

The Newsletter of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Connecticut

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 1

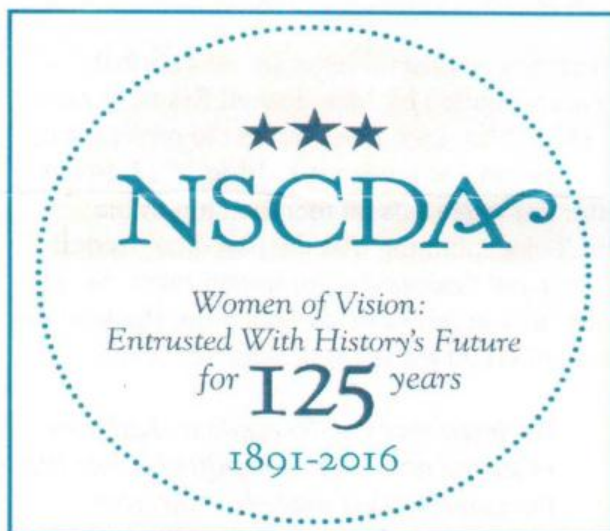
SPRING

APRIL 2016

A Message from the President

Charbra Adams Jestin

Happy Birthday!!!



On April 8, 2016 the NSCDA celebrated the 125th anniversary of its founding in Philadelphia. Does this make us 125 years old or 125 years young? While we can never know what the future holds we do know that we have had a successful and productive past. This milestone prompted me to look at our own membership roll to ascertain who are our longest standing members.

Our Registrar, Katherine Holden, created for me a list of our members based on their date of admittance to the CT society.

Continued on page 2

A Message from the Director

Charles T. Lyle

Plans are moving along for the 8th annual Revolutionary War Encampment and Skirmish on Saturday, May 28, 2016 starting at 10 a.m. We received a \$1000 grant from The Connecticut Society of The Cincinnati for the event again this year and sincerely appreciate their continued support. In addition to the many educational programs and demonstrations presented at the encampment by members of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment and the British 54th Regiment of Foot, the skirmish this

year will be expanded with the addition of a second horseman Dave Loda and John Catalfumo, representing Colonial and British officers, respectively, will engage in a sword fight on horseback and will



present several new demonstrations of horsemanship following the battle. The event follows the Wethersfield Memorial Day parade and lasts until 4 p.m. Admission to the encampment is free.

Progress is also being made on two new "Digging Deeper" tours offered for the first time this year. On Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m., 12 and 2 p.m.

Continued on page 4



— CONNECTICUT —

Entrusted With History's Future

President's Report, continued from page 1

Every fall at the semi-annual meeting, we recognize all members who achieve the 50-year milestone, but I had no idea how many members we have who exceed that 50-year mark. There are twenty-two!

These women have been engaged with the society and long-committed to our mission of historic preservation, historical activities, and patriotic service.

I set out in the month of March to meet with our three longest-standing members and I am so glad I did. I met first with our longest standing member, Helen Waterman (CT 906). Helen became a Dame on the 13th of January 1944, 72 years ago! For many years Helen cared for the gardens at the Webb House, often single-handedly. They were her pride and joy and flourished under her hands. When I asked what had prompted her to become a Dame her reply was instant: "Mother made me!" I checked our records and indeed her mother, also Helen Waterman (CT 633), became a Dame in 1929. We all should be grateful for their long-standing membership, and the work they contributed to the society.

There are two members who joined the CT Society in January of 1948: Jean Sargent (CT 961) and Martha Davis Soper (CT 956). I visited Jean in her apartment at Essex Meadows. I asked her the same question: how it was that she became a Dame in 1948, and her answer was -- "Mother made me"! Another example of mothers leading the way for their daughters.

