



The Acorn

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

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER I

WINTER 2021

A Message from the President

By Sally W. Kernan

As I look back on this past year, with all of its challenges, I am amazed at how much we have managed to accomplish.

We have a magnificent new Education & Visitor Center – now complete and ready to be furnished. It is a beautiful building – an understated and elegant design that masterfully and subtly compliments our treasured historic houses.

The possibilities that it opens for us in terms of new programming, events and community engagement are endless. In a sense, we have built an entirely new Museum.

In addition to a new Museum, we have a new Executive Director. It is my very great pleasure to introduce Joshua Campbell Torrance. Joshua is a dynamic and engaging person with an impressive background in Museum and Historic House management. He brings enthusiasm, a fresh perspective, and excellent fiscal and fundraising skills to our organization. We are so fortunate to have him, and I encourage you to reach out and introduce yourselves as I know that he is eager to meet all of you.



Cindy in her new office managing office business during the pandemic.

A Message from the Director

By Joshua C. Torrance

I am thrilled and thankful for the opportunity to lead the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum as we embark on the next chapter of its history.

Working with a dedicated board of managers and talented staff, we will further the Museum's impact on the community while pursuing a statewide mission

of exploring Connecticut's important role in the American Revolution and formation of our Nation. As we open the new Education and Visitor Center, we have the opportunity to help make our community, locally and statewide, stronger post-pandemic.

These are challenging times. Yet the Museum, especially with the completion of the new Education and Visitor Center, is well positioned for future success. So many of you worked so hard to make this dream a reality, and we are all so thankful for your dedication and hard work. Now as we complete the final touches, including the furnishings and collections storage space, we need to complete the fundraising to ensure the building is at its best when we open to the public. Your assistance, financially or otherwise, is most welcomed.



The President's Report continues on page 2

The Director's Report continues on page 4

The President's report continued from page 1

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the loyal and dedicated staff who were the “front line” workers. These great people kept the museum open and running, the construction project moving along, the programming alive (albeit reduced) and the garden blooming profusely. They dealt with the challenges of operating a Museum during a pandemic – of keeping the buildings safe and secure, dealing with disappointed brides and canceled ceremonies, fallen trees from a July storm, and myriad other issues arising on a daily basis. I never once heard a complaint. Each and every one stepped up to the plate with a smile and a helping hand, and a sense of “we are family”. We are extraordinarily lucky to have such fine people to help us steward the Webb Deane Stevens Museum.



Rich Malley, Anne Guernsey, Dick Agne & Cindy Riccio painting fences



Rich & Dick checking out the garden after the mulberry tree blew down

As Connecticut Dames we, as so many others, have experienced the myriad problems caused by the pandemic. Our inability to meet and reaffirm our fellowship has left many feeling disconnected, and, for some, even wondering about the relevance of being a Dame. Each one of us has to examine what is meaningful in our lives – what is important to us. As has become so painfully obvious in this pandemic year, we have only so much time on this earth – it behooves us to use it wisely. I don't wish to lecture - I can only comment on what matters to me. The wonderful, impressive Dames that I have met and had the privilege to work with are priceless to me. We are members of this organization because our ancestors achieved something of importance. This is an amazing legacy – and, one that I think we carry and honor very well.

The Dames are preeminent in historic preservation. They have saved and cared for many historic properties across the nation. We are educators and guardians of historic integrity. We are preserving the past for future generations. Perhaps this last year we have not properly informed our membership of how much we have been doing – I promise to do better in the future. Whatever this coming year brings, whether it be as a Dame, or at some other endeavor, I urge you all to get involved. Make a commitment. Make a difference!

Regards, Sally



Thanks to Julie Winkel, our wonderful PR person, we were able to promote Katie's idea of small weddings, “elopements,” which were the only permissible wedding gatherings during the pandemic. We hosted many happy “elopements.”

The Birth of a New Museum Complex

By Bob Paladino of Mellowes & Paladino, Inc.

I can't write anything without first acknowledging my sincere respect for everyone with whom we collaborated through my long association with the Museum. I'd especially like to thank those members of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in Connecticut, who skillfully and with great determination and perseverance guided this project from beginning to end. It has been a wonderful experience and a constant in my office that I will truly miss.

