

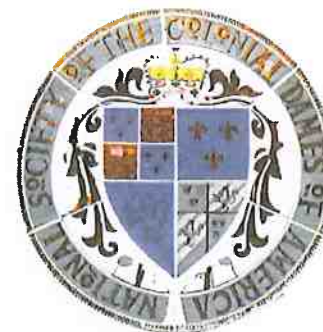
# A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA

1891 to 2007

by Diane Curtis

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The 1891-2007 History  
is dedicated to  
Miss Marguerite Appleton  
who, by her will,  
funded its publication.



The History is published in celebration  
of the 75th Anniversary of Dumbarton House  
as the Headquarters of  
The National Society  
of The Colonial Dames of America  
and in commemoration of the  
400th Anniversary of the Founding of  
Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607,  
the first permanent English settlement  
in North America.

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## CHAPTER I

### FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

**T**he Colonial Period of American history is generally considered to be from the founding of Jamestown in 1607 to the beginning of the American Revolution. Today, America has grown to fifty states, but it was the men and women in the original thirteen colonies who "through evil report and loss of fortune, through suffering and death, maintained stout hearts and laid the foundation of our country." \*

Toward the end of the Nineteenth Century great interest arose about the need to preserve Colonial history. In New York an organization was formed called the Colonial Dames of America, dedicated to preserving Colonial History. A suggestion was made by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to form a similar society in Philadelphia. Hence, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (often written as the NSCDA) was founded in Philadelphia in April of 1891, at the home of Mrs. Crawford Arnold. Mrs. Alexander Biddle became the first President. The objects of this Society were dedicated to Colonial history, historic preservation, and patriotism.

When The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America was formed, a meeting was held with the Colonial Dames of America, with the idea they might merge. The two organizations, however, were unable to agree on a common basis for their becoming one. New York wanted to be the dominant Society and have Chapters in the states reporting to New York. The NSCDA wanted a National Society with each Corporate Society autonomous. No further negotiations were held between the two organizations until May 28, 1897, when the Colonial Dames of America filed a suit enjoining The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America from using the title, "Colonial Dames." In July 1901, on appeal, a judgment was made by the Court in New York in favor of the NSCDA keeping Colonial Dames in its name.

Work was begun on a *Constitution* for the new organization. An informal meeting was held in Wilmington, Delaware in May 1892. Mrs. Dawson Coleman of Pennsylvania was elected National President, and a *Constitution* was adopted. The *Constitution* provided for regular meetings or Councils to be held every two years in Washington, DC with National Officers and

\*Exerpt from the NSCDA Salute to the United States Flag.

representatives from the Corporate Societies in attendance. The first formal Council took place in 1893 in Washington, DC with six Colonial State Societies and the District of Columbia Society. The Council adopted the Order of Business given in *Cushing's Manual*, and it appointed committees to design a Certificate of Membership and a Seal. A Second Council met in 1894 and created a National Board consisting of the National Officers and the Corporate Society Presidents. A motion was made from the floor for the National Board to continue from one Council to the next and any decisions made were to be binding in the interim. The National Board also was to meet the day before Council. The Third Council in 1896 met with all thirteen Colonial State Societies and the District of Columbia Society in attendance.

When the NSCDA was first formed, it included only Societies in the original thirteen colonies, and the District of Columbia, which is known as the Domicile Society. At a National Board Meeting on November 14, 1894, a discussion was held about admitting non-Colonial State Societies. It wasn't until 1898, however, that the *Constitution* was amended to allow non-Colonial State Societies to become members.

The *Constitution* as enacted states the name and objects of the Society; where Councils are to be held (Washington, DC); who shall attend; a guideline for Corporate Societies to administer their membership; and use of the Badge and Seal. The vote of each of the original fourteen societies counts as five, and the vote of each of the Associate State Societies counts as one. Those who vote are called delegates.

The membership is composed of women who are descended in their own right from an ancestor of worthy life, who resided in an American colony prior to 1750 and rendered efficient service to his country during the Colonial period, either in the founding of a State or Commonwealth, or of an institution which has survived and developed into importance, or who shall have held an important position in a Colonial government, or who, by distinguished services, shall have contributed to the founding of our nation.

In the early Twentieth Century, a need was recognized for stating the name of the National Society in unrepeatable language and emphasizing the organization's Colonial roots; therefore, a Covenant was added to the *Constitution* in the Council of 1910 and, after much debate and agitation over a period of years, was signed and sealed on April 29, 1910 by all but one of the Colonial State Societies and six of the Associate State Societies. Later, all the Societies affixed their signatures, with the final one in 1931, when the Covenant became part of the *Constitution*.

## COVENANT

Between the Societies Constituting The National Society  
of  
The Colonial Dames of America

This Society is known by the name, style, and title of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, and is composed of Societies, of which there are now at present, in the year 1908, thirty-six incorporated in accordance with the laws of their respective domiciles.

For the purpose of the perpetual maintenance and preservation of the Colonial character of the Society, it is mutually covenanted and agreed that every member of every Corporate Society shall be a Dame of one of the thirteen Colonial Societies.

For the further maintenance and preservation of the Colonial character of the Society, it is mutually covenanted and agreed that the number of delegates to the National Council from each of the Societies representing the Thirteen Colonies and from the Society in the District of Columbia (which is the domicile of The National Society) shall be to the number of delegates from the Societies now existing or hereafter to be formed in each of the other States, in the proportion of five to one.

This Covenant shall not be added to, altered, or amended without the unanimous consent of the parties thereto; but further that as above expressed every delegate to the National Council shall have the right to vote upon the National Constitution and Bylaws and upon any and all questions which come before the Council.

The Councils continued to take place every two years until World War I, when all meetings were cancelled. At the end of the war, they began again in 1919 and every two years thereafter. Again, World War II interrupted Council Meetings until 1946. Today, Councils take place every even year.

Since its founding in 1891, the NSCDA has continued to grow. By 1894, Corporate Societies had been established in all the original thirteen Colonial States and the District of Columbia, the Domicile Society. By 1974, twenty-eight other Corporate Societies were incorporated and were called Associate State Societies. New Mexico and Hawaii joined in 1986. Today there are thirty Associate State Societies, thirteen Colonial State Societies, and the Domicile Society, making a total of forty-four Corporate Societies.

## CHAPTER II

### STRUCTURE OF THE NSCDA

**T**he *Constitution* of the NSCDA provides for a President, four Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Registrar, and Historian. These officers are elected by the delegates to the Council and serve until the next Council (two years).

In addition, National Standing Committees have been added through the years to assist the National Officers administer the NSCDA. In the beginning, the membership numbered in the hundreds, while in 2007, the membership stood at 15,525; therefore, the work of the Society needed to be spread out. Today, most of the work is done by the National Standing Committees.

The National President of the Dames appoints the chairmen and members of all committees, except the Nominating Committee. She usually allows most of the chairmen to suggest names of individuals to assist in carrying out the work assigned to the committees and preparing workshops to be presented at the four regional conferences and the Biennial Council.

The Bylaws of the Society are called *Acts in Council* and were established as a Codification of the Rules and Regulations of the National Society. In order to amend the *Constitution* it takes a four-fifths vote of the delegates; to amend the Covenant a unanimous consent; and to amend *Acts in Council* a majority vote of the delegates. The Codification Committee puts into proper form all proposed amendments to *Acts in Council* and the *Constitution*, for presentation to the National Board and National Council for a vote. Usually, the members of the committee consist of the immediate past National President and four additional members selected one from each of the four Regions of the NSCDA.

Dumbarton House, a Federal Period house located in Georgetown, DC, is the National Headquarters of the NSCDA. The Dumbarton House Board oversees at the house a museum of Federal and Colonial history.

The Finance Committee administers the financial affairs of the NSCDA and was created upon the advice of the National Society's accountant in order to have one committee responsible for this job. The committee prepares an annual budget, which provides for the various programs of the National Society, as determined by the Executive Committee, the National Board, and the National Council. The budget is presented to the National Board and the Biennial Council for approval. The Committee is composed of a Chairman

and at least six other members. The immediate past National President, the National Assistant Treasurer, and the Treasurer of the Dumbarton House Board, usually are members of the Committee.

The Gunston Hall Board of Regents functions as a Standing Committee. It oversees the preservation, interpretation, and marketing of Gunston Hall, a historic Eighteenth Century plantation that was once owned by George Mason, the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, most of which is included verbatim in the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Gunston Hall is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and administered by the NSCDA, according to the terms of the Deed of Gift executed by Louis Hertle, as a museum house and a perpetual memorial to George Mason. The Board of Regents works closely with the National Board of the NSCDA and the Director of Gunston Hall. It monitors any bills before the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia that would impact Gunston Hall.

**T**he National Headquarters Committee oversees the administration of the National Headquarters and the National Society Archives. This Committee was created in 2002 when the National Society Office Committee and the Personnel Committee merged.

The National Headquarters Committee coordinates, with the Director, the establishment of policies and procedures, and maintains a National Headquarters office manual to keep these policies and procedures up to date. A major job of the Committee is to oversee the National Headquarters Office. The National Office maintains the membership database and keeps it up to date. The National Office also maintains the Ancestor Database, the Bibliographies associated with it, the Eligibility Lists, and the *Register of Ancestors*. The National Office works with the Friends of Dumbarton House Annual Campaign and handles registration for the biennial meeting of the National Council. Inquiries about the NSCDA from the public and from Dames are handled by the National Office according to detailed procedures. The National Office is responsible for the inventory, sale, and mailing of NSCDA publications, as well as providing reports, mailing labels, and other assistance, as needed.

The National Headquarters Committee reviews the job performance of the Director and the staff and makes recommendations to the National Executive Committee and the National Finance Committee on salary adjustments and/or changes in personnel. The National Headquarters Committee works with the Director on the purchase and maintenance of all office equipment and supplies and computers and software. It works with the Director to establish policies and procedures to ensure the efficiency of the entire office level of the Headquarters.



The Chairman of the National Headquarters Committee, the Chairman of the Dumbarton House Board, and the Treasurer of the National Headquarters assist the Director in the preparation of the annual Headquarters budget for presentation to the National Finance Committee.

The National Historical Activities Committee is the research and publication arm of the NSCDA and works in the fields of research, preservation, restoration, and education. The Committee is responsible for collecting and preserving manuscripts, traditions, relics, and mementoes of bygone days. Its projects are used to educate fellow citizens and Dames in American History and to create an interest in Colonial History. Among the many projects the Committee has completed are an Ancestor Bibliography, a Decorative Arts Survey, an Inventory of American Portraits and Sculpture, a Textile Survey of American pieces, publishing of essays, booklets, videos, about past historical events. The Committee works with the Biennial Arrangements Committee and the District of Columbia Society in helping to plan the Arlington Memorial Service. The Historical Activities Committee alternates with the Patriotic Service Committee on this assignment.