To my great disappointment, however, I missed meeting Martha Soper who passed away in

January of this year. A little research and an email correspondence with her daughter confirmed that Martha was in fact the daughter of a Dame, Edith Brainerd Davis (CT 654) who joined the society in 1929. My guess is that Martha followed her mother's lead in becoming a Dame in her early twenties. Martha's daughter is also a CT Dame making this a three-generational Dames family. I suspect we have several more of those in our membership

There is a wonderful letter in our national archives written by Mrs. Joseph Rucker Lamar in 1924. Mrs. Lamar served as the president of the national society from 1914 to 1927. In her letter she expounds on membership in the NSCDA explaining that the hereditary requirement is not designed as an impediment, but rather as a signifier of women who, she assumes, have inherited the traits of their ancestors:

We insist that the descendant shall have inherited and have exemplified in her life the qualities that made her ancestor eligible, ... that she shall not only be patriotic, but that she shall bring to her patriotism the influence and force that spring from a life devoted to noble ends; that, in short, she shall be truly representative of the best in American life.

Noble sentiments expressed in language that rings true today. We celebrate all our members and particularly those who have remained pledged to our work for such a very long time. Happy Birthday to us all!

Yours respectfully, Charbra Adams Jestin



— CONNECTICUT —

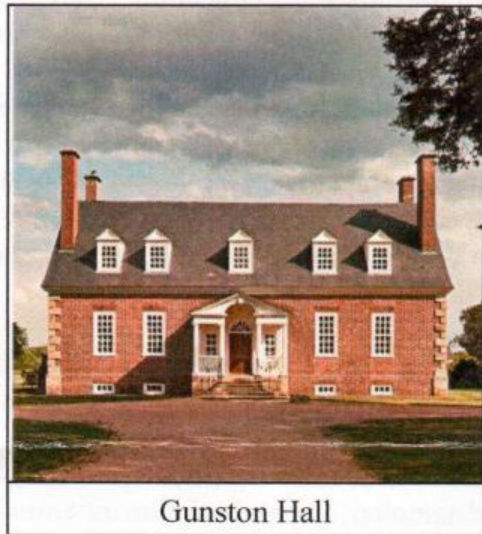
Entrusted With History's Future

Annual Meeting May 18, 2016

Our Annual Meeting will be held on May 18th at 11 am in the Webb Barn. Our speaker will be Scott Stroh, the Executive Director of Gunston Hall.

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of visiting this historic Virginia site, Gunston Hall is the ancestral home of George Mason. As the 240th anniversary of Mason's great legacy, the Virginia Declaration of Rights is celebrated this year, Scott will share his passion for the man and his work.

Along with your invitation you will be receiving changes to our Bylaws that we will be voting on at the meeting. These changes are mostly prompted by the new governance structure for the museum with a few other changes that will improve our management of the society, its membership, and its money. Please read this over and, if you have any questions, please speak with any member of the Board of Managers (listed on p. 4 of the Directory) who will be able to answer them for you.



Gunston Hall

You may read the minutes from our Semi-Annual Meeting held on October 21, 2015 by going to our website, nscda-ct.org and using the password listed on the inside front cover of the latest Directory. The minutes are under the tab "Society Documents" and "Board Minutes 2015".



Please remember to pull a table number when you register at the meeting upon entering the Barn. You may, of course, sit where you'd like and with whom you'd like but please be sure to have a table number for the table you sit at. We look forward to seeing you on the 18th and hope for beautiful weather!

Director's report continued from page 1

long-time WDS guide, teacher and veteran reenactor Sal Carmosino and reenactor Anthony Riccio will present the "Soldier's Life." In period dress, they will provide details on the life of a Colonial "Regular," examining the contents of a typical soldier's haversack and showing important artifacts and relics in the museum's collection. They will also guide visitors through the Webb House, including the famous bed chamber where Washington slept for five nights.

When General Washington and his staff met with French commander Rochambeau at the Webb House in May 1781, they planned a campaign that resulted in the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. To commemorate the effective end of the War of Independence, and the part that the Webb House played, early 20th century owner Wallace Nutting commissioned murals in the southeast parlor. These murals will be featured on the tour, which will conclude with an 18th century musket firing demonstration.

