

# Connecticut in the American Revolution



An Exhibition from the  
Library and Museum Collections of  
The Society of the Cincinnati

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1783

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**T**HIS catalogue has been produced in conjunction with the exhibit, *Connecticut in the American Revolution*, on display from October 27, 2001, to May 11, 2002, at Anderson House, Headquarters, Library and Museum of the Society of the Cincinnati, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D. C. 20008. It is the fifth in a series of exhibitions focusing on the contributions to the American Revolution made by the original thirteen states and the French alliance.

Generous support for this exhibit was provided by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut.

Also available:

*Massachusetts in the American Revolution: "Let It Begin Here"* (1997)  
*New York in the American Revolution* (1998)  
*New Jersey in the American Revolution* (1999)  
*Rhode Island in the American Revolution* (2000)

Text by Ellen McCallister Clark and Sandra L. Powers.

Front cover: Bella Lyon Pratt (1867-1917). Bronze statue of Nathan Hale (1755-1776), ca. 1912. Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection. See page 15.

Back cover: The Connecticut Eagle, New York, ca. 1908. See page 34.

**R**ouse the People to see their Danger. Stir them up by all that is dear in this life. Our Wives, our Children, our property, our Liberty is at Stake....

— Colonel Samuel Selden, Lyme, Connecticut, to Captain Joshua Huntington, calling for reinforcements to be sent to New York City, July 6th, 1776.

*ALS, William Griswold Lane Memorial Collection Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.*

## INTRODUCTION

Connecticut was an early and enthusiastic participant in the American Revolution. Under the terms of their colonial charter granted by Charles II in 1662, Connecticut's citizens enjoyed a large degree of autonomy and self-government matched only by their neighbors in Rhode Island. Controversy over the Stamp Act of 1765 sharpened the debate over colonial rights, and the following year the Whigs, strongly backed by the Sons of Liberty, gained control of the Connecticut General Assembly. One of the leading "New Lights," as the Whigs were called, was Jonathan Trumbull, who was appointed deputy governor and chief justice under the new regime. Succeeding to the governorship in 1769, Trumbull would become the only colonial governor to champion the patriots' cause, remaining in office through the years of the Revolution. Under his leadership, Connecticut became a key force in the struggle for national independence.

When the Massachusetts Provincial Congress called for assistance following the outbreak of fighting at Lexington and Concord in April 1775, Connecticut responded immediately, sending more than 3,700 men. On June 14th, six Connecticut regiments were adopted into the newly formed Continental Army under the command of George Washington. The Connecticut Continental line was reorganized several times over the course of the war until 1781, when the nine standing regiments were consolidated into five. Including state troops and militia, more than 40,000 Connecticut men, about a fifth of the state's population, saw military service during the Revolution. Troops from Connecticut participated in nearly every campaign of the war, from the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and the Battle of Bunker Hill to the decisive victory at Yorktown.

Maritime operations were another critical part of Connecticut's contribution to the war effort. Although the state's earliest priority was raising and equipping its military forces, Connecticut eventually built a state navy of fourteen



Engraved portrait of Israel Putnam. See page 11.



vessels to protect its extensive coastline. The state also issued letters of marque to about 250 privateers, allowing them to receive prizes for damaging and capturing British ships and for bringing in supplies from the West Indies. In addition to building and outfitting local ships, Connecticut shipbuilders constructed three Continental Navy frigates: *Trumbull*, built in 1776, and *Bourbon* and *Confederacy*, both commissioned by Congress the following year.

Perhaps Connecticut's greatest contribution to the cause was a steady supply of food, clothing, and munitions for the Continental forces, coordinated through the efforts of Governor Trumbull and his Council of Safety. The position of Commissary General of the Continental Army was held by two Connecticut officers in succession, Joseph Trumbull, the governor's son, and Jeremiah Wadsworth. Despite the drain on manpower called away to the armed forces, Connecticut farms and factories remained productive throughout the war. Although British forces never gained a stronghold within her borders, Connecticut's crucial role as "The Provisions State" provoked several brutal and damaging raids launched from British-held New York City and Long Island.

In May 1783, following the cessation of hostilities, a delegation of officers of the Continental Army in cantonment at Newburgh, New York, founded the Society of the Cincinnati to commemorate the achievements of the Revolution and cement the bonds of friendship formed over eight years of war. On July 4th, the seventh anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the officers of the Connecticut line met separately at West Point to organize the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, the fifth constituent society established under the Society's Institution.

Drawing primarily from the collections of the Society of the Cincinnati Library and Museum, this exhibit commemorates the contributions and sacrifices of the citizen-soldiers of Connecticut to the achievement of American Independence. It was made possible through the generous support of their descendants represented in the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut.

## CASE 1: PREAMBLE

As most American schoolchildren know, unpopular British taxes imposed upon the colonists without their consent were among the causes of the American Revolution. But few of those same students understand the political and economic circumstances underlying the need for increased tax revenues. Both the English Parliament and advisors to the throne perceived a growing need to defend British interests in the New World against those of the French. And for their part, the colonists felt the need for increased defenses against the threat of Indian attacks on their settlements.

The costs of manning, equipping, and supplying English garrisons along the western Atlantic seaboard concomitantly increased the need to identify additional sources of revenue; and the colonies, Connecticut among them, felt the burden even as they recognized their vulnerability to attack by unfriendly forces. The colonists' growing and often violent resistance to Parliament's revenue-raising policies only intensified calls for strengthening the Crown's military presence across the Atlantic. By the time news of the "shot heard 'round the world" reached London, Parliamentary debates frequently addressed the cost of maintaining British military forces in America. Among the prescient members of the House of Commons was George Johnstone (1730-1787), Governor of West Florida, who warned on December 16, 1775, "Nothing but the sword can now decide the contest...for every wise man must foresee that our rivals in Europe cannot be idle spectators in such a scene." Three days later, the House approved just over £386,000 for maintaining all British garrisons abroad for the coming year.

Materials in the case below illustrate some of the factors that led to the vast increases in British military spending both during the Seven Years' War and in the uneasy decade that followed.

**Connecticut (Colony). Enlistment document of Thomas Clarke of Lebanon, Windham County, 4 April 1758.**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

**T**homas Clarke enlisted voluntarily in the army “raised by the Colony of Connecticut, to be commanded by Colonel Nathan[iel Haynes] Whiting for invading Canada and carrying the War into the Heart of the Enemy’s Possessions.” The document is signed by Jonathan Trumbull (1710-1785) as “one of his Majesty’s Assistants.” Trumbull later would become Connecticut’s governor; Clarke’s commander Colonel Whiting would serve in the Connecticut Continental line during the American Revolution and sign the original roll of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati.

**Connecticut (Colony). A summons to collect unpaid taxes due for 1770, Hartford, 1771.**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

**T**he individual cited in this summons, Nathaniel Godwin, was in arrears for £1.82.15.3 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, an amount repaid, according to receipts on the verso of this notice, in four installments, the last on May 27, 1773. The diligent but tardy taxpayer went on to serve as a captain in the Connecticut line in the early years of the Revolution. He was wounded and died in service on May 1, 1777.

The summons is signed by John Lawrence as Treasurer for the colony; he continued to serve in that same capacity after the colony became a state.

**Great Britain. Army. Massachusetts Regiment of Foot. Captain Simon Slocumb’s Company. Orderly Book, Fort Cumberland, Nova Scotia, May 10, 1759-September 6, 1760.**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

**I**n addition to salaries and provisions, the British coffers supported the purchase of ammunition, armaments and other supplies for British military forces abroad. This orderly book kept during the Seven Years’ War by a colonial company of some 400 officers and men includes several monthly reports. This one

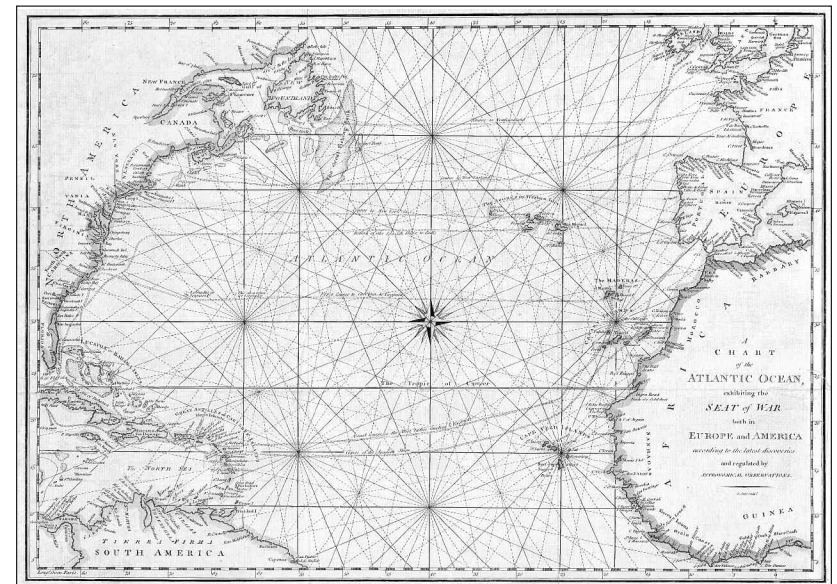
records quantities of powder and balls “at the castle” and “at Fort Cumberland” for one three-month period accounting for the actual amounts of ammunition expended and what remained on hand.