As I look back at my records and correspondence, I see that we first embarked on a design for the Education and Visitor Center in 2007. As the building developed over the several years that followed, we navigated a circuitous path that was interrupted by some unanticipated roadblocks but led, ultimately, to the building we proudly see today.

The first of the three schemes we designed was the most ambitious in terms of scale and scope. The program with which we were charged contained a wish list that reflected the clear need for additional office, education and exhibit space, as well as for basic modern amenities not available in the current facility.

From the start our vision remained constant, although it was expressed differently over time. We wanted to achieve a design that meshed contextually with the existing historic structures. We wanted to create interior spaces that elevated the basic requirements of the program aesthetically.

We also wanted the Colonial Revival Garden at the rear of the Webb House to unfold visually as one moved through the interior spaces culminating in a broader view of the landscape beyond.



The scale of the resulting design was quite large, and in retrospect, loomed too aggressively over the three historic houses to which it was intended to be an adjunct. Before we were able to process this, however, everything came to a crashing halt with the advent of the 2008 recession.

Thankfully, things started moving again in 2014. While the lost time was a big disappointment, it afforded the opportunity to hone the program with an eye toward concentrating on the core mission for the addition which remained as an Education and Visitor Center. It represented a reinforcement of the Museum's priorities, inherent in which was the desire to expand the Museum's reach into the greater community as well as offer the museum potential for growth.

The scheme that followed was leaner and perhaps less exciting to us architecturally, but certainly more responsive to the mission. It continued to evolve and tighten as we tested the footprint on the site and measured its relationship to the garden that flanked the north elevation.

Satisfied with our progress, we presented the project to the State Historic Preservation Office which had approval authority over the design. We were met with another roadblock when they expressed concern over the scale of the project. This was an unexpected development and resulted in another unplanned phase of reassessment.



The New Entranceway to Webb House

Finally, after digesting the input and refocusing, we developed the third and final iteration which is the one we see today, and which was by far our best. We were able to achieve the correct scale by breaking the massing into a series of pavilions. The shed which has been completely renovated stands as the organizing architectural element as one enters from the street.

New Museum Complex continues page 4

The Director's report continued from page 1

My work in the museum field is rooted in four key principles which will guide us as in our work together at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum. They are:

1. ***Museums as Change Agents*** - In today's complicated world, museums must be more than static, passive places - they must be change agents in their community. By connecting people to authentic experiences and our shared past, museums ignite the imagination and inspire ideas that can change our world.
2. ***Connecting to the Community*** - As a graduate student, I was exposed to the writings of John Cotton Dana, the visionary director of the Newark Museum. He recognized that successful museums develop programs responsive to the needs of the community. His writings have guided my work ever since, giving inspiration to my mission of connecting institutions to community through programming and educational outreach.
3. ***Stewardship*** - Museums, like the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, are the stewards of our cultural heritage. Our collections, including our historic houses, hold important stories about our community, our nation, and our world, and must be cared for at the very highest standards. Yet the care of these collections entails more than preserving and protecting them; good stewardship also entails interpreting and presenting these treasures so that we can learn and be inspired by them.
4. ***Collaboration*** - The formative years of my museum career have been in Maine, where we have a saying that goes "the rising tide helps us all." For the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum to grow and thrive, we must embrace collaboration. We can do more together - whether that means working more closely with our volunteers, community partners and other cultural agencies, or seeking out new collaborations with a broader range of people and organizations. Collaborations will broaden our mission impact and make our community stronger.

While eager to dig into the work at the museum, I am equally excited to work with you, The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Connecticut. You have always been at the forefront of preservation and education. The organization's work, your work, is an inspiration but your continued involvement and enthusiasm is needed now more than ever. Your ideas are important and wanted. Will you share them with me? My email address is jtorrance@webb-deane-stevens.org.

Connecting museums, especially historic house museums, to community is my passion. Thank you to the Board of Managers for allowing me to bring this passion and enthusiasm to the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum. It is an opportunity I relish, as together we write the next chapter in the museum's history.

Paladino - New Museum Complex continued from page 3

There is little visual awareness of the new building that sits behind it. However, upon entering the Museum, one moves through a series of highly detailed spaces that culminate with a dramatic view to the garden.

