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

George Washington's Birthday Report
(Quarterly Report #9 – February 21, 2026)



The Committee held its ninth and first meeting of 2026 at the First Congregational Church in Lebanon, Connecticut on Saturday January 24, 2026. The Church was designed by Colonel John Trumbull (1756-1843), the youngest son of Connecticut's Revolutionary War "Rebel Governor" Jonathan Trumbull. He is known as the "Painter of the Revolution." The Church was built 1804-1807, and it is the only surviving example of his architectural work. Compatriots present (8) from left: John Cooke, Marcus Larkin, Mark Sheldon, David Jones, David Packard, David Perkins, Fred Lorthioir, Todd Gerlander.

We held this meeting on an extremely cold Saturday in January. I want to thank everyone for attending, and I also want to thank Compatriot John Cooke for opening the Church for our meeting. We try to hold a quarterly committee meeting prior to the four CTSSAR meetings (two Board of Managers and two all-member meetings).

That way we can keep the board and membership up to date on what's happening. The meeting lasted almost three and a half hours, and a lot was discussed.

Looking back at the year 2025. There were two additional 250th anniversary events held after the CTSSAR November 2025 all-member meeting. All these events will be reported in the committee's April 2025 to April 2026 annual report. It will be a very large report.



December 13, 2025 (12:00 PM) – American Legion Post #180 Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Lebanon Town Hall, Lebanon, Connecticut (CTSSAR 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution wreath laying honoring Revolutionary War veterans who served during the year 1775 (1775-2025). **(Organized by the American Legion Post #180, Lebanon, Connecticut)**

(Immediately following) CTSSAR Wreaths Across America wreath laying for Revolutionary War Veterans at Trumbull Cemetery, Lebanon, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot David Packard, Lead)**

Honoring Revolutionary War Veterans of 1775 – America 250



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December 13, 2025 (12:00 PM) – Freelove Baldwin Stow Chapter CTDAR and General David Humphreys Branch #1 CTSSAR Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Kings Highway Cemetery, Milford, Connecticut (CTSSAR 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution wreath laying honoring Revolutionary War veterans who served during the year 1775 (1775-2025). **(Organized by the Freelove Baldwin Stow Chapter CTDAR and the General David Humphreys Branch #1 CTSSAR. Compatriot Ethan Stewart, Lead)**



Starting 2026, the Committee would like to propose $2000.00 for a 2026 committee budget. This is the same amount we requested in 2025. 2026 is America 250 and it is going to be very busy. To fund some of the CTSSAR America 250 projects this year we are going to try for more partnerships and ways to solicit donations, the $60 SAR grave marking medal donation for example which is explained a little more down below.

Since the CTSSAR November meeting I have submitted two applications to NSSAR for 250th anniversary GOLD medals which were approved, and one member has been approved for the 250th anniversary SILVER medal. The next medal presentation will be at the CTSSAR annual meeting in April. Currently 14 CTSSAR compatriots have earned the GOLD (150 points) medal, 11 CTSSAR compatriots are at the SILVER (60 points) level, and 12+ compatriots are at the BRONZE (25 points) level.

CTSSAR has also completed both SAR America 250 projects established by the NSSAR History 250 Committee. CTSSAR dedicated **TWO** SAR America 250 granite memorial benches, and **NINE** SAR America 250 Liberty Trees (This number may go as high as sixteen before July 4, 2026?) In the NSSAR New England District ONLY two states (CTSSAR and RISSAR) have dedicated SAR America 250 memorial benches, and ONLY three states (CTSSAR, NHSSAR, VTSSAR) have dedicated SAR America 250 Liberty Trees. As of this report only 16 states have dedicated SAR America 250 memorial benches and only 29 states have planted SAR America 250 Liberty Trees. 200 Liberty Trees have been planted/dedicated so far nationwide towards the goal of 250 Liberty Trees planted/dedicated on or before July 4, 2026.

CTSSAR Past Memorial Bench 250 Dedications (2025):

1. Battle of Groton Heights – September 6, 1781 - SAR America 250 memorial bench, Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Groton, 135th SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun, 07/13/2025 - CTSSAR
2. War Office 250/Governor Jonathan Trumbull - SAR America 250 memorial bench, War Office, Lebanon, 135th SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun, 07/17/2025 – CTSSAR

CTSSAR (State and Branch) Past Liberty Tree 250 plantings and dedications (2024 - 2025):

