

Photo: August 10, 2024, Committee Meeting, Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, East Haddam, Connecticut. Members present: (7) Marcus Larkin, David Jones, Matthew Fergione, David Packard, David Perkins, Mark Sheldon, and Todd Gerlander.

Guests: (3) Ethan Stewart, Vice-President General New England District NSSAR; Fred Lorthioir, 135th SAR Congress Treasurer; Michael Bird (who at the time was serving as 1st Vice President CTSSAR and 135th SAR Congress Tour Coordinator).

The Connecticut Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Historic Sites & Celebrations
America 250 Committee

2024 Committee Quarterly Report #3 – September 21, 2024

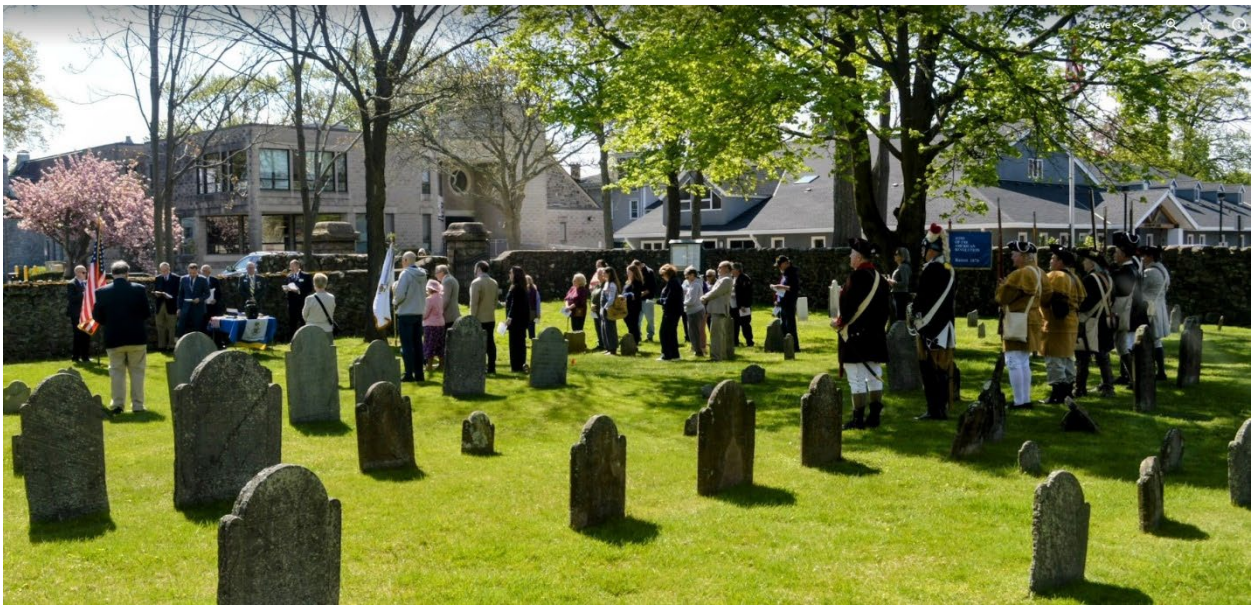
The Committee has held three meetings as of this CTSSAR September Board of Managers meeting; Saturday August 10, 2024, at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in East Haddam, Connecticut; Saturday April 13, 2024, at the War Office in Lebanon, Connecticut; and Saturday February 10, 2024, at the War Office in Lebanon, Connecticut. A photo and text regarding this February 10, 2024, first committee meeting appeared in the Spring 2024 issue of the SAR Magazine. The committee plans to meet once more at the War Office in November to wrap up CTSSAR's SAR America 250 for 2024, and to discuss the upcoming event calendar for 2025. We had a very limited budget of $250 to work with this year. Many of the SAR projects we took on were unknown to us earlier this year when we put forth that figure, but thanks to the financial generosity of committee members we were able to get these projects completed. Thanks also to the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut and the CTSSAR Properties Committee for financial assistance with SAR America 250 projects and events which involved our CTSSAR properties.