The National Museum Properties Committee advises and aids in the preservation, restoration, interpretation, and maintenance of the Corporate Society properties, with the purpose of educating people of all backgrounds about the historical significance of those properties.

The Chairman of the National Museum Properties Committee and her committee encourage proper museum management and urge the Corporate Society Properties to learn professionally accepted methods of maintaining and interpreting the NSCDA properties. The Committee accomplishes this through Regional workshops, projects, newsletters, and other publications. The chairman of the Museum Properties Committee updates *Guidelines for Museums* periodically and arranges a National Museum Property workshop approximately every two years. She encourages the Corporate Societies to seek accreditation of their properties and to keep computer recorded catalogs of their collections. At the workshops, emphasis is placed on grant writing, and the participants are taught how to manage finances.

The emphasis of the National Patriotic Service Committee is education, to stimulate patriotism and teach American heritage. Current projects of the Committee are: Citizenship, Colonial and Pioneer History videos, the Congressional Seminar Project, Flags, Indian Nurse Scholarships, Scholarships and Educational Awards, and Service to the Military. In addition, the chairman of the National Patriotic Service Committee helps to plan the Arlington Memorial Service every four years with the Biennial Arrangements Committee and District of Columbia Society.

The New Business Committee reviews and makes recommendations for amendments to the *Constitution* and *Acts in Council*. Items of New Business are submitted in writing by any member through the President of her Society, through the Presidents' Meetings, or through a member of the National Executive Committee. No new business may be presented the last day of Council.

The Nominating Committee consists of nine members who nominate a slate of National Officers to be voted upon at the next National Council. The chairman is always the President of the Pennsylvania Society, the founding state. The other members are four from each of the original fourteen Societies (the Colonial State Societies and the District of Columbia Society) and four from each of the Associate State Societies (one from each Region). All except Pennsylvania serve on a rotating basis by precedence of their date of incorporation.

Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington, is located in Northamptonshire, England. The house was purchased by a group of British subscribers in 1914, and presented to the people of Great Britain and the United States on the anniversary of the Treaty of Ghent, as a celebration of one hundred years of peace between the two nations. The NSCDA, in 1916, undertook the responsibility of aiding in the maintenance and restoration of Sulgrave Manor and established a Trust Fund for this purpose in 1925.

A Senior Sulgrave Manor Representative and a Junior Sulgrave Manor Representative are appointed by the National President and elected by the Sulgrave Manor Board in England. The Representatives act as the liaison between the Sulgrave Manor Board in England and the NSCDA.

There are various National Special Committees supporting the work of the NSCDA. At the present time these are the Calendar, *Dames Dispatch*, Dumbarton House Fund for the Future, Historian's, Nominating for Regents of Gunston Hall, Printing, and Roll of Honor Committees. There is also an Archivist who maintains the National Society's official papers and a Parliamentarian who is available for counsel concerning the *Constitution*, *Acts in Council*, and the *Standing Rules*.

In 1949, a conference for the Corporate Societies west of the Mississippi was held in Denver, Colorado. It was attended by the National Officers, most of whom lived in the East, thus affording them an opportunity to meet Dames living in the West. Western Conferences were held until 1952, when the organizational structure of the NSCDA was changed. The National Society created four Regions to meet in the years between between Councils. Regions I, III, and IV meet in odd years and Region II the spring before Council in the fall. The schedule was arranged this way because it was too much of a burden to ask the National Officers and National Committee Chairmen to meet four times in one year.

Regional Meetings have workshops and hear reports from the National Officers and National Standing Committee Chairmen. These meetings are much smaller than the Councils and allow members of the Corporate Societies and National Officers a chance to exchange ideas as well as get acquainted. The superb workshops provided by the National Historical Activities, Patriotic Service, Museum Properties Committees, Treasurer, and Registrar have been particularly beneficial to the Societies.

In the late Twentieth Century, an extended effort was made to reduce the length of Council and Regional Meetings in order to accommodate members who were professionals. Also, meetings were scheduled on weekends to take advantage of less expensive air fares.

In the 1980's, the question was reviewed about the right of a member of one State Society to transfer as a member in good standing to another State Society. Up until then, a member who wished to transfer had to be proposed and voted upon all over again in the new Society, as if she were a new candidate. A Transfer Resolution was signed by all forty-four Corporate Societies between 1990 and 1996 whereby a member in good standing could transfer her membership from one Society to another.

A new website has been designed for the NSCDA:

[www.nscda.org](http://www.nscda.org)

The website gives the Dames *Mission Statement* and a description of all the programs maintained by the organization.

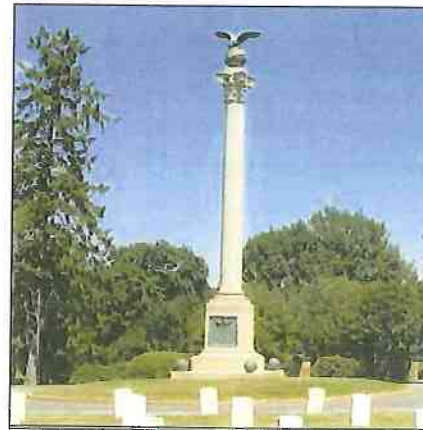
## CHAPTER III

### EARLY PROJECTS

The Constitution of the NSCDA states:

The objects of this Society shall be to collect and preserve manuscripts, traditions, relics, and mementos of bygone days; to preserve and restore buildings connected with the early history of our country; to educate our fellow citizens and ourselves in our country's history and thus diffuse healthful and intelligent information concerning the past; to create a popular interest in our Colonial history; to stimulate a spirit of true patriotism and a genuine love of country; and to impress upon the young the sacred obligation of honoring the memory of those heroic ancestors whose ability, valor, sufferings, and achievements are beyond all praise.

In the beginning, efforts of the members of the National Society were expended in developing Historical Activities and Patriotic Service (then called Americanization). With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, however, the ladies put these objectives aside and pledged to help in the war effort. The Council of 1898 was in session when the first gun was fired, and before the close of the meeting the Dames pledged to give \$500 to the Surgeon General of the Navy to buy hospital equipment for the first hospital ship, the USS *Solace*.



*Monument at Arlington  
National Cemetery*

The next project undertaken was a memorial to the Americans who had died fighting in the Spanish-American War. The ladies voted to erect a monument in Arlington National Cemetery. They approached the U.S. Government for permission, and it was granted. The Dedication took place in May of 1902, during the Sixth Council. President Theodore Roosevelt, as well as many soldiers, sailors, and veterans of the War, attended. The Memorial is a granite column topped by a bronze American eagle with the inscription:

To The Soldiers and Sailors  
Of the United States  
Who Gave Their Lives For Their Country  
In the War of 1898-99 with Spain  
This Monument Is Dedicated  
In Sorrow, Gratitude and Pride  
By  
The National Society  
Of The Colonial Dames  
Of America  
In The Name of All  
The Women of The Nation  
1902

Today, at the time of each Biennial Council, a ceremony takes place in Arlington Cemetery for all Dames attending the meeting. Various Officers of the Military and others have addressed the group, including General William C. Westmoreland and Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, the head of WIMSA (Women in Military Service for America).

In 1982, Edith Roosevelt Derby Williams, granddaughter of President Theodore Roosevelt and fellow Dame, addressed the audience. She began by saying:

When my grandfather stood on this very spot 80 years ago and accepted our monument, his message, perhaps surprisingly, was not a tribute to heroism on the field of battle. It was a call to civilians and soldiers alike to perform well what he called the 'humdrum, commonplace duties of each Day.'

She ended her speech "Do we not yearn for heroes? Then we should heed the advice Theodore Roosevelt gave his countrymen from this spot in 1902, and which I know he would give again today:"

You cannot expect the highest type of citizenship in the periods when it is needed if that citizenship has not been trained by faithful performance of ordinary duty. What we need most in this Republic is not special genius, not unusual brilliance, but the honest, upright adherence on the part of the mass of citizens and their representatives to the fundamental laws of private and public morality.

Today, the Spanish-American War Monument rises in simple purity on a hilltop overlooking the Potomac and the City of Washington, near the mast of the *USS Maine*. The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America is the first society of women to build a monument in Arlington National Cemetery.

The earliest English attempt at settlement in North America was in 1587, on Roanoke Island off the coast of what is now North Carolina. Unfortunately, the entire settlement vanished without a trace, including the first English child born on American soil, Virginia Dare.

The two greatest events in American Colonial History were the founding of Jamestown, Virginia and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Between 1904 and 1907, the National Society undertook the project of the restoration of the Colonial church in Jamestown, Virginia, to serve as a memorial to the first permanent English settlement in America. Jamestown also was the first permanent town with an organized government, which, in effect, began a country that is now the United States of America.

The Association of the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities owned the Colonial church in Jamestown, and all that that was left was the tower and the remains of two foundations: the outer one where a brick church stood in 1640 and an inner one which was thought to support a frame church built in 1617, and where the House of Burgesses met in 1619, the first elected continuous legislative assembly to meet on American soil. The APVA had covered the foundation with a rough wooden shed. It was proposed to the National Society to consider reproducing the brick church built in 1640. The NSCDA agreed to take on the restoration of the church, and research began on the architecture and building materials.

About 30 miles away stood the church at Smithfield, which was built in the 1600's and was thought to be an admirable piece of architecture left by the English Colonists. This church served as a model for the restoration. Bits and pieces of the old slate roof, wrought iron door hinges from the doors, pieces



*Reconstructed Church at Jamestown*



of lead, and bits of glass from the windows were found among the ruins and used in the restoration. The Dames even purchased two old brick houses of the period and used these bricks in the construction of the church. The total amount expended for the complete restoration came to \$11,558.11.

New records have come to light attributing Robert Adams Cram as the architect of the reconstruction of the church. He was a renowned designer of the Gothic revival style. Also, attributed to Cram is the Robert Hunt Shrine in Jamestown. It commemorates the earliest Anglican celebration of Holy Communion in America. The service was held before the church was built. The Reverend Hunt was appointed by the Church of England as minister of the English Colony in Jamestown. This memorial was erected in 1922 by The National Society of The Colonial Dames in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Episcopal Dioceses of Virginia, Southern Virginia, and West Virginia.