The fort, originally built by the French as Fort Beausejour, was captured by the British in 1755 and renamed Fort Cumberland. Located on the isthmus connecting Nova Scotia to the mainland, the fort was a strategic link in British operations in Canada during both the Seven Years’ War and the American Revolution.

**“A Chart of the Atlantic Ocean Exhibiting the Seat of War Both in Europe and America.” London: Published as the Act Directs by J. Macgowan and Wm. Davis...1780. [above case]**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

**P**ins on this facsimile of a map in the Library’s collection locate most of the eighteen British garrisons abroad listed in the official Army List in the case below. The locales not labeled here (Halifax, Montreal, Pensacola, and Mobile) can be identified on the *New Map of the British Empire in N<sup>th</sup> America* displayed in Case 1.





The map also shows the shipping lanes between Europe and the New World and suggests reasons for British concerns about French designs on territories adjacent to English colonies along the western Atlantic.

Thomas Kitchin (d. 1784). "A New Map of the British Empire in N<sup>th</sup> America." [London: For Millar's New, Complete and Universal System of Geography, ca. 1770]

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Complementing the chart shown on the wall above, this contemporary map locates not only Fort Cumberland, the site of the orderly book displayed here, but also all the eighteen garrisons mentioned in the adjoining Army List with the exception of Providence and the four Caribbean Islands.

Connecticut. General Assembly. *Acts and Laws, Made and Passed by the General Court or Assembly of His Majesty's English Colony of Connecticut...Holden at New-Haven...on the Second Thursday of October, in the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of...George the Third....*New-London: Printed and Sold by Timothy Green, Printer to the Governor and Company, 1774.

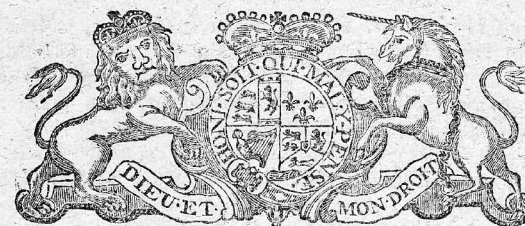
The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Clashes in Massachusetts over the tea tax and Boston Port Bill prompted neighboring Connecticut to take steps to increase its military preparedness. This act was passed "for forming and regulating the Militia, and for Encouragement of Military Skill for the better Defence of this Colony." Under its terms, soldiers were paid six shillings per half day for appearing; those who failed to appear were fined two shillings per half day. The act also directed the colonels of the regiments to "collect the Fire-Arms and other Implements of War within their respective Regiments, which belong to this Colony, and cause them to be repaired and fitted for Use."

Anno Regni Regis GEORGII III. Decimo Quarto.

Forming and regulating the Militia.

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## ACTS AND LAWS,

Made and passed by the General Court or Assembly of His Majesty's English Colony of CONNECTICUT, in NEW-ENGLAND, in AMERICA; holden at *New-Haven*, in said Colony, on the Second Thursday of *October*, in the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord *GEORGE* the Third, King of GREAT-BRITAIN, &c. *Annoque Domini, 1774.*

An Act in addition to the Law of this Colony, entituled, An Act for forming and regulating the Militia, and for Encouragement of Military Skill, for the better Defence of this Colony.



Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Military Companies or Train-Bands in the several Regiments in this Colony, shall be called out and exercised in the Use of their Arms, and other Exercises proper for a Company of Infantry, twelve Half Days from this Time until the first Day of *May* next. And if any of the non-commission Officers or Soldiers in said Companies, shall neglect to attend said Exercises, each Person so neglecting shall forfeit and pay

E e e

for

Militia to be under Arms twelve Half Days.

Penalty for neglect.



Great Britain. Adjutant-General's Office. *The Manual Exercise as Ordered by His Majesty in MDCCLXIV and Now Adopted in the Various Provinces of North-America...Norwich [Connecticut]: Printed by Robertsons and Trumbull...1775.*

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

In 1775, the Connecticut General Assembly resolved “for the future, the military exercise called the manual exercise, ordered by His Majesty in 1764, shall be observed by the militia of this Colony.” This is but one of several editions of the Exercise that appeared in 1774 and 1775 from presses all along the eastern seaboard. The printer John Trumbull (no relation to the governor) was a strong supporter of the patriot cause. The Robertson brothers who shared the publishing responsibilities were Loyalists, and the partnership dissolved at the outbreak of the Revolution, another casualty of America’s first civil war.

Although the title-page signature is only partially legible, an internal inscription on page [3] reads: William Gray’s book, July 4th 1775. Perhaps it belonged to one of two William Grays who became original members of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Great Britain. War Dept. *A List of the General and Field-Officers, As They Rank in the Army....* London: Printed for J. Millan..., [1774].

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

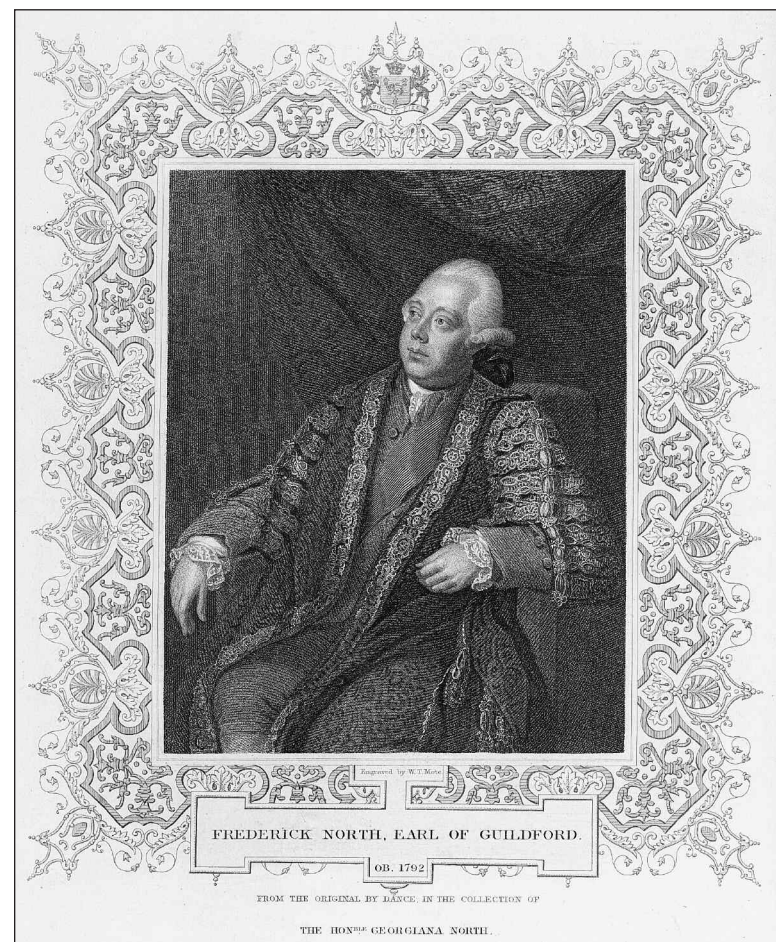
Among this list of British garrisons abroad are nine located along the Atlantic coast on the eve of the Revolution. An additional nine garrisons at Pensacola, Mobile, Charleston, Bermuda, and various islands in the Caribbean are named on two pages following bringing the total to eighteen — twelve more than were listed in the Army List for 1758.

Salaries of these officers alone totaled more than £80,500 per year, up from some £2,300 in 1758. Not included are the salaries of the rank and file, nor are costs for clothing, feeding, or equipping both officers and men.

W.T. Mote, [engraver]. “Frederick North, Earl of Guildford.” London: London Printing and Publishing Company, ca. 1850.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Before becoming Prime Minister of Great Britain in 1770, Frederick, Lord North (1732-1792) had served his government in various financial capacities: as clerk in the treasury, 1759-1765; as Paymaster General in 1766; and as Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1767-1770. No doubt his understanding of the increased demands on the treasury led to his sustaining the tea tax so vehemently opposed in America and to his introduction of the equally despised Boston Port Bill in 1774. Instead, these bills and other taxes raised the resentment and ire of the colonists.