David Packard (Property Steward) is flying the SAR America 250 flag under the thirteen-star U.S. flag at the War Office throughout the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

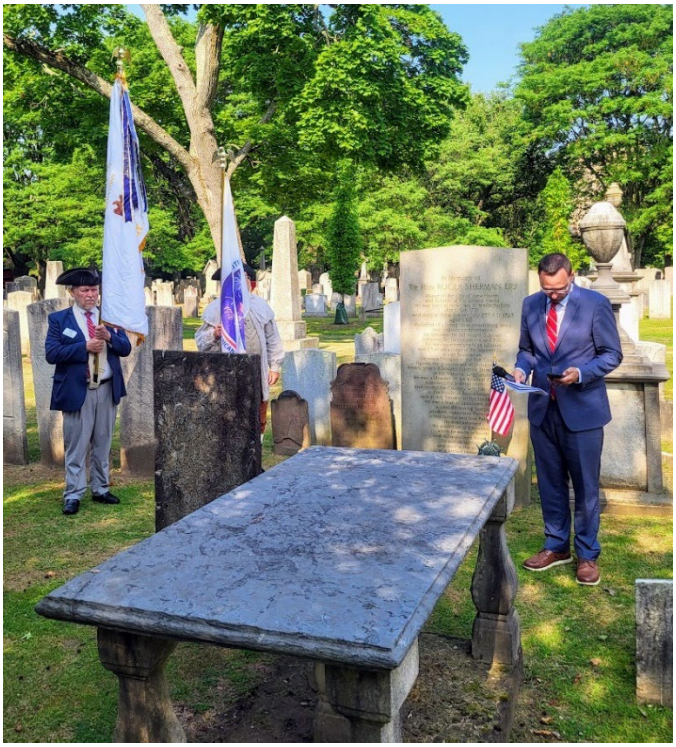
It is worth noting that at least 43 CTSSAR members have either participated in or attended at least one of the SAR America 250 events organized by CTSSAR this year.

Since the CTSSAR 2024 annual State meeting CTSSAR has so far held (5) and organized (8) SAR America 250 events this year:

Two events were organized and held by the Gen. David Humphreys Branch #1 CTSSAR:



May 4, 2024 – 10:00 AM – 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, Patriot Grave Marking for Lt. George Smith (Culper Spy Ring), Capt. James Booth, Capt. Samuel Ufford, Corp. John Wells, Pvt. Jabez Curtis, Old Congregational Burying Ground, Stratford, Connecticut (Gen. David Humphreys Branch #1 CTSSAR) ~ **America 250 SAR Award Streamer Event** ~



July 4, 2024 – 9:00 AM – 250th Anniversary of the First Continental Congress 1774, Wreath Ceremony for Connecticut Delegate Roger Sherman, Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven, Connecticut (Gen. David Humphreys Branch #1 CTSSAR/Roger Sherman Branch #5 CTSSAR)
~ America 250 SAR Award Streamer Event ~

- Robert Clark spoke about Connecticut delegate Roger Sherman.

Ethan Stewart, with the design help of Stephen Harrington, created this SAR America 250 challenge coin to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress 1774 and Connecticut delegate Roger Sherman. The SAR America 250 logo is on the other side of the coin.



Three events were organized and held by the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee:



May 4, 2024 – 2:00 PM – 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, Patriot Grave Marking for African American Patriot Prince Crosley, Duck River Cemetery, Old Lyme, Connecticut (CTSSAR) ~ **America 250 SAR Award Streamer Event** ~

- Keith Wilson, a descendant, spoke about African American Patriot Prince Crosley.
- Ed Pinn, Vice President, Old Lyme Cemetery Association spoke at the ceremony.



Citizens of Lebanon gather at the War Office in opposition to the Boston Port Act

June 1, 2024 – 1:00 PM - The Intolerable Acts 250th, Commemorating Lebanon's Response to the Boston Port Act – June 1, 1774, War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut, War Office open 10 AM – 4 PM. (CTSSAR) ~ **America 250 SAR Award Streamer Event** ~

In attendance were Edgar Hoak, Vice President General, New England District NSSAR; Paul Selnau. CTSSAR State President; Lisa Melland, CTDAR State Regent; Kevin Cwikla, Town of Lebanon First Selectman; and Julian Hershey, NJSSAR color guard commander. In addition to the Connecticut Line CTSSAR, we invited Sheldon's Horse and Ye Olde Lebanon Town Militia.

