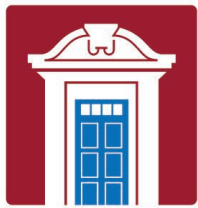




**General David Humphreys Branch No. 1  
Sons of the American Revolution**

New Haven, Connecticut Founded  
May 22, 1891



**STRATFORD**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY • 1925

**Presents a Grave Marking Ceremony  
For  
Revolutionary War Patriots**

**Honoring Lieutenant George Smith,  
Captain James Booth, Captain Samuel Ufford,  
Corporal John Wells and Private Jabez Curtis**

**Old Congregational Burying Ground  
2203 Main Street in behind Stratford Library  
Stratford, CT**

*Parking, behind the Library off West Broad Street*

**Saturday May 4, 2024  
10:00 A.M.**

**Join members of the Stratford Historical Society for refreshments  
in the Lovell Room of Stratford Library after the ceremony**

## Program

Posting of the Colors	Connecticut Line / Living History Unit
Invocation	Humphreys Branch – Chaplain Steve Chapman
Pledge of Allegiance	Humphreys Branch – Gregory Thompson
SAR Pledge	Humphreys Branch – Gregory Thompson
Opening Remarks	Humphreys President – Christopher Bandecchi
Greetings from	
CTSSAR	State President, Paul Selnau
Stfd. Hist. Society	President, Kevin Moore
Town of Stratford	Stratford Mayor, Laura Hoydick
Biographies	
George Smith	Culper Spy Ring Historian, Mark Sternberg
Capt. James Booth	Humphreys Secretary, Gregory Thompson
Capt. Samuel Ufford	Humphreys Vice President, Steve Chapman
Corporal John Wells	Humphreys Member, Vincent Pitts
Jabez Curtis	Humphreys Member Jerry Wilson
Musket Salute	Connecticut Line / Living History Unit
Taps	1 <sup>st</sup> VP CTSSAR, Michael Bird
Benediction	Humphreys Chaplain, Steve Chapman
SAR Recessional	1 <sup>st</sup> VP Humphreys Branch, Steve Chapman

## **Pledge to the SAR**

We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

## **Welcome & Greetings by General David Humphreys**

### **Branch President – Christopher Bandecchi**

Welcome to today's grave marking ceremony, honoring five patriots, including a member of the Culper Spy Ring. Today's ceremony is also significant in that it represents one of our State Society's first celebrations of America's 250th Anniversary, celebrating a decade of the American Revolution. From the first meeting of the Continental Congress in 1774 to the signing of our Declaration of Independence in 1776; from Trenton to Valley Forge, to Yorktown and the Treaty of Paris in 1783, we will for the next decade be holding ceremonies to commemorate these and many more historic events of the Revolution, and to honor our patriot ancestors. Our state society currently has seventeen ceremonies planned from today through 2027, with more being scheduled to commemorate many historic events from the Revolutionary decade. Additionally, Connecticut SAR will be hosting the 135th Annual Congress at Mohegan Sun in 2025. During this time, many tours and events will be held throughout the state from July 12 through July 15. It is truly an exciting and an important time. As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, it is important that we continue to honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

## **Welcome from Stratford Historical Society, Kevin Moore**

### **History of the Old Congregational Burying Ground**

On February 13, 1677/8 the townsmen laid out one acre of land to be used as a burial ground. The first person buried before the layout of the cemetery was John Knell on January 16, 1651. There were 16 more before the layout. This Old Congregation Burying Place is the oldest existing burying ground in Stratford. In 1907, the gate and plaque were put in by the Mary Silliman Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. There is an estimate of about 900 gravestones and another 300 burials without a stone. Over the years more land was donated to the cemetery.

## **Welcome from the Town of Stratford's Mayor Laura Hoydick**

### **Biography of the Five Patriots Being Honored Today**

1. **Lieutenant George Smith**. During the American Revolution, Benedict Arnold's flight to the British side in the autumn of 1780 would prove devastating for nearly all of George Washington's spies, particularly his Culper Spy Ring. Arnold would spend the next few weeks exposing every American spy he knew of. This created a tremendous problem for the Culper Ring, which funneled intelligence from the British Headquarters in Manhattan, across Long Island to Brookhaven and then over the Sound to the southern shores of Connecticut. With some of their allies exposed, their key man in the city, Robert Townsend or "Samuel Culper, Jr." refused to write any more letters. The ring needed a substitute and found one in George Smith, a native of Smithtown on Long Island, but by 1780 a resident of Stratford, Connecticut.