## CASE 2: ANSWERING THE CALL

**O**n April 19, 1775, American resistance to British authority turned to armed rebellion when Massachusetts militiamen confronted British regulars who were advancing on the towns of Lexington and Concord, resulting in casualties on both sides. The following day, representatives from Massachusetts met with the Connecticut Committee of Correspondence at the home of Governor Jonathan Trumbull to request assistance. In its reply to the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, the Connecticut Committee promised “Every preparation is making to support your Province...the ardour of our people is such that they can’t be kept back.” A special session of the Connecticut General Assembly convened at Hartford on April 26th, resulting in the creation of six regiments to be composed of ten companies each. Deployment of these regiments reflected their geographic origins: three regiments from the eastern and central sections of the colony were sent to aid in the defense of Boston; one regiment raised in the northwest section went to Fort Ticonderoga; and two from the southwest prepared to secure New York City. By resolve of Congress, the six Connecticut Regiments became part of the Continental Army on June 14, 1775.

The General Assembly also created a Council of Safety “to assist the Governor when the Assembly was not in session, to direct the marches and stations of the soldiers enlisted...and supply with every matter and thing that would be needful for the defense of the colony.” Composed of Assembly members, the Council of Safety worked closely with Governor Trumbull to coordinate Connecticut’s military and civilian efforts for the duration of the war.

**“Israel Putnam Eq<sup>re</sup>. Major Général de troupes de Connecticut a commandoit en chef à l’affaire de Bunckerhill près Boston le 17 Juin 1775” Paris: Chez Esnauts et Rapilly, [178?].**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

**I**srael Putnam (1718-1790) was already a well-known hero in Connecticut before the American Revolution. During the French and Indian War he served with Robert Rogers’ Rangers and was captured and nearly burned at the stake by the Indians. In 1759, he led a regiment in Lord Jeffrey Amherst’s march from Oswego to Montreal. He later survived a shipwreck off Cuba during an ill-fated expedition to Havana in 1762, and commanded five companies of Connecticut troops who marched to Detroit during Pontiac’s War in 1764.

Back home in Connecticut he opened a tavern called “The General Wolfe” and became an active member of the Sons of Liberty. According to Putnam’s son, when the news of the bloodshed at Lexington reached him at his farm in Pomfret, the senior Putnam left his plow in the field and rode straight through the night to Cambridge, leaving word for the local militia to follow. He commanded patriot forces during the Battle of Bunker Hill and received a commission as brigadier (later major) general in the Continental Army. Following the siege of Boston, Putnam preceded Washington to New York and played a major role in the ill-fated Battle of Long Island. In May 1777, Washington placed General Putnam in command of the Highlands on the Hudson. He remained in service until December 1779, when a paralytic stroke forced his retirement.

**“Le General Arnold un des Chefs de L’Armée Anglo Americaine.” [Paris: Esnauts et Rapilly, ca. 1778.]**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

**A**mong the first Connecticut units to march to Massachusetts in April 1775 was the Second Company of Governor’s Foot Guard, formed in New Haven under the command of Benedict Arnold (1741-1801). Arnold quickly made his name as one of Connecticut’s most daring patriots. Within weeks of his arrival in Boston, the Massachusetts Committee of Safety sent him on a mission to British-held Fort Ticonderoga in New York, where

he joined Ethan Allen in capturing the fort and confiscating cannon and other artillery desperately needed by the American forces. He went on to lead an arduous expedition across the Maine wilderness to join the American invasion of Canada and was badly wounded during the failed siege of Quebec. He was wounded again during the battles at Saratoga and received official commendation from Congress for his role in the defeat of General Burgoyne. His subsequent betrayal of his country at West Point in 1780 was a tremendous blow, both to Connecticut and to the nation.

**Connecticut. General Assembly. Commission of Samuel Selden as colonel of a "Regiment now ordered to be raised in this colony, and to join the Continental Army", Hartford, 20 June 1776. Signed by Jonathan Trumbull, "Captain-General and Commander in Chief of the English Colony of Connecticut" and George Wyllys, secretary. [facsimile]**

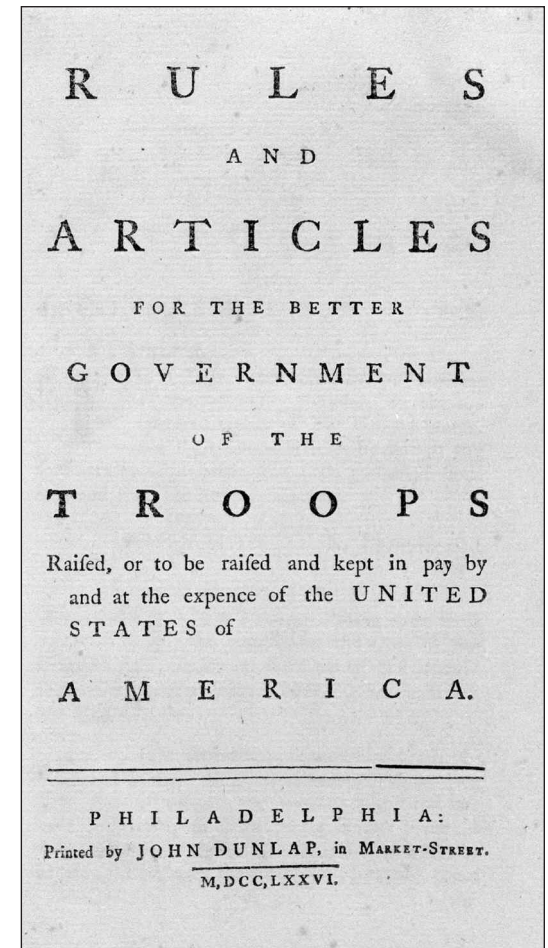
On loan from George Dudley Selden, the great-great-great-great grandson of the Colonel Samuel Selden

**B**y the time of Samuel Selden's appointment as colonel in June of 1776, the focus on the war had moved to New York City, where the Americans were preparing for an inevitable British attack. Responding to Washington's call for reinforcements, Governor Trumbull commissioned new state regiments to be sent to aid in the defense of the city. Colonel Selden mustered a force from East Haddam, which served under the command of General James Wadsworth during the Battle of Long Island. Not long after the American retreat to the mainland, Selden was captured and taken prisoner by the British. He died in New York City's Sugar House Prison on October 11, 1776.

**United States. Continental Congress. *Rules and Articles for the Better Government of the Troops Raised, or To Be Raised and Kept in Pay by and at the Expence of the United States of America.* Philadelphia: Printed by John Dunlap..., 1776. Bears signatures of James Wadsworth (1730-1817), major general in the Connecticut militia.**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

**O**n June 15, 1775, the Continental Congress in Philadelphia asserted its constitutional authority by adopting "Articles of War" to govern the newly established Continental Army. These articles were revised and amended several times during the early years of the war; this printing, ordered by Congress September 20, 1776, superceded the earlier editions. The owner of this copy, James Wadsworth, was brigadier general in charge of a Connecticut militia brigade during the New York campaign. He succeeded Major General David Wooster as commander of the Connecticut militia following Wooster's death during the British raid on Danbury, Connecticut, in May of 1777. General Wadsworth resigned his commission in May of 1779 to sit full time on the Connecticut Council of Safety.



Alonzo Chappel (1828-1887). "Jonathan Trumbull, from the original painting by Chappel in the possession of the publishers." New York: Johnson, Fry & Co., 1862.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

The son of a prominent cattleman and retailer, Jonathan Trumbull (1710-1785) prepared for the ministry before the death of his father and brother brought him into the family mercantile business in Lebanon, Connecticut. His political life began in 1733 with his election to the Connecticut General Assembly, and he held public office nearly continuously for the next five decades. An outspoken critic of the Stamp Act, Trumbull was appointed deputy governor under the new Whig regime that swept into power in 1766; and following the death of Governor Pitkin in 1769, Trumbull assumed the governorship. With his nearly unanimous reelection in 1776, Jonathan Trumbull became the only colonial governor to remain in office after the Revolution began. He served through the war, becoming a frequent, trusted advisor to George Washington.

M.L. Catlin. Painting of Governor Jonathan Trumbull's War Office in Lebanon, Connecticut, on a shingle from the original building, [1891].