On May 11, 1907, coinciding with the celebration of the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown settlement, several hundred Dames gathered in Richmond, Virginia. They boarded the steamer, *Pocahontas*, and sailed down the James River to Jamestown, where they assembled for the dedication of the newly constructed church. The ladies presented, to the APVA, a tablet of green slate, which read:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF  
THE ADVENTURERS IN ENGLAND  
AND ANCIENT PLANTERS IN VIRGINIA  
WHO THROUGH EVIL REPORT  
AND LOSS OF FORTUNE  
THROUGH SUFFERING AND DEATH  
MAINTAINED STOUT HEARTS  
AND LAID THE FOUNDATION  
OF OUR COUNTRY.

THIS BUILDING IS ERECTED BY THE  
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES  
OF AMERICA  
TO COMMEMORATE THE  
THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE LANDING OF THE  
FIRST PERMANENT ENGLISH SETTLERS  
UPON AMERICAN SOIL  
THE 13TH MAY,  
1607-1907.

On the way back to Richmond, the *Pocahontas* stopped at Westover, where the Dames had been invited for tea. The house, an elegant example of Georgian architecture, was built around 1730, by William Byrd II, the founder of Richmond. One hundred years later, on April 30, 2007, a number of Dames returned to Jamestown, this time by bus, to celebrate the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the settlement and the One Hundredth Anniversary of the restored Church. They, too, were invited to a tea at Westover.

Soon after the completion of the restoration of the church in Jamestown, planning was started on the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts. In 1910, The NSCDA appointed a committee to investigate what role it might play in establishing a suitable memorial. The shoreline where the original Plymouth Rock was located had become unsightly. Signs of the first settlement had almost been obliterated owing to changes in the shoreline and eventual industrialization of the town. The Rock itself had been moved from its original site at least once and was somewhat mutilated and half buried. An ugly canopy covered the Rock, and the sea had submerged the actual site where the landing took place. It was not until 1916 that the Plymouth Commemoration Committee recommended building a small Portico to enclose the Rock and replace it to its original site. The architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White was engaged to provide a design. A Greek Revival or classical style was chosen. Originally, the material to be used was limestone, but, due to the adverse weather conditions, granite was chosen instead.



*Tea at Westover 2007*



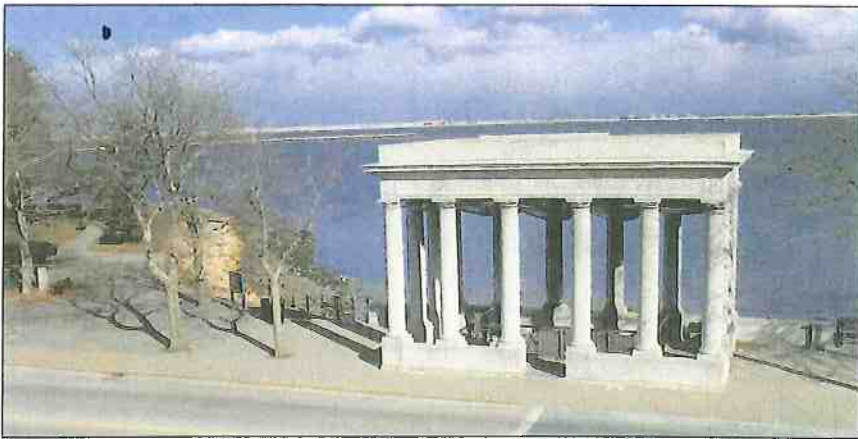
In 1916, as the Three Hundredth Anniversary approached, a Commission was appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts. The Commission recommended preservation of localities within the town that were particularly connected with Pilgrim life, including the restoration of the shoreline. It approved the plan the Dames submitted for Plymouth Rock, covering the rock with a handsome Portico that would not only protect the rock but also act as a memorial.

Various delays were encountered, including the outbreak of World War I. The Three Hundredth Anniversary rolled around, and the Portico was still not ready. The dedication of the Portico was postponed until November 29, 1921. Dames came from all over the country and stayed at the Copley-Plaza hotel in Boston. A special train carried everyone to Plymouth. Unfortunately one of the worst storms hit Plymouth that day. As Mrs. Joseph Lamar, President of the National Society recalled:

From one point of view nothing could have been more appropriate than the exceptionally atrocious weather which Massachusetts provided for the occasion. If we had never sympathized with the Pilgrims before, if we had never realized their courage and devotion – we did so then. And if their spirits still visit the green hill where their bodies sleep, must it not have cheered them to see so many of their descendants braving such hardships to do them honor.

The inscription on the memorial is:

ERECTED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA  
TO COMMEMORATE THE  
THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS



*Portico over Plymouth Rock*

## CHAPTER IV

### HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Fifth Council in 1900 created a Historic Research and Study Courses Committee. This Committee recommended forming a Committee for Preservation of Existing Records; a Publication Committee to publish briefs and monographs from original papers; and making illustrative lantern slides of sites, tombs, old buildings, and old furniture to be used for talks, public and private. The 1912 Council appointed a Committee on the Preservation of Existing Records. This Committee was to specialize in historic research.

As time went on, it became apparent that the Reports of the National Historian and the Historic Research and the Preservation of Existing Records Committees overlapped each other. The Council of 1929 merged the latter two into the Historic Activities Committee (later renamed Historical Activities). The Committee's early mission was to preserve old manuscripts, to encourage Corporate Societies to erect markers, to commemorate historic sites, and to restore and preserve museum houses and rooms. Later it took over most publications.

Early publications underwritten by the National Society were:

1. *Correspondence of William Pitt, When Secretary of State, with Colonial Governors and Military and Naval Commissioners in America.* Two volumes, 1906.
2. *The Letters of Richard Henry Lee.* Two Volumes, 1911-1914.
3. *The Correspondence of William Shirley.* Two Volumes, 1912.
4. *Travels in the American Colonies.* 1916.
5. *Privateering and Piracy in the Colonial Period.* 1923. This book was once used by the Supreme Court of the United States, as a reference on settling a question of "jurisdiction on the high seas and adjacent waters." The Court mentioned the book had been published under the auspices of the NSCDA.
6. *Index to Virginia Wills.* 1931.

Other books have been published by the National Society through special committees appointed for that purpose:

1. *The Old Silver in American Churches.* 1913. This book was of great interest and sparked special exhibits of Colonial Silver at both the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

2. *The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America - Its Beginnings, its Purpose, and a Record of its Work 1891 - 1913.* 1913.
3. *American War Songs.* 1925. The songs were divided into six historical groups: Colonial and Revolutionary songs; Songs of the War of 1812; of the Mexican War; the Civil War; the Spanish-American War; and World War I.
4. *A Record of those who gave the Sulgrave Endowment Fund.* 1925.
5. *A History of the National Society from 1891 to 1933.* Mrs. Joseph Rucker Lamar, 1934.
6. *A History of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America.* Miss Marguerite Appleton, from an address presented to the National Board at The Sulgrave Club in 1966 and revised in 1974.

With the urging of the Historical Activities Committee, most Corporate Societies placed historic markers all over the country commemorating important events in their states, some of which were Odiorne Point, the landing place of the first settlers who came to New Hampshire in 1623 and "The Rocks" in Delaware where the first Swedish Colonists landed in America in 1638. Several Societies bordering on the Mississippi River placed tablets commemorating French fur traders and explorers who journeyed the river dating back to the 1600's and 1700's, and California placed a sundial in Golden Gate Park in memory of early navigators who touched the shore there: Fortuna Jimenez in 1533-1534 and Sir Francis Drake in 1579.

Grants were given to preserve old manuscripts by Photostat and microfilm. In 1940, *Historic Museum Houses*, with colored slides and lectures, was completed, and later a *Museum House Booklet* was printed in 1955, with the location of all NSCDA house museums. In 1962, *A Summary of the Histories of the Corporate Societies* gave an insight into members of the Corporate Societies. 1965 saw the publication of *Houses, Histories and People*, a beautiful book giving an illustrated history of the Corporate Society Museum Houses.

*Women, Pioneer and Colonial Essays* was completed in 1982 and placed in the Library of Congress. Over 600 essays were collected from every Corporate Society for this project and shortly thereafter, a volume of twenty of these sketches was published by the Historical Activities Committee entitled, *A Few Unsung Colonial and Pioneer Women*. A booklet for Girl Scouts, *Climb Your Family Tree*, was also completed that year.

Other Historical Activities Committee studies were a Textile Survey on pieces located in various NSCDA properties, and a Decorative Arts Survey, compiling important pieces of furniture owned by Dames. Each of the Corporate Societies was urged to do oral histories of its members. One

Society interviewed a number of its members who had been involved in the initial establishment of its museum property.

Recently, a new curator for that property had questions which probably could not have been answered had it not been for these interviews, as several members were no longer alive. Everyone is a walking history book, and with the demise of letter writing, (having been replaced by the telephone and more recently e-mail) the Dames realize the importance of recording one's own memories.

In the 1970's, a portrait survey was conducted by all the Corporate Societies and was given to the National Portrait Library of the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian was most grateful as it brought to light portraits by well-known artists, of whom the museum was previously unaware.

In 2000, the Ancestor Bibliography Register was created and, a website [www.ancestorbibliography.org](http://www.ancestorbibliography.org) was formed. The Register currently contains more than 400 ancestors and will be useful for those interested in researching and finding resources about their ancestors.

Many Societies have published booklets and done videos on historical events in their states. These publications and videos are displayed at the various Regional Conference workshops along with a list indicating what publications are available from each state. An updated list was published in 1998. Also, many Corporate Societies published their own histories as part of their Centennial Celebration.

From the beginning, the Historical Activities Committee has diligently worked in the fields of research, preservation, restoration, and education. Other organizations repeatedly tell the Dames of the value of their research.

# CHAPTER V

## PATRIOTIC SERVICE

Almost since its inception, the NSCDA has been involved with fulfilling its objectives:

to educate our fellow citizens and ourselves in our country's history and to create a popular interest in our Colonial history; to stimulate a spirit of true patriotism and a genuine love of country; to impress upon the young the sacred obligation of honoring the memory of those heroic ancestors whose ability, valor, sufferings, and achievements are beyond all praise.

The Americanization Committee was created at the Council of 1919 to help work with the newly arrived immigrants flooding our country in the late Nineteenth Century. In the Civil War, or War Between the States, 1861-1865, more men lost their lives than in any other war in which this country has engaged; in addition, the United States was changing from an agricultural society to an industrial society. There was a need for more workers, and a period of unrestricted immigration began, with more and more immigrants coming from Southeastern Europe, bringing with them their native tongues. It was apparent there was a need to help educate these people to integrate with American society and to learn English in order to succeed. In some larger cities, scholarships were given to university students in return for their teaching American History to these newly arrived people. It was soon evident that bilingual texts were needed. Chicago was known as the Ellis Island of the Midwest, and starting in 1911 the Illinois Society prepared a Civic Primer printed in Bohemian, and then added one each in Polish, Lithuanian, Italian, English, and Yiddish and even one in Braille. The chairman of the Americanization Committee reported to the Council of 1921, that 5,650 copies of this Civic Primer had been given to newly arrived immigrants in New York. As the political and educational climate changed in the country, emphasis was made on stressing the act of becoming new citizens; therefore in 1927, the Committee name was changed from Americanization to National Patriotic Service.

