



— CONNECTICUT —

Entrusted With History's Future

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

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2020

A Message from the President

Sally Kernan

As a long-time member of the Board of Managers, I am honored to assume the role of your President. Since we were unable to hold our traditional Annual Meeting, many of you may not even have been aware that this change had taken place. On May 20, 2020, the Executive Committee met “online,” and without much fuss or fanfare, installed the new Slate presented by our Nominating Committee. I, for one, missed the posting of the colors, the Dames Pledge, reuniting with old friends, and of course the wonderful luncheon. Although sad, the absence of an Annual Meeting pales in comparison to missing all of those momentous occasions in life that we are accustomed to celebrating with friends and loved ones - weddings, graduations, birthdays, even final goodbyes - now all virtual!

In this, my first letter to you, I would like to give profound thanks to our outgoing President Charbra Jestin for her 6 years of dedicated service. I cannot imagine that I could ever duplicate her work ethic, but I will certainly try my best.

And as of May 31, our wonderful Executive Director Charles Lyle retired after thirteen and a half years of exceptional leadership of the WDS Museum. He will be sorely missed.

This is a time unlike any other, in which we have all had to accept change. Some change is exciting and most welcome. The new Education Center is nearing completion, and it is a magnificent testament to the

President's Report continued on page 3

A Message from the Outgoing Executive Director

Charles T. Lyle

On May 14 2020, the NSCDA-CT announced the retirement of Charles Lyle as Executive Director of the Museum effective May 31, 2020. The announcement was circulated by email. Because it is an important milestone in our history, we felt that it is important to also preserve it in the newsletter as a chapter in the history of the Museum.

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in The State of Connecticut announces the retirement of Charles T. Lyle as Executive Director of the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, effective May 31, 2020. Under his thirteen and a half year tenure, the Museum underwent a significant transformation. Director Lyle oversaw the restoration of its three 18th century houses, instituted programs attracting a wide audience, hosted multiple events on its eight acre property, and devoted over a decade to developing the plans and assisting with the fund raising for the new Education and Visitor Center.

Of note was the uncovering of the murals in the northeast parlor of the Webb House soon after his arrival in 2007 and his implementation of a Save America's Treasures Grant in 2008 that resulted in the much needed stabilization of the structure of the Webb House. The remaining funds from the federal grant were matched by Connecticut Historic Restoration Grant funds to complete the restoration of the exterior of the Webb House in 2010, changing the color from red to the present ivory color with dark green shutters. The SAT funds were also used to restore the

Director's Report continued on page 4

Our Dames persevere in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dame Gay Ayers contributed the following thoughtful quote from David Whyte which she believes speaks to the unusual time we are in:

"Some things cannot be spoken or discovered until we have been stuck, incapacitated, or blown off course for a while. Plain sailing is pleasant, but you are not going to explore many unknown realms that way. We articulate the truth of a situation by carrying the whole experience in the voice and allowing the process to blossom of its own accord. Out of the cross-grain of experience appear a voice that not only sums up the process we have gone through, but allows the soul to recognize in its timbre, the color, texture, and complicated entanglements of being alive."

* * * * *



The future meets the past in the time of Covid 19

We asked Dorothy Venter, one of our Senior Dames, if she recalled anything of the years 1918/19 during the Spanish Flu. Dorothy kindly took time to write the following poignant recollection:

"Herewith - my reminiscence

Although I was alive (born 1913) at the time of the world wide epidemic and financial crisis of the 1920's, I have no recollection or knowledge whatsoever of what it meant to the world, the United States, or even to my family. Obviously, my parents did not share with a six-year-old and a four-year-old any financial concerns they might have had.

The only one thing I do remember is that my mother lost one of her dearest friends and an unborn baby to the disease, leaving a husband and a small son. As Mother set the table for dinner the night she heard the news, she could not help weeping, which disturbed me very much. One's mother does not cry— although she often comforts an occasional tearful child. I remember telling her that she would feel better when spring came.

And life did go on. Although I have no knowledge of what happened elsewhere, my own childhood did not change. My family weathered the storm."

President's Report continued from page 1

hard work and dedication of the many Dames who have contributed their time, effort and financial support to make it possible. The State-mandated additional archaeological work, although an unexpected expense, has furnished us with a treasure trove of artifacts that will enable us to tell the stories of the earliest settlers of Connecticut and their interaction with the Native American population, as well as the century later habitation of the Webb, Deane and Stevens families and their households.

But I would be remiss if I did not address the enormous challenges that we face. The pandemic has forced a prolonged closure of the Museum. Although we are in the process of reopening, it will certainly be a new and different way of operating. We have lost the revenue from admissions, school tours, weddings, and other functions held in the barn upon which we rely to run the Museum. The Capital Campaign Committee, which was working on raising the necessary funds for the completion and furnishing of the new building, has temporarily suspended its activities. Actions taken at our March Board of Managers meeting have caused us to re-examine and revise our Bylaws and entire governance structure. On the eve of signing an employment contract, our prospective new Executive Director withdrew his candidacy with regret. These are the changes that confront us going forward.