Gift of Mr. Warren C. Kendall and the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut

With the outbreak of hostilities, Governor Trumbull converted his family store in Lebanon into the "War Office" from which he and his Council of Safety coordinated Connecticut's war effort. The Council met in the building more than 1,100 times between 1775 and 1783. Troops from Rochambeau's army were housed in the War Office between November 1780 and June 1781 as they prepared for their march to Yorktown and the final campaign of the war.

In the late nineteenth century, the Connecticut Sons of the American Revolution undertook a major restoration of the War Office. This original shingle is one of a number replaced during the renovation that were painted and sold as souvenirs at the rededication of the building on June 16, 1891.

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### Connecticut State Flag.

Gift of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, 1956

The flag of the state of Connecticut has roots in the Connecticut regimental standards carried during the American Revolution. The central shield bears the Connecticut arms adopted during the colonial period: three grapevines bearing clusters of fruit believed to symbolize the original settlements of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield. Below the shield is the state motto, *Qui Transtulit Sustinet* (Who Transporteth Sustaineth), which also dates from colonial times. In 1775, the Connecticut General Assembly ordered standards bearing the Connecticut arms for the six Connecticut regiments, each to be distinguished by a different colored field.

Bella Lyon Pratt (1867-1917). Bronze statue of Nathan Hale (1755-1776), ca. 1912. Marked: Roman Bronze Works N-Y. One of several models sold to raise funds for a life-size statue at Yale University. [cover illustration]

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Born into a prosperous farming family in Coventry, Connecticut, Nathan Hale was only fourteen when he entered Yale College in 1769. A prodigious scholar, he helped organize the library of the Linonia Society, a secret fraternity devoted to the "excitement of literary exertion." After graduation he became a schoolmaster, teaching in East Haddam and then New London. He left his teaching post in July 1775 to enlist in the Continental Army, receiving a commission as first lieutenant in Colonel Charles Webb's 7th Connecticut Regiment. He participated in the siege of Boston, rising to the rank of captain, and moved with the army to New York in April 1776. Following the battle of Long Island in August, Hale was appointed to a newly formed reconnaissance unit under the command of Colonel Thomas Knowlton. When Washington requested that Knowlton find a volunteer to infiltrate the



British lines on Long Island, Hale was the only one to step forward.

Hale left Washington's camp at Harlem Heights on September 12, 1776, and following a circuitous route made his way to Long Island. Wearing a "plain suit of citizen's brown clothes" and presenting himself as a schoolmaster, he followed the British lines, which had moved back to New York City. Hale was able to copy fortification plans and learn details of British strength and positions before the great fire of September 20 forced him out of the city. As he traveled northward to rejoin the Americans, Hale was captured by the British and taken to General Howe's headquarters. Finding evidence of espionage in Hale's possession, Howe ordered that the prisoner be hanged the next day without a trial.

While awaiting execution, Hale was in the custody of Captain John Montross, Howe's chief engineer, who left a moving account of the condemned man's "gentle dignity, the consciousness of rectitude and high intention." As he stood on the gallows, Hale spoke to the assembled British soldiers, concluding with a paraphrase from Addison's *Cato*: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

When news of Nathan Hale's execution reached the American lines several days later, the story of the heroic sacrifice of the twenty-one-year-old "martyr-spy" quickly moved into the realm of legend and galvanized support for the American cause.



### CASE 3: THE CONFEDERACY

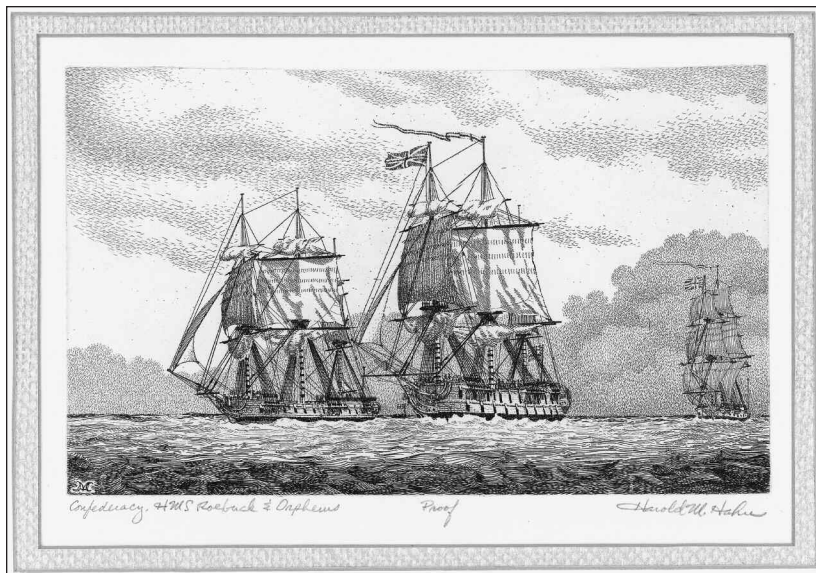
Harold M. Hahn. Model of the Continental Navy frigate, *Confederacy*, completed 1982. Scale: 3/16 in. per ft.

Harold M. Hahn. "Confederacy, HMS Roebuck & Orpheus" [Etching]. Artist's proof, March 9, 1982.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

In January 1777, the Continental Congress resolved "that two frigates, one of 36, and the other of 28 guns, be immediately undertaken in the state of Connecticut." Governor Trumbull arranged for the smaller ship, *Bourbon*, to be built at Chatham. Work on the 36-gun frigate, which Congress would name *Confederacy*, began in the spring under the supervision of Captain Joshua Huntington at his shipyard in Norwich. Difficulties in procuring timber, iron fittings, and workmen delayed completion of the ship for more than a year and a half, so that it was not until November 8, 1778, that the *Confederacy* was finally launched under the command of Captain Seth Harding. His first missions were to "take, burn, sink or destroy as many of the Enemy's ships" as possible along the Delaware and Virginia coasts while protecting American merchant ships coming in from the West Indies. In the fall of 1779, Captain Harding was given the important diplomatic mission of carrying the French Minister M. Gérard and John Jay, newly named United States minister to Spain, aboard the *Confederacy* to France. During the voyage, the frigate suffered major damage and had to be diverted to Martinique, where her diplomatic passengers boarded another ship to their destination. After several months of repairs, the *Harding* sailed the *Confederacy* back to the United States. In April 1781, the *Confederacy* was conveying a fleet of merchantmen off the Delaware Capes when she was confronted by two British warships, HMS *Roebuck* and *Orpheus*. Outnumbered and wanting to spare his crew, Harding surrendered without firing a shot.

On April 21, 1781, *Rivington's Royal Gazette* reported the arrival of the captured frigate in New York and the impact of



her loss to the Americans: “Her invoice amounts to fifty thousand pounds, the cargo consists of sugar, cotton, indigo and a large quantity of clothing for Mr Washington’s army...she is the largest ship ever to be employed by the Congress, whose navy is now reduced to three frigates viz, the *Alliance*, *Trumbull* and *Deane*.”

The officers of the *Confederacy* were paroled in New York, but the members of her crew were taken prisoner and incarcerated on the prison ship *Jersey*. The British renamed the captured frigate *Confederate*, and sailed her to England. Shortly after her arrival at Falmouth it was discovered that green wood used in the *Confederacy*’s construction had caused extensive rot, and the ship was deemed unfit for further service.

This model is based on the original drawings of the ship made at the time of its capture by the British Admiralty, now in the collection of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.

## CASE 4: PROVISIONS AND PRISONS

In addition to providing manpower and ships, Connecticut was the leading supplier of food, clothing, and munitions for the Continental Army, earning the nickname “The Provisions State.” In April 1775, the General Assembly established a commissariat to “supply all necessary Stores and provisions for the troops now to be raised for the Defense of this Colony.” Nine regional commissaries were set up to procure, store, and distribute such items as food, cloth, tents and other camp equipment, lead, bullets, and gunpowder. Joseph Trumbull (1738-1778), the governor’s oldest son, was appointed head of the Commissary Department and was sent with the militia to Boston to oversee supply operations. So impressed was General Washington with Trumbull’s performance that he recommended to Congress his appointment as Commissary General of the Continental Army in July 1775.

Connecticut produced a larger proportion of the food consumed by the Continental Army than did any other state. A state-imposed embargo on the general trade of agricultural products created a surplus that was redirected for the use of the state and Continental land and sea forces. Although the farmers of Connecticut were among the “true heroes” of the Revolution, as the war dragged on they began to resent Congress’s heavy reliance on them, particularly for beef and pork. With the arrival of the French forces in New England in 1780, Connecticut food producers were able to recoup some of their financial losses by selling directly to the well-funded French commissary.