The NSCDA bought and exhibited two films, "The Making of an American," and, "Hats Off," which were shown in immigrant schools. In 1925, the Dames produced a film, "The Gates of Opportunity," urging the newcomers

to take advantage of free education. This film was selected by the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America to be shown to immigrants on incoming boats from Europe. It was also shown in various theaters across the country. At the suggestion of the Board of Education of the Department of the Interior, the Dames sponsored a Poster contest in 1928, with the two best designs to be used in battling illiteracy and encouraging the new immigrants to learn English. 172 designs were submitted from thirty-six states. The first-prize poster depicted a mother and child and said, "GROW with him." The second-prize poster showed a father and mother and their young son and stated, "Can You Read English.....Learn To Read, Write and Speak the English Language. The Gates of Opportunity are Open."

Many cities have Naturalization ceremonies where new citizens are sworn in, and the Dames honor them with a reception. Miniature U. S. flags are distributed as well as literature, such as the Bill of Rights and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Usually a speaker is on hand. Often the new citizens are called upon to relate what it means to them to become citizens of the United States. These receptions can be quite moving.

From the beginning, the Dames eagerly participated in honoring Service men and women helping to defend our Country. Upon the outbreak of World War I the Dames voted to present an American Flag to the first American Expeditionary Force to arrive in France in 1918. It was sent to General John J. Pershing, the commander. Money was raised to buy equipment for the hospital ships, USS *Comfort* and USS *Mercy*. A collection of War Songs was published and distributed.

In the early 1900's women began to become politically and socially active, and a number of women joined the war effort. Both the Army and Navy had established Nurse's Corps after 1900, but few women actually served in the military force, except for a small group who were brought into the enlisted ranks as Navy Yeomen (F). Most uniformed women worked for the American Red Cross, American Fund for French Wounded, Salvation Army, National League for Women's Service, Jewish Welfare Board, National Catholic War Council, and others. After the war, the Dames collected over one hundred World War I Women's Service uniforms, which were lent to the Smithsonian Institution for an exhibition. The uniforms were not discovered again until 1998, when they were presented to the Smithsonian as a gift.

Soon after WW II began, the NSCDA applied for a USO Center and was assigned one in Ketchikan, Alaska. \$145,000 was raised for the Center's support. Over 5,000,000 service men and women used its facilities. Dumbarton House was offered to the Red Cross for its headquarters, and the offer was gratefully accepted. The LSD 5 USS *Gunston Hall* was adopted by the Dames and was sent books, records, and games. Contributions were made to the British War



Relief Auxiliary of the American Red Cross. Twenty ambulances were sent to England, and a room was furnished in the American Eagle Club of London. In 1948, the King's Medal for "Service in the Cause of Freedom" was presented to the Dames by Sir Francis Evans, British Consul General in New York. Remembering the Flag given to the AEF during World War I, the Dames arranged on June 14, 1943 to present a Flag to the Director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, Colonel Ruth C. Streeter, at the Marine Barracks in Washington, DC. (She happened also to be a Colonial Dame and later became President of the NSCDA.)

During the Viet Nam War, \$115,000 was given to two hospital ships, USS *Repose* and USS *Sanctuary*, for necessities. Forty thousand "ditty bags," containing candy bars, razor blades, etc., were filled and distributed by the Red Cross.

In 1995, a special exhibit, "Dames in Uniform", was shown at Dumbarton House. The exhibit honored Dames who had served in all conflicts from the Spanish-American War through Operation Desert Storm. The exhibit contained memorabilia from the NSCDA archives as well as from its members. After the exhibit closed, the collection from the Dames archives was given to the WIMSA memorial. In conjunction with the exhibit, oral history tapes of Colonial Dames who had served in World War II were made, and these too were given to WIMSA.

Many Corporate Societies continue to work with Veterans Hospitals, providing them with books and toilet articles. Illinois has worked with the USO in sponsoring "no dough" dinners, which take place the night before payday when many sailors have no dough.

One of the oldest programs of National Patriotic Service was started in 1928. Two young American Indian women were awarded scholarships to attend nursing school in Pennsylvania. The scholarships helped defray the costs of education for these women, who later returned to their communities with the nursing skills necessary to help improve health care amongst their people. The program was adopted by the Dames as the Indian Nurse Scholarship Award and continues today in various parts of the country.

In 1929, the Patriotic Service and Historical Activities Committees began working together to obtain "illustrated histories" of the Corporate Societies in the form of lantern slides. Descriptive essays accompanied each of the slides, which were then exhibited at schools and to other audiences. The object of the project was to have a "Historical Lending Library of Stereopticon Slides." The slide programs were then housed by the DC Society, which supervised their loans to the Corporate Societies.

With the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, all peacetime activities came to a halt, and the committees of Patriotic Service and Historical Activities were retired for the duration of the hostilities while the Dames joined the war effort. The Patriotic Service Committee resumed its mission after the war, but times had changed and immigration had slowed. People in the new era faced the Communism growing in Europe and the Far East. The threat to freedom was the new challenge. Patriotic Service now emphasized patriotism, and slides and films on this subject were shown in schools.

Early on, the Dames in various states were granting scholarships to universities for essays written on Colonial History. Many Corporate Societies encouraged immigrants to learn about early American history and helped to educate them on this subject.

In the early 1950's, four regions were established across the country by the National Society, and in each, a scholarship of \$3,000 was awarded to a college graduate or doctoral candidate who intended to teach American History. The theme was usually based on love of country.

A Congressional Essay contest was begun in 1977 for high school students, with the winners sent to Washington, DC to attend a week of the Washington Workshop Seminar. Here, the students are shown the workings of government behind the scenes.

1992 saw the revival of the glass lantern slide project, a joint project of the Historical Activities, Museum Properties, and Patriotic Service Committees.

Flag Day observance on June 14 has long been recommended, and in 1893 the Pennsylvania Society had a celebration for school children at the Betsy Ross house, where it is thought the first flag was made in 1777. Many Societies sent committees to visit the owners of theaters and urged them to have their audiences rise when the National Anthem was played.

In the early 1950's, a Parade of Flags Program was created. By 1962 it had developed into a program of eighteen silk flags, featuring famous flags of American history: flags of the Black Raven of the Vikings, Lion and Castle of Spain, Red Cross of England and St. George, White Cross of Scotland and St. Andrews, Union Jack of Great Britain, Fleur-de-Lis of France, East India Company Flag of the Dutch, Gold Cross of Sweden, Taunton of Massachusetts, Bedford Flag of the Minute Men, Continental Flag, First Navy Jack, Rattlesnake Flag of the Southern Colonies, Liberty Flag of General Moultrie, Grand Union Flag of the Revolution, First Official United States Flag, Star Spangled Banner - 1814 Fort McHenry, 1824 Alamo Flag of Texas, Brown Bear Flag of California Republic, Battle Flag of the Confederacy, and Flag of the United States of America. A video, accompanying the Flag Program, was primarily shown in schools around the country. Some Societies

displayed the flags in parades. The National Society received the Freedom Award for the program. Later a video was produced entitled *Parade of Flags*, which could be viewed in schools or at home.

1993 brought the newest project, *Young Patriots*. The National Flag Foundation produced the program. The program consists of a video series of three twenty minute programs with a Teacher Guide. There also is a website ([www.americanflags.org](http://www.americanflags.org)) which includes programs and games for schoolchildren to further their knowledge of the history of the United States Flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and United States Flag etiquette.

## CHAPTER VI

### MUSEUM PROPERTIES

What today is known as the Museum Properties Committee was originally part of the Historical Activities Committee. Due to the increase of properties acquired by the Corporate Societies, in 1978 a new committee was formed and named the National Museum House Committee, later changed, in 1987, to the National Museum Properties Committee. The change of name was made to better reflect preservation of not only Museum Houses, but also a Powder Magazine, a Fort, a Church, a Post Office, and rooms in various Museums. These properties may be owned outright by individual Corporate Societies, or they may be managed in partnership with other organizations. A newsletter, "Musings", was started to inform the Corporate Societies of what was occurring in other states.

After the dedication of the monument in Arlington Cemetery in 1902, a renewed interest in historical activities occurred. By the early 1900's, many Societies owned or contributed to the preservation of Colonial houses. In 1896, the New York Society became custodian of the Frederick Van Cortlandt House, which had been built in 1748 on land that had been acquired from the Indians. The Pennsylvania Society became involved with the preservation of Congress Hall in Philadelphia, where the first and second Congresses met during Washington's administration; where Washington was inaugurated for his second term; and where John Adams was inaugurated. Later, the Pennsylvania Society became custodian of Stenton, built in 1728. Stenton was the home of James Logan, a friend of William Penn. In 1904, Massachusetts acquired the Quincy Homestead in Quincy, MA. Part of the house had been built in 1636, and a later addition was built in 1706. South Carolina restored, in Charleston, a Colonial Powder Magazine, which dated from 1704. The New Hampshire Society was bequeathed the Moffatt-Ladd House by the Ladd family, descendants of John Mason, to whom James the First had issued a land grant of a large portion of New Hampshire. The house, built in 1759 by James Moffatt, contains spacious rooms and hallways and a Grinling Gibbons overmantel.

Today, the Dames own, administer, or provide financial support for about seventy properties throughout the United States and one in England. Our country is and always has been comprised of people from various ethnic backgrounds, and our museum houses represent many of these diverse heritages. Along the Eastern Seaboard there are vestiges of settlers from England and Holland; an exhibit in New Hampshire has a display on the African slaves; the Moravians were in North Carolina; and the Spanish were in Florida. Early

settlers in the Midwest included the French and the Spanish; Indiana has a Rappite House in New Harmony; and in Wisconsin there is an Indian Agent's house. The West and the Southwest reflect Spanish origins. These properties provide an education on the varied history of our country, and they reflect on many of the ethnic roots of this Nation. They range in size from Georgian Mansions to a one room hand-hewn log cabin, and even include a Twentieth Century home of an oil tycoon in Oklahoma.