With change however, often comes innovation, hope, enthusiasm - and new ideas and practices, such as online learning and teaching! And fortunately, our Program Director Cindy Riccio and our Curator Rich Malley have stepped up with enthusiasm to serve as Acting Co-Directors. As I sit in my garden writing this - peonies blooming, birds singing - it is hard to comprehend that all is not "right" in the world. It occurs to me that life, like a garden, constantly changes and renews. We are so fortunate to have a wonderful and solid foundation upon which to build - a group of talented, dedicated, intelligent women who are capable of achieving great things.

We are Dames! We've got this!

Regards, Sally Kernan



New CT Dames Tote Bag donated by Mary Bainbridge

The design and manufacture of this charming small canvas bag are generously donated by Dame Mary Bainbridge. Although not yet available, once the new Museum Shop is opened, the bag will be available for \$25. We thank Mary for her time, effort and dedication.

Director's Report continued from page 1

Washington bedchamber in 2009-10, which included reproducing the original grained woodwork and a panel of the 1765 wallpaper in its original colors. The projects brought much acclaim and renewed interest in this historically important house. The exterior restoration of the Deane House was completed in two phases, both partially funded by Connecticut Historic Restoration Fund matching grants. In 2011-12, the exterior was repainted in its original yellow body color with dark window sashes. In 2014-15 the cedar shingled roof was replaced and the three historic privies on the property were restored, attracting a great deal of interest from the local press and nationally.

In 2007, he reopened the second floor of the Isaac Stevens House for the first time in over a decade with a charming exhibit of toys from the NSCDA-CT collection, a fully furnished children's bedchamber, and an educational classroom. Additionally, the Stevens House interiors were transformed under Mr. Lyle's keen eye for historical accuracy and aesthetics. In 2012-13, the children's upstairs bedroom, the downstairs hallway, bedroom, dining room, and parlor were all papered in reproduction original block-printed papers of patterns from 1830's sample books. The result is an interior that is truly representative of the early 19th century.

Director Lyle initiated the Museum's *Witches and Tombstones* tours so very popular in the fall, and *Digging Deeper* tours that delve into the Museum's collections with detailed presentations. He completed eight interpretive exhibit panels to provide important historical context and information to enhance the tours for visitors. To celebrate the centennial of Wallace Nutting's purchase of the Webb House in 1916, Charles curated a major loan exhibit in collaboration with the Wallace Nutting Collectors' Club of Nutting prints and furniture that ran from July through October. It opened on July 4th, the same day

Continues on page 5



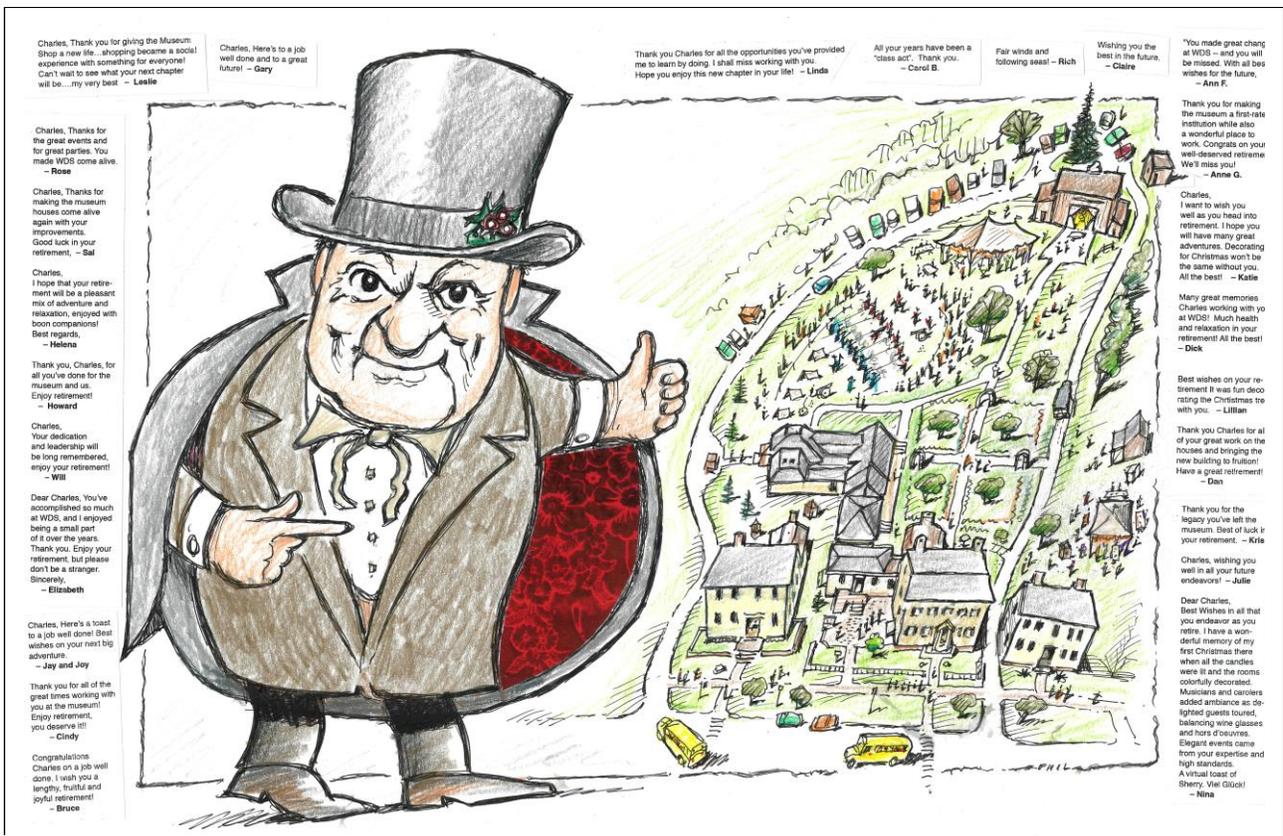
The Staff held a farewell get-together for Charles.
Here is the gathering at the Barn in May with masks and social distancing.