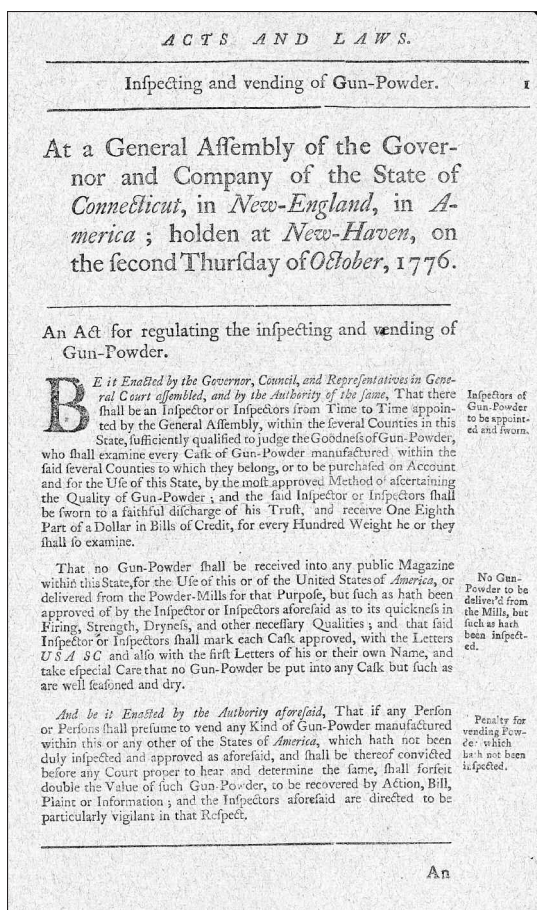
Because of its strongly Patriot population and distance from the main theaters of military action, Connecticut was considered a secure location for the confinement of many British prisoners of war. State resources also supported the building and maintenance of makeshift jails and prisons that were established in various locations around the state as well as aboard ships in its harbors.

Connecticut. General Assembly. *At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the State of Connecticut...Holden at New-Haven, on the Second Thursday of October, 1776. An Act for Regulating the Inspecting and Vending of Gun-Powder....* New London: Printed by Timothy Green, Printer to the Governor and Company, 1776.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Gunpowder was in short supply throughout the colonies when the Revolution began. In early 1775 the Connecticut General Assembly sent a secret mission to the West Indies to procure powder and shot for its arsenal. At least six gunpowder mills were established in towns around Connecticut to help meet the demand.

Whether imported or locally manufactured, the quality of the state's gunpowder supply was also of great concern. This act provided "that no Gun-Powder shall be received into any public Magazine within this State for use of this or of the United States of America ...but has been approved of by the Inspector... as to its quickness in Firing, Strength, Dryness, and other necessary Qualities...."



Connecticut. Committee of the Pay Table. Order to John Lawrence, Treasurer, to pay Colonel Andrew Ward £25.17.1 to be distributed among eight suppliers of saltpeter "made & sold to this Colony", 17 June 1776. Signed by Oliver Ellsworth.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

To encourage increased production, Connecticut authorities set up a program of bounties to be paid to the producers of gunpowder and its key ingredient, saltpeter (potassium nitrate). This document records the payment by the Connecticut treasury to eight citizen suppliers of the valuable mineral in 1776.

Connecticut. Committee of the Pay Table. Order to John Lawrence, Treasurer, to pay Caleb Cooke, Esq. 31 shillings, 7 pence. Hartford, 3 April 1776. Signed by Thomas Seymour and Ezekiel Williams, and endorsed on the verso by Caleb Cooke.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Caleb Cook served in the 6th Company of the First Connecticut Regiment in 1775. This pay order is to reimburse him for supplying riflemen and procuring guns, as well as for the hiring of a horse "for General Washington last spring."

Small covered dish, Chinese Export Celadon Porcelain, ca. 1800, originally owned by Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth (1743-1801).

From a large collection of Wadsworth porcelain and silver bequeathed by John Brinely Muir, Connecticut Society, 1980

A wealthy sea captain and early champion of colonial rights, Jeremiah Wadsworth was appointed commissary of the Connecticut militia forces in April 1775. In 1777, Congress elected him to the post of deputy commissary general of purchases for the Continental Army, and he later succeeded Colonel Joseph Trumbull as Commissary General of the Continental Army, serving from April 1778 through December 1779. Upon learning of Wadsworth's resignation, General Washington wrote, "I only wish his Successor may feed the Army as well as he has done." The following year, Wadsworth became commissary to the French troops at the request of General Rochambeau. After the war, Wadsworth took an active



interest in banking, insurance, and agriculture. An ardent Federalist, he was a member of the state convention that considered the ratification of the United States Constitution and was elected to Congress in 1787 and 1788. He was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati and served as president of the Connecticut Society from 1787 to 1793.

**“A View of the Guard-House and Simsbury-Mines, now called Newgate, A Prison for the Confinement of Loyalists in Connecticut.”** London: Published by J. Bew, Pater Noster Row, 1781. Engraved plate included in *The Political Magazine and Parliamentary, Naval, Military and Literary Journal*, October 1781.

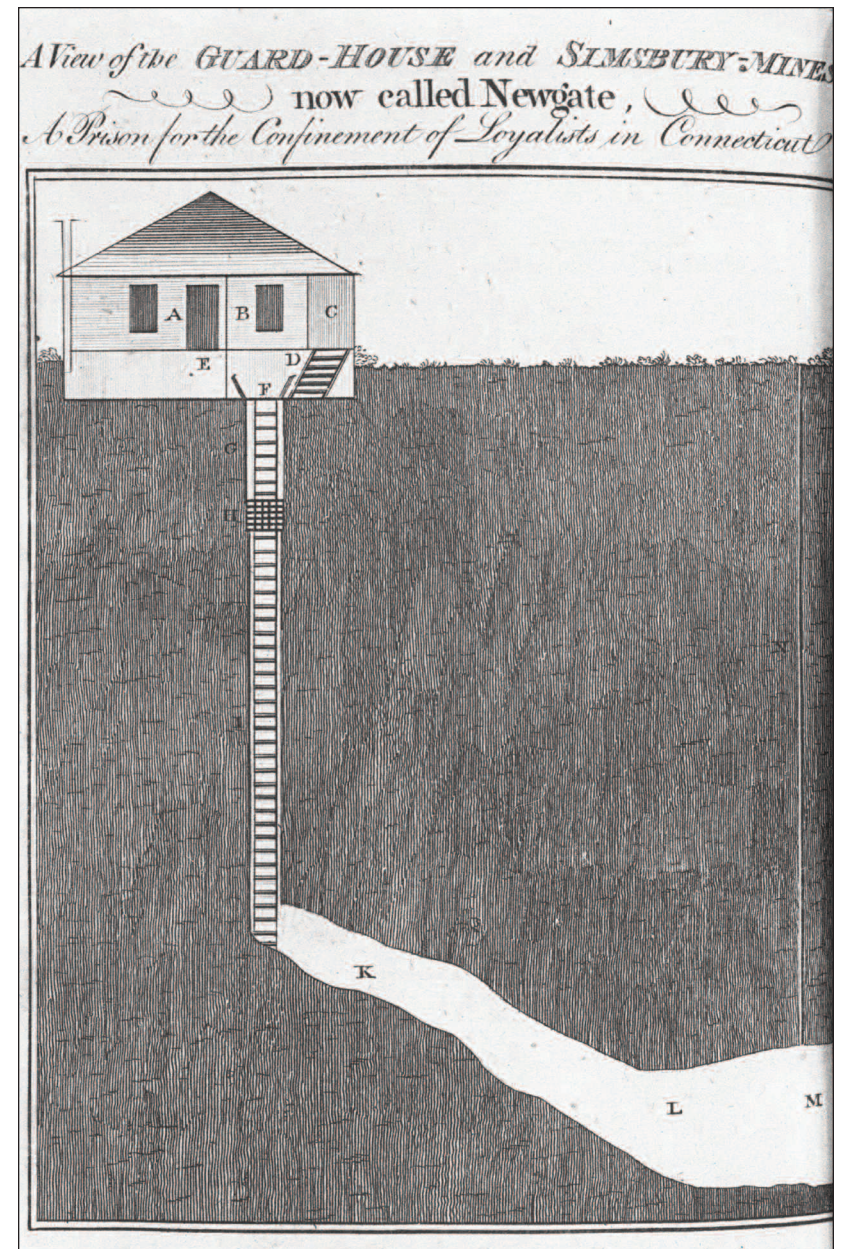
The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

In 1773, an abandoned copper mine at Simsbury, Connecticut, was confiscated by the provincial government and converted into a prison. Called “Newgate” after the notorious London prison, the facility at Simsbury was used for the incarceration of political dissidents who supported the policies of the Crown. On this plan published in the London-based *Political Magazine*, sections “L” and “M” seventy feet below ground level are identified as “The prison commonly called Hell.” In the accompanying text the editors observe that “a glance at the sketch of the dungeon in which the Connecticut Rebels confine the Loyalists [is] recommended to the orators who harangued in Parliament in favour of the Rebel prisoners.”