1. Captain Nathan Hale Liberty Tree, East Haddam, 09/22/2024 – CTSSAR
2. Putnam Hill Park Liberty Tree, Greenwich, 02/26/2025 – Mead Branch CTSSAR
3. Gen. Samuel McClellan/Lexington Alarm 250 Liberty Tree, Woodstock, 04/26/2025 – CTSSAR
4. Deacon Joseph Mather Liberty Tree, Darien, 05/17/2025 – Sherman Branch CTSSAR
5. U.S. Army 250 Liberty Tree, Fort Stamford Park, Stamford, 06/14/2025 – Mead Branch CTSSAR
6. U.S. Constitution Liberty Tree, Eastford, 09/13/2025 – CTSSAR/Eastford
7. Gen. Israel Putnam Liberty Tree, Brooklyn, 09/13/2025 – CTSSAR/Brooklyn
8. Gen. George Washington Liberty Tree, Lebanon, 10/12/2025 – CTSSAR/Lebanon/Prides Corner Farms
9. Joseph Knapp Liberty Tree, Stratford, 10/25/2025 – Humphreys Branch CTSSAR/Stratford Hist. Soc.

CTSSAR (State and Branch) Future Liberty Tree 250 plantings and dedications (2026):

10. Colonel John Durkee Liberty Tree, Norwich, 5/3/2026 – Hale Branch CTSSAR/Norwich 250
11. U.S. frigate *Confederacy* African American/Native American shipbuilders/sailors Liberty Tree, Norwich, 6/7/2026 – Hale Branch CTSSAR/Norwich 250
12. Lt. Jabez Smith Liberty Tree, Groton, 6/13/2026 – CTSSAR
13. Gov. Jonathan Trumbull/Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth Liberty Tree, Lebanon, 6/20/2026 – CTSSAR/CTDAR
14. Colonel Thomas Knowlton Liberty Tree, Ashford, 6/27/2026 – CTSSAR/Scouting America/Ashford 250
15. _____ Liberty Tree, Bethel (?) – Baldwin Branch CTSSAR
16. _____ Sheldon/Colonel Elisha Sheldon Liberty Tree, Litchfield (?) - CTSSAR

CTSSAR Real Property Steward David Packard is in discussions with CRIS Radio (Audio Access for People who are Blind or Print-Challenged) regarding an America 250 project titled, **Connecticut's Revolutionary War Trail/Forgotten Voices of the Revolutionary War**. This would be for an audio tract for the War Office.

The committee will also work on replacing the aluminum sign with a granite marker for the CTSSAR General George Washington Liberty Tree on the Lebanon Green across the street from the War Office that we dedicated last October. We will need to work with the town to get approval.

Below is the rough CTSSAR 2026 250th anniversary calendar of events that were discussed at our meeting. **Events in BOLD type are being organized by this CTSSAR 250 committee.** I have also added all the known and tentative event dates happening in the CTSSAR (including color guard and branches) that have been submitted to me that I am aware of to show what dates are already filled. It looks like another very busy year for CTSSAR.

SATURDAY APRIL 4 and SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2026 – The Easter Holiday weekend (No Committee Events)

SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2026 –

SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026 –

MONDAY APRIL 20, 2026 – Patriot's Day Parade, Concord, MA

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2026 – CTSSAR (Patriot's Day) Annual State Meeting/Luncheon, Casa Mia at the Hawthorne, Berlin, CT

SUNDAY MAY 3, 2026 – SAR America 250 Liberty Tree dedication in honor of Colonel John Durkee, Bean Hill Green, Norwich, CT (Hale Branch CTSSAR & Norwich America 250 Committee), (Dayne Rugh, Lead) CTSSAR Liberty Tree #10

SATURDAY MAY 9, 2026 -

SATURDAY MAY 16, 2026 –

FRIDAY MAY 22, 2026 – Warren School Memorial Parade & Grave Marking, Warren, CT (Wolcott Branch CTSSAR) (Michael Bird, Lead)

SATURDAY MAY 23, 2026 – Lebanon Memorial Day Parade, Lebanon, CT (Todd Gerlander, Lead)

MONDAY MAY 25, 2026 – Naugatuck Memorial Day Parade, Naugatuck, CT (David Perkins, Lead)

MONDAY MAY 25, 2026 – Litchfield Memorial Day Parade, Litchfield, CT (Wolcott Branch) (Bill Spring, Lead)

FRIDAY JUNE 5, 2026 – Culper Spy Ring Program at Southwest Elementary School, Torrington, CT (Michael Bird, Lead)

SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2026 – SAR America 250 Liberty Tree dedication in honor of African American and Native American Shipbuilders and Sailors of the US frigate *Confederacy*, Howard T. Brown Park, Norwich, CT (Hale Branch CTSSAR & Norwich America 250 Committee), (Dayne Rugh, Lead) CTSSAR Liberty Tree #12

SATURDAY JUNE 13, 2026 – CTSSAR Liberty Tree 250 dedication in honor of Continental Marine 2nd Lieutenant Jabez Smith Jr., mortally wounded aboard the US frigate *Trumbull* during battle with the British ship *Watt*, June 1, 1780.
and
1-day Revolutionary War Encampment, Jabez Smith House, Groton, CT, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, (Marcus Larkin, Lead) CTSSAR Liberty Tree #13