George Smith would join the Culper Spy Ring, writing under the pseudonym "S.G." The true identity of "S.G." would remain a secret until 1959, when Virginia Eckles Malone, a Smithtown historian, discovered Smith's role. Smith, who was born in 1749, was a Princeton graduate and a prominent local attorney. As the war began, Smith was well known to all of the members of the Culper Spy Ring, serving with several of them in the local military and on local government committees controlled by Patriots. He was particularly good friends with Caleb Brewster, the daring whaleboat captain who carried intelligence across the Sound, and he assisted Brewster in receiving smuggled goods from Long Island and selling them to the locals in Stratford. The two served together until George Smith became a Deputy Advocate General under General Horatio Gates.

Smith's position would also come with a secret role - he was Gates' spy chief. Every general had their own spies, and in some cases generals knew who each other's spies were. What likely spared Smith's exposure as a spy was that Gates and Arnold hated one another after the Battle of Saratoga, so Gates does not appear to have shared intelligence or the name of his spies with Arnold. When Arnold exposed all other spies, George Smith would still be a name unknown to him.

In 1781, George Smith served with the Culper Spy Ring in one of its most crucial moments. At this stage of the war, Washington was struggling with a decision between two choices. One option, which the French General Rochambeau in particular was pushing for, was for Washington and his men to join Lafayette in his battle with Lord Cornwallis down in Virginia. Washington, however, was considering using this opportunity when British troops were going south to retake an under-defended Manhattan. Washington always wanted to retake Manhattan after he lost it in the period following the Battle of Long Island, and now he tasked the Culper spies with providing him intelligence on how many British troops were left in the city. Washington would get detailed intelligence back from "S.G." and Samuel Culper Sr. on the subject. Based on

the information the Culper spies shared, Washington decided to forgo an attempt on Manhattan and decided to join Lafayette in his battle with Cornwallis. This fateful decision would eventually lead to the Siege of Yorktown, a crucial American victory which effectively ended the American Revolution, particularly all major hostilities.

Smith would continue to serve with the ring at least until 1782. After the war, he would continue to practice law and live out the rest of his life with his family in Stratford, where he was laid to rest there in the Old Congregational Burying Ground. A peaceful end, for an American hero.

2. **Captain James Booth** was born on October 1, 1734 in Stratford. His parents were James & Martha Clark. James married Abigail Ann Patterson on March 30, 1757 and they had 5 children; Betsey, Abel, Hezekiah, James and Silas. James was at the battle of Saratoga and was stationed in Stratford. He was part of the Northern Department in Sept-Nov of 1715 James marched to Fairfield in March of 1779 in the 4th Regiment. James was under the command of LT. Col. Dimon and Col. Whitings Militia. In 1778 James was a Selectmen and a Fence Viewer (in charge of inspecting & erecting fences). James died March 1809 in Stratford.
3. **Captain Samuel Ufford** was born on February 18, 1748/49 in Stratford. He was the son of Ebenezer and Jane Moss. Samuel married Abigail Gold on November 28, 1769 and they had 3 children; Mary Rugles, Hezekiah Gold and Ebenezer. Samuel also fought in the French and Indian War in the First Regiment under Major General Phineas Lyman. During the Revolution he was under Col. Jonathan Dimon Regt 2<sup>nd</sup> Company Trainband 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment and went to Fairfield in 1779 to repel the invasion of General Tryon. Samuel was also a Constable in 1781. He died December 12, 1822.
4. **Corporal John Wells** was born on August 26, 1747 in Stratford. His parents were John & Comfort Birdsey and he had 2 sisters Charity & Betty. John never married. John served

under Captain John Booth' Company of guards of the 4th Regiment. He was also part of the Militia in 1781.

5. **Jabez Curtis** was born on October 26, 1739 in Stratford and his parents were Henry & Ann Thompson. Jabez married Betty Wells on April 25, 1765 in Stratford. They had one child named William. He also served under Captain John Booth's Company of guards. Jabez also had civil service. He was tythingman, a local peace officer.

## **Musket Volley Salute**

The Connecticut Line

### **Taps**

Michael Bird, CTSSAR 1st Vice President

### **Benediction**

Humphreys Branch VP, Steve Chapman

### **SAR Recessional**

SAR recessional: "Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a nation of free men."

# Acknowledgments

CTSAR State President, Paul Selnau

CTSSAR General David Humphreys Branch No. 1

David Perkins of the Connecticut Line / Living History Unit

Stratford Historical Society, Kevin Moore

Stratford Mayor, Laura Hoydick

First Congregational Church of Stratford, Stratford, CT

