and it would be interesting to explore the possibility of having the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR and the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Chapter CTDAR sponsor a colonial Church service in remembrance of his birthday at the First Congregational Church in Lebanon that he designed.

Thank you to the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter CTDAR for providing a birthday cake and cider/coffee after the meeting.

Thank you to the Lebanon Historical Society Visitor's Center & Museum for the use of the Community Room to hold this first joint meeting of the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR and Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter CTDAR.

Patriotically,

Todd Gerlander, Branch Historian