**Jonathan Trumbull (1710-1785), Governor of Connecticut.** Commission authorizing Ezekiel Williams to appoint guards and officers for a prison ship at Norwich. 12 June 1778. D.S., text in the handwriting of William Williams (1731-1811).

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

By 1778, Connecticut had custody of a large number of British prisoners confined on prison ships as well as at land locations around the state. In this commission, Governor Trumbull authorizes his deputy commissary of prisoners “to procure from time to time necessary Guards, & nominate & appoint proper Officer or Officers to take Care of & oversee



such Prisoners as are on board [an unnamed ship]...all Costs & Charges attending the same to be Charged to the United States.”

The text of the document is in the hand of Governor Trumbull’s son-in-law and aide, William Williams, who was one of Connecticut’s signers of the Declaration of Independence. Ezekiel Williams was William Williams’ brother.

## CASE 5: THE BRITISH RAIDS ON CONNECTICUT

The British occupation of New York City and Long Island in 1776 left neighboring Connecticut vulnerable to attack for the duration of the war. In April 1777, Major General William Tryon, the Royal Governor of New York, led an assault on Danbury, destroying stores of salted meat, tents, and other supplies badly needed by the American troops. Two years later, in February 1779, Tryon struck again, causing considerable damage to the salt works at Greenwich before his troops were driven back by Connecticut militiamen under the command of Israel Putnam. In July of that year, British and Hessian forces hit the towns of New Haven, Fairfield, and Norwalk, burning scores of buildings and terrifying the residents. The most violent raid occurred in October 1781, when former Connecticut patriot Benedict Arnold returned as commander of a British force that attacked forts at New London and Groton. The Americans put up a fierce resistance, killing or wounding nearly 200 British soldiers before they finally surrendered. In retaliation, the British killed American commander Colonel William Ledyard and eighty surrendering Americans, while Arnold ordered the burning of New London. From the British point of view, the raids were supposed to demoralize Connecticut’s citizens and crush their confidence in the American army’s ability to protect them. Instead, according to one Connecticut observer, the raids “roused our countrymen from their lethargy” and increased their determination to defend their state.

After the war, a tract of 500,000 acres within the state’s “Western Reserve” (in present-day Ohio) was designated to be used as compensation for citizens of the Connecticut towns that had suffered losses at the hands of the British raiders.



**“Major General David Wooster” [engraving, ca. 1776].**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

**D**avid Wooster (1710-1777), a sixty-four-year-old veteran of the French and Indian War, was given command of the six Connecticut regiments raised in response to the Lexington alarm.

Commissioned by Congress a brigadier general in the Continental Army, he took part in the unsuccessful attempt to capture Quebec in December 1775. The following year, he returned home and was reappointed major general of the Connecticut militia, charged with protecting the coastal border of the state. He was wounded during the British raid on Danbury on April 27, 1777, and died five days later.



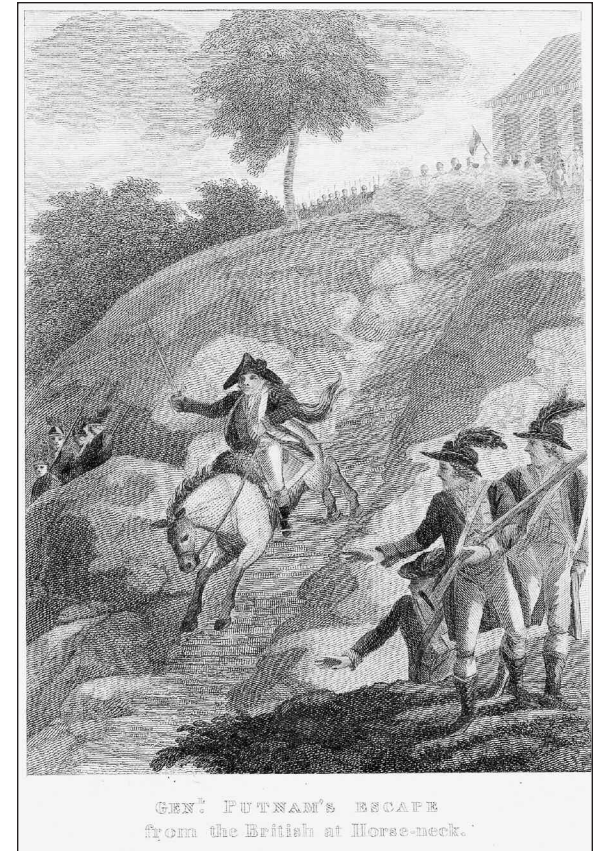
**[Elkanah Tisdale?] “Genl. Putnam’s Escape from the British at Horse-neck.” Hand-colored copy of a plate from Jedidiah Morse, *Annals of the American Revolution*....Hartford: Oliver D. Cooke, 1824.**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

**O**n the night of February 25, 1779, General William Tryon crossed from New York to Connecticut with a force of 1,500 British and Hessian troops on a mission to destroy the salt

factory at Greenwich. Learning of the enemy’s approach, General Israel Putnam, who was inspecting American outposts in the area, assembled a force of 150 men at Horseneck to meet them. Quickly assessing the superiority of Tryon’s army, Putnam ordered his men to retreat, while he rode to

Stamford for reinforcements. As he set out on the main road, Putnam was chased by several British dragoons. According to contemporary accounts, as the Redcoats closed in on him, Putnam leaped his horse over a precipice and rode down a steep incline of rocky steps, while his astonished pursuers reined in their horses at the top of the hill. Putnam returned from Stamford with additional forces, but not before the British had destroyed the salt works and raided many of the houses in Greenwich. Although the British had mostly retreated from the area, Putnam reported to Governor Trumbull that his men managed to capture thirty-eight “stragglers” as well as two enemy wagons carrying ammunition and baggage.





[Nehemiah Strong, 1729-1807]. *Stafford's Connecticut Almanack, for the Year of our Lord, 1779...Calculated and Adapted to the Horizon and Meridian of New-Haven, Lat. 41 Deg. 19 Min. North. By Hosea Stafford, Philomathes. New-Haven: Printed and sold by Thomas & Samuel Green, [1778].*

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

This 1779 almanac contains diary notes by an unknown writer recording the British raids on Greenwich (February 26) and New Haven, Fairfield and Norwalk (July 5-10).

[July 5]: *This morning the Enemy landed about half after 4 o'clock at West Side and marched into New Haven by Thompsons Bridge. A large body landed at East Haven about 8 o'clock in same morning and with the Assistance of their Shipping took the Fort. Tuesday morning 8 o'clock [they] evacuated New Haven and passed over to East Haven & joined the rest of their Body there on Beacon Hill, but being surrounded by the militia they embarked in great Haste in the afternoon, having lost many men and some principal Officers, and having burnt 8 dwelling Houses....*

The title-page vignette [shown] depicts America sitting on her quarter of the globe, bearing a shield with laurel leaves and the flag of the United States on a staff topped with a liberty cap.