- The bells of the First Congregational Church rang thirteen times for the thirteen American Colonies.
- Todd Gerlander, acting as the town crier, read the Boston Port Act and Resolutions which were booed and cheered by modern and 18th century dressed citizens of Lebanon.
- A Town Proclamation was read & presented to CTSSAR by First Selectman Kevin Cwikla.
- Todd Gerlander presented an SAR America 250 pin to Albert Scotti, U.S. Air Force, Airman First Class (94 yr. old veteran).
- Dayne Rugh spoke about the Intolerable Acts.

Todd Gerlander presented an SAR America 250 challenge coin and SAR America 250 pin to Sal Tarantino, Commander, Sheldon's Horse, for attending this event.

July 12, 2024 – David Perkins (in colonial attire) participated in the NSSAR Memorial Service during the 134th SAR Congress in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (along with several members of CTSSAR). NSSAR designated this event an SAR America 250 event.



September 1, 2024 – 4:00 PM – 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, Patriot Grave Marking for Thomas Minard (Miner), Elisha Perkins, Luke Perkins, Thomas Starr, Christopher Woodbridge, Starr Burying Ground, Groton, Connecticut (CTSSAR)
~ **America 250 SAR Award Streamer Event** ~

- Debra Dickey, Secretary, Starr Burying Ground Association spoke at the ceremony.

Marcus Larkin did a great job organizing this event from start to finish at Starr Burying Ground.

The CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee will hold three more SAR America 250 events this year:

September 22, 2024 – 1:00 PM – 250th SAR Liberty Tree Dedication for Captain Nathan Hale, Connecticut State Hero, Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, East Haddam, Connecticut. (CTSSAR)
Part of the SAR 250 Liberty Tree Program. This project was made possible through the financial contributions of Mark Sheldon and the CTSSAR Properties Committee. (cost of tree & marker)

- Dayne Rugh will speak about Captain Nathan Hale.
- The Captain Nathan Hale Branch #6 CTSSAR will present the SAR America 250 Bronze Medal to Mathilda Burke during this dedication ceremony.





Planting the Liberty Tree and placing the granite marker, September 16, 2024



Framed high resolution photograph of Governor Trumbull's sword and scabbard

October 12, 2024 – 10:00 AM – 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Project, unveiling of a high-resolution framed photograph of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull's sword to display at the War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut. (CTSSAR) Photo used courtesy of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History who owns Gov. Jonathan Trumbull's sword.

- Tony Healy photographed the sword and obtained the necessary permission/citation from the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History. He ordered and received the framed print.
- Todd Gerlander will have the citation printed to accompany this photo at the War Office.
- Members of the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter CTDAR have been invited to participate in this event. Members of the Anne Wood Elderkin Chapter CTDAR too.

October 12, 2024 – 1:00 PM – 250th Anniversary of the First Continental Congress 1774, Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Connecticut Delegate Eliphalet Dyer, Windham Center Cemetery, Windham, Connecticut. (CTSSAR) David Perkins is Subcommittee Chairman for this event. CTSSAR will place an SAR granite 1st Continental Congress 1774 patriot marker. This project was made possible through the financial contributions of David Perkins. (cost of marker)

- Peter Stothart will speak about Connecticut delegate Eliphalet Dyer and the First Continental Congress 1774.
- JoEllen Vasbinder the Chapter Regent and members of the Anne Wood Elderkin Chapter CTDAR will participate. The Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter CTDAR has also been invited.
- Tony Healy has contacted the cemetery, and he will clean the gravestone prior to the grave marking ceremony.



