

STERLING, CONNECTICUT

Incorporated 1794

Sterling, CT - The “Dorrance Inn” or Samuel Dorrance House & Tavern in Sterling was built in 1722 and hosted officers of the French Army in 1781 and 1782. The inn was on the famous “March Route” and many accounts of their stay there have been recorded in their notes. Numerous French officers stayed at the inn including the Marquis de Chastellux and Comte de Rochambeau. According to Baron Closen, Rochambeau and his military family went to “dine, where we found the artillery already parked.” Documentation states, “The inn is notable as a place that hosted officers of the French Army as it was along the march route taken by French commander Rochambeau’s troops en route to Yorktown, Virginia.

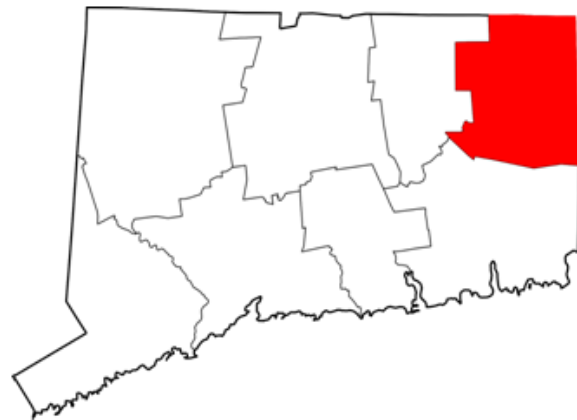
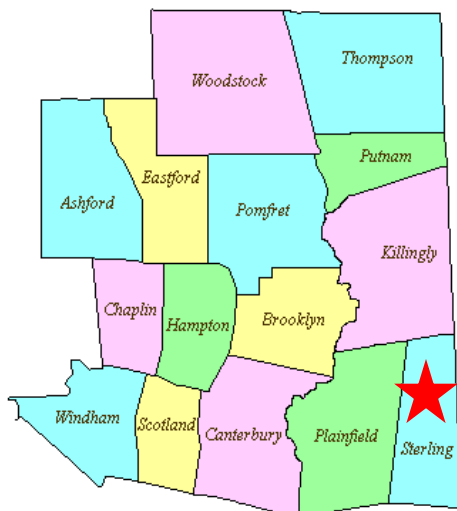
Samuel Dorrance’s Inn is one of a few places mentioned by name in multiple accounts written by French officers. It is one of the sites along the 3.6 miles of the “March Route” of Rochambeau’s Army on the Plainfield Pike. The trail covers 120 miles through Connecticut. A neighbor told me that this field was once part of the 22 acre farm, and some of the troops set up camp here to guard Rochambeau’s officers.



Sign marking the route of Rochambeau’s



Samuel Dorrance’s Inn today.



Above: Map of Connecticut showing Windham County in red. Left: Map showing Sterling’s location within Windham County.