Director's Report continued from page 4

that Nutting opened the house to the public a hundred years earlier, and attracted over 200 guests Charles also instituted a much loved Christmas open house preview party and daily tours featuring decorations in the three houses that represent how the holiday was celebrated in the late 18th century, the early 19th and the early 20th centuries. The historic content of the tours and the decorations have brought national attention to the Museum. At the Stevens House, he created a special exhibit for the holiday that explores the origins of Santa Claus as we know him today and the role of Clement Moore's famous 1822 poem *The Night Before Christmas or A Visit of St. Nick*. The Museum owns a rare edition of the poem published by McLoughlin Brothers, New York, in 1888 that features charming colored illustrations by Thomas Nast, which have been blown up on exhibit panels. He also started the annual Revolutionary War Encampment in 2008 in collaboration with the 5th CT Regiment, the popular Fall Lecture Series, and the Thanksgiving dinner in the historic Webb Barn. All have drawn crowds of visitors to the property and have introduced new generations to the importance of American history. During his directorship, visitation to the museum has exceeded all previous attendance figures.

Perhaps the capstone to Charles' long career in the museum field, which spans over fifty years and six directorships, is the construction of our splendid Education and Visitor Center, which is expected to be completed in July. He looks forward to returning for the grand opening and lifting a glass to the exciting possibilities the new building will provide for the future of the Museum.

For the near future, Cindy Riccio and Rich Malley will be stepping up to manage the operation of the museum as the new Education Center reaches completion and a plan for reopening the museum to the public is formed. The museum is grateful to have a staff able to fill the gap left by Charles T. Lyle's much deserved retirement. The NSCDA-CT looks forward to a time when it can celebrate and honor Charles' accomplishments and contributions to the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum.

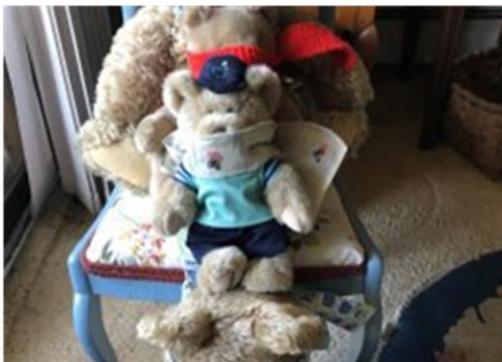


Above is the farewell card for our out-going Executive Director, Charles Lyle designed by our staff member and extremely talented artist & graphic designer, Phil Lohman

The Area Chair Challenge

The Area Chair Challenge was born thanks to the creativity of Dames Sally Kernan and Gail Porteus. Between September 2019 and October 2020, Dames, Garden Angels, Volunteers, and Staff are invited to redecorate a chair to be auctioned off at our Semi-Annual meeting in October 2020 (possibly online if we still cannot gather). You do not need to be overly-artistic or a professional chair decorator --the quirkier the better!

For full details on how to participate, please visit the [NSCDA-CT website: nscdact.org](http://nscdact.org). Keep in mind that all chairs must be completed and returned to the Webb Barn by October 2020. For a sneak peek at the completed chairs, take a look below!



Two views of Nancy MacColl's charming child's chair. The first one complete with MacColl Family Bears wearing masks.



Gay Ayer's "Armchair Travel without the Arms"

Gay Ayers' creation titled, "Armchair Travel without the Arms." Says Gay, "A Tilley hat is hanging on the left and a Tilley bag full of maps and travel brochures hangs on the right. A sign saying "Which Way José?" is at the top left next to my photo of a tree with places and their distances to the right. There are travel labels postcards and a letter, a miniature book with photos I took of Hawaiian flowers, plus the pink bag filled with candy in a tin suitcase, a photo album, a new travel journal to write in with the provided pen, and a wrap to go on the suitcase handle to protect one's hand."



