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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The PA Dames Launch ‘For the Common Good’ Docuseries**

*This multi-part docuseries will spotlight the vivid stories of nine pioneering Pennsylvania women who made important contributions to the founding of America*

PHILADELPHIA – The [National Society of The Colonial Dames in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) (NSCDA/PA), in association with [You'll Never Forget Productions](#) (YNFP), have officially launched “For the Common Good: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation” (FTCG). This multi-part docuseries tells the vivid stories of nine pioneering Pennsylvania women who made important contributions to the founding of America. These women shaped the nation, leading the way forward as businesswomen, religious leaders, educators, and more.

“For nearly four years, The PA Dames have been working to uncover and honor the lives of the many women who have shaped the nation and who continue to inspire us today,” said Mickey Herr, NSCDA/PA first vice president and executive producer of “For the Common Good: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation.” “FTCG is a labor of love and there is no better time to launch this project than during America’s 250th anniversary celebrations. We know that by embracing a fuller concept of what it took to shape our nation, we can help make our founding history more relevant, accessible, and inclusive.”

The nine trailblazing women featured in FTCG include:

- **Hannah Sharp Breintnall:** an importer and proprietor of an optician’s shop, Breintnall didn’t just survive as a widowed mother, she created a successful life at the “Sign of the Golden Spectacles.”
- **Mary (Polly) Norris Dickinson:** the well-educated heiress of her family’s large estate—which included one of the largest libraries in the Colonies—Polly was a central

participant in the political and economic discussions held by the leading thinkers of the time, both male and female.

- **Ann Wood Henry:** Pennsylvania's first female public official, serving as Lancaster County treasurer, just after the Revolution.
- **Lijntijen (Elin) Kunders:** a founder of Philadelphia's Germantown settlement, she was a key leader in the burgeoning economy built around linen production. It was in her home that the German settlers signed the first protest against slavery in America (1688).
- **Sybilla Righton Masters:** an inventor, she was granted patent No. 401 under the Privy Seal of King George in 1715, the first American colonist to receive a royal patent.
- **Margaret Erichsdotter Mattson:** a Finish settler of New Sweden (1654) in present-day Philadelphia, she and her husband lived through both Swedish and Dutch rule, until the British took control in 1682. By 1683, as part of a British land grab, Mattson was accused of witchcraft and was forced to sell her land after being found "guilty" of having ruined her own reputation.
- **Elizabeth Hudson Morris:** called to the Quaker ministry at an early age, she delayed marriage and children to travel to Ireland as part of her missionary work.
- **Elizabeth Coates Paschall:** a noted healer and business owner/importer whose "recipe" book resides at the College of Physicians and Cedar Grove, the home she had built for her family, is seated in Fairmount Park.
- **Dinah of Stenton:** an enslaved woman who won her freedom in 1776 and would later protect the homestead of James Logan, the Provincial Secretary of William Penn, from being burned down by British Occupiers.

Inspired by the NSCDA's "[Founding Females 250 by 250](#)" initiative, the PA Dames wanted to do more than add women's names to a static list. They wanted to help young girls and women find themselves in the historical narrative of our nation's founding, especially as we celebrate America 250. Through an initial grant from the *Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial*, and money raised through foundations and individuals, the PA Dames raised close to \$200,000 to make this vision a reality.

Based on Herr's initial research, which started in 2022, the creative team of YNFP conducted extensive research into the countless ways in which these women contributed to early colonial life. Through this research – digging deeper into the archives – and the project itself, they are working to debunk the myth that women did not play a role in our nation's founding while also calling on Americans to reimagine the ways in which women have served the country.

NSCDA/PA will host several specially curated events with key historic sites and partners throughout the year entitled "For the Common Good: A Year of Curated Conversation" to promote the project and directly engage the public including:

#### [AmRev Presents: Women's History Night](#)

Wednesday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

#### [Dinah Day at Stenton](#)

Saturday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Location: Stenton, 4601 N. 18th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140

The videos featured in FTCCG project will be available to non-profit institutions, museums, and schools for use onsite. Please contact Mickey Herr at [research@nscdapa.org](mailto:research@nscdapa.org) or NSCDA/PA

Headquarters at 215-735-6737. Additional information on “For the Common Good: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation,” including the full list of yearlong programs, can be found at [nscdapa.org/common-good](http://nscdapa.org/common-good).

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**Please note that interviews and an episode of “For the Common Good: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation” is available upon request.**

*The National Society of The Colonial Dames in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is an organization of women which actively promotes an appreciation of America's national heritage through preservation, service, and educational projects. With more than 450 members across the state, the PA Dames are part of a national network of 44 Corporate Societies, with National membership at approximately 15,000 women. The NSCDA/PA has also worked to “preserve and maintain Stenton as an historic object lesson” since 1899. For more information about the NSCDA/PA visit [nscdapa.org](http://nscdapa.org)*