



The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (Founded 1891)
The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in Connecticut (Founded 1893)
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Useful Websites:

1. National Society of Colonial Dames website: www.nscda.org
2. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/colonialdames>;
3. Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum website: www.wdsmuseum.org
4. National Society of Colonial Dames in CT website: www.nscda-ct.org
5. [Please send membership or other inquiries to info@NSCDACT.org](mailto:info@NSCDACT.org)

Why the Dames?

1. Through historic preservation, patriotic service, and education programs, we want to inspire all people to understand and honor our origins as a nation.
2. Membership is lineage based, with ancestral roots traced to the colonial era of early America.
3. We promote respect and appreciation for all people, places and events that led to the founding of our country.
4. We are a non-partisan, non-political women's organization with a standing policy of non-discrimination.

Who We Are:

- We are 15,000+ Dames in 44 Corporate Societies
- There are 4 regions; Connecticut is in region 4
- Our first Society, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1891. Nevada became our newest State Society in 2008.
- The original thirteen colonies are our Colonial State Societies. Each Colonial Society has specific requirements for the qualifying services of ancestors and its own list of eligible ancestors on the Register of Ancestors ("ROA"). Ancestors are added continuously.
- There are almost 10,000 approved ancestors, including 70+ women.
- We provide programming for over 15,000+ participants, in addition to daily property tours and events.
- We grant awards in excess of \$250,000 in student scholarships every year.
- We contribute to programs serving 8,000+ military personnel and their families.

How We Promote our National Heritage Through Historical Activities and Preservation and Patriotic Service:

- Together the individual Societies and the NSCDA own, operate, or support over 90 historic properties. In 1896 the New York Society agreed to manage Van Cortland House, one of the first historic houses preserved in the U.S.
- We are a leader in the field of historic preservation, restoration, and the interpretation of historic sites. We support collections of more than 190,000 artifacts throughout the United States and England. We have been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation with the prestigious Trustee Emeritus Award for Excellence in Stewardship of historic sites.
- We reconstruct historic sites: in 1907, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the landing of the English settlers, we rebuilt the Jamestown Church on the site and foundation of the original 1616 church.
- Our National Society preserves three museum houses: we own **Dumbarton House**, our National Headquarters House located in Georgetown, D.C, an early 19th c. Federal period style house; we manage **Gunston Hall**, a mid-18th c. Virginia plantation; and for Washington's ancestral home, **Sulgrave Manor** in England, we created an endowment fund in 1924 and continue to support the house on the board and with donations. Dumbarton House is famous for housing Dolley Madison when she fled the White House during the War of 1812.
- In Connecticut, we own and manage 3 historic house museums, **The Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum**, in Wethersfield. We also help support the Buttolph-Williams House, also in Wethersfield.

- Great American Treasures: <https://www.greatamericantreasures.org/about/>
 - View historic properties across the country for touring – one stop shopping to create your adventure to visit properties while in a location. The collection of Great American Treasures is about movement. The movement of Europeans from being subjects of a kingdom to governing themselves. The movement of social change, of political ideas and of people who simply yearned to breathe free. It is also about the stories of people who wanted something more. People fleeing religious persecution or the law. Enslaved people who came here not by choice but by force. Women who wanted to find their voice. And Native Americans pushed off their lands.
 - The Curated Collections of Great American Treasures give context to who we are and how America came to be. It is not always a straight path, but it certainly is an interesting one.
- Since the 1970's we have been contributing information to the inventories of American paintings and American sculpture for the Smithsonian Institution. The Ancestor Bibliography Register provides online bibliographic references by and about our colonial ancestors. Oral histories of Dames and others help us to capture the past with details of community and family life. Our survey of American samplers and pictorial embroidery of the 17th-19th c. is an update of a book published by Dames in 1921. On our NSCDA website we offer information on and pictures of 3,300 samplers.
- Our Congressional Seminar Essay Contest provides high school students with a week in Washington to learn about our government and to tour our nation's capital.
- We attend naturalization ceremonies to show support of new citizens of the USA.
- We build monuments such as the Spanish-American War Monument at Arlington Cemetery, the first memorial erected by a women's society and at Plymouth Rock, a granite Doric portico for protection of the Rock to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the landing.