Chris Gooding's whimsically designed child's chair



A cheerful chevron creation, courtesy of Ann Burton

The Area Chair Challenge continued from page 6



Mary Treadway took on the challenge of a tiny chair and created "I'll be Gnome for Christmas"



Frances Bergquist's gorgeous "Slipper Chair for a Dame."



Miss Muffet child's nursery chair by Frances Bergquist



Jeanne Goodwin's marvelous Sedum Seat. Sit at your own risk!



Sarah Parsons designed this lovely chair on behalf of her Area 4 Book Group: "I wanted to fill our chair with the wonderful books we have so enjoyed reading and discussing. It has been a true labor of love."

Social Media Update

If you are not already doing so, please consider following the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum on both Facebook and Instagram. If you are using these platforms' apps, you can find the museum by searching for the username "[@webbdeanestevens](https://www.facebook.com/webbdeanestevens)." If using a web browser on a computer or tablet, you can find the museum at these links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/webbdeanestevens>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/webbdeanestevens>

The museum's Facebook and Instagram pages are frequently updated and provide fantastic insight into happenings around the grounds.

Should you have any difficulty accessing these social media pages, please feel free to contact Kristen Becher, NSCDA-CT IT Manager, at kristendbecher@gmail.com.

Update from the Patriotic Services Committee

by Leslie Greene

Washington Week Essay Winners to Participate in June, 2021

The Patriotic Services Committee was pleased to participate again this year in the National Society's annual Student Essay Contest. We recruited students to submit essays on this year's topic: "Why is history important? Why should we preserve our national treasures and how should we, as a nation, continue to preserve our lands and historic buildings?"

Three winners were chosen to attend the June Washington Workshops, which introduce students firsthand to the workings of our government and include visits to the Pentagon, the Department of State, the Federal Reserve Board, Congressional committee meetings, House and Senate Galleries, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution and foreign embassies. The Essay Contest winners attend a reception at Dumbarton House, and the week ends with a "Model Congress" session.

Funding for the weeklong seminar and related transportation costs came from our own Connecticut Society, the National Society, and a generous donation from the California Society.

Students were notified in mid-February that they were winners, and all three eagerly accepted. Unfortunately, but understandably, we learned in May that the Washington Week program could not take place in D.C. this year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The good news is that all winners this year have a spot waiting for them at next year's Washington Week. All three have accepted. They will join in with the 2021 Essay Contest winners for a fabulous experience in our Nation's Capitol!

Save Those New Wall Calendars and Used Postage Stamps for our Vets!

Do you receive calendars in the mail from local businesses, environmental groups, your alma mater? For the last three years, Past Patriotic Services Chair Martha Fransson has been collecting these calendars and bringing them to the Veteran's Hospital in Newington, where the veterans, Martha reports, "very much appreciate the new (and usually very nice) calendars."

Martha and fellow Dame Sara Rafferty also collected used commemorative postage stamps, delivering a number of envelopes stuffed with the interesting stamps. Martha explains that "the veterans like to make artwork with the stamps. The activity involved in placing the stamps on an underlying sheet is (I am told) very therapeutic for the hands and spirit."

Patriotic Services would like to continue these worthy projects in the coming year. So, **please save** those pretty wildlife calendars and unusual postage stamps you receive in the mail. Once we are able to gather in person, I'll collect them from you for distribution to our Vets!

Share Your Ancestors' Stories!

Many Dames have been using the extra time at home during the Covid-19 pandemic to learn more of their genealogy. Do you have an ancestor who served in our military, be it the Revolutionary War or later conflicts in our nation's history? This November, let's share their stories as we commemorate Veterans Day. One of our stories, written by Gay Ayers about her ancestor begins on page 9.

If you are interested in contributing to this project, please take some time over these summer months to write up a short history of what you know about your ancestor's service to our country--where, when, how, why--whatever details you may know! You can send your histories to me at Lmg4187@optonline.net. We'll share these stories in November on Veterans Day. Thanks in advance for your participation!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR ANCESTORS

My Ancestor, Andrew Ward V, 1727-1799 At the Time of the American Revolution

Written and submitted by Gay Ayers

The very first Andrew Ward emigrated from Dedham, England, and was granted permission to found Watertown, CT, later called Wethersfield.

Andrew Ward's name was carried through four more generations (actually, five; see next paragraph). All four of the men who carried this name were achievers, founders of several Connecticut towns, and served in the military. Andrew Ward V was my fifth great grand-father, son of Capt. Andrew IV and Elizabeth Fowler Ward, born in Guilford, CT, November 19, 1727, and died there at 71 years of age on January 10, 1799. He married Diana Hubbard, (born January 14, 1733, in Guilford and died there on February 7, 1798) on Sept. 7, 1750, giving birth to my fourth great grandmother, (6 generations back), Roxana Ward, four months later, on January 7, 1751. Hmmmm...



Diana Hubbard Ward was the daughter of Daniel and Diana Ward Hubbard. Diana and Andrew Ward V had 6 children: Roxana, Diana, Deborah, Elizabeth, Mary, Andrew VI, who lived only 2 years.