In my many years of practicing architecture I have learned a valuable lesson: collaboration is key. A vast amount of energy, analysis, angst and inspiration is invested in the design of a building. It is a process of exploration and evolution. Roadblocks are often met with resignation and disappointment. That while our egos as designers can be fragile, these roadblocks often lead to a richer more artfully evolved project. In this case we were dealing with a sensitive design authority, but most importantly, a very thoughtful and insightful client.



The New Construction seeded with new grass

Hats Off to our Ancestors!

During this time of quarantine, a fun suggestion was made that we research our ancestors and submit photographs of them with the proviso they be wearing hats! Thus the name of the project, "Hats Off to our Ancestors." Below are just a few of the submissions. More may be found on our website, nscda-ct.org under the Gallery Tab.

We welcome all submissions, so start looking through your old photos. They can be sent to Kristen Becher Robertson (kristendbecher@gmail.com) or to Claire at colonialdames.ct@gmail.com



Col. Benjamin Hinman, ancestor of Dames Nancy H. MacColl, Susan MacColl Walker and Ashley Walker



George Dudley Seymour, ancestor of Dames Pamela Mahoney, Kristen Becher Robertson, Mary Treadway & Whitney Vogt



Joseph Billette White ca. 1881, great grandfather of Dame Katie Rice



Henry Ward Beecher, great-great grandfather of Dame Gay Ayers



A Civil War soldier, ancestor of Dame Kathryn Lines Cox

A New Acquisition for the Museum

By Ann Mapes Burton

The Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum has been given a wonderful gift, through the good offices of our friends Carol and Stephen Huber, of the beautiful Glastonbury Sampler. It was made in 1830 by Laura Mitchel who was a thirteen-year-old student at Miss Cornwall's School in Glastonbury. The sampler is an important genealogical document as well as a beautiful piece of needlework in silks on linen.

Laura and her family lived in South Britain, Connecticut, a tiny town now part of Southbury. She was one of 8 children, 5 boys and 3 girls. The Mitchels were a prosperous farming family who must have valued education even for their girls because they sent Laura when she was twelve or even younger to Glastonbury, 53 miles away from South Britain. The trip was on dirt roads and would take 8 to 12 hours by coach.

Laura went to attend Miss Cornwall's School in Glastonbury because her grandmother, Abigail Hickok Mitchel, was living there with her daughter and son-in-law, the Rev. Zephaniah and Hannah Hickok Smith, and with their five daughters: Hansa, Cyrintia, Laurilla, Julie, Evelina, and Abby. These Smith cousins of Laura were extraordinary linguists, artists, abolitionists and suffragists, whose scholarship and determination amazed their contemporaries.* Young Laura lived in an atmosphere of scholarship and intensity while attending Miss Cornwall's School.

Laura's Sampler is a family record, listing the names of her parents and siblings. She also recorded the death of her older sister Phebe Ann in 1828, perhaps when Laura was in Glastonbury, and the death of her baby brother Bennett in June 1829, when he was only 3 weeks old. Samplers can be valuable genealogical archival documents, and with close study they bring to life the schoolgirl and her family. They are also works of art, as is this one, stitched so beautifully in silks on linen.

We don't know what Laura's adult life would have been because within two years of finishing her sampler, she died at age 17. She is buried next to her sister in the South Britain Burying Ground.



* In addition to their own writings, many articles and a recent doctoral dissertation have been written about the Smith Sisters. See American Heritage Vol.8 No.4, "Abby, Julia, and the Cows"; "The History of Glastonbury" at Glastonbury.gov; and a recent doctoral dissertation at the University of Georgia by Laurel Koontz, Spring 4-23-2013, *Bible Translators, Educators, and Suffragists: The Smith Women, a Nineteenth-Century Case Study in America about Power, Agency, and Subordination*.



New Dame Celebrated in Watch Hill, RI.

In celebration of her granddaughter Whitney Vogt's acceptance into the Dames, Mary Treadway hosted a luncheon at her home in Watch Hill, RI on July 22 of last summer. Attending were Dames Gay Ayers and Mary Young, along with Mary's daughter Jennifer Vogt and friend Wivi Ann. Whitney is shown holding her new certificate of Dames membership, flanked by (L>R) Gay Ayers, Mary Treadway, and Mary Young.