Granite SAR patriot marker for Eliphalet Dyer



250th anniversary of Governor Jonathan Trumbull taking the oath of office, October 5, 2019

Awards: Including the CTSSAR 250th anniversary of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull taking the oath of office event in 2019, CTSSAR will receive (9) ~ **America 250 SAR Award** ~ streamers which will be presented to the society at our November 2024 State meeting. So far, four CTSSAR members have qualified for SAR America 250 Silver Medals (two in reach of Gold next month) and six have qualified for SAR America 250 Bronze Medals (several in reach of Silver). Several more CTSSAR members should qualify for SAR America 250 Bronze Medals by the end of the

year. Todd Gerlander, Committee Chairman, has been keeping track of CTSSAR member's SAR America 250 points, and regularly sends updates to David Perkins, CTSSAR Awards Chairman.

As of August 2024, NSSAR has approved 517 SAR America 250 Gold Medals.

On September 11, 2024, Todd Gerlander attended Lebanon's America 250 Committee, American Revolution Subcommittee meeting at the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department in Lebanon, Connecticut. The purpose of attending this meeting was to inform the town of the upcoming CTSSAR WAR OFFICE 250 event and the SAR 135th Congress short tour to Lebanon in 2025. Also to check on any upcoming Revolutionary War 250th events the town is planning. Currently the subcommittee is focusing on the weekend of July 11-12, 2026, for a Revolutionary War Weekend, which would involve events happening at each of the historic sites around the green, rather than a reenactment/encampment on the green itself. According to the Subcommittee Chair, it was on July 12, 1776, that the Town of Lebanon received, and publicly read a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

On October 19, 2024, committee members and Connecticut Line CTSSAR will attend/participate in the **250th Anniversary Liberty and Union Celebration**, First Raising of the Taunton Flag, October 21, 1774, in Taunton, Massachusetts. At least 4 committee members are planning to attend this event. MASSAR/CTSSAR Compatriot and Connecticut Line CTSSAR member Jerry Hazeldine helps organize this annual event.

Looking ahead to 2025



Investigating Woodstock Hill Cemetery in Woodstock, Connecticut on August 30, 2024

The Lexington Alarm 250th Anniversary & 30th Anniversary of the Eleventh Connecticut Regiment (Gen. Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR Living History/Color Guard Unit/Detachment). During the American Revolution the Eleventh Regiment Connecticut Militia was composed of companies from the towns of Woodstock, Pomfret and Killingly, Connecticut, and it was the hometown militia regiment of Israel Putnam, who served as the regiment's Lieutenant Colonel prior to the Revolution. Subcommittee Chairmen David Jones and Mark Sheldon will organize this CTSSAR 250th anniversary event planned for either Saturday April 12, 2025, or Saturday April 26, 2025, depending on the date of the CTSSAR state annual meeting. Saturday April 26, 2025, is preferred since historically the Lexington Alarm occurred after the skirmishes at Lexington & Concord on April 19, 1775. Saturday April 19, 2025, was not selected since the Connecticut Line, CTSSAR living history/color guard unit will be participating in the 250th anniversary events in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. To commemorate this historic event CTSSAR will hold a patriot grave marking ceremony for (5) Patriots of the American Revolution buried in Woodstock Hill Cemetery, Woodstock, Connecticut. We will mark the graves of (5) Patriots who served in the Eleventh Connecticut Regiment and took part in the Lexington Alarm. David Jones did the preliminary research on the patriots buried there. Mark Sheldon has talked with the Church, and will contact the Sexton for permission to hold this ceremony next year.

Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Crown Point 250th Anniversary. Todd Gerlander had several e-mail conversations with Fort Ticonderoga earlier this year, there was no interest in having any type of SAR ceremonies held there. It was proposed at the August 10, 2024, committee meeting that the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch consider the idea of holding 250th anniversary ceremonies on Saturday May 10, 2025, for Ethan Allen at his birth site in Litchfield, Connecticut, and for Seth Warner in Roxbury, Connecticut. The Connecticut Colony was so involved with this endeavor that it would be a shame if we didn't do something to commemorate this historic event.