Nothing was found about Andrew Ward V's early years or his education, but he spent his life in Guilford, CT, in the Nut Plains section of the town, on its eastern side. As an adult he served in politics and the military.

In 1744, at age 17, Andrew Ward V went with his father as an aide, to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, where he had his first lesson in war. At this time, rum-rations were given to both officers and men, though Andrew Ward IV was a temperance man and a teetotaler. He took his rations in money and bought for his children three silver spoons that said, "Louisburg" on the back, a town in Cape Breton. One of the spoons was given to this particular son who traveled with him to Cape Breton. It is said that this young man's handwriting in letters was beautiful and he expressed himself well.

At age 30 in February 1757 at the General Assembly held in Hartford, Andrew Ward V was appointed Captain of the 14th Company of Militia sent to Fort No.4 on the Connecticut River, now the town of Charlestown, VT. At the Assembly held in New Haven in October 1761, he was appointed Captain of the 2nd Company in the 7th Regiment of the Colony and soon after he rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel.

On one of these campaigns, he copied the Indians by making a log canoe. With two of his Guilford men in his company, they paddled down the Connecticut River to Long Island Sound and up the Ruttawoo (now East River) to his door in Nut Plains. Later the canoe was used as a watering trough for his cattle.

"My Ancestor Andrew Ward," continues on page 10

“My Ancestor Andrew Ward,” continued from page 9

He served as Deputy from Guilford to the Assembly at Hartford May 9, 1771 and May 14, 1772; Assembly at New Haven, October 7, 1772; and October 14, 1773; Assembly at Hartford, January 29, 1774; Assembly at New Haven, October 13, 1774, March 2, 1775; Assembly at Hartford, April 6, 1775.

At the Assembly held at Hartford by special order of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, April 26, 1775, he was appointed Lt. Col. of the First Regiment.

Lt. Col. Andrew Ward V, Guilford, CT, May 1, 1775, served in the Revolution in Connecticut, also as Captain of the Second Company. He was discharged December 1775, re-entered in 1776 as Col. Ward’s Regiment of 1776, on requisition of the Continental Congress. He served through the year and was then promoted to Brigadier General of the Militia.

His Regiment joined Washington’s Army at New York in August 1776, and was stationed near Fort Lee, marching with the troops to White Plains, and subsequently into New Jersey. The Regiment took part in the Battles of Trenton, December 25, 1776,

“My Ancestor” continues on page 15



*L>R: Mary Young, Kathy Civitillo, Nancy MacColl, Mary Russell, Gay Ayers, Martha Simpson.
Photo by Nancy Kellett’s husband, Bill.*

On February 11th Gay Ayers taught an “iPhoneography” workshop to five Dames and one spouse at Mary Russell’s home. Attendees learned how to edit photographs using various apps.

INSIGNIA

Insignia Guidelines Usage How to Order & Protocol for Disposal National Registrar

MEMBER'S CHARM



The member's charm may be worn as a pendant or as a charm on a bracelet. It may be worn on any occasion, **but never worn on the Badge and the ribbon with the Bars.**

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP



The certificate is embossed with a member's full name, the name of her ancestor and the service rendered, her Colonial State and number, Associate State and number if applicable, and the date of admission by the Colonial State. The certificate is 8 1/2 by 11 inches on heavy vellum suitable for framing.

STATE IDENTIFICATION PINS

Some of the Corporate Societies have produced their own individual pins. The qualifications which entitle members to wear these pins vary. In all cases, a member is entitled to wear the state pin of a Corporate Society to which she belongs. In most cases, a member is entitled to wear the state pin of the Colonial Society on whose list her ancestor appears.

Pins may be ordered from the Corporate Society Registrar. These pins may be worn for any occasion but never above or on the ribbon of the national badge.

BADGE

The badge (*pictured below*) consists of a round disc with a center of light blue enamel and the figure of a Colonial Dame in gold. Around the center of blue enamel is a circle of white enamel, with the title of the Society in gold letters. Surmounting this is the modeled figure of an eagle in gold, and diverging from the disc twenty rays in gold, arranged in four groups of five each, the three center rays in each group to be surmounted by stars of blue enamel, these with a similar star placed immediately below the central disc, being emblematic of the thirteen original states.

The badge shall be engraved with first initials and last name (or initials only), state abbreviated, and membership number. The year of admission may also be engraved.



NSCDA BADGE

The badge shall be worn by all members on all occasions when they assemble officially for any stated purpose or celebration, and may be worn on any occasion of ceremony. It shall be carried conspicuously on the left breast, but members who are or have been national officers may wear it suspended from the ribbon around the neck. Members who are or have been Chairmen of the National Historical Activities Committee, the National Museum Properties Committee, or the National Patriotic Service Committee may wear it suspended from a small bow of ribbon. Members who have been Chairman of the Dumbarton House Board and members who are or have been First Regent of Gunston Hall or the Senior Sulgrave Manor Representative may wear it suspended from a pleated bar.