Area Four Dames Tour: The Old Fairfield Green

This past September, Area Four Dames Sarah Parsons and Leslie Greene organized a tour of the Old Fairfield Green with Fairfield Museum's historian and program director, Walt Matis. Encouraged by the Dames' interest in Colonial Connecticut, Mr. Matis began the tour with a reminder of the impetus for the Puritan migration to North America. He then led a two-hour discussion about the establishment of the Connecticut and New Haven Colonies, Dutch settlements along the Connecticut River, and the many Native American conflicts in the area. After this the six Dames in attendance were treated to an enjoyable socially-distanced picnic lunch.



The group is shown in front of Sun Tavern, built in 1780 to replace an earlier Sun Tavern which had been burned during the British raid of 1779. L-R front: Leslie Greene, Sharon Sullivan, Deanna Whittedge; L-R rear: Katie Rice, Martha Alexander, Sarah Parsons.

Sulgrave Manor

by Katherine Holden



Associate Trustees of Friends of Sulgrave Manor gathered outside Sulgrave Manor.

I have been lucky enough to serve on the American board of Sulgrave Manor for the past two years. Sulgrave, George Washington’s ancestral home, is supported in a substantial way with an endowment from the Dames, which has been critical to the survival of the restored historic home for the past century.

Located about an hour north of London, near Oxford, Sulgrave Manor is a beautiful Tudor manor house built by George Washington’s 5th great grandfather, Lawrence, in the 1530’s. Lawrence was a successful wool merchant, a product of England’s emerging middle class. The Washington family coat of arms, located over the main door, was a major inspiration for the American flag and can be found on our Connecticut State Scarf. Sulgrave is also the source of the name of the prominent women’s club in Washington, DC. Like Mt. Vernon, Sulgrave Manor fell into severe disrepair in the 19th century. In the early 20th century, interest in preservation of England’s past led a group, including the NSCDA, to begin a major restoration of Sulgrave as a symbol of the important partnership between England and the United States, and in honor of the centennial of the end of the War of 1812. In 1914, the first of many substantial contributions to Sulgrave was made by the NSCDA. Sulgrave is our oldest and only overseas property. The President of the NSCDA at the time said, “I have heard it suggested that it would have been better for us to have spent our money at home. But when we raised the Endowment for Sulgrave Manor, we were doing a far greater thing than preserving an ancient and historic house; we were helping to restore good will between two nations.” While there are many beautiful Tudor homes in England open to the public, Sulgrave is the only one symbolizing the important relationship between the US and Great Britain.



In October, I attended the Annual Sulgrave Manor Board meeting by Zoom. I’m happy to report that our state was recognized for its increase of over 600% in fundraising for the year of 2020. We typically mail our fundraising letters on February 22, which is our First President’s birthday, but in 2020 this fell just before the devastating pandemic was recognized in the US and England. The NSCDA decided to make a significant donation in 2020 from its endowment to help provide support for the day-to-day operations at Sulgrave, which was closed to the public. Our donations were particularly appreciated this past year.

Sulgrave has just completed a major renovation and is preparing an exhibit on George Washington, coinciding with the reopening ceremony in May of 2021 which, with luck, some of us will be attending.

Rethinking the date for Tags & Treasures

By Gail Porteus

In the middle of March 2020, due to the Pandemic, we made the difficult decision to gather our forces (bless them everyone) and pack up the Tags and Treasures donations we had been given, holding them until a future date. We had already made a great start on organizing the mountains of things dropped off in the barn and were sorry to be forced to clear everything out. Proceeds from the sale have always been important to our Society, and to our knowledge nothing had stopped our biannual tradition in previous decades.

Even before the advent of our “Tags and Treasures” sales, the collecting of antiques and assorted treasures had been a part of the Dames story from the beginning, as those enterprising early Dames drove around the countryside rescuing 18th century furnishings from barns to outfit their newly acquired 18th century museum house. At our sales we continue to find things we love, and we still get a thrill from our rescue and recycle efforts. And, even more than the money we make, we look forward to meeting friends and making friends as we work to sort and price our "treasures."

For nearly a year we have tried to answer the question of when we could hold our Tags and Treasures sale again. We have come to realize that in this uncertain time we cannot hold this big public gathering any time soon, and thus will push the sale off to next spring, April 2022. We hope that everyone will understand how much we wish this were not the case and we ask that everyone please hold onto things you intend to donate. We'd like to make next year's sale even larger so we hope that you can find space to store things until January 2022, when we can once again start to fill the big barn. Please do not bring anything to us now, as the storage shed is completely full.