Almost half the properties are owned and operated solely by a Corporate Society. A few own the property and the collections, but the museums are administered by another historic preservation entity. Several Societies make contributions to purchase items for a museum or historic building with little or no curatorial input. Not quite half the State Societies have furnished rooms or full interiors of a museum or museum house, governed by an organization with which the Dames have no other affiliation. This has not always been satisfactory, as the museum may have terminated the agreement. If there was not a provision for the disposition of the items, the Dames, in many cases, lost control of the disposal of their property. The Museum Properties Committee today, therefore, recommends that a contract or legal document be signed by all parties involved, stating that the Dames own the collection and if it is to be dismantled, the collection reverts to the Dames, along with language stating what is to become of the property. Usually, an agreement will state that the collection, if not placed in another museum, be disposed of by sale or auction.

The Museum Properties Committee holds workshops at all the Regional Conferences and at Biennial Council. During these workshops, various individuals in the museum field give presentations to help educate the Dames in making their museum properties more professional. The Treasurer of the National Society often visits the workshops to underline the importance of proper financial management of the museum properties.

Now, in the Twenty-first Century, many of the properties have web sites. The Societies are urged to catalog their collections on computers, as someday it is the hope to create a Database from which all the properties could share information on their collections. The "where's and how's" of fundraising and grant writing are discussed. Historic structure reports are recommended as well as proper conservation of the objects in the collections. Updating of appraisals is urged as well as reviewing insurance policies. A Guideline for NSCDA Museum Houses was revised in 1994 and has been an immense help to the Corporate Societies in running and maintaining their properties. It includes descriptions of proper housecleaning and how to inventory the collection.

As there was not enough time at Regional Conferences to cover the many subjects required to manage a property, an experiment was held in 1981, with two three-day District Meetings, one in Savannah and one in New Orleans. Since this proved to be a huge success, in 1982 the first National Workshop

open to all Corporate Societies was held in Wethersfield, CT. This has continued every two years in various cities including Nashville, TN, Richmond, VA, White Sulfur Springs, WV, Newport, RI, Winston-Salem, NC, St. Augustine, FL, Portsmouth, NH, Louisville, KY, and Denver, CO. Unfortunately, the workshop scheduled for New York in September 2001 had to be cancelled due to the tragedy of 9/11.

A report to the National Board in 1979 suggested "For some time Dames involved with Museum Houses have felt there should be some means of evaluation, a system of accreditation or review, whether it be a self-evaluation sheet of questions or an inspection team". To investigate the feasibility of establishing such a system, a questionnaire was sent to all the Corporate Society Museum Properties Chairmen in 1992. A decision was then made to go ahead with this new project, which came into fruition in 1992, when it was announced that twelve Museum Properties had been awarded the first NSCDA Accreditations, many of which had previously received accreditation by the American Association of Museums: *Eighteenth Century Room*, Museum of History and Art, Seattle, WA; *Charleston Room*, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH; *Empire and Colonial Rooms*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN; *Fourth House*, Old Salem, Winston-Salem, NC; *Gunston Hall*, Lorton, VA; *Henry B. Clarke House*, Chicago, IL; *Hermann-Grima House*, New Orleans, LA; *Kent Plantation*, Alexandria, LA; *Tate House*, Portland, ME; *The Old First Presbyterian Church, 1740*, Wilmington, DE; *Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum*, Wethersfield, CT; *Wilton House Museum*, Richmond, VA.

At the National Board Meeting held in Chicago in 1983, the Board authorized the publication of a new book on historic properties owned or supported by the NSCDA. The last such book came out in 1965, and the list of properties had changed since then. As the Centennial of the NSCDA was coming up in 1991, the Board decided this publication would be a part of the celebration. A new committee was formed, called the National Commemorative Book Committee. Book committees were formed in all forty-four Corporate Societies, and they reported to the NSCDA Committee. In addition, the National Archivist assisted in research for the project. William Seale was selected to do the text, the photography was done by Erik Kvalsik, and the book was published by The American Institute of Architects Press. The book was titled *Domestic Views* and contained all the historic properties owned and supported by the NSCDA at the time of its publication in 1992.

On November 2, 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized the contribution the NSCDA has made in preserving and restoring museum properties across the nation by awarding the Dames the *2000 Trustees Award for Excellence in Stewardship of Historic Sites*. Much work was required to receive this award. The necessary material for the application had to be obtained, and it took determination to see it through, as it took two tries, first



in 1999 and then in 2000. What an honor for the Dames to be recognized for their years of work in the field of historic preservation!

On the heels of the award from the National Trust, the prestigious *The Magazine ANTIQUES* published an entire issue just on NSCDA properties. Many Dames worked hard to gather and edit the material needed.

Not resting on their laurels, most NSCDA museum properties have undergone self-examination. Many of the gardens have been authenticated with professional guidance. The collections have been re-evaluated to see if they are correct for the period of the property. Updated appraisals of the collections have taken place, and insurance policies have been reviewed and adjusted, if necessary. Ongoing reviews are made of education programs. Rather than just talking about the items in the collection, the emphasis today is on telling the history of the property and the people who lived there.

## CHAPTER VII

### SULGRAVE MANOR

Sulgrave Manor, in England, is the ancestral home of George Washington. The Manor was purchased in 1539 by Lawrence Washington, a prosperous wool merchant. He began a building project to accommodate his family of four sons and seven daughters. These additions were completed in 1560. Lawrence lived at Sulgrave Manor for another twenty-four years. Upon his death the property passed down to various descendants.

In 1656, the strong Royalist support of the Washington family for Charles I, resulted in retaliation against the Washingtons by Oliver Cromwell supporters. John Washington, a great great-grandson of Lawrence, was the owner of Sulgrave Manor at that time. As he could see no future in England, he decided to make a new life for himself and his family in America.

The Washington family emigrated to Virginia in 1656. John's first wife died, and in 1658, he married Anne Pope, the daughter of a wealthy plantation owner, Nathaniel Pope. Pope's wedding present to John and Anne was 700 acres on Mattox Creek in Westmoreland County on the Northern Neck of Virginia. John and Anne had four children. Their eldest son Lawrence was born in 1659. Lawrence married Mary Warner in 1686 and they had three children. Their middle child, Augustine, had ten children, one of whom, born in 1732, was named George. George Washington was a leader in the Revolutionary War, when the thirteen colonies rebelled against English rule. After the war and a new nation had been founded, George Washington became the first President of the United States of America.

The War of 1812, between the United States and Britain, officially ended in 1814, when the Treaty of Ghent was signed in Belgium. To celebrate 100 years of peace between the two countries, in 1914, a group of English men and women formed the British Peace Commission. The Commission purchased Sulgrave Manor House and ten acres for \$50,000 and presented it to the people of the U.S. and England as a memorial.

This generous gift to America was consistent with the goal of The National Society to preserve and restore buildings connected with the early history of our country. A motion, therefore, was made at the Twelfth Biennial Council in May, 1914, to commission a copy of a portrait of George Washington painted by Charles Willson Peale in 1772. The portrait depicts George Washington at Mount Vernon in the uniform of an officer of the British forces. The original painting hangs at Washington and Lee University.

Since the copy of the portrait was finished after World War I had begun, it was first kept at Mount Vernon and later put in storage. After the war was over, the portrait was shipped and presented to Sulgrave Manor. On the advice of Mr. Durr Friedly, of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the frame for the portrait was patterned after a design by Paul Revere. At the bottom is a scroll with the words:

*GEORGE WASHINGTON*

*Colonel commanding Virginia Colonial troops*

*after a portrait painted in 1772 by Chs. Wilson Peale*

*now in Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Virginia.*

*A gift to Sulgrave Manor in England A.D. 1915*

*by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America*

Soon after the Council of 1914, the President of the National Society learned that a member from the Maryland Society was going to England that summer. She asked the individual if she would visit Sulgrave Manor and report on its condition and where the portrait would be hung. When the Maryland Dame returned, she indicated the Manor was charming, but in dire need of repair. Upon hearing this, the National President suggested to the National Board that the Society might consider raising funds for repairs. \$1,000 was received and sent to England the following spring of 1915, and another \$2,000 was sent for urgent repairs in 1917.

At the Council of 1916, the following motions were made and adopted:

Resolved, That the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America is deeply interested in the restoration of Sulgrave Manor, the home of the ancestors of Washington in England, and is willing to undertake, when, in the judgment of the National Board the proper time has come, the task of conducting an educational campaign throughout the United States for the purpose of raising the money.

A motion was made and adopted that when:

...in the opinion of the President and the National Board, the time should have arrived for the beginning of the proposed educational campaign in behalf of the restoration of Sulgrave Manor they be empowered to begin the movement.

The close of World War I found the Dames wholly absorbed in preparation of the Memorial at Plymouth Rock. By 1923, however, the National President felt strongly about completing the earlier commitment to Sulgrave Manor. A major fund-raising drive began for an Endowment Fund, and a Chairman was appointed. It was decided not only to ask Dames for money, but also to ask others. 35,000 donors made contributions, and their names were entered into an elegant Book of Donors. Not bad, considering the National Society membership totaled only 9,000 at the time. The original goal was \$100,000, and to the delight of all, \$112,000 was raised. As an aside, the total fund-raising costs amounted to \$819.28.

The money, upon the advice of many, including Brown Brothers of New York, was deposited with the United States Trust Company of New York, which agreed to a reduced fee to manage the funds. The money was put into an endowment fund with the income to be used to help with the maintenance of Sulgrave Manor.

Later, in order to supplement this income, The Friends of Sulgrave Manor, a tax-exempt corporation, was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1978, for the purpose of assistance in education, continuing development, and preservation of Sulgrave Manor. Fund-raising letters are sent to all Dames every year, and fund-raising trips are organized to visit Sulgrave Manor and other interesting sites every two years.

In 1921, Sulgrave Manor was opened to the public. A Sulgrave Manor Board had been formed and charged with full responsibility for the maintenance, care, and control of the manor. To maintain the commitment of a board with American and English representation, three ex officio trustees were named; the American Ambassador to Great Britain, the British Ambassador to the United States, and the Regent of Mount Vernon.

The NSCDA was extended an invitation to sit on the Sulgrave Manor Board in 1923. Initially, the offer was not accepted, because the Council decided it would involve responsibilities that were inconsistent with the objectives of the Society.

In 1925, however, the National President reported to the National Board that representation would permit the Society to carry on with the further restoration, furnishing, and development of Sulgrave Manor. With the approval of the National Board, she appointed two representatives, one representing the Colonial State Societies and one representing the Associate State Societies, who went to England the following year. On July 25, 1925, a formal ceremony was planned at Sulgrave Manor to be presided over by the Chairman of the Sulgrave Manor Institute and assisted by the President of the NSCDA. At this event, the Dames formally presented the first income check from the Endowment Fund. Earlier, on July 21, an invitation to attend a garden

party at Buckingham Palace and be introduced to King George and Queen Mary was issued, and on July 22, the American Women's Club of London held a reception for the ladies. Word of these impending invitations seeped out and almost seventy Dames crossed the Atlantic by ship (no airplanes in those days) to be a part of the festivities.