As a matter of respect, no other pin or bar of identification shall be worn above the Badge. Please keep in mind our badge may not be worn as an article of jewelry.

Insignia, continued on page 12

WHERE TO PLACE THE COLONIAL AND ASSOCIATE STATE BARS



The Colonial State Bar should always be at the top of the ribbon holding the Badge. A member in an Associate State may place her Associate State Bar fastened to the ribbon directly below the Colonial State Bar. A Colonial State member, if she so desires, may wear her ancestral State Bar in addition to the Bar of the Society of which she is a member. No more than two Corporate Society Bars may be worn on the ribbon holding the Badge.

The Corporate Society President's Bar (*pictured above*) is placed under these bars.

WHEN A MEMBER'S DISC MAY BE ATTACHED

When a member acquires a **previously owned Badge**, she may suspend from the Colonial State Bar a gold disc on which shall be engraved her initials, State abbreviation and membership number, and/or year of admission. Similar gold discs may be attached for successive holders. The original engraving on the Badge should not be removed. A member's disc is not permitted to show ownership by a member who never owned the Badge.

There are two correct ways to place bars on a previously owned Badge:

1. Wear Badge as received with no replacement Bars.
2. A member may replace the State Bar or Bars on a previously owned badge.

ROLL OF HONOR PIN

The Roll of Honor pin may be worn by any member who has received the Roll of Honor from her Corporate Society. This pin is ordered directly by the member from *Cowardin Jewelers* in Richmond VA. The pin may be worn on the ribbon below the Bars just above the Badge.



RECOGNITION PIN

The Recognition Pin may be worn by all members on any occasion they choose. However, it must never be worn on the Badge and the ribbon with the Bars.



HOW TO ORDER

A member places her order for insignia through her Corporate Society Registrar, with the exception of the Roll of Honor pin. The Corporate Society Registrars can provide information on costs. A member may visit the national website: nscda.org and log into the members' page, select **Registrars** from the menu, and then click on **Membership Charm & Insignia Order Form** for pricing. To order a Roll of Honor pin, a member can locate an order form on the website, in the members' area under **Forms and Resources**, or contact her Corporate Society Registrar for assistance.

DISPOSAL OF INSIGNIA

It is also important to know *and prepare* for the proper disposal of our insignia. You can find a sample form for **Disposal of Insignia** in the **Registrars'** section of the Members' area on the NSCDA web site.

Insignia may be:

1. Bequeathed to a relative or friend who is a member of the NSCDA;
2. Returned as a gift to the Corporate Society (each Corporate Society keeps Insignia to loan to members to wear on appropriate occasions);
3. Sold to another member. The suggested price for Insignia in good condition is one third the current price charged by Wayne Jewelers for new Insignia.

“Meet the Staff”

[Introducing the first of a new short feature highlighting a different dedicated WDS staff person in each issue]

This edition, a Spotlight on Cindy Riccio:

Would you describe your role at the Museum?

I have been the Director of Education since August of 2010, and since Charles retired have been Acting Co-Director with Rich Malley. Given the situation with the virus and not being able to be open like we normally are in April, we have switched to a mostly on-line format for keeping the public informed of things going on at the museum. This has involved learning new skills such as shooting and editing videos and getting them online in places like YouTube.

What is your educational background?

I have a BA and an MA from Central CT State University in History and Women’s Studies. I also teach both U.S. History and Women’s History as an adjunct at Tunxis Community College since beginning in 2008. And I hold my CT Certification for teaching in Social Studies, grades 7-12.

Is there an aspect of your job that you especially enjoy?

I really love Wethersfield and have lived here since 1995 with my husband and 2 boys, ages 19 and 23. The staff at the museum is the best staff I have ever worked with - it has become a really collaborative effort to keep things going during this time. I also like being able to do many different things at the museum, from working with the students to the adult programs, to even going up on the roof to fix a leak! (You never know what your day will bring)!

Are you involved in any outside hobbies or interests?

I love to run and have my own non-profit run club called **261 Fearless Club Connecticut**. We are part of a larger organization that was started by running pioneer Kathrine Switzer, who ran the Boston Marathon even before women were allowed to compete in the marathon distance. The club is about empowering women through running, getting women to do something that might be out of their comfort zone in a non-judgmental, supportive environment. I also love to travel, especially to any beach, or to different places to run in races with my husband. I also love to dance - especially salsa!



Cindy Riccio

Construction Saga

by Charbra Adams Jestin

Adding an 8,000 sq. ft. building to an early 19th Century woodshed on archaeologically sensitive land with a stringent State Historic Preservation easement presented the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum and the NSCDA-CT with substantial hurdles to leap. I am happy to say that each hurdle has been tackled with determination, a positive attitude, and a lot of help from expert professionals who are skilled problem solvers.

