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

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

2024 Annual Report – April 27, 2024

SAR Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors
our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.



Committee Meeting, April 13, 2024, War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut



Committee Meeting, February 10, 2024, War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut

The CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee began submitting proposals for CTSSAR events commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in the Fall of 2023. The committee has met twice, on February 10, 2024, and April 13, 2024, at the War Office in Lebanon, Connecticut. At our first meeting we began discussing what events we wanted to do. We also started to designate subcommittee chairman for each event.

The CTSSAR 250th anniversary events organized by this committee will begin on Saturday May 4, 2024, in cooperation with the CTSSAR color guard, the Connecticut Line. The CTSSAR will hold a grave marking ceremony for African American Patriot Prince Crosley at 2:00 PM at the Duck River Cemetery in Old Lyme, Connecticut, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Prince Crosley was enslaved to Deputy Governor Matthew Griswold of Lyme, Connecticut, sold to Samuel Platt of New Milford, and he later enlisted as a Revolutionary War soldier to obtain his freedom.

Prince Crosley of North Milford enlisted as a Private on August 8, 1777, in the Seventh Regiment, Connecticut Continental Line, and served for three years, being discharged August 5, 1780. The Seventh Regiment "in Sept. [1777] was ordered, under Gen. McDougall, to join Washington's army in Penn. Fought at Germantown, Oct. 4, '77, and suffered some loss. Wintered at Valley Forge, '77-'78, and on June 28th following present at battle of Monmouth. Encamped during the summer at White Plains, and assigned to Huntington's Brigade. Wintered '78-'79 at Redding. In summer of '79 served on east side of the Hudson in Gen. Heath's wing. Its Light Co. under Capt. Chamberlain detached to Meigs' Light Regt., and engaged in storming of Stony Pont, July 15, '79. Wintered at Morristown huts, '79-'80, and in following summer served with the main army on the Hudson." *

* Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the War of the Revolution, page 217.

On Saturday June 1, 2024, in cooperation with the CTSSAR property committee and CTSSAR color guard, the CTSSAR will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the town of Lebanon's response to the Boston Port Act, one of the Intolerable Acts which went into effect on June 1, 1774. These Intolerable Acts passed by the British Parliament in response to the Boston Tea Party "rallied the other twelve colonies to the side of Massachusetts, produced the first Continental Congress, and led to the Declaration of Independence." [1] This commemoration will recreate the town of Lebanon's response to this act, with a gathering at 1:00 PM at the War Office. The bells of the First Congregational Church will ring thirteen times for the thirteen colonies. The War Office will be open to the public that day from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

"- for at this time the fatal First of June arrived – day when the Boston Port Bill was to take effect – and the bells of the Governor's own native town – in tones strangely unfitted to attune either the sense of loyalty to his Majesty the King, or the duty of co-operation with one of his minions – began early to toll a solemn peal – and so continued the whole day. The door of the Town House was hung with black, and thereto the Port Bill was affixed.

The shops in the village were all shut and silent. Their windows were covered with black, and with other ensignia of distress – and gathering from every quarter – "upon short notice" – the freeholders of Lebanon listened to the reading of the noted Bill – and in spirited Resolutions, denounced it as an outrageous invasion of human liberty." [2]

[1] Factors in American History, Pollard, 1925, page 1. [2] Life of Jonathan Trumbull, Sen., Governor of Connecticut, I. W. Stuart, 1859, pages 152-153.

On Saturday October 12, 2024, during the annual meeting of the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR and Gov. Jonathan Trumbull's 314th birthday, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the CTSSAR will unveil a full-size framed photo of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull's sword and scabbard to hang in the War Office. Compatriot Tony Healy has photographed the sword in high resolution, and he is in the process of printing and framing the photo. The Connecticut Historical Society owns Gov. Jonathan Trumbull's sword and scabbard, and it is part of their collection.

Committee organized 250th projects for 2024 will conclude on the afternoon of Saturday October 12, 2024, with a CTSSAR commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress held at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 5, 1774, to October 26, 1774. At 1:00 PM the CTSSAR will hold a wreath laying or grave marking ceremony for Connecticut delegate Eliphalet Dyer at Windham Center Cemetery in Windham, Connecticut. Windham Center Cemetery is roughly a 10-minute drive from the War Office.