**British Long-land Pattern Infantry Musket, also known as "First Model Brown Bess," ca. 1758-1765. 46-inch barrel marked "7 Reg"; thumb escutcheon marked F/37; lock marked "Tower" [for Tower of London Armory].**

Gift of Mr. Henry Hotchkiss, Connecticut Society, 1979

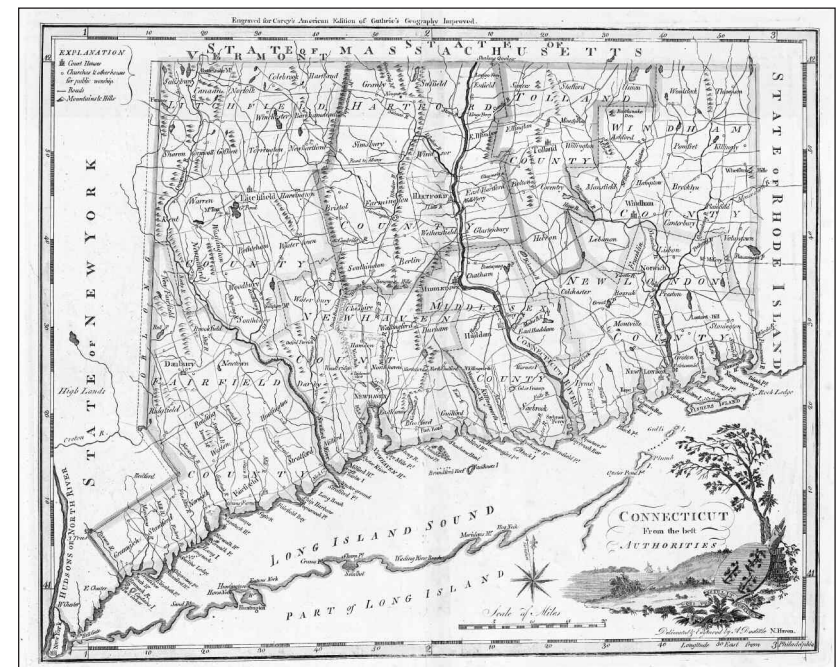
According to family history, this musket and twenty-three rounds of ammunition were captured from a Hessian soldier by town resident Jonah Hotchkiss, who was on the last charge of ball and powder in his own gun, during the attack on New Haven in July 1779. Hotchkiss held the Hessian prisoner in his home for several days during which time he learned that his father, Caleb Hotchkiss, a captain in Spencer's Continental Regiment, had been killed during the raid. The younger Hotchkiss reportedly said to his captive, "Had I known your

people had killed my father, I would not have spared you," but he allowed him to leave town unharmed. Although the Hessian auxiliaries usually carried their own German-manufactured weapons, this musket bears the marking of the British Royal Army's 7th Regiment, with whom the Hessians fought during the New Haven raid. The musket remained in the Hotchkiss family until it was presented to the Society on the 200th anniversary of its capture.

**Amos Doolittle (1754-1832). "Connecticut from the Best Authorities." Hand-colored map engraved for William Guthrie's *A New System of Modern Geography....* (First American edition, Philadelphia: Matthew Carey, 1794-95).**

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Sandwiched between the British military stronghold in New York and Rhode Island, which was held by the British from December 1776 to October 1779, the state of Connecticut was on high military alert throughout the war. The 250-mile coastline along the Long Island Sound was considered especially vulnerable and was the focus of much of the state's defense effort.



\*\*\*\*\*

**John Trumbull (1756-1843). Portrait of Bryan Rossiter. Oil on canvas, 1806. [above case]**

On loan from the New York State Society of the Cincinnati

**J**ohn Trumbull, the youngest of the six children of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, entered military service at the beginning of the war as an adjutant to General Joseph Spencer, and on July 15, 1775, he became an aide-de-camp to General Washington, who had recently taken command of the troops at Cambridge. He served in the Boston and New York campaigns, moving up to the position of deputy adjutant to General Horatio Gates with the rank of colonel. He resigned his commission in April 1777, but returned to service to assist General John Sullivan during the Rhode Island campaign the following year. Pursuing his life-long interest in art, he left America for France in 1780 and made his way to London, where he became a pupil of the artist Benjamin West. He remained abroad until 1789, earning fame on both sides of the Atlantic for his series of paintings of Revolutionary War events, which were based on his personal experience and scrupulous study of the historical record. Upon his return to the United States, he joined the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, transferring his membership to the New York State Society when the Connecticut branch disbanded in 1804.



The subject of this portrait, Bryan Rossiter (ca. 1760-1835), served as a sergeant in the Connecticut line during the American Revolution. As a noncommissioned officer he was not eligible for Society of the Cincinnati membership, but he was appointed sergeant-at-arms of the New York State Society in 1801. When illness forced Rossiter's retirement in 1828, John Trumbull presented the New York Society with this portrait painted in 1806, writing, "It may serve to commemorate a very worthy and faithful veteran of the American revolution, at the same time that it will preserve the memory of the Style of Dress of that most important period."

**Early American tall case clock, ca. 1724. Cherry wood case; clock face engraved: Seth Youngs Windsor. Nameplate on case engraved: (John Isham) B. Barnstable, Mass. Aug. 6. 1721 - D. Colchester, Conn. Mch. 2. 1802. [northwest corner of the room]**

Gift of Mr. Lincoln Isham, Connecticut Society, 1959

**T**wo branches of the Isham family of Connecticut are associated with this tall case clock. The nameplate on the cabinet commemorates John Isham (1721-1802) of Colchester, a prominent landowner. A manuscript note affixed inside the case notes that the clock belonged at one time to his cousin Captain John Isham [Jr.] (1742- 1828), also of Colchester and "Commissary in the Army of the Revolution." John Isham, Jr. was captain of the 8th company of Colonel John Chester's Rangers, one of the regiments raised by the state of Connecticut to reinforce Washington's troops during the New York campaign in 1776. According to family tradition, Captain Isham "sold the clock during the Revolutionary War to raise money for provisions and ammunition for the troops under his command." The clock was given to the Society by Captain John Isham's great grandson, Lincoln Isham, whose father had discovered it in a Connecticut antique shop.



## CASE 6: THE SOCIETY OF THE CININNATI IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

On the Fourth of July, 1783, officers of the Connecticut line gathered at West Point, New York, to organize the Connecticut branch of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Brigadier General Jedediah Huntington, the senior ranking officer, was elected president; Colonel Heman Swift, vice president; Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., secretary; Lieutenant Colonel Ebenezer Huntington, treasurer; and Major David Smith, assistant treasurer. The following March, fifty-seven veteran officers reunited in Hartford for the first meeting held in Connecticut. Their minutes record the election of Governor Jonathan Trumbull as an honorary member, and the appointment of delegates to the Society's first General Meeting called by George Washington to be held in Philadelphia in May.

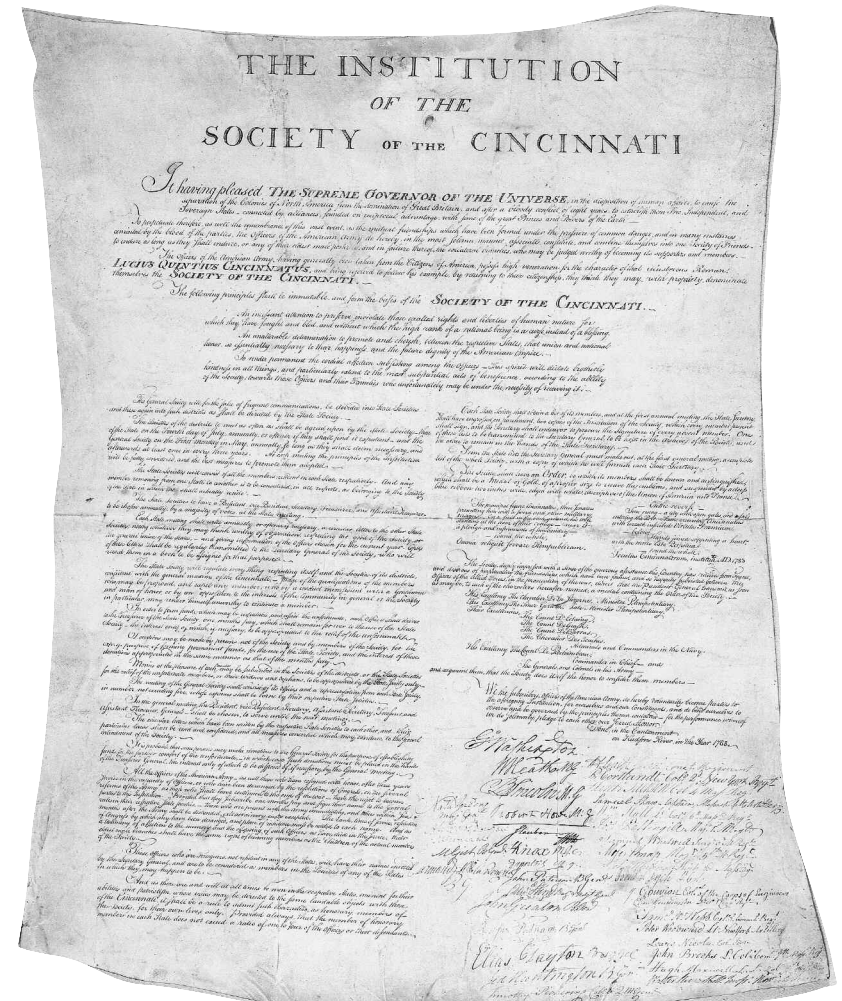
One of the Connecticut delegates to the 1784 General Meeting, Colonel David Humphreys, reported that the Society was receiving "a very general disapprobation of the people" in his state. The unease continued, and over the next two decades the state legislature repeatedly turned down the Connecticut Society's petitions for incorporation that would enable it to secure and distribute its funds. Finally, on July 4, 1804, having made one last attempt with the legislature, the Connecticut Society voted its own dissolution, and after honoring its financial obligations to members, donated its remaining funds (\$3,778.00) to Yale College.