A second "Digging Deeper" tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 11. Curator Rich Malley is working with intern Julia Morrow and guides Elizabeth O'Brien and Linda Pagliuco on the content of the tour. It will feature rare items from the museum's extensive collection of textiles that are in storage and have not been seen by the public for years. Also discussed are fine examples of period textiles and framed samplers on exhibit in the museum houses. The tours will be given on alternate months and are scheduled on the second Saturday of each month through November. Admission is \$15 per person and advance-ticket purchase is recommended at <http://webb-deane-stevens.org/tour-tickets/>

Preparations are also in progress for a special exhibition to mark the opening of the Webb House by Wallace Nutting on July 4, 1916. We have lined up several major lenders from the Wallace Nutting Collectors' Club who will provide a number of wonderful examples of Wallace Nutting hand-colored platinum photographs and furniture. I am currently doing the research and writing and will work with Phil Lohman on the lay-out of a number of exhibit panels to be installed on the first floor of the Webb House. Textile consultant Lynne Bassett is also assisting with the installation of one manikin dressed as seen in Nutting's picture of the Yorktown Parlor entitled "Birthday Flowers." The exhibit is scheduled to open July 4, 2016 and to run through October 30, 2016. We are also in the process of lining up the fall lecture series with speakers on Wallace Nutting's many contributions to the study and appreciation of American decorative arts and architecture.



Rich Malley, Lynne Bassett, Charles Lyle, Linda Pagliuco



Entrusted With History's Future

Save the Date!

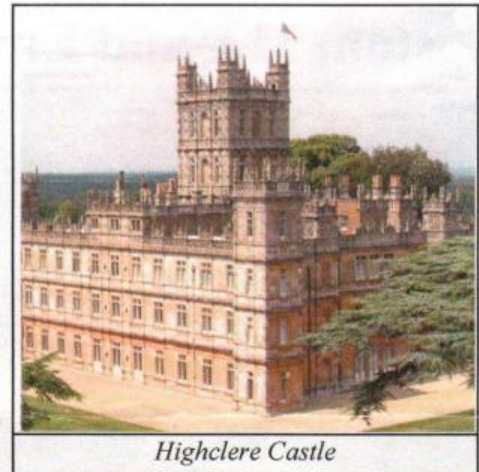
Downton Abbey meets Hill-stead

*Join us for a very special speaking
Engagement at Hill-Stead Museum,
Farmington*

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

2:00 – 4:30pm

Given our unique relationship with the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT, the Hill-Stead has invited the CT Dames to participate in this very special event they are holding in May. When Theodate Pope Riddle established the Hill-Stead Museum, she designated three Trustees to govern the property, one of whom must always be a Connecticut Colonial Dame because, in her mind, there was no other organization so committed to historic preservation. This event will support the preservation of another house museum, albeit on a grander scale Highclere Castle in England. If you purchase tickets for this event, please let Claire Bracaglia know (cbracaglia@webb-deane-stevens.org) so that we can arrange for a table to be reserved for CT Dames.



Highclere Castle

The Right Honorable Countess of Carnarvon resides at Highclere Castle, the primary filming location for the Emmy Award-winning PBS television series Downton Abbey. Lady Carnarvon will share a history of Highclere and the fascinating Carnarvon family stories, which provide real-life inspiration for the show. Before the lecture, audience members will enjoy afternoon tea or Champagne, paired with sweet and savory bites. A book-signing will follow the event.

TICKETS: www.Hillstead.org

Seating is limited and will be assigned based on the order of purchase.

35 Mountain Road Farmington, ct 860.677.4787 hillstead.org

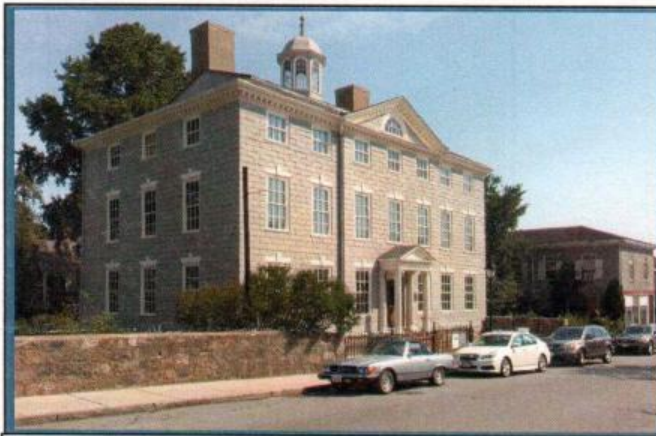


— CONNECTICUT —

Entrusted With History's Future

Save the Date!

