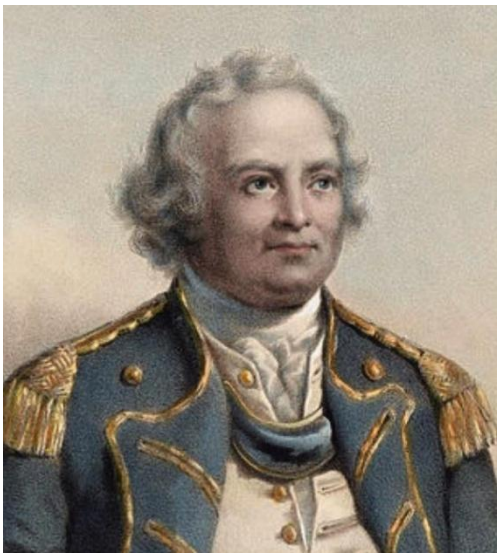
General Israel Putnam Branch #4
The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Major General Israel Putnam
Source: Library of Congress, Wikimedia Commons

Branch Report (April 25, 2026 to November 14, 2026)



On **Sunday June 14, 2026**, the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 and the Douglas Historical Society organized and participated in Revolution! A 250th Historical Cemetery Tour, SAR 250th anniversary of the American Revolution Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for William Dudley, Douglas Center Cemetery, Douglas,

Massachusetts. The event was part of Massachusetts 250. Six compatriots attended including Dan Dudley, Todd Gerlander, David Jones, Marcus Larkin, Bob Rivard, and Allan Van Wert from MASSAR. Patriot William Dudley is the patriot ancestor of CTSSAR Compatriot Dan Dudley.

“William Dudley was the son of Samuel Dudley, he was born May 28, 1726, and married Ann Shepherd, of Stoughton. He served as Town Clerk of Douglas soon after its incorporation. It was in March of 1774, that Town Clerk William Dudley received a letter from Boston’s Committee of Correspondence warning that British taxes and government actions were violating the colonists’ rights and threatening their liberty. A similar letter from Worcester encouraged towns across the county to organize committees to coordinate responses to the growing threat. Following these recommendations, Douglas formed a committee to work with neighboring towns in planning and carrying out actions as events unfolded. The committee included William Dudley, Jedediah Bigelow, Caleb Whiting, Elijah Moore, and Samuel Balcom."



On Saturday **June 27, 2026**, members of the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 and the Connecticut SAR helped organize and participated in the SAR Liberty Tree dedication in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Knowlton at the June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford, Connecticut. This Scout Reservation is on land originally owned by Col. Thomas Knowlton, and the foundation of his 18th century house can still be seen there. This was a partnership between the Connecticut SAR and Scouting America – Connecticut Rivers Council. The dedication of the Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Knowlton Memorial Highway (a portion of Route 44) was also dedicated that day.

The General Israel Putnam Branch #4 started holding an annual remembrance ceremony (1997-2003) for Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Knowlton at his wife’s gravestone (which is also a memorial to Colonel Knowlton) at Snow Cemetery in Ashford, Connecticut starting in 1997. This included a ceremony on the 225th anniversary of his death back in 2001. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Knowlton was killed at the Battle of Harlem Heights on September 16, 1776, and he is buried in an unmarked grave in New York (location unknown). He is known as America’s first military intelligence officer, commanding “Knowlton’s Rangers.” For nearly 30 years placing a marker or monument for Colonel Knowlton at this Scout Reservation was on the branch’s bucket list.

20+ compatriots including Forrest Anderson, Wayne Bickley, Mark Bierbaum, Michael Brothers, Tim Burke, John Cooke, Dan Dudley, Todd Gerlander, David Jones, Marcus Larkin, Bruce Lyon, David Packard, David Perkins, Bob Rivard, Fred Rivard, Mark Sheldon Sr., Mark Sheldon Jr., Mark Sheldon III, Don Spencer, Timothy Wilkins. 12 of those compatriots being members of the General Israel Putnam Branch #4.

On Saturday **August 8, 2026**, Compatriots Michael Brothers, Wayne Bickley, and Todd Gerlander attended the Celebration of Life Ceremony for Compatriot George Mudgett at the Cedar Knob Golf Course in Somers, Connecticut.



On Monday **September 21, 2026**, branch Compatriots Michael Brothers, Robert Paakkonen, and Todd Gerlander (in colonial attire) presented the branch's 2026 SAR Flag Certificate to Christopher Paradiso of Paradiso Insurance in Stafford Springs, Connecticut.

On Saturday **October 3, 2026**, branch Compatriots Todd Gerlander, David Jones, David Packard, Gary Pitcock, and Mark Sheldon Sr. attended the CTSSAR Board of Managers meeting at the Plainville Public Library in Plainville, Connecticut.



On **Saturday October 24, 2026**, the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 held its fall meeting/luncheon at Blondie's Travelers Diner in Union. Fourteen branch members attended: Michael Brothers, George Crede, Dan Dudley, James Dumaine-Savage, Todd Gerlander, Daryl Goss, James Goss, David Jones, Michael Juhase, Bruce Lyon, Robert Paakkonen, David Packard, Gary Waterhouse, Keith Wilson.

- Current branch membership: 47
- Current branch treasury: $1,656.74
- President Michael Brothers inducted new branch members Daryl Goss, James Goss and Gary Waterhouse into the society and presented them with their SAR member rosettes.
- The branch will donate $250.00 to the Cornerstone Food Shelter in Vernon for the Holidays. An annual branch tradition going back to the branch's rechartering in 1992.
- Branch officer nominations for 2027-2028 (to be voted on at our 2027 annual meeting in the spring):
    - President: Michael F. Brothers
    - Vice President: David A. Jones
    - Secretary: Bruce C. Lyon
    - Treasurer: Michael A. Juhase
    - Chaplain and Historian: Todd L. Gerlander



On **Saturday November 7, 2026**, branch members Captain Todd Gerlander and Corporal Dan Dudley of the 11th Connecticut Regiment, the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 detachment of The Connecticut Line, living history/color guard unit of the Connecticut SAR set-up a Revolutionary War camp at the Ellington Historical Society's America 250 Revolutionary War Living History Event at the Nellie McKnight Museum in Ellington. The branch attended to talk about the American Revolution and to recruit new members for the SAR. 2026 marks the branch detachments 32nd year of living history. Branch Compatriot Marcus Larkin also attended with the Lebanon militia, and he set up a powder horn display.



Patriotically, Todd Gerlander, Branch Historian