And, since we are all missing out on our social times, please reach out to one another.

Fellowship is the foundation for all of our work. We wish A Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone.

Most sincerely, Gail Porteus and Pam Mahoney (Tags & Treasures co-chairs).



L>R: Charbra Jestin, Dick Agne, Gail Porteus, Pam Mahoney packing up Tags & Treasures items to move them out of the Barn



L>R: Cindy Riccio's sons, Nick & Alex; Mike & Pam Mahoney, Loftus Jestin & Kristen Becher Robertson

The Gift Shop Re-Opens Refreshed and Restocked in a New Space



Our new Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum Store was able to open for the first three weekends of December. Despite restrictions on number of shoppers, short hours, and adherence to all Covid-19 safety precautions, we enjoyed showing off a festive and cheerful new space stocked with a variety of gifts for all ages.

Nestled in the baby corner among “wee” stuffed animals, were soft pink Onesies for “Future Dames,” as well as baby blue Onesies for the little “Patriots.” There were books for young and old, games, jigsaw puzzles, colorful cozy herringbone-throws, barware, holiday décor including ornaments created by our Dames, unique greeting cards, historic maps, vintage Webb House plates, silver Rochambeau serving pieces, festive aprons, tea towels, and custom mugs. Folks were delighted to see that we carry the Caswell-Massey line of soaps and colognes, an American-made product since 1752, including the #6 cologne which is known to have been a favorite of George Washington, both for his own use and for gift giving!

We give a big thank you to staff and volunteers who lent a helping hand during our process, with special thanks to Gay Ayers who assisted with signage as well as being in attendance all three weekends.

The new Education and Visitor Center is handsome and we are thrilled that the store is a part of it. We look forward to being open full time whenever it is determined to be safe – think Spring!

Best wishes to all for 2021! Mary Treadway & Mimi Dickerson

Fall 2020 Areas Report

Nancy MacColl, Areas Chairperson



Certificates of Recognition inscribed by Gay Ayers



A new tote bag with the Colonial Dames of CT insignia available in the Gift Shop

Fall 2020 Areas Report

by Nancy MacColl, Areas Chairperson

Teamwork: We had hoped to host a Board orientation last fall, but due to Covid-19 the event could not take place. Subsequently, thanks to our President Sally Kernan for her brilliant idea, Gay Ayers photographer extraordinaire, Kristen Becker IT genius, and Gail Faherty, Dames Registrar, we were able to produce a Register of our Board members. We now have pictures of all Board members, with their respective responsibilities. Big shout out to everyone as this took a lot of time and effort.

Mary Bainbridge CT Dames Totes: At the September Board meeting members were presented with a special gift from Mary Bainbridge of a one-of-a-kind tote bag designed with the Dames logo. These will also be for sale in the shop at the Webb Deane Stevens Museum.

Recognition of long-time membership: All of our members are to be celebrated, as each of you are the essence of who we are. A few years ago, we inaugurated the celebration of our 50-year members. We are now starting a new tradition of honoring members for 20, 30, 40, 50 and even 60 years of membership. Gay Ayers has designed and produced the certificates of recognition, each with calligraphy by Gay. We are pleased to recognize those members now and in the future.

Uncovering Treasures in the Archives

By Mary Noland Young
Volunteer Archivist

It's Christmas come early(!), I thought, as I started opening boxes in the gleaming new Archives storage area on December 11th. Curator Rich Malley had started me off with a tour, explaining that new compact storage will be installed to replace the current temporary shelving. He pointed out some 60 boxes arrayed on shelves and on the floor, in addition to showing me files in the office area and Webb House attic that will need cataloging. At my request, Rich and Dick Agne promptly brought in a table, chair and some supplies to form a work area.

Interesting artifacts discovered in the boxes included two old nails from Gunston Hall, a plaster cast of a house number plate, and two insignia including one from Mrs. Franklin Bowditch Dexter (Dame #5 in 1893, see photo). Among the first documents I came across were Minutes from 1893-1900, a Webb House Visitors' Register from 1963-66, and Board of Managers records from 1908-1914.