Next year, 2025, the committee is organizing events to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution including The Lexington Alarm, the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Crown Point, the FIRST meeting of the Connecticut Council of Safety held at the War Office, a wreath laying ceremony for Mohegan Patriot Samuel Ashbow at Bunker Hill, etc. The committee is also working with the CTSSAR property committee to dedicate an SAR America 250 bench at the War Office, possibly during the NSSAR congress short trip.

In 2026 there are a lot of events to commemorate America 250. In addition to events commemorating the Declaration of Independence, the committee plans to meet with the BSA (Boy Scouts of America) to put together an SAR/BSA America 250 Scout Encampment in remembrance of Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Knowlton who was killed at the Battle of Harlem Heights September 16, 1776. September 22, 2026, will also mark the 250th anniversary of the death of Connecticut State Hero, Captain Nathan Hale.

~ HELP WANTED ~

Compatriot(s) with video/photography/writing/editing skills, etc.

The CTSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee is investigating the possibility of recording a recreation of the first Connecticut Council of Safety meeting held at the War Office on June 7, 1775. This skit would be based on the recorded written minutes of that first historic meeting that took place 250 years ago in the War Office during the American

Revolution. This production could be done in two ways. Either using full motion video, roughly 15 to 20 minutes in length (possibly longer), or by taking still photographs that could be put into a film strip type video. This video could also record the CTSSAR 250th anniversary commemoration ceremony to be held Saturday June 7, 2025, at the War Office.

The format will ultimately be determined by both the interest of the CTSSAR color guard, The Connecticut Line who will portray the various characters, and the individual(s) with the video/photo/writing/editing skills to help put it together. The full motion video will require a lot more time and effort, such as writing the script, skit rehearsals, memorizing lines, etc. If we went the still photo route, we would either have a narrator, or insert text screens into the video.

This completed 250th anniversary CTSSAR video could then be posted on the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's official YouTube channel for public viewing. This video could also be played in the War Office for visitors and school groups.

With 500+ members in the CTSSAR, it's possible that a compatriot or family member may have work experience in video, possibly even a son or daughter who is majoring in film, or a related major, who may be able to receive credit from their college or university for a project like this. Maybe you have a YouTube channel, and you post and edit your own videos. Maybe you know someone who volunteers at one of the public access cable channels who might like to be a part of this 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution project.

Right now, we're just investigating the various options and possibilities to determine if we can make this idea a reality. If you have experience in any of the fields mentioned, let me know and we can discuss it in more detail.

Thanks to the efforts of Compatriot David Packard, we have secured a grant of $1,500.00 from the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut for this 250th anniversary commemoration of the FIRST Connecticut Council of Safety meeting held at the War Office on June 7, 1775. We also have approval from the Postmaster to have a special USPS postal cancellation stamp created for this event. The committee has BIG plans for this event next year on Saturday June 7, 2025.

2024 committee organized 250th events:

250th Anniversary of the American Revolution ~
SAR grave marking ceremony for
African American Patriot Prince Crosley
Duck River Cemetery, Old Lyme, Connecticut – May 4, 2024
2:00 PM

~ 250th Anniversary ~
The Intolerable Acts
Lebanon's Response to the Boston Port Act, June 1, 1774
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut – June 1, 2024
1:00 PM Commemoration
(The War Office will be open 10 AM to 4 PM)

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution ~
Unveiling full scale framed photo of Governor Jonathan Trumbull's sword and scabbard to hang in the War Office.
Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR annual meeting
Gov. Jonathan Trumbull's 314th Birthday Ceremony
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut – October 12, 2024
11:00 AM

~ 250th Anniversary ~
The First Continental Congress 1774
SAR Wreath Ceremony for Connecticut delegate Eliphalet Dyer
Windham Center Cemetery, Windham, Connecticut – October 12, 2024
1:00 PM

Compatriot David Perkins has set up an **America 250** tab on the Connecticut SAR website. This page contains the CTSSAR America 250 calendar of events and will be updated regularly as events are confirmed. CTSSAR branches/compatriots organizing 250th anniversary events should keep this committee informed for recording purposes, SAR America 250 recognition awards, and to ensure events are being properly organized and promoted according to the National SAR America 250 Committee. Let me know if you have any questions.

Patriotically,

Todd Gerlander, Chairman

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