NSCDA-CT Trip to Historic Houses and Museum in Boston, MA and Environs -- Make your plans now



Jeremiah Lee Mansion, Marblehead, Massachusetts

There is still room available on the three-day trip to Boston in September (20th-22nd) Please contact Tita Hyland (cahdkh@aol.com) if you are interested in taking advantage of this tour of architecture and history in the greater Boston area. Beginning at Prescott House, the headquarters of the Massachusetts Dames, the tour will take in: the Quincy Homestead, the Lee Mansion in Marblehead, the Peabody Essex Museum, the Harrison Gray Otis House in Boston, and Gore Place in Waltham. A donation to the NSCDA-CT of \$150 per person will secure your reservation. A further \$1,200.00 covers the bus, room and tax, lunch and dinner and admission fees.



Historic Activities

Mary V. Treadway, Chair, Historic Activities

Preservation and Education as times goes by.....

Over the centuries, keeping track of time has taken many forms, from the hourglass, to windup clocks, to electric clocks, and finally to digital time piece. The past is left behind to be recorded in journals, diaries, photos, etc. As we proceed into modern technology we sometimes yearn for those things from the past, and life as it was in previous eras. Historic preservation is left to

us to secure, or not. We experience this happening right at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum as we work on a Building Fund to expand spaces for education, events, and archival preservation. Our Museum has grown, flourished, and expanded through the hard work and dedication of our Director, Charles Lyle, our faithful volunteers, enthusiastic staff, and the CT Colonial Dames. It is a team effort to take the Museum into the future while preserving the past.

Continued on page 8

★★★ NSCDA

— CONNECTICUT —

Entrusted With History's Future

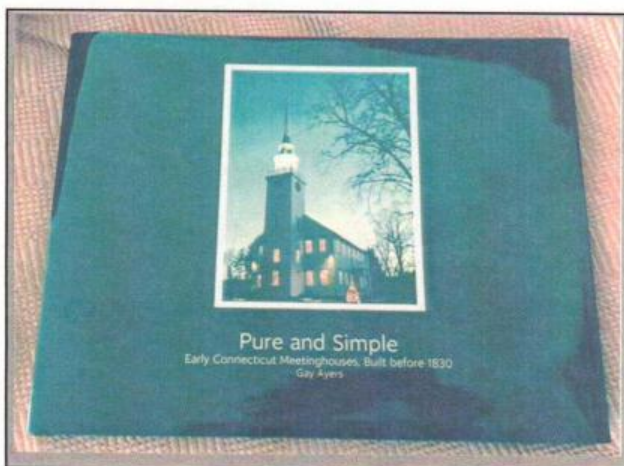
Christmas Tea and Sherry Party a great Success!

Our first Christmas Tea and Sherry Party was a great success. Uncertain how it would be received, the Board of Managers put on a sumptuous display of tea service, sherry, and delectable sweets both to recognize our dedicated staff and to welcome Dames who otherwise would not see the houses resplendent in their Christmas garb.

We were overwhelmed by the response. Seventy or more guests sampled the fare and kept our entertaining Executive Director, Charles Lyle, leading tours all afternoon. We were delighted to welcome so many who were eager to participate. If you were not able to attend, please try to do so this year. We would love to see you!



Historical Activities continued



"Pure and Simple" by Gay Ayers

A fine example of a most recent endeavor came to fruition. Dame Gay Ayers completed her year-long project of photographing and documenting Connecticut Congregational Colonial Churches (Meeting Houses). Built before 1830, there are still 62 churches intact and most are active. Gay's book, entitled "Pure and Simple" is a stunning, well thought-out, color glossy collection of churches from the period. Gay generously donated a copy to the NSCDA-CT for their library. For further information contact Gay at upthenile@aol.com

Continued on page 8



— CONNECTICUT —

Entrusted With History's Future

The Elizabeth Colt Society ~ Continuing the Legacy

Judy Rowley

Vice-President for Development

The Elizabeth Colt Society honors those who have made charitable bequests or planned gifts to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Connecticut.