Exactly eighty-four years later, on Independence Day, 1888, the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut was reorganized in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol in Hartford. Its incorporation in the state of Connecticut was finally granted on April 10, 1895, and the following year the Connecticut Society was readmitted as a constituent state society to the General Society of the Cincinnati.

Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati, adopted 13 May 1783, at Mount Gulian, Fishkill Landing, New York, signed by George Washington and 35 other founding members.

Facsimile of the original document in the Society of the Cincinnati collection generously funded by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut

The Society of the Cincinnati was founded on May 13, 1783, when a delegation of general officers and representatives of the state lines met at General Steuben's headquarters, Mount Gulian, to give final approval to a long-circulating plan for an





organization of veteran officers of the Revolution. The Society's Institution adopted at the meeting, created "one Society of Friends" whose purpose was to perpetuate the remembrance of the achievement of American Independence as well as the mutual friendships that had been formed "under the pressure of common danger" during eight years of war.

The text of the Institution was inscribed on a large sheet of untrimmed parchment and a committee consisting of Generals Steuben, Henry Knox, and William Heath was appointed to take the document to General Washington and ask him to "honor the Society by placing his name at the head of it." Washington also agreed to accept the presidency of the Society, and his election as the Society's first President General was confirmed at a meeting on June 19, 1783.

Four members of the Connecticut Society originally signed the "Parchment Roll": Brigadier General Jedediah Huntington, who had served on the committee that drafted the final document; Colonel Heman Swift; Lieutenant Colonel Ebenezer Huntington; and Colonel Samuel Blachley Webb.

**"A Catalogue of the names of the officers of the Connecticut line as borne on the list of the Society of the Cincinnati at the close of the War." Manuscript document, 1838.**

Gift of Edmund Webster Burke, Jr., 1974

This list records the names and ranks of 223 officers of the Connecticut line who became members of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut; other sources put the total number of original Connecticut members at 262. A note that thirty-three of the original members were still living in 1830 suggests that the officers retained their Cincinnati identity long after the Connecticut Society formally disbanded.

**The Connecticut Eagle, New York, ca. 1908. [back cover illustration]**

Collection of the Society of the Cincinnati Museum

The Society of the Cincinnati's insignia, the Eagle, was designed by Pierre L'Enfant, who arranged to have the first examples made in France in 1784. During the 19th and early

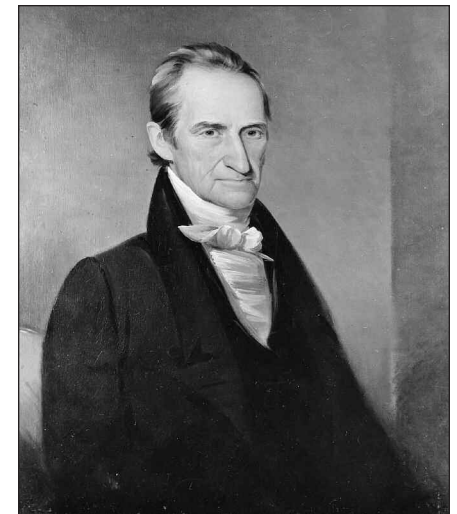
20th centuries, several of the state societies commissioned special issues of the Eagle for their members. The Connecticut Eagle, manufactured by Braxmar & Company of New York City between 1908 and 1918, is considered one of the most exquisite designs. The medallion on the obverse [shown] depicts three Roman senators presenting a sword to the farmer Cincinnatus; the surrounding motto reads: OMNIA : RELINQUIT : SERVARE : REMPUBLICAM (He Left All To Serve the Republic). This example of the Connecticut Eagle is from the collection of Larz Anderson, original owner of Anderson House, now the Society of the Cincinnati Headquarters.

**Certificate of Membership in the Society of the Cincinnati for Matthew Gregory, "late Lieutenant in the third Connecticut Regiment", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1 September 1789. Signed by George Washington and Henry Knox.**

**George Catlin (1796-1872). Portrait of Matthew Gregory. Oil on canvas, signed "George Catlin Rome". [above fireplace]**

Both Matthew Gregory items the gift of Mrs. Edward Correa, 1955

Matthew Gregory (1757-1848), a native of Wilton, was just twenty when he enlisted as a sergeant in the 8th Connecticut Regiment in 1777. He was commissioned ensign in April 1779, and transferred to the 5th Connecticut Regiment in January 1781. He participated in the Yorktown campaign and left a detailed diary account of the battle, in which he remarked: "The Gallantry and Bravery of the [American] troops upon this occasion deserves the highest praise of everyone who loves his country." Gregory was promoted to lieutenant in December



1781 and transferred to the 3rd Connecticut Regiment the following month. He remained in service until the end of the war and signed the original roll of the Connecticut Society.

After the war, Matthew Gregory moved to Albany, New York, where he became a prominent innkeeper and landlord. In 1824, when Lafayette visited Albany during his grand tour of the United States, he personally sought out Gregory “his old companion in arms...who, in the assault at Yorktown, was one of the first to mount the trenches, with him and Hamilton.” Matthew Gregory’s niece, Clara Gregory, married the artist George Catlin in Albany in 1828. At the time of Matthew Gregory’s death, June 4, 1848, at age 91, the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* reported, “he was one of the last of the original members of the Society of the Cincinnati.”

**Miniature Portrait of Jacob Kingsbury (1756-1837), artist unidentified, ca. 1804.**

Anonymous gift in honor of Nicholas Sellers, 1976

While many Cincinnati returned to private citizenship after the war, others went on to distinguished military careers in the early years of the republic. Jacob Kingsbury enlisted as a private in the 8th Connecticut Regiment during the first year of the Revolution and served until November 1783, retiring with the rank of ensign. In 1787, he was commissioned lieutenant in the United States Infantry, with whom he would serve for nearly three decades, rising to colonel in 1808. Much of his service was on the western frontier, where he held the position of United States Commandant of Detroit from 1809 to 1811. He served as Colonel Inspector General during the War of 1812 and was honorably discharged upon the reorganization of the Army in 1815.

In this miniature portrait, Kingsbury wears the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati on the standard uniform of the



United States Infantry of the period 1804-1812. The reverse side of the frame displays a lock of the sitter’s hair and his monogram “JK” in gold.



**Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut. “Anniversary of American Independence.” Hartford, July 4, 1800. [Broadside]**

From the archival collections of the Society of the Cincinnati

This record of the toasts offered at the Connecticut Society’s annual meeting of 1800 includes one to “The memory of George Washington, our illustrious President General—in life the most beloved and in death the most lamented.” Washington had died at Mount Vernon on December 14, 1799.

**David Humphreys (1752-1818). *A Valedictory Discourse: Delivered before the Cincinnati of Connecticut, in Hartford, July 4th, 1804, at the Dissolution of the Society.* Boston: Printed by Gilbert and Dean, 1804.**

Gift of Francis A. Foster, 1949

At their annual meeting in Hartford on July 4, 1804, the assembled Cincinnati, having failed in their final petition for incorporation, voted to dissolve the Connecticut Society. The motion, which passed only after much discussion and debate, emphasized their reluctance to disband and reiterated the veteran officers’ continuing devotion to the original principles of the Society. The final order of business was to authorize the publication of 300 copies of the oration that was delivered by David Humphreys at the close of their meeting.

In concluding his remarks, Humphreys reflected the poignancy of their decision: “We may then expect more justice from posterity, than from the present age. For myself, I scorn to live the object of jealousy, when its malignity may be avoided, by dissolving this connection. This medal of the society of the Cincinnati, Gen. WASHINGTON caused to be procured in France; and he gave it to me as a *present*, with his own hand. For the giver’s sake, I will keep it as a precious relick; but from this hour, I shall never wear it, not even on the proud day consecrated to independence.”

## SUGGESTED READING

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## THE ROBERT CHARLES LAWRENCE FERGUSSON COLLECTION

Established in 1988, the Fergusson Collection honors the memory of Lieutenant Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson (1943-1967). A member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia who died of wounds sustained in combat in Vietnam, Lieutenant Fergusson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart. The growing collection that bears his name includes rare books, broadsides, manuscripts, maps, works of art and artifacts pertaining to the military history of the American Revolution and to the art of war in the eighteenth century.