Due to the multitude of archeological artifacts in the construction zone, the State Historic Preservation Office prevented construction traffic from entering the property via the south driveway next to the Deane house. This driveway crosses over the 1630's palisade that the archaeologists have determined continues into the adjacent lot. Without that driveway available to use, our engineers from Downes Construction Company had to be very creative in finding a way to get excavation equipment, cement trucks, and cranes onto the property without causing any depression to the sensitive ground. Their solution was for all construction traffic to use the driveway of the firehouse to the south of the museum and enter the museum property through the parking lot to the rear of the firehouse where we have an abutting property line. The use of this route required an easement to be drawn up and has had the benefit of opening up our southern property line, revealing how much land we own to the south behind the stockade fence.

Another major hurdle was how to get a new, three-phase electric service, a new water line, new gas line, and a telecommunications conduit onto the property when the electrical and water connections were all on the opposite side of the street from the museum. The shortest and most direct line was to place the new "utility trench" in the corridor between the Webb house and the Deane house. This required not only a new telephone pole to be erected across the street from the museum and for the street to be dug up but also more archaeology work in order to determine the sensitivity of the soil in the trench. The test pits revealed that this soil had all been disturbed when the Deane house was built. Although a 17th Century Spanish coin was discovered, it was lying in soil that had already been disturbed.



The construction of a handicapped ramp in the front courtyard required yet more archaeology work and that has proven to be very rich with artifacts. The current cobble stones laid in the 1970's encapsulated the earth beneath, protecting it from disturbance. This archaeology work was performed in June and several early to mid 18th Century Spanish coins were found, beautiful rococo brass escutcheons, tools used in the construction of the Webb house in 1752, stoneware, and Delft shards. The property we own is rich in artifacts that help to document life from the 1630's through to the early 20th Century when the property became a museum and its preservation began. So significant are the findings from the front courtyard that Ross Harper, of Public Archaeology Survey Team, is recommending *"that these deposits in particular are eligible for National Register as they have exceptional preservation, are intact, and can be directly attributed to the Webb House's earliest and most significant period (1752-1770s)."*

"Construction Saga" continues on page 15

“Construction Saga” continued from page 14

The state easement on our property required that the architectural plan we created be approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. This hurdle added years to our design and our architect, Bob Paladino, responded by continually decreasing the scale of the building. Three different designs were developed before we settled on the final one, which is unquestionably the best possible plan. The new Education Center complements the 18th Century houses without attempting to copy them or overwhelm them. It sits beautifully on the property, opening up new vistas from both inside and out. We look forward to its completion in late summer, and shortly after that, to welcoming you for a tour.

Architectural Designs over the years to accommodate the Town of Wethersfield regulations.



“My Ancestor” continued from 10

and Princeton, January 3, 1777, and encamped with Washington at Morristown, NJ, until his one-year term expired in May 1777.

At Princeton, in a council of war, Washington proposed to retreat quickly with the troops circling around Princeton and surprising the enemy at New Brunswick as well as Princeton. Now, as Colonel Andrew Ward V, he took charge of the rear guard to keep up the campfires and the presence of the army. George Washington put great trust in him.

When there was an attack at daybreak, Col. Ward escaped and joined the main army, managing to not lose one man, for which Washington commended him for his well-managed retreat.

Col. Andrew Ward V fought at the Danbury Raid, April 25-28, 1777. He was made a Brigadier General of the Second Brigade of the State Militia, succeeding General Wadsworth, June 5, 1777.

“My Ancestor” continues on page 16

“My Ancestor” continued from page 15

In October 1777, General Ward V and a quarter of his brigade was sent to Peekskill, NY, to reinforce General Putnam, followed by the Hudson Burgoyne. He was at the taking of Saratoga.

In December 1777, Gen. Ward V wrote to Governor Jonathan Trumbull requesting that his men be allowed to go home, since their unexpected marching wore their clothes to shreds. Their wages were not enough to buy new ones at their high prices. Gen. Ward V had a difficult time keeping the regiment together.

On March 13, 1777, Washington wrote a severe letter to him, asking why seventeen of his men were on furlough, and fourteen were discharged. “No officer under the rank of general has a right to discharge men.” The men were suffering and took it upon themselves to desert.

By March 1778, Gen. Ward V was sent to protect New Haven. In August 1778, he was called to raise three companies from the Second Brigade to aid General Sullivan in Rhode Island. He made many visits to the War Office on the green in Lebanon, CT.

A committee was formed in 1779 to see what condition an abandoned, though armed, sloop of war that belonged to the enemy and had been cast ashore off Guilford. General Ward V was directed to arm and equip her for the service of the State. He named the sloop The Guilford.

In July 1779, he fought off the British attack on New Haven, and in October he was to have his whole brigade ready to meet Count d’Estaing, but this never occurred.

Throughout the many years of his life, General Ward V served his country. In 1787 he was sent as the first delegate with Colonel Elliott to the State Convention which adopted the U.S. Constitution. Both men voted “no”! Apparently, there was a lot of jealousy among the colonists amongst themselves and fear of a despotic general government.

At the end of the Revolutionary War, Andrew Ward V had little property left with only two or three houses and lots, an impoverished and neglected farm and \$400 in Continental paper money, which was worth almost nothing. This was the only pay he ever had for his years of service.