Correspondence leading to the donation of an ancestral tea set was particularly touching. There were several unexpected finds as I sorted material, one prompting me to call Penny Chittenden in Florida to report that her great aunt, Mrs. George Watson Beach, became Dame #9 in 1894! And I found two cousins - Francis Berkeley Jr. of Charlottesville VA, who visited with the Walpole Society on Oct. 7, 1967, and Alletta Warwick Beardsley of New Haven who became Dame #551 in 1924.

Major categories I have uncovered thus far are:

- Antique sale catalogues
- Appraisals of collections and fine art (turned over to Curator Rich Malley)
- Auction and shop sales records
- Collections correspondence
- Committee Reports (PR, Fundraising)
- Conservation/restoration correspondence
- Exhibits, invitations and events
- Grant documents
- Gunston Hall files
- Membership records beginning in 1893
- Press clippings and brochures
- Visitors' Registers



Mary Young sleuthing in the new archives area

Previous cataloging had listed the contents of some of the boxes, but many of the files therein were lacking dates, so I am adding dates to everything so they can be re-catalogued and rearranged according to a new filing scheme. After cataloging the contents of each box, I affixed a temporary label on the front listing those contents, to be replaced again after the contents are rearranged later. On Dec. 30, Rich and Dick assembled another sturdy set of shelves so I could get most of the boxes off the floor.

Our Archives now have a beautiful new home which will enable the rich heritage of the Dames in Connecticut to be accessed and shared, and my goal is to make it happen as soon as possible! For example, ideas for future events, publicity and fundraising could be gleaned from the files that chronicle the great work done by Dames in decades past. Those who are interested are invited to contact me or Rich to get involved.

The Dorothy Barnum Venter Library

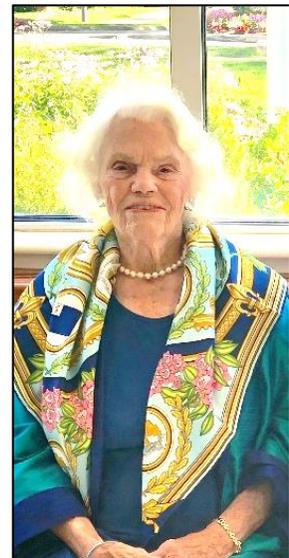
By Ann Burton

The Education and Visitor Center of the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum is now complete, and we have made our first dedication in that space to one of our generous donors. The Library of the Museum, a beautiful and bright room on the garden level, was named after our dear friend Dorothy Craig Barnum Venter on the date of her 107th birthday, September 7, 2020. Dorothy is now the oldest Colonial Dame in Connecticut and probably in the United States. She has been a Dame for over 40 years, serving as President of the Dames from 1990 to 1994, and serving on almost every committee of the Society during her membership, as well as being a Regent of Gunston Hall and a Lady of Dumbarton House.

Dorothy published her Memoirs in 2014, in which she recounts the extended genealogy of her husband Josiah Venter, and her own Barnum family. Her prodigious memory makes this an extraordinarily readable and lively story of descent from many of Connecticut's founders. Dorothy describes how she grew up during the First World War and attended Sweet Briar College during the Depression. Her first job was at Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library, followed by marriage to Josiah Venter, her memoir telling the story of that very happy 45-year marriage.

Dorothy's love of books and libraries makes the dedication of the Library in the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum entirely appropriate. She has been engaged in historic preservation in Connecticut and beyond, for much of her life. Dorothy's many contributions to the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, and to historic preservation, is such that it has been our honor to dedicate the Dorothy Barnum Venter Library in her name.

View a video tribute to Dorothy and tour of the Education and Visitor Center here:
<https://youtu.be/i4fv5x6iwng>.



Dorothy wearing the Dames' new "Wethersfield" scarf.



Welcome Joshua!

By Nancy Smith

In mid-November we were excited to welcome Joshua Campbell Torrance as our new Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum Executive Director. The Board is fortunate to have hired Joshua, as he brings to Webb-Deane-Stevens over 20 years of experience in museum management, along with an educational background which includes advanced degrees in history, public history and museum studies. After most recently leading the Bennington Museum in Vermont, Joshua is excited to be able to again indulge his longtime love of historic houses and is looking forward to directing the WDS Museum at an exciting point in the museum's history.

