Connecticut DAR Announces Civil War Exhibit & Lecture

For Immediate Release
Contact: Linda Wallace
CTDAR Public Relations and Media Chair
860-267-9952
carouselcc@aol.com

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR) will host a unique program and exhibit at the Ellsworth Memorial Homestead, 778 Palisado Avenue (Route 159) in Windsor, CT on Sunday, May 15.

William Hosley, noted Connecticut historian and longtime Curator of Americana at Wadsworth Atheneum, will present an illustrated program entitled "Monumental Achievement: The Civil War and the Making of American Memory" at Matthies Hall beginning at 2 PM. The program coincides with the launch of the CTDAR Civil War Exhibit, which will be open from noon until 5 PM on Opening Day in the recently refurbished exhibit room on the second floor of the Ellsworth House, which requires access by stairs.

William Hosley, Principal of Terra Firma Northeast, is a cultural resource consultant, planner, teacher, writer, and photographer. He was the former Director of the New Haven Museum and Connecticut Landmarks. Prior to that, as a curator and exhibition developer at Wadsworth Atheneum, Bill organized major exhibitions including The Great River: Art & Society of the Connecticut Valley (1985), The Japan Idea: Art and Life in Victorian America (1990), and Sam & Elizabeth: Legend and Legacy of Colt's Empire (1996). Bill has studied hundreds of museums and heritage destinations around the country, has performed nationwide, has written five books and dozens of articles and served as a content specialist for PBS, BBC and CPTV film documentaries.

"Monumental Achievement" explores how our nation’s deadliest and costliest war reshaped the culture and values of our nation and gave birth to the monument industry. Prior to the Civil War, monuments commemorating great events or deeds in the life of our country were rare. After the war the supply and demand for monuments and memorials mushroomed. This program provides an armchair tour of Civil War monuments, art and material culture in Connecticut and beyond.

The CTDAR exhibit includes a variety of Civil War-era toys and military memorabilia. While the exhibit will remain at the Ellsworth Homestead until October 1, 2011, many items, such as rifles and swords, are on loan from a private collector and will only be available during the opening-day exhibit.

Following the opening on May 15, the CTDAR exhibit will be open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from noon to 4:00 PM and the last Sunday of each month from May through September, 1:00-4:00 PM. Admission to the house, lecture and exhibit is $7 per person or $10
for 2 adults. Admission to the CTDAR Civil War exhibit only is $5 per person for adults and free for children under 14.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America’s future through better education for children. For more information about the Connecticut society, please visit CTDAR.org.