In 2008 Lucy E. Holcombe, a longtime devoted member since 1970, contacted me expressing interest in the Elizabeth Colt Society. Upon completing the paperwork, Lucy's name was added to the membership honor roll.

Following Lucy's death on January 6, 2016, we were notified by her legal counsel of a generous gift to the Colonial Dames through her estate and the Elizabeth Colt Society.

For over 45 years, Lucy was a committed and dedicated Dame. Though actively involved in every area of the Dames and the Museum, she kept a low profile, going about her duties quietly and efficiently. But, if Lucy did not agree with something, she did not hesitate to speak up firmly – and she was usually right! Lucy left an extraordinary legacy.

The Elizabeth Colt Society was created to recognize and to honor those who included the Connecticut Society and its historic houses in their estate plans. We are grateful to Lucy for her generosity and foresight in helping to ensure the future of the Connecticut Society and the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum.



Lucy Holcombe



Holiday Preview Party

The Holiday Preview Party in December was a beautiful evening. The Museum houses were richly decorated, and a large, convivial group enjoyed wine and cheese to musical accompaniment and then stepped back into the 18th century to tour the glowing houses by candlelight. (photo: Connor Sullivan and Sam Hollings singing carols at the Stevens House)



— CONNECTICUT —

Entrusted With History's Future

Update on Capital Campaign Progress

Judy Rowley

Vice-President for Development

Chair, Capital Campaign Committee

As chair of the Capital Campaign, I am taking this opportunity to bring the Dame membership up to date regarding the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum Building Fund.

So far we have raised approximately **\$1,531,563.83 (including pledges and \$1 million from a generous anonymous Dame)**. A total of **143 CT Dames** have given to the much-needed Education and Exhibition Center. Donations continue to come in.

This February we mailed you a comprehensive Capital Campaign Update, which was sent to members of the NSCDA-CT and all of our donors. We continue to hold informational gatherings across the state, including one held recently for area Dames at the Essex Meadows Retirement Community, and we are grateful to those who helped us. In addition, we reached out to Dames throughout the country who have designated a Connecticut ancestor for their membership in the NSCDA. Many women have contributed to honor their Connecticut lineage. We continue to wait patiently and optimistically for our application to the State Bond Commission to help close our \$2 million gap.

Please support us. We need you!

New Haven Field Trip ~ January 2016

A trip to New Haven in January began with a tour of the Colonial American Galleries at Yale University. Curator Mark Mitchell led a fascinating tour which included the John Trumbull Gallery. Afterwards a lovely pot luck luncheon was hosted by Martha Alexander.





— CONNECTICUT —

Entrusted With History's Future

Tags and Treasure 2016

Tags and Treasures 2016 ~ It's a Wrap!

Tags and Treasures 2016 has come and gone. The last of the empty boxes have been recycled (thank you Dick Agne!), and stray price stickers have been swept out of the barn. After a year of preparation, organizing, sorting, hauling, polishing and arranging, all the treasures have found new homes. We had amazingly generous donations this year. The barn was filled to the rafters and could happily have spilled out the doors, if it hadn't been for the snow!



We had a wonderful work crew and we are thankful for all the efforts and thoughtful things that people did as we worked toward the sale days. As the T&T committee meets to wrap things up, we want to let you know how much all of your efforts paid off. We can safely say that we made over \$30,000. It is clear that this decades-old Dames tradition still has the power to make our efforts count.