Joshua looks forward to welcoming the public to our Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum's new Education and Visitor Center, and to rolling out newly designed family and educational programming which will tie the museum more closely to local, state, and national history and tell the stories of a broader range of occupants. Some of his goals include opening up the museum's 8-acre grounds to expanded use by both the museum and the public, creating more family-friendly activities and events, and involving the museum more closely with the Wethersfield Community. He would work to create relationships with other organizations, locally and more widely, and to increase the museum's statewide and national visibility and reputation. Josh has also spoken of partnering with the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM) which provides access to a national network of museums and other cultural institutions, providing a benefit for both our museum and its local Webb-Deane-Stevens NARM members.



*The new building seen through the arbor
in the Colonial Revival Garden*

In previous leadership positions at Woodlawn Museum, Gardens and Park in Maine, and at the Bennington Museum, Joshua successfully achieved some of these goals, guiding development of new educational programming, leading a successful capital campaign, forging new institutional relationships, and increasing local and national profiles. In addition to participation in relevant professional organizations, Josh has made significant contributions within local Rotary Clubs and other local organizations and committees.

As reported previously in *Wethersfield Life* 11/2020, Joshua grew up in Ohio and New Jersey, but while piloting Woodlawn says he grew to consider Maine his real home. Josh is looking forward to developing the same ties to his home in Connecticut, as he and his wife recently purchased and moved into a house in Wethersfield with their two children. They are excited to become part of the Webb-Deane-Stevens and Wethersfield Communities.

A new Dame in the Cradle!



WE JOYFULLY ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF
CORNELIA INGRAHAM ROBERTSON

NOVEMBER 20, 2020
7 POUNDS • 6 OUNCES
20 ¾ INCHES

KRISTEN AND CHARLES ROBERTSON

NSCDA-CT Board Member Kristen Becher Robertson welcomed her second daughter, Cornelia, in November. Mom, Dad, and two-year-old big sister Claiborne are thrilled. Cornelia and Claiborne are great-great-great-granddaughters of Grace Seymour Ingraham who joined the Dames in 1901.



Membership Activity as of January, 2021

Gail P. Faherty, Registrar

Welcome New Members!

Kristen Renehan nee' Alexander (CT-2084)

27 Main Street Farmington, CT 06032-2229
617-347-5002; kristenrenehan@gmail.com
Ancestor: William Burgess (MD) (1622-1686)

Kristen attended the University of Richmond in Virginia where she studied Vocal Performance and Business. At Richmond, she became a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and participated in the *a cappella* group "The Sirens" for which she served as director and business manager. Kristen's passion for music led her to a position in the Education Department with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Kristen had a career in the public relations and marketing industries in Boston and Chicago. She is a private vocal coach, is half of the vocal/guitar duo 'Renehan and Mastrianni' and serves as the Children's Choir Director for the First Church of Christ, Congregational in Farmington. Kristen resides in Farmington with husband, John and three children Pearson, Jack, and Alex.

Caroline C. Leland nee' Cadwalader (CT-2085)

150 N Bethlehem Pike, Apt. A305
Ambler, PA 19002
610-328-7592; carolinescl@yahoo.com
Nicoll Brinley #CT-1935 (sister)

Caroline is the sister of Dame Nicoll Brinley (#CT-1925). She currently resides on the outskirts of Philadelphia with her husband, Edwin Krizek. After attaining a Master's Degree in Social Work from Memorial University of Newfoundland, Caroline spent her career working for nonprofit organizations in development and administrative capacities. These organizations include: The Quebec-Labrador Foundation, The Fabric Workshop, Musicopia, The Junior League of Philadelphia and Chanticleer Garden. Caroline served on various Boards of Directors for nonprofit organizations during this period as well. Caroline currently is the author of a series of children's books which are about a young girl and her adventures with her aunt. The published titles are, The Cantankerous Bed, The Expectant Chair and The Determined Sofa. Caroline's sister, Nicoll Brinley, has done the artwork for the covers of these books. In addition, Caroline is working on her second cozy mystery taking place on the coast of Maine.