He was an intelligent farmer, having brought the first apple trees to Nut Plains*, as well as the first potatoes to Guilford. He was a rather careless householder, though had an extensive library.

When his son-in-law, Eli Foote, died, leaving ten children, he and his wife took them all in plus their daughter, Roxana Ward Foote, to live with them in Nut Plains, and was “father” and educator to them all. After two of his grandsons died within two weeks of each other, the General’s heart was broken. He laid out a private burial plot on his own farm, 1/8 mile from his house, set on a beautiful knoll with oak trees, above the river.

*I cannot end this without saying something about the Nut Plains district of Guilford, CT, which lies along the East River near the eastern border of the town. The west side of the upper East River is where the brackish tidal water changes to fresh water. Native Americans used the plain for their ground corn, having cleared the trees. Once abandoned, trees and deciduous shrubs grew back. I have been to this plot, crossing a bridge, and going through brush and such to get to it.

Gay Ayers, Farmington, CT 26 March 2020

Views from the Webb-Deane-Stevens Garden - May 15, 2020

The WDS garden is coming along quite nicely this year – We hope you’ve had a chance to stop by and see it. There is often a lull in the garden as the tulip and daffodil season ends and before the Iris, Astilbe and Peony season begins. Fortunately, this has been a long bloom season for bulbs so we still have color in the garden – and the wonderful blue of Forget-me-nots carpets many parts of the garden.

Here are some from the last couple of weeks in May:



Cowslip



Forget-me-Nots



Father Hugo Roses



Magnolia bloom

This beautiful flower is one of the last blooms on our saucer magnolia, *Magnolia x soulangeana* 'Lilliputian'. The early blooms on this magnolia were damaged by a late frost.

Fortunately, many flowers were still in tight bud and were able to bloom a few days later. Now the bloom season is nearly over for this year but these very last blooms are treasures.

Membership Activity June Newsletter 2020

Gail P. Faherty, Registrar

New Members:

Cara Houlihan Blazier (CT-2078)

262 Goshen Road
Litchfield, CT 06759-2402
860-567-2001; kblazier@gmail.com
Ancestor: Obadiah Bruen (1606-1680) CT

Angela F. Leshak (Bracaglia) Legacy (CT-2079)

16 Hawk's Landing
Amston, CT 06231-1659
860-228-4405; LeshakAF@comcast.net
Ancestor: William Brewster (c.1566/67-1644) MA

Nancy K. Hinman nee' Wick Legacy (CT-2080)

37 Liberty Street
Warren RI 03885-3028
401-275-3189; nancyhinman@comcast.net
Ancestor: Samuel Buell (CT) Sept. 2, 1641-
July 11, 1720

Eleanor Whitney Vogt Legacy (CT-2081)

4730 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-3103
361-946-4959; Vogtwhitney@gmail.com
Ancestor: Benedict Arnold RI (1615-1678)

Sharon Ruth Sullivan (CT-2082)

29 Surf Road
Westport, CT 06880-6734
203-221-3052; srsully721@gmail.com
Ancestor: Samuel Boardman (20 Aug 1615-Apr
1673) CT Deputy to General Court (34 sessions)

Courtesy Members:

Ethel Dodge Bowditch nee' Simonds

(Mrs. Patrick F. Bowditch)
30 Bokum Road, #252
Essex, CT 06426-1546
860-662-5016
(NY-2871; Admitted 10/14/1960)
Ancestor: Gov. Thomas Dudley (MA) 1576-1653

Transfer out & remaining a Courtesy Member:

Melanie Peterson (CT-2056)

303 East Middle Patent Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06831-2810
203-921-7257; pmpawpet@optonline.net
Ancestor: Thomas Dudley (MA) bapt.1576-bur.1653)
Date of Admission: 5/4/2017
Transferred to NY: 5/24/2020

Transfer:

Martha Reynolds Venter (CT-2042)

10635 Quarrier Drive
Cornelius NC 28031-9339
203-777-2461; mventer@att.net
Ancestor: William Bradford (MA) bapt. 1589/90-
1657
Date of Admission: 10/27/2016
Transferred to NC: 5/15/2020

Carol M. Barbour (CT-1996)

2001 Tower Drive, Apt 317
Glenview, IL 60026-7808
cmbarbour@gmail.com; 203-550-1691
Ancestor: John Strong (MA) c. 1610-14 April 1699
Transferred to IL: 6/10/2020

In Memoriam:

Roberdeau "Robin" DuBois nee' Callery (CT-1657)

(Mrs. Arthur DuBois)
370 Livingston Street
New Haven, CT 06511-1336
Date of Admission: 11/20/1988
Ancestor: Daniel Roberdeau (PA) 1727-1795
Passed: 12/27/2019

Ann Campbell Clement (CT-1767)

317 W. Main Street, Apt. 7105
Chester, CT 06412-1076
Date of Admission: 2/1/1997; Passed: 5/9/2020
Ancestor: William Bradford (MA) bapt. 1589/90-1657