Today, under *Acts in Council*, the National President appoints a Senior Sulgrave Manor Representative and a Junior Sulgrave Manor Representative, and they are elected by the Sulgrave Manor Board in England. Although Sulgrave Manor is not a Standing Committee, each Representative has the status in the National Society of a Chairman of a National Standing Committee and is a voting member of the National Board.

In addition to Dames and their friends, visitors come from everywhere to visit Sulgrave Manor. Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher spoke to visiting Dames in June of 2000. Many schoolchildren visit the Manor, as there are excellent programs planned for them. A gift shop is on the premises and has lovely items for sale.

Sulgrave Manor is located in the rolling hills of Northhamptonshire, about seventy miles from London and thirty miles from Oxford and Stratford. Nearby is Blenheim Palace, which makes for an interesting comparison of how a well-to-do farmer lived versus a titled Lord. In the village of Sulgrave is a charming Fourteenth Century church where the Washington family worshiped. The website for Sulgrave Manor, [www.sulgravemanor.org.uk](http://www.sulgravemanor.org.uk) gives the background of the house.



*Sulgrave Manor*

## CHAPTER VIII

### GUNSTON HALL

Gunston Hall Plantation is located on Mason Neck, near Lorton, Virginia overlooking the Potomac River. It is the former plantation and home of George Mason who was the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which was the principal source of the Bill of Rights. Many of his ideas were incorporated in the *United States Constitution* signed in 1787; however, as it did not contain a Bill of Rights, Mason would not sign it. This oversight was remedied in 1791 when the first ten amendments to the *Constitution* or Bill of Rights were ratified. Many state constitutions include these Rights and they were used in France's *Declaration of the Rights of Man* in 1789 and the United Nations *Charter of the Rights of Man* 1948.

Mason probably started construction of his house about 1752. In that year it is known he had the services of an indentured brick mason who was probably hired to make bricks for the new house. This man, however, did not know his craft and Mason successfully sued him in court for faulty work. It is not known how much was completed by 1755, when Mason brought William Buckland from England to complete the building. Buckland also designed the elegant paneling in the interiors, and William Howard Sears carved the elements. The plantation consisted of over 5,000 acres, which were planted primarily with wheat and tobacco.

By 1932, the house was owned by Mr. Louis Hertle, whose late wife, Eleanor Daughaday Hertle, had been a Colonial Dame. No sooner had the National Society closed on Dumbarton House, its new headquarters, when word was received that Mr. Hertle was giving serious thought to deeding Gunston Hall, after a life estate for himself, to the Commonwealth of Virginia with the proviso the NSCDA be the custodian of the property. The gift would be a perpetual memory to George Mason and honor the principles of just government and civic righteousness.

Since the Virginia legislature was soon to meet and vote on this proposal, the Dames needed to make a quick decision about accepting this new responsibility. On February 16, 1932, the President of the NSCDA, called a meeting of the National Officers to discuss the matter. Also, at the meeting, were Justice Harlan Stone of the Supreme Court, who was a close friend of Mr. Hertle, the Regent of Mount Vernon, and Mrs. William D. Mitchell wife of the U.S. Attorney General, as he was unable to attend. All but one person agreed that the National Society should take on this new assignment and with it the opportunity to continue carrying out its mission of historic preservation.



Immediately following the meeting, a report of it was mailed to each National Board member asking for approval and requesting a reply by wire. Replies were received in the affirmative and on February 25, at the historic Fairfax Court House in Virginia, a Deed of Gift was executed by Louis Hertle, giving title of the Gunston Hall estate to the Commonwealth of Virginia, subject to an estate for his life, with the management vested in a Board of Regents to be named by the NSCDA. The Dames were to nominate candidates, who were then appointed by the Governor of Virginia for a term no longer than ten years. The number was to be at least 18 members with the President of the Virginia Society as one of the members. Guidelines for the custodianship were to be included in the bylaws of the NSCDA. This Deed was accepted and approved by the General Assembly of Virginia on March 15, 1932.

The entire transaction took place between Councils. Up until then, any major undertakings voted on by the National Board were undertaken only upon final approval by the Council. *Acts in Council*, however, provides that the National Board serves in between Councils and their decisions are binding in the interim. Gunston Hall was a case where timing was of the essence.

The bylaws of the NSCDA regarding the supervision of Gunston Hall have been refined several times, and by 2005, there were fifty-two Regents of Gunston Hall. They include the President of the National Society ex officio, the President of the Virginia Society ex officio, a member from each Corporate Society, and as many Regents at Large as to make a total of fifty-two Regents.



*Gunston Hall*

Their terms are limited to a total of ten years, except for the Presidents of the National Society and the Virginia Society who serve for only as long as they hold their offices. In addition, according to the Deed of Gift, the Regents nominated must be approved and appointed by the Governor of Virginia.

Since Mr. Hertle lived until 1949, in the interim since 1932, the Regents had time to make plans for the eventual restoration of the house as a place in which a Virginia gentleman of means living in the Eighteenth Century would have lived. After Mr. Hertle's death, the work began. Necessary structural changes and repairs were made. The Dames began the major undertaking of collecting appropriate furniture for the house. A number of pieces were donated by the Dames themselves. After careful consideration that the furniture was right for the house, the Dames then began to purchase other items. They had hoped to find pieces owned by George Mason but were not very successful.

The Garden Club of Virginia took over the responsibility of the garden under the supervision of Mr. Alden Hopkins, the landscape architect of Williamsburg. In 1953, an administration building, the Hertle Building, was erected to house headquarters for the Regents and offices for the Director and his secretary. There was a museum shop as well.

Much of the effort of the Dames in the 1950's was spent on raising funds for Gunston Hall. A total of \$198,000 was collected.

In 1960, a little schoolhouse was built on the site of the original foundation. The original school was on the first floor, and a room for the tutor was on the second floor above. Between 1967-1973, an addition was added, the Ann Mason Building, which included a meeting room, library, gift shop, and facilities for catering. New contributions came in from Dames for the project. Shortly after this, the original site of the kitchen was found, and it was reconstructed.

Mrs. Lamott duPont Copeland wanted to help with the appropriate furnishings for Gunston Hall and the interpretation of George Mason's personal life. For over a decade she conducted and sponsored extensive research in both the United States and England on the Mason family. In 1975, Mrs. Copeland, with Dr. Richard K. MacMaster, published a summary of this research as *The Five George Masons.....Patricians and Planters of Virginia and Maryland*. Mrs. Copeland also was instrumental in suggesting the Mason family have a family reunion so the members could get to know each other and become better acquainted with Gunston Hall. Some 225 members gathered in 1986, representing seven of the eight branches of the family. Eventually these descendants formed a support group, known as the George Mason Memorial Society, and they have organized numerous subsequent family reunions at Gunston Hall.

In November of 1988, Gunston Hall was accredited by the American Association of Museums and reaccruited in 2000. This prestigious designation is received only by high quality museums in this country.

Plans were begun in 1990 to have a memorial to George Mason erected in Washington, DC, near the Jefferson Memorial and the George Mason Memorial Bridge. The monument was approved by both houses of Congress and signed into law in 1992. The ground-breaking ceremony took place on October 18, 2000 and dedication of the completed memorial on April 9, 2002. It was the first memorial on the National Mall for an individual who did not serve as President of our country.

By 1994, the Commonwealth of Virginia was looking for ways to shore up its budget and it proposed privatizing Gunston Hall. This plan was not successful, and funds from the Commonwealth began to shrink. The Commonwealth cut back on its annual funding to the extent that it now provides 28-30% of the annual budget, as compared to more than 50% at the beginning of the partnership. In 1996, the Board of Regents decided it should start work on a capital campaign to be called "Liberty 2000" to help compensate for the shortfall in Commonwealth funding. Eventually over \$8,500,000 was raised and allocated for the Endowment Fund, the George Mason Memorial, and capital improvements. Included in the total figure raised was a special



*George Mason Memorial*

grant of \$2,225,000 through the issuance of bonds from the Commonwealth of Virginia, which enabled Gunston Hall to add an auditorium, new offices, a new library, archival space, and collection space.

After a comprehensive study of furnishings owned by plantation gentry in Tidewater Virginia, a number of items from the collection at Gunston Hall were deemed inappropriate and were deaccessioned. A major sale was held on January 20, 2002 at Sotheby's auction house in New York City, and the proceeds, amounting to nearly \$1,650,000, were added to the Collections Account.

It was just over fifty years ago that Gunston Hall was opened to the public after 200 years as a private estate. It is a splendid place to relive the early history of our country, both in the house itself and in the beautiful reconstructed gardens leading to the edge of the Potomac River. Ongoing programs are presented to the adult public as well as many specially planned events and classes for children. A website was developed in the 1990's, [www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org), which gives the background of the house as well as a listing of items obtainable from the gift shop.



# CHAPTER IX

## DUMBARTON HOUSE

By 1927, the National Society had accomplished a great deal in its mission to preserve Colonial antiquities. It hadn't, however, done anything for itself; therefore, it was decided a committee should be formed to investigate the possibility of buying an old historic Colonial building in its domicile, Washington, DC. Georgetown was considered to be an ideal place, but real estate prices had escalated, as many wealthy Washington citizens had purchased much of the real estate and little was on the market. An ideal house was found, built by Samuel Jackson in 1799-1800, on a tract of land purchased from Isaac Pollak on July 23, 1798. Ninian Beall, a Scottish Royalist and immigrant, was originally granted the patent of land for this property on November 18, 1703, by Benedict Leonard Calvert, Fourth Lord Baltimore. The land consisted of 795 acres in Calvert County, Maryland, which is now part of Washington, DC. Beall named the first parcel, which covered current day Georgetown, "Rock of Dumbarton", no doubt thinking of the geological formation at the mouth of the Clyde River, in Glasgow Harbor, Scotland. The harbor was a debarkation point for the New World when Ninian Beall came to North America. The property remained in the Beall family for ninety-three years.

Joseph Nourse bought the house in 1805, probably under a foreclosure. Nourse was born in London in 1754 and came to Virginia as a child. He fought in the Revolution and was the first Register of the United States Treasury. He came to Washington when the Capital was moved from Philadelphia. Nourse later sold the property to Charles Carroll of Bellevue, who gave the place the name of "Belle Vue". The house changed hands several times after that. In 1915, the Dumbarton Bridge was built over Rock Creek, in order to extend Que Street to Georgetown. The Bridge Project necessitated moving Dumbarton House several yards north to its present site.