WAR OFFICE 250, 250th Anniversary of the First Connecticut Council of Safety Meeting held at the War Office in Lebanon, Connecticut, June 7, 1775. (CTSSAR Commemoration)
Saturday June 7, 2025. We're still thinking about the possibilities for this commemoration. Possible Council of Safety meeting skit based on the original June 7, 1775, meeting minutes. A skit worked very well for the Intolerable Acts 250 event. We will also be applying for state and town proclamations for this 250th commemoration. Todd Gerlander plans to meet with the Willimantic Postmaster again in the next few weeks regarding the USPS Special Postal Cancellation Stamp for this event. He will also present him with an SAR America 250 pin.
Possible CTSSAR dedication of the Governor Jonathan Trumbull – SAR America 250 bench.

BUNKER HILL DAY 250, Tuesday June 17, 2025. 250th anniversary CTSSAR wreath laying for Mohegan Patriot Samuel Ashbow (The first Native American to die in battle during the American Revolution.) and the Connecticut Patriots who fought at Bunker Hill at the two Connecticut Gate Monuments, Bunker Hill Monument NHP, Charlestown, Massachusetts. (The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates). In addition to the CTSSAR Samuel Ashbow 250th proposal submitted earlier this year to Boston NHP, Todd Gerlander and David Perkins discussed some ideas with Boston NHP at Bunker Hill Day this year. Todd Gerlander presented an SAR America 250 challenge coin and SAR America 250 pin to Ethan Beeler, Supervisory Park Ranger, Boston National Park.

135th SAR CONGRESS, Sunday July 13, 2025. 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Projects during Long Tour/Field Trip, NSSAR National Congress at Mohegan Sun. This committee is only involved with the SAR America 250 bench. The CTSSAR SAR America 250 Bench for Col. William Ledyard/Battle of Groton Heights, September 6, 1781, at Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Groton, Connecticut. This project is headed by Marcus Larkin. He has discussed the plans with the park, and they are allowing the bench to be placed inside the fort next to the Col. Ledyard memorial stone. He discussed this at the last committee meeting, and after talking to, and receiving quotes from several monument companies he recommends the Society go with Buzzi Memorials in Stonington, Connecticut. He will propose the plan to the CTSSAR Board of Managers on September 21, 2024, for final approval, payment, etc. This bench is being funded by CTSSAR. (1/3 possibly funded by SAR George Washington Endowment Fund)

135th SAR CONGRESS, Thursday July 17, 2025. 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Projects during Short Tour/Field Trip to Lebanon, Connecticut, NSSAR National Congress at Mohegan Sun. This committee is only involved with the SAR America 250 bench, and any other SAR America 250 projects such as a Liberty Tree dedication and patriot grave marking ceremony.

Dedication of CTSSAR SAR America 250 bench for Gov. Jonathan Trumbull at the War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut. David Packard (Property Steward) received approval from the town and had the concrete foundation for this bench poured. The Properties Committee decided they would use Connecticut granite from Getty Granite in Salem, Connecticut for this project. Mark Sheldon will handle obtaining the granite bench from Getty Granite, and the stone cutting from Mercer Monuments in Plainfield, Connecticut. He will also handle the bench assembly. Todd Gerlander will help with any design work needed for the bench wording and Gov. Jonathan Trumbull portrait. This bench falls under Properties, so it doesn't require CTSSAR Board of Manager's approval for funding, etc.

Todd Gerlander recently contacted the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon to discuss the wording of George Washington's letter to Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., dated October 1, 1785, regarding the death of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull. He had some questions regarding two versions of the quote which needed to be settled before carving it into the granite bench. After an e-mail discussion with the Research Librarian regarding the two versions of this letter, it was decided unanimously by the committee that we would use the quote from George Washington's letter book.

"A long and well spent life in the service of his country justly entitled him to the first place among patriots."

- Possibility of a joint LIBERTY TREE (250th SAR Liberty Tree Program) planting/marker dedication (CTSSAR/CTDAR) for Gov. Jonathan Trumbull at the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull House/Wadsworth Stable. Possibly for Col. John Trumbull the Artist of the American Revolution who was born in the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull House.
- Possible CTSSAR dedication of the Governor Jonathan Trumbull – SAR America 250 bench.
- Possibility of a 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution SAR Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for 5 patriots at Trumbull Cemetery, Lebanon, Connecticut.