— CONNECTICUT —

Entrusted With History's Future

Registrars Report

Katherine Prescott Holden, Registrar

New Members since October newsletter:

Legacy: Bayley, Lindsay Barada CT-2025
(Mrs. Jake Bayley)

249 Mortimer Crescent, Milton, ON L9T 8N8, Canada
646-290-7093; lbbayley@gmail.com

Ancestor: Major John Teakle (1678-1721) VA

Legacy: Barada, Shelby CT-2026

3624 S St., NW, Washington, DC 20007-2244
203-921-9420; shelbybarada@gmail.com

Ancestor: Major John Teakle (1678-1721) VA

Faherty, Gail (McCredie) CT-2027

138 Troutstream Dr., Vernon, CT 06066-5011
860-872-9367 (c) 860-748-6146 gfhaherty@sbcglobal.net

Ancestor: Andrew Newcomb (1640-1706) MA

Temple, Elizabeth (Wright) CT-2028

3489 Billings St., Mount Pleasant, SC 29466-6882
843-216-5931 ewtemple@gmail.com

Ancestor: William Leete (1612-1683) CT

Yelverton, Katherine (Jordan) CT-2029

3347 Alleghany Ave, Raleigh, NC 27609-6903
919-784-6243 ykakie@bellsouth.net

Ancestor: Charles Barham (1626-1683) VA

Legacy: Hilyard, Catherine Robbins CT-2030

708 W. 171 St., Apt 24A, New York, NY 10032-2822
917-658-0938; chilyard76@gmail.com

Ancestor: Rev. John Davenport (1597-1669/70) CT

Legacy: McDaniel, Elizabeth Wynn CT-2031

24 Glen Road, Greenwich, CT 06830-4632
203-869-9071; wynn@us.ibm.com

Ancestor: Priscilla Mullins (c.1605-after 1650) MA

Rafferty, Sara Winsor Dudley CT-2032

(Mrs. Christopher Rafferty)
2130 Wingfield Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22901 973-
214-3307; manderleine@gmail.com

Ancestor: John Stockwell (1686-1778), MA

Bell, Nancy McGee (Mrs. Michael) CT-2033

408 Main St., Old Saybrook, CT 06475-2320
And

13 West Oak Drive, Houston, TX 77056

Ancestor: William Brewster (1566/67-1627) MA

Transfers Out:

Hunter, Catherine (Keggi) CT-1833

5615 Perrier Street, New Orleans, LA 70115
Transfer to LA

Watson, Sarah (Mason Craig) CT-1858

13106 Sara Anna Court, Dover, FL 33527-7903
Transfer to FL

Flynn, Elizabeth (Betsy) CT-1841

1251 Via San Jacinto, San Marcos, CA 92078
Transfer to CA

Resignations:

Peterson, Evelyn (Cortelyou Fry) CT-1531

644 Lake Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830-3854

Campbell, Gwynne (MacColl) CT-1918

7 Alpine Lane, Darien, CT 06820-3102

Deaths:

Talcott, Shirley (Whitney) CT-1804

9 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 06371-2328
Member since 1998

Holcombe, Lucy Eaton (Mrs. Seth) CT-1352

90 Silver St., North Granby, CT 06060-1506
Member since 1970

Soper, Martha Davis Parsons (Mrs. John W.) CT-0956

48 Cromwell Place, Old Saybrook, CT 06475-2512
Member since 1948



— CONNECTICUT —

Entrusted With History's Future

MAY 2016			
Mon., May 2	9:30 a.m.	Webb House Ed. Room	Museum Committee Meeting
Mon., May 9	10:30 a.m.	Webb Barn	Board of Managers Meeting
Sat., May 14	10, 12, 2	Museum	Digging Deeper Tours "A Soldier's Life"
Wed., May 18	11:00 a.m.	Webb Barn	ANNUAL MEETING
Sat., May 28		Museum grounds	Colonial Reenactment
JUNE 2016			
Sat., June 11	10, 12, 2	Museum	Digging Deeper Tours – Textile collection
Mon., June 13	9:30 a.m.	Webb House Library	Executive Committee Meeting
Mon., June 13	10:30 a.m.	Webb House Ed. Room	Board of Managers Meeting followed by Staff/Board Picnic
Thurs., June 16	2:00 PM.	Webb House Ed. Room	WDS Museum Board Meeting
JULY 2016			
Mon., July 4		Webb House	Opening of Wallace Nutting Exhibition (through October 30)