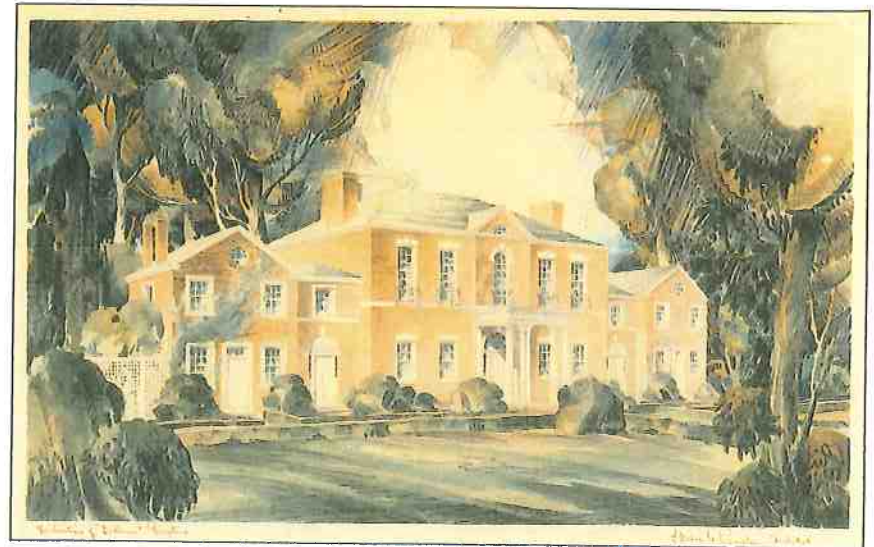
Dumbarton House was just the type of house the Dames were looking for: one with Colonial historic value, one that was large enough to hold the Dames business office and their archives, and one that could be maintained as a museum house. A problem arose, however, when it was discovered that only organizations legally incorporated in the District of Columbia could own property. It was necessary, therefore, to create the N.S.C.D.A. Corporation in order to hold real estate. By the time the incorporation papers were completed, the original offer of \$160,000 was not accepted. After a thorough review of the financial state of the National Society an offer was made of \$185,000, which was accepted. On October of 1928 the Society took title to the property. The

Society took over an existing \$30,000 mortgage and issued short term bonds and certificates to Dames. Donations came in as well. The house was rented unfurnished for three years at \$1,000 per month to help allay immediate expenses.

The Dames took possession on April 1, 1931. Now the challenge of restoration began. The Council of 1931 authorized going ahead with the proposed restoration, and a committee was appointed to oversee the operation. Serving on this committee were: Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, the architect; Mr. Fiske Kimball from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, as consulting architect; Mrs. Stephen Bonsal and Mrs. Joseph Lamar, representing the Dames.

A number of structural changes had been made to Dumbarton House over the past one hundred years. The Committee had photographs of the house taken just before 1880 and a written description of the portico on the house and how it looked in 1813. Fiske Kimball felt the original structure was "one of the finest and most beautiful houses in the United States", and he strongly urged that Dumbarton House be restored to its original elegant beauty.

The Committee recommended following his advice. Now came the part of furnishing the house. A Dumbarton House Committee was formed, along with subcommittees for Furnishings, House, Library, Garden, Entertainment, and Custodian. Luke Vincent Lockwood, one of the foremost authorities on early American furniture, and his wife, a member of the New York Society,



*Horace W. Peaslee, the principal architect for the 1931 restoration, painted this image as a record of the completed restoration.*



agreed to pass on all items received as gifts for the interior. Photographs of each gift were sent to the Lockwoods to help them determine the date and appropriateness of the piece for the collection. On May 8, 1931, a windfall of \$25,000 came from the George Washington Memorial Fund representing monies the Dames had contributed from 1910 to 1914, to provide a future headquarters for the National Society. The check was made payable to the N.S.C.D.A. Corporation with the proviso that the funds be used for the Headquarters the Society had just purchased. The formal opening of the house to the Society took place on May 4 - 6, 1932, and six hundred seventy-five members attended.

The original Committee, authorized by the Council of 1931, was later renamed the Dumbarton House Board. In the ensuing years the Board worked to see that the correct interpretation of a Federal house was made available to the members of the Society and to the general public. In 1972, the Ladies of Dumbarton was established. One lady from each Corporate Society was appointed, and her responsibility was to educate members in her Society as well as conduct fund raising for Dumbarton House. In 1984, the Ladies of Dumbarton and the Dumbarton House Board merged. Today, the Dumbarton House Board oversees, at Dumbarton House, the administration of a museum of Federal and Colonial history.

During the 1980's, due to an increased interest in museum houses in the District of Columbia and Georgetown, Dumbarton House was open more frequently for tours, lectures, and receptions. The membership of the Dames had outgrown its headquarters office space, and there was a push on to expand the educational programs for children. Although a computer had been installed to help facilitate the operations, the Dames awakened to the need to renovate and expand the house. A Long-Range Planning Committee was formed to review the different aspects for expanding the house and programs and the changes it would incur. Mr. Martin Jay Rosenblum of Philadelphia was chosen to do a feasibility study. The study showed that a vast overhaul was necessary. The Dames and their programs had outgrown their space.



*Dumbarton House before 1880*

The electrical system was outdated, the heating and plumbing systems needed repair and updating, there was need for an air conditioning system, and due to new Government regulations, access was required for the handicapped. In addition, expanded access to the house by the general public was needed.

In 1985, the National Board meeting was held in Detroit, at which

time a motion was made and passed: "That the plans for the basement renovation and east wing addition be adopted, in order to have the work completed in time for our Centennial in 1991." The renovation of Dumbarton House became the official Centennial Project.

The renovation for this task was carried on during 1986-1992. The fund-raising drive was conducted in earnest from the fall of 1986 to April 1991, and the goal was to raise \$2,000,000. Two stalwart Dumbarton House Board members led a crusade to complete this task by taking a "dog and pony" show across the country, visiting over half the Corporate Societies. They raised contributions and highlighted the value of Dumbarton House, as the NSCDA's headquarters and as a federal museum. To the delight of everyone, over \$3,000,000 was raised from members and friends. The restoration and expansion were carried out by Martin Jay Rosenblum, R.A. Associates of Philadelphia.

Dumbarton House was emptied of furnishings, and the groundbreaking for the restoration occurred on May 23, 1990. For the next two years, essential structural repairs such as a new roof and plumbing were started. A new assembly room was literally excavated out of whole earth, because the basement existed only beneath the main section of the house: hyphens and wings rested on foundation footings. As originally envisioned, the Belle Vue Room was created for national and corporate meetings, not for a rental venue. It was only after the Society began receiving inquiries from the general public about the availability of the space for corporate events, weddings, and other rental functions that the Society permitted such uses to occur. The caretaker's apartment in the west wing was reconfigured into guest quarters with two bedrooms, and the former single guest room on the east wing's second floor was reconfigured into an efficiency apartment for the caretaker. A new telephone system was installed.

Dumbarton House was rededicated on October 11, 1992 and was part of the 1992 Biennial Council and Centennial Celebration. When Dumbarton House reopened, its newly enlarged and renovated headquarters were an outstanding success. The Assembly room or Belle Vue, as it became known, became the "in" place for State Department entertaining, and it was also in demand for many corporate functions as well as weddings. The facility's use by the State and other federal executive departments waned as demands for space, including parking, outstripped capacity. The new guest quarters were a great success. Children's programs, established with the help of graduate students, were popular, and often sold out. Dumbarton House became part of a consortium of local



*Dumbarton House between 1896 and 1915*

Historical House Museums known as the Federal Studies Center, but the Center turned out to be overly ambitious and eventually was dropped. Dumbarton House did join the Historic House Museums Consortium of Greater Washington as part of the area museum community.

With the expansion and use of Dumbarton House on a wider scale, additional staff was added. Dumbarton House had become big business, and, therefore, the Executive Committee of the NSCDA recommended hiring a professional Headquarters Director, with a business and management background, such as several other house museums had done. Since Dumbarton House had a museum curator, it was felt this knowledge was not essential in the background for the Director. A Director of Marketing and Special Events was appointed to advertise Dumbarton House as a place to hold meetings and weddings. An Education Director was hired. A National Society Office Secretary (now the NSCDA Administrative Assistant) was added to help coordinate the needs of members and the individual Corporate Societies. By December 1996, the office had five computers. One computer hosted the "Potemkin" collection management software, which enabled the Registrar of the Collection to upgrade the inventory, verify the provenance, and make the files uniform. Reports could now be produced by category, such as silver or textiles, or by location in the house, and by Corporate Society and donor.

In 1994, approval was given by the National Board to proceed with a needlepoint project whereby each Corporate Society would complete a needlepoint rendering of its Corporate Society Seal. In 1998 these were finished, framed, and hung in the Belle Vue room. In conjunction with this project, *The History of the Corporate Seals* was published.

In 1994, the Dumbarton House Board began to meet semi-annually instead of only once a year. In that same year the Friends of Dumbarton House was established to support the conservation of the Collection and the educational programs. In 1998, the Dumbarton House Museum was awarded a Certificate of Accreditation from the NSCDA -- an exciting accomplishment. In 2002, the museum received the National Society's permission to seek American

Association of Museums (AAM) accreditation. In August of 2006, Dumbarton House received the great news that it had been fully accredited by the AAM.

In 2001, the National Board passed a resolution establishing a fund called The Dumbarton House Fund for the Future to provide a sustainable level of distribution in support of the annual operating and

capital budgets of Dumbarton House while preserving the real purchasing power of the fund as accumulated from time to time.

The Working Library, in the east wing, was turned into a Visitors Center, and it now serves as the public entrance to the house. Space has been provided for the display of gifts for sale. A lovely silk scarf has been a sellout item, as have been cocktail napkins imprinted with the slogan, "There is nothing like a Dame".