Courtesy Member:

Lee Potter (Mrs. Nicholas)

530 East 86th Street, 12A
New York, NY 10028-7535
917-693-7704 (cell); leepotter@nscdny.org
Ancestor: William Brewster (MA)
Admitted as Courtesy: 1/4/2021

Transfer:

Carol M. Barbour (CT-1996)

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

New Proven Supplemental Ancestors:

Sarah Babst Parsons (CT-1876)

8 Hamilton Court
Fairfield, CT 06824-7831
203-254-6565; sarahbparsons@aol.com
Qualifying Ancestor: Thomas Angell (RI) c. 1618-1694

Supplemental Ancestors:

1. Joseph Parsons (MA) bpt. Jun 1620 – 9 Oct. 1683 (Cornet, Hampshire Troop of Horse, Appt. 7 Oct 1768)
2. George Hull (CT) c. 1589- bet. 26 May 1658- 25 Aug 1659 (Deputy, General Court, Windsor)
3. Thomas Bliss (CT); 1588 – c. 1650 (Founder of Hartford)

In Memoriam:

Sharon Caulfield (CT-1816)

100 Sheffield Street, Unit B1
Old Saybrook, CT 06475-2335
Ancestor: Hendrick Hendrickson Kip (NY) (1600-1665)
Admitted: 9/1/2002; Died: July 18, 2020

Nancy Sherlock Doble nee' Stead (CT-1272)

88 Notch Hill Road
North Branford, CT 06471-1846
Ancestor: Lewis Bane (1670-1721) ME
Admitted: 6/1/1966; 10/12/2020 (res. Nov.);
Died 11/17/2020

Faith Warner nee' Killiam (CT-1318)

123 Pomperaug Woods Road
Southbury, CT 06488-1873
Ancestor: William Manlove (1653-1694) DE
Admitted: 2/1/1969; Died: 12/4/2020

More from the Registrar

Additions to Register of Ancestors (ROA)

1. **Peter Mead** (1716-1780), Deputy for Greenwich, 1775; Justice of the Peace, 1775, 1776
2. **Jacob Williams** (27 Feb 1688/89-29 Jan 1751), Captain company or trainband, Stepney Parish, Wethersfield, CT 1734
3. **Treat Mills** (c 1734 – 14 June 1771) CT, Ensign, Company or trainband, 4th regiment, Ripton Parish
4. **Jonathan Lockwood** (10 Sep 1634-12 May 1688) CT, Deputy General Court, 1671, 1673, 1674, 1683
5. **John Mead** (1634-1699) CT Deputy, General Court Greenwich CT
6. **John Read** (c. 1699-30 Oct. 1786) Major, 4th Regiment, 1753; Colonel, 4th Regiment, 1758

HOW TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL PAPERS

Many Dames have additional Ancestors who are on the ROA and are therefore eligible to file Supplemental Applications. Proving additional ancestors within your qualifying ancestral line or another line entirely is a boost to family heritage and allows future generations to have the information proven and archived.

The supplemental NSCDA-CT application fee is \$75.00. The genealogical fee for review of the lineage material, sources and typing of papers is currently set at \$25.00* for an additional supplemental ancestor in an existing line. The fee is \$125.00* for a supplemental ancestor requiring full lineage. (*May be subject to change).

It is helpful to have a Line of Ascent (LOA) form drafted for organizational purposes. An LOA form is included on the last page of this newsletter.

If you are interested in filing a supplemental application contact Gail Faherty, Registrar at gfherty@sbcglobal.net.

“The challenge I give you...is to reach beyond the vital statistics to a new world of understanding, both of your ancestors and of yourself. Preserve those details of your family in written form that will bring understanding to many others and truly enable their hearts – along with your own.... Your job is not finished until you feel a bit of what he felt, have shared vicariously in his joys and heartaches – perhaps shed a tear with him in his sorrow, laughed at the humor in his life, and felt pride in his accomplishments.”

Val D. Greenwood, J.D. and Author

Note from the Editor - Readers may notice we debut a new newsletter title and banner in this issue! Discussions around naming our newsletter began more than a year ago within the Board of Managers, culminating with an online poll. An overwhelming majority voted in favor of giving the newsletter a title, and *The Acorn* edged out other candidates. Thanks go to Claire Bracaglia for her lovely banner design!

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA

Line of Ascent

Beginning with Generation 2, list male ancestor first, but capitalize the name of the ancestor through whom the line ascends. Note: Dates are not requested but help in verifying the line.

1.

Full maiden name of candidate

wife of _____

2. Generation

3. Generation

4. Generation

5. Generation

6. Generation

7. Generation

8. Generation

9. Generation

10. Generation

11. Generation

12. Generation

