

Photo: January 25, 2025, the first committee meeting of the year, War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut. Members present: (7) David Perkins, Marcus Larkin, John Cooke, David Jones, David Packard, Mark Sheldon and Todd Gerlander.

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

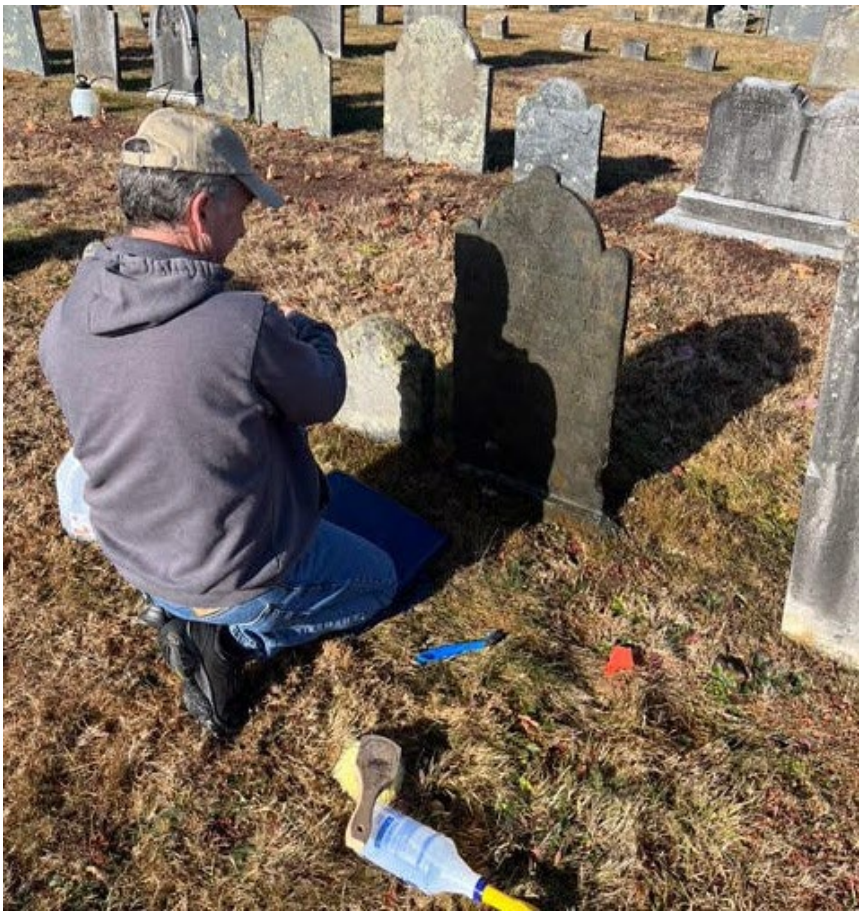
2025 Committee Quarterly Report #1
George Washington's Birthday February 22, 2025





Patriot Gravestone cleaning at Woodstock Hill Cemetery in Woodstock, Connecticut

Since our November 16, 2024 committee meeting, four committee members; David Jones, Mark Sheldon, Marcus Larkin and Tony Healy cleaned five Patriot Gravestones at Woodstock Hill Cemetery in Woodstock, Connecticut on November 21, 2024, in preparation of the CTSSAR 250th anniversary of the Lexington Alarm event planned for Saturday April 26, 2025. This activity missed the committee report deadline for the CTSSAR November 23, 2024 state meeting. Thanks to Compatriot Tony Healy, the full-scale high-resolution photo of Governor Jonathan Trumbull's sword is now hanging in the War Office. This photo is used courtesy of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History. Compatriots Marcus Larkin and David Jones are shown recently working on upcoming CTSSAR 250th anniversary event programs. Compatriots Mark Sheldon and Marcus Larkin continue to work on the SAR America 250 benches for the War Office and Fort Griswold. At the CTSSAR November 23, 2024 state meeting, I presented 10 America 250 SAR Award Streamers to CTSSAR State President Paul Selnau for SAR America 250 events that took place 2019-2024, and I presented guest speaker, David Naumec, an SAR America 250 pin and challenge coin.





Framed photo of Gov. Trumbull's sword at the War Office



Creating SAR America 250 event programs for upcoming CTSSAR events

I want to briefly discuss SAR America 250 points and to clarify a few things. I have been keeping track of member points (and some non-members who have been participating in CTSSAR 250 events on a regular basis) to keep point uniformity. If you plan to submit points to me for attending events not organized by CTSSAR ("Scorekeeping is the responsibility of each compatriot and awarding authority."), and that I am not aware of, you must include the documentation to support those points. For example: event programs, press releases, newsletters, newspapers, websites, photos, etc., something to show that the event is commemorating either SAR America 250 or the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. Just having someone standing at an event holding an SAR America 250 flag does not automatically make that event an SAR America 250 event. If you're claiming points beyond the 3 points for participation, I want to see the documentation to support that too.

The CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee kicked off 2025 holding our 5th committee meeting at the War Office on Saturday January 25, 2025. The committee will organize the following four SAR America 250 events this year, at this time focusing on the 2025 calendar prior to the 135th SAR Congress.

Saturday April 26, 2025

The Lexington Alarm 250th Anniversary & 30th Anniversary of the Eleventh Connecticut Regiment (Living History/Color Guard Detachment of the Gen. Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR). 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, Mark Sheldon, Marcus Larkin and Tony Healy will organize this CTSSAR 250th anniversary event planned for Saturday April 26, 2025. The CTSSAR Commemoration Ceremony will start promptly at 1:00 PM with the bells of the First Congregational Church ringing 13 times for the 13 American Colonies. Historically the Lexington Alarm occurred after the skirmishes at Lexington & Concord on April 19, 1775. 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 in Woodstock, Connecticut. We will mark the graves of (5) Patriots who served in the Eleventh Connecticut Regiment and took part in the Lexington Alarm.

Saturday April 26, 2025

CTSSAR Liberty Tree Dedication Commemorating the Lexington Alarm 250th Anniversary and General Samuel McClellan of Woodstock, Connecticut. South Woodstock Common, Woodstock, Connecticut. This CTSSAR dedication ceremony will take place following the ceremonies at Woodstock Hill Cemetery.

Saturday June 7, 2025

WAR OFFICE 250, 250th Anniversary of the First Connecticut Council of Safety Meeting which was held at the War Office in Lebanon, Connecticut, June 7, 1775. The War Office will be open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This is also the opening day for the War Office this year. The CTSSAR Commemoration Ceremony will start promptly at 1:00 PM with the bells of the First Congregational Church ringing 13 times for the 13 American Colonies. This event will be run very similar to the CTSSAR Intolerable Acts (Boston Port Act) 250 event last June. I will be applying for state and town proclamations for this 250th commemoration. Compatriot Mark Sheldon oversees the CTSSAR Governor Jonathan Trumbull/War Office 250 - SAR America 250 bench project, and we hope to hold a CTSSAR dedication ceremony that day too. I've been in contact with both regents from the Anne Wood Elderkin Chapter CTDAR and Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter CTDAR who will be organizing refreshments at the Wadsworth Stable following the ceremony. We will again invite the Town's First Selectman and the CTDAR State Regent, and Compatriot David Perkins will invite the President of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati to attend. They gave CTSSAR a grant of $1,500 towards this event, and they have provided numerous grants to CTSSAR over the years.

Saturday June 14, 2025

Birth of the Continental Army 250th Anniversary, June 14, 1775. On Saturday June 14, 2025, the date coinciding with Flag Day, the CTSSAR will have an outdoor flag display at the War Office. The CTSSAR Commemoration Ceremony will start promptly at 1:00 PM with the bells of the First Congregational Church ringing 13 times for the 13 American Colonies. The War Office will be open to the public from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This 250th anniversary event also has a connection to Lebanon and the War Office. In a letter to General George Washington, dated at Lebanon, Connecticut, July 13, 1775, Governor Jonathan Trumbull writes, "Suffer me to join in Congratulating you, on your appointment to be General and Commander in Chief of the Troops raised or to be raised for the Defense of American Liberty." He goes on to write, "Now therefore be strong and very courageous, may the God of the Armies of Israel, shower down the blessings of His Divine Providence on You, give you Wisdom and Fortitude, cover your Head in the Day of Battle and Danger, add Success - - convince our Enemies of their mistaken measures - - and that all their attempts to deprive these Colonies of their inestimable constitutional Rights and Liberties are injurious and vain." – Source: To George Washington from Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., 13 July 1775, Founders Online, National Archives.

135th SAR CONGRESS, Sunday July 13, 2025. 250th anniversary of the American Revolution project during Long Tour, NSSAR National Congress at Mohegan Sun. 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 Compatriot Marcus Larkin.

135th SAR CONGRESS, Thursday July 17, 2025. 250th anniversary of the American Revolution project during Short Tour to Lebanon, Connecticut, NSSAR National Congress at Mohegan Sun. The CTSSAR SAR America 250 Bench for War Office 250/Gov. Jonathan

Trumbull, at the War Office. This bench falls under CTSSAR Properties, and this project is headed by Compatriot Mark Sheldon.

Patriotically,

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

Committee Members: David Perkins (CTSSAR Color Guard Commander), David Packard (CTSSAR Property Steward), Gary Pitcock (CTSSAR State Historian), Mark Sheldon, David Jones, Marcus Larkin, Tony Healy, John Cooke, Matthew Fergione.

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 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