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2026 – Bunker Hill Day, Bunker Hill Monument, Charlestown, MA (David Perkins, Lead)

SATURDAY JUNE 20, 2026 – CTSSAR Connecticut Independence Day 250, commemorating the 250th anniversary of Connecticut's "Declaration of Independence" (June 18, 1776), written by Governor Jonathan Trumbull, War Office, Lebanon, CT
and
CTDAR and CTSSAR Liberty Tree 250 dedication in honor of Governor Jonathan Trumbull and Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth, Governor Jonathan Trumbull House/Wadsworth Stable, Lebanon, CT (Todd Gerlander, Lead) CTSSAR Liberty Tree #14

SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2026 – CTSSAR Liberty Tree 250 dedication in honor of Colonel Thomas Knowlton (Killed at the Battle of Harlem Heights September 16, 1776),
and
Dedication of the Colonel Thomas Knowlton Highway (Portion of Route 44), June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation, Ashford, CT (CTSSAR/Scouting America/Ashford 250 Committee)
(Mark Sheldon and John Cooke, Leads) CTSSAR Liberty Tree #15

SATURDAY JULY 4, 2026 – Declaration of Independence 250, 250th anniversary wreath laying ceremony for Connecticut signer Roger Sherman, Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven, CT (Humphreys Branch CTSSAR) (Ethan Stewart, Lead)

SATURDAY JULY 4, 2026 – Declaration of Independence 250, 250th anniversary wreath laying ceremony for Connecticut signer Oliver Wolcott, East Cemetery, Litchfield, CT (Wolcott Branch CTSSAR) (Tim Hill, Lead)

SATURDAY JULY 4, 2026 – Let Freedom Ring 250, Litchfield Green, Litchfield, CT (Wolcott Branch CTSSAR) (Tim Hill, Lead)

*** The 250 committee will investigate a 250 commemoration for Connecticut signer William Williams of Lebanon. I have asked the Lebanon 250 committee about this. Not sure if anything is planned in Norwich for Connecticut signer Samuel Huntington?**

WEDNESDAY JULY 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM – 250th anniversary national public reading of the Declaration of Independence, War Office or Town Hall or other location? Lebanon, CT, organized nationally by the State of Hawaii America 250 Committee (Todd Gerlander, Mark Sheldon, John Cooke, Leads)

*** I made a commitment to the State of Hawaii America 250 Committee Chairman that CTSSAR will at least do one public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Connecticut. Probably at the War Office (or other location in Lebanon) to take part in this national America 250 event. CTSSAR branches may also want to organize a public reading in their local area at 6:00 PM. Contact me for more details if your branch is interested. I can e-mail more information.**

SATURDAY JULY 11, 2026 – Beacon Falls Encampment & Grave Marking, Beacon Falls, CT (Mike Krenesky, Lead)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2026, CTSSAR 250 grave marking ceremony for 5 patriots of the American Revolution, Starr Burying Ground, Groton, CT (Marcus Larkin, Lead)

*** We're going to experiment with the funding on this project. Last year we accepted a VASSAR member patriot grave marking medal monetary donation of $60. SAR members can donate $60 toward each patriot grave marking to count towards earning an SAR patriot grave marking medal. This is a way SAR members who live in states where there are no patriots buried can still earn SAR patriot grave marking medals. We're investigating funding future CTSSAR grave marking projects this way.**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 – Battle of Groton Heights Commemoration at Fort Griswold, Groton, CT (David Perkins, Lead)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2026 – CTSSAR 250th anniversary rededication of General Joseph Spencer Headstone and 250th anniversary remembrance ceremony for Captain Nathan Hale, Connecticut State Hero, Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, East Haddam, CT (David Packard, Lead)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 – Massing of the Colors, First Congregational Church, Bristol, CT (David Perkins, Lead)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 11, 2026 – CTSSAR Governor Jonathan Trumbull 316th Birthday Commemoration, War Office, Lebanon, CT (Trumbull Branch CTSSAR) (Todd Gerlander, lead)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 19, 2026 – Wreaths Across America – CTSSAR honoring Revolutionary War veterans of 1776 – America 250, Milford, CT (Humphreys Branch CTSSAR) (Ethan Stewart, Lead)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 19, 2026 – Wreaths Across America – CTSSAR honoring Revolutionary War veterans of 1776 – America 250, Trumbull Cemetery, Lebanon, CT (Trumbull Branch CTSSAR) (David Packard, Lead)

Our next committee meeting will probably take place in April or May.

For the 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

Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775 – 1783

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**

250th SAR Liberty Tree Program

CTSSAR Liberty Trees Dedicated (so far) = 9

SAR 250th Anniversary Memorial Bench Program

CTSSAR Memorial Benches Dedicated = 2