



Entrusted With History's Future

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Media Contact:

Meaghan Malloy White

202-337-2288 x2224

MeaghanMalloyWhite@NSCDA.org

Charles Halliwell Pringle Duell is the first recipient of the NSCDA Award for Preserving History's Future

October 15, 2022, WASHINGTON—The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) is pleased to announce that Charles Halliwell Pringle Duell has been named the first recipient of the NSCDA Award for Preserving History's Future.

The NSCDA Award for Preserving History's Future honors an individual or individuals outside of the NSCDA who have provided exemplary leadership in promoting our national heritage in the areas of historic preservation, history education, and/or patriotic service, all of which are at the heart of the mission of the NSCDA.

“Mr. Duell’s lifelong commitment to historic preservation and American history education is demonstrated through his creation of the Middleton Place Foundation to steward Middleton Place as an exemplary historic property in Charleston, South Carolina,” said Katherine Cammack, NSCDA National President. “We are proud to recognize his unwavering dedication to values which are also essential to carrying out the mission of the NSCDA, and we applaud him for his steadfast dedication in preserving a robust history for all Americans.”

During his youth, Duell, who was born in New York City, would visit his grandparents at Middleton Place where they had lived since 1925. In 1965, he provided his grandfather with financial advice that helped him—a “life tenant” of Middleton Place but not technically its owner—secure the property. Four years later, his grandfather died and the property went to Duell. His sudden inheritance compelled him to leave a financial career in New York and move his family to South Carolina, where he found the national landmark deteriorating.

In 1974, Duell created a foundation and turned over the ownership of Middleton Place to the nonprofit. This foundation allowed the transformation of Middleton Place with drastic improvements, stable finances, and a cornerstone spot in the Low Country’s heritage tourism trade. The recent publication of *American Landmark* by Virginia Beach, available through middletonplace.org, provides the compelling story of Middleton Place and Mr. Duell’s work in preserving this national landmark.



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"I'm honored to receive the NSCDA Award for Preserving History's Future," said Duell. "My family and I believe the history doesn't belong to just us but to all who are interested in it. Yes, you can own bricks and mortar and land, but Middleton Place is a microcosm of America's political, agricultural, African-American, botanical, and culinary past. A lot happened here. If you don't know where you've come from, how can you even think about where you're going?"

Duell has served the preservation community on the board of directors of the Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, is a trustee emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was appointed to the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and is a founding trustee of the International African American Museum.

About the NSCDA

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (www.nscda.org) promotes appreciation for the people, places and events that led to the formation and development of our country. The NSCDA is an unincorporated association of 44 Corporate Societies with more than 15,000 members. The NSCDA has been a leader in the field of historic preservation, restoration, and the interpretation of historic sites since its New York Society first undertook the preservation of the Van Cortlandt House in 1897. The National Society headquarters is located at Dumbarton House, a Federal period house museum in Washington, D.C.

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