2024 committee members include David Perkins (CTSSAR Color Guard Commander), David Packard (CTSSAR Property Steward), Gary Pitcock (CTSSAR State Historian), Mark Sheldon, Matthew Fergione, David Jones, Marcus Larkin, Tony Healy, and Todd Gerlander (Committee Chairman).

For a current schedule of CTSSAR America 250 events visit **www.SARconnecticut.org** and click the America 250 tab. This calendar is updated regularly as events are confirmed

Patriotically,

Todd Gerlander, Chairman
CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee

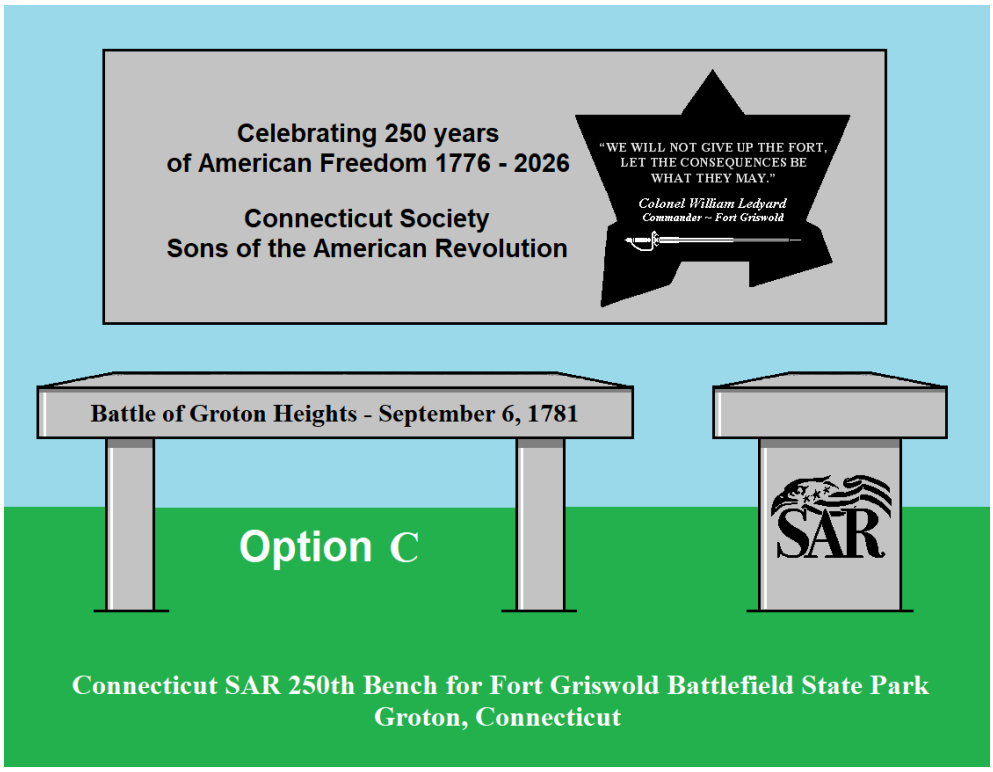
About the America 250
Projects of the Sons of the American Revolution

The America 250 SAR Project Committee members work on the national, state, and local levels to promote the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States. It designs commemorative merchandise and SAR member insignia for the anniversary. This committee publicizes the anniversary using media, education, and government contacts. The 250th Anniversary Committee helps develop educational programs and booklets relating to the American Revolution, encourages the internationally focused SAR societies (including the Canada SAR, France SAR, Germany SAR, International SAR, Mexico SAR, Spain SAR, Switzerland SAR, and United Kingdom SAR) to plan special Congresses during the celebrations, and works with other SAR committees to coordinate celebration of the 250th anniversary.

For more information on the America 250 SAR Project please visit: **www.america250sar.com**

For more information on the National Society Sons of the American Revolution please visit: **www.SAR.org**

For more information on the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution please visit our website at: **www.SARconnecticut.org**



CTSSAR SAR America 250 bench proposals