Several important exhibits have been mounted in the house:

1. *In Search of Joseph Nourse, 1754-1841: America's First Civil Servant.* 1994-1995. Contained many of the manuscripts and other artifacts the Dames had received in 1991 as a gift from descendants of Joseph Nourse, as well as other objects placed on loan by other descendants.
2. *Dames in Uniform.* 1995-1996. Honored the efforts of the National Society during World War II and those of many of its individual members who had served their country. The exhibit was planned to coincide with the Women in Military Service (WIMSA) memorial ground breaking ceremony at Arlington Cemetery.
3. *Dolley at Dumbarton.* 1996. Documented the flight of Dolley Madison from the President's House on August 24, 1814, and her brief stop at Dumbarton House (or Bellevue as it was then named).
4. *Instruction with Amusement: Children at Dumbarton House. 1790- 1830.* 1998. Examined the life of children and pedagogy during the Federal period.
5. *Remembering Washington: Mementos of His Life and Family.* 1999-2000. Commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the death of George Washington, the exhibition displayed objects from the Dumbarton House collection with a Washington family provenance.
6. *Young Life in the Young Capital.* 2000-2001. Provided a historical perspective of the lives of young people growing up in Georgetown during the early years of our nation's capital.
7. *The View From Here: Images of Early Georgetown.* 2001-2002. Celebrating the two hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Georgetown's founding, the exhibit presented engravings, paintings, and other early images of Georgetown. The portrait of the Benjamin Stoddert Children from the Dumbarton House, collection, as well as two early watercolors drawn by Nourse family members, were highlights of the exhibition.
8. *From East to West: Quaker Farmer Chinese Export Porcelain in America.* 2005-2006. Gathering more than 50 examples from public and private collections of a pattern attributed to a Nourse descendant, this exhibit explored the opening of the China trade in America in 1785.



*Dumbarton House before 1916 and 1932*



Today scientific studies and restoration are ongoing at Dumbarton House. Matthew Mosca completed a paint analysis in 1998. Karri Jurgens, Mark Wegner, and others conducted architectural studies in 2000. Major capital improvements recently have included total renovation of the air conditioning system, improvements to the whole rainwater conduction system, restoration of the upper driveway property line wall to its original configuration, and refurbishment of the upper grounds, front fence and gates.

Under the Director of Education, imaginative and well received programs have been created with the aid of education interns. The Washington, DC Public Schools fifth grade museums tour and workshops have been implemented with contemporary standards of learning requirements. New cutting-edge programs have been developed for Girl Scouts and other youth groups. The Education Director has been proactive in recruiting enthusiastic docents comprised of both Dames and non-Dames.

To bring Dumbarton House into the Twenty-First century, a website was designed, [www.dumbartonhouse.org](http://www.dumbartonhouse.org), which has become a major communication tool. The website gives information on tours, the collection, restoration, programs and events. It also has two pages devoted to items for sale from the gift shop.



*Dumbarton House 2007*

## CHAPTER X

### FOUNDERS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

Mrs. Crawford Arnold (Fanny Hollingsworth)	Mrs. Thomas McKean (Elizabeth Wharton)
Mrs. Alexander Biddle (Julia Williams Rush)	Mrs. William Mifflin (Anne Poultney Large)
Mrs. J. Edward Carpenter (Harriet Odin Dorr)	Miss Lydia Thompson Morris
Mrs. William Logan Fox (Rebecca Clifford Hollingsworth)	Mrs. John Sanders (Maria Dallas Wilkins)
Mrs. Archibald H. Gillespie (Elizabeth Duane)	Miss Hannah Lewis Scott
Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison (Ellen Wain)	Miss Anne Hollingsworth Wharton
Mrs. William W. Irwin (Sophie Arabella Bache)	Mrs. William D. Winsor (Elizabeth Camac Chapman)
Miss Emily Redwood Lyman	Mrs. James D. Winsor (Rebecca Chapman)
	Mrs. Ernest Zantlinger (Hitty Markoe Wharton)

### PRESIDENTS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

Mrs. G. Dawson Coleman (Deborah Brown)	Pennsylvania	1892-1894
Mrs. Howard Townsend (Justine Van Rensselaer)	New York	1894-1902
Mrs. William Ruffin Cox (Katherine Hamilton Cabell)	Virginia	1902-1914
Mrs. Joseph Rucker Lamar (Clarinda Huntingdon Pendleton)	Georgia	1914-1927
Mrs. James Parkhill Andrews (Julia Lincoln Ray)	Connecticut	1927-1935
Mrs. Joseph B. Hutchinson (Serena Mayer North)	Pennsylvania	1935-1941
Mrs. Ethelbert Ide Low (Gertrude Herrick)	New York	1941-1948
Mrs. Thomas W. Streeter Sr. (Ruth Cheney)	New Hampshire	1948-1952
Mrs. Malcolm Maclean (Emily Helm)	Georgia	1952-1956
Miss Marguerite Appleton	Rhode Island	1956-1962
Mrs. James I. Wendell (Marjorie Potts)	Pennsylvania	1962-1968



Mrs. Harry Justin Warthen Jr. (Martha Winston Alsop)	Virginia	1968-1972
Mrs. William Curtis Pierce (Elizabeth N. Gay)	New York	1972-1976
Mrs. Robert Vincent Martin (Julia Groves)	Georgia	1976-1980
Mrs. James M. Tunnell Jr. (Mildred South)	Delaware	1980-July 1984
Mrs. Bruce W. Bridgford (Inez James Montgomery)	Wyoming	1984-1988
Mrs. John Bagley Watkins (Jean Hyde)	Michigan	1988-1994
Mrs. A. Corkran Nimick (Anne S. Corkran)	Pennsylvania	1994-2000
Mrs. A.A. Tilney Wickersham (Joan Ryder)	Rhode Island	2000-2004
Mrs. James R.C. Cobb (Virginia Stuart Chapman)	Arkansas	2004-

### ACTING PRESIDENT

Mrs. Edmund U. Ritter (Priscilla Rich)	Massachusetts	July 1984- Oct. 1984
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## APPENDIX

Europe in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries was coming out of the Middle Ages and there was an awakening and intellectual curiosity about the world around it. A merchant class was emerging that knew India and the Far East had great riches of gems, silk, and spices. The land route of the old Silk Road caravan crossed through Muslim countries that were unfriendly to Christians. Thus began the Age of Exploration to find a sea route to the Far East.

Sponsored by the Spanish Crown, Christopher Columbus sailed in 1492, looking for the fabled lands. He found, instead, a new Continent - America. Other explorers followed: John Cabot, sponsored by King Henry VII of England in 1497, sailed along the northeastern coast of North America laying claim of that land for England; Jacques Cartier, sponsored by the French in 1534 -1535, discovered the St. Lawrence River; Henry Hudson's voyages were underwritten by the Dutch East India Company, and in 1609, he discovered New York Harbor. He proceeded north, as far as present day Albany, on the large river that now bears his name.

North America, at the end of the Sixteenth Century, had Spanish settlements in St. Augustine, Florida and Santa Fe, New Mexico. During the early Seventeenth Century, the English established permanent settlements in Jamestown, Virginia (1607) and Plymouth, Massachusetts (1620), and the French founded Quebec (1608) and Montreal (1642). Although the Netherlands had an early settlement in New York and Sweden had one in Delaware, by 1755, there were thirteen colonies under English rule: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

The colonists came from all walks of life and had migrated mainly for the economic opportunities or to avoid religious unrest at home. Although the majority came from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, there were also colonists who came from France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden. From the start of colonization, commerce was integrated with agriculture, and by the middle of the Eighteenth Century there were a number of wealthy plantation owners in the south, and numerous merchants in the port cities who had become rich and powerful.

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America is dedicated to furthering an appreciation of our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects.

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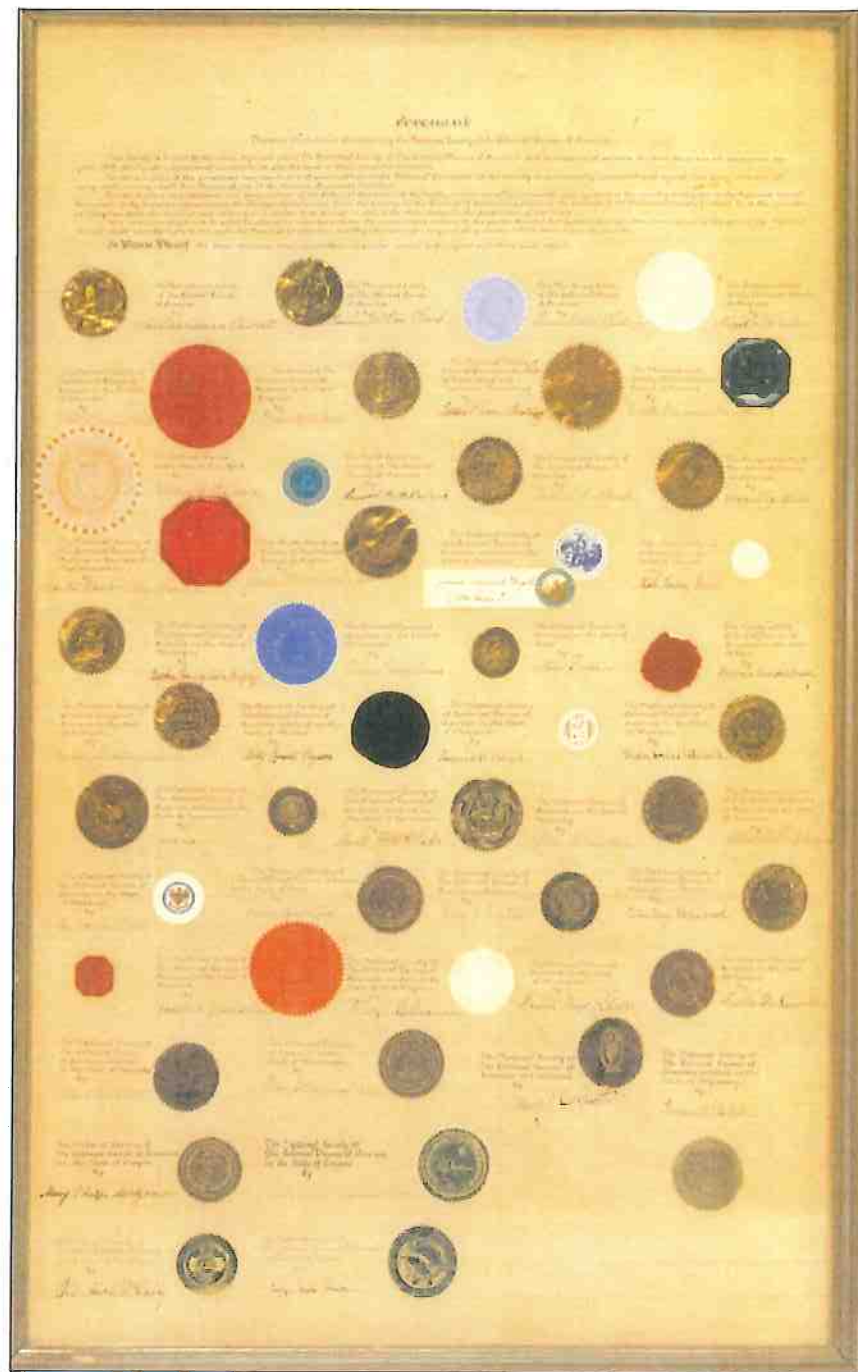
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*The Covenant*